

Travel bulletin

Giving agents the edge

Weddings & Honeymoons

Plan the destination wedding of your clients' dreams or get their heart set on a honeymoon holiday.



MORE IN...

News

The best of the breaking stories. **Pg. 4**

Mediterranean Islands

Sun, sand, sea, and plenty more to savour. **Pg. 19**

Exploration & Adventure

Travel boundaries were made to be pushed... **Pg. 25**



Karen Thornton, a Travel Counsellor, on how to hone in on the honeymoon that your clients have set their heart on... (Pg. 8)

Travel bulletin

TRAIN & GAIN DAYS 2024

We are delighted to bring you the next instalment of our highly popular Train & Gain events programme on

Thursday 2nd May

**Mercure Box Hill Burford Bridge Hotel
Dorking, Surrey RH5 6BX**

Inspired with the needs of the busy home based agent in mind, this event will run between 10am and 3pm. Involving in-depth presentations from six leading industry suppliers, this day-time training opportunity will offer additional time for Q&A sessions and informal networking.



SUPPLIER PARTNERS



TIMINGS

10.00am
Registration, coffee
& biscuits

10.30am - 12.45pm
Presentations from
4 leading suppliers

12.45pm
Lunch

1.30pm - 2.30pm
Presentations from
2 leading suppliers

2.30pm - 3pm
Free prize draw.

#TBSHOWCASES

To confirm your place at this amazing event, email your name, company, and contact details by **Thursday 25th April** to events@travelbulletin.co.uk or telephone:

0207 973 0136

This event is by invitation only and will be booked on a first come first served basis.

THIS WEEK



NEWS
The latest trade updates to keep you ahead of the curve.



SHOWCASE SNAPS
Picture recaps from our jam-packed Showcase schedule.



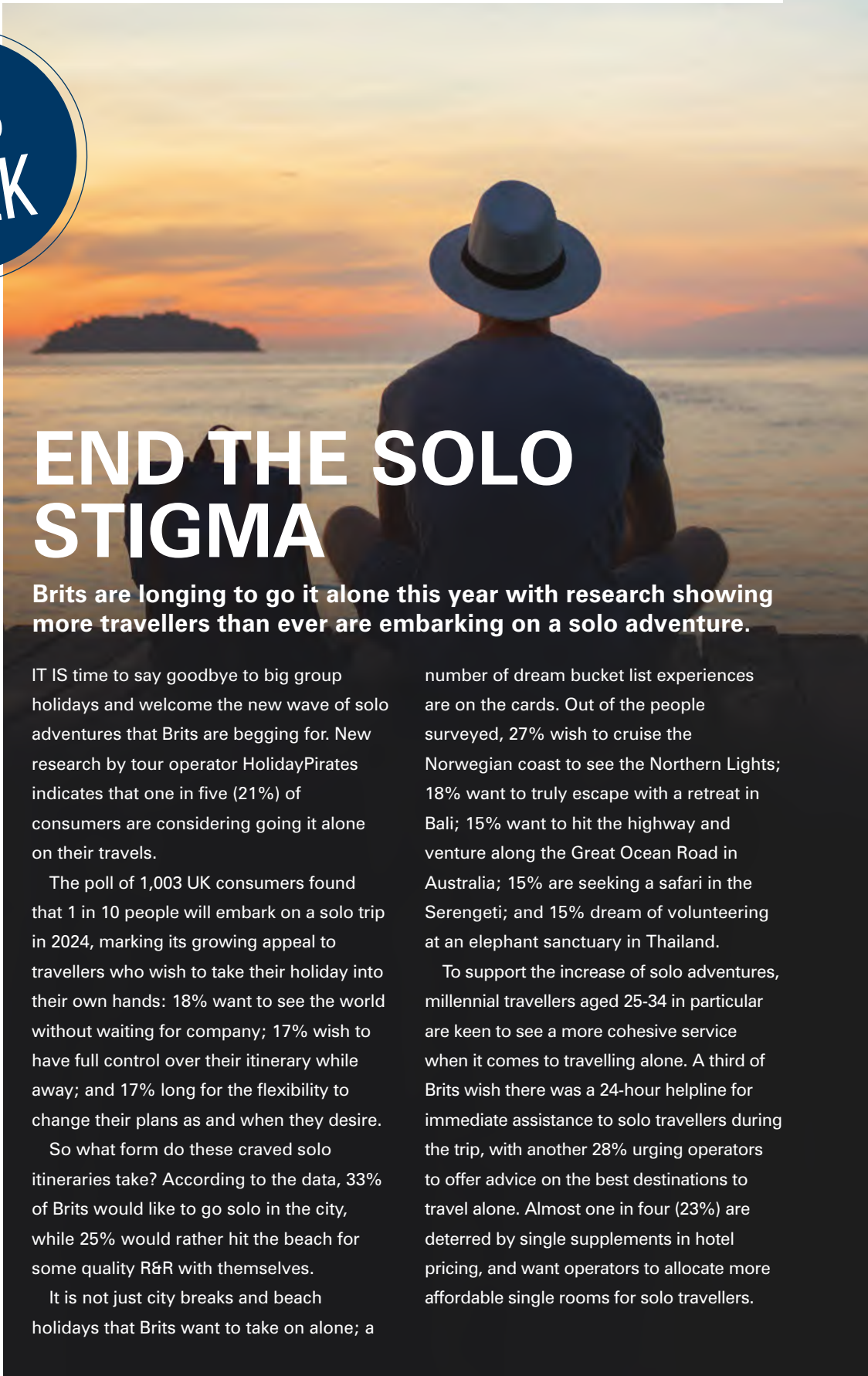
MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS
Sun-soaked destinations ready to welcome your clients.



EXPLORATION & ADVENTURE
Live life on the wild side with this selection of itineraries and offers that will surely get the blood pumping.



WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS
Embrace the romance of our top picks from across the globe!



END THE SOLO STIGMA

Brits are longing to go it alone this year with research showing more travellers than ever are embarking on a solo adventure.

IT IS time to say goodbye to big group holidays and welcome the new wave of solo adventures that Brits are begging for. New research by tour operator HolidayPirates indicates that one in five (21%) of consumers are considering going it alone on their travels.

The poll of 1,003 UK consumers found that 1 in 10 people will embark on a solo trip in 2024, marking its growing appeal to travellers who wish to take their holiday into their own hands: 18% want to see the world without waiting for company; 17% wish to have full control over their itinerary while away; and 17% long for the flexibility to change their plans as and when they desire.

So what form do these craved solo itineraries take? According to the data, 33% of Brits would like to go solo in the city, while 25% would rather hit the beach for some quality R&R with themselves.

It is not just city breaks and beach holidays that Brits want to take on alone; a

number of dream bucket list experiences are on the cards. Out of the people surveyed, 27% wish to cruise the Norwegian coast to see the Northern Lights; 18% want to truly escape with a retreat in Bali; 15% want to hit the highway and venture along the Great Ocean Road in Australia; 15% are seeking a safari in the Serengeti; and 15% dream of volunteering at an elephant sanctuary in Thailand.

To support the increase of solo adventures, millennial travellers aged 25-34 in particular are keen to see a more cohesive service when it comes to travelling alone. A third of Brits wish there was a 24-hour helpline for immediate assistance to solo travellers during the trip, with another 28% urging operators to offer advice on the best destinations to travel alone. Almost one in four (23%) are deterred by single supplements in hotel pricing, and want operators to allocate more affordable single rooms for solo travellers.



Published by :
Alain Charles Publishing (Travel) Ltd
University House, 11-13 Lower Grosvenor
Place London, SW1W 0EX

Printed by: Buxton Press
Subscriptions are £125 p.a.
£195 overseas
ISSN: 0956-2419

020 7973 0136


www.travelbulletin.co.uk



22nd April
Luxury Holidays Showcase
Solihull



29th April
Sustainable Tourism Showcase
London



2nd May
Train & Gain Day
Dorking



23rd April
Luxury Holidays Showcase
Cheshire



Pura Aventura partnership promises sustainable Spanish tours

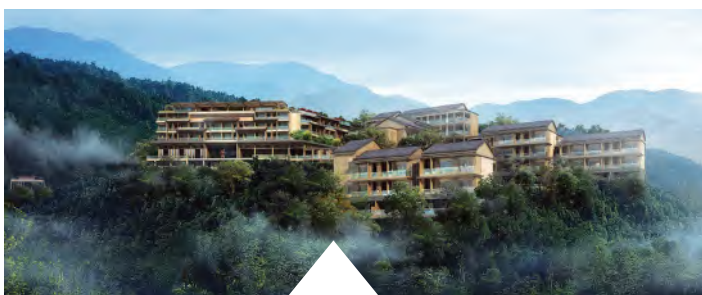
TEAMWORK MAKES the dream work for Pura Aventura as the operator has joined forces with TourSpain to promote sustainable travel in country.

As part of this partnership, Pura Aventura has crafted a collection of tours to Barcelona and Catalonia that are designed to be accessible by train travel via Paris.

The new collection includes the seven-

night 'Barcelona & Catalan Wine Route' which combines some of Barcelona's hidden gems with Spain's undiscovered wine regions from £1,850 per person, and the seven-night 'Ultimate Barcelona: Gaudi, Food & Local Secrets' encourages travellers to get to know the real heart of the city from £1,700 per person.

www.pura-aventura.com



Avani arrives in the Orient

MINOR HOTELS is making its debut in China later this year with the opening of the Avani Huajian Xinyi Guangdong Resort and the Avani+ Xinyi Guangdong Resort.

Inspired by ancient Chinese traditions, the properties will integrate leisure, culture and ecotourism into a complex of several

hotels, commercial blocks and holiday villas.

Avani Huajian Xinyi Guangdong Resort will boast 86 spacious rooms in the foothills of Shuanghe Village, while Avani+ Xinyi Guangdong Resort will house 96 rooms in the mountains above Ma'an Village.

www.avanihotels.com

Riviera reveals Radiance and Rose programmes

FOLLOWING THE announcement of the two new vessels joining Riviera Travel's fleet, the cruise line has unveiled the inaugural programmes both ships will be undertaking in 2025.

Riviera Radiance will operate six itineraries on the Danube across 35 departure dates from March 31st, 2025. The itineraries comprise of the eight-day 'Blue Danube'; the 15-day 'Budapest to the Black Sea'; six-day 'New Year on the Danube'; eight-day 'Christmas on the Danube'; and the six-day 'Danube's Imperial Cities & Yuletide Markets'.

Riviera Rose will operate the eight-day 'Highlights of the Douro Valley & Salamanca Valley' cruise across 30 departure dates beginning April 1st, 2025.

All itineraries are available to book now. www.rivieratravel.co.uk

Have the time of your life with Holland America

NOW IS your last chance to take advantage of Holland America Line's 'Time of your Life' campaign as the cruise line has extended its offer until March 14th, 2024.

The campaign applies to a selection of summer 2024 and spring 2025 sailings and features savings of up to 30%, a free stateroom upgrade and reduced prices for children. www.hollandamerica.com



Turkish Airlines to increase Istanbul connectivity

TURKISH AIRLINES has added more flights from Manchester to Istanbul to meet increased passenger demand for the historic city.

Türkiye's flagship carrier will operate 25 weekly flights to the city from Manchester during the peak summer season from May 19th, 2024, adding an additional four weekly flights to the roster. For summer 2024, four extra flights per week will be added to the Birmingham to Istanbul route, and a further four from London Gatwick.

www.turkishairlines.com

Radisson targets 50% Africa growth

AFTER THE success of its 2023 growth strategy, Radisson Hotel Group is targeting a 50% expansion for its West and Central African portfolios. The expansion will consist of 29 hotels and more than 5,000 rooms either in operation or under development by 2030.

Within the last 12 months, the Group has signed five new properties, including entries into The Gambia with Radisson Blu Beach & Spa, Banjul, and in Nigeria with

Radisson Hotel Benin City. The Group's presence in Nigeria has gone from strength to strength over the last year, expanding its portfolio to 12 hotels and more than 1,700 rooms.

In 2023 Radisson maintained its African expansion with eight new hotel signings and the addition of more than 1,600 rooms.

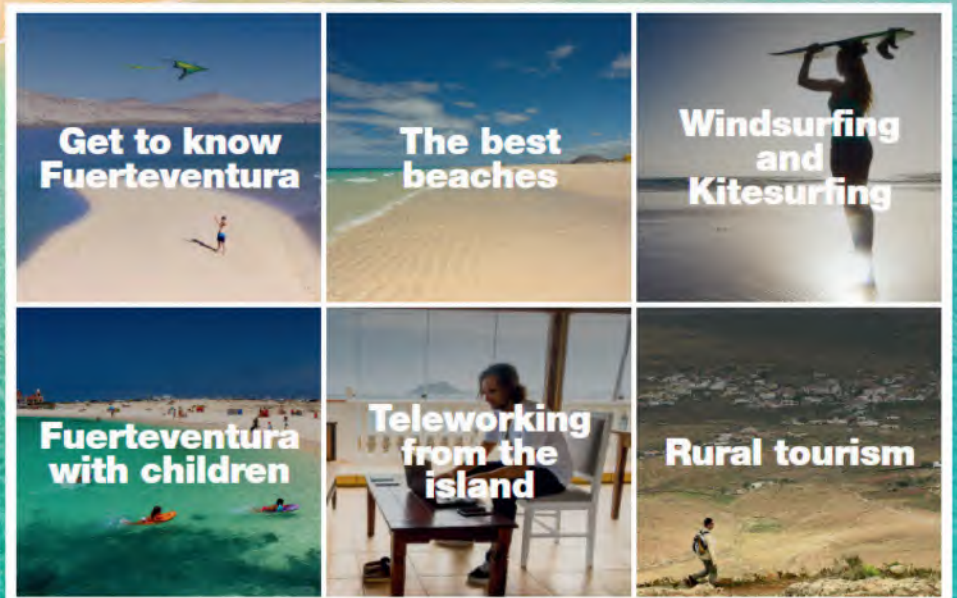
www.radissonhotels.com

The beach of the canaries

A paradise with over 150 km of beaches of white sand and turquoise waters, where you can discover vast natural landscapes and experience the open character of the local people. An island where you can practise a host of activities in optimal conditions.

Fuerteventura Islas Canarias

And if we get tired of enjoying relaxing days at the beach, which is unlikely, Fuerteventura, one of the Canary Islands biosphere reserves, also has other unforgettable things to do. Explore. Stop in villages where time moves at a different pace and discover the island's history; visit small, picturesque coastal towns where we can enjoy delicious fresh fish and other delicacies of local cuisine.



To discover more, head on over to



Image Credits: Top: Turkish Airlines, Bottom: Holland America Line

American Cruise Lines opens 2024 season

CLASSIC RIVER cruise operator American Cruise Line kicked off its season on the Mississippi on February 22nd and confirmed new riverboats will sail over a dozen itineraries throughout the river's surrounding region.

2024 marks the cruise line's biggest-ever domestic season,



with several new experiences on offer.

May will see the debut of 'Great Smoky Mountains National Parks' cruises, and a 35-day 'Civil War Battlefields' itinerary.

2024 follows on from a six-year period that saw the cruise line triple its domestic fleet, with new riverboats on the Mississippi introduced annually. 19 small ships and riverboats will continue their deployment throughout the year as they call at over 140 ports in 2024. Five more ships are under construction to join the fleet.

American Cruise Line's itineraries, including the new 'Great Smoky Mountains National Parks', 'Civil War Battlefields', and 'Great United States' voyages, are bookable via Fred. Holidays in the UK. www.americancruiselines.com www.fredholidays.co.uk/river-cruises



SUNSET RESORT, Rarotonga has completed upgrades to its garden pool, added two accessible poolside rooms, and earned its fourth star. Its second swimming pool has welcomed upgrades to the surrounding deck and paved area, as well as enhanced lighting packages and an enlarged shaded sunbathing and seating area. Two poolside garden studio accommodation options are set to be modified to become fully accessible, bringing the accessible accommodation roster up to four. www.thesunsetresort.com

Not Just Travel podcast returns with This Morning star at the helm

NOT JUST Travel has relaunched its lifestyle podcast, The Travel Podcast, in a new format, featuring TV presenter and NJT brand ambassador Hayley Sparkes at the helm.

Hayley, whose career began at ITV's This Morning, has hosted several travel documentaries and developed online content for a number of operators and brands.

The Travel Podcast will see her interview professional travellers, industry leaders and

more, and share insights, inspirations, hacks and tips for the perfect holiday.

Paul Harrison, Not Just Travel's co-founder, promised that listeners will be "captivated by stories and travel tales to spark their imagination," and said the podcast is an example of "how [Not Just Travel] lead[s] the way in the multi-platform marketing support we provide our members."

www.notjusttravel.com/travel-podcast

Universal Studios brings DreamWorks to life

UNIVERSAL ORLANDO Resort has confirmed further details of its upcoming DreamWorks Land, a new themed area of its Universal Studios Florida park.

Familiar faces including Shrek, Kung-Fu Panda and the Trolls will await guests when the land opens. Shrek's Swamp Meet will invite guests to meet Shrek, Princess Fiona and Donkey before the interaction is ramped up at King Harold's Swamp Symphony, where melodious masterpieces await to be written. The Trolls Trollercoaster brings a family-friendly dose of thrills, a far cry from the park's Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit rollercoaster, with other attractions providing all-ages appropriate experiences.

www.universalorlando.com



AmaWaterways launches trade WhatsApp channel

YOU CAN be kept in the loop with all the waves AmaWaterways are making via the luxury river cruise line's new WhatsApp channel. Andrea Stafford, sales director, said the channel plays into the cruise line's mission to "make it as easy as possible for agents to sell."

AGENT INCENTIVES

- DOSOMETHINGDIFFERENT'S 'MARCH Madness'** promotion rewards you with a £10 Love2shop voucher for every Walt Disney World booking confirmed by the end of the month. Email booking references to WIN@dosomethingdifferent.com with 'MARCH MADNESS' in the subject line by April 8th, 2024 to earn the reward. An extra £15 voucher can be earned when posting Disney or DSD-themed content with the hashtag [#DSDMarchMadness](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/DSDMarchMadness) on social media. www.dosomethingdifferent.com
- ALL EYES** are on France ahead of this summer's Olympic Games in Paris. AmaWaterways is encouraging you to make the most of the demand, offering up a place on a 'Flavours of Burgundy' cruise (with a plus one) to one lucky agent, chosen at random, who sells a French river cruise by March 31st. The 'Sell Five, Sail Free' promotion also continues throughout the year: send your five booking confirmations to agencysupport@amawaterways.co.uk to redeem your free seven-night reward cruise. www.amawaterways.co.uk
- IF PEAKS** is slowing down, Playa Hotels & Resorts certainly isn't: until the end of March, you can earn double rewards on select Jamaican property bookings, with up to 200 points per room, per night available. www.playarewards.com
- CRUISE FOR free** this year when selling five new Amadeus cruises for 2024 or 2025 by the end of the year. You'll earn a seven-night European cruise for two, departing in 2025 or 2026. www.amadeus-rivercruises.com



SANDALS BOUGHT a dose of love (and a branded taxi) to six Barrhead Travel branches in the Northwest on Valentine's Day as part of its 'Love Week'. Liz Ryan (far left) is pictured here with Vicky Jones, Amy Coffey, Sarah Perry and Holly Dalzell in Northwich.

Travel bulletin

WEBINAR

Our 2024 webinar schedule is here... don't miss out on virtual networking and prize opportunities!

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



AGENT TRAINING

DESTINATION TRAINING

- THE MAGICAL Kenya Travel Specialist** programme invites you to uncover the destination's diverse, authentic and year-round experiences. Despite its well-founded reputation for safari, the destination is highlighting its adventure, family, and beach experiences. www.magicalkenyatravelspecialist.com
 - WETRAVEL HAS** partnered with the Indigenous Tourism Collaborative of the Americas (ITCA) to launch a training programme covering how to partner with indigenous communities to sell authentic and valuable experiences in the US\$14 billion native tourism sector respectfully. Ted Clements, WeTravel's CEO, said the course aims to shape "a future where meaningful cross-cultural exchanges thrive, where the richness of Indigenous traditions is celebrated and strengthened." www.resources.wetravel.com/indigenous-tourism-course
 - COMPLETING THE Aussie Specialist** programme sees agents sell 35% higher-value bookings and capitalise further on the destination's 62% repeat travel rate. www.aussiespecialist.com
- ### CRUISE LINE TRAINING
- P&O CRUISES** has opened booking for one of its biggest-ever ship visit programmes. Three visits (aboard *Britannia*, *Ventura* and *Iona*) are currently bookable via Shine Rewards, with 11 further available in due course. Director of sales, Ruth Venn, promised agents the "perfect opportunity... to experience our ships for themselves and to learn exactly why a P&O Cruises holiday is such great value." www.shinerewardsclub.com
 - MORE AGENTS** than ever are set to be invited aboard Cunard's fleet in 2024. 420 trade partners are invited aboard across nine ship visits this year. www.shinerewardsclub.com



AGENT INSIGHT

KAREN THORNTON

TRAVEL COUNSELLORS

HONEYMOONS: THE dream enquiry. Exciting destinations and couples engaged both metaphorically and physically... or are they?

I really believe that sometimes, as agents, we can get a little excited with honeymoon enquiries and run off like Usain Bolt without slowing the pace and asking a few crucial questions, like can you afford the water villa you've always dreamed of?

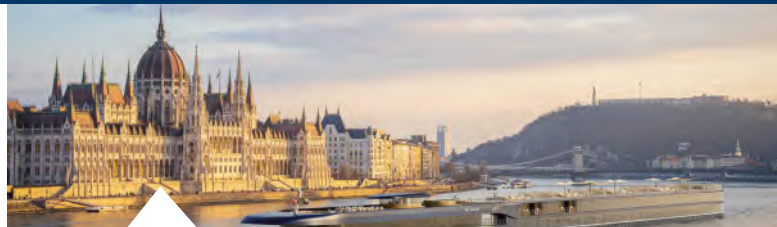
We may assume it's one half of the couple pushing certain aspects of the dream honeymoon, but it is very important to make sure you are finding out all the key preferences for such a special and romantic trip from both travellers.

Budget is crucial too as often couples can be younger and simply don't realise how much the 'dream' is going to cost. While it may be blunt to define it as profiterole preference over pringles purse-depth, it is important to get the happy couple the best they can afford and not waste both yours and their time with a futile process of searching for the unattainable unicorn of a holiday.

Gift registry services are the perfect way for them to upgrade their experience too, as most couples don't need the classic frying pan set when they get married but friends and family supporting them to have the best possible honeymoon is something that all honeymooners should be made aware of and actively encouraged to get involved with, maybe the water villa isn't unachievable?

When offering the options, I always throw in a wild card too, as they have come to us as travel experts and we need to show our worth and not just take an order, this could be the most memorable holiday they ever have so why not offer them something exciting and unusual.

So, challenge yourself, take the opportunity and give your clients a holiday to fall in love with.



APT launch two ultra-luxury vessels

APT HAS announced the upcoming launch of two new vessels, the *APT Solara* and *APT Ostara* for the 2025 season. The new ships will elevate the brand and cement APT's evolution into ultra-luxury. With only 154 guests on board at a time, an outstanding service for all is guaranteed.

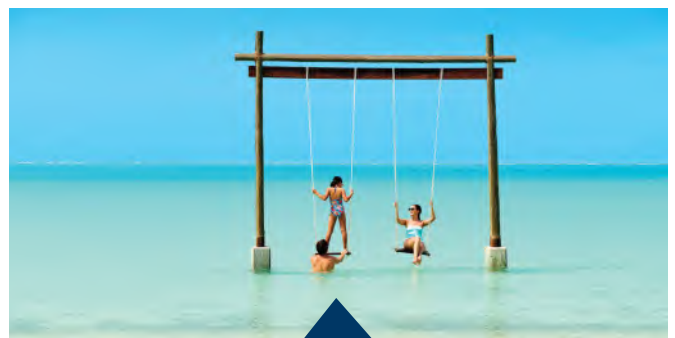
Solara and *Ostara* will set sail on APT's most popular European itineraries from Spring 2025, transporting guests along the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers.

APT Travel Group's CEO, David Cox, said that the new vessels "will redefine luxury river cruising, thoughtfully designed with our valued agents in mind."

www.aptouring.co.uk

News Bites

- **TOURISM SOLOMON** has recorded its best visitation figures since reopening its borders, with 26,000 travellers having passed through Honiara International Airport in 2023.
- **VISIT DETROIT** is aiming to redefine the city for the next generation as it launches new brand campaign 'When We Move, You Move'.
- **AMERICAN QUEEN Voyages** promises refunds will be deposited following the suspension of operations.



FAMILIES CAN enjoy a worry-free escape at the Fairmont Maldives, Sirru Fen Fushi as the resort has launched a new and enhanced all-inclusive offering. Guests can enjoy the savoury delicacies available across three gourmet restaurants, enjoy VIP amenities and indulge in an array of sustainable activities. Room rates lead in from £684 per night on an all-inclusive basis. Children under 12 stay and eat for free.

www.fairmont-maldives.com

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 March 21st. Solution and new puzzle will appear in the next issue.

The winner for February 9th is **Carol Smith, a Personal Travel Specialist**

February 9th Solution: A=9 B=6 C=7 D=1

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



ASIA'S SMALLEST country has long been a honeymoon staple, with overwater villas and indulgent experiences promising a true Indian Ocean experience.

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

1			2		3		4		5		6
									7		
8											
9									10		
12		13			14				15		
					16						
					17						
18											
		19							20		

Across

- 1 Flag carrier of Portugal (3)
- 3 Red Funnel operate to this IOW destination (5)
- 7 Airport code for Penzance heliport (3)
- 8 Capital of Cameroon (7)
- 9 Known in the US as the Beaver State (6)
- 10 1 Across belong to this alliance (4)
- 12 Former name of Thailand (4)
- 14 Jennifer Aniston played this Friends character (6)
- 17 Country on the Adriatic, popular with holidaymakers (7)
- 18 Faro airport code (3)
- 19 Capital of Tenerife, ___ Cruz (5)
- 20 Currency of Albania (3)

Down

- 1 She recently broke a record by winning her fourth Grammy for album of the year (6,5)
- 2 Boats leave here for Brownsea Island (5)
- 3 Ferry company operating to the Channel Isles, St Malo and Cherbourg (6)
- 4 A small bird and the architect of St Paul's Cathedral (4)
- 5 Historic resort in 17 Across (5)
- 6 This Manhattan recreational area has more than 25 million visitors each year (7,4)
- 11 USA state, could be North or South (6)
- 13 Car hire company, Holiday ___ (5)
- 15 Accommodation type (5)
- 16 Part of the Royal Caribbean fleet and billed as the world's largest cruise ship, ___ of the Seas (4)

CROSSWORD

Across: 1 TAP, 3 COWES, 7 PZE, 8 YAOUND, 9 OREGON, 10 STAR, 12 SIAM, 14 RACHEL, 17 CROATIA, 18 FAO, 19 SANTA, 20 LEK. Down: 1 TAYLOR SWIFT, 2 POOLE, 3 CONDOR, 4 WREN, 5 SPLIT, 6 CENTRAL PARK, 11 DAKOTA, 13 AUTOS, 15 HOTEL, 16 ICON. Mystery Word: PETRA

AIUla goes global with first worldwide campaign

'FOREVER REVITALISING' aims to elevate the traditional destination campaign and encapsulate the essence of AIUla, spanning nine source markets in six languages.

The Royal Commission for AIUla is striving to portray the true essence of the city with



the campaign, which spans both trade and consumer channels.

Phillip Jones, the commission's chief tourism officer, said the campaign is "the next chapter in [the destination's] ever-evolving journey."

Events targeting the trade have kickstarted the campaign in London, Dubai, New York, Paris, Shanghai, and Mumbai, with more expected.

Melanie de Souza, the commission's executive director of destination marketing, concluded: "Forever Revitalising is not only about driving global awareness of a destination... it is about communicating the breadth and depth of the programmes and initiatives designed to create a better future for all those who live, work and visit our ancient oasis."

www.experiencealula.com



CONTIKI HAS announced its first-ever trip to the Philippines, with an aptly named 'Philippines Island Hopping' itinerary taking in the nation's most frequented tourist hotspots on a sub-two-week tour. Two versions of the trip are available: a nine-day option exploring Puerto Princesa, Port Barton and El Nido, and a more comprehensive 13-day itinerary including an additional sea safari to the Coron Islands. www.contiki.com

Destination NSW launches corporate hub

AS AUSTRALIA continues its return to the top of long-haul destination demand lists, Destination NSW has launched a new digital hub comprising research, information, tools and resources to support trade growth.

The platform features training, a newsroom, information on industry events, and the latest marketing campaigns and partner toolkits. Data and insights on visitors and source markets can help you hone in on the

destination's demographic and demand.

Destination NSW's CEO, Steve Cox, promised an "engaging user experience" on the platform, positioning the destination board to "be adaptable and forward-thinking during the momentum phase of the Visitor Economy Strategy 2030 and in turn ensure NSW achieves its targets and goals for visit expenditure."

www.destinationnsw.com.au

Research reveals Europe's top ski staples

WINTER SPORTS insurance company SportsCover Direct has unveiled a look at the top ski destinations in Europe, measuring each on eight different metrics. The insurance provider evaluated the total price of a day ski pass, average star rating, number of ski lifts, highest point of elevation, slope lengths, average hotel prices and number of hotels within a 10km radius to uncover the top spots for skiing.

Bulgaria's Aleko resort came up trumps, scoring 74.2 out of 80. Straja resort in Romania came close behind (72 out of 80), with Ravna Planina in Bosnia and Herzegovina in third. Tornik-Zlatibor in Serbia and Kolašin 1450 and Kolašin 1600 in Montenegro comprised the top five.



Gold TCs awarded at gala dinner

CELEBRATING THE 20th anniversary of Gold at Travel Counsellors, 130 agents were recognised alongside 16 'new-to-Gold' business owners. Over 250 Travel Counsellors have achieved 'Gold' status worldwide.

www.travelcounsellors.com



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Wizz Air goes hex-platinum

FEBRUARY SAW Wizz Air surpass six million passengers from London Gatwick, with over one million flying in the last six months alone, and almost three million in the last 12 months.

The airline operates 19 services every day from Gatwick, including daily flights to Athens, Istanbul, Nice and Rome. Since launching from Gatwick, the airline has gone on to employ 230 people at the airport hub. Lucky number six million was awarded a £200 voucher on the flight.

www.wizzair.com

Travel Counsellors launches graduate programme with £10,000 scholarships

TRAVEL COUNSELLORS is striving to support and foster young and new-to-travel entrepreneurs, with up to 10 graduates offered places to begin their careers as early as July 2024. Candidates have been invited to submit a business plan, with successful applicants taking place in a pitch session in front of industry experts in May.

The lucky applicants selected for the scholarship will take part in a six-month training and onboarding programme, 10 days of virtual classroom lessons, six months of ongoing training from Travel Counsellors' expert training team, a personal mentor, a years' membership to both CLIA and ITT, and more

Have someone in mind that was born to be a travel agent? Applications are open at www.people.travelcounsellors.com/gb/academy_scholarship/

Celestyal spices up specialty dining

CELESTYAL CRUISES' fleet will welcome a Med-style brasserie alongside a refreshed dessert range and unlimited antipasto



platter offer as its culinary offering is refreshed following guest feedback. CCO Lee Haslett emphasised dining as an "incredibly important element of the cruising experience." www.celestyal.com

Image Credits: Left: Adobe Stock, Right: Celestyal Cruises

Shearings

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- ✓ Excursions
- ✓ Local joining points
- ✓ Portage at the hotel



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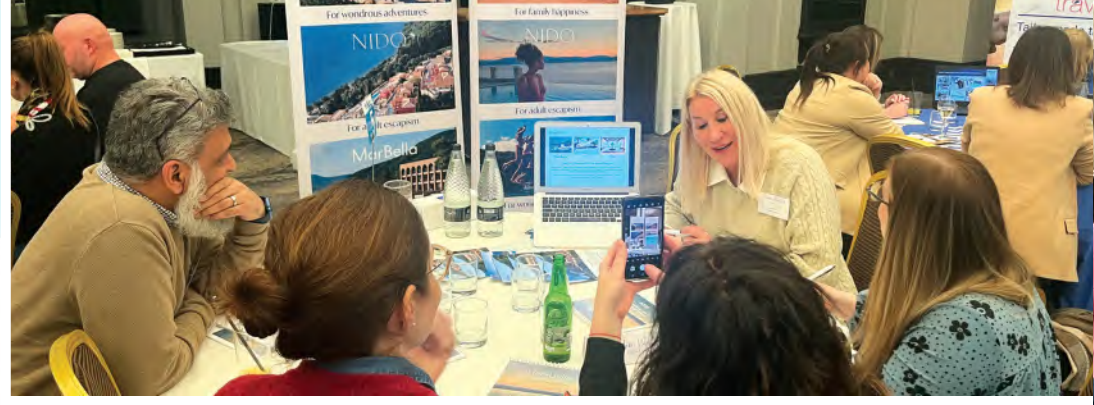
WestJet offers the following flights to Canada:

- Calgary from London Heathrow, Dublin and Edinburgh
- Halifax from London Gatwick, Dublin and Edinburgh
- Toronto from Dublin and Edinburgh
- St. John's from London Gatwick

Explore our flight schedule at [westjet.com](https://www.westjet.com).

WESTJET 

Schedule subject to change.



Luxury Holidays Roadshow

WE BROUGHT a taste of luxury on the road to Leeds and Hull last month for our Luxury Holidays Roadshow!

In Leeds, we were joined by Aldemar Resorts, World of Hyatt Inclusive Collection, Mar-Bella Collection, Oceania Cruises, Vincci Hoteles, Avra Imperial Hotel, Emerald & Scenic Cruises, Major Travel, Riviera Travel, Grecotel Hotels & Resorts, Sandals Resorts and Delphina Hotels & Resorts, plus the finest agents Leeds has to offer!



Missed out on the #TBSHOWCASES Luxury action? Join us for the next Luxury Showcases taking place in Solihull on April 22nd and Cheshire on April 23rd! To confirm your place or find out when we will be hosting our next event near you contact events@travelbulletin.co.uk



Travel Bulletin SHOWCASES

Invites you to a

Luxury Holidays Showcase

Agent networking evening

Tuesday 6th February

Mercure Hull Grange Park, Hull



THE LUXURY didn't stop there!

In Hull, we were joined by Aldemar Resorts, Avra Imperial Hotel, Oceania Cruises, Inspiring Tunisia, Minos Collection, Greater Miami & Miami Beach, Vincci Hoteles, South African Tourism, Sandals, the Seychelles, Delphina Hotels & Resorts, and Cap St Georges Hotel & Resort.



Want to get in on the #TBSHOWCASES action? Confirm your place or find out when we will be hosting our next event near you by contacting events@travelbulletin.co.uk



LGBTQ+ Travel Showcase

WORTHING MADE us proud last month at our LGBTQ+ Holidays Showcase, where we were joined by Virgin Voyages, Eurostar, Cook Islands, Greater Miami & Miami Beach, made, World of Hyatt Inclusive Collection, Mar-Bella Collection, Visit Malta and Benidorm.

Thank you to all the agents who joined us!



Feeling the #TBShowcases FOMO? Contact events@travelbulletin.co.uk or head to www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events to find out when we'll be near you in 2024!

MSC encourages guests to book ahead onboard

MSC CRUISES' new 'Open Booking' programme allows guests on board to make a future holiday reservation without committing to a vessel, itinerary or departure date.

The new initiative complements the cruise line's existing 'Future Cruise' programme. With the open booking system, guests can secure their next voyage by paying a £100 deposit per person while on board their current sailing. They will then receive a

certificate granting them up to 12 months to select their preferred date. If guests select a ship/departure date within 60 days of their open booking, they will receive up to £200 in onboard credit (£100 if booked within a year).

Fear not, agents! The original cruise's booking agent stands to benefit too, with commission guaranteed once the ship and sail date is selected.

www.msccruises.co.uk



Avis to return to East Midlands Airport

CAR RENTAL group Avis has confirmed it will return to East Midlands Airport next month, after a four-year hiatus.

Initially opening as a temporary location in March before a permanent location with full Avis branding opens in the near future, the branch will sit a short walk from the terminal in the mid-stay car park.

Avis' return to East Midlands will mark its wider return to the region since ceasing operations at the airport in 2020.

www.avis.ie

MOVERS & SHAKERS



CELESTYAL HAS bolstered its trade team,

with Danielle Radford joining as UK BDM for the cruise line last month.



CHERYL ELLIOT-EDWARDS has joined

ITC as trade partnership executive for the South.



IAIN POWELL will join

Hurtigruten as VP of sales & marketing after a six-year Saga stint on March 18th, 2024.

TTC Tour Brands eyes UK expansion

TTC TOUR Brands, which comprises Contiki, Trafalgar, Insight Vacations, Luxury Gold and Cost saver, has revealed plans to ambitiously expand its operations across the UK. Kelly Walker (former head of distribution at easyJet Holidays) has been recruited as director of sales, joined by former G Touring national account manager Polly Poulton, in moves that the group described as "solidifying TTC's dedication to agent partners."

Kelly said the group is targeting an "ambitious growth trajectory for the UK... we are focusing on offering and developing some great new tours and experiences across our brands."

www.ttc.com

Extra agent places for CLIA Conference 2024

AFTER INITIALLY selling out in 48 hours, a limited number of additional places are available for agents at the 2024 iteration of the CLIA Conference, thanks to P&O Cruises' addition of *Britannia* to the conference's ship visit programme.

Registration is now open for CLIA members. 850 attendees are expected in



Southampton for the conference, which takes place from May 23rd to 25th, 2024.

www.cruising.org



'Get A Little Out There' in Nevada

TRAVEL NEVADA'S new campaign aims to change perceptions of the state beyond Las Vegas' well-established reputation, highlighting the quirky attractions outside the City of Sin.

Designed to position Nevada as an offbeat, creative and independent destination, the campaign includes playful assets to promote Nevada's unexpected offerings.

www.travelnevada.com

Ajman Tourism Roadshow 2024

Glasgow - February 12th, 2024

Birmingham - February 14th, 2024

Guildford - February 15th, 2024



Ajman Tourism Roadshow

WE WERE delighted to team up with the Ajman Department of Tourism Development to bring an esteemed lineup of property and airline partners to Glasgow, Birmingham and Guildford last month.

Ajman Department of Tourism Development, The Oberoi Beach Resort Al Zorah, Fairmont Ajman, Emirates, the Ajman Saray Resort and Ajman Hotel brought the show on the road to over 120 agents across three nights to showcase the very best of the Emirate.



THE GREEK DREAM

SeaDream Yacht Club has expanded its Greek Isles offering with new voyages, including two cruises to the lesser-travelled areas of the Greek world.



ADDING TO its already extensive Greek portfolio, SeaDream Yacht Club has launched brand new voyages for 2025, promising to whisk guest across the Greek world for an in-depth touring adventure they will never forget.

The most anticipated addition is the 14-night voyage through the Greek islands which combines two new 'Yachting the Greek Isles' itineraries for one action-packed adventure through

ancient legacy and modern traditions. The handcrafted itinerary offers a seamless blend of must-see Greek attractions, idyllic beaches and excursion opportunities to fully immerse into the Greek lifestyle.

The first of the two itineraries will cast away on June 29th, 2025, departing from Piraeus and will explore the lesser-known areas of the islands including Volos which has an optional Yachting Land Adventure to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Meteora; Delos, one of the most integral archaeological sites across the entirety of Greece; a late-night visit to Skopelos so guests can live out their 'Mamma Mia!' fantasies; plus an overnight stay in Mykonos. Prices for this itinerary lead in at £5,605 per person.

The second itinerary will depart on July 6th, 2025, and explore other hidden gems, including the island of Folegandros and the historic port of Symi which is inaccessible to larger ships. Other stops include an evening visit to Santorini; a stop at The Island of Lovers (Milos); Ios and a stop at Kythnos where the yacht will anchor directly off Kolona beach. The price for this itinerary leads in from £5,605.

Guest also have the opportunity to stay on board for a third consecutive cruise which will take them to Hydra, Delphi, Zakynthos, through the bucket-list transit of the Corinth Canal with stops in Sicily before ending the adventure in Malta. www.seadream.com

En garde: Sardinia's speciality sports

ARE YOUR clients looking for something a little different from the traditional Mediterranean beach holiday? Forte Village in Sardinia may have the answer.

This summer, the resort will offer a more sports-orientated activity list, with a brand new fencing programme available led by elite coaches and Olympic medallists, alongside 20 other sports academies.

Guests can try their hand with a sword while basking in the sunshine with the cerulean waters of the Mediterranean Sea as a backdrop. Registration for the camps is now open.

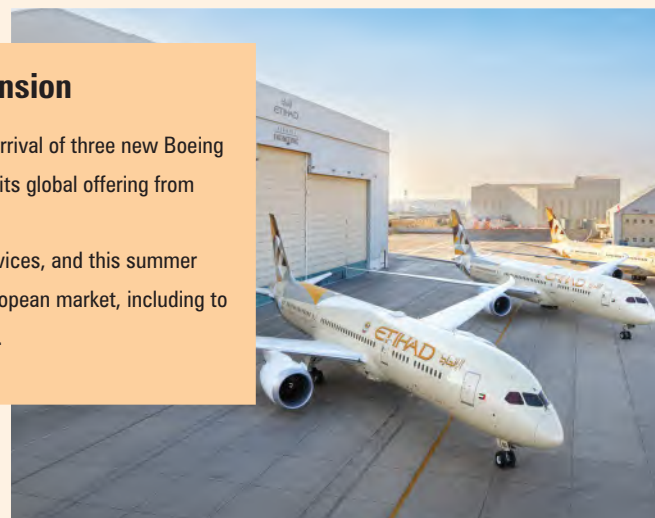
www.fortevillageresort.com

Etihad's European expansion

ETIHAD AIRWAYS is celebrating the arrival of three new Boeing 787-9 aircraft to its roster, expanding its global offering from Abu Dhabi.

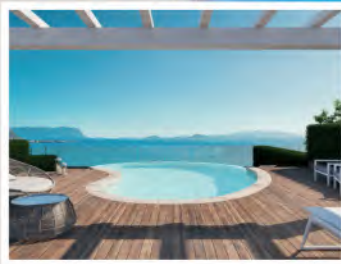
With new aircrafts comes new services, and this summer Etihad will add more routes to the European market, including to Nice, Malaga, Mykonos and Santorini.

www.etihad.com



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Jet2 lines up Liverpool launch

JET2.COM AND Jet2holidays are set to take off from Liverpool John Lennon for the first time this month, marking the airline and package operator's 11th UK base.

20 sunshine destinations (including Mediterranean island options across the Balearics, Greece and more) are on sale from Liverpool John Lennon for summer 2024.

Steve Heapy, the ever-present CEO of both brands, says that there has already been "huge demand from customers and independent travel agents" for the services, adding that "the feedback we have received has left us in no doubt that making this move was the right one."

"We are incredibly excited about opening this latest chapter in our continued growth story and we cannot wait to welcome customers and get started."

Of the 54 weekly flights comprising the

launch services from Liverpool, the Balearics share alone represents 12 weekly flights. Two weekly services (Wednesday, Saturday) will serve Menorca, in an exclusive for the airport, with three weekly services to Ibiza (Monday, Friday and Saturday) and seven (daily).

Greece services to Corfu, Crete, Kos, Rhodes and Zante comprise seven of the 54 weekly services.

www.trade.jet2holidays.com



Formentor, Four Seasons

FOUR SEASONS has taken strides to redefine the former Hotel Formentor, set to reopen as the Four Seasons Resort Mallorca at Formentor. The luxury brand has meticulously renovated 110 rooms and suites to the finest of details, vowing to protect the surrounding environments in the process. An hour's drive from Palma de Mallorca Airport, the hotel hopes to offer diverse experiences, from the great (on the beach) to the grape (at its vineyard).

www.mallorcaformentor.com



Costa Navarino's eco-mmitment

AFTER REDUCING emissions by 80% in 2022 (against 2019 levels), Costa Navarino is doubling down on efforts to craft its eco-credentials.

Several initiatives, from shifting to renewable sources and encouraging more thoughtful energy consumption during stays, have already paid dividends, with the destination vowing to continue efforts moving forward.



Mallorcan marvel marks May in the calendar

VALENTIN HOTEL Group has confirmed a May opening date for the refreshed Valentín Paguera, reopening as the Valentín Somni Hotel & Suites.

The property, which originally opened in 1969, has been given a modern makeover, earning it a fourth star and a repositioning

to an exclusively adults-only (16+) model. Changes were largely made to future-proof the hotel's approach to sustainability.

Double rooms (with breakfast) start from £114 per night, with half-board options starting from £126 per night.

www.valentinhotels.com

Image Credits: Top Left: Jet2.com/Jet2holidays, Top Right: Four Seasons, Bottom Left: Valentín Hotel Group, Bottom Right: Costa Navarino

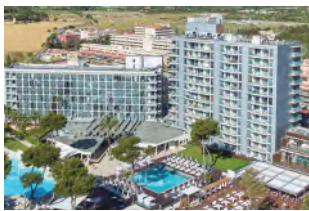


Ibiza celebrates UNESCO-versary

2024 MARKS 25 years since Ibiza was certified as a UNESCO World Heritage site, in recognition of the island's impressive cultural and architectural history and value.

A host of significant historical attractions remain open to guests in celebration of the anniversary, from Dalt Vila's acropolis to the coastal fortresses and the underwater meadows of Posidonia Oceánica – best seen through a pair of scuba goggles.

www.ibiza.travel



Mallorcan Meliá's makeover

MELIÀ SOUTH Beach, in the long-iconic Mallorcan hotspot of Calvià, has undergone a refurbishment of its rooms, suites, and common areas, better aligning it with Meliá's signature sense of modern comfort and Mediterranean charm. The refreshed rooms are complemented by a prime beachfront location and luxurious amenities.

www.melia.com

From Manchester to the Med: United legend's Maltese must-dos

SWAPPING MANCHESTER for Malta might be an obvious choice: for ex-United legend Dimitar Berbatov, it certainly was.

As brand ambassador for both Manchester United and Visit Malta, Berbatov has spent almost as much time on the island as he did in the penalty box.

Speaking to *Travel Bulletin*, the former United and Spurs striker couldn't have made his fondness for the island clearer: "For me, warm weather, good food, and people who are accommodating are always welcome: the whole experience on the island is unbelievable."

On his recent trip filming for MUTV, his former club's official television channel, Dimitar said that, despite enjoying his experience: "There is plenty left to do... next time, whether I come back with my kids or just my wife, we're going to have plenty left to explore."



Visit Malta's recently-revitalised trade platform brought with it four new training modules, sales assets, and more:
www.malta-training.com.

Branson's best-loved Balearic

VIRGIN LIMITED Edition, a collection of luxury hotels and retreats collated by Sir Richard Branson himself, confirmed the newest addition to its portfolio last month: the Son Buyola Hotel (and its three surrounding villa properties).

The property initially opened in June 2023 after a comprehensive restoration. This month's opening will mark the beginning of a year-round schedule, taking full advantage of the milder Mallorcan

climate in the low season.

Beyond the refreshed and indulgent accommodation options, guests can enjoy a schedule of complimentary activities, including yoga, Pilates, wine tasting, guided walks, and tennis coaching sessions among premium activities like kayak tours and guided hiking and cycling.

A low-season offer means stays of three nights or longer in hotel accommodation include the final night for free (between March 1st and June 13th, and September 16th and November 24th this year). Hotel room rates start from £424 based on two adults sharing with breakfast and free mini-bar.

The same final-night-free offer applies to villa stays of seven nights or longer in the same period. Villa rates start from £1,695 for a four-bedroom option on self-catering basis or £3,854 on all-inclusive basis.

www.virginlimitededition.com/son-bunyola



Curated Crete: fun for all at Wyndham

IT IS fun for all the family at Wyndham Grand Crete Mirabello Bay as the resort offers a seamless blend of relaxing beauty and sophisticated entertainment.

The holiday haven offers everything a holiday in the Mediterranean needs; sun, sand, lush hillsides and calming waters. The resort also offers a series of unique experiences for guests to enjoy, including a cooking class in a traditional 'Mittato'; an afternoon at SPILIA tasting wines and cigars inside a cave; and a family evening spent under the stars at the hotel's Open-Air Cinema.

Guests can divide up their days with the spa offering soothing massage packages and traditional treatments, or decide to spice up their holiday with an adventure-fuelled day at the beach taking part in a selection of water

sports including jet-skiing and sailing into the sunset. In the evenings, guests can unwind with some nightly entertainment of Grecian folklore dance performances to close the day.

Prices for the resort lead in from €306 per night for a seven-night stay in June, 2024. www.wyndhamhotels.com



Step into Greece's mythical paradise

IXIAN GRAND & All Suites offers an adults-only all-inclusive escape for guests to unwind and let go of everyday stresses.

Couples looking for a romantic getaway can stay in the Beachfront Swim Up Sea View Suites for the ultimate private retreat.

www.theixiangrand.gr

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Escape to Sardinia this spring

SIT BACK and relax into the lavish seaside luxury of 7Pines Resort Sardinia and enjoy 30% off Sea View accommodation when booked before March 20th, 2024.

As a Destination by Hyatt property, the resort offers endless relaxation for families and couples alike, eager to unwind and switch off from everyday life.

The spacious suites available are designed to offer the utmost comfort while gazing across the panoramic views of the protected La Maddalena islands.

For those who wish to get a little more from their holiday, 7Pines Sardinia offers an array of immersive adventures for all guests, including kayaking, paddle boarding, snorkelling and diving excursions. The resort also offers state-of-the-art fitness amenities and a luxurious spa.

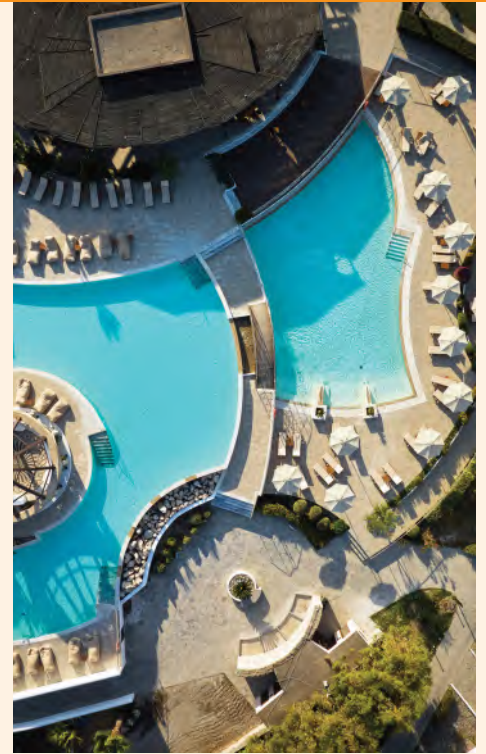
Inspiring Travel is offering a seven-day package priced from £1,565 per person, including flights and transfers when booked by March 20th for travel between May 2nd-15th, 2024. www.inspiringtravel.co.uk

Buzz at the beach: Lindian Village reopens with restoration project

LINDIAN VILLAGE Beach Resort Rhodes will re-open its doors from April 28th, 2024 but it is not just guests that will be welcomed with open arms as the resort will unveil an ambitious environmental restoration project named Bee Revived.

This project aims to help counteract the ecological damage caused by last year's wildfires with the re-introduction of 380,000 bees to support the rejuvenation of the island.

Guests have the opportunity to contribute to the Bee Revived initiative by way of donations and taking part in a new educational honey-tasting experience organised by the resort. The experience will see groups of guests escorted to some of the adopted beehives around the island to gain a first-hand account of the project's benefits. Guests will learn about the importance of bees to the global ecosystem and have the chance to taste the local



honey from Rhodes.

Lindian Village offers 188 rooms oozing in indulgence and offers a private beach, freshwater swimming pool, either restaurants and bars, a kids club and fitness amenities.

www.lindianvillage.gr

Marriot makes Dodecanese debut

THIS SUMMER, Marriott is set to make its debut in the Dodecanese islands with the opening of the Patmos Aktis, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa.

Following an extensive renovation, the doors are ready to open in June this year and welcome guests to the golden sands of Grikos Bay, marking a new chapter for the region's hospitality scene.

Patmos is a destination brimming with history and tradition, and Patmos Aktis uses that influence to create a timeless escape

for guests. All 56 guestrooms, suites and villas have been redesigned to encompass this history with a luxurious simplicity that is renowned throughout the Luxury Collection brand.

The resort will also house a new signature restaurant ready to serve up Mediterranean staples to guests from all over the world with a contemporary twist. With the charm of a traditional Greek taverna, Plefis Tavern is located on the beach with a menu full of classic delicacies.

The resort's spa encompasses the spiritual energy of the destination and offers a selection of rejuvenating rituals and signature treatments to transport guests into a state of pure relaxation and mindfulness.

Resort rates lead in from £255 per night on a bed and breakfast basis.

www.patmosaktis.gr/



HERITAGE AT HEART

Heritage Expeditions has launched its first wave of 2025/2026 voyages, with plans to venture where no cruise ship has gone before.

DISCOVER THE true authentic essence of a destination away from the tourist route as Heritage Expeditions has launched its first wave of voyages for the 2025/2026 season, including a 20% discount for bookings made before April 29th, 2024.

The small-ship expedition cruise operator promises travellers the chance to explore exotic locations off-the-grid and learn what makes a destination what

it is, from the people and the culture to the experiences waiting at its fingertips.

Traveller can take advantage of the Early Bird sale for the first nine voyages of Heritage's 2025/2026 season, where they will set sail to the depth of the Japanese islands, the Philippines, Indonesia and Australia's Kimberley Coast.

The cruise line is looking to add an industry-first to its portfolio by paying a visit to Polillo Island in the Philippines as part of the 19-day 'Asian Island Odyssey' voyage which will sail from Taipei to Darwin.

Commercial director and expedition leader, Aaron Russ, commented how the company will make "cruise history as the first expedition to visit the remote tropical outpost" that offers the

"perfect mix of unexplored paradisiacal island, incredible wildlife both above and below the water and a fascinating conservation history."

Prices for the 'Asian Island Odyssey' lead in from £12,675 per person for a June 9th, 2025 departure, not including the Early Bird discount. Other itineraries offered by the expedition cruise line include the 11-day 'Kimberley Explorer' where cruisers will discover the untouched beauty of the Kimberley Coast from £6,795 per person, and the 11-day 'Eternally Sacred Japan & South Korea' cruise where guests can witness the seamless combinations of ancient customs with modern living from £9,545 per person.

www.heritage-expeditions.com

South America: the Swan Hellenic way

THE WONDERS of South America's Atlantic coastline await with Swan Hellenic's Barbados to Brazil cruise. Guests can explore the Royal Botanic Gardens in Port of Spain, stroll through Georgetown and take it all in on Salvation Islands as part of the 19-day itinerary. Travellers will also have the chance to cruise down the Amazon River, witnessing one of the world's last remaining eco-paradises with jaguars, harpy eagles and pink river dolphins. Prices for the itinerary lead in from £6,980 per person based on two sharing for an October 12th, 2025 departure. www.swanhellenic.com

Exclusivity in the Galapagos

IT IS time to cross that once-in-a-lifetime destination of your clients' wish list as andBeyond will launch an expedition yacht in the Galapagos for June 2024. The *Galapagos Explorer* will welcome 12 guest on board alongside two trained guides and operate two seven-night routes through the Islands. Rates for both the exclusive itineraries lead in from US\$10,950 per person sharing. www.andbeyond.com



Kuoni clues up on trendy destinations

KUONI'S NEW Travel Forecast report collates findings from the January and February peaks sales period, with bucket list spots and off-the-beaten-track hidden gems climbing the ranks.

Early signs for the top destinations of the year ahead point towards Mauritius, Thailand and Greece.

Namibia, Sri Lanka, and Portugal also enjoyed strong portions of the year's demand throughout January and February.

www.kuoni.com



Intrepid Travel grows 18-35 range

DOUBLING DOWN on a demographic that continues to display its urge for adventure, Intrepid Travel has expanded its 18-to-29 range to 35.

15 new trips have already been introduced this year exclusively to the young travel label, including 'Essential South Korea' from £1,043, 'Six Days in Iceland' from £985, and 'One Week in Morocco' from £352.

www.intrepidtravel.com/18-35s

Slow travel sets the pace for DTH Travel

DTH TRAVEL has turned its focus from establishing its new brand identity to offering authentic, community-centric travel experiences.

Following its rebrand at WTM 2023, the DMC has confirmed a notable rise in sales for last year, exceeding targets by over a quarter. That momentum appears to be carrying the DMC into 2024, with January sales up against 2023.

The rebrand brought with it a realignment of DTH's product focus, with CEO Stephan Roemer explaining that "repositioning ourselves as pioneers of authentic travel experiences has had a very positive impact."

In light of guests looking for those 'authentic' experiences, DTH Travel has introduced several new tours, which Stephan has described as "surprising adventures and heartwarming experiences."



Those include a nine-day 'Cycling Holiday in North Vietnam', where each day guarantees a scenic two-wheeled adventure only matched by the next. Prices lead in at £960 per person between May and October 2024. Contact UK director of sales David Carlaw at david.carlaw@dth.travel for more information.

www.dth.travel

An invite to Discover Egypt

DISCOVER EGYPT'S new brochure, spanning both Egyptian and Jordanian adventures throughout 2024 and 2025, features a whole range of North African experiences. From cruises on the River Nile and Lake Nasser, city breaks in Cairo, Aswan and Luxor plus resort breaks on the Red Sea Riviera, very few stones are left unturned.

Highlights of the 2024/25 Egypt & Jordan collection include a seven-night Nile adventure aboard the five-star *MS Tulip*, all-suite *Sonesta Star Goddess* or the deluxe *Alexander the Great* (new for 2025) with prices from £1,839 per person.

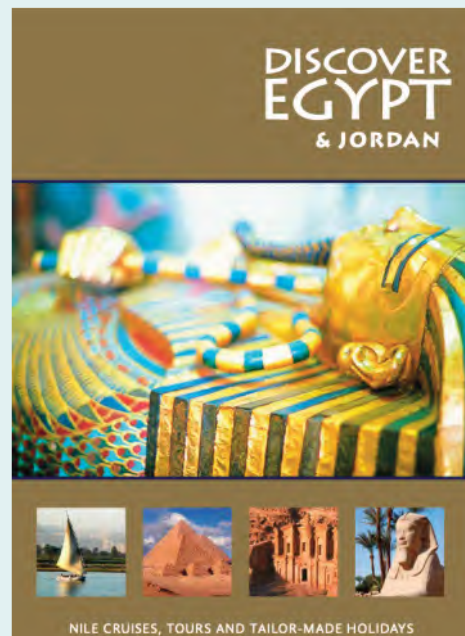
The seven-day 'Classic Jordan' private escorted tour, visiting the ruined city of Petra, Wadi Rum, and the Dead Sea, along with a stay in the capital, Amman.

A 16-day option swaps the classic for the spectacular, aptly titled 'Spectacular Egypt and Jordan'. Blending a twin-centre stay with a seven-night Nile cruise, the bumper itinerary blends the best of both worlds.

Philip Breckner, Discover Egypt's commercial director, said the brochure collates a "comprehensive choice of great value holidays... to suit most tastes and budgets."

The e-brochure is available for order via TradeGate or can be viewed online.

www.discoveregypt.co.uk



NILE CRUISES, TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAYS

Antarctica exploration in pole position

LEADER IN boutique Antarctica expeditions, Antarctica21 is adding another vessel to its fleet as the *Magellan Discoverer* is set to join her sister ship in the icy waters for the 2026/2027 season.

The decision to increase its fleet came from the heightened demand globally for Antarctica fly and cruise expeditions, with the White Continent now holding a pole position on many bucket lists.

Jaime Vásquez, president of Antarctica21, highlights the company's "dedication to sustainability" all the while offering "seamless comfort" for travellers.

"With its modern elegance and advanced technical features, [the ship] provides an unparalleled travel experience in the spectacular Antarctica region," he said.

The current vessel cruising the Antarctica

waters is the *Magellan Explorer*, allowing guests to get an up close and personal experience with the white wilderness.

Expeditions currently available include the eight-day 'Classic Antarctica' from US\$15,995; the 10-day 'Polar Circle' from US\$22,795; and the six-day 'Antarctica Express' from US\$6,495.

www.antarctica21.com



Spend Christmas on the slopes

SKI BEAT has announced that two thirds of ski holiday bookings are now being made for the 2024/2025 ski season.

Holidaymakers are looking to add an adrenaline rush to their festivities as Christmas and New Year's booking for this year has seen a strong increase in demand.

www.skibeat.co.uk



G Adventures gets in the goodwill groove

ADVENTUROUS OPERATOR G Adventures has launched its third 'G Trek For Good' fundraising trek, set to take place this March. Senior members of the UK's travel community will join the adventure to COlombia's Lost City, taking on one of South America's most challenging routes in support of Planeterra and ABTA LifeLine.

The latter's director, Trudie Clements, said she was "delighted that 21 travel colleagues are lacing up their boots and taking on an adventure of a lifetime in support of two great causes."



Untouched Aussie ultra-luxury

PRACTICALLY UNTOUCHED ultra-luxury awaits down under on the Kimberley Coast.

Labelled by Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours as one to watch for 2024, the corner of Western Australia is home to diverse land formations and unique wildlife: you might be hard-pressed to find a more suitable

backdrop for a textbook Aussie adventure.

Scenic's 'Discover the Kimberley Coastline: An Ancient Wilderness' itinerary ticks off the coastal must-dos, and starts from £8,236 per person including return flights and private door-to-door transfers.

www.scenic.co.uk

Image Credits: Top Left: Antarctica21, Top Right: SkiBeat, Bottom Left: Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours, Bottom Right: G Adventures

GREECE MAKES HISTORY

Planet Weddings is just one of many operators welcoming the news that Greece has legalised same-sex marriage



THE GREEK Government earlier this year made the historic decision to legalise same-sex marriage, a feat that has been a long time coming and marks a pivotal milestone for the future of the country.

For Greece's tourism industry, the news couldn't come soon enough for the wedding sector, with wedding and honeymoon packages to the destination already a top seller. Planet Weddings, a specialist for destination nuptials, has welcomed the news with open arms and is ready to enhance its offering to suit every happy couple.

Mathilde Robert, managing director of Planet Weddings, has said that the

operator is "thrilled to see Greece taking this important step" and they "look forward to helping LGBTQ+ couples create memories that will last a lifetime". Mathilde also stressed the importance of providing "all travel agents with the support and guidance they may need to help their clients plan their dream wedding".

Greece remains one of the top sellers for short-haul destination weddings, and that trend is only set to continue with the news as more couples will wish to tie the knot in Grecian paradise, whether they prefer a more serene celebration in Kefalonia or a reception party for the ages in Mykonos.

Planet Weddings currently features 13 destinations in its Greece portfolio, including Crete, Santorini, Rhodes, Skopelos Kos and Thasos, offering 63 venues with more added yearly. Agents can now book their clients' dream wedding with the operator for 2024 and 2025, and 2026 for select venues. www.planetweddings.co.uk

Luxurious nuptials at Nova

LOCATED ON the South Ari Atoll, Nova Maldives is a must-visit residence for honeymooners and wedding parties to celebrate in luxurious style.

Offering three tiers of wedding packages, complete with floating breakfasts, candlelit dinners under the stars and a dedicated wedding coordinator, the happy couple can sit back and relax as the resort creates their dream day for them. The packages 'Ocean Promises', 'Sandy Toes' and 'A Sun-Kissed Kind of Love' are available to book through the website, with prices leading in from US\$1,700. www.nova-maldives.com

Private island paradise

RETREAT TO a private island in the Zambezi River for a honeymoon with a twist. The Sindabezi Island Lodge's Honeymoon Chalet oozes romance with only the moon and wildlife as company in this tranquil paradise. Newlyweds can immerse into the African bush experience in true luxury and have the chance to marvel at the Victoria Falls and, if they time it right, experience the magic of the lunar rainbow spectacular. Prices lead in at US\$650 per person per night. www.greensafaris.com



Sea-sons of love: Explora Journeys' honeymoon alternative

IT IS not just beach getaways and private islands that make the best honeymoon options for your clients. Explora Journeys' head of sales, Priti Mehta, urges agents to consider luxury cruises for their clients' consideration for their special holiday.

"Perfect for land lovers who are new to cruise, we offer a different style of luxury travel for honeymooners, comparable to more traditional honeymoon suites. EXPLORA I and EXPLORA II offer intimate and exclusive European luxury at sea," she said.

An example of Explora Journey's unique romantic offering is the 14-night 'Extended Journey of Colourful Caribbean Escapes', departing on December 6th, 2024 for a round trip to Miami. Honeymooners can journey through the kaleidoscope of colours the Caribbean boasts while exploring destinations such as the British Virgin

Islands, Martinique, Barbados, Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts and Nevis, to name only a few.

Prices for the itinerary lead in from £7,200 per person on an all-inclusive basis. Honeymooners also have the option to stay in the Ocean Residences suites, offering a tranquil sanctuary with private decks, panoramic views and a butler service.

Couples on board can indulge in couples' massages in the Privacy Spa Suite, as well as aromatherapy sessions and facial treatments.

www.explorajourneys.com



Mulia Bali: a timeless love story awaits

A DECADE-long love story is unfolding in Bali and is encouraging newlyweds to come and join the celebration of timeless love.

The Mulia, Mulia Resort & Villas – Nusa Dua, Bali, is nestled against the expanse of the Indian Ocean and beckons couples to immerse into the embodying romance of the resort.

Couples can take advantage of a limited-time offer where couples who confirm their wedding at Mulia Bali before July 2024 will be gifted a three-night honeymoon escape at The Mulia which can be enjoyed within one year of the couple tying the knot.

Offering exclusive weddings, Mulia Bali has evolved into a lovers' paradise and boasts an array of venues perfect for saying "I do." From white beaches and lush gardens to regal ballrooms and glass chapels, Mulia Bali offers a diverse spectrum of possibilities to make every wedding day a dream.

www.themulia.com/bali



Maldivian marriages: Kandima offers it all

HERALDED AS a dream wedding location, the Maldives has plenty to offer betrothed couples looking to spend their perfect day in paradise. Kandima Maldives, located on a 3km island in the Dhaalu Atoll, promises a day the couple will never forget, with a selection of signature wedding packages to choose from.

The happy couple can indulge in a

ceremony on the beach, complete with a decorative set up, a multi-course beachfront dinner, a photoshoot to commemorate the occasion and a sunset cruise designed especially for the newlyweds to enjoy their first moments of married life together. The full collection of wedding packages can be found on the website.

www.kandima.com

Image Credits: Top: Explora Journeys, Top Right: The Mulia, Bottom: Kandima Maldives

Sun, sea and ceremonies: Sunlife brings the whole package

NATURAL BEAUTY, luxury and adventure, what more could your clients need from their dream wedding and honeymoon celebration? Sunlife is boosting its weddings and honeymoons offering with more lavish plans and bigger celebrations for the happy couples as they have the time of their lives in Mauritius.

Sunlife boasts four seafront resorts to choose from, each with their own touch of magic that will suit any couple's taste. At the five-star Sugar Beach, the manor-style resort allows for a decadent atmosphere for the ceremony, with the 'Putting on the Ritz' package available for guests to visit the Sugar Beach stylists for a head-to-toe makeover to ensure they

are wedding ready. Prices for Sugar Beach wedding packages lead in from £550 per couple.

For a more tranquil setting, the Long Beach resort offers an array of wedding venues, from luscious gardens to white sandy beaches. Prices for the Long Beach packages lead in from £460 per person. www.yoursunlife.com



Estonia waves the flag of marriage equality

EARLIER THIS year, Estonia proudly joined many other countries worldwide in recognising marriage equality by legalising same-sex marriage, marking a momentous occasion for the Baltic states. The Prime Minister of Estonia, Kaja Kallas, said she is "proud of Estonia" and the legalisation of same-sex marriage "shows that our society is caring and respectful towards each other". While it has been legal since 2016 for same-sex couples to register for civil partnership, June 2023 saw the country take the next step in marriage equality, a law that became effective last month, meaning any and all couples who wish to tie the knot and celebrate their love can do so.

What was your favourite fairytale as a child?

Jeanette Ratcliffe
Publisher

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The Emperor's New Clothes - it always makes me chuckle!



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The Three Little Pigs!



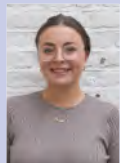
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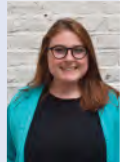
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Travel bulletin

SHOWCASES

INVITES YOU TO A

FAMILY HOLIDAYS SHOWCASE

AGENT NETWORKING EVENING

TUESDAY **7TH MAY**
COUNTY DURHAM

WEDNESDAY **8TH MAY**
CARLISLE

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to one of these fun and informative events, enabling you to learn more about the the diverse range of destinations, family friendly resorts and hotels and fantastic facilities. The evening will involve networking and presentations along with a delicious hot dinner, drinks, exciting entertainment and a free prize draw with prizes galore!



TIMINGS:

Registration
& Drinkst
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}

Event
Ends
9:30^{PM}

FEATURES:

GRECOTEL
HOTELS & RESORTS



SPL
VILLAS

Tunisia
INSPIRING

To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by Thursday 2nd May 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.

Travel Bulletin

SHOWCASES

Invites you to a

Luxury Holidays Showcase

Agent networking evening

Monday 22nd April Solihull | Tuesday 23rd April Wilmslow

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to one of these fun and informative events, enabling you to learn more about the luxury holidays industry from leading luxury suppliers. The evening will involve networking and presentations along with a delicious hot dinner, drinks, exciting entertainment and a free prize draw with prizes galore!



FEATURING

CONSTANTINOU BROS
HOTELS
PAFOS CYPRUS

MINOS
collection

ALULA

ras al khaimah

RIVIERA
TRAVEL

THANOS
hotels and resorts

DOMES
RESORTS & RESERVES

SPL
VILLAS

the Seychelles
Islands (re)born

LOUIS HOTELS

EMERALD
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finolhu
baa atoll ***** maldives

visit Portugal

TIMINGS

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

To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by Thursday 18th April 2024 to: events@travelbulletin.co.uk or Telephone: 020 7973 0136

THESE EVENTS ARE BY INVITATION ONLY
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