

# Travel **bulletin**

Giving agents the edge

## Greece & Cyprus

Trace the footsteps of ancient greats through historic mainlands and island wonders



### MORE IN...

#### News

2025 is in full headline-worthy swing **Pg. 4**

#### Far East

Updates from one of the world's most diverse and in-demand regions **Pg. 20**



# Hassle-free holidays



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**GREECE & CYPRUS**  
The latest luxurious escapes and brand-new packages to the sun-soaked destination.



**FAR EAST**  
Far-flung adventures and cultural wonders await.



# BOOMING BUDGETS TO ASIAN ADVENTURES

**Sabre has released its 2025 key travel trends survey, revealing the main priorities travellers share heading into their holidays.**

FOR THE second consecutive year, travel technology company Sabre has revealed its 2025 survey of the top travel trends set to shape the year ahead.

Combining the results of its survey with the company's own industry data, there are numerous key factors setting the travelling agenda for 2025, the first being the rise in multi-trip bookings. According to the data, 40% of those surveyed will be taking two trips this year, with nearly a quarter (24%) stating they are planning four or more holidays throughout the year.

As people are planning more trips abroad than ever before, it is no wonder that household travel budgets are also on the rise. More than 90% of travellers surveyed are spending the same or more on travel this year compared to 2024. With that being said, there is a notable difference in spending between the demographics, with Gen Zers

preferring to focus on budget-friendly options compared to the Baby Boom generation which are reportedly increasing their travel spend.

Not only are travellers taking more holidays per year and increasing their budgets, they are also embracing their sense of adventure in 2025. Exploring the great outdoors and participating in sporting events are rising in the ranks of traveller priorities, with 30% of people wishing to pursue more adventurous activities while on holiday.

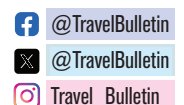
Diving deeper into where travellers are heading to this year, the Asia Pacific region is once again topping the charts. According to the data there has been a 34% increase in bookings made to the region year-on-year, outpacing other global hotspots. This move is largely being attributed to lower airfares thanks to increased capacity.



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**24<sup>th</sup> Feb**  
Spain & Her  
Islands  
Showcase  
Oxford

**10<sup>th</sup> March**  
Rail, Road & Air  
Showcase  
Hull

**11<sup>th</sup> March**  
Train & Gain  
Day  
York



**25<sup>th</sup> Feb**  
Cruise  
Showcase  
Solihull



## USA flight searches up despite pound performance

JOURNEYSCAPE, JOURNEY Latin America's sister brand which launched last summer, has reacted to the news that searches for 'flights to the USA' are up by 44% over the last month with top tips for agents and their clients heading stateside.

The USA specialist operator is reminding clients that duty-free allowances (notably in the alcohol and tobacco sections) are not

universal: rules on allowance and declaration differ. Journeyscape recommends clients to check in on the latest US customs regulations. Journeyscape also recommends at least two to three hours is allocated for layovers when connecting to onward domestic flights in the USA, given potential wait times. [www.journeyscape.com](http://www.journeyscape.com)



### Titan Travel in tip-top New Year shape

TITAN TRAVEL bookings were already up 35% in the first fortnight of the year against the same period 2023/24, with long-haul leading the way in terms of sales.

Top-performing destinations include Japan, Alaska and South Africa.

Shane Lewis-Riley, Titan Travel's director of trade distribution, said, "We're thrilled to have started 2025 with such a bang.

"We truly appreciate the hard work and dedication that agents put into every booking." [www.titantravel.co.uk](http://www.titantravel.co.uk)

### Celebrity Cruises announces new river cruise brand

BOOKINGS FOR Celebrity Cruises' new river cruise brand, Celebrity River Cruises, are set to open this year, with 10 ships ordered.

Promising the sophisticated approach of its Edge series ocean ships, Celebrity River Cruises will commit to "innovat[ing] and elevat[ing] the river cruise experience as we meet the growing demand for intimate, culturally enriching travel experiences," according to president and CEO of Royal Caribbean Group, Jason Liberty.

"With about half of our guests having experienced or intending to vacation on a river cruise, we know they will enjoy Celebrity's elevated offering on the river."

The first itineraries will sail in Europe from 2027 after sales open later this year. [www.celebritycruises.com/river](http://www.celebritycruises.com/river)



## Silver screen success sparks Sicily search surge

ITALIAN SPECIALIST Citalia has reacted to 'The White Lotus effect', which has seen searches for 'Sicily holidays' and 'where was The White Lotus season 2 filmed' surge 5,000% since the show's second season debuted in October 2022.

Citalia has revealed that, from 2022 to 2023, Sicily bookings shot up 100%, attributing the demand to interest generated from the show's second season, which was filmed on the

island. Heather Green, the operator's head of product, noted the island's "history, style, picturesque views, and amazing food," adding that "it's of little surprise that it has played backdrop to some of the world's most iconic moments in TV and cinema... as travellers look to tread the steps of some of their favourite characters, 'set-jetting' continues to be a popular trend."

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



## Some January! PTCs set trading record

THE FIRST two weeks of January were up 60% against the same period in 2024, with January 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> surpassing £1 million in revenue and representing the The Personal Travel Consultants' best-ever trading week.

Advance summer sales for 2025 take the lion's share, representing around 50% of bookings so far this month, with remaining winter 2024/25 departures earning around 25%.

Turkey is the most popular destination so far. [www.personaltravelconsultants.com](http://www.personaltravelconsultants.com)



## Unforgettable makes "easy decision" to launch Ireland breaks

UNFORGETTABLE TRAVEL Company has added the Emerald Isle to its European range, with CCO Graham Carter citing its "rich... historical and cultural significance" as a key driver.

Continuing, Graham said the destinations' aforementioned "significance, enhanced by its stunning natural beauty [made] choosing to include Ireland in our portfolio... an easy decision." [www.unforgettabletravel.com](http://www.unforgettabletravel.com)



## Latin Routes announces rebrand and trade hub

13 YEARS SINCE launching as an Argentina specialist, Latin Routes' head of marketing has said "it was time to reshape" the operator's approach

The new branding hopes to push Latin Routes further into the premium travel space. Felipe Francisco, the operator's head of marketing, said, "After 13 years of enticing our clients and supporting trade partners with all things Latin America, it was time to reshape our branding strategy to better reflect our position and our direction as the Latin America Specialists."

The operator has confirmed a new Trade Marketing Hub will be unveiled on its new website in the coming weeks, with a similar refresh to sister brand Polar Routes also expected. [www.latinroutes.co.uk](http://www.latinroutes.co.uk)

## Kirker gets its close-to-home kicks

KIRKER HOLIDAYS has released its 2025 Short Breaks brochure, with new close-to-home options joining the portfolio for 2025.

Among the new additions is northern Portugal's Quinta São José do Barfilário, which opened last year. The hotel overlooks the Douro and is home to 31 guestrooms. Three-night stays lead in from



£958 per person including return flights, accommodation and care hire. [www.kirkerholidays.co.uk](http://www.kirkerholidays.co.uk)



## Meliá unveils Argentinian marvel

INNSIDE BY Meliá is expanding its premium portfolio with a four-star, 88-room property in Costa del Este, Argentina.

Gabriel Escarrer, Meliá's president and CEO, said, "We see significant potential for the expansion of our brands in Argentina... the experience and prestige of our brands position us as the optimal choice for the future of the hotel industry in the country." [www.melia.com](http://www.melia.com)



## Explore more possibilities

Here's to a fantastic January and an exciting February ahead!

We're gearing up for an incredible month of opportunities with our Travel Bulletin Luxury Holidays Showcases. Join us at our upcoming events in Weybridge on February 3rd and Tunbridge Wells on February 4th.

These showcases promise to be packed with insights, networking, and the chance to discover incredible travel opportunities for your clients. We can't wait to connect with you, share our passion for Malta, and help you unlock new horizons.

Let's make February a month of growth, inspiration, and extraordinary travel experiences!

Gabriela Milkova  
[gabriela-ruseva.milkova@visitmalta.com](mailto:gabriela-ruseva.milkova@visitmalta.com)



FINNAIR IS set to add its code to seven more domestic British Airways routes, targeting new customers in the Channel Islands and Gibraltar. The additional codeshare flights, with immediate effect, are British Airways' services from London Heathrow to Aberdeen; Belfast City; Gibraltar; Inverness; Jersey; Manchester; and Newcastle. [www.finnair.com](http://www.finnair.com)

## ECN announces 2025 conference

AFTER WELCOMING over 160 delegates for 2024's Expedition Cruise Network Conference, the ECN has announced 2025's iteration, taking place on September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Martin Johnson, the Expedition Cruise Network's chair and co-founder, said the event "will truly provide retailers and product developers with a significant advantage when it comes to improving knowledge and

expertise of this dynamic and lucrative sector."

Day one of the event will invite travel trade professionals with experience in the sector to unite, share knowledge and build relationships, while day two will offer similar opportunities to those new to the sector and with an intermediate knowledge of expedition cruising.

[www.expeditioncruisenetwork.com/conference/](http://www.expeditioncruisenetwork.com/conference/)

## DidaTravel commits to doubling revenue

DIDATRAVEL, A distribution company which appointed a UK sales director at the tail end of 2023, celebrated record UK sales in 2024, committing to doubling yet again in 2025.

Paul Riches, DidaTravel's UK sales director, noted "significantly more" investment in "technology, product and customer care to support the UK trade, particularly over the last 18 months, and we are now reaping the benefits."

Over one million properties are now accessible through DidaTravel's platform, comprised of over 75,000 direct contacts. [www.didatravel.com](http://www.didatravel.com)



## Travel Hashtag celebrates Italian market

TRAVEL HASHTAG hosted its fourth annual London event last month, uniting a whole host of Italian tourism market stakeholders to celebrate and advance the outbound UK market to Italy.

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



## AGENT INCENTIVES

- **YOU CAN** earn up to seven free nights at City of Dreams Mediterranean when booking: one booking of at least seven nights qualifies for three complimentary nights on a bed-and-breakfast basis for two; two bookings totalling at least 14 nights qualify for five free nights; and three bookings totalling at least 21 nights earn the booking agent seven free nights. Send booking details to [darren.eade@depmarketing.co.uk](mailto:darren.eade@depmarketing.co.uk) with your company name, contact details and requested free stay dates. Free nights can be spent until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 or between May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- **ANY AGENTS** booking AmaWaterways cruises before February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, will be automatically entered into a weekly prize draw to win a seven-night European cruise for two. Prizes will be drawn live on AmaWaterways' Facebook page every week. [www.amawaterways.co.uk](http://www.amawaterways.co.uk)
- **DISNEY DESTINATIONS UK & Ireland's** Pixar-themed peaks incentive sees agents win instant prizes plus entries into a draw for trips to Walt Disney World Resort in Florida, Disneyland Paris or aboard a Disney Cruise Line voyage when booking before February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025. In the spirit of the 2009 Pixar film *Up!*, agents must add balloons to Carl's house (with each booking adding one balloon), to earn a greater shot at winning prizes as the house begins to take flight. Disney hotel bookings or ticket-only bookings at Walt Disney World Resort; hotel & ticket packages at Disneyland Paris; and Disney Cruise Line sailings departing before September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 all qualify for entries. [www.2025islookingup.com](http://www.2025islookingup.com)



**SANDALS AND Beaches Resort** recently held its Global Sales Conference at Jamaica's Sandals South Coast, hosting key BDMs from the brands' international markets. Neil Read, a UK BDM, won the Highest Revenue & Highest Percentage Growth award, presented to him by director of sales Leah Marshall (left) and executive VP of sales Gary Sadler (right). Congratulations, Neil!

*Travel* bulletin

# COMPETITION

**Win a seven-night sailing for two in the Mediterranean!**

Find out more at [www.travelbulletin.co.uk/virgin-voyages-competition](http://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/virgin-voyages-competition)

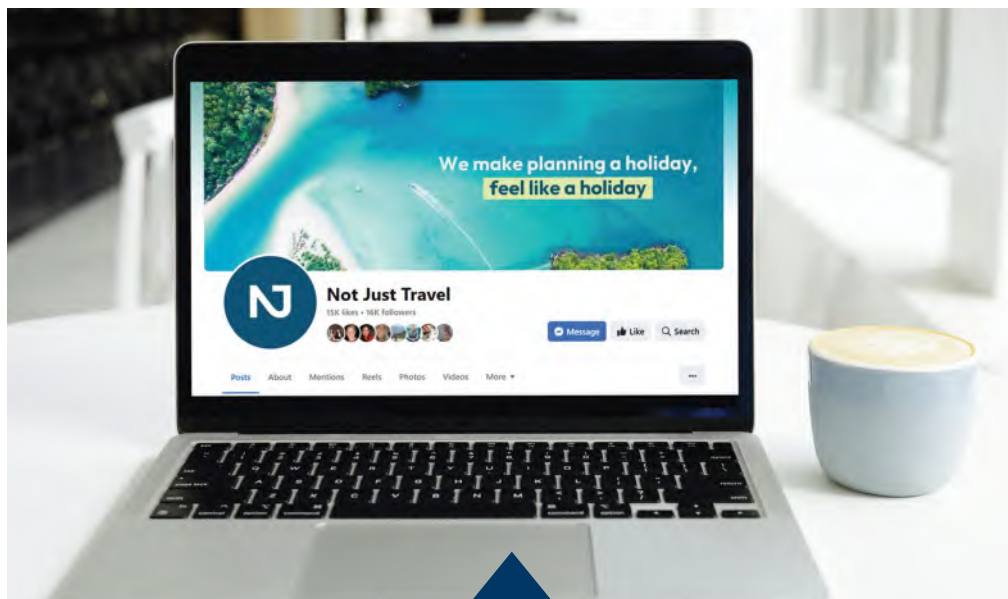


## AGENT TRAINING

- **EVERY VIRGIN Voyages** booking throughout February earns you an extra £25 when logged on First Mate Loot, where you can also find Seacademy, the cruise line's training programme. Seacademy hosts tiered lessons on everything you could wish to know about the Virgin sailings. [www.mybookingrewards.co.uk/program/First-Mate-Loot](http://www.mybookingrewards.co.uk/program/First-Mate-Loot)
- **EMBRATUR (THE Brazilian Agency for International Tourism Promotion)** has unveiled Brazil Travel Specialist, an educational platform hoping to showcase the destination's authentic and sustainable experiences, with personalised training modules and marketing materials exclusively designed for travel agents selling Brazil. Certified Brazil Specialists will earn exclusive benefits, including the chance to join fam trips. Any agents registering before March 2025 will be entered into a prize draw to win tickets on one of LATAM Airline's routes to either Rio de Janeiro, Salvador or Manaus. [www.braziltravelspecialist.com](http://www.braziltravelspecialist.com)
- **NEW SMYRNA Beach** sits an hour's drive from Orlando, yet feels like a world away. The destination offers holidaymakers a lush tropical landscape, 17 miles of white sand beach, activities, amazing eateries and a friendly welcome: agents can learn about it all and enter the monthly draw for a £50 voucher when completing the first two modules and any other additional module. [www.tourismgivesback.com/courses-archive/nsb-insider/](http://www.tourismgivesback.com/courses-archive/nsb-insider/)
- **PRINCESS CRUISES** continues to make a splash with its wave campaign, find out all about and access guides, 24/7 customer support, a training library and exclusive marketing content on the recently-relaunched One Source Cruises platform. [www.onesourcecruises.com](http://www.onesourcecruises.com)

## Southampton earns top spot in UK port rankings

IGLU CRUISE research has revealed that Southampton is the UK's favourite departure port. Projections suggest the port will continue to go from strength-to-strength after welcoming 2.3 million passengers in 2023. 47% of those surveyed prefer to sail from the UK.



NOT JUST Travel's brand refresh centres its identity around agents' expertise, passion and ability, hoping to "make planning a holiday feel like a holiday" according to the brand's new tagline. Co-founder Steve Witt noted that agents "can often become too focused on promoting offers... we have redefined our value proposition to enable our members to position themselves as the most trusted travel consultant for all things travel - for life." [www.notjusttravel.com](http://www.notjusttravel.com)

## FRAMELESS opens trade bookings for 2025

FRAMELESS, THE UK's largest immersive art attraction, has unveiled a trade brochure for 2025 and opened bookings for group handlers, tour ops and agents selling city breaks or London experiences.

The attraction, in the capital's Marble Arch, brings 42 artworks from the likes of Van Gogh to life with cutting-edge digital projection and visual effects.

Spread across four galleries, FRAMELESS

hopes to bring surrealism, impressionism, landscape painting and abstractionism to life.

During term-time, weekday tots sessions for parents and toddlers are on offer, while FRAMELESS Lates on Friday and Saturday evenings promise an after-dark culture fix for over-18s.

Adult tickets start from £28, kids' tickets from £18, and under-fives are free.

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

## MOVERS & SHAKERS



AUDLEY TRAVEL has promoted Greg

Thurston to a newly-created role, head of trade sales, and is currently recruiting a new BDM for the North.



CHRISTIAN LOCKE has joined Riviera

Travel as the operator's new head of long haul.



OCEANIA CRUISES has appointed

Natalie Read as a regional sales executive.

## American Cruise Lines doubles Alaska capacity

AMERICAN CRUISE Lines is repositioning *American Constitution* to serve Alaskan voyages throughout the summer and Puget Sound sailings in the autumn, doubling its West Coast programme and contributing to the cruise line's biggest-ever Alaska schedule.

The 170-passenger vessel joins its sister ship, *American Constellation*, and will sail a range of five different voyages ranging from nine to 16 days in length.

Prices for upcoming Alaska sailings start from £4,630 per person, bookable through American Cruise Line's UK GSA, Fred. Holidays.

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



## Minor NH Collection set for Balearic debut

MINOR HOTELS has confirmed that its NH Collection brand will debut in the Balearic Islands, with the Sir Joan hotel set to undergo a refurbishment and reopen in April, joining the NH Collection Alagna Mirtillo Rosso in Italy, due to open in March. [www.nh-collection.com](http://www.nh-collection.com)

Image Credits: Top Left: Iglu Cruise, Top Right: Not Just Travel, Bottom middle: American Cruise Lines, Bottom Right:



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, February 20th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

January 24th Solution: A=3 B=8 C=2 D=7

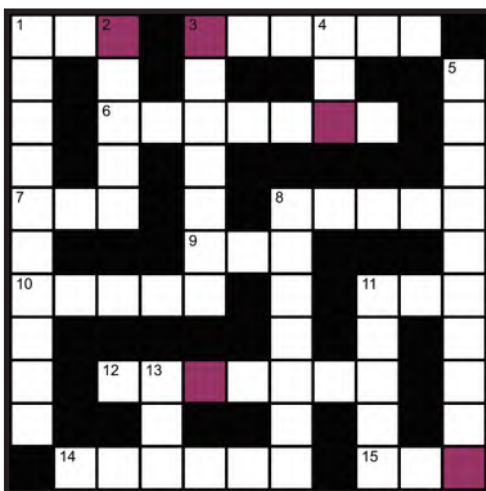
A		2	3		7	8	1	
		8		2	4		6	
	6	4	1				9	
B		7		4			5	9
	9							1
C	2	4		5		3		
	2				6	9	3	
	7		4	9		1		
D		8	9	5		2	6	



WHERE AM I?

KNOWN FOR its preserved Ancient Town and melting-pot history, this Vietnam coastal city mixes the best of global cultures with wooden Chinese shophouses, colourful French colonial buildings and the iconic Japanese Covered Bridge.

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



Across

- 1 Privately held Swiss-based shipping company (3)
- 3 Waldorf Astoria are part of this hospitality group (6)
- 6 Environmentally friendly cruise ship of 1 Across (7)
- 7 Arrecife, Lanzarote international airport code (3)
- 8 The largest city on the Dalmation coast (5)
- 9 Abu Dhabi is the capital (3)
- 10 Lord, sounds sweet until he says, You're Fired! (5)
- 11 Airline with HQ in Karachi (3)
- 12 Capital of Lithuania (7)
- 14 A striking London landmark (3,3)
- 15 The centre of a storm (3)

Down

- 1 BBC costume drama about a famous author and her lesser known sister Cassandra (4,6)
- 2 Largest of the Greek islands (5)
- 3 A place where ships can safely shelter (7)
- 4 Operator with a red smile logo (3)
- 5 Popular tourist area of Paris, famous for the hilltop Sacré-Coeur (10)
- 8 Nationality of Novak Djokovic (7)
- 11 Ski run (5)
- 13 The Holiday Inn is one of their brands (3)

CROSSWORD

Across: 1 MSC, 3 HILTON, 6 EURIBIA, 7 ACE, 8 SPLIT, 9 UAE, 10 SUGAR, 11 PLA, 12 VILNIUS, 14 BIG BEN, 15 EYE.  
Down: 1 MISS AUSTEN, 2 CRETE, 3 HARBOUR, 4 TUI, 5 MONTMARTRE, 8 SERBIAN, 11 PISTE, 13 IHG.  
Mystery Word: CHILE





## P&O Cruises returns to Bluewater

P&O CRUISES brought its popular interactive pop-up booth back to Bluewater Shopping Centre last month; the activation will now make its way to Oxford Westgate from March 1<sup>st</sup> to March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The stand hopes to offer visitors a taste of a P&O Cruises voyage; P&O Cruises' president Paul Ludlow said it "allows us to connect with even more people, helping them to understand the value and variety offered by a P&O Cruises holiday." [www.pocruises.com](http://www.pocruises.com)

## Riviera set to invite over 300 agents on fams this year

AFTER HOSTING 100 agents on fam trips in 2024, Riviera Travel has committed to tripling that figure in 2025.

Trips will include a mega fam to Sri Lanka, a Rhine cruise in Switzerland and yachting fams to Lake Maggiore.

Vicky Billing, the operator's head of trade and partnerships, said, "Recognising the significant revenue boost these trips delivered

in 2024, Riviera Travel is committed to providing even more opportunities for travel agents to experience our exceptional product firsthand. We believe that by immersing our travel agents in the unique experiences we offer, both cruise and escorted tours, they can better understand and convey the value of our itineraries to their clients."

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

## A-ROSA expands theme river cruise range

2025 WILL see a wider variety of musical-themed cruises from A-ROSA, including six



departures where guests will be joined by musical star Marion Wilmer. Itineraries between five and 14 nights are on offer, starting from £1,749 per person for the former.

[www.arosa-cruises.co.uk](http://www.arosa-cruises.co.uk)

Image Credits: Left: P&O Cruises, Right: A-ROSA River Cruises



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## Travelsphere hopes to make storytellers of travel agents

G TOURING founder Bruce Poon Tip says the new Travelsphere tour range, the result of a partnership with the centuries-old Royal Geographical Society (RGS), gives agents "a different story to tell."



Each trip will be led by an RGS-trained holiday director, with guests gifted an RGS booklet collating hand-picked archival pieces correlating to that tour's destinations and experiences.

The inaugural programme includes a 'Grand Tour of Italy', following in the footsteps of iconic RGS explorers on a 15-day itinerary from £2,899 per person. Departures are currently scheduled between May and October 2025.

Continuing, Bruce concluded, "[The new tour range] gives agents the opportunity to engage their customers and tell a different story around the product.

"They are always the face of our brand... they become the most important part of our sales process; they become our storytellers."

Head to our Far East focus on page 22 for more on the inaugural programme.  
[www.travelsphere.co.uk](http://www.travelsphere.co.uk)



**25% OF agents listed tips and techniques to grow sales as their top priorities, shortly followed by incentives (23%) and new products (20%), in the latest edition of Holiday Extras' agent survey. Speed and convenience are also of growing importance, with 29% of agent respondents revealing they already use AI tools to streamline customer service; Holiday Extras confirms it intends to further integrate AI into its trade services in response. [www.holidayextras.com](http://www.holidayextras.com)**

## Princess Cruises unveils new non-alcoholic onboard menu

PRINCESS CRUISES is hoping to continue the Dry January wave with the new menu, available on board from March.

Dubbed the Amore Princess Zero Alcohol Collection, the new range of non-alcoholic beverages and spirits expands the teetotal onboard offering.

Cocktail alternatives have been curated and developed with the team behind Sips in Barcelona (ranked the world's best bar),

Princess mixologists, and celebrity cocktail artist Rob Floyd. The celebrity endorsements don't end there: fittingly for Princess Cruises, pop royalty Kylie Minogue's non-alcoholic sparkling rosé will be worth raising a glass to as it joins the onboard range.

Drinks included in the collection are covered under the Princess Plus and Princess Premier beverage packages.  
[www.princess.com](http://www.princess.com)

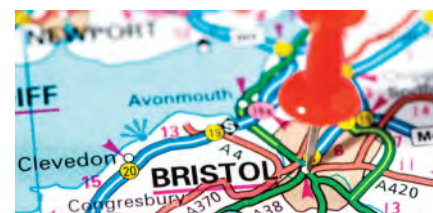
## Fred. Holidays thanks agents for record peaks

AFTER OPENING the year with a 144% spike in trading and sales, Fred. Holidays is anticipating its most successful peaks period in history.

The 144% spike was recorded against the same period (the opening week of the year) in 2024.

Notably, the operator has also reported a 50% growth in agents booking with them, after reporting a 100% increase in trade sales in 2024. 40% of bookings so far have been for rail and tailor-made packages, but the opening of the year also marked the best-ever week for cruise sales.

The ongoing Re:ward incentive offers agents up to £1,000 on every booking until February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. [www.aagentfred.co.uk](http://www.aagentfred.co.uk)



## A record year for Bristol Airport

AFTER WELCOMING a record number of passengers (more than 10 million) through its terminal gates last year, Bristol Airport has outlined ambitious growth plans, hoping to bolster connections to North America and the Middle East.

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





# Newmarket HOLIDAYS

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at Psarou Beach, Mykonos

**GRECOTEL**



# TWO BUMPER BOOKLETS

Cyplon Holidays' 2025 is off to the right start with two booklets to bolster your selling.



CYPLON HOLIDAYS is already making waves in 2025 with its most comprehensive agent incentive brochure to date, packed with enticing rewards, including the sought-after 'Earn Free Stays' program. This initiative allows agents to enjoy complimentary luxury hotel stays in destinations such as Cyprus, Greece, Croatia, Egypt,

Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey—some available with just a single booking.

Other incentives include £10 vouchers for Cyplon Gold package bookings over £1,500, exclusive gifts for high-value bookings, and vouchers for qualifying accommodation-only sales.

[www.cyplon.co.uk/files/Cyplon-Holidays-Agents-Incentives-2025.pdf](http://www.cyplon.co.uk/files/Cyplon-Holidays-Agents-Incentives-2025.pdf)

Further enhancing its commitment to the trade, Cyplon has also introduced its first-ever Deluxe Collection & Villas booklet, highlighting the prestigious Ikos Resorts across Greece and Spain. This guide showcases the refined elegance of the Ikos Deluxe Collection,

offering elevated experiences such as exclusive pools, gourmet beachfront dining, and indulgent spa treatments.

Ikos Andalusia and Ikos Dassia stand out with the largest villas in the portfolio, featuring private pools, expansive gardens, and personal gyms.

Lee Barker, Ikos Resorts' regional director of sales and marketing, said the booklet is "a fantastic way for our trade partners to learn more" about the brand's range.

To stay updated with the latest trade resources and assets, agents are encouraged to join the *Cyplon Holidays Trade Friends* group on Facebook. [www.cyplon.co.uk](http://www.cyplon.co.uk)

## Celestyal's centennial: save up to 50%

MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Celestyal's first sailing, when *Celestyal Olympia* departed Athens.

This year's Greece season sets sail in March, with three-, four- and seven-night itineraries sailing roundtrip from Athens.

Sailors can expect to call at Mykonos, Patmos, Santorini, and Thessaloniki amongst others. *Celestyal Journey* and *Celestyal Discovery* will both be deployed in the Med for the season.

Select bookings are eligible for up to 50% off and €100 onboard spend when booked before February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. [www.celestyal.com](http://www.celestyal.com)

## City of Dreams' sun-soaked promise

LIMASSOL'S CITY of Dreams promises a 'Sunshine Guarantee' to guests: those who don't enjoy at least 70% direct sunlight between 9am and 5pm earn a free night per sunless day. Agents booking the property can also earn up to seven nights free when confirming three bookings totalling at least 21 nights and emailing [darren.eade@depmarketing.co.uk](mailto:darren.eade@depmarketing.co.uk). Blackout dates apply. [www.cityofdreamsmed.com.cy](http://www.cityofdreamsmed.com.cy)





## Sunvil celebrates a Greek half-century

THE MOMENTUM from 50 years of selling Greece has not slowed for Sunvil: three new Ionian island-hopping itineraries hope to showcase the long-established favourites and few remaining hidden gems.

Sample itineraries include a seven-night Corfu, Paxos and Lefkas island-hopper, with return flights and two nights in Corfu Town; two nights on Paxos; and three nights on Lefkas, breakfast, private car transfers and ferry transfers, from £1,716 per person. [www.sunvil.co.uk](http://www.sunvil.co.uk)



## Star Clippers multiplies in the Med

*STAR FLYER* will visit the small Halkidiki city of Ouranoupolis following a day sailing along the Athos peninsula as part of the seven-day Greek Islands itinerary, scheduled to take to the seas in June 2026.

No other cruise ship will visit Ouranoupolis in 2026; the cruise line will also visit Gythio during the 2026 season, which is on sale now.

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

## Grecootel's golden year of opulence

READY TO celebrate 50 years of excellence in 2025, Grecootel is opening the doors on a series of new properties this June, combining its authentic Grecian roots with an opulent finish.

Created like a true Cretan settlement, the new Casa Adele offers guests a chic hideaway in the heart of Rethymnon, boasting a collection of self-contained studios, apartments and maisonettes ideal for families and couples looking to immerse the traditional Greek life this summer.

Currently undergoing a vast renovation, Astir Palace in Alexandroupolis will reopen

its doors this summer. Nestled on the sandy Alexandroupolis beach, guests can marvel at the panoramic views while indulging in the lavish city resort.

Embracing the warmth and generosity of local Greek culture, Filoxenia Kalamata in Messinia showcases the core of Grecootel's heritage. The property-wide renovation will combine beachfront elegance and luxury with unforgettable quality time spent with loved ones in this emblematic summer resort. The property will open to the public from June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

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



## Myths, minoans & more

JULES VERNE'S new European Collection brochure for 2025/26 stars eight new tours alongside returning best-sellers; all of which Debbie O'Neill, managing director, said "has been carefully curated with customer experience at its heart, driven by our ongoing commitment to providing travellers with extraordinary and unique experiences which create memories that last a lifetime."

Amongst those returning best-sellers is the seven-night 'Myths & Minoans' tour of

Greece.

The itinerary explores not only the largest, but also one of the most historic Greek islands: Crete.

Between visits to Roman ruins and Ottoman streets, guests might have to check their calendars to ensure they haven't travelled back in time as they trace the island's millennia-old legacy with the help of expert guides.

A cooking demo and wine testing will ensure visitors not only connect with the past but the fruits of the present.

Departure dates throughout 2025 and 2026 lead in from £1,925 per person, including return flights from London Gatwick, transfers, seven nights' accommodation, breakfast daily and two lunches.

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







# CCD

## CITY OF DREAMS

MEDITERRANEAN

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## AGENTS' INCENTIVE

### 1 Booking = 3 Complimentary Nights

Make one booking of at least 7 nights and receive a 3-night complimentary stay.

### 2 Bookings = 5 Complimentary Nights

Make two bookings of at least 7 nights (or a combination of a total of 14 room nights) and receive a 5-night complimentary stay.

### 3 Bookings = 7 Complimentary Nights

Make three bookings of at least 7 nights (or a combination of a total of 21 room nights) and receive a 7-night complimentary stay.

For more information, please contact  
**Darren Eade** at 07740 812970 or  
darren.eade@dpemarketing.co.uk



Book before 31 March 2025 with participating Tour Operators and take advantage of free upgrades to half board and guaranteed room upgrades.

[CITYOFDREAMSMED.COM.CY](http://CITYOFDREAMSMED.COM.CY)





## Crystal celebrates 35 years at sea

CRYSTAL CRUISES is celebrating 35 years at sea with the launch of exclusive voyages set to commemorate the anniversary. One of the exclusive sailings is the eight-night Mediterranean voyage where guests will sail with Broadway actress Christine Andreas, instrumentalist Salvatore Hasard and former cruise director Paul McFarland. The journey will set off from Halkidiki with stops in Mykonos, Santorini and Keraklion, Lipari, Naples and Rome.

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



## Jingle all the way to Larnaka

ALREADY THINKING about what to do next Christmas? Try something different with the Cyprus Christmas markets in Larnaka. The festive cheer is brought to eight villages across the region, with each offering a full programme of holiday delights to visitors. Decorated kiosks, music and dance workshops and Santa himself will make an appearance.

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

## Pack your bags and Just Go! to Rhodes

JUST GO! Holidays is offering brand-new all-inclusive holidays to Rhodes this year, with options ranging from 11, 15 and 22 days spent at the Sun Beach Hotel on the Grecian island.

Located on the Blue Flag Ialysos Beach, the hotel offers guests the perfect base to relax under the sun and take in the postcard-perfect views. The property includes three restaurants offering guests a sample of authentic Greek cuisine; an adults-only swimming pool; five bars; and various on-site activities including tennis courts, table tennis tables, beach volleyball courts, two mini golf courses and a fitness centre.

All of Just Go's packages include return flights from London Gatwick or Manchester, all-inclusive accommodation, overseas transfers and a selection of excursions depending on the length of stay.



Prices lead in from £1,099 per person for the 11-day option including two excursions. For those who wish to stay longer for less, Just Go is offering a 'three weeks for the price of two' offer during April, May and October, with prices for the 22-day option leading in from £1,499 per person.

[www.justgoholidays.com/agents](http://www.justgoholidays.com/agents)

## Love is in the air with Parga's couples classic

AS VALENTINE'S Day is just around the corner, love is firmly in the air for Parga Beach Resort as the luxury property has unveiled its new 'Love on the Edge' package for guests, encouraging couples to lose themselves to the enchanting atmosphere of mainland Greece.

Promising couples the ultimate holiday of compromise, the package is designed for those who can't agree on their idyllic trip, offering a blended array of adrenaline-filled escapes with tranquil moments together.

The package includes a complimentary

couples' treatment at The Blossom Wellness Centre, featuring either a hammam bath or a pamper session with beauty services to help calm both the body and mind and allow couples to relax together.

Once the pampering is over, couples are invited to discover all that Parga has to offer, including a kayak journey along the Acheron River, cliff jumping off the rocks at the Blue Caves, or the chance to swim among the marine life in the blue waters.

To top off the romantic getaway, couples will be treated to an intimate dinner for two at the new KOKONA restaurant, complete with a specially curated menu to tell the story of Greece's rich history under the candlelight. Prices for the package lead in at €140 per person, including all of the above. The package is available to book from May 1<sup>st</sup> to October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

[www.pargabeachresort.gr](http://www.pargabeachresort.gr)





## Top trios for island-hopping adventures

WHETHER COUPLES want to lose themselves into the romance of Santorini or families want to embark on an adventure through Rhodes, Olympic Holidays offers something for everyone in its island-hopping programme.

Fun meets flexibility in the Greece specialist's trio island getaways, taking guests all over the Greek world in a customisable package to make any holiday unique.

The most popular options for multi-island holidays include the nine-night 'Romantic Greece' itinerary combining Santorini, Naxos and Mykonos from £1,342 per person for departures in the summer from London Gatwick. Guests will immerse into the cosmopolitan beauty of Santorini before heading to the ancient tranquillity of Naxos and ending the holiday in the hedonistic Mykonos.

Another popular option is the nine-night 'Dodecanese Islands' itinerary featuring stays in Rhodes, Symi and Kos from £1,342 per person. As a firm family favourite, Rhodes is home to the largest waterpark in Greece while Symi offers a quieter option for families to relax and wander through the pastel-adorned streets before rounding off the trip in Kos, promising a mix of both lively entertainment and peaceful sun-kissed serenity.

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



### Ride the Greek waves at discounted prices

SEAFARER CRUISES is offering a range of discounts and incentives throughout its portfolio until March to take advantage of the wave season booking period.

A wide range of Greek itineraries have been put on sale, including the 10-day 'Hidden Greece Cruise' which features stops in some of the most unexplored places across the Cycladic and Dodecanese Islands. The itinerary includes 15% off double occupancy on four select departures throughout summer 2025 as well as 10% off on all 2026 summer sailings. Prices currently lead in at £3,255.

Another itinerary benefitting from the wave offers is the 10-night 'Ionian Odyssey' where guests can save up to £489 on flight-inclusive packages and enjoy up to 10% off 2026 sailings. The voyage will take guests through the Ionian Sea with stops in Kefalonia, Corfu, Paxos and Antipaxos. Prices lead in from £2,911.

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



## Mare Resorts expands property presence in Cyprus

MARE RESORTS is adding two new properties to its Cypriot portfolio this spring: Mare Paphos and Mare Ayia Napa which will open their doors on March 19<sup>th</sup> and March 28<sup>th</sup> respectively.

Mare Paphos, formerly the Atlantica Mare Village Paphos, offers guests the chance to

step back in time and look around the surrounding ancient ruins, while its sister property offers guests a tranquil location away from the town's cosmopolitan centre.

Prices lead in from £311 per night for Mare Paphos and £374 per night for Mare Ayia Napa. [www.mareresorts.com](http://www.mareresorts.com)

## APT'S ASSORTED ASIA

APT & Travelmarvel have unveiled the 2025/26 Asia Collection programme with introductory savings up for grabs.

THE NEW 2025/26 Asia Collection features escorted tours, river cruises, and the brand-new Small Group Journeys category highlighting destinations including Vietnam, Cambodia, India, Japan and Sri Lanka.

An introductory offer has been launched alongside the long-haul programme where agents can save their clients up to £2,100 per person on bookings made by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 for the APT Vietnam & Cambodia cruise and tour itinerary aboard *Mekong Serenity*. Other offers include savings of up to £500 per person for bookings made on the new Small Group Journeys

to India, Japan and Sri Lanka; up to £1,600 per person in savings on the Travelmarvel Vietnam & Cambodia cruise and tour aboard *RV Apsara*; and savings of up to £400 per person on APT's new India tour and cruise itinerary.

Brad Bennets, head of sales and business development, said, "Agents and their clients have access to some outstanding early booking discounts with our introductory savings and we have a full suite of sales and marketing assets available to our trade partners to help them capitalise on this critical booking period."

The collection includes the new Small Group Journeys – APT's latest travel style. One of the itineraries included is the 15-day 'Southern India – Quest of the Southern Senses' journey priced from £3,195 per person; and the 13-day 'Reveal the Traditions of Japan' journey from £5,995 per person.

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

### Palladium eyes Asian expansion

PALLADIUM GROUP has reported a strong 2024 after achieving a total revenue of €1.2 billion – a 12% increase compared to 2023.

For 2025 and beyond, the Group is capitalising on its success by turning its attention to the Asian market as a key area of expansion, with a particular interest in Southeast Asia especially in Singapore, Vietnam, Bali and Thailand.

The Group has further plans to expand into the Middle East and explore more opportunities in the US, Latin America and Europe over the coming years.

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

### Accor signs new Vietnam property

ACCOR HAS signed the Sofitel Diamond Crown Hai Phong luxury property in Vietnam which is set to open its doors in 2026 to become the first internationally-acclaimed hotel located in the Diamond Crown Hai Phong complex.

The signing brings a touch of French zest to the state-of-the-art facilities at the top of the complex's 45-story tower. [www.sofitel.accor.com](http://www.sofitel.accor.com)





# ONYX expands Amari's Asia portfolio

ONYX HOSPITALITY Group has announced the upcoming additions to the Amari brand's portfolio for 2025 which includes new properties in Sri Lanka, Laos and Thailand.

The Amari Colombo, Sri Lanka is now open and provides guests with a gateway into the country's diverse culture and landscapes. The property boasts 167 rooms, and includes a rooftop pool offering panoramic views of the surrounding cityscape, dynamic dining experiences and premium lounges and bars so guests can experience world-class mixology.

In Laos, the five-star Amari Vientiane is scheduled to open its doors in March 2025, allowing guests a prime view of the famous Mekong River. The 248 rooms and suites have been designed to blend modern Lao and Thai aesthetics to create an inviting retreat for all guests.

Over in Thailand, the five-star beachfront Amari The Tide Bangsaen property will open to the public in May 2025, offering a serene coastal escape in the Chonburi Province. Featuring 154 stylish rooms and suites, the hotel promises an unforgettable stay for families, couples and solo adventurers with its offering of international restaurants, a signature spa, fitness centre, kids' club and easy access to local attractions. [www.onyx-hospitality.com](http://www.onyx-hospitality.com)



## Bringing the Carnival to Asia

CARNIVAL CRUISES is heading off on four new 'Carnival Journeys' across the Asia-Pacific region.

The new additions feature the 14-day Tokyo to Singapore cruise which will set sail on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, aboard *Carnival Luminosa* with inaugural visits to Hong Kong; Kyoto and Hakata in Japan; South Korea's Jeju Island; and Taipei in Taiwan. The cruise will also visit Phu My, Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam. Prices lead in from £960 per person. [www.carnival.com](http://www.carnival.com)



## Chiva-Som celebrates 30 years of pampering

THAILAND'S CHIVA-SOM brand is celebrating its 30th anniversary with a series of new services which will launch at the Hua Hin flagship resort including a Metabolic Reset, Weather-Responsive Wellness and tailored men's and women's wellness programmes. The new programmes will continue Chiva-Som's legacy of providing sustainable, integrative and personalised care to its guests. [www.chivasom.com](http://www.chivasom.com)



## Pandaw offers the full Mekong experience

PANDAW IS offering an in-depth exploration of the Mekong River in its combination cruise category which launched last year where guests can combine the Asian specialist's two 10-night Mekong expeditions into a singular journey. Sailors will travel from the south to the

north of the river, meandering through Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Prices lead in from US\$10,555 per person for 21-night expedition, including return flights and one night accommodation between cruises. [www.pandaw.com](http://www.pandaw.com)

Image Credits: Top: ONYX Hospitality Group, Top Right: Carnival Cruises  
Bottom Right: Chiva-Som, Bottom: Pandaw

# G Adventures unveils 25 active options for 2025

TRAVELLERS CAN commit to their New Year fitness schedules by booking one of G Adventures' new active tours for 2025, departing from March onwards.

G Adventures' VP of product, Yves Marceau, said the destinations were hand-picked "with the intention of looking beyond the usual trails and, instead, are bringing travellers to lesser-visited regions and villages, via incredible hiking routes, kayak trips and biking excursions, helping to support local communities who haven't been able to benefit from tourism in the past."

Amongst the new tours is 'Active Japan: North to South Adventure', an 18-day itinerary skipping Tokyo for

destinations far off the beaten path.

Such destinations include Shiretoko, Akan-ko and Asahikawa.

Prices lead in from £6,899 per person for the 18-day itinerary, and is rated 'Average' on G Adventures' physical rating.

[www.gadventures.com/trips/japan-adventure/10003/](http://www.gadventures.com/trips/japan-adventure/10003/)



## Living in the Land of the Rising Sun

THE ROYAL Geographical Society's partnership with Travelsphere has produced the 13-day 'Land of the Rising Sun' itinerary, leading in from £5,024 per person.

During the tour, guests will trace a path through time and examine the clash of ancient history and cutting-edge modernity that Japan embodies.

Departures are available in March, April, October and November 2025 and 2026. [www.travelsphere.co.uk/tours/japan-land-of-the-rising-sun/](http://www.travelsphere.co.uk/tours/japan-land-of-the-rising-sun/)

Pay a compliment to the person underneath you.

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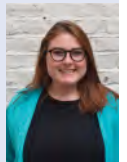
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