

Travel bulletin

Giving agents the edge

Ocean & River Cruising

The turn of the tide continues as cruising continues to sail onto your clients' radars.

MORE IN...

Agent Bulletin

Unmissable incentives and training opportunities. **Pg. 7**

Youtravel.com Roadshow

Exclusive snaps from the first of three Youtravel.com roadshows for 2024. **Pg. 10**

Canada

Maple leaves, multi-generational marvels and more. **Pg. 27**



Not Just Travel's Gaynor Speakman on the continuing rise of cruise and throwing your clients a curveball... **(Pg. 8)**



Star travel bulletin
AWARDS
2024

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday 24th October 2024

Hilton London Bankside

GET READY TO PARTY!

For more information call Jeanette on T: +44 20 7973 0136
or email jeanette@travelbulletin.co.uk

THIS WEEK



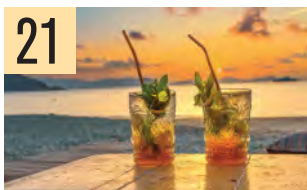
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NEWS
All the latest offers, developments and additions tailor made for the trade.



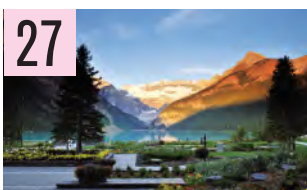
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YOU TRAVEL PIX MIX
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Whether your clients prefer quiet waterways or the high seas, everything you need is here.



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CARIBBEAN
From luxurious inter-island tours to top-class accommodation.



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CANADA
Help your clients embark on the journey of a lifetime across the Great White North.



GENERATION SEA

Research conducted by cruise.co.uk has found that cruising is becoming a popular option for multi-generational getaways.

FROM TINY tots to doting grandparents, travel has always been a family affair. The tide may be shifting, however, as research by cruise specialist cruise.co.uk has found that the generations are taking to seas with demand for multi-generational voyages is on the up.

More than 700 customers were surveyed as part of the research, and the findings show that passengers are more inclined to hit the high seas for their generational getaway.

69% of both parents and grandparents are now more likely to book a voyage with their extended family, including children and teens, compared to five years ago. Of that percentage, 34% stated that the primary reasoning was to be able to create lasting memories together while they can.

The other main reasons for the uptick in demand for generational cruises is that the value for money is favourable for a cruise over a resort destination for a family escape (28%) and there is a larger variety of on

board entertainment and activities for the whole family to enjoy (24%).

Tony Andrews, managing director at cruise.co.uk, stated: "Cruise holidays are the ideal way to spend quality time together. There are numerous family-friendly activities available both on board and ashore, while the variety of accommodation, entertainment and dining options ensures there is something to suit every taste and budget.

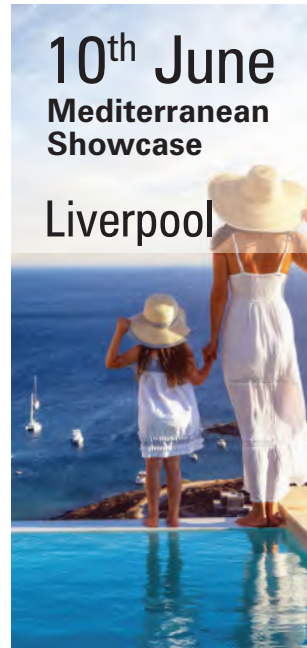
"With the opportunity to visit numerous destinations in one holiday, a cruise represents a convenient, cost-effective option for family getaways."

In terms of destination popularity for an escape on the water, the Mediterranean tops the charts as it was chosen by 63% of respondents, followed by the Caribbean (18%) and Northern Europe (10%).

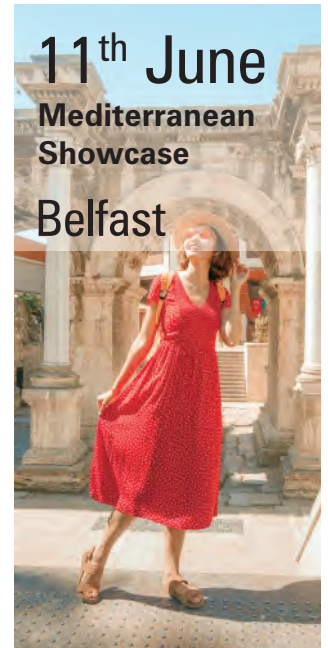
To read more about all things cruise, head to page 13 for our ocean & river cruise feature!



7th May
Family Holidays Showcase
County Durham



10th June
Mediterranean Showcase
Liverpool



11th June
Mediterranean Showcase
Belfast



20th May
Luxury Showcase
Basingstoke

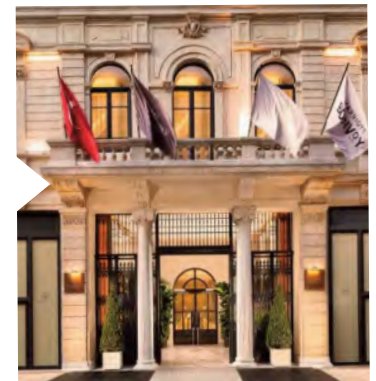
Marriott Bonvoy heads to historic Istanbul

MARRIOTT BONVOY'S Luxury Collection brand has welcomed a new addition (and its first in Istanbul): Sanasaryan Han. The historic building, originally constructed in 1895, reflects its historic surroundings and urban opulence.

Hoping to provide respite from Istanbul's vibrant city streets, the neo-classic hotel's 63 guestrooms include six suite options with sweeping city views.

Philipp Wegmann, The Luxury Collection's vice president and global brand leader, said the Marriott Bonvoy portfolio brand "take[s] pride in introducing The Luxury Collection to Istanbul, a city renowned as an international hub for both commerce and culture... [it] marks a fitting entrance for our esteemed collection."

www.theluxurycollection.com



Club Med ski bookings on an upward incline

LAST-MINUTE SKI bookings have spiked for Club Med, largely thanks to the higher-altitude ski season continuing and temperatures dropping again throughout March.

Nicolas Bresch, Club Med's managing director for the UK, Nordics and Ireland, explained:

"Many resorts have benefited from a bumper March in terms of snowfall..."

Last-minute ski resort sales increased by 23% for March and April recently, up 20% on 2023's bookings in the same period.

www.clubmed.co.uk

Bulgarian resort bumps Jet2holidays summer programme

AFTER JET2HOLIDAYS recently reported strong bookings to Bulgaria, largely attributed to its purse-friendliness, package options to Sozopol have joined the upcoming summer schedule.

A number of new three- and four-star hotels are on offer, ranging from bed-and-breakfast to all-inclusive.

Flights to Bourgas, with transfers onwards to Sozopol included in package options, will take flight from nine of Jet2.com's UK bases: Birmingham, Bristol, East Midlands, Glasgow, Leeds Bradford, Liverpool John Lennon, London Stansted, Manchester and Newcastle International.

Up to 21 weekly flights will be offered during the peak summer period.

www.trade.jet2holidays.com

Regent Holidays opts for Oman options

REGENT HOLIDAYS has enhanced its Middle East portfolio with the addition of four Oman adventures.

Options include a 13-day 'Discover Oman on Foot' walking tour, blending rambles, hikes, and 4x4 journeys with the impressive landscapes of the Hajar Mountains. The 10-day 'Oman Family Holiday' choice collates adventurous, multi-generational adventures including quad biking and stargazing in the

Wahiba desert and dolphin spotting and snorkelling in the Gulf of Oman.

Susan Muskita, the operator's product and destination specialist, said the brand had "long been considering a programme in Oman... the time seemed right to launch into this beautiful and friendly part of the world. Agents can trust that the same level of care, attention and expertise... has been applied here." www.regent-holidays.co.uk



Record-breaking year for NSW



DESTINATION NSW has spotlighted research from Tourism Research Australia, revealing that travellers contributed a record AUS\$51 billion to the New South Wales economy in 2023. Destination NSW's CEO, Steve Cox, said: "The NSW visitor economy is leading the country's recovery from the pandemic and attracting the majority of international visitors to Australia." 3.4 million international visitors contributed to the record-breaking 2023. www.destinationnsw.com.au

East Midlands' new Avis branch opens

AVIS BUDGET Group has opened its new temporary location at East Midlands, with current plans suggesting a permanent location with full Avis Budget branding can be expected to follow in due course.

The branch represents Avis' return to the airport after it previously ceased operations there in 2020.

Alan Olivier-Smith, the group's UK general manager, said the airport "is a great connecting point for Birmingham, Nottingham and the Midlands as a whole, and our new location will offer reliable services for those arriving at the airport from afar as well as the surrounding areas."

www.budget.co.uk

Spain goes green for second Sustainability Day

THE SPANISH Tourist Office (UK) has confirmed the programme for the second in its annual Spain Sustainability Day series.

Co-sponsored by Visit Benidorm and the Mallorca Tourism Board, panels will host representatives from ABTA, the World Travel and Tourism Council, Intrepid Travel and more.



The event will take place on April 17th, with registration open to the trade now. www.socialnewsroom.spain.info/spains-sustainability-day/



TAP high-fives Dublin Airport

THE PORTUGUESE flag carrier celebrated five successful years of flying to Dublin last month.

TAP now flies up to 15 times between the Irish capital and Lisbon.

Ricardo Dinis, TAP Air Portugal country manager for UK, Ireland and Nordics, said demand for the flight "has proved resilient and grown in popularity for both customers flying to Lisbon and travelling inbound to visit Dublin."

Dublin is one of 83 destinations in the growing TAP network.

www.flytap.com



Juneyao Air launches first direct UK service

THE AIRLINE has chosen Manchester as its first UK destination, with the direct flight service due to start operations from July 1st, 2024. The service will mark the first ever to Shanghai from the Northern Hub, running thrice weekly on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays from July. The new addition means that Manchester is the only English airport outside of London to offer a direct service to mainland China.

Say I do to Nova Maldives' enhanced wedding packages

THE WEDDING bells are ringing at Nova Maldives as the luxury resort has revamped its wedding and honeymoon packages for couples looking to tie the knot in the ocean paradise.

The 'Sandy Toes' package includes an intimate wedding



set up in front of the ocean backdrop and a host of romantic details including a decorated room fit for the newlyweds.

For those looking for a more grandiose event, the enhanced 'Ocean Promises' package provides an all-in-one service, including private boat transfers to the tropical ceremony on the Nova Overwater Pavilion and 60 bespoke photographs capturing the memories.

The most elaborate of the three, 'A Sun Kissed Kind of Love' package, provides couples with a decorated gazebo, romantic room decor and after-the-ceremony services such as couples' massages, a beachside fine dining experience and professional photographs.

Prices for Nova's wedding and honeymoon packages lead in from £1,330.

www.nova-maldives.com



AFRICA AND Latin America specialist Rainbow Tours has launched its new Africa brochure, complete with refreshed branding and a honed-in focus on responsible tourism. The brochure features details of the operator's partnership with Positive Planet, as well as highlighting tour options across South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Malawi and Kenya, among others.

Riviera Travel completes trade team

BRINGING THE operator's trade team to a seven-strong one, Suzanne Warren's addition to the team on April 8th will cap off a series of additions to bolster the Riviera's trade representation.

Suzanne will bring with her a wealth of experience from roles at Saga Cruises and Sunvil Holidays among others.

Vicky Billing, head of trade and partnerships, said she was "delighted" to

welcome Suzanne to the team, continuing: "She has extensive travel industry experience and will play a crucial role in developing our partnerships in the southeast.

"This appointment marks the final addition to our now seven-strong trade team, who are out on the road providing vital support for our trade partners."

www.rivieratravel.co.uk

Christmas comes early with Travelsphere's festive offering

TRAVELSPHERE AND Just You are already feeling the festive spirit as the operators have launched their festive tours for 2024. Departing between December 2nd and 30th, 2024, guests can choose from a wide array of destinations, including the Amalfi Coast, Malta and Jordan. One example of Travelsphere's festive offering is the eight-day 'Discover Malta at Christmas' itinerary priced from £1,699. Just You is also offering a Christmas spent closer to home with its new UK festive tours, including the four-day 'New Year in York' from £1,299 per person.

www.travelsphere.co.uk/www.justyou.co.uk



Radisson accelerates Moroccan expansion

RADISSON HOTEL Group has set an ambitious target to increase its Moroccan property portfolio from 11 to 25 hotels by 2030. In 2023, the Group continued its Africa expansion by signing eight new properties and adding more than 1,600 rooms.

www.radissonhotels.com

AGENT INCENTIVES

- VIRGIN LIMITED Edition's most prestigious incentive to date offers up free three-night stays on Necker Island (Richard Branson's private island paradise) for agents confirming at least three 'Individual Stay' reservations by July 31st, 2024. Incentive winners will be announced in August, and prize stays are eligible during any of the 'Individual Stay' periods throughout 2024 or 2025, excluding Thanksgiving. 'Individual Stays' are bookable by emailing enquiries@virginlimitededition.com
- SANDALS RESORTS is celebrating the opening of its new Saint Vincent and The Grenadines resort, offering up an Islands Chocolate Hamper, comprised of locally-sourced chocolate from its new resort, and £20 Love2shop vouchers with bookings. The hamper will be awarded to an entrant of the brand's quiz about the new destination (accessible via the *Selling Sandals for Agents* Facebook page). The Love2shop incentive will be included on any bookings for the new resort. Both offers run until April 10th, 2024.
- THE REOPENING of Lecce's Castle Elvira sees bonus commission of 15% on BAR bookings made by April 27th, 2024. A stay-three-pay-two offer is also available throughout April to help bolster booking value. www.castleelvira.com
- STAR CLIPPERS is rewarding select bookings with £25 Love2shop vouchers. Several summer sailings are included in the incentive: bookings and enquiries can be made by emailing sales@starclippers.co.uk: email booking references to agencysales@starclippers.co.uk to claim.

AGENT BULLETIN



TASTE OF PATA hosted over 150 agents and 19 suppliers for an evening of tastebud-tantalising networking, prize giveaways, and entertainment. Pictured here with Chris Crampton, PATA UK & Ireland chapter chairman, is Nehal Patel from Nehal Travels, who won eight nights' accommodation in Thailand courtesy of Red Elephant Reps.

Travel **bulletin**

WEBINAR

WE ARE bringing the finest suppliers from the world of Family Holidays together for a webinar on April 30th, guaranteeing a wealth of prizes and insights!

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

AGENT TRAINING

DESTINATION TRAINING

- COMPLETING THE Destination Canada Specialist Programme to Platinum status qualifies you for entry to the new rewards scheme, where you can unlock attraction passes and access a toolkit to help you sell. www.destinationcanada.com/en/canada-specialist-program-united-kingdom
- THE MONTHLY draw for a £50 shopping voucher continues on New Smyrna Beach's trade training platform. Not only will you come away with the chance to win, but a whole host of selling tips and destination insight on the beach paradise. www.tourismgivesback.com/courses-archive/nsb-insider/

ACCOMMODATION TRAINING

- WORLD OF Hyatt Inclusive Collection's new trade toolkit, the Confidant Collective, integrates the brand's agent site, learning platform, marketing assets and dedicated rewards. www.confidant.hyattinclusivcollection.com
- COMPLIMENTARY STAYS are still up for grabs through Miraggio Thermal Spa Resort's B2B training platform, along with the latest news, offers and property updates. www.miraggiob2b.com

OPERATOR TRAINING

- LEARN AND earn with Newmarket Holidays' trade training course. You'll graduate with a Newmarket Achievement Award, the chance to join one of the operator's fam trips, and a 15% discount on holidays of your own! www.training.newmarketholidays.co.uk
- JOIN THE Rocky Mountaineer team to learn all about the bucket-list rail journeys through the Rockies and American Southwest. Discounted agent rates are unlocked upon completion. www.communities.rockymountaineer.com/agent



AGENT INSIGHT

GAYNOR SPEAKMAN

NOT JUST TRAVEL

CRUISE HOLIDAYS are on the increase: from ocean, to river, solo, multi-generational, activity, adults-only, and luxury... cruising has it all! Just like a land-based holiday, you can find a cruise for everyone. I always ask "Have you thought about a cruise holiday?" when a client is not quite sure what they want from their holiday, here are some of the replies:

I hadn't thought about a cruise – Why not? It's just like a land-based holiday but with different destinations to explore.

I'm not sure I can afford a cruise – There are different options for all budgets depending on the time of year and destination.

I don't like lots of people – That's okay, you can go on a smaller ship where you won't be overwhelmed, or some of the larger ships have different neighbourhoods, or areas that can be accessed to minimise contact with lots of people!

We have children, I don't want them to be bored – Are you kidding me? Cruising is one of the most child friendly holiday options. Kids' Clubs that are like Youth Clubs with the some of the best technology and waterparks you can find.

That said, it's always important to make sure that you match your customers' holiday needs to the correct option. Ask about what they want from their holiday and what their expectations are for restaurants, activities, and destinations. You can nearly always match those up with a cruise.

I recommend joining as many webinars, product training sessions that you can. Join the social media groups, go on ship visits when they are offered, go on a cruise for your holiday if you get a chance! Agent rates are available on some cruises, so make the most of them.

Most importantly, don't be afraid to ask the question when you get your next land based enquiry - what have you got to lose?

Domes puts family first with new Santorini acquisition

TO KICK off the summer season in style, Domes has added a brand new Santorini staple to its portfolio.

Located in the north western corner of the Tholos region of the island, the Domes Novos Santorini will mark the hospitality group's 13th property across the Greek Islands and the Algarve.

Putting family first, the resort will offer a one-of-a-kind generational getaway off the beaten track, showcasing a wide choice of spacious suites and villas set against the coastline to suit all needs.

www.domesresorts.com

News Bites

- FINLAND HAS officially been crowned the World's Happiest Country for the seventh consecutive year by the United Nations.
- PACIFIC RESORT Atitikaki has launched a Cook Islands coral restoration project, fostering guest engagement and community.
- UNIVERSAL ORLANDO Resort has confirmed details on its new theme park, Epic Universe, including confirmation of a How To Train Your Dragon-inspired area.



WENDY WU has put the world on sale with its latest touring offers. Agents can save their clients up to £1,940 per person across a range of Japan tours departing in April and May this year, as well as up to £500 on more than 900 tours globally throughout 2024 and 2025. £800 can also be saved on last-minute itineraries departing over the next few months. www.wendywutours.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, April 18th. Solution and new puzzle will appear in the next issue.

March 22nd Solution: A = 1 B = 5 C = 3 D = 8

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



WHERE AM I?

OFTEN FEATURING in blockbuster hits such as Casino Royale and Pirates of the Caribbean, this capital is the pinpoint of paradise for all.

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				
19			20						

Across

- 1 Hotel brand, part of Accor (7)
- 4 Manchester international airport code (3)
- 6 Capital of Tibet (5)
- 8 Travel company offering VIP transfers with every tour (5)
- 9 Swiss global cruise line (3)
- 10 US state, home to the Saguaro National Park (7)
- 13 East African capital city (7)
- 15 He's back with Ant for a Saturday Night Takeaway (3)
- 16 Flows through Pakistan and 14 Down (5)
- 18 Magazine first published in 1884, Horse & ___ (5)
- 19 Glasgow international airport code (3)
- 20 Staffordshire based operator celebrating 40 years of travel (7)

Down

- 1 Stacey ___ presenter of Sort Your Life Out (7)
- 2 Currency of Switzerland (5)
- 3 Flag carrier of Poland (3)
- 4 Underground transport system (5)
- 5 Deloris Van Cartier adopts this disguise in the Sister Act movie and show (3)
- 7 Could be a Rent A Car company or a Texas tourist attraction (5)
- 11 The I.O.M. is in this Sea (5)
- 12 P&O ship exclusively for adults (7)
- 14 This country's flag has horizontal stripes of saffron, white and green (5)
- 15 Tennis score (5)
- 16 The Holiday Inn is part of this group (3)
- 17 Stuttgart international airport code (3)

CROSSWORD

Across: 1 SOFTTEL, 4 MAN, 6 LHASA, 8 TITAN, 9 MSC, 10 ARIZONA, 13 NAIROBI, 15 DEC, 16 INDUS, 18 HOUND, 19 GLA, 20 RIVIERA. Down: 1 SOLOMON, 2 FRANG, 3 LOT, 4 METRO, 5 NUN, 7 ALAMO, 11 IRISH, 12 ARGADIA, 14 INDIA, 15 DEUCE, 16 IHG, 17 STR.

Mystery Word: MANILA

youtravel.com
Roadshows
 In partnership with
Travelbulletin



Youtravel.com Roadshow 2024

Youtravel.com, with sponsors Ajman Tourism, Rixos Hotels, and Miral Destinations (Yas Island/Saadiyat Island), recently embarked on an exciting roadshow to Exeter, Bristol, and Cardiff: the first in a trio of roadshows planned for 2024.

Each evening was filled with excitement as Youtravel.com showcased their incredible hotels and destination partners. The event was made even more special with the presence of Visit Benidorm, Granada Luxury Hotels, Valentin Hotel Group, Side Crown Hotels, ALEGRIA Hotels, Visit Fuerteventura, Emaar Hospitality Group, and Invisa Hotels.

The feedback from agents and suppliers has been fantastic. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the product training, delectable food, refreshing drinks, and the chance to win some truly amazing prizes.



The Youtravel.com Roadshow will return in May and September this year: head to www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events to see where we're headed and register now!

Jetset

Welcome to our Home

Deposits available on Aer Lingus,
direct daily from Manchester !

Aer Lingus 

EXPERIENCE
Kissimmee
FLORIDA

500+ named Vacation Homes in Kissimmee..
Vacation Home Capital of the States !

Best rates on Kennedy Space Center
for an up close story of humans in space !



**Kennedy
Space
Center**
VISITOR COMPLEX

'Pulling the Florida fun together'

 Home from
Home

NO. 1

For Creating
**Dream
Packages**

Award-winning cruises re-imagined by Virgin.

Eat, drink, and enjoy all Virgin Voyages has to offer this summer.

Looking to engage your senses this summer? Aboard Virgin Voyages, Sailors can feel the sun on their skin, take in awe-inspiring landscapes, and smell the crisp Mediterranean air. Plus, we're bringing back our incredibly popular Eat & Drink Festival for the month of July – a month-long celebration of our award-winning and exceptional food and beverage programmes with special events like the first-ever Virgin Voyages Asian Night Market, Seven Sea Sippers, and a cocktail treasure hunt.

With itineraries ranging from a refreshing three-day Portsmouth to Zeebrugge jaunt to weeklong tours of the Mediterranean, there's a perfect holiday waiting for your Sailors. And to sweeten the deal, book them on select summer Mediterranean or Repositioning sailings and they'll be upgraded to a Sea Terrace cabin – a bonus limited-time offer on top of 80% off 2nd Sailor through April.

BOARDING PASS
TO
SUNLIT
SAVINGS

UP TO
80 % OFF
2ND SAILOR ON
SELECT VOYAGES

* ✂ 🍷 🗑



Brilliant For You

LEARN MORE AT [SELLVV.CO.UK](https://sellvv.co.uk)

AMBASSADOR'S BUMPER BOOKING OFFERS

Ambassador has launched its 2025/26 season with an abundance of new itineraries and bumper early booking offers.



AMBASSADOR CRUISE Line has launched its 2025/26 season, offering more departures from the UK than any other cruise line as well as an abundance of special offers.

Promising guests the 'warmest welcome at sea', the 2025/26 season encompasses 76 sailings and four

From the Med to Arabia: Celestyal bolsters 2025 programme

DUE TO unprecedented demand, Celestyal Cruises has refreshed its 2025 deployment schedule to increase the number of sailings for both the 'Heavenly Adriatic' and 'Desert Days' cruises.

Five more departures will be added to the programme – two additional seven-night 'Heavenly Adriatic' sailings and three additional seven-night 'Desert Days' cruises. In addition, a series of three- and four-night variations of the 'Desert Days' itinerary will be added.

All new sailings are now on sale and are included in the cruise line's Spring Sale campaign, offering 50% discounts. www.celestyal.com

Festive Events across both of the cruise line's vessels, *Ambition* and *Ambience*. The programme will include departures from seven UK ports – London Tilbury, Newcastle Tyne, Dundee, Liverpool, Belfast, Bristol Royal Portbury and Falmouth – offering guests the best choice of cruises departing close to home.

Highlights of the 2025/26 season include the six-night 'Scandinavian Explorer' from £959; the 31-night 'Classic Mediterranean' priced from £3,389; the 12-night 'Iberian Multi-generational Adventure' from £1,729; and the 18-night 'Christmas in the Canaries' leading in from £2,979.

To celebrate the launch of the season, Ambassador has announced a series of early booking offers, including Buy One, Get One Free on all sailings in the 2025/26 season. The offer will be shown when booking with the first guest at full price and the second guest for free. The prices listed for the above itineraries are for the first guest.

Ambassador is also offering 50% off on full single fares across all sailings, as well as a 25% discount on Premium Drinks Packages. The early booking offers are valid on bookings made by May 29th, 2024 for sailings between April 6th, 2025, and April 10th, 2026. www.ambassadorcruiseline.com

Windstar elevates French Polynesian offering

WINDSTAR CRUISES is collaborating with Pacific Beachcomber, a luxury hotel operator in French Polynesia, to enhance package offerings to the region. The hallmark of the partnership is the addition of two-night stay packages at The Brando, Pacific Beachcomber's exclusive private island eco-resort. This package is available from May 1st as a post-cruise add-on. www.windstarcruises.com



World America to celebrate at sea next year

MSC CRUISES is counting down the days until it hosts the naming ceremony for its latest flagship vessel, *MSC World America*, in company's PortMiami terminal.

On April 9th, 2025, the ceremony will honour MSC's commitment to the North American market and host a series of on board events to highlight everything the new ultramodern vessel has to offer.

Rubén Rodríguez, president of MSC Cruises USA, stated that there is "no better place to welcome *MSC World America* than the cruise capital of the world," and he is excited to welcome guests on board so that they can "experience the world of choice"

the new flagship has to offer.

Guests who attend the naming ceremony will be among the first to experience the new world of cruising that MSC strives to offer on board *World America* as they set sail for a celebratory voyage which will call at the cruise line's private island – Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve.

The celebratory itinerary includes a one-night stay at the island where guests will be treated to Ocean Cay's signature lighthouse show and beach party before spending the next afternoon at sea to experience the ship's long list of experiences and amenities.

www.msccruises.co.uk



Hurtigruten keeps its Northern Lights promise

TRAVELLERS NOW have the opportunity to experience the natural phenomenon of the Aurora Borealis for an even longer period as Hurtigruten has extended its unique Northern Lights Promise to September.

The cruise line's commitment to ensuring guests have the best chance at witnessing the natural wonder has meant the Promise will now start from mid-September as opposed to October.

Hedda Felin, CEO of Hurtigruten, said: "We firmly believe that Norway is the best place to experience the Northern Lights and that our

coastal cruises offer the best way to explore Norway. We are thrilled to extend our Northern Lights Promise sailing period, allowing more guests to immerse themselves in the magic of the Aurora Borealis."

As part of the promise, if guests are unable to see the Northern Lights during their 11-day voyage, Hurtigruten will give them a second chance through a six- or seven-day voyage free of charge.

In addition to extending the sailing season, the cruise line will continue to offer select astronomer-hosted sailings throughout the 2025/26 season following the successful introduction last year. During the voyages, guests will sail alongside renowned astronomers and partake in educational lectures and Northern Lights viewings on board.

www.hurtigruten.com



Travel Counsellors sees cruise surge

FEBRUARY CALLED for celebration as Travel Counsellors reported a surge in cruise sales during a record-breaking month.

Sea sales represent nearly 15% of all leisure sales for the consortium, with February's sales up 40% on the year previous. Luxury cruises sailed into the top three holiday types booked.

Global sales director, Jim Eastwood, noted: "Over half of over 1,500-strong community made cruise bookings last year." www.travelcounsellors.com



Destiny reveals the lore of the legends

DISNEY CRUISE Line is bringing the legacy of iconic heroes and villains to life on its brand new ship, *Destiny*.

Guests can expect to encounter both heroes and villains alike on board *Destiny*, including beloved characters from *The Lion King*, *Hercules* and *101 Dalmatians*.

The vessel is expected to take its magic to the seas in 2025. www.disneycruise.com

EXPERIENCE NORWAY WITH

Havila Voyages

The Norwegian Coastal Route

The 130-year old Norwegian coastal route is truly different. 34 ports, majestic fjords, northern lights and much, much more.

New, award winning ships

Our ships are an experience in their own right, built for sustainability, space and comfort at sea.

The flavours of Norway

Unique dining concept with locally sourced high quality ingredients, all included and served à la carte.





Say goodbye to jet lag and hello sea air

TRAVEL EXPERTS at Panache Cruises have gathered research concluding that the fresh sea air and exposure to bright natural light may be the cure for jet lag.

Working with sleep consultants, the research found that exposure night and day to sea air improves blood oxygen levels and boosts vitamin D, leading to a more peaceful night's sleep. Experts have recommended 24-hour exposure to sea air will vastly improve jet lag side effects.

www.panachecruises.com



Virgin extends Summer Season Pass

FOLLOWING THE successful launch of the Scarlet Summer Season pass last month, Virgin Voyages is extending the Pass to include *Resilient Lady's* Adriatic Sea season. Since the launch, the cruise line has seen more than 2,000 inquiries for the Pass, and the Barcelona voyages sold out within 48 hours. Prices for two sailors leads in at approximately £7,908.

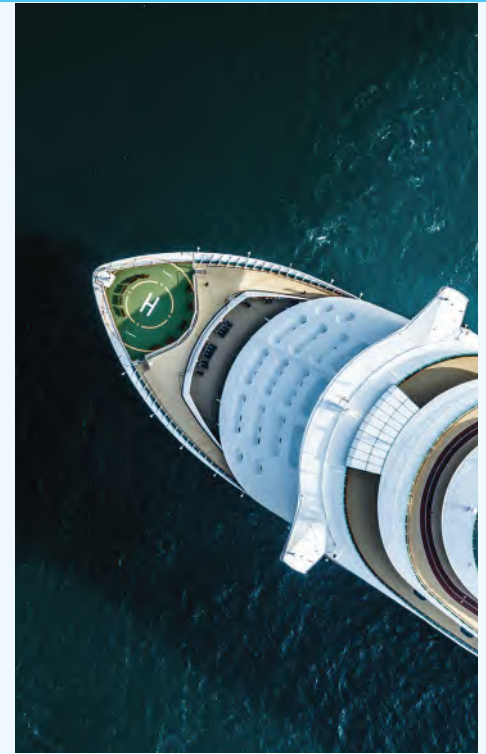
www.virginvoyages.com

Solo on the seven seas

SAY HELLO to freedom on the high waters and set sail on a solo adventure of a lifetime as Solos Holidays offers a jam-packed roster of cruising holidays for single travellers.

Offering nine cruising holidays tailored specifically for solo travellers, guests can make memories to last a lifetime with likeminded people. One example itinerary is the seven-night 'Sail Three Seas: Croatia and Italy' voyage, taking guests on a round trip from Dubrovnik stopping in Malta, Sicily, Italy, Corfu and Montenegro along the way. Prices for this itinerary lead in from £3,599 on an all-inclusive basis, including return flights from London.

If the Nordics are more your clients' speed, the seven-night 'Summertime Fjordlands' cruise takes voyagers through the Norwegian Fjords. Guests will depart from London Tilbury before sailing to Bergen and visiting fishing towns and the



home of the Viking kings. Prices for the itinerary lead in from £1,449 on a full board basis and includes a dedicated tour leader. Transfers to London Tilbury are not included.

www.soloholidays.co.uk

Sail the High Arctic seas with Swan Hellenic

BUNDLE UP warm and get ready to take on the High Arctic with Swan Hellenic as the cruise line is offering an expedition voyage to Svalbard.

A wildlife-lover's paradise, guests can spend their time looking for breaching whales, white-tailed eagles and even catch a glimpse of polar bears. En route, guests will stop on Bear Island, home to thousands of breeding seabirds including the Atlantic puffin, great skua and little auk.

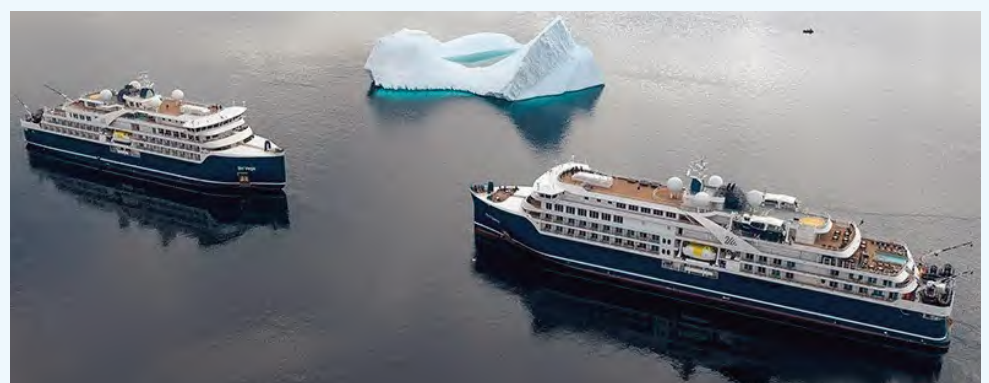
From here, voyagers will be taken to Svalbard to revel in the immensity of the glacier Monacobreen and listen to the cliff birds before visiting the fishing village of

Honningsvåg and stopping at Alta, the city of Arctic light.

Swan Hellenic's 10-night 'High Arctic of Svalbard' expedition cruise departs in June 2024, with prices leading in from £9,095 per person based on two sharing.

Prices include group transfers from the airport, one night pre-cruise accommodation stay at a four- or five-star hotel on board, all meals on board, stateroom-category accommodation, lecture programmes conducted by the cruise line's experienced expedition team and guest speakers, and one shore excursion per port call.

www.swanhellenic.com



CHRISTMAS CRUISE CALLS

Riviera Travel has launched its biggest-ever programme of Christmas and New Year cruises for December 2025.



ALONGSIDE ITS record-breaking festive programme for 2025, the operator confirmed that six river cruise options in the same year will host optional extended land stays.

Riviera Travel's biggest-ever programme comprises a total of 37 departures, spanning six itineraries on

the Rhine and Danube.

The five-day 'Enchanting Rhine & Yuletide Markets' option, calling at Rudesheim, Koblenz, Bonn and Cologne, starts from £999 per person, with 13 departures on offer throughout December.

A more comprehensive, eight-day 'Christmas on the Danube' sailing, visiting Budapest, Esztergom, Melk Abbey, Salzburg and Vienna, starts from £2,299 per person, with departures on December 21st and 22nd, 2025.

The operator's head of product, Will Sarson, said of the itineraries: "All are filled with endless opportunities to take

in the festive atmosphere in some of Europe's most enchanting cities."

The new 2025 river cruise extensions feature a three-night Budapest stay with prices from £539 per person or three-night Vienna stay from £639 per person, both available after the popular 'Blue Danube' itinerary.

On the land extensions, Will added: "Our land stay extensions have proven very popular in recent years, giving guests the option to extend their holidays with a range of visits to historic and celebrated landmarks."

www.rivieratravel.co.uk

Save up to £750 on steamer soirées

JULES VERNE'S spring sale features a range of savings across the operator's vast range of escorted tour and cruise options.

One river cruise inclusion garnering rave reviews is 'The Original Nile by Royal Steamer', a 12-night sailing starting from £5,245 per person, representing savings worth almost £750.

The spring sale not only features a suite of savings, but a £25 Love2shop voucher incentive on every booking made for one of the spring sale tours by April 28th, 2024.

www.vjv.com

CLIA calls close on largest-ever RiverView Conference

CRUISE LINES International Association (CLIA) UK & Ireland's largest-ever RiverView Conference saw a record 540 delegates enjoy ship visits on 11 river vessels in Amsterdam last month.

Alongside the ship visit programme, the event hosted keynote speaker sessions and a networking fair while showcasing CLIA's plans to raise the river stakes among the trade. www.cruising.org





Barge your way through Belgium

CROISIEUROPE HAS announced a new hotel barge sailing, exploring the waterways of Belgium and guaranteeing a host of charm along the way.

The six-night option, debuting in April 2025, sails between Ghent and Halle, calling at Bruges, Oudenaarde, Péronnes-Lez-Antoing, Mons, Strépy-Thieu and Brussels en route. Starting from £2,674 per person, the sailing includes meals and drinks onboard, excursions, use of onboard bicycles and port fees. www.croisieurope.co.uk



Uniworld's new Super Ship to set sail in 2026

UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE River Cruises has confirmed its new Super Ship, S.S. *Emilie*, will debut in 2026. Ellen Bettridge, the cruise line's president and CEO, noted that the ship is arriving "just in time to celebrate Uniworld's 50th anniversary," when it will join S.S. *Victoria*, debuting on the Rhine and Moselle later this year, and S.S. *Elisabeth*, launching on the Rhine next year. www.uniworld.com

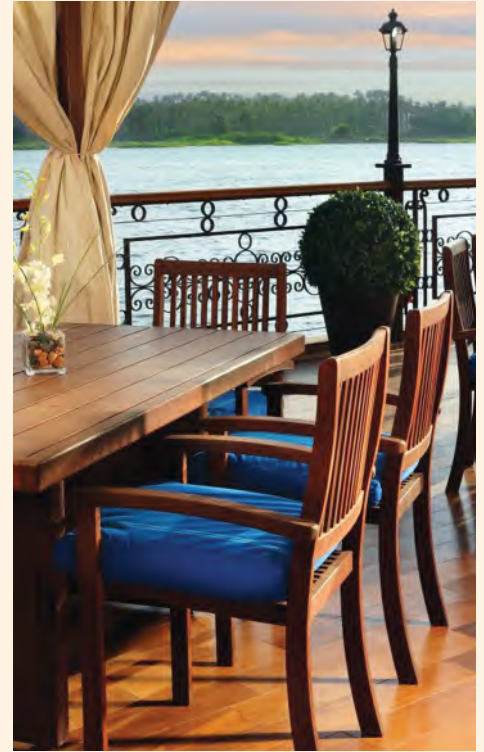
Nile nights courtesy of Discover Egypt

LAP UP luxury on the Nile with Discover Egypt's new collection for 2024/25 cruise options.

A range of ships await, with the operator encouraging agents to explore the whole range and tailor their clients' taste and requirements to the final choice. *MS Tulip* offers seven-night full board options, along with the all-suite *Sonesta Star Goddess* or the five-star *Alexander the Great* which are new additions for 2024/25. Prices lead in at £1,839 per person.

For a more intimate Egyptian experience, the five-cabin, two-suite *Sonesta Amirat Dahabiya* offers a choice of itineraries leading in at £3,995 per person for May 2024 departures.

The five-star *Steigenberger Omar El Khayam* sails a five-day Lake Nasser option, tailored for those who want to see all of ancient Upper Egypt's sights and sacred places along the way.



Managing director David Wiles highlighted his team's "unrivalled knowledge to offer agents looking to package the perfect classic Nile cruise trip for their discerning clients."

The new brochure is accessible via Tradegate or at www.discoveregypt.co.uk

Stateside summer sailings

AMERICAN CRUISE Lines has confirmed it is setting sail on a packed summer of New England cruises, representing the only collection of coastal itineraries in the region visiting exclusively American ports of call.

The programme is comprised of six small ships (including three new Coastal Cats), which will undertake a range of eight- to 15-day voyages.

New additions for 2024 come in the form of Boston to New York City Yankee Seaports cruises and roundtrip Hudson River

Summer Classic options roundtrip from the Big Apple.

Melissa Young, the cruise line's director of business development, promised an "unforgettable experience" in coastal New England this summer, continuing: "While some large cruise ships sail part of this region, none can cruise it the way American's small ships do – sailing protected waters and accessing local harbours inaccessible to big ships."

The new nine-night 'Yankee Seaports' options lead in at £4,999 per person based on the May 26th sailing. Prices include return flights from London, overseas transfers, a pre-cruise hotel stay in New York and the seven-night cruise itself with all meals and drinks.

American Cruise Line's preferred booking agent in the UK is Fred. Holidays. www.americancruiselines.com





'GUTEN TAG' TO THE RHINE THIS SUMMER...

Rhine & Moselle on the MS Geoffrey Chaucer
8 days from only £2,199PP | August 8, 2024

Rhine Cruise to Switzerland on the MS Geoffrey Chaucer
8 days from only £2,199PPP | August 22, 2024

Rhine, Strasbourg & Heidelberg on the MS Emily Brönte
8 days from only £2,199PPP | August 26, 2024

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-  Superior drinks package†
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Riviera Travel booking terms and conditions apply. *Visit rivieratravel.co.uk/giveaway for full details.
†Superior drinks package includes unlimited drinks at lunch and from 6pm to midnight (selected drinks available).

Travel Bulletin

SHOWCASES

Invites you to a

Luxury Holidays Showcase

Agent networking evening

Monday 22nd April Solihull | Tuesday 23rd April Wilmslow

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to one of these fun and informative events, enabling you to learn more about the luxury holidays industry from leading luxury 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!



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TIMINGS

Registration & Drinks	Travel Bulletin Welcome	Supplier Presentations	Hot Dinner	Supplier Presentations	Product Quiz & Free Prize Draw	Event Ends
5:45PM	6:10PM	6:15PM	7:30PM	8:15PM	9:10PM	9:30PM

To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by Thursday 18th April 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.

SANDALS SETS THE CARIBBEAN STANDARD

Sandals has officially opened the doors on its 18th property.

THE TIME has finally arrived: Sandals Saint Vincent and The Grenadines has opened its doors to welcome guests into the all-inclusive island resort.

Becoming Sandals' first venture into the eastern Caribbean destination of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the resort is situated among 50 acres of lush landscapes against the mountain backdrop, offering guests a sanctuary where they can disconnect from reality

CTO reports strong tourism growth for 2023

THE CARIBBEAN Tourism Organization (CTO) has reported that the destination is continuing on its positive recovery trend as tourism numbers grew in 2023, with an estimated 14.3% increase in international stay-over arrivals.

The growth was in line with CTO's forecast for the year, and has mainly been attributed to the sustained demand for outbound travel in the US, enhanced tourism-related infrastructure, improved air capacity throughout the region and the success of strategic marketing initiatives.

www.OneCaribbean.org

and focus on relaxation.

The destination itself makes up the heart of the resort, allowing guests to enjoy guided kayak experiences through the Buccament Bat Caves and bike rides weaving throughout the resort's gardens. Interactive classes and tastings are available to further immerse guests into the local culture of the island before nightfall when the vibrant festivities begin, including sunset parties, rum tastings and movie nights under the stars.

A new concept of accommodation is available at the property – the Vincy Overwater Two-Story Villas will span two stories above the sea, offering spacious rooms and exclusive perks including a guaranteed table at the Buccan restaurant.

The resort also provides a hub of gastronomic delights offering a wide array of delicacies and ambiances to suit any and all guests. While the Buccan offers an immersive family-style open-air restaurant where the chefs use ancient culinary techniques, the Scrimshaw taps into the island's access to fresh seafood and history with mixology. The Parisol beach club and kitchen specialises in smoothies and superfoods, while the Imoro provides a more 'grab-and-go' concept.

A seven-night stay for two at Sandals Saint Vincent and the Grenadines leads in from £2,315 per person, including return flights to Heathrow with Virgin Atlantic.

www.sellingsandals.co.uk

Holland America unveils 2025/26 Caribbean season

HOLLAND AMERICA has unveiled its 2025/26 Caribbean season, featuring 74 itineraries ranging from seven to 14 days between October 2025 to April 2026. Guests can explore the eastern, western and southern regions of the Caribbean islands, as well as the Panama Canal. All itineraries will call into Half Moon Cay, the cruise line's private island in the Bahamas.

www.hollandamerica.com



Carnival Cruises unveils portal plans

CARNIVAL CRUISES has unveiled the details of its Paradise Plaza and Calypso Lagoon portals at the new Celebration Key private island.

Paradise Plaza will welcome guests with an abundance of colour from the promenade and the awe-inspiring 10-storey Suncastle. Calypso Lagoon includes the largest freshwater lagoon in the Caribbean, as well as a sports court, restaurants and a beach-side bar.

Located in Grand Bahama, the island will open in July 2025. www.carnival.com



100 days of Pepperpot Rum

INDULGE IN a fusion of culture and cuisine as celebrity chef, Andi Oliver, is hosting a 100 day pop-up experience on the islands of Antigua and Barbuda.

Based on Andi's best-selling cookbook, the Pepperpot Rum Shop will open May 8th as a collaborative project between Andi, the Treehouse Beach Club and the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.

www.visitantiguabarbuda.com

Scenic sets sights on Caribbean

FOR THE first time this year, *Scenic Eclipse* readies itself to return to the Caribbean, adding notable destinations including the Bahamas and the Grenadines to its roster for its warm water season.

The 13-day 'Bermuda and the Bahamas' itinerary will see travellers begin their journey in Hamilton where they can explore the cultural heritage of the capital. *Scenic Eclipse* will then call at Salvador Island, Exuma Island and Honeymoon Harbour, with an extra day spent in Miami before returning to Nassau to end the voyage.

Prices lead in from £7,327 per person, including return flights and private door-to-door transfers.

The second of *Scenic Eclipse's* Caribbean cruises is the 13-day 'Island Odyssey: Bahamas to the Grenadines' will see the ship call into exclusive harbours other cruise lines can't reach, including Great



Inagua Island, St. Barts, San Salvador Island and more.

Prices for the itinerary lead in from £6,918 per person and include return flights and door-to-door private transfers.

www.scenic.co.uk

From layovers to stayovers: Original Travel launches 'itwineraries'

IT IS time to say goodbye to layovers spent walking the departure lounges of the airport as Original Travel has unveiled its innovative offering to turn indirect flights into distinct city breaks.

The new 'itwineraires' aim to build the flight connection destination into your client's holiday so they can enjoy a city break on top of their regular holiday.

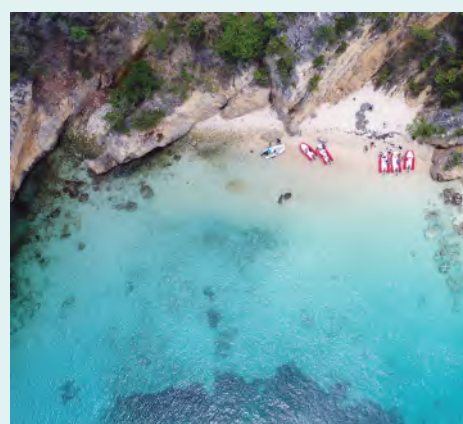
An example of the new itineraries includes 'From Fromageries in France to Caribbean Beach Shacks: A Foodie Combo of Paris and Anguilla'. Combining both

culinary powerhouses means travellers can sample some of the world's best delicacies.

As Anguilla offers connecting flights via Paris, travellers will begin their journey in the City of Love where they will embark on a walking tour of Saint Germaine with a chef guide to explore local boulangeries, fromageries and restaurants.

Once the fun is over in Paris, it is time to head to the island of Anguilla to explore the gastronomic delights that await along the shoreline. Travellers can indulge in the world-class barbeque and rum concoctions that pack a punch in the beach shack restaurants that line the coast and spend the days paddle boarding or kayaking through the remote bays to work up a second appetite. Prices for the itinerary lead in from £2,955 per person, including all flights, tours and eight nights' accommodation.

www.originaltravel.co.uk



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The Grand Palladium Hotels & Resorts of Punta Cana offer a wide range of activities for all ages, with 5 pools plus an aquatic park for children, direct access to the beach, kids club, a number of sports and water activities and a program of animations.

Lay back, relax, and luxuriate in Zentropia Palladium Spa & Wellness* with Hydrotherapy area with a steam room, hot and cold whirlpools, a dry and moist sauna, and a relaxation area.

* Additional fee applies to access services and facilities.

GRAND PALLADIUM PUNTA CANA RESORT & SPA



GRAND PALLADIUM
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IN SAINT VINCENT

Sandals Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has officially opened its doors, and we couldn't be more excited to welcome guests to a new chapter of the Sandals story. Tucked away on its own private cove and bordered by lush forests and gently flowing rivers, guests can step off the beaten path and explore this little-known wonder of the Caribbean. Home to one-of-a-kind accommodations including spectacular two-story Overwater Villas, as well as an exclusive beach club and 11 unique dining options, many of them featuring locally sourced ingredients from the island's endless bounty, this is a resort that will leave a lasting first impression.

SANDALS SAINT VINCENT AT A GLANCE



11 Speciality
Restaurants



5 Pools and
3 Whirlpools



An array of land
and water activities



9 bars, including
a swim-up bar



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To be entered into the prize draw to win a chocolate hamper from Islands Chocolate, UK Travel Agents must complete the Sandals Saint Vincent quiz. One travel agent will be selected at random and contacted by their local Business Development Manager to redeem their prize after the incentive has ended. The Bonus Prize incentive is valid for new Sandals Saint Vincent bookings only, made between 27th March 2024 - 10th April 2024, through Unique Caribbean Holidays Ltd. The administrator of the prize for promotion purposes only is: Unique Vacations (UK) Ltd, an affiliate representative of Sandals Resorts, registered office 2nd Floor Nucleus House, 2 Lower Mortlake Road, Richmond, England, TW9 2JA. Unique Vacations (UK) Ltd. reserves the right to amend or withdraw this incentive at any time, off the back of any circumstance beyond their control. The prizes(s) cannot be redeemed for cash. This incentive is not open to employees and their immediate families of promoter Unique Vacations (UK) Ltd and their associated agencies. Further terms and conditions may apply.



North America Showcase

WE SWAPPED the North West for North America last month, bringing Explore Louisiana, Flexible Autos, Expedia TAAP, Tampa Bay, Newmarket Holidays, Greater Miami & Miami Beach and United Airlines along for our North America Showcase!

From vouchers to goodie bags and bottles of bubbly, lucky prize winners left not only with their heads full of North American-spiration but some brilliant prizes!



This month alone we are bringing a taste of the Luxury to Solihull and Wilmslow, and Sustainability to London! Don't miss out on this month's brilliant events or a choice of even more throughout the year by registering at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events/agents

TORONTO

INSPIRING ONTARIO

Inspiring Travel offers a series of itineraries across the eastern province, showcasing the melting pot of cultures and landmarks that Ontario is famous for.

WHETHER YOUR clients wish to explore the beauty of Ontario by rolling along the railway through the mountains or tailoring their itineraries and exploring by themselves, Inspiring Travel is offering something for everybody to insure a holiday in the eastern province is one travellers will never forget.

Clients are able to tailor-make their itineraries during the 14-night 'Explore Ontario' package. The flexible self-drive holiday allows travellers to explore the

province at their own pace, starting and ending their journey in the cosmopolitan city of Toronto. Travellers will fly from the UK into Toronto before spending the night in the city, allowing ample time to explore the distinct districts of Chinatown, Little Portugal, Little Italy, and the Greek community along the Danforth. The next day, travellers will collect their rental car from downtown Toronto and enjoy a drive along the shores of Lake Ontario before spending a day at Niagara Falls. Other highlights of the package include visits to the historic St. Jacobs farmer's market, mountain activities at Blue Mountain Resort and a cruise around Thousand Islands. Prices for this 14-night itinerary lead in from £3,346 per person, including accommodation, car

hire and return flights.

Travellers can sit back and relax as they discover the diverse offering of Ontario's cities in the eight-night 'Discover Eastern Canada's Cities by Rail' package. Guests will travel in Business Class on a scenic train journey from Toronto to the province's capital of Ottawa to discover the cultural gems that await before venturing to Montreal and indulging in the melting pot of gastronomy. The itinerary will conclude in Quebec City, where guests will be transported back in time with its historic architecture. In each of the cities, guests will enjoy 'Freedom of Choice' experiences, including bike, foodie and walking tours. Prices for this package lead in from £3,599 per person. www.inspiringtravel.co.uk

Nobu set for summer debut

NOBU HOTELS is set to make its Canadian debut this summer in the heart of Toronto's Entertainment District.

Rising 45 stories in the heart of the city, Nobu Hotel Toronto is located above the historic Pilkington Glass Factory, the hotel boasts panoramic views of Lake Ontario and the city skyline.

The property offers 36 guest rooms and suites, each blending a mix of modern luxury with Japanese tradition, as well as a restaurant, a private lounge, wellness facilities, private dining areas, a sushi bar and an outdoor terrace.

www.nobuhotels.com

WestJet welcomes returning routes

NOVA SCOTIA is set to become even more accessible to British travellers this spring as WestJet is reinstating two seasonal direct services to London Gatwick and Edinburgh from Halifax, as well as a new route to Dublin. The London and Edinburgh routes will operate four times per week from April 28th and June 20th respectively, while the Dublin route will operate thrice weekly from June 19th. www.westjet.com



Toronto tops visitor spend record

DESTINATION TORONTO has confirmed that visitor spending reached a record CAD\$7 billion in 2023, with 8.95 million visitors descending upon the chic Ontarian capital.

The city's destination board did however note that this remains below 2019's visitation numbers (9.56 million) and international visitation remains around 25% below pre-pandemic levels: a trend mirrored exactly by the UK market, which sits at around 75% of 2019's numbers. www.destinationtoronto.com



TUI's Canadian quartet

THE NEW 'Capital Experiences in Canada' tour from TUI blends five of the Great White North's most iconic locales: Montreal, Quebec City, Ottawa, the Niagara Falls, and Toronto. The 10-night rail tour, including flights, starts from £1,390 per person.

The tour was introduced alongside two new options to Mexico and Norway, now on sale for spring 2024. www.tui.co.uk

Newmarket Holidays celebrates Canada-versary

CELEBRATING 75 years since the first non-stop flight across Canada, Newmarket Holidays has collected a trio of tours that spotlight the destination's diversity.

Solo travellers are invited to the 'Canadian Rockies and Lake Louise' on a nine-day dedicated solo itinerary. Starting from £3,099 per solo, with seven nights' room-only accommodation, excursions including a Sulphur Mountain gondola tour among others, transfers, and return flights to Calgary from London Heathrow.

The 'Five-Star Alaska Cruise & the Rocky Mountaineer' itinerary starts and ends in Canada, with a trip aboard the iconic train from Jasper to Vancouver before a seven-day cruise of Alaska's Inside Passage. Prices lead in at £6,385 for the 16-day option, including the full-board cruise, Silverleaf Service on Rocky Mountaineer, seven nights' room-only accommodation and return flights.



Rounding out the trio is 'The Maple Leaf Trail', a 10-day escorted tour beginning with a Niagara Falls cruise before visiting four contrasting eastern Canadian cities. Prices start from £2,395, including eight nights' room-only accommodation, transfers and return flights from a choice of regional airports.

www.newmarketholidays.co.uk

Niagara City Cruises sails into early season opening just in time for Easter

OFF THE back of a 2023 season which saw its earliest season opening (March 16th) in the history of the Niagara Falls boat tour operation, which dates back to 1846, and the voyage of its 15-millionth guest, Niagara City Cruises again got its season off to an early start in 2024.

Mory Dimaurizio, City Cruises Canada's COO, said before the launch: "We are excited and looking forward to another early opening for one of Canada's leading tourism experiences."

For a truly bucket-list experience on the falls, the 20-minute 'Voyage to the Falls'

boat tour, sailing from the Falls' Canadian side, soaks in views of the Niagara Gorge, American Falls, and Bridal Veil Falls, bringing guests up close to the iconic Canadian Horseshoe Falls.

Before dusk, the full-mist tours makes a splash (City Experiences' free recyclable mist poncho guarantees a *mostly* dry experience). Light-mist, after-dusk options make for a drier affair. Prices start from around £20 for the 20-minute tour options. More comprehensive voyages, including fireworks cruises, are on offer.

www.cityexperiences.com





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Strong outlook for Canada predicts CAD\$160 billion revenue by 2030

DESTINATION CANADA'S 'Tourism Outlook: Unlocking Opportunities for the Sector' report for last year paints a strong portrait of potential for the Great White North.

With early estimates suggesting CAD\$109.5 billion in total tourism revenue for 2023, it marks the premature return to pre-pandemic levels. Tourism was also noted as a growth sector of 5.8%, a greater annual rate than that of the wider economy.

The board's chief data and analytics officer, Meaghan Ferrigno, said the next steps are "about unleashing capacity when and where we have it... smart growth that drives real prosperity for tourism businesses across every corner of this country."

Strong ambitions to unlock an extra capacity that represents the CAD\$20 billion required to reach the CAD\$160 billion mark by 2023 rest on seven key levers: workforce development, unleashing capacity outside of peak season, attracting higher yield guests, increasing air access, and bolstering new investment and reinvestment. www.destinationcanada.com



Nine-day Nova Scotian celebration

NOVA SCOTIA is set to host The Congrès Mondial Acadien 2024 this August, celebrating the over four centuries of Acadian culture.

The uniquely Franco-Canadian culture will be on full display from August 10th to 18th, 2024 throughout outdoor concerts, culinary adventures, family reunions, and more. Flagship events include the Opening Day Festival at Université Sainte-Anne, National Acadian Day at Yarmouth Airport, and the Closing Ceremony Concert at the Wedgeport Tuna Museum. www.novascotia.com/events

What are your three desert island staples?

Jeanette Ratcliffe
Publisher

jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk
My cat, a family photo and a ticket back to LHR.



Simon Eddolls
Sales Director

simon.eddolls@travelbulletin.co.uk
Axe, rope and suncream.



Sarah Terry
Senior Account Manager

sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk
Sun cream, drinking water and a private jet including the pilot.



Tim Podger
Account Manager - Far East

tim@travelbulletin.co.uk
Lighter, swiss army pen knife and a phone - I might get a signal!



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matthew.hayhoe@travelbulletin.co.uk
A Nintendo Switch, whatever book I'm reading and the latest issue of Travel Bulletin!



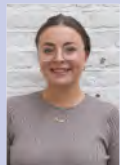
Melissa Paddock
Events Coordinator

melissa.paddock@travelbulletin.co.uk
Brita water filter jug (stay hydrated), a pan and Bear Grylls.



Holly Brown
Events Coordinator

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Machete, tin pot and a rope.



Leah Kelly
Acting Deputy Editor

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My phone with a downloaded playlist, a portable charger and a return ticket!



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CIRCULATION

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