

Travel bulletin

Giving agents the edge

easyJet

holidays

SAVE UP TO £200 ON PACKAGE HOLIDAYS

Now is the time to book your customers summer '25 getaway, with thousands of free child places available!



HANDPICKED HOTELS

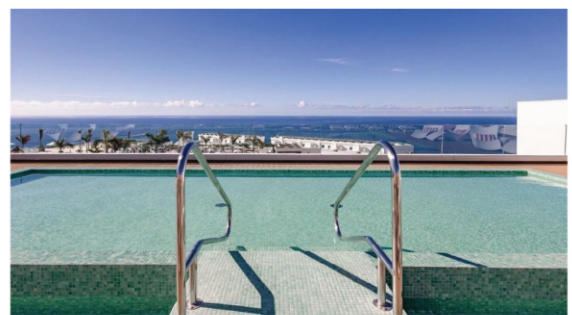
With thousands of 4 and 5* hotels to choose from, here are some of our handpicked favourites.



Anda Barut Collection

Bodrum, Turkey

- > Seven pools to choose from
- > Beach front location
- > Fantastic range of sports facilities



Servatur Puerto Azul

Gran Canaria, Spain

- > 10 minute walk from the beach
- > Five outdoor pool areas
- > Scenic hillside setting overlooking the Atlantic Ocean



PortAventura Hotel El Paso

Salou, Spain

- > Unlimited access to PortAventura Park
- > Tex-mex à la carte restaurant
- > Huge outdoor pool & separate kids' pool



Wyndham Grand Crete Mirabello Bay

Crete, Greece

- > Luxurious spa, aqua park & 2 large pools
- > Beach front location
- > 4 à la carte restaurants specialising in different cuisines

Travel **bulletin**

Giving agents the edge

Ocean Cruising

New ships, new ports of call, and new ways to see the world



MORE IN...

Agent Insight

Hays Travel's in-house operator on the Caribbean craze **Pg. 9**

Caribbean

Sun, sand and celebration from the iconic islands of the Caribbean **Pg. 20**



Brand USA's Jackie Ennis invites agents to get involved in the USA's "exciting times" (**Pg.13**)

Travel Bulletin

SHOWCASES

Invites you to an

Adventure & Activity

Showcase

Agent networking evening

Tuesday **17th** September

◀◀ NOTTINGHAM ▶▶

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to one of these fun and informative events. Enabling you to learn more about the diverse range of adventure and activity packages available to you and your clients. Discover the amazing landscapes of the world and the most exciting ways to explore them. The evening will involve networking and presentations along with a delicious hot dinner, drinks, exciting entertainment and a free prize draw with prizes galore!

Registration & Drinks

5.45 PM

Travel Bulletin Welcome

6.10 PM

Supplier Presentations

6.15 PM

Hot Dinner

7.30 PM

Supplier Presentations

8.30 PM

Product Quiz and Prizes

9.10 PM

Events Ends

9.30 PM

Features:



EXPLORE!



To confirm your place at one of these amazing events, email the name, company and contact details by Thursday 12th September 2024 to: events@travelbulletin.co.uk or Telephone: 020 7973 0136

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

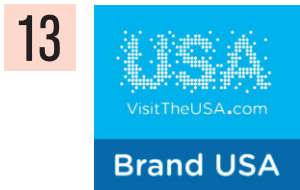
THIS WEEK



NEWS
Everything you need to know from new openings to exclusive offerings.



PUZZLE BULLETIN
Try your hand at this week's puzzle to win a £20 M&S voucher.



IN THE HOT SEAT
Jackie Ennis, vice president of Global Trade Development for Brand USA.



OCEAN CRUISING
New vessels, bespoke itineraries and more across the seven seas.



CARRIBEAN
Sit back and take in the vibrancy of the region known for its good vibes and authentic hospitality.



SUN ON REPEAT

Travelopia brands have revealed the top repeat booking trends for summer 2024 and winter Sun holidays.

TRAVELOPIA'S BRANDS (Citalia, Sovereign Luxury Travel and American Holidays) have highlighted the eminent booking trends for both the summer 2024 and the winter 2024/2025 periods.

It has been a successful summer season all round as the research suggests booking figures are up 40%. Citalia has witnessed increased demand for holidays to Italy and Sicily, with a particular interest noted for the Lakes as well as Taormina and Cefalu.

Sovereign has noticed a shift towards extended shorter breaks as guests are opting for a more luxurious experience for a shorter amount of time as opposed to longer stays.

Across the pond, American Holidays has stated there is a cross-section of destinations topping the charts for summer 2024, with the Deep South, New England and the West Coast making up nearly one quarter of repeat bookings, with New England in particular

seeing a 50% rise year-on-year.

In terms of bookings for the winter sun season, repeat bookers have increased by one quarter, from 50% of overall bookings in 2023 to 75% for 2024/2025.

For Sovereign, nearly half (42%) of winter sun bookings are from repeat customers. Tenerife remains a top choice to escape the cold, marking a quarter of overall repeat bookings.

Citalia reports one quarter of winter sun holidays are from repeat bookers, with the Italian cities of Rome, Venice and Florence remaining as a popular choice. In terms of booking dates, over half of Sovereign's winter bookings have been made for February, while 54% of Citalia's bookings are for November. American Holidays has found that November is a popular time for Florida bookings, however trips to New York, cruise holidays and other destinations in the US remain favoured in December.



Jet2CityBreaks expands *Discover More* range

JET2CITYBREAKS' IMMERSIVE Discover More range uncovers Jet2CityBreaks destinations with tours and experiences included in package options. Kraków and Marrakech are joining the Discover More roster, with the former including a tour of Auschwitz and a tour of the historic city in the latter.

Discover More options in Marrakech

operate from winter 2024/25 with summer 2025 options available from Birmingham, Glasgow, Manchester and London Stansted. Kraków packages are available for summer 2024, winter 2024/25 and summer 2025 from Belfast International, Birmingham, East Midlands, Glasgow, Leeds Bradford, Liverpool John Lennon, Manchester and Newcastle International. www.jet2.com



Celestyal gifts free cruise to Team GB medallists

CELESTYAL, WHICH is headquartered in Athens, the home of the Olympic Games, has launched a special offer for all athletes from Team GB who won a medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

All medal winners can pick from a seven-night 'Steps of

Paul' cruise from Athens aboard *Celestyal Journey* and a selection of seven-night 'Desert Days' voyages from Doha; seven-night 'Idyllic Aegean' voyages from Athens; and seven-night 'Heavenly Adriatic' sailings from Athens. www.celestyal.com

40% of Brits search for savvy staycation savings

HOSEASONS HAS reported that over half of guests are planning a staycation this year, with almost 40% looking to bag a last-minute bargain.

The self-catering provider has uncovered insights into potential booking habits, commemorating its 80th anniversary with promising news regarding staycation demand. 53% of Brits are planning UK staycations, with one in 10 planning just weeks ahead of their breaks. Staycations appear to be in favour thanks to a number of factors, with guests reporting short travel distances (29%), convenience (25%) and affordability (28%) as their key motivations for staycationing. 35% of guests are looking to recreate childhood memories with close-to-home breaks.

www.hoseasons.co.uk

The lesser-known destinations seeing a surge of interest

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS' new booking data suggests Albania, Uzbekistan and the Baltics are rising to the top of travellers' ranks.

The operator has reflected on bookings made since the launch of its summer 2025 brochure.

David Sharman, chief commercial officer, noted, "We are thrilled to be catering to the growing demand for unique, emerging and up-and-coming destinations."

www.newmarketholidays.co.uk



Air Canada reinstates non-stop Ottawa service

AIR CANADA has confirmed the return of its direct Ottawa service from London Heathrow. Set to return with four weekly seasonal flights from March 31st, 2025, the move marks Air Canada as the only Canadian airline connecting the two capitals. Its summer 2025 programme will see it connect six Canadian cities to London Heathrow.

The service, which is on sale now, will operate from London to Ottawa on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from March 31st to October 25th, 2025.

www.aircanada.com

Audley Travel adds Med island quartet to its tailor-made roster

IBIZA, MENORCA, Mallorca and Corfu have joined the tailor-made operator's island lineup, with head of global product Alex Bentley suggesting "it made sense to encompass these islands into the Audley mix" in response to impressive short-haul demand.

Alex continued, "Our country specialists are excited to be able to share their expertise and knowledge with agents to curate unique and meaningful experiences for

their clients looking to explore these exceptionally charming parts of Europe."

Those meaningful experiences include a traditional Spanish cooking class in Palma de Mallorca, an open-topped Land Rover Discovery tour in Menorca, a visit to the UNESCO-recognised old town of Ibiza, and a private walking tour of Corfu Town.

www.audleytravel.com

Image Credits: Bottom Left: Adobe Stock, Top Middle: Air Canada

EXPERIENCED DRIVERS
LUXURY COACH TRAVEL
EXPERTLY PLANNED ITINERARIES
HAND-PICKED HOTELS
KNOWLEDGEABLE GUIDES

MULTI-AWARD WINNING
★★★★★
BRITISH TRAVEL AWARDS

Leger

HOLIDAYS

EXCELLENT
★★★★★
TRUSTPILOT

FESTIVE BREAKS THROUGHOUT EUROPE

CHRISTMAS MARKETS • CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS • NEW YEAR BREAKS

HURRY!
PLACES
STILL LEFT
FOR 2024!



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HOLIDAYS

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FULLY ESCORTED BREAKS THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVE SEASON

NEW
BROCHURE
OUT
NOW!

TOKYO FOR THE TRADE

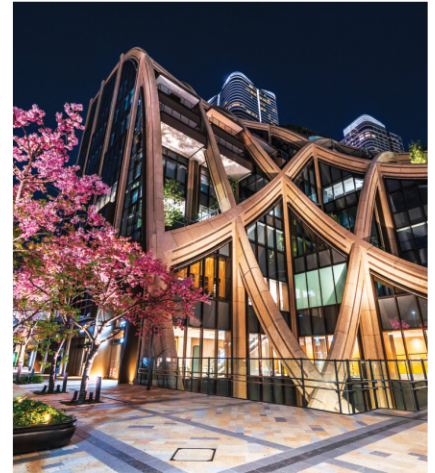
Tokyo's futuristic cityscapes and storied culture is well-documented, but what awaits guests with different demands?

For art lovers

AZABUDAI HILLS is a modern urban village, built upon a human-centred approach to leading a rich life, with unique low-rise buildings and nature-inspired landscapes designed by the UK-based Heatherwick Studio.

At the heart of the complex is a nature-adorned plaza and event space – this summer hosted a 'Summer at the Green' event with a food and drink menu inspired by the ecological surroundings and a Happy Hour seven days a week.

teamLab Borderless, dubbed the 'Museum Without A Map', hosts immersive exhibitions of the world's art collective teamLab. Guests can experience first-hand a world of art without boundaries, with artworks following guests through various rooms and merge together in a 360-degree spectacle. The Azubadai Hills Gallery honours Japanese culture with a revolving calendar of shows and exhibitions. www.azubudai-hills.com



For wellbeing wanters

TACHIKAWA IS home to a whole host of relaxing locations and wellbeing opportunities. Showa Kinen Park, commemorating the late Emperor Hirohito, boasts broad flower fields, cycling paths, paddleboats and a Japanese Garden, with the annual Tachikawa Festival Showa Kinen Park Fireworks sending around 5,000 fireworks into the sky. www.showakinen-koen.jp/guide-english/

The Sorano Hotel uniquely embodies an eco-friendly and sustainable approach, spotlighting the importance of the local production for local consumption across its dining options and comprehensive spa treatment menu. A 60-metre infinity pool offers an inspiring backdrop for relaxation. www.soranohotel.com



For family fun

TOKYO BAY is one of the city's most scenic locations, but also one of its most family-friendly.

The Tokyo Cruise Hinode Pier is guests' gateway to water bus journeys around the city. <https://www.suijobus.co.jp/en/>

The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation invites curious guests of all ages to experience the technology of tomorrow first-hand, plus the chance to imagine life on board the International Space Station with an immersive exhibit. www.miraikan.jst.go.jp/en/

A unique new addition, Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai, in collaboration with Toyosu Market, recreates an Edo-period neighbourhood and showcases the most iconic local dishes with seasonal and locally-sourced ingredients chosen by connoisseur wholesalers. To

decompress, the neighboring Tokyo Toyosu Manyo Club offers relaxing experiences including hot springs and stone sauna.



For serial shoppers

JUST OUTSIDE the Harajuku station, Takeshita Street offers a 350-metre-long choice of affordable fashion boutiques and iconic Japanese kawaii merchandise.

Toyku Plaza Harajuku 'Harakado' draws on the history of the Harajuku and Jingumae areas of Tokyo. Over 70 unique stores occupy the glass building, which is also home to a rooftop terrace. While shoppers can experience household names including Jo Malone London, a host of authentically-Tokyo brands immerse shoppers in the city and its historic yet forward-thinking culture.

For a more high-end shopping experience, Omotesando Street hosts high-end brands and unique boutiques with a guarantee of luxury and quality.

AGENT INCENTIVES

- **AMAWATERWAYS HAS** announced the return of the 'Sell Five, Sail Free' incentive, which rewards agents booking five AmaWaterways sailings with a free seven-night cruise for two of their own. Agents must make five new bookings on any AmaWaterways itinerary departing by December 31st, 2025 to qualify. Agents who make 10 bookings will earn a voyage aboard the double-width *AmaMagna* vessel. Complimentary reward cruises sail in 2025 or 2026 on a choice of itineraries and can be booked within 60 days of departure by emailing agencysupport@amawaterways.com. www.amawaterways.co.uk
- **AGENTS WHO** register or log in to the St. Kitts Specialist programme and complete the online training modules by September 15th, 2024 could be in with a chance of winning a place in a private hospitality box at McFly's upcoming 21st birthday show at the O2 Arena. Winners will be chosen at random and notified during the week commencing September 30th, 2024. www.stkittsspecialist.com
- **PLAYA HOTELS & Resorts** has streamlined its rewards programme, meaning agents can redeem as few as 35 points for a free night's stay. Cash rewards are still available; one point equals one pound. www.playarewards.com
- **AGENT BOOKINGS** for Domes Resorts made throughout September include one free night at select Domes properties for two. The free stay vouchers are subject to availability and will be awarded once bookings have materialised. A maximum of seven free nights can be redeemed. www.domesresorts.com



13 AGENTS from the UK and USA joined Unforgettable Croatia on a four-night 'Dalmatian Coast' itinerary aboard *Memories* this month. The itinerary featured guided tours of Split, Dubrovnik, Krka and Mljet National Parks. Graham Carter, Unforgettable Croatia's chief commercial officer, concluded, "We're delighted that our valued trade partners had such a wonderful time onboard *Memories* for our first-ever fam trip."

Travel bulletin

COMPETITION

Answer two questions for your chance to win one of six £50 M&S vouchers with AIUla – or complete the Beginners module on the AIUla Specialist training course to win one of two £100 vouchers!

Find out more at
www.travelbulletin.co.uk/alula-competition



AGENT TRAINING

- **WIN WITH** Brand USA's Big Badge Bonanza! Explore Brand USA's newly refreshed USA Discovery Program and be in with a chance of winning amazing prizes! Register or log-in to the new website USADiscoveryProgram.co.uk and complete as many badges as you can for the chance to win. Each badge completion counts as a new entry. Competition ends September 30th.
- **JOIN THE** Rocky Mountaineer team to learn more about the operator's inspiring rail journeys through the Rockies and American Southwest. communities.rockymountaineer.com/agent/
- **ONLY AN** hour's drive from Orlando, yet a world away, New Smyrna Beach offers holidaymakers a lush tropical landscape, 17 miles of white sand beaches, activities, amazing eateries and a friendly welcome. Agents can learn about it all on the New Smyrna Beach Insider course and enter the destination's monthly draw for a £50 voucher. www.tourismgivesback.com/courses-archive/nsb-insider/
- **NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS'** training course earns agents a 15% discount for a tour of their own (with a plus one) and a Newmarket Achievement Award certificate, plus the chance to earn a spot on one of the operator's upcoming fam trips. www.training.newmarketholidays.co.uk
- **SUNNY TIME** is all about rewarding yourself as you sell holidays to Aldemar Resorts, Greece, and also when you do so through a third party. Register and discover how you can earn your own free stay at Aldemar Resorts, an independent Greek hotelier with two 5-star luxury resort hotels on Crete and Greece's mainland, Olympia. www.sunnytime.gr

SUDOKU

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

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

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

Closing date for entries is Thursday, September 19th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

August 23rd 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?

FOUNDED in 1519, this capital city houses one third of the island's population, and visitors are encouraged to watch the daily ceremonial cañonazo which offers stunning views of the historic Old City.

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

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

Across

- 1 North London tour operator specialising in Greece and Cyprus holidays (7)
- 6 European language (7)
- 8 Vienna international airport code (3)
- 9 Swiss city and lake with an historic wooden bridge (7)
- 11 One of the water star signs (7)
- 13 By way of (3)
- 14 West End musical based on a children's book by Roald Dahl (7)
- 15 The Eurostar runs through this tunnel (7)

Down

- 1 After 15 years, this band is reforming with a UK and Ireland tour in 2025 (5)
- 2 Island home of the Penguin Parade (7)
- 3 Copenhagen international airport code (3)
- 4 City served by John Lennon airport (9)
- 5 1 Across can take you to this Mediterranean island (5)
- 7 Alaska's most populated city, famous for wildlife and glaciers (9)
- 10 Zagreb is the capital (7)
- 11 Singer Anne-Marie has named her daughter by this number (5)
- 12 Cruise ship, Norwegian _____ sounds like a gem (5)
- 14 Global cruise line with HQ in Geneva (3)

CROSSWORD

Mystery Word: CANADA

Down: 1 OASIS, 2 PHILLIP, 3 CPH, 4 LIVERPOOL, 5 CRETE, 7 ANCHORAGE, 10 CROATIA, 11 SEVEN, 12 PEARL, 14 MSC.

Across: 1 OLYMPIC, 6 SPANISH, 8 VIE, 9 LUCERNE, 11 SCORPIO, 13 VIA, 14 MATILDA, 15 CHANNEL.



Celebrate the festive season in Egyptian style

DISCOVER EGYPT is giving travellers the chance to escape the winter chill and celebrate the festive season in style this year with a Nile cruise and a Cairo city break. Holidaymakers can embark on some pre-festive fun with the 10-night 'Classic Egypt' holiday, combining a three-night stay in the capital with a seven-night cruise along the Nile from £2,265 per person. Departures are for November 8th, 15th and 22nd, 2024. Alternatively, guests who wish to spend their holiday season a little differently can embark on a festive getaway with a departure on December 23rd, 2024, from £2,848 per person, including a New Year's spectacular in Cairo.

www.discoveregypt.co.uk

AGENT INSIGHT



ROB KENDALL

VISTA

AT VISTA, we've seen an increase in Caribbean bookings, and the region's obvious appeal is clear. With travellers seeking an escape from the winter chill, the Caribbean's unique blend of vibrant culture, stunning landscapes, and diverse experiences makes it the perfect winter sun destination. Whether your clients are drawn to iconic islands like Barbados, Antigua, St. Lucia, and Jamaica, or the unique charms of Aruba and Puerto Rico, the Caribbean offers a sun-soaked get away with something for everyone.

Customers are attracted to the region by its relaxed pace and inviting atmosphere, with its pristine beaches, lush landscapes, waterfalls, rich cultural heritage, food, and lively local festivals. Renowned for its array of activities and experiences, the Caribbean is ideal for travellers with varied interests – whether this be solo travellers or those travelling with their partner, friends or family. Customers can explore historical sites, indulge in gourmet cuisine, enjoy local celebrations, or just relax on the beach.

Vista is excited to see that so many of our airline partners are increasing flights and expanding their routes, allowing us to provide our agent partners with even greater options when booking Caribbean escapes. With more flights including options flying via iconic cities like New York, customers have increased options for reaching their Caribbean destinations. This means that we can now offer multi-destination getaways that combine vibrant city stopovers with relaxing island escapes.

Vista's ever-growing variety of packages feature destinations, hotels, cruises, and excursions, which range from serene beach getaways to immersive cultural adventures to explorative cruise and stays, allow us to truly tailor experiences to suite any customers wants and needs.

Explore the latest Caribbean news from page 20.

News Bites

- HURTIGRUTEN HAS become the first travel brand among 22 other companies to earn the coveted 'Made in Norway' label.
- VIKING IS expanding its Asian offering with the launch of six brand-new itineraries across Japan and China for 2025.
- DISCOVER THE Palm Beaches has confirmed multi-million visitation numbers for the first half of the year, representing an all-time high.



EASYJET HOLIDAYS has announced more package holidays are now on offer from Southend across Europe and North Africa for next year's summer season, including holidays to Gran Canaria, Italy, Marrakesh, Tunisia, Türkiye, Malta and Spain. A total of 10 destinations are available following easyJet's expansion in Southend, where a three-aircraft base will open in March 2025. www.easyjet.com

Jetset



Introducing HighFliers Credits!



September Spinning, Sponsored by  AIR CANADA



jetsetholidays.co.uk

jetsethighfliers.co.uk



Enhance The Experience

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

V2.0 drops during September!





Daytrip expands to Arizona

THE GRAND Canyon State has joined Daytrip's existing sightseeing transfer options in California, Florida and Texas. Lucio William Fontana, head of expansion at Daytrip, noted, "The Arizona Office of Tourism recorded 45.2 million overnight visits statewide in 2023, up from 40.19 million in 2022. The over +12% increase year-on-year is projected to grow even further for the year 2024!

"There could have been no better choice for Daytrip's next USA expansion."

www.agents.mydaytrip.com

"Exciting day" as new and improved Ocean Beds site unveiled

OCEAN BEDS has launched a new one-stop bookable site, offering advanced filters, enhanced API functionality and a choice of 9,000 properties.

6,000 new properties have joined the accommodation range, complementing the existing 3,000-strong collection of Florida villas and townhomes. Harry Hastings, co-CEO and co-founder of Ocean Holidays, noted that this marked an "exciting

day" for the Ocean Holidays brands as well as "our valued trade partners globally and all their guests."

The new site streamlines filtering options, making it easier than ever for trade partners to find the accommodation of their client's dreams.

Agents can register as Ocean Beds partners for accommodation-only options at www.oceanbeds.com/sign-up

Taste of Space returns to Kennedy Space Center

KENNEDY SPACE Center Visitor Complex will host the return of Taste of Space from September



30th to November 3rd, 2024.

The event will host special menu items at the on-site dining and drinks locations throughout the space-age visitor attraction.

www.kennedyspacecenter.com

Image Credits: Left: Camera Pro, Right: Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex

WIN

with Brand USA's

Big Badge Bonanza!



DISCOVERY
PROGRAM
UK & Ireland

COMPETITION ENDS
30 SEPTEMBER

Register or log-in to USADiscoveryProgram.co.uk and complete as many badges as you can to be in with a chance to win the following prizes:

- **Minimum of 4 badges completed:**
Champagne afternoon tea for two at The Ivy (locations across the U.K. and Ireland)
- **Minimum of 6 badges completed:**
Apple Watch
- **Minimum of 8 badges completed:**
Antler Luggage set
- **The agent who completes the most badges will win the Grand Prize!**
2 x tickets with Delta Airlines from LHR - MCO (Orlando, Florida)

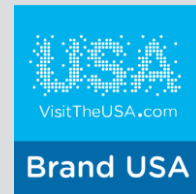
Terms and conditions can be found [here](#). Each agent is eligible for one prize only.



IN THE HOT SEAT WITH...

Jackie Ennis

Brand USA's vice president of global trade development, Jackie Ennis, embraces an "incredibly exciting time" for the USA, inviting agents to get in on the excitement



When we last spoke, UK arrivals were up 11% against 2023. How has progress continued throughout the year?

The UK is our leading overseas market and as of July 2024 (YTD), we have had over 2,195,090 arrivals. This is 900,000 arrivals more than the next largest market, which is India.

The UK market is extensive, covering a range of demographics from sophisticated, experienced travellers to young, adventure seekers. UK travellers continue to travel to the USA for its diverse landscapes, natural beauty and cultural richness and are always looking for authentic experiences that offer value for money.

It's an incredibly exciting time for the USA. In the next four years there are a huge number of anniversaries and events taking place which will directly appeal to the UK market. These include the centenary of Route 66 and the highly anticipated FIFA World Cup 2026 – the world's largest single sporting event – which the US will host across 11 cities, and the next Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 2028. An estimated five million international fans are expected to travel to the US, Mexico and Canada for the World Cup and it is expected to generate more than \$5 billion in short-

term economic activity to the region. The global media exposure will undoubtedly boost long term tourism by raising the profile of the host cities and also the lesser-known destinations, so we have an amazing opportunity to capture an audience already traveling, and inspire them to visit new places beyond the gateways.

What is there to look forward to in the destination and how can agents capture demand from that?

A number of tour operators are already creating bespoke itineraries to offer alternative ways to experience Route 66 and other iconic road trips in the US, such as zero-emission or culinary-led options. Exploration on the road is just one option for discerning travellers and is a fantastic way to explore the landscape and visit new cities, seeing lesser-known towns and off-the beaten track places. To support this, we recently created a Road Trips USA itinerary focused on Route 66. We have over 30 Road Trips USA itineraries, all of which are multi state self-drive itineraries designed to be both a source of inspiration to the trade and fully bookable itineraries.

We can also expect new flight routes,

new rail routes offering more connectivity across the US and we will continue to see a huge number of arts & culture exhibitions launching.

What can agents expect & gain from the newly refreshed USA Discovery Program?

The USA Discovery Program is the ultimate hub for content, inspiration and educational material to help agents sell and promote the USA, ensuring we keep the USA top of mind and encouraging further learning, as well as adding value to our US partners through opportunities to showcase their destination on the platform.

We're excited to have launched our newly refreshed USA Discovery Program in the UK in April, which offers several new features. As well as being able to access over 60 training modules, agents can now also go back to modules they have previously completed as part of our 'Retain' feature and access several of our key travel trade resources via the 'Promote' feature, including reading up on our Road Trip USA itineraries, watching content on GoUSA TV, accessing our rights free images and videos and flicking through our digital Inspiration Guide.

TAKING THE SCENIC ROUTE

Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours has introduced new ocean voyages for 2025.



TRAVELLERS WHO wish to travel the seven seas can now do so in all-inclusive luxury as Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours has introduced new ocean voyage itineraries for 2025.

Scenic's latest offering includes destination stops in Ireland, Iceland, Indonesia, Antarctica and South America. The 13-day 'Northern Legends: Ireland, Scotland & Iceland' itinerary offers an awe-inspiring journey from the Emerald Isle to the Land of Ice and Fire, where guests will uncover a world of myths and folklore. Travellers will take in the Isle of Skye's jagged landscape by helicopter; take an excursion back in time to the Viking settlement of Tórshavn and oversee

Iceland's dramatic fjords and marine life. Prices lead in from £8,005 per person, including flights, for departure on June 23rd, 2025.

Setting sail from Benoa, guests on the 16-day 'Discover Komodo & the Spice Islands' will visit the remote villages and uninhabited islands among Indonesia's archipelago, including the opportunity to get up close and personal with the Komodo dragons which have roamed Satonda Island for millions of years. Prices start from £10,645 per person, with a departure on July 6th, 2025.

On the 24-day 'Antarctica's Ross Sea: Majestic Ice & Wildlife' voyage, guests will embark on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure from Australia to east

Antarctica onboard the Polar Class 6 rated *Scenic Eclipse II*. Guests will witness the Ross Ice Shelf up close before taking to the skies to see the snow-free McMurdo Dry Valleys of Ross island from above. Prices lead in from £25,865 per person, including flights and excursions, for a departure on January 8th, 2025.

www.scenic.co.uk

The Marquesas Islands join UNESCO list

IT IS a time for celebration for Aranui Cruises as not only is the cruise line celebrating its 40th anniversary, but the Marquesas Islands will join the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list. One of the best ways to explore the six inhabited Marquesas islands is aboard the 12-day 'Discover the Marquesas Cruise' priced from around £4,220 per person where guests will visit the ancient archaeological sites of Taipivai Valley on Nuku Hiva, traverse the mountains of Ua Huka and catch a glimpse of the Marquesan horses which roam the islands. www.aranui.com

Unforgettable experiences in Greece

UNFORGETTABLE TRAVEL Company has launched a collection of small ship cruise and land itineraries in Greece for 2025. Guests can embark on the nine-night 'Highlights of Greece' voyage from £3,399 per person, taking in the islands of Santorini, Mykonos, Delos and Crete, just to name a few; or enjoy the nine-night 'Wonders of the Greek Isles' from £4,679 per person, where guests will explore iconic ancient sites. www.unforgettabletravel.com



Carnival releases new 2026/2027 itineraries

CARNIVAL CRUISE Line has announced a new selection of Caribbean itineraries for the 2026 and 2027 seasons.

Taking place across seven ships, the new itineraries will depart from four US homeports: Miami, Port Canaveral, Galveston and Baltimore.

Guests will call at the private island Half Moon Cay in the Bahamas, which will be enhanced to include an expanded beach, new dining experiences and an updated pier to allow Excel-class ships to visit for the first time. Guests will also be treated to a visit to Carnival's new private destination, Celebration Key, which is penned to open in July 2025.

Some of the new itineraries include a variety of seven-day cruises aboard *Carnival Celebration* to Eastern and Western

Caribbean from £560 per person, including stops at Nassau, Half Moon Cay, Celebration Key, Grand Turk, Amber Cove and San Juan.

Additionally, Carnival has launched three 14-day Carnival Journeys itineraries departing from Baltimore on *Carnival Pride*. The first will sail to Greenland and Canada, while the other two voyages will explore Southern Caribbean, with prices leading in from £1,203 per person. www.carnival.com



Windstar unveils *Star Seeker*

WINDSTAR CRUISES has unveiled the first look at its brand-new 224-guest vessel, the *Star Seeker*, where she is set to make her debut in January 2026 as she sets sail on her maiden voyage across the Atlantic from Malaga to Miami.

www.windstarcruises.com

Image Credits: Centre: Carnival Cruise Line, Right: Windstar Cruises



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American Cruise Line christens *Liberty*

AMERICAN CRUISE Lines has announced its new vessel, the *American Liberty*, has officially been christened in Newport, Rhode Island.

The ship marks the third Coastal Cat in the line's fleet, and will continue to operate the company's New England island cruises before setting sail on a selection of East Coast itineraries from New York to South Carolina and Florida later this year.

www.americancruiselines.com



Hebridean launches trade training site

SCOTTISH CRUISE operator Hebridean Island Cruises has launched a new training platform to help agents sell its three-strong fleet. Hannah Cockell, Hebridean's business development and key account manager, said, "To further our commitment to the travel trade, we have introduced a fun way of educating our partners about our three ships."

www.hebridean.co.uk



Holland America segments Grand Voyages

CRUISERS CAN now travel the world at their own pace as Holland America Line has unveiled a new segmented offering for its 2025 Grand Voyages.

The segments allow guests to choose from a selection of shorter itineraries, creating their very own tailor-made experience. Travellers can choose from six segments on Holland America's *Zuiderdam*, ranging from 20 to 55 days, where they can sail from Fort Lauderdale to Singapore or Sydney; Singapore to Athens; Cape Town to Fort Lauderdale; Sydney to Cape Town; or Athens to Fort Lauderdale.

Seven segmented itineraries are available on the 'Grand Voyage: Pole to Pole' aboard *Volendam*, ranging from 33 to 100 days. These options allow guests the choice to sail from Fort Lauderdale to Buenos Aires; Buenos Aires to Barcelona or Amsterdam; Fort Lauderdale to Amsterdam and Barcelona; or Barcelona to Fort Lauderdale.

The Grand World Voyage aboard *Zuiderdam* will set sail on January 4th, 2025, while *Voldendam* will take to the seas on January 25th, 2025. Prices for the segmented voyages lead in from £148 per person per day. www.hollandamerica.com

Emerald offers Caribbean luxury for 2025

TRAVELLERS ARE encouraged to swap their winter warmers for the picturesque beaches and coral reefs of the Caribbean as Emerald Cruises has introduced an array of new itineraries for 2025.

New for 2025, the eight-day 'Caribbean Yachting Discovery' cruise will take guests from St. John's, Antigua to San Juan, Puerto Rico, with highlights including visits to the pink sands of Barbuda, visits to the historic sites of the Îles des Saintes islands and the opportunity to explore the

charming markets of Guadeloupe. Prices lead in from £4,369 per person for a departure on February 8th, 2025.

The eight-day 'Cruising the Leeward Islands' allows guests to explore some of the region's best beaches and diving spots, complete with a visit to Anegada, an island only a handful of cruise vessel can reach. Prices lead in from £4,853 per person, based on a February 22nd, 2025 departure.

Guests can soak up the quintessential Caribbean experience on the eight-day 'Eastern Caribbean with St. Barts' itinerary, with visits to the brightly coloured homes of Gustavia and the chance to sit back and relax in the hot springs of Soufriere. Prices lead in from £4,388 per person based on a February 1st, 2025 departure. All itineraries include return flights, meals and excursions. www.emeraldcruiises.co.uk



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Fred Holidays takes pole position

FRED. HOLIDAYS has launched a series of holidays combining the 2025 Singapore Grand Prix with land stays, rail journeys, river expeditions and ocean cruises. One of the new itineraries is the 22-night 'Singapore F1 Grand Prix & Oceania Cruises' which combines the sporting event with a 14-night luxury Far East cruise with Oceania from Tokyo to Shanghai. The package includes flights from the UK to Singapore and the three-day F1 ticket. Prices lead in from £7,729 per person. www.fredholidays.co.uk



Riviera has high hopes for 2026 additions

RIVIERA TRAVEL has boosted its tall ship offering for 2026 with two new 11-day itineraries. The 'Greece, Sicily and Malta' voyage leads in from £2,999 per person, offering stays in Acropolis and Athens, and the 'An Italian Adventure' voyage leads in from £2,999 per person which includes visits to Perugia, Assisi, Rome, Amalfi, Positano, Lipari, Ponza and Taormina. www.rivieratravel.co.uk

Treat yourself with £360 onboard credit with Havila

HAVILA VOYAGES is encouraging guests to cross multiple endeavours off their bucket lists with a limited time offering of up to £360 in onboard credit per cabin on all 11-night Round Voyages.

Guests can use the credit to enhance their voyage by upgrading to fine dining options, purchasing drinks packages, or booking themselves onto one of the many unique excursions on offer throughout the voyage.

Some of the excursions include reindeer sledding, a sea eagle safari, horse-riding in the Lofoten islands and snowshoeing in Tromso.

£150 in onboard credit per cabin is also available for the five-night Voyage South sailing. The offer is valid for all bookings made for Seaview Superior cabins and all higher grade accommodations from September 1st to October 31st, 2024, for travel between October 1st, 2024 to



September 30th, 2025.

Prices lead in from £763 per person based on two sharing a Seaview Superior cabin on a full board basis for the Voyage South sailing. Single Travellers can also enjoy the offer, with single occupancy cabins receiving half the amount quoted for double occupancy.

www.havilavoyages.com

Virgin Voyages sets a course for solar sailings

AS ASTRO-TOURISM continues to reach new heights over recent years, Virgin Voyages is keeping up with the demand by launching its first-ever Eclipse Voyages which will join the cruise line's new series of Marvelous Voyages.

Due for departure in 2026, the Marvelous Voyages range blends Virgin's most iconic and inspiring itineraries with the new 12- and 15-night Eclipse Voyages penned for August 2026 to allow guests the chance to take in the total solar eclipse from sea.



Valiant Lady's solar sailing will include stops in Dublin, Glasgow and Reykjavik, while *Scarlet Lady* will call to the Amalfi Coast, Mallorca and Cannes.

Virgin Voyages' COO, Michelle Bentubo, said, "We already sail to more than 100 international ports, but our itineraries are ever-evolving based on what our Sailors and travel partners are asking for.

"We've graduated from only offering short Caribbean escapes to give Sailors longer itinerary options up to 14 nights at more ports around the world. Our Marvelous Voyages, paired with *Brilliant Lady's* epic itineraries across all four corners of the US, just shows the growth and strength of this monumental brand."

Six other sailings comprise the Marvelous Voyages range, including 12 new port calls for the cruise line.

www.virginvoyages.com



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*The onboard credit will be deposited in NOK (up to 2500 per person (Round Voyage), 1250 per person Voyage South). Max amount per cabin NOK 5000. Exchange rates may vary. Not available for inside cabins (Interior). Booking period: 1 September - 31 October 2024. Sailing period: 1 October 2024 - 30 September 2025.

CARIBBEAN

JOURNEY INTO THE HEART OF THE CARIBBEAN

Explora Journeys unveils a new series of immersive Caribbean destination experiences.

IN A bid to blend popular destinations with off-the-beaten-path gems, Explora Journeys has revealed a new series of exclusive Caribbean experiences, featuring snorkelling expeditions, luxurious high-end rum tastings and luncheons at a five-star property.

EXPLORA II will arrive in the Caribbean in November 2024, with *EXPLORA I* following in December, and guests will have the opportunity to immerse themselves into the vibrant landscapes and cultures of the Caribbean until March 2025.

In Curaçao, guests will snorkel among the vivid reefs of Director's Bay before heading aboard the Pura Vida yacht to sail through the mangrove reservoir only accessible by boat for further

hiking and swimming excursions.

In a small group, guests will be taken on a rum odyssey at Rhum Clément on Martinique, delving into the rich history of the spirit. The experience includes a guided exploration of the large estate, a tour of the three rum cellars, and an exclusive tasting of barrel-aged rum alongside a specially crafted sampling menu.

Guests will receive the five-star treatment at the luxury Rosewood Le Guanahani resort in Gustavia, St. Barts, where they will savour a three-course meal on the surrounding golden beaches. Afterwards, guests can lounge in luxury or take to the crystal-clear waters, providing an ultimate beachside retreat and culinary experience.

Koray Savas, VP of hotel operations at Explora Journeys, said: "Our team has designed these journeys to provide guests with enriching and unforgettable memories, tailored for small groups of 2-25 guests, allowing for a more intimate exploration and the chance to discover hidden spots at a relaxed pace."

www.explorajourneys.com

Stay simple in the Spice Isle

EXPERIENCE AN authentic Caribbean experience on the Spice Isle of Grenada with Simple Stays this September. Prolong the summer season with a stay in one of the company's boutique residences across the island and experience the island's captivating charm. Some examples of the properties available include the tranquil Siesta Hotel overlooking the grand Anse Beach from £77 per night, with children under 15 staying for free until November 20th, 2024. The beachfront Lance Aux Epines Cottages offer an escape in the heart of Grenada, offering warm authentic hospitality and personalised service from £163 per night.

www.simplestays.puregrenada.com

Feel inspired in Grenada

BASED ON the 21-mile long island of Grenada, Inspiring Travel is offering a seven-night package to the beachfront Spice Island Beach Resort from £2,715 per person. Boasting an authentic spa and a choice of suites and mini villas, the resort offers a sanctuary for families to sit back and relax in the peaceful setting. Inspiring's package includes return flights and must be booked before September 30th for travel between September 1st and 30th, 2024. www.inspiringtravel.co.uk



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Blue Diamond eliminates holiday stressors with new app

BLUE DIAMOND Resorts has enhanced its guest experience with the launch of a brand-new app which functions across both its Royalton Resorts and Planet Hollywood Beach Resorts brands. The multi-property technology allows guests to manage every part of their stay at the touch of a button, from organising dinner reservations to making spa bookings and monitoring the entertainment calendar. Guests can also chat directly to the guest services team wherever they may be.

The development aims to reflect Blue Diamond’s commitment to innovation and guest satisfaction across its property portfolio.

Luke Swarbrook, business development manager at Blue Diamond Resorts, stated, “This app

will bring a new level of guest comfort to our properties, helping to remove some of the organisation stressors guests can face while on holiday.”

The app is now available across all Royalton Resorts and Planet Hollywood Beach Resorts, and can be downloaded via IOS and Android devices.

www.bluediamondresorts.com



Grenada reports strong growth for 2024

THE GRENADA Tourism Authority has reported a significant increase in visitor arrivals for the first half of 2024, with Q1 and Q2 showing a 20% rise compared to 2019, and an 18% increase from 2023.

Strong growth has been noted from the UK market, with visitors increasing by 12.23% from January to July compared to the same period in 2023, and a 31.64% increase from 2022.

www.puregrenada.com

Will you be getting Oasis tickets?

Jeanette Ratcliffe
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 Yes! Even though they support Man City!



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TIMINGS:

Registration &
Drinks
5:45PM

Travel Bulletin
Welcome
6:10PM

Supplier
Presentations
6:15PM

Hot
Dinner
7:30PM

Supplier
Presentations
8:30PM

Product Quiz
and Prizes
9:10PM

Event
Ends
9:30PM

FEATURES:



To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by Thursday 19th September 2024
to: events@travelbulletin.co.uk or Telephone: 020 7973 0136

THESE EVENTS ARE BY INVITATION ONLY
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MEET THE TEAM

Team Orange has expanded, and are dedicated to supporting you. Be sure to say hello when you see us out on the road!

From L to R: John Docherty (Trade Distribution Manager), Paula Bottle (Trade Distribution Executive), Dale Marriott (Trade Distribution Manager), Vicky Duncan (Partnerships Manager), Jo Brookman (Trade Distribution Manager), Lauren Yems (Trade Marketing Manager), Adrian Marpole (Trade Distribution Manager), Natasha Marson (Head of Trade Distribution), Alice Prendergast (Trade Distribution Executive), Sarah Moore (Trade Support Manager), Dom Carrick (Trade Distribution Manager), Gemma Hussey (Trade Distribution Manager), Karen Zweck (Trade Distribution Executive), Roy Stratford (Head of Commercial Partnerships)



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