

Travel bulletin

Giving agents the edge

Winter Sun

With summer in the rearview, it's not long until your clients start chasing the sun...

MORE IN...

Agent Bulletin

The latest incentives and training opportunities to help you sell **Pg. 7**

USA

New stateside routes, properties and experiences **Pg. 11**



A New-Yorker-turned-Travel-Counsellor on selling the States. **(Pg. 8)**



Enhance The Experience

(Just when you thought E.T.E was already Best In Class)

V2.0 Successfully Launched!





NEWS
From new launches to bolstered flight programmes and everything in between.



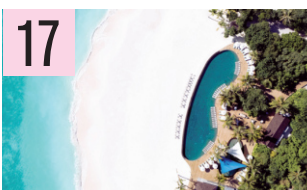
PUZZLE BULLETIN
Show your sudoku skills and win a £20 M&S voucher!



USA
Stateside staples that make Brits return year on year.



SOLO TRAVEL
Our top picks for solo soirées across the globe.



WINTER SUN
Escape the winter blues and top up the tan as temperatures drop.



THE TRAVEL TRANSITION

Travel trends meet societal shifts in Lemongrass' Annual Travel Trends Report 2025.

PR AND content agency Lemongrass has released its 2025 Annual Travel Trend Report, highlighting the evolution of how travellers explore the world and intertwining societal shifts with the way people choose to travel.

Tara Schwenk, head of content marketing and search, said, "Our 2025 Travel Trends report paints a picture of an industry in transition, where sustainability, ethical considerations, and a desire for authentic experiences are at the forefront of travellers' minds."

The report dives into an expansive outlook on trends shaping the industry, including the desire to venture where no one else has been before. There is a growing demand for frontier tourism, taking travellers to exclusive regions often untouched by tourists, including remote islands, polar regions and the highest mountain villages.

As environmental consciousness continues to sweep across the industry, the methods in which people travel are

changing, attributing to the rise in rail adventures as an alternative to flying. Technological improvements and a higher emphasis on amenities onboard are also contributing to the rail rise.

Travelling with a purpose continues to gain traction as the days of travelling abroad to sit by the pool are waning. Travellers are now more eager than ever to dive into local cultures they may not have known anything about prior (tying into the rise in frontier expeditions) and are more likely to pay more for these experiences – 79% of Millennials and Gen Z said the quality of an experiences is more important than the price.

It is a cool summer on the cards for many tourists as the rise in wildfires and extreme temperatures across hotspot destinations have meant people are turning away from the 'traditional' summer holiday and are instead looking to spend their summer in a cooler climate. Over the last 12 months, Google has received a 300% increase in 'cooler holidays' searches.

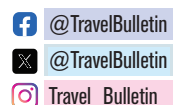


Published by :
Alain Charles Publishing (Travel) Ltd
University House, 11-13 Lower Grosvenor
Place London, SW1W 0EX

Printed by: Buxton Press
Subscriptions are £125 p.a.
£195 overseas
ISSN: 0956-2419

020 7973 0136

www.travelbulletin.co.uk



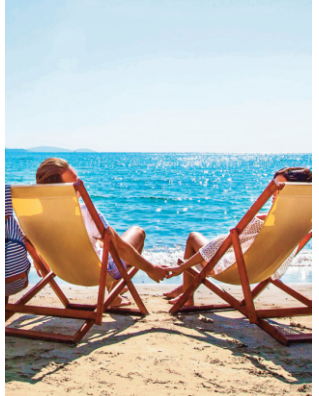
14th Oct
Airline Showcase
Bristol



18th Nov
Indian Ocean Showcase
Southampton



19th Nov
Indian Ocean Showcase
Guildford



17th Oct
Train & Gain Showcase
Oxford



A Travel Counsellors first: £1 billion turnover

WITH LEISURE sales alone reaching £735 million in the last 12-month period (to August 23rd, 2024), business travel worth £265 million has helped Travel Counsellors reach its first-ever billion-pound year return.

The Mediterranean, USA, Southeast Asia, Indian Ocean and cruise sales led the charge for the period, with the USA coming up trumps for business sales.

171 of the 2,121 Travel Counsellors reported their best-ever sales period in the 12 months, contributing significantly to the platform-best results.

Steve Byrne, CEO, said the results were “made possible by the dedication, passion, and care of our entire Travel Counsellors community.”

www.travelcounsellors.com



Moxy set for 100-hotel milestone in 2025

2025 MARKS Moxy Hotels' 10th anniversary; in the run-up to celebrations, the brand will open a host of new properties across Europe, including debuts in Spain, Türkiye and Luxembourg.

Openings for the remainder of 2024 include hotels in

Luxembourg, Istanbul and Izmir (the brand's debut in those three destinations) and Barcelona. 2025 will see new properties across France, Italy, Germany, Poland, Ireland, Portugal, Belgium, Serbia, and Switzerland open.

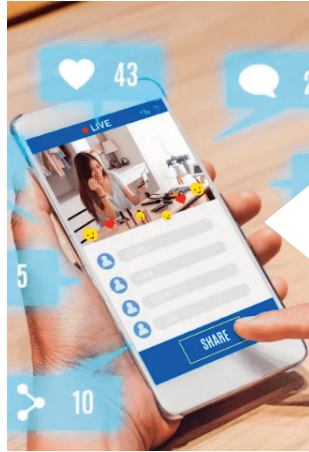
www.moxyhotels.com

Gambia price match and free Cape Verde room upgrades

UNTIL OCTOBER 31st, 2024, agents can unlock a trade-exclusive price match for two of Serenity Holidays' properties in The Gambia and room upgrades at three Cape Verde hotels. Package price matches apply to the Senegambia Beach Hotel and Kombo Beach Hotel. Packages include price-matched accommodation, daytime flights, 20kg luggage, allocated seats and return resort transfers. West of The Gambia, in Cape Verde, the operator is offering a room category upgrade at the five-star Hilton Cabo Verde (from King Guest to Superior King with Pool View), four-and-a-half-star Robinson Cabo Verde (from Double to Double Garden View) and four-and-a-half-star Hotel Morabeza (from Double to Double Sea Side). www.serenityholidays.co.uk

Caledonian hits million-customer milestone

CALEDONIAN LEISURE, the owner-operators of Caledonian Travel and UKBreakways, welcomed its one-millionth customer last month. Managing director Graham Rogers noted the achievement as "a key milestone," and reported record-breaking sales for the summer. www.caledonian.com



First Choice's seeks Gen Z inspo for influencer programme

MANAGING DIRECTOR Bart Quinton Smith noted that "the traditional linear marketing journey... is changing" as First Choice unveiled its first lineup of influencer-curated itineraries. Each 'Insider' has collated experiences aligning with their passions, from foodies to culture seekers, handpicking unique experiences, iconic attractions and hidden gems in their respective destinations. Five Insiders comprise the inaugural programme, with more expected to showcase their itineraries with First Choice in the future. www.firstchoice.co.uk

New Carrier brochure developed with "agent partners in mind"

'LUXURY UNCOVERED – a guide to travelling in the know' recently kicked off Carrier's six-week sales drive, supporting agents to pursue luxury sales for the remainder of 2024 and looking ahead to 2025. The 70-page brochure collates 50 itineraries, dubbed 'must-books' by the luxury operator, and hopes to cut through the noise and combat the 'decision paralysis' which plagues holidaymakers in a crowded

luxury market. Head of marketing Byanne Akbor explained that Carrier's product managers and travel designers have personally explored 34 destinations worldwide in the lead-up to the campaign, and that "their keen expertise and discerning eye have been instrumental in curating this collection of must-book holidays." www.carrier.co.uk

Image Credits: Left: Caledonian Leisure, Middle: Canva Pro



Shearings
Let's enjoy the journey together

For fully escorted festive breaks, look no further...

YOUR CUSTOMERS ARE COVERED!

UK Festive Breaks

60+ holidays from £269pp

- Pre-Christmas Breaks • Christmas & Twixmas Holidays • New Year Escapes

Discover the beauty on your doorstep in:

- Edinburgh • Windermere • Llandudno • Newquay



All of our fully escorted coach holidays include:

- ✓ Comfortable coach travel, so that your customers can sit back, relax and enjoy the passing scenery
- ✓ Hand-picked accommodation with breakfast included, for your customers' convenience!
- ✓ Expertly-planned itineraries and excursions – no need to plan a thing
- ✓ Local joining points, ensuring a smooth start to your customers' holiday
- ✓ Someone on hand to take care of luggage so your customers won't have to lift a finger!

European Festive Breaks

25+ holidays from £389pp

- Christmas Market Breaks • Festive River Cruises • Christmas Holidays • New Year Escapes

Enjoy sought-after destinations such as:

- Germany • Italy • Austria • Switzerland



01709 249 680
shearings.com/festive



To find out more about festive breaks, scan the QR code

Blue Diamond expands West Indies offering

BLUE DIAMOND Resorts has announced a major expansion in the West Indies by extending sales options to two of its properties – Royalton Saint



Lucia and Hideaway at Royalton Saint Lucia – to a broader network of UK partners to further collaboration and growth in the key source market. www.royaltonresorts.com



Sofitel continues Africa growth with Benin expansion

SOFITEL HAS announced the opening of its new flagship property, Sofitel Cotonou Marina Hotel & Spa, in Benin. The new opening reflects the brand’s commitment to strengthening its presence across the African continent, with the hotel itself blending French-inspired luxury with the local heritage on Benin’s coastline.

The property boasts 198 guestrooms, including 14 suites and five duplex suites with

private pools, as well as five bars and restaurants, a 1,000 square-metre spa, and the largest convention centre in Cotonou.

Maud Bailey, CEO of Sofitel, said, “I am delighted to announce the opening of this first Sofitel in Benin, where I hope each of our guests will discover the magic of the French art de vivre, enriched by Beninese culture.”

The hotel marks the brand’s 16th property on the continent. www.sofitel.com

Your Business. Our Support.
 Helping you grow your travel business

The Advantage
 Travel Partnership

Scan the QR code to find out more about our solutions for established travel agencies, TMCs, start-ups and homeworking businesses.

Jet2 puts largest-ever summer programme on sale

JET2.COM AND Jet2Holidays have launched their largest-ever summer programme for 2026, with flights and holidays to 57 destinations now on sale across all 12 of the operator’s regional UK bases.

Responding to the strong demand from UK holidaymakers wanting to book and plan ahead, the operator has put their summer programme on sale earlier than ever before. The programme features more seats and routes than previous years, complete with an expanded fleet of aircraft including the operator’s new Airbus A321neo vessels which are over 20% more fuel efficient.

The expanded programme means 18.6 million seats are on sale across 450 routes, including 22 new summer routes and 14 exclusive routes for 2026. The programme will see the operation of more than 1,700 weekly flights departing from the operator’s 12 UK airports.

www.jet2.com



Image Credits: Top, Left: Blue Diamond Resorts. Top Right: Sofitel. Bottom: Jet2

AGENT INCENTIVES

- VIRGIN VOYAGES** has launched the 'Twenty Five for 2025' incentive where First Mates can earn £25 per booking when travellers choose a 2025 European departing voyage. All other departing voyages until 2026 will earn agents £5 per sailing.
www.firstmates.com
- CITALIA, SOVEREIGN** Luxury Travel and American Holidays will offer weekly destination-inspired spot prizes to agents booking in the run-up to Christmas. Running until December 15th, 2024, all bookings claimed across Travelopia Tailormade's trade-friendly trio will see agents entered into the advent prize draw. Prizes on offer will include Fortnum & Mason hampers, perfumes and wireless headphones – each week's prizes will be 'hidden' in certain destinations the brands offer and themed to that destination.
www.travelopia.com
- UNTIL MID-OCTOBER**, agents will earn £100 per guest booked on all Swan Hellenic sailings throughout the remainder of 2024 and all of 2025, excluding Antarctica bookings.
www.swanhellenic.com
- FRED. HOLIDAYS** has promised greater functionality and a more user-friendly interface from the new agent portal, with a celebratory launch incentive worth up to £1,000 depending on booking value. Bookings until October 31st, 2024 qualify for the tiered incentives, with rewards paid out in One4all vouchers. Rewards between £25 and £1,000 are on offer, staggered based on booking value from £25 for bookings worth up to £5,000 all the way to £1,000 vouchers for bookings worth £100,001 and above.
www.agentfred.co.uk



LIZ RYAN, Unique Vacations UK Ltd.'s business development manager, hosted two Sandals and Beaches-themed travel agent Quiz Nights in Chester and Preston on September 18th and 19th, 2024. Liz (right) is pictured here with Ceri Bellis from Perfect Getaways, who won a free three-night stay at any Sandals or Beaches property at the Chester event.

Travel bulletin

COMPETITION

Win a two-night stay for two in the Maldives at Mukunudu Resort by answering a series of questions!

Find out more at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/competitions



AGENT TRAINING

- NEW SMYRNA Beach** offers holidaymakers a lush tropical landscape, 17 miles of white sand beach, activities, amazing eateries and a friendly welcome. Agents can learn about all that and more with the New Smyrna Beach 'Insider' course. Complete the course's first two modules, plus any other module, to enter the monthly draw to win the £50 shopping voucher.
www.tourismgivesback.com/courses-archive/nsb-insider/
- BUILD UP** Virgin Voyage knowledge with Seacademy, the cruise line's online e-learning platform to sell and sail the Virgin way. The course features a blended journey of education, marketing materials, and opportunities to get aboard our ships so you can get the first-hand experience you need in order to sell Virgin Voyages.
www.travelbulletin.co.uk/virgin-voyage-travelgym
- BRAND USA** recently revamped its Discovery course to showcase all the latest and greatest from the Stateside destinations Brits love, plus plenty hidden gems.
www.USADiscoveryProgram.co.uk
- ICELAND'S LONGEST-ESTABLISHED DMC** has just launched an agent training platform. Iceland Travel's portal features a range of content, including training modules on exactly how best to sell the destination and a portfolio of the must-do guided and self-drive experiences.
www.icelandtravel.is
- DISCOVER THE Palm Beaches'** training platform is billed as the ultimate tool for agents selling the classic American resort destination. Modules cover The Palm Beaches' history, geography, lodging, culinary delights, transportation options, events, tourist attractions, and more.
www.thepalmbeaches.com



AGENT INSIGHT

SARAH FREEMAN

TRAVEL COUNSELLORS

THE U.S OF A: This vast country covering 9.83 million sq. km offers literally every type of holiday a client could desire and that's where the tricky part comes in....what do you recommend? Understanding your client is key, whether they are first-timers or regular visitors, what their travel style and budget is, and critically what they are interested in experiencing – the city, beach, mountains, desert, nature, wildlife, history, music or sports... as it's all on offer.

Many clients will be interested in a multi-centre, so managing expectations as to what's feasible in their time scale is important. What an American thinks is a short drive cross-state for tourists is a major road trip, so it's good to understand how long clients are happy to travel daily and what pace works for them.

Whilst flying between locations is the norm, it's great to understand the other transportation options available and which logistically make sense. You could even recommend taking a river cruise in locations like Mississippi or there's a plethora of ocean cruises covering key coastal routes including New England and Alaska.

We're all familiar with iconic tourist destinations, but perhaps throw out a couple of less familiar options like the beaches of the Outer Banks (North Carolina), hiking in Horseshoe Bend Canyon (Arizona) or exploring the entertainment of Kansas City (Missouri).

Remember, as well, that there's not just hotel chains, switch it up. Suggest a stay on a dude ranch in Texas, a wigwam in Arizona, a lighthouse in Massachusetts, an underwater hotel in Florida, or soon clients will even be able to stay in a UFO hotel in California!

America really does offer it all, just remember to stay focused.

Travelsphere launches new brochure with early booking offer

TRAVELSPHERE HAS launched its latest brochure featuring a full roster of European and Worldwide holidays for 2025 and 2026. Brand new dates for Australia and New Zealand for 2027 are also available. To celebrate the launch, the operator is offering an early bird booking offer of up to a £275 per person discount on selected holidays.

Charlotte Field, Travelsphere marketing director, said, "Based on customer feedback, we are delighted to launch new tours in Europe and Borneo, and we've added regional departures to a number of our holidays meaning more customers can choose to start their adventure from their local airport." www.travelsphere.co.uk

News Bites

- FRED. OLSEN Travel has announced a new high street branch in Chichester, which will open on October 9th, 2024.
- TRUTRAVELS HAS announced its debut in Africa with a nine-day Morocco break which leads in from £880 per person.
- VIRGIN VOYAGES' Scarlet Lady will undergo a refurbishment this November which will see several Sea Terrace cabins converted to RockStar Quarters, as well as the introduction of VIP cabanas.



RIVIERA TRAVEL will debut a new ship and itinerary in the Mekong from January 2026. The *Victoria Mekong* will provide guests with 33 staterooms, all boasting private balconies, along with a restaurant, bar, infinity pool, gym, library, games room and movie room. Prices lead in from £4,599 per person for the 14- and 15-night 'Vietnam, Cambodia and Hidden Treasures of the Mekong' itinerary. www.rivieratravel.co.uk

SUDOKU

WIN A £20 M&S VOUCHER IN THE *Travel* bulletin SUDOKU PRIZE PUZZLE

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 3 x 3 squares contains the digits 1-9. Once you have completed the puzzle, simply identify the numbers that relate to the letters, A, B, C and D then e-mail the solution, with your name, company name, and full postal address plus phone and ABTA number if applicable to:

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk
Closing date for entries is Thursday, October 17th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

September 20th Solution: A=2 B=7 C=1 D=5

A	2			7				9
		6	1		8	5	4	
		4		9	6		7	
B	9				1			6
	7							4
C	6		2			9		
		1		4	5		6	
		3	9	6		2	4	
D	4				3			1



WHERE AM I?

PROUDLY HOLDING the title of the 'Boot Capital of the World', this American city inspired a classic Country-Western song and boasts a rich history with renowned outlaw Billy the Kid.

FILL IN THE CROSSWORD TO REVEAL THE MYSTERY LOCATION HIGHLIGHTED BY THE PURPLE SQUARES.

1		2		3				4			
											5
6						7			8		
9					10						
					11						
		12					13	14			
							15				
16					17						
			18								

- Across**
- 1 Part of Royal Caribbean, they specialise in luxury small ship cruises (9)
 - 6 One of the five Great Lakes (7)
 - 8 Cross-Solent operator, ___ Funnel (3)
 - 9 Accommodation under canvas (4)
 - 10 Home of the Terracotta Army (4)
 - 12 Described by the operator as a luminous jewel on the seas, ___ Princess (4)
 - 13 Company offering holidays, cruises and insurance for mature travellers (4)
 - 16 Currency of Bulgaria (3)
 - 17 Castries is the capital of this island (2,5)
 - 18 US state on the Gulf of Mexico (9)

- Down**
- 1 Radio DJ who recently won BBC's Celebrity Race Across the World (5,5)
 - 2 Historic district of Paris, ___ Quarter (5)
 - 3 George who had a No 1 hit with Shotgun (4)
 - 4 Island off the west coast of Scotland (5)
 - 5 Capital of Ethiopia (5,5)
 - 7 Columbus is the state capital (4)
 - 11 Budget hotel chain owned by Accor (4)
 - 12 French composer of Boléro (5)
 - 14 Capital of Ghana (5)
 - 15 European mountain range (4)

CROSSWORD

Mystery Word: ANTIGUA
Down: 1 SCOTT MILLS, 2 LATIN, 3 EZRA, 4 ARBAN, 5 ADDIS ABABA, 7 OHIO, 11 IBIS, 12 RAVEL, 14 ACGRA, 15 ALPS.
Across: 1 SILVERSEA, 6 ONTARIO, 8 RED, 9 TENT, 10 XIAN, 12 RUBY, 13 SAGA, 16 LEV, 17 ST LUCIA, 18 LOUISIANA.



Newmarket HOLIDAYS

Your go-to Safari Specialists



SAVE
UP TO **£1,300***
PER COUPLE
BOOK BY 31 OCT

AMAZING
BEACH
EXTENSION
OPTIONS

PRICES
FROM ONLY
£2,149
INCLUDING
FLIGHTS!

Contact our dedicated, *friendly* Sales Team today!



David

Chief Commercial Officer

Phone: **07750 222350** or email:
david.sharman@newmarketholidays.co.uk



Stu

South East & East Anglia

Phone: **07557 393983** or email:
stuart.cowell@newmarketholidays.co.uk
f Stu Newmarket



Sas

Midlands & North Wales

Phone: **07753 931630** or email:
sas.rowbotham@newmarketholidays.co.uk
f Sas Rowbotham



Darren

North of England & Isle of Man

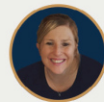
Phone: **07736 041351** or email:
darren.phillips@newmarketholidays.co.uk
f Darren Newmarket



Amy

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Phone: **07423 122875** or email:
amy.burt@newmarketholidays.co.uk
f Newmarket Amy



Claire

South West & South Wales

Phone: **07901 133934** or email:
claire.hodgkin@newmarketholidays.co.uk
f Claire Newmarket

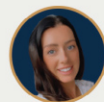


For bookings, personalised posters and more
visit newmarketholidays.co.uk/agent-login

For Agency Sales call **0330 341 1929**

Friend/Follow us on social media

f Nic Newmarket i nic_newmarket



Freya

North West & Isle of Man

Phone: **07907 859932** or email:
freya.sutcliffe@newmarketholidays.co.uk
f Freya Newmarket

BEYOND SEATTLE

Seattle-Tacoma is the gateway to some absolute hidden gems, from Washington state capital Olympia to the neighbouring Vancouver.



SEATTLE-TACOMA IS one of the key international hubs for travel in and out of the U.S., but it also serves as the gateway to a whole host of incredible cities beyond Seattle.

Spokane is uniquely home to the largest urban waterfall and a culinary scene that is rapidly making its way

Sabre makes PLAY services more accessible than ever

PLAY AIRLINES' services, which connect Baltimore, Boston, New York and Washington D.C. to London Stansted and Liverpool John Lennon via Keflavik, are now integrated into the Sabre GDS.

Along with recent additions of Toronto and Washington D.C. to the airline's network, and the promise of new flights to Aalborg in June 2025, PLAY CEO Einar Örn Ólafsson noted the Sabre integration as a "significant milestone," suggesting it "will play a crucial role in driving sales and enhancing our visibility to new audiences."

www.flyplay.com

www.sabre.com

onto the world foodie stage. Five ski resorts sit within a 90-minute drive of the city if its trendy districts and casual culture weren't enough for a dedicated stay. Stays at The Historic Davenport, in the city's downtown, lead in from £152 per night.

Olympia, as its name might suggest, is one of the state's most historic cities, blending a storied downtown home to vintage clothing and antique stores with gorgeous natural views on the southern tip of the Puget Sound. The Marine Bed and Breakfast, dating back to the 19th century, offers a charming hideaway in the city's western district

from £218 per night.

Three hours from Seattle (and across the border) sits Vancouver, the birthplace of the Pacific Northwest. The trendy city, with its friendly and walkable downtown; year-round Farmers Market; and modern waterfront encapsulates the spirit of the region. Equally authentic is The Heathman Lodge in the city centre, which leads in from £105 per night.

Delta, British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, Air France, KLM and American Airlines all offer direct flights from London Heathrow to Seattle-Tacoma. www.stateofwatourism.com

Good news for Nevada from Norse

NORSE ATLANTIC recently confirmed a new thrice-weekly service from London Gatwick to Las Vegas, bolstering choice for flights to the City of Sin and beyond. Rafael Villaneuva, Travel Nevada's CEO, was keen to note that the state surrounding Las Vegas is "packed with unique experiences... whether you're a culture seeker, foodie, or outdoor enthusiast, Nevada is a must-visit destination." www.travelnevada.com / www.flynorse.com





BA doubles down on Pittsburgh success

BRITISH AIRWAYS is set to increase its Pittsburgh service to seven times per week for the first time since the route was introduced five years ago.

Jerad Bachar, CEO of VisitPITTSBURGH, said, "We're thrilled that the British Airways service continues to go from strength to strength and aligns us with these iconic destinations."

Return fares are on offer from £507 per person.

www.visitpittsburgh.com



Carnival commits to US homeports

2026/27 WILL see Carnival Cruise Line sail from Miami, Port Canaveral, Virginia and San Francisco.

Carnival Luminosa will homeport in San Francisco for the first time in 2026, offering a series of 10-day cruises calling at Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and Prince Rupert, voyaging the Tracy Arm Fjord en route.

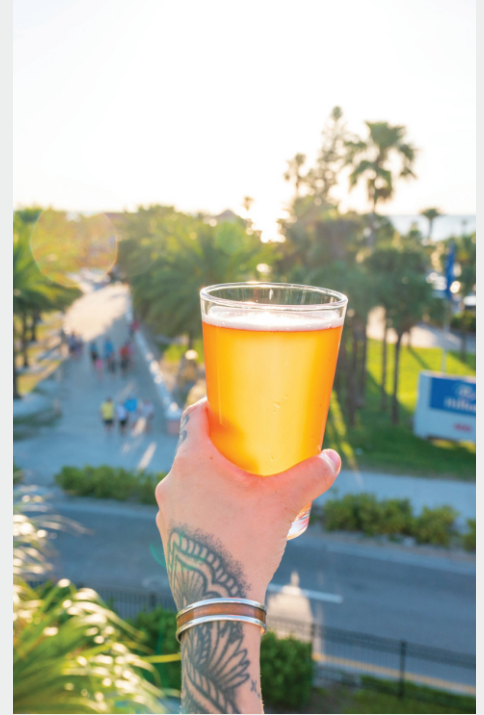
www.carnival.com

Cheers! Dozens of discounts with digital St. Pete-Clearwater passport

ST. PETE-CLEARWATER'S NEW FunShine Savings Passport features discounts at museums, attractions, tours, local restaurants and shops across the twin destinations, frequently recognised as the home of America's best beaches.

Steve Grimes, chief marketing officer for Visit St. Pete-Clearwater, noted the "many incredible experiences beyond our sugar white sand and beautiful emerald green waters," continuing, "The FunShine Savings Passport will encourage our visitors to explore the cuisines, entertainment, activities, and adventures across the destination.

"We have so many affordable options for visitors in our destination and this passport will provide additional incentive to save even more sand dollars while enjoying our



beautiful beaches and sunshine."

Upon signing up, the passport automatically unlocks savings at over 50 participating attractions until August 2025 before it is reset for another year of savings. www.visitstpeteclearwater.com/funshine-savings-passport

The sporty States invite active travellers to begin the countdown

THE USA'S pipeline of global sporting events, from the World Cup in 2026 to the Olympics in 2028, will no doubt inspire some actively-minded travellers to swap the couch for the courts or the sofa for some sports. Brand USA has listed select unmissable active experiences.

Home to the Bears and the Cubs, which have a combined three World Series between them, it is no surprise that Brand USA believes that a stay in Chicago is not complete without a day at the baseball.

New York City is, of course, home to one of the most famous MLB franchises; guests can join thousands of Yankees-capped

supporters at Yankee Stadium, or opt for the underdog Mets.

Heading west, Hawaii's Waikiki Beach is home to beginner-friendly waves for those looking to try their hand at surfing, or for those looking for a more advanced surf, Haleiwa's North Shore welcomes thousands between November and February.

Utah is home to 10 first-class ski resorts within an hour of Salt Lake City, with Park City Mountain Resort boasting the most terrain of any resort in the States.

New England's charm is on full display at the Harvard-Yale Regatta, renowned since 1878. www.thebrandusa.com





Elevate your getaway at Riu Plaza Chicago Hotel

Immerse yourself **in the heart of Chicago** with a stay at the **Riu Plaza Chicago Hotel**. A perfect blend of contemporary design and classic architectural charm, this magnificent 28-floor hotel offers an unparalleled experience for the discerning traveller.

Your sanctuary in the sky:

- 390 luxurious rooms with air conditioning, a small fridge, and satellite TV
- Bathroom amenities to keep you refreshed and rejuvenated
- A 24-hour fully equipped gym to maintain your fitness routine

Savour every moment:

- Start your day with a delightful American-style breakfast buffet featuring fresh produce and vegetarian options
- Indulge in our Grab & Go service, perfect for exploring the vibrant streets of Chicago with snacks, coffees, and drinks in hand
- Unwind at The Rooftop Bar on the 27th floor, where breath-taking city views meet an exquisite selection of cocktails and snacks

The city awaits you.

Book your stay at Riu Plaza Chicago Hotel today for an unforgettable journey filled with comfort, luxury, and inspiration.

Visit riu.com to reserve your room now!

GUADALAJARA · PANAMA · MIAMI · NEW YORK · DUBLIN · BERLIN · MADRID · SAN FRANCISCO · LONDON · CHICAGO

As you like it

RIU
PLAZA



American Airlines reinstates Scot service

AMERICAN AIRLINES' seasonal service between Edinburgh and Philadelphia will be reinstated from May 24th, 2025.

José Freig, VP of international operations, revealed, "Edinburgh was a key dot on the map for American Airlines when we first launched our Scottish service back in 2015 and we are excited to return in summer 2025."

Philadelphia is one of the nation's fastest-growing international hubs.

www.aa.com



American Holidays' advent advantage

AMERICAN HOLIDAYS stars in Travelopia Tailormade's ongoing advent countdown campaign. Each week, one of the group's destinations (which also includes Citalia and Sovereign Luxury Travel) is spotlighted with hidden prizes given away to agents booking. The incentive runs weekly until December 15th, 2024.

www.americanholidays.com

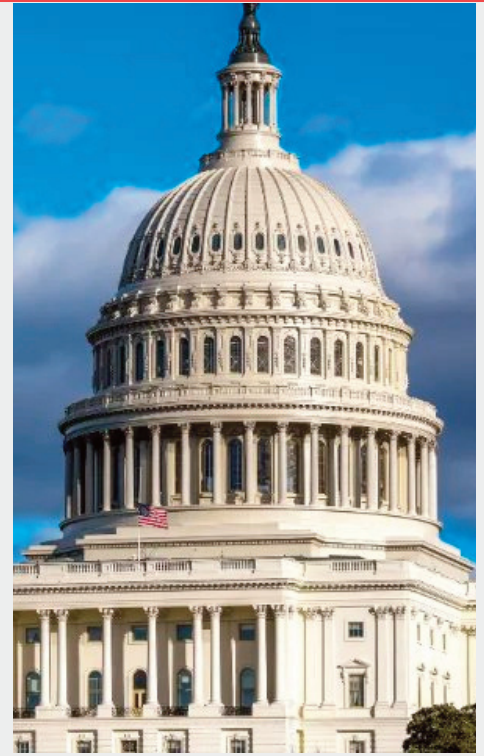
U.S. capital set for record capacity in 2025

IT'S NOT just a new president who will be heading to Washington, D.C. next year: a record number of Brits are set to fly into the US capital as British Airways ups its twice-daily service to a thrice-daily one for spring and summer 2025.

The additional flight, taking to the skies from March 30th, 2025, has been introduced "to provide travellers with more options to explore," according to chief planning and strategy officer Neil Chernoff.

Elliott L. Ferguson, II, president and CEO of Destination DC, added that the service "reiterates the importance of Washington, D.C., as a gateway destination to the United States," continuing, "The UK remains a priority for Washington, D.C. tourism, as it is DC's number one overseas market. As an economic development organisation, we can expect additional airlift to lead to increased opportunities for visitation.

"We're excited to work closely with British



Airways and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority to make access to the city even easier and more comfortable for travellers wishing to explore iconic landmarks only found in Washington, D.C."

www.britishairways.com /

www.washington.org

Private sightseeing, stateside

THE GRAND Canyon State has joined Daytrip's roster of U.S.A transfer options in California, Florida and Texas.

Following a US\$10 million funding round earlier this year, the private door-to-door car transfer provider, which blends transfers with sightseeing tours, has launched in Arizona.

Lucio William Fontana, head of expansion at Daytrip, noted that, "The Arizona Office of Tourism recorded 45.2 million overnight visits statewide in 2023, up from 40.19 million in 2022. The over +12% increase YoY is projected to grow even further for the year 2024! There could have been no

better choice for Daytrip's next USA expansion.

"We truly believe that booking a Daytrip transfer from one city to another or simply getting to a desired point of interest escorted by a vetted private driver is the best solution for Arizona's visitors.

"Daytrip will transform a long car trip into an amazing, safe, and affordable travel experience by offering sightseeing stops along the way."

Routes on offer include Phoenix to Las Vegas, Phoenix to the Grand Canyon, and Los Angeles to Phoenix.

www.agents.daytrip.com



SKIN IN THE SOLO GAME

Jules Verne's managing director, Debbie O'Neill, notes that "solo travel is nothing new for us at Jules Verne," spotlighting a series of solo picks for 2024 and 2025.



SOLO TRAVEL attracts a diverse pool of travellers. Debbie O'Neill, a former travel agent turned managing director at Jules Verne, said, "People choose to travel solo for a number of reasons, whether it's a desire for personal growth or the simple fact that their partner, family, or friends don't want the

same experiences as them."

Dedicated solo group departures are scheduled throughout 2025, including the nine-night 'India's Golden Triangle' option on September 6th, 2025. Group departures with no single supplements are on offer on March 15th and October 11th, 2025.

The tour, which includes return flights from London Heathrow with Virgin Atlantic, eight nights' accommodation, daily breakfast, one lunch and six dinners, guarantees a classic introduction into the iconic Golden Triangle of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. Excursions include a visit to Fatehpur

Sikri city, which was deserted for 400 years, a rooftop drink at sunset overlooking the Taj Mahal and a visit to the Best Exotic Marigold Hotel. film set. Prices lead in at £2,165 per person.

The 14-night 'Grand Tour of Turkey' is on offer with no single supplement for the November 2nd and 9th, 2024 departures. Return flights from London Heathrow with Turkish Airlines bring guests to the historic destination, with a scenic cruise along the Bosphorus, a stay at the rock-nestled Hotel Yusuf Yigitoglu Konagi and a host of tours and excursions from £2,445 per person. www.vjv.com

The youth-led solo travel movement

HOSTELWORLD RECENTLY revealed new insights into its solo travellers in its 2024 Solo Travel Report.

Topline findings include the role of young people in the solo travel wave: 68% of solo travellers reported were under 31, largely dominated by those aged 18 to 24 (37.7% of total solo bookings). Meeting people was the most memorable aspect of solo trips for 55% of travellers, more so than unique experiences (38.2%).

Japan took the lead, sitting at the top of 23.3% of solo travellers' bucket lists, with Australia, New Zealand, Italy and Thailand next up. www.hostelworld.com

Coco goes solo

BOUTIQUE MALDIVIAN resort collective Coco Collection has introduced a new 'Solo Adventure' package. Collating up to 50% off villa accommodation at Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu plus three daily meals, roundtrip scenic seaplane transfers and 20% on spa treatments, the packages are designed to offer solo guests all the perks of a regular stay and more at solo-friendly prices. www.cococollection.com/en/palm-dk/package/coco-solo-adventure





Simplified solo searching with Shearings

IN RESPONSE to the ever-increasing demand for solo holidays, Shearings' new 'find single rooms' feature on its website details around 250 hotels which offer single rooms and provides agents a more efficient and simplified solution to check which tours have availability. Each room will display the price of its single supplement, which start from £39 for a four-day UK break, or £69 for a four-day trip to Europe. www.shearings.com



Women take on the solo world

AS PART of Virtuoso's trends and insights report for the luxury travel market, it reported significant growth in female solo travel, with women making up 71% of solo travellers across the board. Increased safety measures, the desire to meet like-minded women and the urge to forge lifelong memories across the globe are all contributing factors to the growth. www.virtuoso.com

Just You unveils new brochure ahead of 25th anniversary

AHEAD OF its 25th anniversary next year, solo tour operator Just You is kicking off celebrations early with a new brochure comprising short-haul departures in 2025 and long-haul options into 2027.

The brochure encompasses European and Worldwide departures up to 2027, and offers early booking discounts worth up to £150 on short-haul options and up to £300 per person off long-haul departures.

Over 70 destinations are featured, including two brand new tours in Albania and Austria. The eight-day 'Tyrolean Treasures; Salzburg and the Austrian Alps' itinerary is priced from £2,249 per person which aims to celebrate the very best of the great outdoors and the eight-day 'Albania Uncovered: Vibrant Tirana to Ancient Apollonia' tour offers travellers a journey into the heart of the Balkan destination from



£1,649 per person. Each tour includes return flights, transfers, accommodation and the assistance of a Just You holiday director and specialist local guides to help travellers make the most out of the destinations.

www.justyou.co.uk

Exodus reports solo surge for Asian escapes

EXODUS ADVENTURE Travels has witnessed a solo surge for holidays in Asia, with bookings for this year increasing by 42% compared to 2023.

The major increase can be attributed to the group-guided nature of Exodus tours which provide security for travellers who wish to meet like-minded people, as well as the rising interest for travel to lesser-visited places.

Exodus offers a range solo traveller trips



throughout the Asian continent including the 14-day 'Trails of Vietnam' tour where travellers will venture off-the-beaten-track and travel by foot, boat and train to discover the country's hidden secrets. Prices lead in from £1,899 per person.

The 14-day 'Cycle the Back Roads of Sri Lanka' itinerary offers travellers the chance to explore the country from an alternative perspective. Guests will visit iconic landmarks such as the rock fortress of Sigiriya and the Yala National Park with prices leading in from £2,349 per person.

Exodus also offers solo travellers the nine-day 'Highlights of Northern India' itinerary with prices leading in from £1,349 per person. Guests will experience the majesty of the Golden Triangle as well as visit the Pink City of Jaipur and enjoy an early-morning boat ride along the Ganges. www.exodus.co.uk

ICONS OF ARABIA

Celestyal has unveiled the shore excursion programme for its new winter tour of the Arabian Gulf.



NOWHERE DOES the winter sun shine brighter than the Arabian Gulf: Celestyal has released details for its shore excursion programme for the new 'Iconic Arabia' itineraries. The launch follows the news that both ships will operate the winter season in the Arabian Gulf from 2025, with *Celestyal Journey* homeporting in Doha from November

this year, while *Celestyal Discovery* will join *Discovery* and homeport in Abu Dhabi from next year.

The three- and four-night cruises will sail roundtrip from Mina Zayed, Abu Dhabi, and are available from December 2025 through to February 2026, and December 2026 to February 2027. The shorter itinerary offers 25 shore excursions for guests across Doha and Sir Baniyas Island, while the longer itinerary offers 34 excursions through Fujairah, Muscat and Khasab.

Excursions on the three-night 'Iconic Arabia' include an off-road journey across the desert to the unique inland

sea of Doha, with half-day prices leading in from £66 per person; the chance to explore the architecture and exhibitions of Katara Cultural Village with a decadent afternoon tea from £84 per person; and a behind-the-scenes look at the Formula 1 Yas Marina Circuit from £69 per person.

For the four-night itinerary, guests can test their courage on the world's largest zipline in Khasab from £86 per person; snorkel with turtles and more of Fujairah's marine life from £103 per person; and experience the local culture and traditions of Khorfakkan from £138 per person. www.celestyal.com

Last-minute winter sun savings with Just Go!

THERE IS still time for agents to grab their clients up to £200 savings on its winter sun departures in November 2024 and March 2025 to Benidorm and Calpe on the Costa Blanca.

The savings are valid on bookings made up until October 20th. Each itinerary include a range of excursions which take in the beaches and towns of Spain's White Coast; the ancient streets of Valencia; and the thriving harbour town of Alicante. Prices for the tours lead in from £1,499 per person.

www.justgoholidays.com

Fireworks, fiestas and fun in the sun

CELEBRATE THE New Year in the sun on Responsible Travel's 11-day 'Cuba Christmas and New Year' tour with departures on December 22nd and 23rd, 2024. Guests can enjoy the Parrandas de Remedios fireworks festival on Christmas Eve, a festive group dinner on Christmas Day, and a special New Year's Eve party in Havana to start 2025 with a bang. Prices lead in from £1,605 per person, excluding flights.

www.responsibletravel.com





Aus tops the charts for UK travellers

HOLIDAYMAKERS ARE looking for a winter spent Down Under this year according to online platform Taboola, which identified the top places British travellers are looking to go to escape the cold as the summer season ends. Australia is currently the most read about winter holiday destination for British travellers, with searches relating to Sydney increasing by 35% over the last two months. The Caribbean, South Africa, Egypt, Mexico and Dubai are also popular choices.



Jet2 discovers more in Marrakech

JET2CITYBREAKS HAS expanded its Discover More collection with the inclusion of Marrakech for the first time.

City breaks to the Moroccan capital are available from October this year until November 2025, with services departing on a bi-weekly basis from Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow and London Stansted Airports.

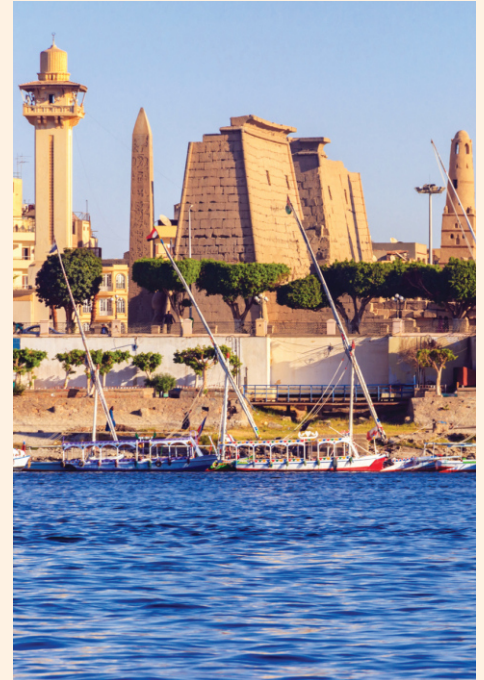
www.jet2.com

easyJet launches 2025 winter programme packages

EASYJET HOLIDAYS has launched its winter 2025 programme which will see the return of some of Europe's most loved cities as well as a host of winter sun favourites including the Canary Islands, Egypt, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia.

The programme launch follows the operator's announcement earlier in the year of the new addition of Luxor to its collection, alongside a series of Nile cruise packages.

Some of the package holidays on offer include seven nights at the four-star GF Fanabe in Tenerife from £598 per person on a bed and breakfast basis; seven nights in the five-star Enotel Lido hotel in Madeira from £972 per person on an all-inclusive basis; seven nights at the four-star Valeria Dar Atlas Resort in Marrakech on an all-inclusive basis from £540 per person; and



seven nights in the five-star Jaz Mirabel Park and Club in Sharm el Sheikh from £679 per person on an all-inclusive basis. Throughout the winter 2025 season, easyJet Holidays will be offering free kids' places across 51 hotels, with 900 hotels available to book now through the trade portal with exclusive early access to flights. www.easyjet.com

Merriment in the Maldives this Christmas

THERE IS no need for travellers to forego festivities to enjoy the sun this winter as the newly-opened RAYYA By Atmosphere resort in the Maldives is offering a jam-packed Christmas calendar for the whole family to enjoy.




With average temperatures hovering at the 28 degrees Celsius mark throughout December, guests can enjoy a different take on the festive period without negating the

familiar traditions of home. The resort's festive calendar offers an array of activities for no additional cost, including the Christmas tree lighting ceremony with beloved Christmas carols; a dedicated movie night showing all the Christmas classics; a Santa-letter-writing workshop; a Christmas storytelling session for children; and a New Year's Gala Dinner complete with a band and fire show.

Guests who stay at the resort up until October 2025 will receive a 15% discount, with prices leading in from £2,369 per person for a seven-night stay. All guests who stay at the resort are part of the RAYYA Plan, meaning airport transfers, food and beverages, spa treatments, a la carte dining and non-motorised water sports are included within the price.

www.raaya-atmosphere.com



  GrandPalladiumJamaica  PalladiumHotels

PALLADIUM
HOTEL GROUP

DISCOVER A RENOVATED JAMAICA.

Let yourself be carried away by a relaxed atmosphere in Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort & Spa and Grand Palladium Lady Hamilton Resort & Spa. You can enjoy a swim in the warm waters of the Caribbean, sipping on a piña colada in one of our four crystal-clear pools, or relax yourself by all our Zentropia Palladium Spa & Wellness could offer. Awaken your taste buds in one of our 10 gourmet restaurants with fresh fruit, meat, fish, and the spicy flavours of Jamaican jerk chicken and other local specialties. It's ideal for families and couples alike, offering an extensive range of activities and facilities to suit everyone including a kids' club and 17 bars. Freedom to choose, time to enjoy, and spaces to make the most of your stay. Enjoy your stay with Infinite Indulgence[®], it's all included.

For more information, visit PALLADIUMHOTELGROUP.COM or contact your favourite travel agent.



GRAND PALLADIUM

JAMAICA RESORT & SPA

MONTEGO BAY - JAMAICA

The Dominican Republic • Mexico • Italy
• Jamaica • Brazil • Spain



Uniworld's generational getaway

THE ENTIRE family can enjoy a winter getaway together with Uniworld's Generational Collection sailings which features the 12-day 'Splendours of Egypt & The Nile' sailing through December. The tour will include visits to the towering ruins of the Temple of Karnak, as well as the chance to walk through the famed Valley of the Kings. Prices lead in from £5,699 for departures on December 14th, 21st and 28th, 2024.

www.uniworld.com



Sun, sea and safaris

KE ADVENTURES has launched a series of new Pioneer Adventures for 2025, including the 27-day 'Ultimate Overland – Coast to Coast' itinerary in Southern Africa which will depart on November 6th, 2025. The tour will allow guests to take in the abundance of wildlife the region has to offer, as well as the chance to relax by the azure waters on the Indian Ocean under the sun. Prices lead in from £4,995.

www.keadventure.com

Finnair boosts its winter offering in Asia

FINNAIR HAS bolstered its upcoming schedule to Asia in order to give travellers greater access to some of their favourite winter sun destinations.

The Nordic airline will increase its Helsinki to Phuket service up to daily to reinforce its presence in Thailand and to run alongside the airline's current double daily service to Bangkok.

The service will resume for the winter season on November 2nd, 2024, where it will operate once per week before increasing to five times per week in December and then daily from January 2025. Fares lead in from £776 return for an Economy ticket.

Elsewhere, the airline will now offer daily direct flights to Dubai, up from the thrice-weekly service which was available last winter. Fares will lead in from £493 return in Economy.

These new additions complement



Finnair's already extensive Asian offering, including services to Bangkok, Delhi, Hong Kong, Nagoya, Osaka, Tokyo-Haneda, Tokyo-Narita, Seoul, Shanghai and Singapore.

www.finnair.com

The Scout Elf returns to Beaches Resorts

THE ELVES have left the shelves and are instead heading for Christmas in the Caribbean as Beaches Resorts are once again offering a range of family-friendly festive activities this winter period.

From November 29th, 2024 to January 3rd, 2025, all three Beaches Resorts in Jamaica and Turks and Caicos will put their festive foot forward together with the creators of the revered Elf of the Shelf game, the Lumistella Company, to create a festive

programme for all the family. The resorts will host weekly Elf of the Shelf themed parties with stilt walkers, candy fairies and pop-up activities under the Caribbean sun, as well as offer Santa-worthy treats for those in Butler Suites including milk and cookies, mini marshmallow bubble baths and other Caribbean-inspired surprises.

For the first time, Beaches will invite families for a night under the stars with popcorn, roasted marshmallows and themed movie-time snacks as the Santaverse comes to life – a storytelling universe revealing the enchanted world of Father Christmas. Each resort will also house a Scout Elf Central zone for games and activities including a festive treasure hunt.

www.sellingsandals.co.uk



Travel bulletin

SHOWCASES

Invites you to an

AIRLINE SHOWCASE

agent networking evening

MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER BRISTOL

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to this informative and fun event, enabling you to learn more about a range of different airlines from leading suppliers. The evening will involve networking and presentations along with a delicious hot dinner, drinks, exciting entertainment and a free prize draw with prizes galore!

TIMINGS

Registration & Drinks 5:45 ^{PM}	Travel Bulletin Welcome 6:25 ^{PM}	Supplier Presentations 6:30 ^{PM}	Hot Dinner 7:45 ^{PM}	Supplier Presentations 8:30 ^{PM}	Product Quiz and Prizes 9:10 ^{PM}	Event Ends 9:30 ^{PM}
---	---	--	----------------------------------	--	---	----------------------------------



FEATURES:



To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by Friday 11th October 2024 to: events@travelbulletin.co.uk or Telephone: 020 7973 0136

THESE EVENTS ARE BY INVITATION ONLY and will be booked on a first come first served basis with limited space available.

Festivities on the high Caribbean seas

EXPLORA JOURNEYS is inviting travellers to elevate their holiday celebrations with a dedicated festive programme aboard its vessels *EXPLORA I* and *EXPLORA II* against the Caribbean backdrop this December.

EXPLORA I will set sail from December 23rd to 30th, 2024 in Miami with calls to San Juan, Anguilla, Dominica, Saint Lucia and Barbados, while *EXPLORA II* takes to the seas from December 20th to 27th, 2024, with stops in Anguilla, Guadeloupe, the British Virgin Islands and Saint Martin before concluding in San Juan.

Both ships will then depart for their New Year's itineraries, where *EXPLORA I* will celebrate the occasion

in Saint George's before ending her voyage in Miami on January 7th, 2025, while *EXPLORA II* will ring in the New Year under the fireworks in San Juan.

Guests aboard will be transported to a festive paradise at sea, with extravagant decorations, dedicated holiday entertainment and special activities for all the family. www.explorajourneys.com



The gift of Indonesian jewels this winter

SEATREK SAILING Adventure is offering a nine-night cruise from October to February to give guests the opportunity to uncover the Jewels of Raja Ampat on a roundtrip journey from Sorong. Travellers will cruise aboard a UNESCO-heritage Indonesian wooden pinisi sailing ship while they voyage through the southernmost islands of Raja Ampat National Park. Prices lead in from US\$7,500 per person (around £5,613) for a full board experience including airport transfers and a US\$150 bar tab. www.seatrekbali.com

What will you be dressing up as for Halloween this year?

Jeanette Ratcliffe
Publisher
 jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk
 Scooby-Doo.



Simon Eddolls
Sales Director
 simon.eddolls@travelbulletin.co.uk
 Betty Boop.



Sarah Terry
Senior Account Manager
 sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk
 Simon Eddolls!



Tim Podger
Account Manager - Far East
 tim@travelbulletin.co.uk
 Marilyn Monroe.



Matthew Hayhoe
Editor
 matthew.hayhoe@travelbulletin.co.uk
 Beetlejuice.



Melissa Paddock
Events Coordinator
 melissa.paddock@travelbulletin.co.uk
 A police officer or Rapunzel.



Holly Brown
Events Coordinator
 holly.brown@travelbulletin.co.uk
 An alien.



Leah Kelly
Acting Deputy Editor
 leah.kelly@travelbulletin.co.uk
 Coraline probably.



Areti Sarafidou
Events Coordinator
 areti.sarafidou@travelbulletin.co.uk
 A dinosaur.



EVENTS

events@travelbulletin.co.uk

PRODUCTION

production@travelbulletin.co.uk

CIRCULATION

circulation@travelbulletin.co.uk

Star
travel bulletin
AWARDS
2024

**LAST CHANCE to book your seats to celebrate
with the Travel Bulletin Stars of 2024!**

24TH OCTOBER 2024
Hilton London Bankside
LONDON, UK

To book your tickets call Jeanette on T: +44 20 7973 0136
or email jeanette@travelbulletin.co.uk

PROUD SPONSORS



Jetset

Saturate the Senses

with



Queensland
AUSTRALIA

Discover Queensland, Australia, a place where natural beauty will stop you in your tracks, but the experiences and connections made will stay with you for a lifetime.

Adventures abound in five UNESCO World Heritage Sites, vibrant coastal cities, lush rainforests, an awe-inspiring outback, and tropical islands.

There's plenty to do here, but life never feels rushed.



www.jetsetholidays.co.uk