

Travel bulletin

Giving agents the edge

Single Travellers GOING IT ALONE!



MORE IN...

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Cat Reeves

Holidays Please on how agents can ease client stress



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Giving agents the edge

JOIN US AT OUR ROADSHOWS 3RD - 5TH OCTOBER 2022

Monday 3rd October - Crowne Plaza Solihull
Tuesday 4th October - Bristol Harbour Hotel & Spa
Wednesday 5th October - H10 London Waterloo

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Networking
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SINGLE TRAVELLERS

From Japan to Slovenia, holidays to suit solo travellers.



AGENTS ON THE UP

The Advantage Travel Partnership has found that 94% of travel agents report an increase in new customers and 63% are optimistic about the year ahead.

A RECENT business impact survey conducted by The Advantage Travel Partnership has found that 94% of travel agents are reporting an increase in new customers for 2022 and that 63% are optimistic about the year ahead.

Of the 94% who are seeing an increase in new customers, 30% reported that these new customers fell into the 35–44-year-old age bracket, with 33% of new customers aged between 45-54 and 15% over 60.

The respondents reported that the largest type of new customer using a travel agent is specifically looking for assistance with complex itineraries and recommendations for where to travel, closely followed by those seeking a luxury break and then those booking a family holiday.

These new customers are coming to travel agents for the added security and peace of mind they offer, as well as for advice on more complex itineraries or more

'bucket-list' style holidays following two years of being unable to get away. Despite the cost-of-living crisis, the average booking value has increased.

While the top line statistics from the Business Impact Survey paint a positive picture, travel agents are still feeling the effects of the last two years, with 60% of respondents reporting that they still had an outstanding government loan to pay from the pandemic. This is impacted further with over 90% of agents saying that their operating costs have increased by up to 50% in the past six months.

In total, 92% of respondents think that the outbound travel sector needs greater support from across the political spectrum. In response, The Advantage Travel Partnership has suggested all its members contact their local MPs during the summer recess to invite them along to see the role of the travel agent in 2022.

Travel
bulletin

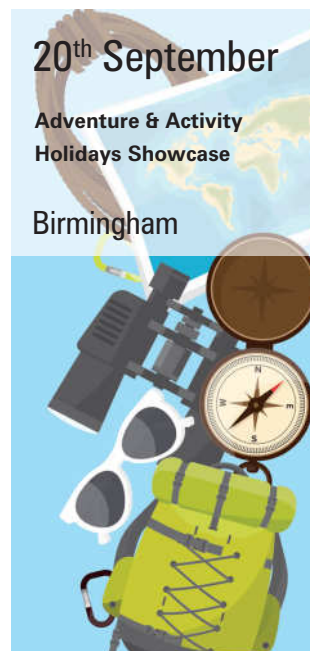
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Classic Collection extends homeworker support

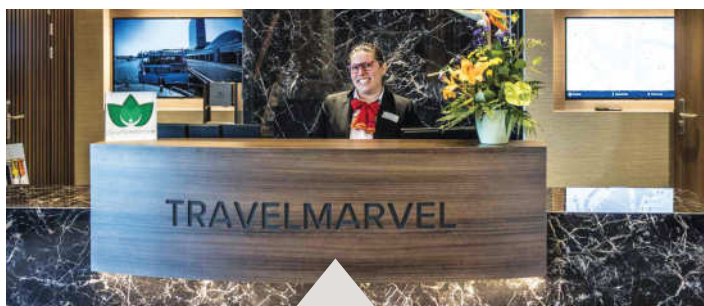
CLASSIC COLLECTION has unveiled plans to offer increased support for homeworkers.

Between now and September, the operator will be hosting 400 agent homeworkers across 21 venues at brunches in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, England and the Channel Islands. And in 2023 there will be dedicated fam trips, including a VIP trip, for more than 100 individual homeworkers.

The agent brunches will include business updates from Classic Collection, Classic Package and key hotel partners, as well as a marketing workshop from which agents can take away tips on promotion, social media, branding, and marketing assets.

Feedback from homeworkers has seen Classic recently adopt more homeworker-friendly opening hours.

www.classic-collection.co.uk



APT waives solo supplements

APT AND TravelMarvel have waived single supplements on all 2022 European river cruises, meaning that single travellers will pay £1,375 for a week, with savings totalling more than £5,500 per person.

Savings for solo travellers can be combined with the

brand's Balcony Sale, meaning solo travellers looking for flexible, four-star river cruising in Europe this year can enjoy up to 50% off plus a free upgrade to the best available cabin, as well as no single supplement.

www.apttouring.co.uk

Updates and enhancements made to CLIA website

CRUISE LINES International Association (CLIA) has refreshed its website.

A 'cruise daily' page has been introduced, which includes the latest news, a review of the previous month's key developments, the latest CLIA updates and content, new training resources and competition winners.

A 'Brand Profiles and Trade Contacts' page is also now available, which is intended to be a one-stop-shop for CLIA cruise operators' brand information, sales contact details and social channels.

In addition there is a page on CLIA's annual Cruise Week, along with a refresh to the 'Cruising with Confidence' page.

www.cruising.org

Slow and steady with Intrepid and Byway

INTREPID TRAVEL and Byway have teamed up to aid UK travellers in exploring Europe 100% flight-free.



The service is available for Intrepid trips in Italy and Spain initially, with more destinations to be added in the next phase of the partnership.

Sample packages, such as 'Italy Real Food Adventure', start from £2,020 per person. www.intrepid.com



SPL Villas launches partnership

SPL Villas has signed a partnership with Travepack to provide agents with flight-inclusive villa packages.

The Mediterranean villa specialist launched to the UK travel trade earlier this year as a villa-only supplier featuring a portfolio of over 900 individually chosen villas for a range of budgets in over 100 destinations.

Stays at a three-bedroom villa in Costa Blanca starts from £629 per person for seven nights.

For more details, call Travepack on 0208 585 4020

Princess Cruises introduces expansive Americas season

PRINCESS CRUISES has announced its most expansive Americas season ever, with 47 itineraries across 214 departures from seven North American homeports, including new voyages to the South Pacific and Hawaii.

New for the 2023-24 season are Sapphire Princess' two South Pacific Islands and Hawaii cruises roundtrip from Los Angeles featuring 'More Ashore' late-night stays in Honolulu and

Tahiti, and for the first time ever visiting Fiji, along with a pair of Hawaii cruises with overnight stays in Honolulu on Discovery Princess.

The 2023-24 Americas programme will offer consumers a broad spectrum of departure points for roundtrip cruises from Los Angeles, Ft. Lauderdale, San Francisco, Seattle, and Vancouver, as well as one departure from New York. www.princess.com

Image Credits: SPL Villas, Intrepid Travel.



SUNNY BULGARIA



With Balkan Holidays FOR THE LOWEST PRICES THIS SUMMER



We have some amazing low priced summer deals at the moment that you don't want to miss. We'll be visiting your branches to share the deals or you can copy and share on our Facebook page, Balkan Holidays Travel Agents. Plus, we'll be giving out our Balkan Holidays Summer of Love scratchcards to you, our fabulous travel agent partners! There's lots of prizes to be won.



See you soon Lynsey

Lynsey Jones
National Sales Manager



→ www.balkanholidays.co.uk
☎ 020 7543 5555





AGENT INSIGHT

DAWN HILLIARD

TRAVEL COUNSELLORS

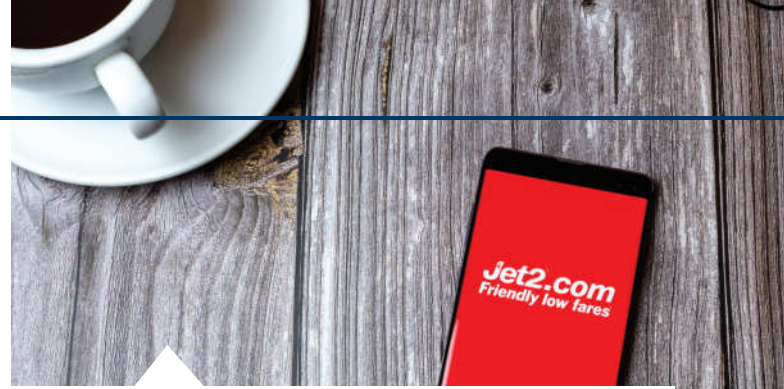
DEMAND FOR solo travel specialists has never been more prevalent.

My journey in supporting solo travellers started through a local meet up group, which now has over 600 members and continues to grow. With an age range of 18 to 80, all my members' needs are different, which is where I can help. At one end of the spectrum, I organise days out and short breaks, which is great for people dipping their toe into the solo travel space, at the other end of the spectrum I host worldwide trips for solo travellers, and I have a fantastic list of destinations that my members have expressed a desire to travel to. What's great to see is the immediate friendships blossom given their common ground – they are going solo and love to travel. It's not uncommon for a group who meet on my organised trips to then continue to travel together.

My objective is to remove the fear factor and provide support to my clients who aren't familiar with travelling solo. I provide my clients with the reassurance that my suppliers and partners won't put them in the smallest 'single' room in the hotel. In most cases guests have a double room to themselves! I also try and source rates and packages where the single supplements are reasonable and affordable. The industry needs to play its part in reducing these supplements as I believe this market has huge growth potential.

I feel really privileged getting to know my clients and being able to hand hold them through their first solo trip. Hearing about what an amazing time they've had when they return and organising their next solo trip is the icing on the cake.

Read more on single traveller holidays on page 19.



Jet2holidays unveils fam trip details

THE JET2HOLIDAYS trade team has announced the details of upcoming fam trips for independent agents, offering more opportunities to gather the latest destination knowledge first-hand.

16 fam trips will take place throughout the remainder of the year, with 150 places for independent agents available.

September will see fam trips to Palma, Malaga, Fuerteventura, and a surprise destination. In October, agents will head to Corfu, Antalya, Bodrum and another surprise destination, before a Paphos fam trip in November draws the year to a close.

www.trade.jet2holidays.com

News Bites

- KUONI IS putting the spotlight on Thailand with its new 2023 Far East collection, which includes an exclusive new addition.

www.kuoni.co.uk

- SIYAM WORLD Maldives has a new fleet of water vehicles, including seabreachers and the world's first 'water bikes'.

www.siyamworld.com

- SCENIC CRUISES is currently offering a free cruise to the second guest for agents' customers making a booking on selected cruises across the two brands. The offer runs until August 30, 2022.

www.scenic.co.uk



MERCURY HOLIDAYS has extended its range of escorted tours and river cruises, with four new escorted tours and two river cruises added. The tours span from 13 to 21 days, starting from £2,499 per person, along with two eight-day river cruises starting from £1,699 per person.

www.mercuryholidays.co.uk

AGENT INCENTIVES

- **THE FIRST** Collection, Dubai's lifestyle hotel brand, is targeting the UK travel trade with an incentive, offering free hotel stays, shopping vouchers for Dubai malls, and more, when they sign up to The First Group Hotel Rewards. This is open to all UK bookers.
www.tfghotelrewards.com/register
- **AMA WATERWAYS** is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a £200 Love2Shop voucher and 20% savings on bookings made by September 30, 2022.
www.AmaWaterways.co.uk/20thAnniversaryOffer
- **NATS IS** offering agents a number of shopping voucher incentives, with rewards ranging from £10 (for bookings up to £2,499) to £100 (for bookings £15,001 on more). The incentive is included on its new holidays to the American state of Georgia. Agents can book by emailing travel.agents@nats-uk.com or calling 0333 323 9033.
- **THE EXTENSION** to Celestyal Cruises' £20 meal voucher at The Real Greek incentive continues through August 31, 2022. The incentive is valid on 2022 and 2023 sailings aboard the Iconic Aegean, Idyllic Aegean, Eclectic Aegean, Three Continents and Steps of Paul, Christmas, New Year and combined itineraries.
www.celestyal.com/gb



2022 HERALDED the first Malta Academy Megafam of 2022, with 30 agent partners attending a three-day on-island adventure. To earn a place on an upcoming fam trip, agents can enter via the MTA Trade Facebook page or make a booking to Malta with Mercury Holidays by August 19, 2022.
www.facebook.com/groups/VisitMaltaUKandIreland.Trade/
www.mta.com.mt/en/

Travel **bulletin**

COMPETITION

Win one of three £50 Love2Shop vouchers and Kennedy Space Centre goodies by answering two out of this world questions!

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



AGENT TRAINING

- **ABTA HAS** launched its events programme for autumn 2022 to summer 2023, offering a host of training events and conferences for agencies of all sizes, designed to keep the industry up to date. The training events cover business tips, web reach optimisation, and more. To celebrate the launch, agents can unlock multiple booking discounts and 10% off all event bookings made by August 31, 2022 with the code AUTUMNSUMMER22*.
www.abta.com/events
- **QATAR TOURISM** has launched a new interactive training course, the Qatar Specialist Programme, aiming to enhance its travel trade partners' knowledge of the nation's diverse product offering and provide a qualification to reflect their know-how.
www.qatarspecialist.qa
- **FROM NOW** until December 31, 2022, agents who register and complete the Abu Dhabi Specialist Programme will be entered into a monthly draw for a chance to win £50 Love2shop vouchers or a pair of Manchester City tickets for the upcoming 2022 season.
www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travelgym/destination-training



Star travel bulletin
AWARDS
2022

A NIGHT
TO REMEMBER!

31ST OCTOBER 2022

HILTON LONDON BANKSIDE HOTEL
LONDON SE1

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR A FUN
EVENING CELEBRATING WITH THE TRAVEL
INDUSTRY'S ELITE.

Highlights will include:

- Discovering the winners of this year's highly coveted Star Awards.
- Relishing a sumptuous 3 course dinner with wine.
- Enjoying entertainment and an amazing after-party until the early hours!
- Having the chance to win a fabulous prize.

For more information call Jeanette on **0207-973-0136** or email jeanette@travelbulletin.co.uk

www.travelbulletin.co.uk/starawards/tickets

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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, August 18. Solution and new puzzle will appear in the next issue.

The winner for July 22 is

Claire Butt from Hays Travel Budleigh Salterton.

July 22 Solution: A=7 B=5 C=6 D=8

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



Parts of this city and its suburbs wind about the steep slopes of Table Mountain and neighbouring peaks and rim the shores of Table Bay; other parts lie on the flats below the slopes or stretch southward across the flats to False Bay.

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

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

Across

- 1 DoubleTree is just one of the brands of this hospitality company (6)
- 4 Des Moines is the state capital (4)
- 8 Croatian city and resort (5)
- 9 Flag carrier of Poland (3)
- 10 Currency of China (4)
- 12 Month of the year (3)
- 13 Second largest of the Maltese islands (4)
- 15 London Heathrow international airport code (4)
- 16 Stacey Solomon officially became Mrs _____ when she married actor Joe (5)
- 18 Flows through Perth (4)
- 19 Greek island recently evacuated due to a huge wildfire (6)

Down

- 1 Ex One Direction member whose latest album recently made it to the top of the charts (5,6)
- 2 Lisbon international airport code (3)
- 3 Scandinavian capital city (4)
- 5 SeaWorld is a popular attraction in this Florida city (7)
- 6 Staffordshire theme park operated by Merlin Entertainments (5,6)
- 7 European country with a flag of vertical green, white and red stripes (5)
- 11 Edmonton is the capital of this Canadian province (7)
- 12 Kym, actress and BBC Morning Live presenter (5)
- 14 Welsh footballer, Gareth _____ (4)
- 17 Airline centre of operations (3)

CROSSWORD

Across: 1 HILTON, 4 IOWA, 8 SPLIT, 9 LOT, 10 YUAN, 12 MAY, 13 GOZO, 15 LHR, 16 SWASH, 18 SWAN, 19 LESBOS.
 Down: 1 HARRY STYLES, 2 LIS, 3 OSLO, 5 ORLANDO, 6 ALTON TOWERS, 7 ITALY, 11 ALBERTA, 12 MARSH, 14 BALE, 17 HUB.
 Mystery Word: OMAN



Jetset Golf Meet Up and Mini Spa Day at the Macdonald Portal 14th July - a pictorial flavour of the day!



Golf & Spa Day Sponsors:





Yorkshire Ball
 Village Hotel, Leeds
 July 21, 2022

The ball returned to its usual summer slot, thanks to all the sponsors for making it happen and thanks to the generosity of the guests who raised over £7,000 for cats, dogs, elephants, horses and donkeys...bringing the total for the last 23 years raised to over £100,000... *Travel Bulletin* was there to capture the evening in pictures.





INDUSTRY insight by...

Holidaysplease's brand & business growth executive, Cat Reeves, on how things are 'perking' up in travel for agents, and how to deal with the current airport troubles.

AS AN industry, we are renowned for having a 'job with benefits' and our social calendars were left miserable for far too long over the last couple of years. Although it was far from the primary concern at the time of course, seeing the return of people in travel, in the flesh, doing what they do best (with a glass of wine in their hand!), has been even sweeter for the break.

Smiles are coming back at us from every angle, from the small mercies of receiving those pictures of that long awaited rescheduled, rehashed, reimagined trip from your lovely clients (and possibly those not so lovely - but

finally happy!), to the exhilaration of receiving that fam trip invite (fams are back in town!). Things are only going to get perkier!

One slight trough we are facing amongst these peaks is client worries about the airport experience. Airports were hit so badly during the pandemic that the staffing levels were forced to plummet. To correct that balance in a market that has still been a tad unsure, considering that airports have to be very conscientious of background checks (and it is imperative that thorough training is provided), it has proved challenging of late. But us as agents can play an imperative part in calming the storms caused by the hearsay and the media, creating a panic that isn't actually necessary, as problems have actually been in the minority. To avoid those

“

For the first time in a while we can get excited again as an industry, and it's brilliant

Holidays Please

holidaysplease

panicked calls from clients, remind them from the start to firstly turn up around the time check in opens (not before!) and to simply dig deep into that travel memory that's probably had a little rest, and remember the basics that keep the security line moving: remove electronics from your bags, ensure liquids are under 100ml and are in a clear, sealable plastic bag, pay attention to what the staff are asking, trust in the processes, and we can all ensure we are through in time for a swift one before finally getting on that plane and creating those pictures of that aforementioned long awaited rescheduled, rehashed, reimagined trip.

For the first time in a while we can get excited again as an industry, and it's brilliant! No one is promising completely smooth sailing as we attempt to adjust back to the well-oiled machine we once were, but knowing the people I know in this industry, we will keep focused until we get there and we will go further than ever. And if you have had no choice but to step aside during these hard times, know that you would be welcomed back to this industry with welcome arms, and now is the time to soar, particularly in control of your earnings as a homemaker. The sky is the limit!

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2023 RAIL EXPEDITIONS ON SALE NOW

MAY & AUGUST 2023 DEPARTURES AVAILABLE

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anzcro.co.uk/deals/journey-beyond



GEMS OF ARABIA

Scenic Luxury Cruises and Tours is showcasing the region's gems on a luxury cruise itinerary.



SCENIC LUXURY Cruises & Tours and Emerald Cruises is offering its 'Gems of the Arabian Peninsula' cruise for those wanting to explore the splendours of the Middle East.

Scenic is offering a free cruise to the second guest to agents' customers making a booking on selected cruises across the two brands.

The offer runs until August 30, 2022 and is applicable to the cruise cost only when

paying in full at the time of booking and is not inclusive of any flights, taxes or port charges.

Following a three-night stay in the Qatari capital of Doha, guests can sail on board an Emerald Cruises luxury-yacht to the stunning Sir Bani Yas Island for an indulgent day at the beach. In Abu Dhabi, an included guided tour of the Louvre Abu Dhabi and the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque will delight art and culture

enthusiasts before the Omani port city of Khasab breaks up a day of exploration with more beachside relaxation. Visitors can travel to the famous vibrant market of Fujairah on the UAE east coast, home to the oldest Emirati mosque, and admire the Zighy Bay and its mountainous landscape of the Musandam Peninsula. Lastly, there will be a visit to see the bright lights and contemporary

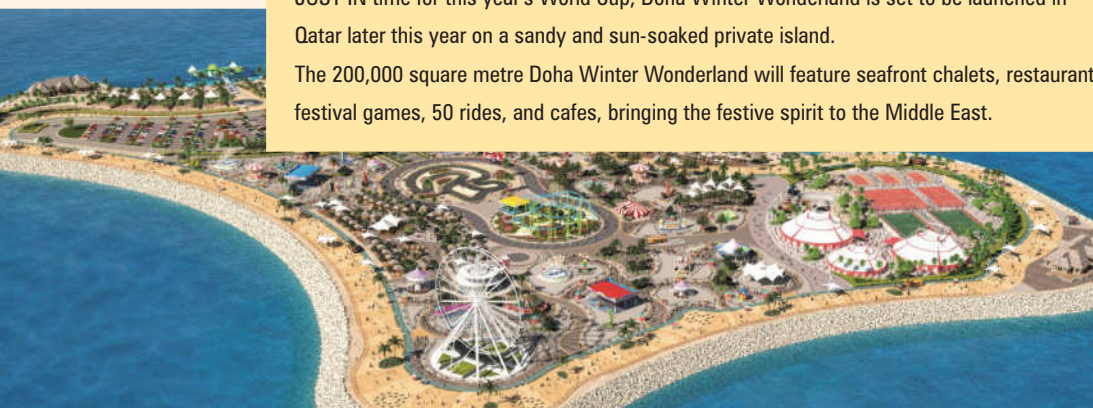
architecture of Dubai. Prices start from £4,035 per person on sailings departing in December 2022 and January 2023.

For full details on all included cruises, visit www.scenic.co.uk and www.emeraldcruiises.co.uk

Qatar to launch Doha Winter Wonderland

JUST IN time for this year's World Cup, Doha Winter Wonderland is set to be launched in Qatar later this year on a sandy and sun-soaked private island.

The 200,000 square metre Doha Winter Wonderland will feature seafront chalets, restaurants, festival games, 50 rides, and cafes, bringing the festive spirit to the Middle East.



Emirates adds additional flights to Gatwick

EMIRATES WILL increase the frequency of its services to/from London Gatwick airport with the addition of a third daily flight.

Emirates will continue to operate its six daily flights to/from London Heathrow during this period, and its planned restart of daily services to London Stansted has commenced on August 1. www.emirates.partners

Cruise through the Gulf with MSC Cruises

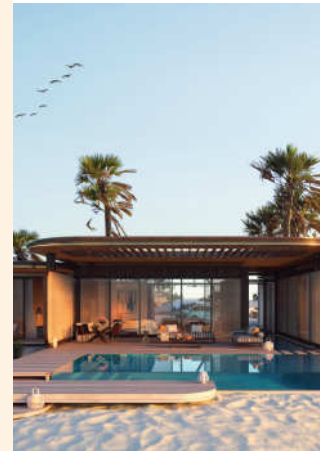
MSC CRUISES is offering the ultimate winter cruise with its journey through the Gulf region.

MSC World Europa's season will commence on December 20, 2022, with a special four-night sailing from Doha in Qatar to Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

MSC World Europa will then offer seven-night cruises from Dubai to the nearby modern metropolis of Abu Dhabi, on to Sir Bani Yas Island, where guests will have a chance to discover an exotic array of wildlife or bask in the warm sun on the immaculate beaches, all exclusive to MSC passengers on the days the ships call. The ship's programme in the Gulf has been enriched with calls in the port of Dammam, Saudi Arabia, visiting the Al Ahsa oasis, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The ship also calls Doha, the futuristic capital of Qatar,

before returning to Dubai with an overnight stay to discover all the marvels on offer.

Departing Dubai on March 25, 2023, MSC World Europa will then head to the Mediterranean Sea for the spring season. www.msccruises.co.uk



Rosewood Red Sea to open its doors

ROSEWOOD HOTELS & Resorts has been appointed by The Red Sea Development Company to manage Rosewood Red Sea, opening as part of phase one of the multi-complex The Red Sea development. Located along Saudi Arabia's west coast on Shura Island, the new Rosewood hotel will be part of The Red Sea destination, which is comprised of a marina offering a yacht club, commercial retail and dining options, as well as an 18-hole championship golf course.

Rosewood Red Sea will boast 149 guest rooms and suites. Elevated food and beverage offerings will include three restaurants, two lounges, a signature Manor Club and a central hub featuring authentic eateries. Additional recreational spaces will include event pavilions and Asaya, Rosewood's integrative well-being concept consisting of seven treatment rooms, a gym, two movement studios and a yoga pavilion.

www.rosewoodhotels.com



Learn about all things AIUla with the new training site

THE ROYAL Commission for AIUla recently launched its first travel agent training programme and trade information hub, 'AIUla Specialist', facilitating training for travel agents on the ancient city of AIUla.

The course spans five training modules

in English and Arabic: 'Introduction to the destination of AIUla'; 'The Unesco World Heritage Site of Hegra'; 'Dadan and Jabal Ikmah'; 'AIUla Old Town and Oasis'; and 'Nature and Adventure Attractions'. A trade tool kit is also included on the hub.

www.alulaspecialist.com



SAUDIA returns to Heathrow Terminal 4

SAUDI ARABIAN Airlines (SAUDIA) returned to London Heathrow's Terminal 4 on July 7, 2022, following a two-year closure of the terminal.

Mr. Hesham Aldkhail, SAUDIA Regional Manager of Europe said, "We are experiencing high demand on services to the United Kingdom, especially after the exemption of visa for Saudi nationals to the United Kingdom, which is encouraging for many who wish to travel."

Seat capacity has been increased by 51%, with 21 flights per week.

"We have received strong demand from travelers. This reflects the strength of our product offering and the reach of our network. Our new service will provide tourism, trade and business opportunities between Saudi Arabia and Europe," concluded Aldkhail.

SAUDIA has also expanded its European operations, adding several new destinations to its network, including Amsterdam, Barcelona, Malaga, Manchester, Mykonos and Zurich.

SAUDIA is encouraging the trade to ensure customers check in online and arrive on-time for check in (with check-in desks open three hours and 30 minutes prior to departure) to ensure the smoothest experience.

www.saudia.com

Four jewels of Dubai from Jumeirah

THE MADINAT Jumeirah, Jumeirah Group's mega-resort, is inviting guests to indulge in luxury with unrivalled benefits during their holidays.

Known as the 'Jewel of Dubai', the Madinat Jumeirah is home to four ultra-luxury hotels: Jumeirah Al Naseem, Jumeirah Al Qasr, Jumeirah Dar Al Masyaf and Jumeirah Mina A'Salam, all nestled within picturesque walkways connected by traditional abras.

Jumeirah Al Naseem kicks off the bill, with 435 rooms (including 44 suites), a three-minute buggy ride away from the Wild Wadi Waterpark. On-property, guests can experience Dubai's only turtle rehabilitation sanctuary, earning a deep understanding for the resort's role in wildlife preservation.

Jumeirah Al Qasr, a few minutes away, is nestled within 40 hectares of landscaped gardens, boasting 292 rooms (32 suites). Along with a 22-metre infinity pool, picturesque views of the Arabian Gulf, and kids' club, the resort is well celebrated for the Talise Spa, offering the ultimate wellness experience.

Jumeirah Dar Al Masyah, from the Middle East for 'summertime', offers a choice of 290 rooms, suites and villas, with each summerhouse comprising of nine to 11 rooms. Even with the seclusion of the summerhouse choices, guests are never far away from the neighbouring Madinat and all its facilities.

The final option is the Jumeirah Mina A'Salam, with 292 rooms (12 suites), winding waterways connecting the four hotels and chances to ride the traditional 'abra' wooden boats. The opulent choice offers access to the resort's six signature restaurants and a choice of multi-purpose event venues.

www.jumeirah.com



HIGHLANDER returns to Ras Al Khaimah

FROM NOVEMBER 18 to 20, 2022, hikers have a unique opportunity to explore the secrets of Ras Al Khaimah's mountain ranges and hiking havens with HIGHLANDER Ras Al Khaimah 2022.

Taking place on the UAE's longest developed hiking trail, the first adventure, HIGHLANDER55, offers a 55km hike over three days (from November 18), before the

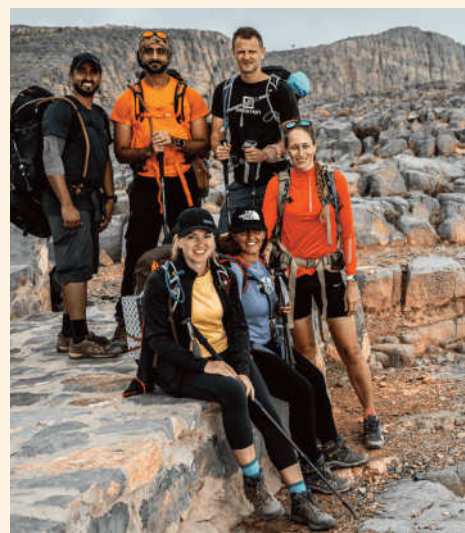
HIGHLAND Experience, a 30km two-day trek, kicks off on November 19.

The event marks its return after a successful iteration in November 2021.

Raki Phillips, CEO of Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority, said: "Ras Al Khaimah is well known as the nature Emirate, with its combination of sea, desert and mountains. Drawing on this natural heritage, we've worked closely with the local community to preserve the surrounding ecosystem, resulting in some of the most developed hiking trails in the region."

Registrations are now open, with entries costing AED1,300, including three meals a day, transportation to the start point, and bag transportation to the finish point.

www.highlanderadventure.com/ras-al-khaimah/



LATIN-TASTIC ESCAPES

Journey Latin America offers a range of holidays to the region's highlights and hidden gems..



JOURNEY LATIN America is offering a range of tailor-made holidays through both Central and South America.

Lapwing Patagonian Odyssey

This group holiday to Patagonia in Chile and Argentina features superior accommodation in one of the

continent's most remote regions. Tourists can travel to Torres del Paine National Park and enter Argentina to visit the Perito Moreno glacier, Tierra del Fuego and the Beagle Channel. 14 days start from £4,162 per person.

Signature Peru: Classic Highlights of Peru

Peru's classic highlights, include Machu Picchu and the Spanish colonial treasure-house of Cusco, await on this tour. Guests will climb past ranges of Andean volcanoes to the condor-flecked lip of Colca Canyon and head to the

shores of Lake Titicaca on the 14 days tour, priced from £3,680 per person.

Family Brazil: Waterfalls, Rivers and Rainforests

Discover Brazil's astonishing natural landscapes and vibrant capital on this family-friendly adventure. Explore the sparkling bays of colourful Rio de Janeiro, the thunderous Iguazú Falls and wildlife in the lush Amazon rainforest, before winding down on the beaches of Praia do Forte. 14 days is priced from £4,020 per person.

www.journeylatinamerica.com

Fun for the family at Grand Palladium Vallarta

NESTLED ALONG the picturesque Bay of Banderas in Mexico's sublime Riviera Nayarit, families seeking all-inclusive options in Mexico can head to Grand Palladium Vallarta Resort & Spa.

The 510-room resort offers Pacific Ocean views and a variety of five-star experiences from a kids' club and teens' club to multiple dining outlets and water-based activities such as catamaran sailing, kayaking, sailing and snorkeling. Families can also take advantage of the Family Selection program including unique facilities for all ages.

www.palladiumhotelgroup.com

Belize removes entry requirements

BELIZE HAS removed all public health measures for entry to the country. Visitors no longer need to have proof of vaccination or a negative Covid-19 test upon arrival.

Along with the removal of entry requirements to the country, purchase of the Belize Travel Insurance is now optional for entry but encouraged for protection against any incurred medical and non-medical emergency expenses in relation to Covid-19.





Nayarit, Mexico launches new tourism attractions

THE STATE of Nayarit in Mexico has launched 21 new tourist routes developed in the 'Nayarit Valley' region.

These trails are for adventure seekers and nature lovers alike as they provide the opportunity to swim in the region's waterfalls, relax in traditional temazcal baths and hike, abseil and rock climb in beautiful scenery. The diverse flora and fauna of the region can be admired on a 35 metre-high zip line circuit or from spectacular hanging bridges that cross the forest and ravines. The Nayarit Valley is home to four volcanoes, which can be seen on a tour through some of the towns of the region. These new routes also feature tours in the mountain region of Sierra del Nayar, inhabited by the Huichol, Coras, Tepehuanes and Mexicaneros people.

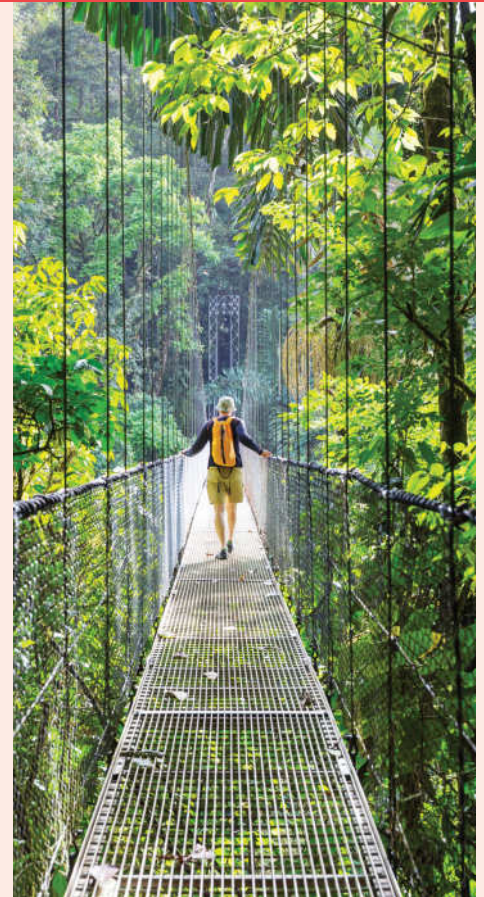
www.rivieranayarit.com/about

Latin Routes' Panama & Costa Rica 'Land and Cruise Holiday'

COMBINING THE ambience of traditional sailing with the comfort and luxuries found on most modern cruises, the 14-day 'Panama & Costa Rica Land & Cruise Holiday' combines an eight-day tall ship cruise with Star Clippers with a six-day land holiday, taking in some of the finest coastal destinations that Costa Rica and Panama can offer.

Pre-cruise guests will explore some highly recommended Costa Rican destinations – the Central Valley, Arenal and Montverde, all of which are scenically and ecological beautiful with a wealth of excursion options.

Highlights of the trip include a visit to the lively town of Quepos; Monteverde cloud forest, spending two nights at the Senda Monteverde mountain retreat; and the Costa Rican island, Isla Tortuga, which is characterised by its giant coconut palms,



soft white sand beaches and crystal-clear azure waters.

www.latinroutes.co.uk

Atlas Ocean Voyages to run four new operations

THE PANAMA Tourism Authority (ATP) has recently announced that Atlas Ocean Voyages will begin to run at least four new homeport operations, beginning in the 2022-2023 cruise season.

The cruise company's approach is closely aligned with Panama's Sustainable Tourism Master Plan, which focuses on

sustainable and unique experiences that will aim to connect cruisers with nature and authentic culture.

Atlas will operate small-ship luxury cruises, with new itineraries of up to 12 nights to Panama and with destinations including Cartagena, Curacao, Peru, Mexico, among others, resulting in a positive economic impact for different points nationwide, generating a host of socio-economic benefits for the country.

"We are proud to welcome Atlas Voyages who will introduce international visitors to our beautiful country, specially focused on experiences that highlight Panama's extraordinary nature and authentic culture," said Panama's Minister of Tourism, Ivan Eskildsen.

www.tourismpanama.com/things-to-do/



SOLO ON THE SEAS

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines is removing its solo supplement for single travellers.



SOLO TRAVELLERS looking to get away in 2022 or 2023 can enjoy a twin cabin with no single supplement on selected grades and sailings with Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines.

The offer includes opportunities to venture to the emerald green islands of the Azores, seek out winter warmth in the Canary Islands or enjoy scenic

sailings of the River Seine.

Durations range from four to 19 nights, with regional departures from Liverpool, Dover, London Tilbury, Portsmouth and Southampton.

The offer is applicable to new bookings made by August 31, 2022 inclusive, on selected September 2022 to March 2023 cruises, and based on sole occupancy of specific grades of

twin and double cabins.

Highlights of the no single supplement offer, on selected grades, include: Bolette's 19-night T2230A 'Islands of the Canaries and Cape Verde' cruise departing from Tilbury on December 2, 2022. Solo travellers can sail in a superior twin or double cabin with no single supplement, from £1,999. www.fredolsencruises.com

Contemplate solo zen with InsideJapan

CONTEMPLATE ZEN at one of Kyoto's tranquil rock gardens or hike in peace to the top of Mount Misen on Miyajima Island with InsideJapan.

The 'Japan Solo' adventure takes travellers by bullet train from Tokyo to Kyoto and Hiroshima, and includes a visit to the sacred island of Miyajima and a stay in the buzzing city of Osaka.

Inside Japan offers the 'Japan Solo' trip for 11 nights from £2,750 per person. For more information on travel to Japan, visit www.japan.travel/en/uk.

See Seattle with BA Holidays

FOR THOSE solo travellers wanting to immerse in culture, Seattle has a vast range of arts attractions from the Museum of Pop Culture to Chihuly Garden and Glass, both located in the Seattle Centre. British Airways offers a flights and hotel package for four nights at The Maxwell Hotel and flights from London Heathrow at £2,084 per person.

www.visitseattle.org





Walk worries away in Slovenia

SOME OF Slovenia's most renowned landscapes, from Lake Bled to Lake Bohinj, are on show with Inntravel's 'The Lakes & Julian Alps' tour, a seven-night experience starting from £795 per person.

The itinerary begins with a choice of walks from Kranjska Gora, with a choice of descents and ascent difficulties to match solo travellers' experience and ability.

Another day in the area offers high-altitude landscapes and meadows, descending woodland to the lower Bohinj Valley. The second hotel of the trip is the Alpine-style Hotel Jezero, in Ribcev Laz, where a choice of routes await on day four.

Day five sees guests check in to the Villa Prešeren or Villa Bled for impressive lake views, with day six offering hikes galore through the impressive surroundings.

www.inntravel.co.uk

Solo city breaks with City Experiences

SOLO TRAVELLING can often feel like a lonely affair, so City Experiences has refreshed its portfolio with unique experiences across some of the world's city break hotspots.

Kicking off the choices is a beverage-based journey through Barcelona on the 'Barcelona Tapas, Taverns & History Tour'. Guests can join the group tour and explore the centuries-spanning history of the city, taking in three hidden tapas bars, a locally-loved bar that hasn't changed its menu since 1965, and the ultimate local drinking experience: wine from a porrón, a traditional pitcher. The tour, including a 50-minute walking history tour, starts from €109 per person, with daily departures from Monday to Saturday at 5:30pm and 6:30pm. www.devourtours.com

Keeping on the continent, the 'Paris Ultimate Food Tour' is a foodie's dream through the French capital. En route



through the charming Marais neighbourhood, guests will get a taste for French classics and unique cultural bites. Departures are available on selected days from €109 per person.

www.devourtours.com

Heading across the Atlantic, solo travellers can hop aboard the first ferry to Liberty Island to take in the marvel of the Statue of Liberty on 'New York Statue of Liberty Tour with Ellis Island', which also showcases the latter's immigration history. The tour is available daily from US\$63.

www.takewalks.com

www.cityexperiences.com



Authentic and untouched Tahiti adventures

THE PURE and untouched Fakarava in the Islands of Tahiti is a well-kept paradise secret, ideal for solo travellers.

Single travellers can take it all in, enjoying the pristine paradise, its UNESCO-protected biosphere lagoon (home to vivid corals and myriad fish) and the famous Tumakohua pass, known as the 'wall of sharks', along with immersive cultural experiences.

For the true Tahiti experience, a family-run Tahitian guesthouse is the perfect base, with local hosts spotlighting hidden gems unbeknown to average travellers.

Audley Travel offers a choices of breaks across Tahiti, with French Polynesian experts on-hand to tailor make the solo adventure of a lifetime.

www.audleytravel.com

G Adventures gears up for the Galápagos

GLOBAL ADVENTURE operator G Adventures has welcomed its first custom-built catamaran to the fleet stationed in the Galápagos Islands this summer.

With traveller demand for upgraded vessel options on the rise, the new Reina Silvia Voyager has been tailor-designed to offer enhanced

accommodation choices, including two dedicated solo cabins.

Yves Marceau, global vice president of product, said of the addition: "We're also seeing a rise in travellers seeking solo cabin options, driven not only by more solo travellers but also those

wanting their own personal space.

"The Reina Silvia Voyager is our first vessel to feature dedicated solo cabins, offering a much more affordable option for those wanting to room alone."

The 103-foot Reina Silvia Voyager offers four itineraries, spanning eight to ten days.

A 10-day Quito to Quito roundtrip voyage will see one of the first departures aboard the Reina Silvia Voyager, with the ship exploring the natural marvels of the Galápagos Islands, including Puerto Ayora, Gardner Bay, Isla Lobos, Santa Fe and more.

The tour includes the seven night cruise, all meals aboard

the ship, a Galápagos National Park Service Guide, snorkel and kayaking excursions, a hike and wildlife encounter, and a choice of excursions, starting from £5,299 per person.

www.gadventures.com



Solo in Cyprus with Mercury Holidays

MERCURY HOLIDAYS has collated a range of 'No Single Supplement & Solo Offers', spotlighting Cyprus as an exciting destination awaiting to be explored at a leisurely pace.

A 21-night winter stay (departing between November 1, 2022 and April 30, 2023) at the five-star hotel starts from £599 per person, with two weeks on full-board and a third free on a bed-and-breakfast basis. The price is based on two people sharing, but solo travellers won't pay a solo supplement on selected rooms during the same period.

The package includes flights from London, and guests can opt to upgrade to a Sea View Room from £6 per person daily, or a Garden Pool View Room from £12 per person daily. Free upgrades to a Superior Sea View Room are included when booking a Garden Pool View Room. www.mercuryholidays.co.uk



Solo guided adventures in Japan

FIRST-TIME TRAVELLERS on solo adventures in Japan need look no further than Kuoni's 'Highlights of Japan' itinerary.

Guests will have time to delve into the nation's iconic cities, wander the safe and welcoming streets, and seek out adventure on guided excursions to the Japanese Alps, national parks, castles, and temple sites.

The tour, with solo room bookings, starts from £6,185 per person, departing on October 7 and 21, 2022. www.kuoni.co.uk

Roman escape at Sofitel Rome Villa Borghese

FLEXIBLE WORKING and worldwide border openings has encouraged Sofitel Rome Villa Borghese to craft a new solo escape.

The four-night exclusive hotel experience allows customers to experience all Rome has to offer.

Upon arrival, solo guests meet with the hotel's head concierge for an aperitivo and dinner on Settimo's city view rooftop.

Additional highlights include a shopping tour with Italian fashion influencer Selvaggia Capizzi to top boutiques and private ateliers, along with private yoga lessons at some of the city's most scenic locations.

The four-night package option starts from €3,720 per person, inclusive of a choice of activities and bed-and-breakfast accommodation.

www.all.accor.com



An Austrian winter with Just Go! Holidays

THIS CHRISTMAS, Just Go! Holidays is getting in the festive spirit with an eight-day 'Going Solo' coach break to Prague.

Departing on December 22, 2022, the tour starts from £924 per person, including five nights at the four-star Hotel Duo with breakfast and three dinners, a Christmas Eve guided tour of Prague, Christmas Day lunch and dinner in a local restaurant, a guided tour of Prague Castle and more. Return coach travel from a number of pick up points around England and Wales, ferry crossings and first and last night stays in bed-and-breakfast accommodation in Germany is included. www.justgoholidays.com

Get to know the Travel Bulletin team better by reading their answers to this week's probing question!

What one feature would you add to your dream house?

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Invites you to a

NORTH AMERICA SHOWCASE

Agent Networking Evening

Monday 12th September
HOLIDAY INN MAIDSTONE - SEVENDAKS

FEATURING



Agents, come and join us at this informative, fun event and learn more about the accommodation and flight options available to this amazing part of the world. Soak up the North American ambience and update yourselves on the diverse range of activities, multi-centre holidays, fly drives, city breaks and tailor-made packages on offer to meet your customers' needs.

This evening will involve a combination of networking and presentations, delicious food and drinks, exciting entertainment along with a free prize draw with a number of fabulous prizes to be won.

TIMINGS

Registration	Travel Bulletin Welcome	Client Presentations	Hot Dinner	Client Presentations	Product Quiz & Free Prize Draw
6:00 PM	6:25 PM	6:30 PM	7:30 PM	8:15 PM	9:15 - 9:30 PM

To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by
FRIDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2022 to: EVENTS@TRAVELBULLETIN.CO.UK or Telephone: **020 7973 0136**

THIS EVENT IS BY INVITATION ONLY
and will be booked on a first come first served basis with limited space available.

Invites you to a

Luxury Showcase

Agent networking evening

13th September

DoubleTree by Hilton Lincoln

FEATURING



Agents, we invite you to join the Travel Bulletin team and leading luxury suppliers at one of our informative and engaging events. With a combination of presentations & networking, we will provide the opportunity to discover the paradise that is luxury holidays. From remarkably unique hotels to once in a lifetime experiences, you will master how to deliver your clients their dreams.

Timings

Registration
6:00 PM

Travel Bulletin
Welcome
6:25 PM

Client
Presentations
6:30 PM

Hot Dinner
7:30 PM

Client
Presentations
8:15 PM

Product Quiz &
Free Prize Draw
9:15 - 9:30 PM

To confirm your place at one of these amazing events, email the name, company and contact details by **Wednesday 7th September 2022** to: events@travelbulletin.co.uk or Telephone: **020 7973 0136**

THIS EVENT IS BY INVITATION ONLY
and will be booked on a first come first served basis with limited space available.