

# travelbulletin

November 05 2021 | ISSUE NO 4,185 | [travelbulletin.co.uk](http://travelbulletin.co.uk)

Giving agents the edge

## BULLETIN BRIEFING

Cassandra Matej, president & CEO of Visit Orlando, offers tips on how to sell the destination to clients.

## PUZZLE BULLETIN

Complete this issue's Sudoku to win a £20 M&S voucher!

## USA

From river cruises to roadtrips, explore America from every angle.

## GREECE

Embrace island life with our top picks.



# INDIAN OCEAN

Swap a chilly winter for balmy beaches and temperate seas



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TOURIST  
BOARD

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
**travelbulletin**  
Italy's Travel Magazine

You are invited to attend

# DISCOVER THE BEST OF ITALY WEBINAR

## Wednesday 24th November

The Italian Tourist Board will take you through some of the most iconic and famous places in Italy. Discover off the beaten track destinations which will give you an insight into what Italy has to offer. Learn about memorable short breaks, food and wine tours, ski and beach holidays which will attract your clients' attention. All this plus more exciting news for 2022 along with travel agent promotions and incentives.

Join us for a fun fueled tour of this fantastic destination and you'll be in with a chance to win some lovely authentic food & wine Italian hampers and M&S vouchers!

### TIMINGS

2pm Webinar Welcome from your Travel Bulletin Host

- 2.05pm Presentations & Q&A Sessions
- 2.40pm Competition Announcement • 2.55pm Webinar Ends



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# THIS WEEK



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### PUZZLE BULLETIN

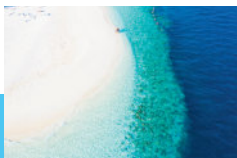
Complete our Sudoku for your chance to bag a £20 M&S voucher.



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Far-flung tropical island destinations.



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Our picks from the land of myths and legends.

# CARIBBEAN CRUISERS

**cruise.co.uk's latest survey reveals that the Caribbean has emerged as a clear favourite for winter cruise holidays.**



Almost six-out-of-10 respondents are considering booking a winter Caribbean cruise.

THE CARIBBEAN has been revealed as the dream winter destination for cruise passengers, as almost half of respondents placed the tropical islands at the top of their end-of-year holiday wishlist as part of a survey conducted by cruise specialist, cruise.co.uk.

Almost 900 people were polled, with 45% selecting the Caribbean as their ideal winter warmer. Australia came in second at 11%, while summer favourite the Mediterranean was third most popular with 9%.

UK cruisers are clearly keen to escape the colder weather, with the sunny shores of the Caribbean averaging temperature between 25°C and 29°C across the winter months.

Most major cruise lines – many of which have their own private Caribbean islands – visit the region at this time.

Itineraries often include several Caribbean calls as part of their schedule, with popular destinations including Jamaica, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Antigua and Saint Lucia.

Almost six-out-of-10 respondents (57%) are considering booking a cruise this winter or next, as travel restrictions continue to open up.

Meanwhile, a Christmas cruise is on the bucket list of 63% of those surveyed. Cruise lines continue sailing over the festive period, decorating their ships accordingly as well as introducing a seasonal flavour to their menus and activities.

Tony Andrews, deputy managing director of cruise.co.uk, said: "The Caribbean has been a clear winter favourite with cruisers for some time and it's clear it's lost none of its shine.

The prospect of sunny skies, crystal clear waters and welcoming locals means many of us are setting our sights on a tropical escape.

"With travel now becoming more and more accessible, the prospect of sipping a top-deck cocktail while watching the sunny shores of the Caribbean drift by is once again on our wishlists."

*For more information go to [www.cruise.co.uk](http://www.cruise.co.uk)*



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## Regent Holidays offers new Sweden holiday tour

FOLLOWING THE news of Sweden reopening to vaccinated travellers, Regent Holidays is offering a new holiday tour to its Sweden programme – the four-day 'Historic Escape to Melderstein Manor'.

Over three days, guests can choose from activities including ice fishing, cross country ski-ing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling and enjoy a guided tour of the world heritage listed historic church town of Gammelstad. In the evenings, the traditional sauna will keep travellers warm, as will a sumptuous dinner hosted by Göran and Katarina Thingwall, direct descendants of the original owners.

The four-day 'Historic Escape to Melderstein Manor' costs from £1,365



Guests can choose from activities such as snowshoeing and snowmobiling.

Image Credit: Regent Holidays

per person, based on two sharing, including return flights from London Heathrow to Luleå, three nights' accommodation at Melderstein Manor on full board basis, transfer by dog sled, sauna and two

excursions.

Other popular options in Swedish Lapland include the ever popular Icehotel and the Arctic Bath Hotel, which opened in 2020.

[www.regent-holidays.co.uk](http://www.regent-holidays.co.uk)

## 'Elevate Your Winter' with Inghams

INGHAMS HAS shared a sneak peek of its latest winter programme for 2021/22, 'Elevate Your Winter'.

Highlights include fully renovated chalets, new hotels and apartments, flexible booking policies and a new COVID-19 Online Hub.

The COVID-19 Hub provides information on the rules and restrictions in place across the countries Inghams operate in

The Hub also includes details on Inghams' flexible booking policies, discounts for UK test suppliers and Inghams' 'In Safe Hands'

promise, which provides financial protection for consumers. New for this winter is Inghams' 'No fee from us' booking policy, allowing customers to move their holiday up until 28-days before departure without fees.

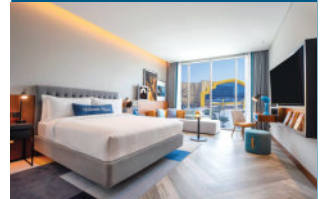
Accommodation features for the Inghams 2021/22 season include a number of renovated or new chalets, hotels and apartments across Italy, France, Switzerland and Austria.

[www.ingham.co.uk](http://www.ingham.co.uk)

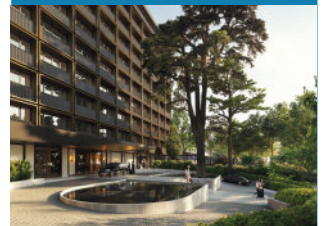
## HOTEL bites

THE WORLD'S first Warner Bros Hotel will open this month on Yas Island in Abu Dhabi.

The hotel, which is operated by Hilton under the Curio Collection brand, invites guests to see their favourite stories and characters brought to life through unique hospitality experiences. The hotel will start welcoming guests on November 11.



SET IN the heart of the distinguished Salamanca district, Rosewood Villa Magna has opened its doors in Madrid. The hotel is located amidst the city's famous shopping, dining and cultural attractions, and now features new suites, a new spa and new eateries and restaurants.



RAFFLES UDAIPAR, the brand's first location in India, has opened. The hotel is set on a 21-acre private island set in the middle of the serene Udai Sagar Lake, and features a total of 101 rooms.



## Panama invites UK visitors to 'Live for More'

AFTER REMOVAL from the UK red list, Panama Tourism has stated that it is looking forward to welcoming UK tourists back once again.

To inspire agents to look to Panama as clients' next holiday destination, the Panama Tourism has launched its new tourism brand with the description "Live for More." The brand is rooted in the country's sustainable tourism vision and inspired by its culture, history and biodiversity. The campaign hopes to inspire travellers to make a positive impact on the destination.

[www.visitpanama.com](http://www.visitpanama.com)



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

## MSC Cruises offers winter sailings in the Caribbean

MSC Cruises has amended its 2021-22 southern Caribbean programme, where MSC Seaview will be based during the season for seven- and 14-night cruises from St. Maarten and Barbados from December 5.

MSC Seaview will operate two different seven-night itineraries from its two embarkation ports, with many holidaymakers set to sail back-to-back cruises and enjoy a voyage of discovery in the southern Caribbean Sea.

The first itinerary will depart from the port of Philipsburg, St Maarten's capital, and Bridgetown, Barbados, with calls at Castries, St Lucia; Saint George, Grenada; Basseterre, St Kitts; and Nevis, before returning to St Maarten.

The second itinerary will



St John's in Antigua and Barbuda.

sail from St Maarten and Bridgetown; with calls at Roseau, Dominica; St John's in Antigua and Barbuda; Road Town in Tortola; and, then back to St Maarten.

All guests on MSC Seaview will have to be fully vaccinated or show proof of a negative PCR test, taken 72 hours prior to embarkation.

In most ports, guests will be able to go ashore independently, while for select specific destinations guests will need to go ashore with an MSC Cruises protected shore excursion.

Prices start from £629 per person.

[www.msccruises.co.uk](http://www.msccruises.co.uk)

## Leger Holidays restarts European programme

FIVE OF Leger Holidays European escorted coach tours will resume service after an enforced 20-month hiatus due to Covid restrictions.

A further 115 tours are now scheduled to go ahead before the end of the year.

The five tours on offer will head to both France and Belgium, featuring locations such as Normandy, Somme, Paris in France; and, Ypres and Brussels in Belgium.

Leger Shearings Group's chief executive, Liam Race, said: "It's a great relief to be able

to finally restart our European escorted coach tours after all this time – we're delighted to get going again and with just a lateral flow test now required on day two, it's all quite straightforward."

The three-, four- or five-night tours all include coach transportation, with pickup from a local joining point, hotel with continental breakfast and some included and some optional excursions.

[www.leger.co.uk](http://www.leger.co.uk)

## Celestyal Cruises launches early 'Black Friday' deal

CELESTYAL CRUISES has launched its 'Black Friday' campaign early this year. The campaign runs from now until November 30, 2021 and is valid on select 2022 all-inclusive cruises, with up to 40% discount. Prices start from £279 per person, based on double occupancy.

Among the 46 sailings included in the 'Black Friday' campaign is the three-night 'Iconic Aegean' which costs from £279 per person. The cruise begins in Athens (Lavrion) and calls in Mykonos, Patmos, Heraklion (Crete), Santorini and Kusadasi.

Also featured is the seven-night 'Idyllic Aegean', costing from £689 per person. This cruise, beginning in Athens, calls in Crete, Rhodes, Santorini, Milos, Mykonos and Kusadasi, and features a maiden call in Thessaloniki, an additional embarkation port.



The seven-night 'Eclectic Aegean' itinerary starts from £589 per person, departing from Athens and calling in Istanbul, Kavala, Thessaloniki, Volos and Santorini in Greece.

[www.celestyal.com](http://www.celestyal.com)



## Keep up with Canada at Destination Canada's networking event

DESTINATION CANADA is hosting a virtual networking event, Canada Specialist Xpo, for agents.

The virtual event will take place on November 23, 2021, connecting agents directly with suppliers and peers, hosting live presentations from exhibitors, and will also feature various conference discussions.

Taking place from 2pm to 7pm, the free event will finish with select lucky agents winning a Herschel travel bag, rucksack and goodie bag, indigenous art, Canadian clothing, air tickets and more.

To register, visit [www.canadaspecialistxpo.com/count-down](http://www.canadaspecialistxpo.com/count-down)



## AGENT INSIGHT

### SANDRA MURRAY NORMANTON, YORKSHIRE

I DON'T know about anyone else but I personally cannot be bothered watching the news all the time. There doesn't seem to be any direction except to cause havoc and confusion. That being said, I did like that in the budget there was mention of Prosecco being cheaper!

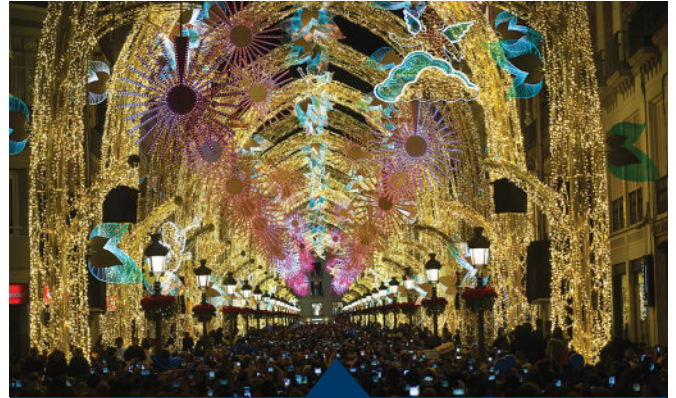
I have been trying to make up my mind whether to have a week-long holiday in early November, as I have not been away at all this year. I was thinking of Hurghada, for the sun, but have decided that to go ahead with all my bookings might be a bit risky, as Egypt may change its travel rules for UK travellers, so I am starting to think that I will be safer in the Canaries, Tenerife or Gran Canaria from LBIA with trusty Jet2. They do seem to be doing all the right things for customers (and agents).

It is almost as if I have forgotten what an airport looks like – wish me luck!

I am so pleased that everything went great for the Yorkshire Travel Ball, which happened on September 23. I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to Jet2 for their support and sponsorship of pre-dinner drinks and the Band Groovething, and also Classic Collection for their Magic Mirror. I have a new date for your diaries. The Yorkshire Travel Ball will be going back to July for next year, so make a note of Thursday, July 21, 2022. The event will be taking place, again, at my favourite hotel The Village South Leeds. Email me for more at [s.murray922@btinternet.com](mailto:s.murray922@btinternet.com).

I think a lot of agents seem to be experiencing very mixed trends at the moment – customers are still a bit hesitant about booking. I think the next couple of weeks will change things and people will decide enough is enough and that they are going to travel. I just hope that people don't decide they don't need to wear masks or even bother with a booster vaccination, otherwise things are going to go backwards and it will be back to basics again, which we don't want.

People still need to be careful and take precautions, so, please everyone, have your booster jabs and still wear masks! Stay safe everyone.



COSTA DEL Sol is getting into the festive spirit with its 'Forest of Christmas' light display, which will be switched on from November 26, 2021. Malaga's Calle Larios street will host 22 vibrant arch light displays, with Muelle Uno shopping centre and the city centre hosting Christmas markets and activities. Carousels, ice skating rinks, trampolines and Christmas performances await throughout the season.

## Save and sail aboard CroisiEurope's Red Sea and Canary sailings

SAVINGS OF up to £1,177 per person are available on select Canary Islands and Red Sea sailings this winter with CroisiEurope's sale.

Winter voyages start from £999 per person for seven-night cruising. The sale also includes a solo supplement offer, with select departures not including the single traveller charge.



La Belle de l'Adriatique will sail from November to March.

La Belle de l'Adriatique will sail the Red Sea this season, with an eight-day voyage operating between November 2021 and March 2022. The 197-guest ship will offer the round-trip from Hurghada, calling in Aqaba and Sharm El Sheikh. Cruisers will have the chance to visit the Valley of the Kings, the Wadi Rum desert, the Ras Muhammed National Park and Petra. Prices for the cruise, based on a November 27, 2021 departure date, start from £999 per person – saving £558 per person. Single supplements will not be charged on this voyage, nor its 10-night counterpart, sailing on December 18, 2021, which costs from £1,815 per person.

[www.croisiereurope.co.uk](http://www.croisiereurope.co.uk)



**THE NEVIS Tourism Authority** has been travelling around the UK, meeting with travel agents to educate them on the island's improved tourism offerings. These meetings are part of a series of UK-wide agent events that the NTA is hosting over the coming months.

## AGENT TRAINING

TO MARK Qatar Tourism's new multi-media campaign, 'Experience a World Beyond' the tourism board's agent training programme, TAWASH, has been refreshed with a new interface design, updated content and enhanced training modules. Upon completing the modules, agents will be awarded a 'Qatar Expert' certificate, with the 'Qatar Specialist' award to those who complete extra modules. [www.tawashqatar.com](http://www.tawashqatar.com)

MSC CRUISES has relaunched its MSC Masters agent training programme. The modules will be rolled out over the coming year and cover a variety of topics, including new and upcoming ships MSC Virtuosa and MSC World Europa, pricing models, MSC Yacht Club, MSC's Health & Safety policies, destinations, and more. Modules take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. [www.msobook.com/uk](http://www.msobook.com/uk)

BELIZE TOURISM Board is rolling out a series of B2B virtual expos. Agents will be offered commissionable rates and the chance to join itinerary building sessions with experts, with some lucky agents invited on a 2022 FAM trip. 'Adventure and Sustainability' will be the focus of the first Expo, taking place on November 17 and 18, 2021 from 2:30pm. [www.travelbelize.org/travel-trade/expo/](http://www.travelbelize.org/travel-trade/expo/)

BECOME A Los Cabos specialist with the destination's educational platform. Along with easy-to-follow learning modules, the platform hosts a wealth of multimedia content to use in marketing and social media campaigns, along with downloadables such as maps, guides, videos and images. The B2B marketplace allows agents to interact directly with suppliers and plan unique holidays. [www.loscabospecialist.com](http://www.loscabospecialist.com)

## AGENT INCENTIVES

- IF ONLY... has teamed up with the Florida Keys Tourism Board as part of the 'Florida Keys: Escape the Everyday'. Celebrating the re-opening of America's borders for Brits, the campaign offers one lucky agent the chance to win a £100 Love2shop voucher. The winner will be the first agent to make a Florida Keys booking of five nights or more during the campaign. Agents have until December 31, 2021 to qualify, after which, the voucher will be awarded to the winner. [www.ifonly.net](http://www.ifonly.net) / [www fla-keys.com](http://www fla-keys.com)



- EVERY ESCORTED group booking made with Latin Routes includes a £25 Love2shop voucher for the booking agent. There is no minimum spend on bookings. Agents can also save £150 per person on all small-group escorted tours and reserve spaces with low deposits, from £99 per person. All bookings must be made by November 30, 2021 to earn the incentive. [www.latinroutes.co.uk](http://www.latinroutes.co.uk)
- SCENIC CRUISES is continuing its 'River Rewards & More' incentive scheme, which offers agents 200 reward points for every booking aboard Scenic Eclipse. Standard ship river cruises earn 100 points per booking, with 150 points awarded for Scenic Touring bookings and 200 points for Ocean cruise bookings. [www.scenic.co.uk/agent-portal](http://www.scenic.co.uk/agent-portal)

## travelbulletin WEBINAR

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Domes Resorts, Meliá Hotels, and  
Oman Tourist Board.

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[www.travelbulletin.co.uk/webinar](http://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/webinar)

# Industry insight by...

VisitOrlando®



**Casandra Matej, president and CEO of Visit Orlando, discusses what's new in the region, and also offers agents some tips to secure those all-important bookings.**

I CAN listen to a UK accent for hours! As a native Texan, I have been told by my British friends that I have a "southern" US accent, which they are also drawn to. I think our differences and similarities are worth celebrating!

In Orlando, we strive to be the nation's most inclusive travel destination, with a commitment to creating wondrous adventures for all visitors, regardless of their background.

As the new president and CEO of Visit Orlando, The Official Tourism Association for Orlando and Theme Park Capital of the World, I have enjoyed learning about what attracts UK visitors to Orlando – and what keeps them coming back! While we don't expect meaningful acceleration in international markets until 2022 due to the pandemic, we know the UK will likely be our first international market to return. In fact, Visit Orlando just launched a Winter UK campaign to recapture travellers' imaginations and inspire them to visit Orlando when they are ready to travel.

With that in mind, winter is coming and that means

shorter days and chilly temperatures in the UK. In Orlando, we are fortunate to have year-round temperate weather and sunshine, so I know your clients have begun researching those winter sun or February half-term family holidays, keeping safety in mind. Orlando is home to some of the most respected tourism

renowned performing arts venue, your clients will have so much to enjoy when they're ready to travel again.

We're excited to welcome additional airlift like Aer Lingus' new service from Manchester starting in December. This new service will make Orlando even more accessible for travellers across the country.

for customers. They will be more likely to confirm a booking with a knowledgeable agent who can take some of this pressure off by offering advice and recommendations. Many resources are available for travel advisors at [www.visitorlando.com/trade](http://www.visitorlando.com/trade), with videos featuring accommodation, attractions, and outdoor activities.

**We can't wait to welcome our UK visitors back – and credit our trade partners like you...**

businesses in the world, that are known for taking safety extremely seriously. Our community has a collaboration of local government and businesses working together to prioritise safety in all we do.

Despite the challenges of pandemic, our destination has continued to expand and develop. From an 18-month 50th anniversary celebration and a new theme park opening, to record-breaking thrill rides and a world-

We can't wait to welcome our UK visitors back – and credit our trade partners like you, for helping us tell our story and create the most memorable holidays possible for customers.

With that in mind, I'd like to leave you with three of our top tips for selling Orlando holidays:

#### **KNOWLEDGE IS KEY.**

There's a lot to do in Orlando and it can sometimes be intimidating

#### **ARRANGE ATTRACTION TICKETS IN ADVANCE.**

Customers will save time and money if they purchase theme park tickets in advance, and your agency can earn additional profits if they book through you.

#### **AVOID OVER-PLANNING.**

The Walt Disney World Resort alone covers 122 km sq – about the size of Manchester! Parks and attractions are spread out and can take up to 30 minutes to drive between. Suggest to your customers that they avoid scheduling too much into one day and allow plenty of time for travel and down time to relax by the pool or go shopping.

[www.visitorlando.com](http://www.visitorlando.com)



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, November 18. Solution and new puzzle will appear in the November 19th issue.

**The winner for October 22 is George Kounnas from Bush Hill Travel.**

**October 22 Solution: A=3 B=8 C=2 D=7**

		2	3		7	8	1	
		8		2	4		6	
	6	4	1				9	
<b>A</b>								
		7		4			5	9
<b>B</b>	9							1
	2	4			5		3	
<b>C</b>						6	9	3
		7		4	9		1	
<b>D</b>								
		8	9	5		2	6	



## WHERE AM I?

The capital of this Balkans country is situated with the slopes of Medvednica Hill to the north and the floodplain of the Sava River to the south. With no shortage of green spaces, locals love to take advantage of all the parks on offer.

CROSSWORD

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		13			14				15		
	17						18				
19											

**Across**

- 1 International hotel chain (8,3)
- 6 Swiss alpine town and resort popular with walkers (5)
- 7 Currency of Turkey (4)
- 9 Capital of Latvia (4)
- 11 Indonesian island, sounds like a computer language (4)
- 12 City and resort on the French riviera (4)
- 14 Luxury all-inclusive operator \_\_\_ Med (4)
- 17 Could be a sibling or a hotel room (4)
- 18 English racecourse known for royalty, top hats and fascinators (5)
- 19 Benidorm is a popular resort in this region (5,6)

**Down**

- 1 Emma, Britain's new tennis star and now the face of Dior (8)
- 2 P&O and DFDS operate from this port to Calais (5)
- 3 The flag carrier of 3 Scandinavian countries, initially (3)
- 4 Capital of Norway (4)
- 5 Small island in the Outer Hebrides (5)
- 8 Capital of Malta (8)
- 10 Alicante international airport code (3)
- 13 IOW location of the world's oldest sailing regatta (5)
- 15 American actor Kevin whose surname sounds like part of a full English! (5)
- 16 Ancient South American civilisation (4)
- 18 Auckland international airport code (3)

MYSTERY WORD: DALLAS Where am I? - Zagreb, Croatia

SOLUTION:  
 Across: 1 RADISSON BLU, 6 DAVOS, 7 LIRA, 9 RIGA, 11 JAVA, 12 NICE, 14 CLUB, 17 TWIN, 18 ASCOT, 19 COSTA BLANCA.  
 Down: 1 RADUCANU, 2 DOVER, 3 SAS, 4 OSTO, 5 BARRA, 8 VALLETTA, 10 ALC, 13 COWES, 15 BACON, 16 INCA, 18 AKL.

# USA



## AN AMERICAN AFFAIR

### AMERICAN AFFAIR

recommends 'The Classic West' itinerary for adventurous clients, taking travellers on a motorhome trip through America's sunniest, most sought-after gems of the West.

Clients will be able to journey through the sun-soaked states of America's west, experiencing the sandy beaches of Newport and Santa Barbara, the dazzling Hollywood walk-of-fame in Los Angeles, the unique natural formations of Yosemite National Park, and more.

The 11-night, 12-day holiday includes international return flights in economy class, one-night accommodation in a three-

star hotel in Los Angeles, 11 day motorhome hire with 2,000km package personal kits, and vehicle provisioning kit included. The holiday is priced from £1,649 per person based on two adults sharing, a May

2022 departure date, and flights from London Heathrow with British Airways.

Deposits are from £330 per person.

[www.americanaffair.com](http://www.americanaffair.com)



### Visit Orlando highlights new openings

VISIT ORLANDO is highlighting some new openings and developments across the region.

Orlando is welcoming theme park openings such as the Jurassic World VelociCoaster at Universal Orlando Resort. Coming in 2022 is SeaWorld Orlando's new Ice Breaker roller coaster in February and the world's first Peppa Pig theme park at LEGOLAND Florida Resort.

New to Orlando this year is Orlando Slingshot and Orlando Free Fall – opening this December. Also to come is drive through safari park Wild Florida, with over 150 animals to see.

Airlift continues to expand, with new routes from Manchester to Orlando on Aer Lingus from December 11, and BA Holidays has partnered with the airline to offer complete holiday packages for travellers from the North of England.

[www.visitorlando.com](http://www.visitorlando.com)

### The U.S. emerges as cruise hotspot

AS OVERSEAS travel continues to open up, the US has emerged as the most popular destination for UK holidaymakers booking a cruise abroad.

The finding was revealed by cruise specialist [cruise.co.uk](http://cruise.co.uk), based on bookings taken during the past six months.

The US has always been a firm favourite with UK cruise guests, both as a holiday hotspot in itself and as the gateway to the Caribbean. Its position has recently been bolstered, with bookings growing by 12% compared to pre-pandemic levels.

January and February remain the most popular months for UK holidaymakers to travel on an international cruise, which has been the case across the past few years.

[Cruise.co.uk](http://cruise.co.uk) recommends a Princess Cruises' 'Deep South Music Cities' cruise-and-stay package, departing November 20, 2022.

The 15-night cruise includes three nights in New Orleans, two nights in Memphis, one night in Miami, and seven-nights around the Caribbean.

This trip is priced from £2,099 per person.

[www.cruise.co.uk](http://www.cruise.co.uk)

## America's classic sights & sounds with Exsus Travel

EXSUS TRAVEL is offering its 'Classic USA trip' for a memorable summer 2022.

Travellers can take in the USA's iconic cities of Las Vegas, Los Angeles and San Francisco in one trip, staying at some luxury hotels.

In between trying their luck in the casinos of Las Vegas and taking in its neon lights and larger-than-life attractions, guests will stay at the Palazzo, part of the Venetian complex. Then, it's on to the world-famous Los Angeles and the chic Andaz West Hollywood, which has a rooftop pool and is an ideal location for relaxing in between soaking up the dazzling sights and doing some celebrity spotting. Last is San Francisco and a stay at Hotel Emblem, a hotel owned by Viceroy. Here, travellers will stroll around the harbourfront, visit the



The tour's first stop is the famous lights of Las Vegas.

infamous Alcatraz, travel across the Golden Gate Bridge, and take a ride on one of the icon trams. 12 nights, including

international and domestic flights and accommodation, is priced from £2,635.

[www.exsus.com](http://www.exsus.com)

## On your bike: explore Arizona on two wheels

EXPLORE ALL the Sonoran Desert has to offer with Escape Adventures' five-day 'Best of Phoenix and Black Canyon Trail (BCT) Mountain' biking tour.

This trip is ideal for close groups of biking friends looking for a warm winter excursion. Excursions include exploring McDowell Mountain (a 21,099-acre regional park), riding conservancy lands, and ripping more than 40-miles of fast and flowy singletrack.

A highlight of the tour comes on day two, where bikers will head to Bumble Bee Ranch

to do some exploring, taking the Black Canyon Trail from North to South for a net loss of elevation.

While here, bikers will have a chance to spot some interesting flora and fauna, including stoic saguaro cacti and rust-colored geological features.

The trip is priced from approximately £867.60 per person.

Escape Adventures is commissionable to all travel agents.

[www.escapeadventures.com](http://www.escapeadventures.com)

## Sip and savour your way around Virginia

FOLLOWING THE growing demand for US holidays, America As You Like It has added three brand new Virginia itineraries to its 2022 portfolio. The tours offer a unique way to experience a third of the Capital Region, highlighting Virginia's luxury and wellness, food and drink, and movie set locations.

One tour on offer is 'Sip and Savour Your Way Around Super Scenic Virginia'. This holiday is perfect for both foodies and wine connoisseurs alike.

This week-long feast begins in Loudoun County, which is nicknamed as DC's Wine Country, and moves through classic Virginia areas including Leesburg, Charlottesville, Richmond, and Virginia Beach. Guests will experience local culinary culture



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

through Virginia's award-winning food scene and drink their way through history at Monticello Wine Trail and Richmond Beer Trail.

Prices start from £1,250 per person, including flights, accommodation, and car hire.

[www.americaasyoulikeit.com](http://www.americaasyoulikeit.com)



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

## Festive fun in the sun in San Diego

FOR THOSE looking for a warm winter escape, San Diego is transformed into a winter wonderland in the colder months.

The Christmas Tree Trail lights up San Diego with trees in different shapes, sizes and themes. From an extravagantly-lit tree at the Hotel del Coronado to a Grinch-themed tree at The Old Globe, visitors can follow the trail and spot nine different trees around the city.

A five-night break to San Diego with BA Holidays on December 4, 2021, is priced from £745 per person.

[www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com) / [www.sandiego.org](http://www.sandiego.org)

## All aboard with American Queen Voyages

UNVEILING A series of 'special edition' itineraries in 2022, American Queen Voyages is looking ahead to welcoming Brits back on board in 2022.

The special itineraries will give sailors a unique insight into the history of the American South.

'Celebrate the 70s' will whisk guests back in time, beginning with a hotel stay in Nashville, before sailing to Clarksville, where cruisers soak in the serenity of the Riverwalk and marvel at the skyline.

On to Dover, a relaxing dock offers a leisurely day in a city steeped in Civil War history. The steamboat will sail on to Paducah, Kentucky – an artistic locale with picture-perfect streets. Handsome Cape Girardeau and Columbus await before



American Queen Voyages will sail a packed 2022 programme.

ticking off New Madrid and the voyage's climax and final call- Nashville. Guests will be able to make further arrangements to take in the city's musical history and classic architecture. An optional post-cruise package, 'Nashville Music City Stay' will visit the city's most renowned musical attractions – including a behind-the-scenes backstage

tour at the Grand Ole Opry.

Earlybird prices are available until December 31, 2021. Package options can include flights from London Heathrow, full-board voyages and optional land packages upon enquiry.

Reservations are available through Light Blue Travel in the UK.

[www.lightbluetravel.co.uk](http://www.lightbluetravel.co.uk)

## Visit the USA marks new openings as borders reopen

WITH TRAVEL to the USA back on the cards for plenty of Brits with pent-up demand to explore the States once again, Visit the USA has spotlighted a series of new offerings across the pond.

Celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2022, Yellowstone National Park, the nation's first national park, is awaiting guests with 2.2 million of acres to explore. Hikers can lose themselves in the vast network of trails, or explore the area's geothermal activity and bison herds. Guests can marvel at the park's

conservation efforts and projects while celebrating the 150th anniversary as part of a bucket-list adventure.

Under Canvas, the luxury camping operator, is set to expand in June 2022, with Under Canvas Bryce Canyon. With expansive views of Mount Dutton, the Escalante Mountains and Bryce Canyon National Park, the location blends luxury with adventure in safari-style tents.

[www.visittheusa.co.uk](http://www.visittheusa.co.uk)

## ToursByLocals show the local highlights of coastal USA

WHILE THE USA has long been a favourite holiday destination for Brits, plenty of holidaymakers miss out on local highlights.

ToursByLocals ensure guests see all there is to get stuck into on the coastal states of America.

For a spooky stateside surprise, local guide Eric whisks guests on the 'After Dark Charleston Ghost Walking Tour' through Charleston, South Carolina. The half-hour haunting tour starts from £228 per group, for up to four people.

For a picture-perfect tour, ToursByLocals' 'New York City Photography Walking Tour' ticks off the most photogenic locales in the city and attractions such as Brooklyn Bridge, Grand Central Station and Midtown from £190 per group, for up to five people.



On the west coast, in San Francisco, the 'Four Peaks - Private Tour' visits the hills of the Eureka Valley, and secret staircases, hidden concrete slides and botanical gardens. This option starts from £145 per group, for up to 10 people.

[www.toursbylocals.com](http://www.toursbylocals.com)



## Visit Tampa Bay celebrates accessibility and inclusivity

LAUNCHING ALONGSIDE a host of marketing materials, Visit Tampa Bay is positioning itself as 'Florida's Most' accessible destination for diverse guests- including disabled, multicultural and LGBTQ+ travellers.

The destination body has partnered with an accessible ambassador, Jamie Santillo, who said: "When you are on vacation or simply want to explore and you have a disability, questions arise regarding accessibility – I look forward to highlighting Tampa Bay's incredible accessibility."

[www.visittampabay.com/accessible-travel](http://www.visittampabay.com/accessible-travel)

Image Credit: Adobe Stock



## Christmas shopping in the Big Apple

JUST IN time for Christmas shopping, Carrier is offering a chance to visit the Big Apple with its 'Best of Christmas in New York' holiday.

Highlights include a visit to Bryant Park and Grand Central Terminal, as well as Saks Fifth Avenue and Times Square, stopping at Christmas markets along the way. The tour also includes a visit to Rockefeller Centre to see the world-famous tree and ice rink.

The holiday is priced from £7,145 for three nights, based on two adults staying at The Peninsula New York.

[www.carrier.co.uk](http://www.carrier.co.uk)

# SAN DIEGO SUNSHINE FOR THE WIN

THE SOUTHERN Californian city of San Diego is ready to welcome back UK holidaymakers with a host of new openings and attractions.

### Attractions galore

This year, the city welcomes new attractions, including: two new interactive wildlife experiences at San Diego Zoo; phase one completion of the Comic-Con Museum; a new home for the San Diego Symphony at Embarcadero Marina Park South; and the opening of the Mingei International Museum.

### Hotel openings

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott San Diego Pacific Beach opened this year, with 105 guestrooms. The hotel is conveniently located near big downtown attractions, including Balboa Park, the San Diego Zoo, SeaWorld San Diego, Mission Beach, Old Town San Diego and Seaport Village.

### For foodies

The annual San Diego Bay Wine and Food Festival also returns to San Diego from November 11-14, attracting visitors from around the world for its talks, tastings and tutorials from San Diego and Baja California's celebrated chefs, brewers and winemakers.

### Flight route

Following an 18 month hiatus, British Airways has reinstated a non-stop service from London Heathrow Airport (LHR) to San Diego International Airport (SAN) three times weekly.

Operating on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, flights will depart London at 1:45pm and arrive in San Diego at 4:55pm. The return flight will fly overnight at 7:00pm and return back to the Heathrow at 1:25 pm the following day. Return fares start from £383 per person.

[www.sandiego.org](http://www.sandiego.org)

Image Credit: Adobe Stock



The city welcomes a flurry of new openings across 13 neighbourhoods.

## Aquatica Orlando adds enhancements for 2022

AQUATICA ORLANDO waterpark is plunging into 2022 with an all-new waterslide and new dining locations.

The waterpark will see the addition of Reef Plunge, where guests will slide through translucent cut-outs and rings, and twist and turn through over 330 feet of fiberglass, zooming past a vibrant array of marine life in the new dynamic habitat.

Commerson's dolphins, leopard sharks, sardines and a variety of other cold-water fish will call Reef Plunge home. Reef Plunge will launch in spring 2022.

In addition to the new slide, enhancements to the park include the addition of over 1,000 loungers and beach chairs, with increased shade for comfort and two food and beverage additions: a quick-



Image Credit: Aquatica Park

service pizza parlour and a beach bar, in addition to upgrades to the popular Banana Beach Cookout. Multiple attractions will also receive upgrades, including enhancements to several water slides.

[www.aquatica.com](http://www.aquatica.com)

# PHILLY SAYS HI AGAIN

Philadelphia is ready to welcome back British visitors with new experiences across the state.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

PHILADELPHIA IS ready to welcome back UK and Irish visitors back once again, with a full diary of new openings to explore as well as long-time old favourites to re-visit.

## Exploring

Philadelphia is incredibly bike friendly, and is home to one of the largest city-owned urban park systems in the world. Visitors can surround themselves in the great outdoors all year round, whether it's exploring the city's historic sites and urban parks on foot, hiking or biking around Philadelphia's 270 miles of scenic trails or marvelling at the mosaics and murals whilst wandering through the city's open-air art gallery.

## Arts & cultural attractions

The world premiere of Harry Potter: The

Exhibition global tour will be taking place at The Franklin Institute in early 2022 to celebrate the iconic moments, characters, settings, and beasts as seen in the films and stories of Harry Potter and the Wizarding World. In early 2023, The Franklin Institute will host yet another world premiere, the Walt Disney Company's 100th Anniversary exhibition.

## Annual events

The holiday season is the perfect time to be in Philadelphia, with a host of events taking place throughout the city, including open air ice rinks, pop up markets and light shows. On New Year's Day, the annual Mummers Parade, one of the oldest folk parades in the United States, takes place along Broad Street.

[www.discoverPHL.com](http://www.discoverPHL.com)

## Planet Play opens at the Kennedy Space Center

A NEW, fully-immersive multiple-storey play experience is now open at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Designed for a younger generation of space explorers aged two to 12, Planet Play is an indoor interactive area where children play, and learn, on the planets. Numerous interactive gaming and artistic components are designed to create a memorable learning experience – including opportunities to map a constellation, climb a wormhole, walk on Saturn's rings, and slide through an asteroid field.

In addition, the young explorers can enjoy digital interactives and artistic components that educate and entertain them. This includes Stargazer Scramble, where children can step on the stars on a



Image Credit: Kennedy Space Center

digital floor to connect stars from across the universe, creating the constellations.

Planet Play is included with daily admission to Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex.

[www.kennedyspacecenter.com](http://www.kennedyspacecenter.com)

## United Airlines to offer double daily flights to Denver

UNITED AIRLINES has announced an expanded service between London Heathrow and Denver International Airport, beginning March 27 2022.

The carrier will operate twice-daily flights to Colorado's state capital onboard a Boeing 787-9.

From a thriving culinary scene to world-class museums and galleries, the Mile High City has plenty to offer UK travellers next year. Beyond Denver, visitors can explore Colorado's beautiful landscapes which include natural hot springs, spectacular mountains, lakes and reservoirs, and 12 national parks and monuments.

[www.united.com](http://www.united.com) / [www.colorado.com](http://www.colorado.com)



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

# INDIAN OCEAN

Image Credit: Adobe Stock

## BRITS BACK SRI LANKA

**Bamboo Travel has reported an 85% enquiry spike for Sri Lankan escapes, with fully-vaccinated Brits now allowed to enter quarantine-free.**

WITH THE destination confirming that fully-vaccinated Brits are permitted to enter quarantine-free upon presentation of a negative PCR test, Bamboo Travel has confirmed an 85% spike in interest for breaks to the Indian Ocean destination.

Flights operate from London to Colombo six days a week, making the destination an attractive choice for winter sun in the coming months.

Bamboo Travel offers 14 itineraries, ranging from 12- to 24-day stays.

These include the 15-day 'Highlights of Sri Lanka' tour. The two-week itinerary ticks off the essential sights of Sri Lanka, including a climb up Sigiriya Rock, wildlife safaris in Minneriya and Nala National Parks, hikes in Horton Plains National Park, a visit to a tea factory and a city tour of Colombo, the capital. This option is ideal

for couples, who will spend a night in Negombo before driving to the 'Cultural Triangle' region to explore the country's ancient history and rural highlights.

This 15-day itinerary is bookable through Bamboo Travel from £2,395 per person, including flights, all transportation, bed-and-breakfast accommodation, and excursions.

Families can dive into the 'Family Adventure in Sri Lanka', with visits including a stay in Gal Oya National Park, cycling around Polonnaruwa, and a vintage jeep tour in Colombo.

This option starts from £3,895 per adult and £2,995 per child, with flights, transportation, 16 nights' bed-and-breakfast accommodation, and activities.

### Mauritius' adult-only escape introduces new experiences

WELCOMING GUESTS once more again, SALT Mauritius has welcomed a number of new experiences to entice visitors back to the Indian Ocean haven.

SALT of Palmar, the adults-only, conscious-travel option, has introduced three new wellness-, diving- and adventure-fuelled experiences.

'In Pursuit of Wellness' will bring guests for a dip in a forest bath at Bras D'eau, followed by a locally-sourced breakfast, raw food initiation, recalibrating yoga session and a 60-minute treatment at the Equilibrium spa.

'Meat-free Adventures' embraces the hotel's status as VeganWelcome from VeggieHotels, and offers curated menus of hot and cold menus of vegetarian- and vegan-friendly dishes, with guests hopping on bikes to locally source their produce.

Clients interested in history will enjoy the 'Deep within the South of Mauritius' tour, which takes explorers back in time with an island insider, who will offer historical knowledge, followed by a four-course dinner.

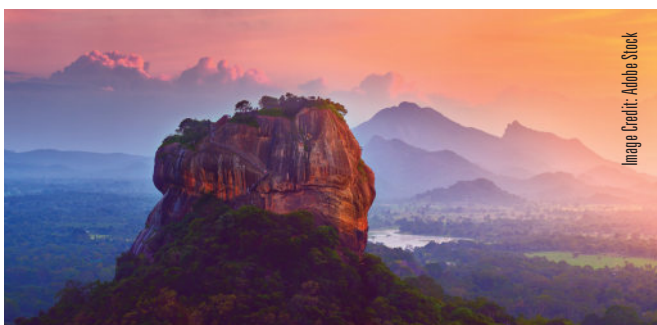


Image Credit: Adobe Stock

Sigiriya Rock is one of the adventurous options available in Sri Lanka.

[www.bambootravel.co.uk](http://www.bambootravel.co.uk)

[www.saltresorts.com](http://www.saltresorts.com)

## Introducing Kambura: Eden Villas adds new property

EDEN VILLAS has added Kumbura, a new holiday property in Habaraduwa, near Galle, to its Sri Lankan portfolio.

The new property comes at the perfect time as Sri Lanka is once again a winter sun destination choice for UK travellers, following the latest travel updates.

Kumbura sleeps eight in

total, in four bedrooms – two doubles, one twin and a double garden suite set slightly apart with its own veranda.

Outdoors is an infinity swimming pool which is large enough for length swimming, diving, and watersports.

Families are well catered to, with connecting rooms

for those with younger children. Babysitting is available on request.

The housekeeper will make breakfasts and simple local dishes for guests to experience a true taste of Sri Lanka. This is included in the nightly rates. For a more extensive menu, a private chef can be arranged by Eden Villas, together with a wide range of activities within the villa, such as cooking lessons, massage, yoga, and cricket games.

Kumbura is a short distance from Galle, a UNESCO world heritage city, as well as Koggala Lake, with many local beaches, surfing spots and excellent local restaurants dotted around the south coast.

Eden Villas offer nightly rates at Kumbura from £270.

[www.edenvillas.com](http://www.edenvillas.com)

Image Credit: Eden Villas



The property is secluded, surrounded by paddy fields and tea plantations.

## Celebrate a 'Wild West Christmas' in the Maldives

ALL-INCLUSIVE BEACH resort Adaaran Select Hudhuran Fushi offers an exciting Christmas programme with a twist.

Instead of a traditional white Christmas, visitors will get to experience island festivities full of exotic-flavoured Margarita nights taking place under canopies on the beach with a view of Maldivian sunsets.

The exclusive Wild West Gala dinner will take place on Christmas Eve at the resort's Banyan and Sunset restaurants, serving a seven-course

set menu dinner accompanied by a wide assortment of wine and champagne.

The night will culminate with a Christmas Carol performance and Santa Claus' arrival, encapsulating all the magic that comes with this special holiday.

A Garden Villa at Adaaran Select Hudhuran Fushi starts from approximately £305 per night, plus tax, for two adults in December 2021.

[www.adaaran.com/selecthudhuranfushi](http://www.adaaran.com/selecthudhuranfushi)

## A barrel of beach fun for the whole family at Pullman Phuket

FOR FAMILIES looking to take a fun-filled holiday, Pullman Phuket Panwa, on the Indian Ocean island of Phuket, offers a range of activities for all generations to enjoy.

The hotel is located on a private stretch of Panwa Beach, offering rich natural life with over 100 sea species which can be discovered on the resort's Marine Walk. From the Knobby Sea Star, Honey Comb corals to tiny crabs, families can explore the diverse marine life together.

Active families can turn the Andaman Ocean into their playground and enjoy exciting water sports such as kayaking, paddle boarding, and Hobie Wave sailing.

For those who prefer life on land, yoga, table tennis, boxing, and aerobics are also on offer. Parents can take some time to themselves while their little ones



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

enjoy the 'Sapparot Club,' where they will be entertained with creative activities such as umbrella painting, paper origami, Thai dancing, and kite making.

[www.all.accor.com](http://www.all.accor.com)

Image Credit: Adobe Stock



## Hopping mad for the Seychelles with Explore

EXPERIENCE THE best of Seychelles with Explore's 'Seychelles Island Hopping' holiday.

The 11-day holiday will allow travellers to explore the palm-lined beaches and primeval rainforest of Praslin Island, hike along forest trails and grainte boulders on Mahe Island and cycle around the paradise locale of La Digue island.

The holiday is priced from £2,150 per person, based on an April 13, 2022 departure date.

[www.explore.co.uk](http://www.explore.co.uk)



Image Credit: Club Med



## Seychelles for the whole family with Club Med

BLENDING THE luxury for which its known, Club Med has taken strides in the Seychelles to be the first resort in the region to blend luxury (from its Zen hideaway to a dedicated Yoga school) with family-friendly childcare facilities.

Kids from two to 17 are catered for, with dedicated kids' clubs and 'Club Med Amazing Family' activity programmes.

Deposits are available now, from £150 per person.

[www.clubmed.co.uk](http://www.clubmed.co.uk)

## Khiri Travel spotlights sustainable Sri Lanka

WITH FOUR eco-fuelled tours across Sri Lanka, Khiri Travel is spotlighting the nation's drive to sustainability.

Experiences include a visit to Mirissa, on the southern tip of the island nation, where guests can sail in a catamaran with a marine biologist to spot blue whales and dolphins. The trip offers swimming, stand-up paddling and a seafood lunch on-board.

In the nation's 'Cultural Triangle', the 'Trials of Matala' gives guests a local experience through pepper, cinnamon and coffee

plantations, before a banana leaf lunch.

In Kandy Hill, a tour of herb gardens in the forest, as well as a wild coffee tasting and curry lunch, which contributes to a local reforestation foundation, awaits guests.

The final experience is a seagrass restoration project in the Puttalam/Kalpitiya region, a haven for marine life.

All experiences include offset emissions in co-operation with Climate Care.

[www.khiri.com](http://www.khiri.com)

## Jumeirah makes the most of the Maldives

GLOBAL LUXURY hotel operator Jumeirah Group opened the doors to its new resort, Jumeirah Maldives, on October 1, 2021. The October opening marked the first time guests were welcomed to the Maldivian resort.

The resort, comprised entirely of private villas, is tucked away on the North Malé Atoll.

Its accommodation is ideal for romantic getaways or an indulgent island retreat.

Jose Silva, CEO of Jumeirah Group, commented: "The Maldives is a much-loved getaway for travellers from around the world and Jumeirah Maldives is a destination that delivers on our brand promise of 'Stay Different'.

"Jumeirah Group's new home in the Maldives guarantees an immaculate guest experience."

Villa interiors are designed to let in as much natural light as possible, with oversized windows offering panoramic ocean views. Textured walls are designed to immerse guests in their surroundings.

A number of dining experiences await guests staying at the resort, with Mediterranean- and Nikei-inspired flavours in two restaurants, Shimmers and Kayto, with the former offering a lush al-fresco experience with a resident DJ and live music.

Stays at the Jumeirah Maldives start from £1,124 per night, based on a Water Villa with Pool in December 2021.

[www.jumeirah.com/maldives](http://www.jumeirah.com/maldives)

## Seasonal sun with Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels this winter

BEACHCOMBER RESORTS & Hotels is enticing guests to soak up the winter sun at their resorts.

Along with a number of dining experiences, which launched with the brand's recent 'Something is in the air...' campaign, winter breaks will host a number of seasonal activities to get guests in the festive spirit and bring families together.

The five-star resort hosts a number of facilities and offerings that will ensure guests see in the season with style – from a 35-hectare tropical garden, to a choice of six restaurants, complimentary Kids Club and Teens Club, and free access to two 18-hole golf courses for adults.

Guests will be able to the depths at the hotel's diving centre and scuba lessons.

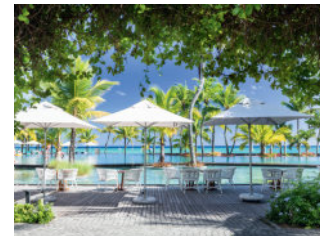


Image Credit: Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels

Upon booking a Junior Suite at Trou aux Biches Beachcomber, for arrival between December 20, 2021 and January 8, 2021, guests can save up to 60% off accommodation costs.

Quotes for rates are available upon request.

[www.beachcomber-hotels.com](http://www.beachcomber-hotels.com)



The resort welcomed guests from October 1, 2021.

# SEE THE SEYCHELLES WITH EMERALD CRUISES



Image Credit: Emerald Cruises

WITH THE release of its second edition 2023 Luxury Yacht Cruise Collection brochure, Emerald Cruises has unveiled the details of its latest destination – the Seychelles – on board the recently announced Emerald Sakara.

Emerald Sakara's maiden voyage will be the 11-day 'Tropical Charms of the Seychelles' itinerary, taking guests on a round-trip from Victoria, the capital of the Seychelles.

Highlights of the itinerary include: an exploration of Sainte Anne Marine National Park, with its pristine sandy beaches, coconut

trees, crystal-clear waters, polychromatic coral reefs and rich marine biodiversity; an orientation of Cousin Island, which has become one of the most significant nesting sites in the world for turtles; and, a discovery of Aride Island, a nature reserve hosting one of the most substantial seabird populations in the Indian Ocean.

Departing on February 23, 2023, prices for the 11-day yacht cruise start from £4,340 per person.

[www.emeraldcruiises.co.uk](http://www.emeraldcruiises.co.uk)

## Siyam water world welcomes thrillseekers

SIYAM WORLD Maldives' Siyam Water World, the Indian Ocean's biggest floating water park, has opened its doors.

Located in Siyam World's northeast lagoon, Siyam Water World is just one of the ever-expanding experiences included in Siyam World's revolutionary 'WOW! 24hrs Premium All-Inclusive' concept.

Suitable for all ages, fitness and ability levels, and optimised for safety, the water park is an exhilarating antidote to screentime, promoting balance, agility, coordination, social interaction – all the while putting family fun at its core.

With unlimited free access for guests aged six years old and above, Siyam Water World promises endless aquatic escapades. Linked by banked curves and treacherous bridges, the slippery circuit of challenging obstacles includes halfpipes, slides,



Image Credit: Siyam World Maldives

a climbing tower and a 3.2-metre springboard – not to mention 'Flip', the first free-floating human catapult on the water.

[www.sunsiyam.com](http://www.sunsiyam.com)



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

## Go green with Fairmont Maldives

FAIRMONT MALDIVES is an ideal pick for those who want to make the most of their holiday while having a positive impact on the environment.

From the newly launched Turtle Ranger Programme, where guests can help the resident marine biologist protect endangered species, to the world's first and only coral regeneration project, which takes the form of an underwater art installation, and the soon-to-be-launched Sustainability Lab, an educational centre where guests can turn ocean waste and plastic into souvenirs, Fairmont Maldives offers the ultimate luxury escape for environmentally conscious travellers.

Rooms start from £810, on a bed-and-breakfast basis.

[www.fairmont.com/maldives](http://www.fairmont.com/maldives)

# GREECE AND ITS ISLANDS



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

## GOING FOR GOLD

**Olympic Holidays is looking ahead to summer 2022 with its gold-medal package options throughout the Greek islands, from Kos to Halkidiki.**

INSPIRED BY this summer's Olympic Games, Olympic Holidays' selection of Greek holidays ensures guests feel like gold medallists.

The options span family-favourite destinations in Kos, to luxuriously romantic escapes in Halkidiki.

From £788 per person, couples can enjoy seven nights at the Sani Beach hotel, located on Halkidiki's Sani Marina, with flights from London Stansted and half-board accommodation.

On-site wellness-fuelled amenities, including a dive centre, fitness studio, sports centre, bike club, watersports sessions and more, are matched only by the Sani Beach Hotel's views of the Aegean and Mount Olympus.

Crossing the sea to Kos, Olympic Holidays also offers a seven-night freewheeling



Image Credit: Olympic Holidays

**Olympic Holidays blend luxury with activity on its Greek holidays.**

option, with accommodation at the Michelangelo Resort & Spa. With 11,000 recognised cycle routes across the mainland and islands of Greece, guests can two-wheel their way around Kos: the 'island of the bicycle'.

On-property, five-star facilities include an infinity pool and decked terraces to kick back on after a day of two-wheeled exploration.

This seven-night option starts from £670 per person, including flights from

London Gatwick.

Across the island, the Ikos Aria hotel is a relaxing beachfront option, with spaces to perfect guests' skills at table tennis, tennis, basketball, beach volleyball and more.

Seven nights at Ikos Aria starts from £1,472 per person on an 'ultra all-inclusive' basis.

All prices are based on May 2022 departure dates.

[www.olympicholidays.com](http://www.olympicholidays.com)

### **Buzz along with Larnaka's honeybee nature trails**

LARNAKA IS encouraging its visitors to get in touch with nature by trying out one of the island's new nature-themed trails.

The 'Larnaka Honeybee Nature Trails' trace three of the island's 'Rural Larnaka Honey Villages'. The clusters of nine quaint villages, buried in the island's mountainous regions, all practice beekeeping and honey production.

In collaboration with the local communities of Odou, Vavla and Vavatsinia, each village will host its own nature trail that ties in with the beekeeping theme.

Odou hosts the 2km 'Bee Navigation Route', following the route bees take as they find water and nectar and build hives.

Vavla's 'Bee Life Path' focuses on the hardworking nature of bees, beginning at the Agios Georgios church and finishing at a traditional stone well and water basin.

Vavatsinia's 'Humming Bee Path' ticks off the homes of honey therapies and wellness products.

The paths will be implemented from 2022 to enrich the region's mountainous landscapes.

[www.larnakaregion.com](http://www.larnakaregion.com)

## Aldemar Resorts' five-star home of Grecian luxury

WITH RESORTS spanning the year-on-year-favourites and hidden gems of the Greek Islands, there's something for every traveller with Aldemar Resorts' five-star Greek properties.

In Skafidia, the Aldemar Olympian Village awaits.

The resort has recently welcomed renovations to 100 of its rooms.

Child-friendly facilities include a Playmobil Corner and Mini kids' club, while 93-metre-long waterslides, dozens pools and sports facilities are ideal to bring the whole family together.

Room rates are available on request.

On the romantic isle of Crete, the Aldemar Royal Mare sits on the outskirts of Hersonissos, 25 minutes from Heraklion airport.

60 rooms and 21 suites



The resort brand hosts a number of five-star Greek resorts.

have been recently renovated, along with the Symposio and El Greco restaurants.

'Ultra all-inclusive' accommodation options allow guests to enjoy the two newly-renovated restaurants or any of the six on property, dine-around, and get a taste for unlimited tipples at the resort's four bars.

The 'ultra all-inclusive'

option also includes morning and evening yoga and pilates sessions, a Thalasso Special one-day package (with three spa treatments) and a host of other benefits.

Deluxe Bungalow Superior rooms start from £278.45 per night on an 'ultra all-inclusive' basis, based on a November 2021 arrival date.

[www.aldemar-resorts.gr](http://www.aldemar-resorts.gr)

## Cosmos captures the greatest of Greece

COSMOS' 'THE Best of Greece' tour ticks off just that – the unmissable highlights of Athens, Sparta, Olympia, and more.

Beginning with two days at leisure in Athens, guests explore and meet their tour director. On day three, the adventure begins, with a guided city tour of Athens and visits to the Corinth Canal and coast of Nauplia, where a night's stay awaits.

Day four is similarly jam-packed, calling at Epidaurus, Mycenae, and Sparta. Onwards, after a night in Sparta, the tour calls at the

Byzantine city of Mystra and Olympia on day five, and Patras and Delphi on day six.

After immersing themselves in the archeological site in Delphi, travelers continue to Kalambaka. A final day of travel offers visits to Meteora, before returning to Athens for two final days to soak up the city.

This comprehensive 10-day tour starts from £1,169 per person, based on an April 2022 departure.

[www.cosmos.co.uk](http://www.cosmos.co.uk)

## Destination Immersion with Azamara

AFTER UNVEILING its 2023/24 itineraries, Azamara has revealed a further collection of Greek experiences during the season.

The 'Grecian Wonder' itinerary will sail to both well-known and off-the-beaten-path ports across eight nights of cruising. Beginning in Athens, cruisers will enjoy a late stay in Chania, wandering the city streets, waking up in Heraklion, Crete's largest city. Onwards to Santorini, guests can sample the island's famous wines or soak in the landscapes, before travelling on to Rhodes for a day trip to Symi. The cruise continues to Patmos before drawing to a close in Istanbul. The cruise is set to depart on October 22, 2023, and offers Club Interior Staterooms from £1,884 per person.



Other itineraries can be extended with uniquely Greek excursions and visits as part of the cruise line's 'Destination Immersion' experience range, including an afternoon in Tinos with a renowned Greek chef, trying out local cuisine and wine pairings.

[www.azamara.co.uk](http://www.azamara.co.uk)



## A taste of Athens on Discover Greece's food tour

A FOODIE'S dream awaits in the Greek capital with Discover Greece's 'Ultimate Athens Food Tour'.

Beginning with a breakfast of koulouri or yogurt and honey, guests explore Athens' markets and spice shops, try out the dine-in delis that have played a key part in the Athens gastronomic scene for decades, and sample iconic Greek pastries. A rooftop dinner under the lights of the Acropolis draws the tour to a close. The tour starts from €62 per person.

[www.discovergreece.com](http://www.discovergreece.com)

# ISLAND HOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA

Specialist tour operators Planet Holidays and Planet Weddings have expanded their Greece programme for 2022.



Image Credit: Planet Holidays

PLANET HOLIDAYS has introduced the islands of Skyros and Koufonisia to its Greek portfolio.

The new destinations have been combined with a city stay in Athens or Skyros as part of an island-hopping itinerary with the Sporades islands of Skiathos, Skopelos and Alonissos. Koufonisia is also on offer with other popular islands such as Naxos, Paros, Santorini and Mykonos.

In Koufonisia, visitors can roam the 3.5km-wide island by foot or hire bicycles. All the beaches on the island are easily accessible by foot, with the longest walking distance, from Hora to Pori, taking roughly 40 minutes.

Skyros, part of the Sporades archipelago, is known for its pristine beaches, jagged coastline, sea caves and seaside villages.

Both islands have their own brand of magic to offer visitors seeking the small, yet perfectly formed Greek island.

Greek Island-hopping can be customised to any duration and includes all inter-island

transfers from ferries and flights. The possibilities are endless- Greece has plenty of choice for those looking to discover new places alongside revisiting favourite haunts too.

Island-hopping is a key offering of Planet Holidays. Itineraries are fully-customisable, guaranteeing travellers can plan their dream getaway and fulfill their individual requirements, wish-list excursions and activities, and bucket-list destinations.

On the weddings front, the programme in Greece has been expanded as new venues have been added in both Crete and in Zante. The greek islands are said to be picturesque settings for fairy-tale weddings and Planet Holidays have added this to their long list of destination wedding offerings.

For more information visit [www.planetwedding.co.uk](http://www.planetwedding.co.uk) and [www.planetholidays.co.uk](http://www.planetholidays.co.uk)

## Audley explore the postcard-perfect Peloponnese

AUDLEY HAS increased its offering in Greece, launching trips to the Western Peloponnese- an ideal choice for clients in search of an inexpensive way to experience Greek culture and beaches away from the crowds.

Costa Navarino, on the west coast of the Peloponnese, is home to long, sandy beaches, and a choice of larger resorts or smaller boutique properties.

In Monemvasia, a Byzantine island fortress town, Audley recommends a walking tour of the old town, followed by a wine tasting experience.

Not to be missed in the region are tours of the Byzantine cities of Mystras and Ancient Messini.

A seven-night self-drive tour starts from £2,225 per person (based on two sharing) and includes three nights in Nafplio, two nights near Monemvasia and



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

two nights at a beach resort on the Costa Navarino. The price is inclusive of flights, car hire, accommodation and excursions.

For more information, visit [www.audleytravel.com/Greece](http://www.audleytravel.com/Greece)

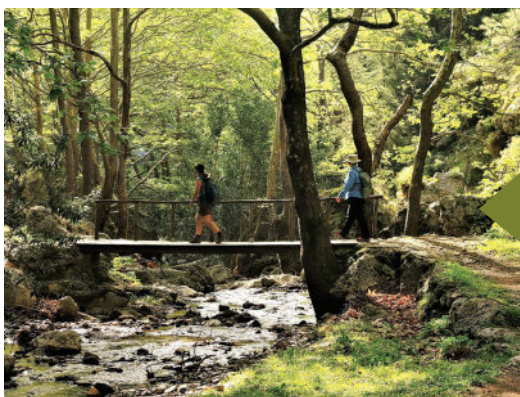


Image Credit: G Adventures

## Coastal gorges & coastal walks

G ADVENTURES, the adventure travel company, is offering an explorer's package to Crete, one of Greece's most picturesque islands.

The tour whisks guests away from the beaten track for a scenic adventure.

Over the seven days, groups trek along the coast, visiting remote villages and coastal towns, diving in secluded spots, walking through pine forests and passing through the 'Iron Gates' - the narrowest point on the Samaria Gorge. The package starts from £779 per person excluding flights.

For more information on packages, visit [www.gadventures.com](http://www.gadventures.com)

### Celestyal Cruises returns to year-round cruising



CELESTYAL CRUISES has announced its return to cruising on March 14, 2022 with its offering of three- and four-night cruises followed by seven-night sailings on April 30.

Celestyal will also return to visiting Kusadasi when it sets sail in March and adds Thessaloniki, Greece, to its seven night "Idyllic Aegean Itinerary." All 2022 and 2023 sailings with all-inclusive pricing starts from £369 per person and are currently bookable. Highlights include Thessaloniki, Milos and Kavala.

While Celestyal has offered its guests marquis destinations such as Mykonos and Santorini, the cruise line also takes travellers to more of the unexplored side of Greece and stays longer in port than other cruise lines for deeper exploration.

On Celestyal's seven-night 'Idyllic Itinerary' starting in April, it will sail to Thessaloniki offering guests the Paleo Christian and Byzantine monuments, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, monuments to the famed Alexander the Great, and the chance to explore the city's Roman and Sephardic Jewish heritage. Thessaloniki serves as the gateway to Northern Greece and nearby Balkan drive markets. Additionally, this itinerary calls upon Mykonos, Santorini, Crete, Rhodes and Kusadasi (Turkey). All-inclusive pricing on the seven-night 'Idyllic Itinerary' starts from £759 per person.

[www.celestyal.com](http://www.celestyal.com)

### Escape to the Greek islands with Santikos Collection

SANTIKOS COLLECTION'S 34-room property, The Alex, in the bustling port city of Piraeus on the Athens Riviera is the perfect spot to enjoy both cultural day trips to Athens or charming islands such as Aegina, Hydra and Poros.

Clients can base themselves at The Alex, which boasts 180-degree views of the Athens Coast with far reaching views of the Riviera, Stavros Niarchos and the Acropolis.



Image Credit: Santikos Collection

Three nights staying at The Alex on a bed-and-breakfast basis with dinner at NEST and a one-day cruise taking in Aegina, Poros & Hydra starts from £240 per person.

[www.santikoscollection.com/thealex](http://www.santikoscollection.com/thealex)

## What was cool when you were young but isn't cool now?



**Jeanette Ratcliffe**  
 Publisher  
[jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk)  
 Chopper bikes!



**Bill Coad**  
 Account Manager  
[bill.coad@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:bill.coad@travelbulletin.co.uk)  
 Smoking.



**Mariam Ahmad**  
 Editor  
[news@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:news@travelbulletin.co.uk)  
 Yugioh cards.



**Sarah Terry**  
 Account Manager  
[sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk)



**Simon Eddolls**  
 Sales Director  
[simon.eddolls@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:simon.eddolls@travelbulletin.co.uk)  
 Walkmans.



**Tim Podger**  
 Account Manager - Far East  
[tim.podger@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:tim.podger@travelbulletin.co.uk)  
 Smoking Marlborough Reds.



**Ashweene Beerjeraz**  
 Events Assistant  
[ashweenee.beerjeraz@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:ashweenee.beerjeraz@travelbulletin.co.uk)  
 Bratz Dolls!



**Matthew Hayhoe**  
 Assistant Editor  
[matthew.hayhoe@alaincharles.com](mailto:matthew.hayhoe@alaincharles.com)  
 Curtains.

Invites you to a

# AUSTRALASIA & PACIFIC ISLANDS SHOWCASE

Agent Networking Evening

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Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to our  
Australasia and Pacific Islands Showcase!

A fun filled evening dedicated to providing you with more information about the diverse range of destinations and tailor-made packages on offer to meet your customers' needs. Look forward to engaging presentations, professional networking, amazing entertainment and being in with the chance of winning some incredible prizes!

## TIMINGS

Registration

**6:00 PM**

Hot Dinner

**7:30 PM**

Travel Bulletin

Welcome

**6:25 PM**

Client  
Presentations

**8:15 PM**

Client  
Presentations

**6:30 PM**

Product Quiz &  
Free Prize Draw

**9:15 - 9.30 PM**

To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by **Friday 12th November** to: [events@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto: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.

You are invited to attend the

travelbulletin



# Luxury Virtual SHOWCASE

Thursday 11th November at 2PM

Receive updates and learn top selling tips from leading luxury suppliers during their short but informative presentations, then connect with them during a live Q&A sessions. Plus, take part in the short product quiz for your chance to win some amazing prizes!

Featuring



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## TIMINGS

2pm Webinar Welcome from your Travel Bulletin Host • 2.05pm Presentations & Q&A Sessions  
• 2.40pm Competition Announcement • 2.55pm Webinar Ends

FOR FREE REGISTRATION CLICK HERE