

Travelbulletin

Giving agents the edge

Cruising

From rivers to the seven seas: wave-breaking angles to put wind in your sales

MORE IN...

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Luxury

High-end headlines **Pg. 20**



Could your next luxury client already be in your little black book? (Pg. 10)

INGHAMS
SKI

SKI HOLIDAYS IN NORWAY

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THIS
WEEK

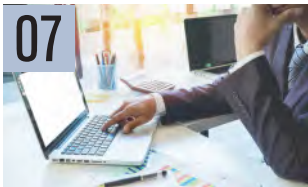
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NEWS

Everything you need to know as the cold season begins to call...

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AGENT BULLETIN

The latest training opportunities and incentives to help you sell.

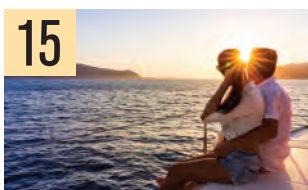
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PUZZLE BULLETIN

Complete the Sudoku to win an M&S voucher!

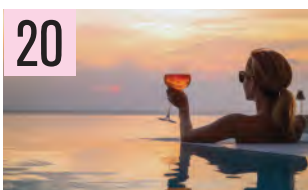
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CRUISING

It is smooth sailing on the global oceans and waterways as cruise continues to dominate.

20



LUXURY HOLIDAYS

High-end hotels, ultra-luxe breaks and more await.

THE FUTURE OF LUXURY IS NOW

Shoulder season success and sustainability as a priority are just a few of the notable trends highlighted in Virtuoso's 2026 Travel Trends Report

LUXURY TRAVEL remains a robust sector according to Virtuoso's 2026 Travel Trends report, which suggests that the appetite for ultra-luxe experiences continues to grow.

The global network has reported a 12% increase in sales during the January to June period when compared to 2024, with cruise and tour bookings projected to continue their steady rise for the rest of the year. In a consumer survey, 30% of luxury travellers from the US and 20% from Canada are planning to cruise within the next year, with spending expected to exceed \$50,000 per booking (a value category which is up 43% compared to last year).

As summer nears its end and the extreme weather remains unpredictable, travel throughout the autumnal months is favoured with luxury travellers as bookings in the shoulder season increased by 30% compared to 2024. Preferred destinations

are also challenging perceptions, as interest in the US is still high among the luxury clientele. Other destinations in the top spots include Italy, France, Spain, Japan, Greece, Canada, Portugal and Mexico.

There is a desire across generations for sustainable travel: 77% of Virtuoso advisors have reported their clients are more interested in booking environmentally-friendly travel options than they were five years prior. 64% of high-end travellers are interested in making more sustainable choices during their trip, with 42% willing to pay more to ensure their carbon footprint is limited.

The rise in Virtuoso-coined 'Wander Women' will continue to change the face of luxury solo travel. Women now represent 68% of solo adventurers, and their journeys will often see them bypass over-touristed areas.

Travel
bulletin

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Omega's solar eclipse tour of Egypt

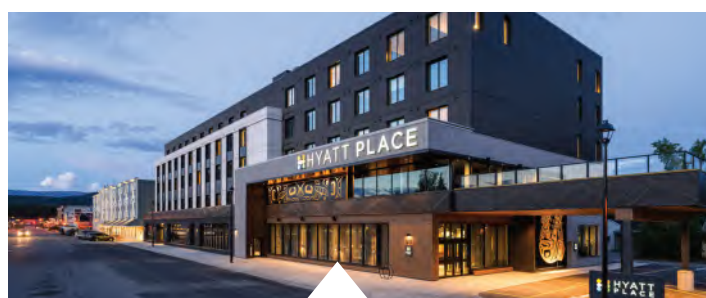
A NEW nine-day package not only showcases the icons of ancient Egypt but the once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse in 2027.

From their base at the Gemma Resort in Dorry Bay, guests will enjoy a guided trip to Luxor to visit the Valley of the Kings and the Temple of Hapshepsut among other ancient Egyptian icons.

Guests on the Omega Breaks trip will be

joined by Dr Darren Baskill, a lecturer from the University of Sussex, who will give a pre-eclipse presentation offering unmatched astronomical insight.

Departing on July 29th, 2027, the trip leads in at £3,499 per person with return flights from London Gatwick, eight nights' all-inclusive accommodation, select guided tours and the eclipse viewing experience.



Hyatt opens its first property in Canada's North

HYATT PLACE Whitehorse is not only Hyatt's first property in Canada's North, but the second purpose-built hotel to open in the Yukon capital in over half a century.

The property's 115 rooms sit minutes from Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International

Airport in the city's downtown, with oversized windows showcasing impressive views of the surrounding mountain range.

Hyatt Place Whitehorse also houses a 24/7 gym, a grab-and-go dining area, and a restaurant.

New UK flights central to Corendon Airlines' summer 2026

CORENDON AIRLINES is anticipating a 20% increase in seat capacity next summer, with a schedule packed with new flights to destinations.

In line with the growing demand from the UK market, Corendon is increasing its frequency of flights along its UK network from six departure airports (Stansted, Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow and Newcastle) to both Antalya and Heraklion.

Matthew Carpenter, UK county manager, said, "In the 2026 summer flight schedule, we are concentrating on our core routes and consistently pursuing our growth strategy. We are increasing UK flights, focusing on our core bases in Greece and Türkiye and increasing the frequency of flights from some of our current UK departure points."

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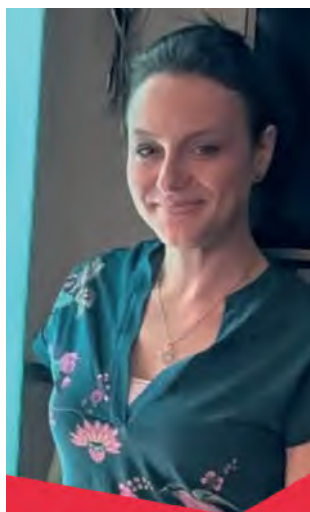
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Explore more possibilities

It's been a buzzing August, with our team proudly sponsoring the VisitMalta Weekender Cup at Stamford Bridge and a fantastic VisitMalta Hungerford Day at Newbury Racecourse, topped off by a live set from Clean Bandit.

We hope you're soaking up some downtime! As autumn approaches, Malta stands out as a dreamy getaway. The weather remains gloriously warm, perfect for sightseeing in Valletta, exploring historic temples, or lounging by the Mediterranean Sea enjoying authentic local culture and gastronomy. With direct flights and great value, Malta promises sun, culture, and relaxation this fall. If you would like a 1:1 online or in person session whether you are a homemaker or based in a store, feel free to drop me an email.

Gabriela Milkova
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@visitmalta.com



INTREPID TRAVEL is celebrating National Travel Agent Day with daily giveaways, which will see select agents earn Sunday roast tokens, gift vouchers and Intrepid trips of their own. Agent rates for travel in 2025 and 2026 have been discounted by up to 60% for agents and 40% for plus ones throughout this month, and all Premium bookings in that time will be eligible for a £50 incentive.

The Villa Collection introduces dedicated agent portal

A NEW rebrand reflects The Villa Collection's commitment to luxury and elegance, as well as its dedication to travel partners with its brand-new agent portal.

As part of its transformation, complete with a fresh logo and sophisticated visual identity, The Villa Collection has launched a new website featuring advanced search options.

Travel agents can now sign up to the new agent portal and create personalised

brochures for their clients and shareable URL links to streamline the booking process.

Director Gemma Lewis said the company "really wanted the new brand story to match our product and brand proposition... showcasing our continued promise of providing exclusive, elegant villas we're excited to invite agents to explore our new look and discover the exceptional stays that set The Villa Collection apart."

Travelmarvel to operate as a standalone brand

WITH EUROPEAN cruise business doubling in the last two years, APT Travel Group has launched Travelmarvel as a standalone brand.

Paul Melinis, APT Luxury and Travelmarvel's managing director for the UK & Europe, announced the brand's emergence as a standalone label.

"For our trade partners, the launch of Travelmarvel brings greater clarity, better focus and new opportunities. Agents will continue to work with the same friendly call centre team, now equipped with dedicated Travelmarvel experts specially trained to support and grow premium sales with confidence."

Travelmarvel will sail alongside the recently launched APT Luxury label.



AAT Kings to offer ex-UK flights

AGENTS CAN now book flight-inclusive packages under AAT Kings' extended ATOL license, with CEO Ben Hall hoping "that this move will open doors for more agent partners to start selling our Australia and New Zealand guided holiday packages."

AGENT INCENTIVES

- THE FIRST 10 agents to book with The Gambia Experience this month will earn a £50 Love2shop voucher. Ahead of the season launch on October 4th, which will see the addition of a new Saturday flight from Gatwick, Karen Durham, product manager, said, "For the month of September, we guarantee that our prices are competitive, in addition to the benefits that set us apart as The Gambia specialists."
- AAT KINGS has confirmed that agents will earn a £20 lifestyle voucher on all Classic or Small Group Guided Tours booked before October 5th, 2025. The top booker in that period will be awarded a gourmet food hamper worth £100, and any tours booked before September 30th, 2025 are eligible for discounts worth up to 10%. Bookings can be made via AAT Kings' travel agent portal, a registered tour op partner or directly through the field sales team.
- AGENTS WHO make a booking for a Festive Delights, Christmas Markets or New Year cruise with AmaWaterways will be automatically entered into a competition to win a festive cruise for two departing in 2025 or 2026. Bookings confirmed before September 30th, 2025 are eligible for entry.
- RIVIERA TRAVEL has discounted European yacht and river cruise agent rates by up to 30%, with short- and long-haul tours eligible for 15% and 10% off, respectively. Discounts apply to agents and up to two guests. Vicky Billing, director of trade & partnerships, declared, "It's not just about fam trips... the trade has a real appetite to book their own holidays with us."

AGENT BULLETIN



UNFORGETTABLE CROATIA hosted top-selling travel agents aboard its 36-guest yacht, *My Wish*, from Sibenik to Dubrovnik this summer. The trip culminated with a special party on deck (pictured) with free-flowing drinks and a Captain's Dinner. Graham Carter, co-founder, said, "Unforgettable Croatia is on track to secure its highest-ever occupancy rate in 2025 – currently in excess of 98%... the trade has been instrumental to this success."

Travelbulletin

COMPETITION

10 £25 Amazon vouchers are up for grabs courtesy of Tampa Bay!

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

AGENT TRAINING

- HOUSTON PRO is Visit Houston's training platform, which launched to UK agents for the first time earlier this year. Agents can access multimedia training from their desktops and mobiles, earn a certificate of completion, and access real-time product delivery.
- VIRGIN ATLANTIC has announced The Hangar, a new training portal and part of Sky High Club. The Hangar rewards short modules with Sky High Points which can be spent on flights and prizes within the platform.
- THE EXPEDITION Cruise Network has unveiled two new training resources: a dedicated Arctic Selling Guide, and a new Behind the Scenes interview series. Akvile Marozaitė, the Network's CEO, believes the guide can "support travel advisors in selling with confidence and showcasing the region's multifaceted beauty and appeal," and announced details on the upcoming video series. "The new Behind the Scenes interview series will be joined by experts in expedition cruise who have transformed traditional tourism into experiences which engage indigenous communities, work towards conserving fragile biospheres and demand the best technical seamen and women for the most remote regions in the world."
- AFTER REVAMPING its agent platform in May, the St. Kitts Tourism Authority continues to reward agents with a £50 Love2shop voucher on every booking and offer exclusive rates and discounts until December 15th, 2025.
- SEVERAL ENHANCEMENTS have been made to Riviera Explorer over recent months, including a brand video designed to reinforce Riviera's USPs; an enhanced module focused on selling solo; dedicated modules for group bookings; a new section highlighting mobility level classification; and improved internal insights.

Railbookers divides and conquers with dedicated brochures

RAILBOOKERS' NEW collection of e-brochures highlights its product collection worldwide, while offering dedicated editions for Italy, Switzerland and Luxury Rail holidays.



Now available to the trade, the launch allows travel agents to help their clients plan their rail holidays up to two years in advance.

Each brochure showcases a wide variety of curated itineraries, from luxury escapes to scenic journeys, offering fully flexible departures year-round.

More than a third of rail bookings include either Switzerland or Italy, with demand continuing to grow into 2026 and beyond.

As those two destinations continue to dominate interest for UK travellers by train, a series of destination-centric editions will shine the spotlight firmly at the rail experiences on offer across each's varied landscapes.

All brochures are available via Railbookers' Travel Agent Toolbox, where agents can also access a host of resources, from training videos and selling resources.



A NEW 10-day itinerary from Explore Worldwide will reimagine the classic Golden Triangle route with new experiences and elevated comfort. 'Highlights of Northern India' will take travellers to the Golden Triangle, Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, along with the chance to take in the Chambal region for a new perspective in a destination less-travelled. Prices for the tour lead in from £1,799 per person, including a two-night stay at a heritage palace in Dholpur. 14 departures are scheduled for 2026, starting from January 31st, 2026.

Mercury Holidays' new escorted tour quintet

FIVE NEW tours to destinations including India, Tunisia, Sri Lanka and the Balkans will join Mercury's portfolio for 2026.

The new offerings aim to immerse travellers deeper in the cultures of the destinations and go beyond the traditional tourist hotspots. Michael Priest, head of product, guaranteed that the itineraries "offer the most enriching experiences, memorable 'wow' moments and hidden cultural gems.

These itineraries respond to growing demand for deeper, more authentic journeys, whether that means venturing into the Amazon, exploring ancient ruins or discovering vibrant regional traditions off the beaten path."

Additions include the 12-night 'Journey through the Balkans'; 10-night 'Wonders of Tunisia: From Carthage to Sahara'; and the eight-day 'Puglia – Treasures of Southern Italy'.

Hays Travel makes first ever OTA acquisition

HAYS TRAVEL'S acquisition of Victoria Travel Group Limited, which owns Cruise.co.uk and Seascanner, is its biggest since 2019, and its first-ever of an OTA.

It also marks the group's seventh acquisition in the past six years, viewed as a pivotal one with regards to its ambitions within the cruise sector. Dame Irene Hays said, "We have been hugely impressed by the strength of the Victoria Travel Group.

"Their innovative approach to online cruise retailing and the calibre of their management team make Victoria Travel a compelling addition to our business, which aligns with our cruise strategy and growth ambitions."



Qatar Airways boosts winter hubs

QATAR AIRWAYS' flights from London Heathrow will increase to a 10-daily service this winter, while services from Manchester will be brought up to 24 a week. Flights from Doha to Melbourne and Canberra will also be reinstated this winter after a hiatus.

SUDOKU

WIN A £20 M&S VOUCHER IN THE *Travelbulletin* 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, September 18th.
Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

July 25th Solution: A=2 B=4 C=3 D=8

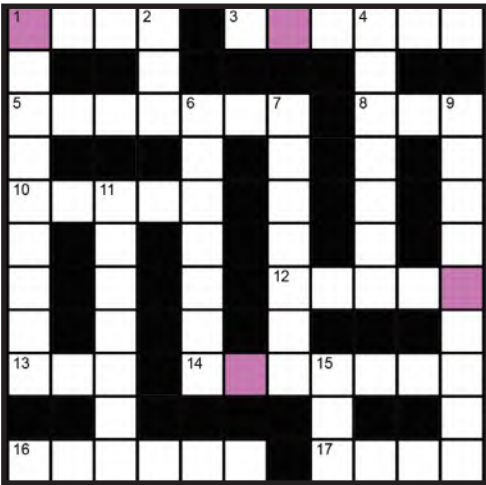
A	3			5		6	2	1
		9		7	4	8		
	2		6				4	
B			5					9
		6	1		2	4		
C	4					3		
	6				7		9	
		1	9	2		7		
D	9	4	7		1			2



WHERE AM I?

THE BEATING heart of the UK's cruise industry, this city's maritime history is steeped with some of the most famous (and infamous) ship stories in the world.

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



- Across**

 - 1 Recently featured on Channel 5's, The World's Most Expensive Hotels, The ____ (4)
 - 3 County home of Weymouth (6)
 - 5 The busy Chao Phraya river flows through this capital city (7)
 - 8 Naples international airport code (3)
 - 10 Animal in short, one of the Safari Big Five (5)
 - 12 Indian state where 10 Across roam through the Kaziranga National Park (5)
 - 13 America's National Basketball Association, initially (3)
 - 14 US state on the Pacific West Coast (7)
 - 16 In 1773 this US city had an infamous tea party (6)
 - 17 Victoria Beckham's nickname (4)
- Down**

 - 1 Welsh host of BBC's reality travel show, Destination X (3,6)
 - 2 Zagreb international airport code (3)
 - 4 Operator specialising in Caribbean all-inclusive resorts (7)
 - 6 Palace in Crete which dates back to the Minoan civilisation (7)
 - 7 Uganda's capital city (7)
 - 9 Capital of Cambodia (5,4)
 - 11 Founded by Walter in 1934, they specialise in activity holidays (7)
 - 15 Carrier with a main hub at Lisbon airport (3)

CROSSWORD

Across: 1 RITZ, 3 DORSET, 5 BANGKOK, 8 NAP, 10 RHINO, 12 ASSAM, 13 NBA, 14 SEATTLE, 16 BOSTON, 17 POSH.
Down: 1 ROB BRYDON, 2 ZAG, 4 SANDALS, 6 KNOSSOS, 7 KAMPALA, 9 PHNOM PENH, 11 INGHAMS, 15 TAP.
Mystery Word: ROME



AGENT INSIGHT

THEA GILLINGHAM

TRAVEL COUNSELLORS

YOU MAY have more luxury clients in your database than you think...

That's because the concept of luxury travel is changing. No longer is it all about business class, butlers, and seven-course tasting menus. Today's travellers are increasingly looking for experiential luxury – focusing more on getting under the skin of a destination, rather than spending their budget on the accommodation.

Experiential luxury is about connection and immersion. It's the kind of travel that creates stories and lasting memories – not just souvenirs or impressive Instagram content. It's why we're seeing a rise in expedition cruising and off-the-beaten-track safaris in places like Namibia. But even when staying in a lower graded hotel, clients choosing premium, immersive add-on activities like halloumi-making with a local farmer in Cyprus or visiting the beautiful Agreco Farm by Greco in Crete, are still luxury travellers. They are just of a new kind, one where the experience comes first and the bed for the night comes second as an afterthought.

This is your reminder to treat every client like a VIP. These travellers can slip down the priority list – not because they have a low budget, but because their itineraries take more time to create, more back-and-forth, and more creativity. However, many of these clients are cash-rich, time-poor, and new to using a travel agent. They want someone who can take the pressure off and deliver something unforgettable and beyond expectations. They may even be testing you and using this more complex holiday booking as a trial run. Wow them with your service and expertise, and, next time, they could be back asking you to plan that ultra-luxe beach break – knowing it's in safe hands.

Play the long game, showcase your expertise, and you might just uncover a high-value client who sticks with you for years.



Fred. Holidays bolsters rail range after 64% booking spike

WITH CERTAIN rail routes up 150% in enquiries, translating to an overall 64% booking increase year-on-year, Fred. Holidays has expanded its rail range with new options in Italy, Morocco, Spain and Switzerland.

New options include the 14-day 'Grand Tour of Italy: Sorrento by Rail via The Alps' from £2,999 per person.

Sally Barlow, Fred. Holidays' rail product manager, iterated, "We keep an eye on the destinations where our customers want to go and listen to their feedback regarding how they get there and what they want to do when they arrive."

News Bites

- THE 14TH edition of the Gran Canaria Walking Festival, in part organised by the Gran Canaria Tourist Board, will take place from October 23rd to 26th, 2025. Registration is open now.
- KANDIMA MALDIVES has introduced its festive programme: 'Rhythms of the Eras - A Festive Journey Through Time', jazzing up the property in seasonal decor and activities from December 21st, 2025 to January 7th, 2026.



JOURNEY BEYOND'S acquisition of Grand Pacific Tours marks its expansion into Aotearoa New Zealand. The market leader in New Zealand's coach travel space will fall under the Journey Beyond banner from September. CEO Chris Tallent said the acquisition "marks an exciting next phase of growth for us ... expanding our offerings of immersive, authentic and unique tourism experiences into New Zealand."



Book. Travel. Enjoy.



The Glacier Express is one of the world's most classic train journeys. The eight-hour journey across the Swiss mountains takes you from Zermatt at the foot of the Matterhorn to chic St. Moritz. Thanks to large panoramic windows, passengers on the „slowest express train in the world“ have unobstructed views of idyllic mountain meadows, snow-capped peaks and deep blue mountain lakes.

Switzerland Travel Centre presents the

Glacier Express



Zermatt

Zermatt – the most iconic mountain village in the Alps – enchants with 500-year-old wooden chalets, views of 38 majestic four-thousanders, and the world-famous Matterhorn. In winter, visitors enjoy snow-covered landscapes, peaceful hamlets, and countless ski runs. In summer, scenic hiking trails wind through romantic alpine forests.



Albula Line

At the opposite end of the route, the train traverses through the UNESCO World Heritage Site „Rhaetian Railway in the Albula/Bernina Landscapes“ with masterpieces of engineering, including the spectacular Solis and Landwasser Viaducts. This scenic journey concludes in St. Moritz – the renowned holiday and winter sports resort nestled in the Engadin Valley.



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★ Incentive Reward Tier is linked to the package booking value ★



Earlybird Edinburgh Tattoo deals

BOOKINGS ARE now open for Newmarket Holidays' Edinburgh Tattoo 2026 packages, giving agents a head start for next year's sales with a 10% early booking discount.

The operator's four-day itinerary combines the world-famous spectacle with the best Scotland has to offer.



Guests will stay in a centrally-located Glasgow hotel (with coach transfers to Edinburgh) where they can enjoy guided trips of both the city and the capital, as well as sit back and relax in their reserved seat at the Tattoo.

The package includes optional excursions to the glens of Trossachs and a boat trip across Loch Lomond.

Prices lead in from £801 per person, including flights from a series of regional airports through August 2026.

The 10% discount is available for bookings made by September 30th, 2025.

Hayley Morris, head of trade sales and partnerships, said agents can "ride the wave of excitement from this year's event, secure sought-after seats and offer clients an incredible short break that stays with you long after the last notes fade."

JULES VERNE'S new agent login hopes to make it easier for agents to do business with the small group escorted tour operator. Agents will be able to secure bookings 24 hours a day, seven days a week; email themselves booking quotes directly; and view confirmed options or held quotes. Agencies can also add multiple staff to their accounts, view upcoming client departures and access commission details.

Blackpool Pleasure Beach goes interstellar

MESSAGES FROM fans past and present of Blackpool Pleasure Beach were broadcast from space last month after being launched 110,000 feet into the air from a specialist facility in Sheffield.

Amanda Thompson OBE, the park's CEO, said, "No theme park has ever attempted a broadcast from space before, but Pleasure Beach has always been about pushing boundaries and creating unforgettable

moments. To see our guests' messages transmitted high above the Earth was truly extraordinary.

"We're famous for taking thrills to new heights... and now we've sent our guests' voices into space. It's a world-first for a theme park, and a moment we'll never forget."

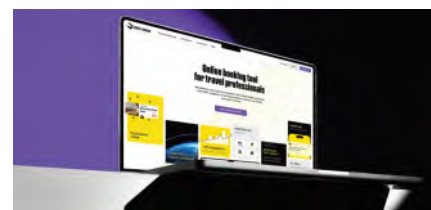
The messages were played on a purpose-built screen, which blasted off from Sheffield in a stratospheric balloon.

Hilton's new hotel: grand, Torino

AN ELEGANT 1950s building in the heart of Turin has reopened as the Hilton Turin Centre, marking the debut of the flagship Hilton brand in the Piedmontese capital.

Hilton Turin Centre's 175 rooms sit steps away from the Piazza Castello, Egyptian Museum, and a host of the city's other iconic attractions.

Within the historic building itself, the MALIA restaurant blends classic Italian dishes and global cuisine with a heavy Asian influence. Alchemy, the onsite bar, is a marble-adorned marvel in itself, with a curated menu of global spirits and drinks.



RateHawk confirms Elite partnership

ELITE TRAVEL Group's members will now have access to RateHawk, which enables booking access to almost three million accommodation options. Elite is the latest in a line of consortia to integrate RateHawk, joining Hays IG and TTNG.

THE LAST FRONTIER: BY AIR AND SEA

Travellers can explore Alaska easier than ever before with the introduction of MSC Cruises' fly-cruise packages to America's largest state

NEXT SUMMER, guests will be able to bask in the beauty of the Last Frontier with MSC Cruises' highly-anticipated launch of fly-cruise packages to Alaska, including return flights from London Heathrow, a two-night pre-cruise stay, and a seven-night sailing through the vistas.

Book somewhere exotic for 2027

BOOKINGS ARE now open for Variety Cruises' 2027 Exotic Destination sailings, including itineraries in the Seychelles, Tahiti and French Polynesia, Cape Verde Islands and Senegal.

Some of the itineraries available to book now include the eight-day 'Jewels of the Cyclades' from £1,882 per person, the eight-day 'The Rivers of West Africa: Dakar to Dakar' from £1,860 per person, and the eight-day 'Islands of Cape Verde Archipelago' from £1,652 per person.

Guests can enjoy a 20% discount for early bookings.

Setting sail from Seattle, *MSC Poesia* will offer roundtrip voyages into the heart of Alaska with weekly departures scheduled from May until September 2026. During the bucket list sailings, guests will explore the unforgettable locations of Ketchikan, Icy Strait Hoonah, Tracy Arm Fjord, Juneau and Victoria.

Antonio Paradiso, vice president of international sales, said the launch offers "an excellent opportunity for our valued agent partners to offer something truly unique to their clients [...] Alaska has long been on the bucket list for many of our guests, and now we've made it easier than

ever to explore its breath-taking beauty."

The packages lead in from £1,899 per person, including return flights to Seattle from London; a two-night pre-cruise stay at the Courtyard Seattle Downtown by Marriott; a Seattle CityPASS for every guest for entry into top attractions across the city; plus the seven-night voyage exploring the best Alaska has to offer. The offer is available to book until December 31st, 2025.

MSC Voyagers Club members can also benefit from a range of exclusive discounts, onboard credit and special offers.

Explore the secrets of the Coral Triangle

SWAN HELLENIC will now sail into the epicentre of marine life within the Coral Triangle in West Papua and Raja Ampat. The remote Indonesian archipelago is home to secluded lagoons, coral atolls and jungle-fringed shores accessible only by sea. The 10-night 'Secrets of Coral Triangle' itinerary leads in from £7,000 per person on a Cruise Plus basis, with a departure scheduled for April 18th, 2026.



Aqua Expeditions extends in East Africa

AQUA LARES is the sixth vessel to join Aqua Expeditions' roster, and the first to venture into East Africa.

The vessel will offer expeditions across the Seychelles, Aldabra Atoll, Zanzibar and Tanzania, with each itinerary curated to offer the twice-daily small-group excursions into remote locations inaccessible to most cruise lines.

Aqua Lares will sail annually from November to April, with her maiden voyage pencilled for February 8th, 2026.



Celebrity opens 2027/2028 bookings

THE FIRST of Celebrity Cruises' 2027/2028 itineraries have been revealed, with sailings in Europe, Alaska, Hawaii, Australia, Japan, Canada and New England.

Sailors can choose from more than 175 itineraries spanning 180 destinations across the world. Bookings for Europe, Japan, Canada and New England are now open, with Alaska, Hawaii, Australia, the Caribbean and Southeast Asia following in the coming weeks.

Holland America Line's 80 years of Alaska

TO CELEBRATE its 80th anniversary exploring the state, Holland America Line has announced its 2027 Alaska season, featuring more than 100 cruises to the Last Frontier between April and September.

Itineraries will sail roundtrip from either Vancouver or Seattle, or voyage between Vancouver and Whittier, with sailings ranging from between seven and 28 days.

Among the itineraries available in the season is the brand-new eight-day 'Alaska Inside Passage' sailing, visiting Glacier Bay, Skagway, Ketchikan and Prince Rupert with prices leading in from £1,359 per person.

Marking its third year in operation, the 28-day 'Alaska Arctic Circle Solstice' will depart on June 6th, 2027, in plenty of time to witness the Summer Solstice at the height of the Arctic Circle. Guests will visit 11 Alaskan ports as well as stops in Prince Rupert and Vancouver. Prices lead in from £5,919 per person.



Those looking to combine Alaska with the wildlife of British Columbia can embark on the seven-day 'Great Bear Rainforest' itinerary sailing roundtrip from Seattle from £1,139 per person, which combines the eponymous Rainforest with Ketchikan, Nanaimo, Prince Rupert and Victoria.

Crystal launches 'By A&K' land experiences

CRYSTAL CRUISES aims to transform the traditional 'land adventure' with its new partnership with Abercrombie & Kent where an innovative programme will take guests on a series of curated experiences steeped in culture, nature and history.

The 'By Abercrombie & Kent' series will offer land experiences spanning across continents to mark a significant evolution in luxury cruising. The series is available across *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony* sailings through 2026.



Some of the overland adventures available include visits to iconic sites such as the Great Wall of China, the Taj Mahal and Uluru, promising immersive, authentic experiences for guests to enjoy as they walk off their sea legs. The programme also includes pre- and post-cruise extensions, including the chance to explore the intricate temples of Angkor Wat, partake in indigenous experiences in Whistler, and track lions in the Masai Mara.

Cristina Levis, CEO of A&K Travel Group, said the new series of adventures will "redefine what a luxury cruise experience can be."

"By Abercrombie & Kent isn't just an excursion programme – it's a complete reimagining of how our guests discover the world, combining Crystal's exceptional onboard hospitality with A&K's unparalleled destination expertise."

2027/2028: a season of discovery

A RETURN to Oceania, expanded options in Alaska and much more await on National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' 2027/2028 deployment schedule.

Trey Byus, chief expedition officer at Lindblad Expeditions, said, "Every itinerary has been crafted with care—whether it's a guest favourite or a returning route—to offer experiences that are not only awe-inspiring, but also positively impactful. We believe travel can be a powerful force for good and through these voyages we invite our guests to deepen their connection to the planet."

After a two-year break, the expedition cruise line will return to the Oceania region with a series of immersive itineraries including the 11-day 'Pearl of the Pacific: The Society & Tuamotu Islands' and the 18-day

'Easter Island to Tahiti: Tales of the Pacific'.

Additional departures have been added to fan-favourite itineraries in Alaska for the season, including the popular eight-day 'Alaska's Inside Passage' and 14-day 'Treasures of the Inside Passage'.

More options have also been added for the Galápagos Islands and a continued service will commence for itineraries throughout Europe and Japan.



G Adventures doubles portfolio

AS G Adventures' new ship readies to head to Antarctica next month, the adventure operator is turbo-charging its expedition offering with plans to double its small-ship portfolio, aided by the relaunch of its Arctic programme after six years.



Image Credits: Left: National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions, Right: G Adventures

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*2025 river cruises include an unlimited quantity of drinks at lunch and from 6pm to midnight while on board (selected drinks available), 2026 river cruises include an unlimited quantity of selected drinks from 10am to midnight while on board.



New itineraries, new ship, same dream

GUESTS CAN discover the endless beauty of the Amazon with CroisiEurope's new itineraries along the iconic river. Penned to launch in 2027, guests will set sail aboard the new luxury *RV Brazilian Dream*, offering unique eco-tour experiences along the Amazon, the Rio Negro, the Solimões, the Arapiuns and the Tapajós up to the Colombian border. The new collection includes three 11-day itineraries to choose from, each one promising a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



Uniworld and Seabourn combine the best of both worlds

UNIWORLD AND Seabourn have joined forces to combine two popular itineraries: Uniworld's 'Venice and the Jewels of Veneto' and Seabourn's 'Adriatic and Grecian Gems' in a move which Uniworld's UK and Europe's MD Chris Townson describes as "a package that offers the best of both worlds". The resulting 15-day itinerary, 'Venice and the Mediterranean Sea', starts from £5,489.

Good news comes in fours

A HOST of new offers are available for guests across select 2025 and 2026 sailings in Europe, Asia, Egypt and Colombia as AmaWaterways unveils quadruple savings.

Couples can save up to £1,900 across a wide range of Europe & Exotic sailings departing in both 2025 and 2026, with prices leading in from £1,714 per person for a seven-night 'Captivating Rhine' itinerary.

For a limited time, guests can also enjoy complimentary roundtrip flights from London or Manchester on select Nile departures.

Those looking for a further-flung river cruise can benefit from two-for-one land packages when they add an eight-night extension to select Mekong sailings through Vietnam and Cambodia. The 15-night 'Charms of the Mekong' itinerary includes pre-cruise stays in Ho Chi Minh



City, two nights in Siem Reap, two nights in Hanoi and one night in Halong Bay.

Finally, solo travellers can benefit from 10% single supplements on a variety of 2025 European sailings.

All offers are applicable for bookings made by September 30th, 2025.

Trafalgar joins CLIA ahead of river cruise debut

THE CRUISE Lines International Association has welcomed Trafalgar with open arms as the operator continues to make waves in the river cruising market.

Trafalgar will now have access to CLIA's extensive UK and Ireland trade network, along with special events and resources focused on river cruises.

Andy Harmer, CLIA UK & Ireland

managing director, said he "looks forward to supporting [Trafalgar] as they develop relationships with the trade" and, as the river cruise market continues to grow, says it is the "ideal time to further support agent understanding and insight of their brand and the sector more generally."

April 2026 will see the debut of Trafalgar's first two ships – *Trafalgar Reverie* and *Trafalgar Verity* – which will take up to 128 guests each along the Rhine and Danube.

TTC Tour Brands EMEA managing director, Kelly Jackson, is "thrilled to be joining CLIA" as the company's move into river cruising "is an exciting new chapter for Trafalgar, and CLIA's training, resources and events will be invaluable in sharing this with the trade."





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PIONEERING A NEW ERA

Palladium's €90 million investment in Playa d'en Bossa marks a turning point in Ibiza's luxury lineage



THE EPICENTRE of Ibiza's entertainment scene, Playa d'en Bossa, is set to reach new heights of sophistication next year thanks to Palladium's €90 million investment into a new era, marked by three new properties.

The Unexpected Ibiza Hotel began the new era when it opened in April. Inspired by the Ushuaïa Ibiza Beach Hotel, the new property offers 181 rooms and suites alongside the highly-anticipated arrival of Europe's first Hell's Kitchen—Gordon Ramsey's world-renowned restaurant chain.

In June, the Ibiza Gallery opened in its doors bringing together high-end

fashion with contemporary art and upscale dining. The venue, which was developed by the owner of Palladium Hotel group, houses 20 high-end boutiques, from Jil Sander to Roberto Cavalli, but it goes a step beyond a shopping district—art and design take centre stage in the Cardi Gallery, presenting cutting-edge exhibitions and providing visitors a hub for creative expression in an opulent environment. The Ibiza Gallery is surrounded by some of the island's most exclusive culinary destinations and globally-renowned clubs, making it a prime location to offer visitors a seamless blend of Ibiza's high-end

entertainment with the island's classically Mediterranean lifestyle.

Next season will welcome the debut of The Site Hotel Ibiza, a new concept property offering a contemporary version of luxury. Designed for those travellers with a curious spirit, the property will blend state-of-the-art interiors with curated culinary concepts and unforgettable entertainment.

Christmas lasts forever with Velas

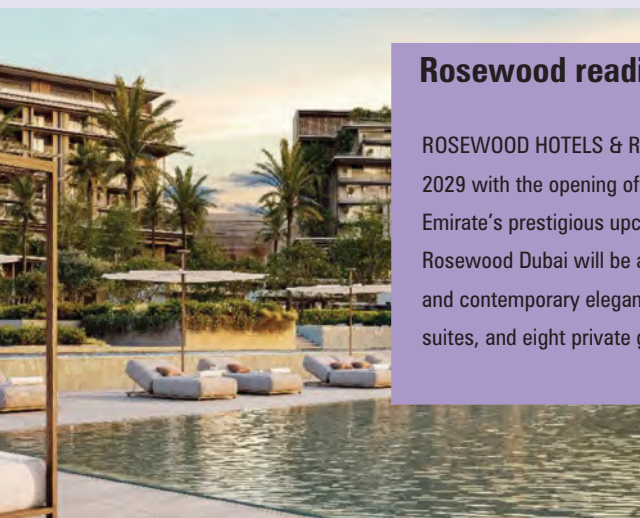
LUXURY RESORT collection Velas Resorts is bringing the festive cheer year-round with its new 'Forever Christmas' wedding experience.

Whether celebrating the happy day in December or in the middle of summer, guests can choose to transform their day into a winter wonderland filled with luxurious touches, from the decor and welcome box to the experiences throughout the event.

The package, which includes everything to make the special occasion a day to remember, leads in from \$33,725 for 30 guests.

Rosewood readies for Dubai debut

ROSEWOOD HOTELS & Resorts is making its Dubai debut in 2029 with the opening of a new property, located within the Emirate's prestigious upcoming Peninsula destination. Rosewood Dubai will be an embodiment of cultural richness and contemporary elegance, including 195 luxurious rooms and suites, and eight private garden villas.



Blue Diamond embraces its royal lineage

AFTER 15 years, Blue Diamond Resorts has decided it is time to evolve into the next step of luxury all-inclusive by officially transitioning to Royalton Hotels & Resorts: the name which has defined its Caribbean growth.

The change marks a natural step in the company's evolution, with its growing success tied to the recognition of its Royalton-branded properties across the Caribbean and Mexico.

Jordi Pelfort, president of Royalton Hotels & Resorts, said, "With every brand now part of the Royalton family, our identity has never been more unified or more powerful. Royalton is no longer just a brand, it is a household name that guests remember and trust. As we celebrate 15 years of excellence, this evolution marks a defining moment in

our history. Blue Diamond Resorts will always be part of our DNA. Its mission, vision, and spirit remain at the core of who we are."

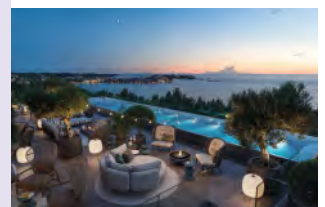
As part of the brand realignment, Hideaway at Royalton will now formerly be referred to as Royalton Hideaway, A Resort Within A Resort. Planet Hollywood Hotels & Resorts will also adopt the new moniker of Planet Hollywood Hotels & Resorts by Royalton.



Finolhu announces prestigious rebrand

AS PART of its journey to continue elevating guest experience, Seaside Finolhu Baa Atoll Maldives will be rebranded to Finolhu, A Seaside Collection Resort. The name change marks a significant step in reinforcing Finolhu's distinct identity rooted in luxury lifestyle experiences while preserving its connection to the prestigious Seaside Collection portfolio.

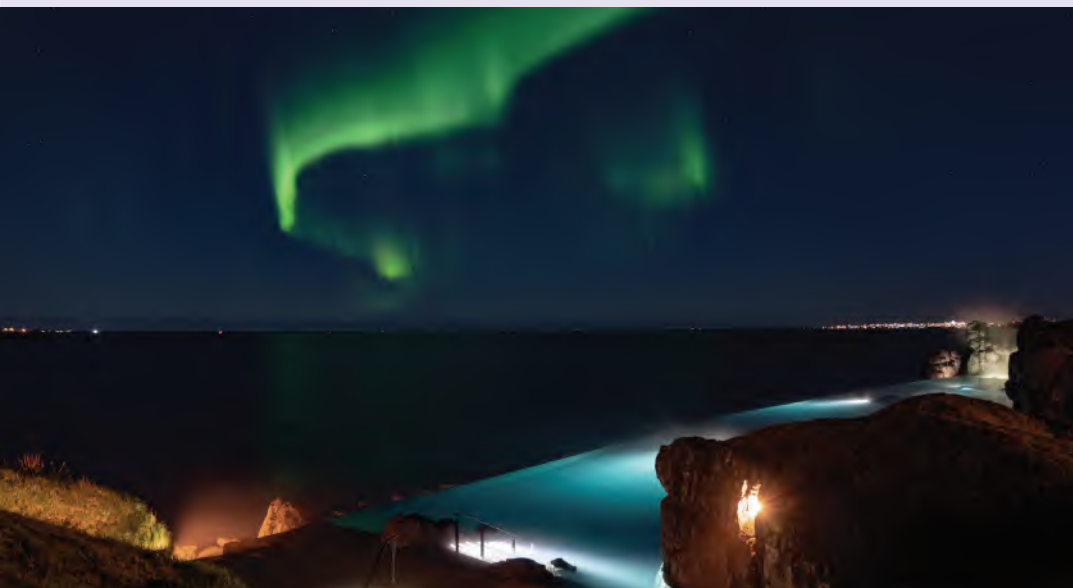
The updated branding reflects on a renewed focus on enhanced storytelling and the delivery of curated luxury-led experiences.



Valamar readies to redefine luxury in the Adriatic

VALAMAR is set to open its most "ambitious project to date" next year as the €200 million Pical Resort, Valamar Collection opens the doors to indulgence in the Adriatic.

Housed on the vibrant Parenzana beachfront park in Porec, Istria, the luxury property will offer three distinct accommodation concepts with 514 contemporary rooms, suites and a private villa.



Regent Holidays readies for Arctic season

AS THE summer heat begins to wane, Regent Holidays has vowed to keep it cool with the launch of its 2025/2026 Arctic Winter brochure, featuring luxury hotels stays and remote island getaways underneath the Northern Lights.

Bringing together the best of Regent's winter portfolio in Iceland, Greenland, Norway,

Finland and Sweden, the Arctic Collection offers a variety travel styles, from fly-drives to cruises and small group touring, including two new island escapes to Tromsø with either Senja or the Sommarøy islands priced from £1,280 per person for a four-night package with flights and accommodation.

Multi-generational travel takes a luxurious turn

DESPITE THE Maldives’ long-standing renown as the home of some of the world’s most opulent travel experiences, JW Marriott Maldives is eager to go one step beyond into a new era of multi-generational luxury travel across the region.

The JW Little Griffins Kids Club offers young guests a haven away from home, with a vast outdoor area and a packed roster full of activities from pizza making to island exploration. While the children play, the adults can sit back and relax in the overwater sanctuary at the SPA by JW. Guests can embark in a bespoke wellness experience with the rhythms of the sea as a soundscape to fully relax and rejuvenate in a serene environment.

In the evenings, guests can journey from the Maldives to Italy, Japan and back again through the property’s high-end dining options. From tree-top locations to overwater fine dining, a variety of unforgettable culinary moments await, with bespoke experiences also available including private Destination Dining under the stars.



Bespoke family getaways in the heart of Bali

A NEW family experience is coming to Capella Ubud, a luxury tented camp in the Keliki Valley, Bali. Available year-round, the new ‘Family Adventure’ package includes helicopter transfer from Bali’s southern coast, private barbecues, traditional Wayang Kulit performances, daily access to the ‘Officers Tent’ for afternoon tea and evening cocktails, and personalised culture-based activities. The packages can be tailored to suit each family’s interests and needs. Prices lead in from £2,279 per night for a stay in The Lodge with the package.

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TIMINGS

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



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