

travelbulletin

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Giving agents the edge

NEWS BULLETIN

All the latest industry updates from around the world

AGENT INSIGHT

Andy LaGette on how agents can stay proactive in these trying times

SPAIN & ITS ISLANDS

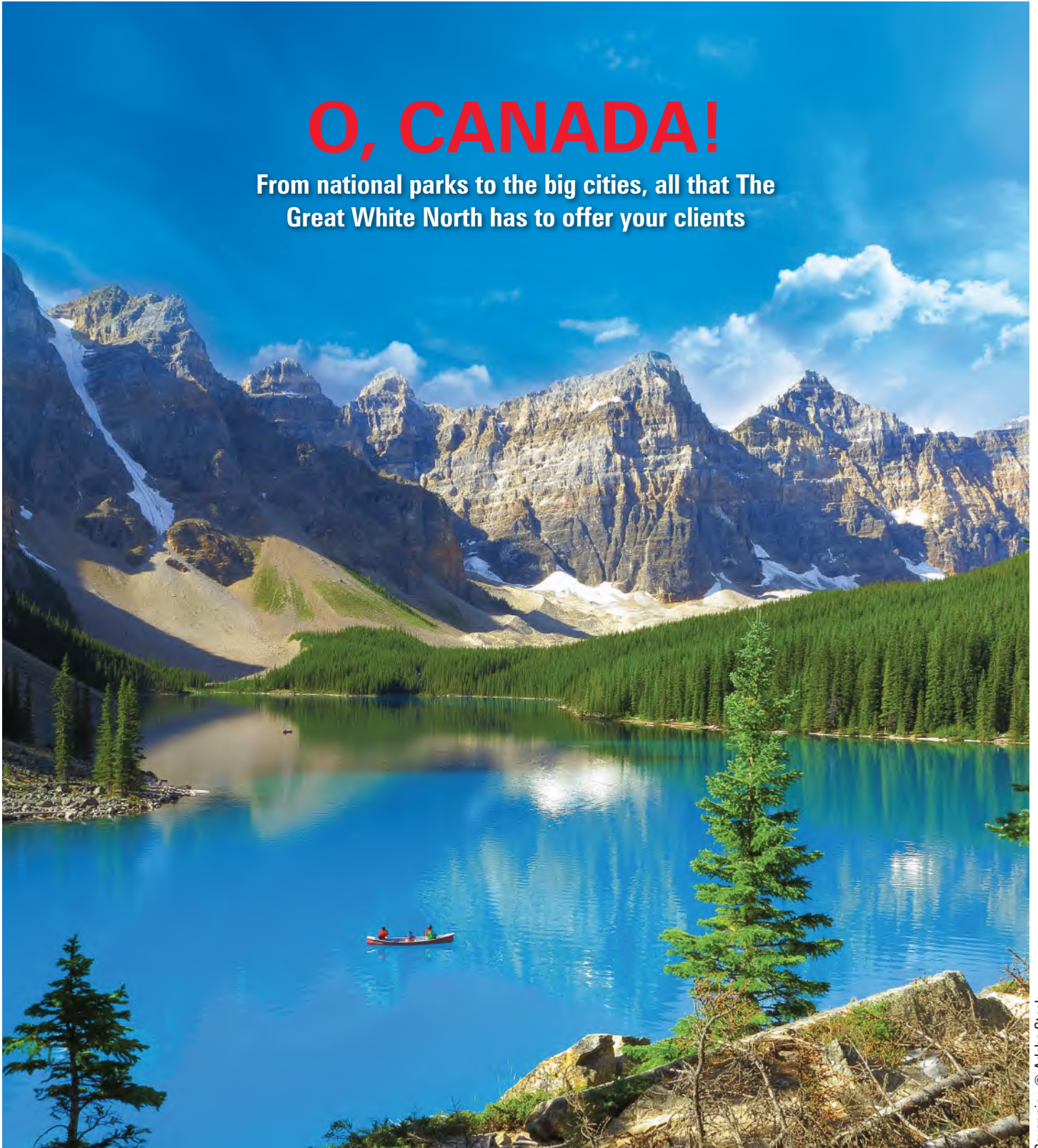
Uncovering all the latest hotel openings and tour options to get your clients stuck into Spain

WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS

More romantic escapes to discover both at home and abroad

O, CANADA!

From national parks to the big cities, all that The Great White North has to offer your clients



travelbulletin

 VIRTUAL TRAINING

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VIENNA
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CONSTANTINOUS BROS
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 **Malta**
Tourism Authority


the seychelles islands
another world

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THE THIRD IN A SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

THURSDAY 15th OCTOBER at 2PM

Receive updates and learn top selling tips from leading industry suppliers during their short but informative presentations, then connect with them during a live Q&A session to try and win some amazing prizes!

TIMINGS

2pm

Webinar Welcome From
Your Travel Bulletin Host

2:05pm – 2:45pm

Supplier
Presentations

2:45pm

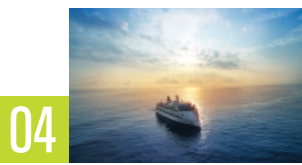
Live Q & A Session
and Prizes

3:15pm

Webinar
Ends

FOR FREE REGISTRATION CLICK HERE

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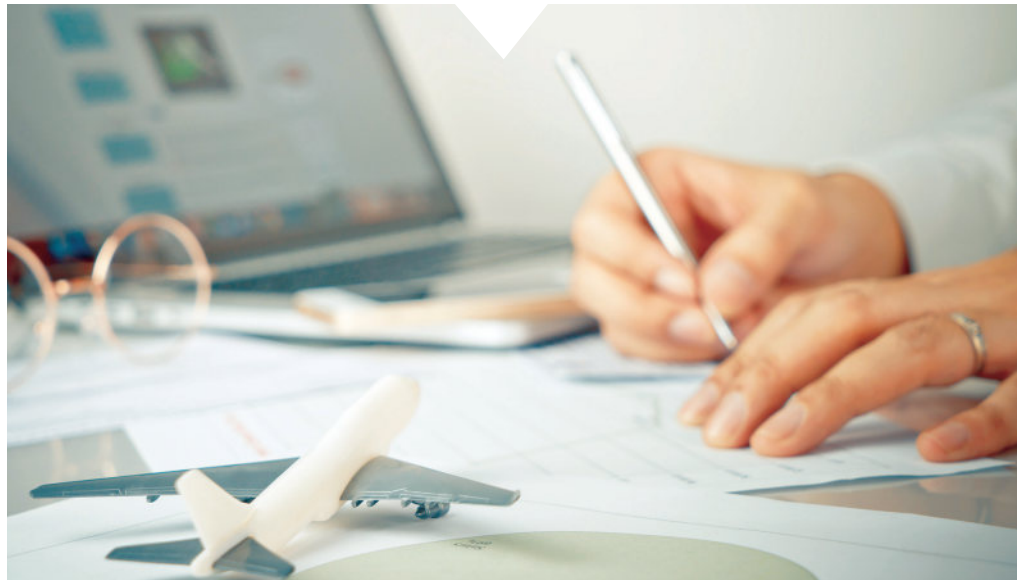
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ITALY

Bucket list trips for your clients to enjoy.

THE AGENT IS KING

A survey by The Personal Travel Agents at Co-operative Travel has revealed that demand for the traditional travel agent is set to spike, following the holiday headaches caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Brits are seeking out expert advice from travel agents for their next holiday.

ACCORDING TO a survey conducted by The Personal Travel Agents at Co-operative Travel, 79% of respondents would be more inclined to book with a travel agent, going forward, due to the impact of COVID-19 on taking a holiday abroad. Only 21% said that they would continue to book their holidays directly online.

According to the poll, a staggering 85% of customers missed out on a holiday in 2020, due to COVID-19, generating a significant degree of pent-up demand. When asked about their travel plans for the coming year, 73% said they will be taking a holiday abroad – 22% if they have to quarantine and 51% only if

they don't.

"The expertise and financial protection that booking with a travel agent provides has never been more crucial to holidaymakers than it is right now, said Sheena Whittle, head of The Personal Travel Agents at Co-operative Travel. "Our survey shows that customers are eager to get away on holiday but are concerned and confused by the quarantine rules and the ever changing FCO advice. As a result, they are seeking out trusted travel agents to help them decide where and how to holiday; to remove the headache of having to cancel or amend a holiday booking, should travel restrictions come into force;

and to give them peace of mind that their money is protected and they will be taken care of if some something goes wrong."

In terms of the type of holiday that customers are craving, the traditional beach break came out on top, in the survey, with 78% of respondents choosing "beach" over city breaks (34%), cruises (17%) and touring holidays (10%).

Europe was the most popular destination, with 78% beating the Caribbean (25%), USA (19%), Indian Ocean/Africa (14%) and Dubai/Middle East (9%).

To read the full survey, visit www.thepersonaltravelagents.co.uk



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Aurora Expeditions launches 2022 trips

AURORA EXPEDITIONS has launched an array of new itineraries for 2022, including: 'Alaska and Haida Gwaii', 'The North West Passage' and 'The Russian Far East'.

All trips will take place aboard the purpose-built expedition ships, the Greg Mortimer, and the Sylvia Earle.

Pre-registration for the new voyages is now open to travel trade partners who have been responding to pent-up travel demand. Voyages will go on sale on October 27, 2020, and the benefit of pre-registration is first access to exclusive early bird offers and the ability to reserve first choice of cabins. Craig Upshall, director of sales for UK and Europe, said, "Whilst Aurora Expeditions has been synonymous with the more



Aurora Expeditions' new ship Sylvia Earle will be a part of 2021 voyages.

traditional polar regions of the European Arctic and the Antarctic Peninsula, the arrival of the new ship Sylvia Earle in the autumn of 2021, and a new global voyages programme, will ensure that Aurora Expeditions continues to offer innovative and intrepid voyages to remote locations and hard-to-reach islands."

The 2022 global

programme offers adventurers the chance to explore in the company of experts, disembarking the ship in small groups either on foot or on-board zodiacs to experience the destination, its unique wildlife, and each location's cultural opportunities.

www.auroraexpeditions.co.uk/pre-registration-2020

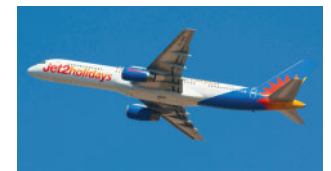
A protected promise with easyJet

WITH HOLIDAYMAKERS

demanding increased security and flexibility, easyJet holidays has launched its Protection Promise.

According to recent research carried out by easyJet Holidays, more than 33 million British travellers' plans have been disrupted by COVID-19 this year.

The new report, 'Taking the Temperature: Consumer holiday trends in 2020 and beyond' reveals that more than half, (52%), of Brits are only willing to book a holiday abroad if they feel confident and if their money is protected – showing consumers are looking for increased flexibility and security from holiday providers.



As a recourse, easyJet holidays has launched its new Protection Promise, in addition to the short-term commitments the company has made, to support customers' bookings that are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Protection Promise allows the company to cancel any holidays to a destination where a known quarantine or self-isolation requirement has been put in place. Any customer refunds resulting from the decision will be processed in an average of 12 days.

www.easyjet.com/en/holidays/info/protection-promise

AMS model sees a record number of agent turnout

THE ADVANTAGE Travel Partnership has added a record number of agents to its AMS model in the last quarter.

Since July 1, 2020, seven new branches have signed up for the model, which is double the usual number of signups. Advantage has also seen an increase in recruitment enquiries since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the travel agent consortium is currently liaising with over 40 separate branches, ranging from start-ups to existing businesses.

Advantage Managed Service (AMS) offers

agents value for money, combined with the peace of mind vital to running a travel business, as all pipeline monies are protected in a trust account. All AMS members are supported by a dedicated finance contact, are not charged for technology and the service provides net rate merchant fees, with ATOL options and in class marketing support.

For more information, visit www.advantagemembers.com/managed-services.html



Pining for Peru with Exodus Travels

EXODUS TRAVELS offers a trip to Southern Peru in March 2021, covering the stretch from Nazca to Arequipa within a 16-night holiday, titled 'Essential Peru'.

The trip includes a peek into traditional Peruvian culture, and a glimpse of condors, llamas, as well as diverse topography which encompasses coastal desert and the snow-capped Andean peaks, and Lake Titicaca, where the night is spent in an island homestay.

Exodus Travels offers 'Essential Peru' from £2,849, including flights, bed-and-breakfast, accommodation, activities, transport and a tour leader. www.exodus.co.uk

Hong Kong Tourism Board launches 2021 Travel Trade Manual

THE HONG Kong Tourism Board (HKTb) has announced the launch of the 2020/2021 Travel Trade Manual.

The comprehensive manual is a useful tool to help travel industry professionals expand and promote their knowledge to clients.

The easy-to-read guide covers 158 pages and addresses a range of topics about Hong Kong across various subjects:

Hong Kong Fast Facts: Focused on the city's history and culture.

Events and Festivals: A city-wide calendar is available.

Dining: From traditional family run diners to Michelin-starred restaurants.

MICE: One of Asia's MICE capitals, Hong Kong provides an array of immersive experiences for events of all sizes.

Attractions and sightseeing: An overview of Hong Kong's top attractions, as well as some of the lesser known hidden gems.

Accommodation and travel tips: Aimed to provide useful tips for all visitors.

HKTb has designed the guide as a planning resource; however, the tourism board is also



The Travel Trade Manual provides an overview of the city.

on hand via their London office to assist agents with planning and tailored information.

Dawn Page, director UK and Northern Europe at HKTb, said, "Our digital travel trade manual is an excellent resource for travel agents wanting to plan the best trips possible for their clients. Along with information of where to stay, the best dining spots and activities, we have ensured the manual provides off the beaten path ideas – such as hiking, beautiful sandy beaches and our lesser known islands and neighbourhoods."

www.partneret.hktb.com/en/trade_support/publications_and_collateral/index.html

LATA offers sixth months free membership

THE LATIN American Travel Association (LATA) has announced that it is going to provide six months free membership for all members. New members would be entitled to 18 months for the price of 12, with the first six months free-of-charge.

Colin Stewart, chairman of LATA, said: "In 2019, travel and tourism in Latin America contributed \$298.9 billion (USD) to the economy, accounting for 8.1% of the GDP and 16.9 million jobs. At LATA, we are in a strong position to support our members and

have built up financial reserves which enable us to give free membership to all our members for six months.

"During these challenging times, our role at LATA is to support our members and to work with them to help pave the road to recovery. We appreciate the challenges that members are faced with at present and we do not want to lose our valuable members due to the impact of this pandemic."

For more information on LATA, visit www.lata.travel

Virtual visits with Paul Gauguin

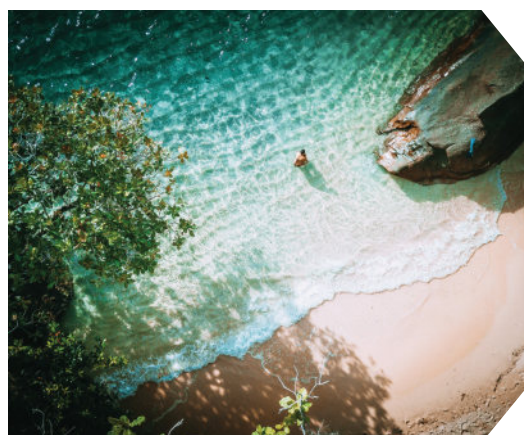
PAUL GAUGUIN Cruises is offering agents the opportunity to join a virtual ship visit on Tuesday, October 20.

Led by Elaine Gillard, Paul Gauguin Cruises' UK marketing director, the virtual ship visit will comprise of a full tour of the ship including all public areas and accommodation grades as well as a tour of Motu Mahana, the cruise line's private islet off the coast of Taha'a. Here, guests can enjoy sunbathing, swimming, snorkelling, kayaking, Polynesian activities, a full-service bar, a floating lagoon bar and a delicious barbecue.



Commenting on the virtual ship visit, Elaine Gillard, Crystal's UK marketing director, said: "This new virtual ship visit is a fantastic opportunity for our agent partners to familiarise themselves with the m/s Paul Gauguin and I'm sure it will be a huge help to them when talking to potential customers."

To book their place, agents can email at sales@cruiseportfolio.co.uk



Seychelles Tourism Board launches 'Experience Seychelles' campaign

THE SEYCHELLES Tourism Board (STB) has launched the second phase of its digital campaign – 'Experience Seychelles'.

Amidst times of uncertainty, the 'Experience Seychelles; our home, your sanctuary' campaign gives travellers worldwide hope to escape the harsh realities they are currently facing, by calling them to submerge themselves in the natural allure of this pristine paradise.

After intensive preparations, the Seychelles Islands have been welcoming tourists back on its shores since June 1, 2020, through chartered and private flights and has already reopened its borders to UK travellers, as of October 1.

To watch the video, visit www.youtu.be/ZCFEIHIG-A8



AGENT INSIGHT

ANDY LAGETTE

TRAVEL COUNSELLORS

A STARK reality of being a home-working franchisee and business owner is that if you don't book holidays, you don't get paid. COVID-19 has starved us of bookings and income, so it has forced us to re-write our strategies for 2020 – we must stay on our toes during this pandemic.

However, it is not all doom and gloom. Sure, reconciling the fact that there will be little or no income this year is a bitter and frightening pill to swallow, but we need to get over it and look towards making the best of this tough situation.

Small businesses rarely operate at optimum speed. That is to say that there is either too much or too little going on. The reality is that we can go years without changing or refreshing our working practices – we all know the age old saying, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

We don't keep in touch with our all-important customers, and we don't refresh and adapt our medium and long-term business plans. The upside of all this is that it has given us the time and the head-space to give our businesses the full spring clean that they may need.

As much as we would love to, we cannot switch on the magic travel tap – we need to be patient. However, at the same time we must guard against passivity and laziness. We need to keep busy, and stay sharp so that we are in the best possible position when that tap does eventually turn on.

There is lots of talk of mental health, and rightly so. We need to take breaks to stay fresh. We need to talk to colleagues to keep perspective and to be reassured that we are not going through this alone. We need to update our training and maybe take on a new skill or two, and we certainly need to reach out to customers – do a few a day – just to see how they are, and let them know you are OK.

There is a lot that we cannot do this year, but at the same time there is also so much more that we can.

Make sure that you seize the opportunities.



SET AMIDST lush tropical vegetation, Pullman Maldives Maamutaa Resort boasts 122 opulent villas, which includes the two new exclusive Aqua Villas, featuring underwater bedrooms. November and December are some of the best times to visit the Maldives, with temperatures around 29 degrees. Rates start from £935, based on two people sharing per night. www.pullmanmaldivesmaamutaa.com

Cruising with Cunard in 2021

CUNARD'S NEW 2021 itineraries for ship Queen Elizabeth, consisting of new scenic voyages around the British Isles, three-day to 14-day voyages around Europe and a return to Mediterranean fly-cruises, have gone on sale.

The programme starts in Southampton on March 26, 2021, with a series of overnight port calls to Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Lisbon, Rotterdam, Singapore and Auckland, with late evening departures from Amsterdam, Barcelona, Rotterdam, Aqaba, Colombo and Fremantle and concludes in Melbourne, Australia on December 19, 2021.

The 2021 itineraries have the option of an upgrade promotion – prices for a Balcony state room, with the promotion, start at £299 per person for a British Isles scenic cruise.



Cunard president, Simon Palethorpe, said, "We are thrilled to announce such a broad new programme for Queen Elizabeth, with sailings from Southampton and, later in 2021, from Barcelona."

www.cunard.com/sailing-with-confidence



THE PACIFIC Resorts, Cook Islands has released a new travel trade tool kit. The kit covers its luxury properties: Pacific Resort Aitutaki, Te Manava Luxury Villas & Spa, Little Polynesian Resort and Pacific Resort Rarotonga. It includes fact sheets, webinars on each property, details on new safety measures, links to images, wedding and honeymoon planners and more.
www.pacificresort.com/pacific-resort-hotel-group-trade-tool-kit

AGENT TRAINING

TRAVEL TRADES rewards site, MyBookingRewards.com has launched a new sister resource site to share information on hotel openings, training events, webinars and competitions. Already populated with a wide range of openings and virtual events, the site is free for any agent to access. Agents receiving rewards via MyBookingRewards.com receive a [MyBookingRewards](http://MyBookingRewards.com) Mastercard or Visa onto which all monetary rewards can be loaded. www.mytraveltradeinfo.com

OUTRIGGER HOSPITALITY Group has further upgraded Outrigger Expert Advisor (OEA), a superior rewards programme and comprehensive platform to provide travel agents with engaging education modules, special member benefits and tools to create memorable experiences for guests. As part of the programme, advisors can now earn unlimited reward points for use toward their next dream beach vacation in select Outrigger Resorts and Hotels in Mauritius, Fiji and Hawaii.
agent.outrigger.com



AGENT INCENTIVES

- **SANDALS RESORTS** is now allowing agents to use its Sell & Go rewards to book night stays at the company’s resorts in St Lucia and Antigua, for travel up to November 30, 2020. The Sell & Go programme allows agents to earn one free night for every luxury room category booking they make, two nights for every club or concierge room booking they make and three free nights for every butler suite booking. Flights are not included.
www.sellingsandals.co.uk
- **PURE LUXURY**, the luxury specialist brand that’s part of the Gold Medal family, has teamed up with the Thailand Tourism Authority to give 10 lucky travel agents the chance to visit Thailand in 2021 as part of a luxury familiarisation trip to the country. There are three ways for agents to secure a place on this exciting trip, including filling out a dedicated form, sharing sales tips on selling trips to Thailand, and the final three places will be awarded to the agents who record the best Thailand sales for Pure Luxury and Gold Medal. The deadline for all three is October 18. Contact phil.bloomfield@dnata.com for more information.
- **IF ONLY...** have teamed up with Zoëtry Wellness & Spa Resorts to reward one lucky travel agent with a luxury spa break for two as part of their joint marketing campaign: Find Zen in the Caribbean. In order to scoop the luxury spa break and earn some lavish down time, agents should make as many bookings as possible for the Zoëtry properties throughout Mexico, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic from now until November 31, 2020. At the end of this period, If Only... will pick the agent who has booked the greatest total number of room nights to receive the prize, which will be booked for a local spa retreat of their choice. Winners will be selected at the beginning of December 2020, and announced on the If Only... Partners Facebook Page.

PRINCESS

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ABTA CLIA CLIR

Antigua and Barbuda is still open for business

WHILE MANY countries have shut their borders and are enforcing quarantine restrictions, the Caribbean islands of Antigua and Barbuda remain open for business and are keen to keep on welcoming tourists from the UK.

The islands of Antigua and Barbuda have successfully retained their place on the UK government's quarantine exemption list, following a summer of scuppered European holiday plans, making it the perfect destination for an autumn getaway, a family break this half-term or to enjoy some much-needed winter sun.

As the islands prepare for their busy period, the Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez, highlighted that



Antigua and Barbuda remain on the UK's quarantine exemption list.

Covid-19 protocols would still require visitors to travel with their negative PCR test, wear facial masks when social distancing was not possible and adhere to other protocols stipulated by the Ministry of Health.

An example of a stay you can book your clients on, is at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort & Spa. Located on Antigua's most famous

beach, Dickenson Bay, guests can explore the beachside village, enjoy world-class restaurants, and relax on pure white sands. A stay in one of the resort's Caribbean Deluxe Rooms starts from £2,085 per person, departing from London Heathrow on selected dates between January 1-31, 2021.

www.sandals.co.uk

Bag a seat sale with Cathay Pacific

CATHAY PACIFIC is offering special business class fares from London Heathrow to Hong Kong and Australia for a limited time.

Customers can enjoy business class to Hong Kong from £1,895, while one-way economy class flights for Hong Kong are from £455, whilst return are from £475. For those who are looking to connect down under, return flights to Sydney, Perth and Melbourne in Australia are from £705.

With travel periods stretching into August, 2021, for select destinations, agents can plan their client's holidays well in advance.

The sale is on now, and ends at 23:59 on October 17, 2020.

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Contact our team to open an account or for your log-in details: UKSales@drive-away.com
DriveAway already work with Advantage, PTS & Travel Network Group members

<https://partners.drive-away.com>

Elegant Resorts launches mini-brochure

ELEGANT RESORTS has launched its first mini-brochure of 2020, 'Reconnect With The World', focusing on Thailand and on the brand's luxury United Kingdom and Ireland portfolio, introduced when the demand for staycations was soaring.

The brochure provides details on facilities which boost travelling with confidence for clients, such as VIP airport assistance, including a personal concierge at major UK airports; assistance of destination offices; 24-hour emergency in-resort contacts; guidance about the new protocols and procedures; and, access to travel advice with respect to the latest changes as well as any help with Passenger Locator Forms.



A highlight of the brochure includes an early booking offer at Six Senses Laamu, Maldives, which includes a seven-night stay in a Lagoon Water Villa at £2,950 per person, based on a June 9, 2021 departure. The offer is valid from April 11 until September 30, 2021, and needs to be booked at least 30 days prior to arrival. The package includes complimentary half-board accommodation, 35% rate reduction and a 30% reduction on transfers, saving up to £4,000 per couple.

www.elegantresorts.co.uk

SUDOKU

Win a £50 M&S voucher in the **travelbulletin** Su Doku prize puzzle A

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, October 22nd. Solution and new puzzle will appear in our next issue.

The winner for September 25th is Steve Guy, Millington Travel Kettering..

September 25th Solution: A=1 B=6 C=5 D=9

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



WHERE AM I?

Commissioned by a famous Russian tsar in response to Louis XVI building the Palace of Versailles in France, this building is part of a grand palace complex which was designed to demonstrate how Russia was modernising.

CROSSWORD

Fill in the crossword to reveal the mystery location highlighted by the green squares.

1			2		3		4
		5					
6				7			8
			9				
10		11				12	13
				14			
15							
16							

Across

- 1. Fred. Olsen cruise ship (5,5)
- 5. Resort area of Poole with sky-high property prices (9)
- 6. The Clifton Suspension Bridge spans this scenic Gorge (4)
- 7. French city and lake (6)
- 10. Hotels and Resorts brand (6)
- 12. Capital of the Algarve region (4)
- 15. Barbary Macaques inhabit this Rock (9)
- 16. State capital of Louisiana (5,5)

Down

- 1. Kenneth, starred most recently as Poirot in Murder on the Orient Express (7)
- 2. One of the Home Counties (4)
- 3. State capital of New York (6)
- 4. A boat you'll need to paddle (5)
- 5. San Francisco International airport code (3)
- 8. Capital of Cameroon (7)
- 9. Principality on the French Riviera (6)
- 11. Sign of the Zodiac (5)
- 13. Popular Scottish seaside resort (3)
- 14. Famous ferry linking Hong Kong Island with Kowloon (4)

Mystery word: SOFIA Where am I? - Peterhof Palace, St Petersburg

Solution:
 Across: 1. BLACK WATCH, 5. SANDBANKS, 6. AVON, 7. ANNECY, 10. HILTON, 12. FARO, 15. GIBRALTAR, 16. BATON ROUGE.
 Down: 1. BRANAGH, 2. KENT, 3. ALBANY, 4. CANOE, 5. SFO, 8. YAOUNDE, 9. MONACO, 11. LIBRA, 13. AVR, 14. STAR.

In the hot seat with...

Colin Stewart

LATA Expo



Ahead of LATA Expo, taking place between October 12 and 16, LATA chairman, Colin Stewart, talks to Travel Bulletin.

Can you give an overview of how the pandemic has impacted the Latin American travel industry?

It has been very challenging. In 2019, travel and tourism in Latin America contributed \$298.9 USD to the economy, accounting for 8.1% of the GDP and 16.9 million jobs. During the months of April and May, the number of passenger arrivals into Latin America and the Caribbean dropped by 95%. The WTTC predicts that recovery to 2019 levels will not be achieved until 2025. These statistics put into context the challenges that lie ahead and how the reopening of borders is critical to enable travel and tourism to restart, jobs to be saved and economies to reboot.

What has LATA been doing to support its members?

At LATA, over the last few weeks, we have opened-up dialogue with other associations in the travel sector to discuss and debate recovery strategies following the changes in FCO advice. As ever, we continue to work collaboratively with our LATA members to share ideas and learnings to help pave the road to recovery. We have set

up a number of regular virtual forums, webinar and discussions for different LATA member groups in order to provide them with the latest data and statistics from across the region while also sharing their messages via our Covid-19 recovery hub.

Our charitable arm, the LATA Foundation, set up an emergency Covid-19 appeal to provide a rapid response for those most in need and each month, we are supporting an increased number of charities and grassroots organisations in Latin America.

Also, from 12 to 16 October, we will celebrate , the largest B2B travel event in Europe focused on Latin America.

What is LATA Expo?

The event focuses on pre-scheduled, one-to-one meetings between exhibitors and suppliers as well as the inclusion of keynote seminars and insight into important travel and consumer trends impacting Latin America. Topics will include 'Planning in a Covid era', 'A View from the Top' featuring a panel of industry leaders who will provide insight into the current



climate and their hopes for the future, and 'Future Gazing'; looking at travel trends and data provided by our research partner ForwardKeys.

We appreciate that LATA Expo will not revive our industry overnight, however we hope that it is a step in the right direction in terms of creating dialogue between buyers and suppliers.

How does LATA work with travel agents?

At LATA, one of our main ambitions is to work more closely with travel agents. Over the last year, we have set up our online travel training platform for agents to give them a taste of the different Latin American destinations and we are very pleased with the level of engagement. Down the line, we are also looking at

establishing LATA agent membership and focusing on how we can better equip agents with the tools they need to sell Latin America. We know that whilst some destinations and hotel groups in the area have strong UK representation, there are still large parts of the continent that are relatively unknown amongst agents. We are confident that as the region and the travel industry bounces back, we will strengthen our relationship with agents to build awareness and support sales.

For more information on LATA Expo, visit www.lataexpo.travel

For more information on the Latin American Travel Association (LATA), visit www.lata.travel or contact LATAPR@wearelotus.co.uk.

SPAIN AND ITS ISLANDS



A QUICK GETAWAY

Whether your clients are looking to take a trip this year, or are planning ahead, the Hard Rock Hotel Tenerife provides both family-friendly and adults-only activities.

FIVE-STAR facilities, a full activity programme and an immersive musical experience, that is Hard Rock Hotel Tenerife summed up for your guests looking to take a trip to the Spanish island.

Hard Rock Hotel Tenerife is a great destination for a quick winter getaway. At just a four-hour flight from the UK, the Tenerife hangout features luxury accommodation, combining contemporary interior designs with the style and energy of the Hard Rock brand.

Whether they want to rock or relax, hotel guests will be able to choose from a total of three swimming pools, a saltwater lagoon, beach club and activities such as yoga, paddleboarding and water aerobics, all within the resort, as well as the musical entertainment programme and rock star VIP treatment.

The three-tiered kids clubs keep kids aged from six months all the way up to teens entertained. In addition, the Rock Spa offers a pampering and relaxing environment, with its thermal waters, beauty treatments and



The hotel features many family-friendly activities.

extensive massage menu, including the music infused 'Rhythm & Motion' signature spa treatment.

Jet2 Holidays (jet2holidays.com) offers a seven-night, bed-and-breakfast stay at Hard Rock Hotel Tenerife starting from £602 per person based on two adults staying in the Deluxe Silver Room.

The price includes return flights from London Stansted. Based on February 2021 departures.

www.hardrockhoteltenerife.com

The Ritz-Carlton, Abama launches new web-based app

AGENTS CAN let their clients know about a guest-friendly app at the Ritz-Carlton Abama, a Tenerife-based luxury hotel. As well as guest convenience, the app reduces paper waste and helps with social distancing as it minimises human contact. The web-based 'STAY' app will provide guests with real-time connectivity, revealing the daily programming and activities calendar, highlighting any special events and a destination guide as well as an interactive resort map. For 2020, the timeless island retreat on the south west coast of Tenerife has unveiled a semi-private 'villa



club' concept, ensuring guests have all the space they crave indoors and poolside too. Guests can select from the breakfast menu from the comfort of their own room or suite via the web-based app, and order dinner in-room from restaurants including Michelin-starred options.

www.ritzcarlton.com/abama

DISCOVER THE WHITE ISLE

With 7Pines Kempinski Ibiza announcing early-booking offers for next year, 2021 is likely to be Ibiza's comeback year for your clients.



WITH THE 2020 season being cut short due to international travel restrictions and the closure of bars, beach clubs and nightclubs all summer, 2021 is likely to be Ibiza's comeback year, with travellers keen to return to the Balearic island.

Looking ahead, 7Pines Kempinski Ibiza has announced new 2021 early-booking offers, a new villa experience available at the resort, and a Pershing Yacht Experience package, all available to book now for travel next year. With the increase in demand for privacy with post-lockdown travel, 7Pines Kempinski Ibiza has launched a new villa experience with Villa Bohemia and Villa Es Vedrà.

For clients looking to try out sailing, 7Pines Kempinski Ibiza has launched its Pershing Yacht Experience, a three- and five-night package. For the 2021 season, this Pershing Yacht Experience offer will start from 480 euros per night.

Markus Lueck, general manager at 7Pines Kempinski Ibiza, said, "Charter a boat and sail to the neighbouring island Formentera, for a fantastic day trip. Anchor in a beautiful cala (bay), swimming and snorkeling from the boat in crystalline turquoise water. When you get hungry, simply take the dingy boat to one of the beach restaurants for fresh seafood and a cool beer."

7Pines Kempinski Ibiza currently has an early booking offer, with 20% off their 2021 daily rate (daily rate starting at 300 euros per night) as well as a long stay offer, with 25% off daily rates for stays of eight nights or more.

Pines Kempinski Ibiza is scheduled to open for the 2021 season in between May 1 to October 18.

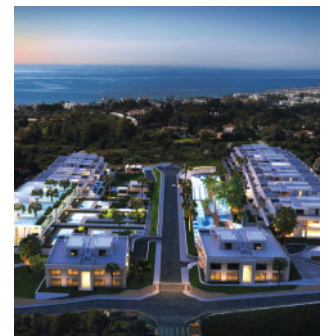
www.kempinski.com/en/ibiza/7-pines-kempinski-ibiza/

FENDI Casa to launch in Marbella

LUXURY PRIVATE developer Sierra Blanca Estates and FENDI Casa, have collaborated to develop EPIC MARBELLA furnished by FENDI Casa, in Marbella.

The hotel consists of 56 timeless residences located in a strategic enclave reaching over twelve acres of land on the Golden Mile of Marbella, one of the most enchanting towns in the province of Málaga.

The Social Club of EPIC MARBELLA offers exclusive and pristine common areas, from modern coworking areas that cater to resident's business needs and entrepreneurial spirit, to childcare areas for families.



EPIC MARBELLA offer residents the possibility to experience the laidback life of Marbella with its avant-garde art and design culture, as well as its sandy beaches and lush surroundings.

www.epicmarbella.com



Ikos Andalusia: a new luxury all-inclusive resort opening in 2021

IKOS ANDALUSIA will open in April 2021, as the fifth addition to Ikos Resorts' collection of luxury all-inclusive resorts and its first property in Spain, featuring 411 elegantly appointed rooms.

Guests can enjoy Ikos Resorts' award-winning all-inclusive concept, including à la carte menus curated by Michelin starred chefs, a choice of 300 wine labels, beach waiter service, complimentary kids' clubs, and 24-hour room service. Guests looking for a bit of daily adventure can explore the area with the use of a MINI car for one full day, enjoy a dine out initiative for local restaurants, and use museum tickets and passes to play golf – all of which are included as part of the stay.

The beachfront resort is located 55-minutes from Malaga airport, 20-minutes from the cosmopolitan centre of Marbella and 15 minutes from the historic town of Estepona.

Rates start from 392 euros per night, based on two people sharing a double room.
www.ikosresorts.com

MENORCA MADNESS

Palladium Hotel Group is set to open the doors of its Menorca property in 2021, promising state-of-the-art facilities set against the stunning backdrop of the Arenal d'en Castell bay.



PALLADIUM HOTEL Menorca will open its doors in 2021.

Palladium Hotel Menorca is situated above Arenal d'en Castell bay on the Balearic Islands' north-eastern coast and overlooks the dramatic cliffs, lush pine forests and sandy beaches that make up the Menorcan landscape.

The four-star hotel offers 264 rooms, ranging from deluxe rooms (sea view options available) to sea view suites. All rooms are furnished with the latest technology and to the luxury modern standard of all Palladium Hotels.

Next to a water park, the hotel is strategically located in an area with all kinds of services and leisure options, restaurants, shops, markets and businesses. Nature lovers will be glad to know that the hotel is set a few kilometres from the nature reserve of S'Albufera.

Fully refurbished, this hotel is ideal for

travellers of all ages. Located in an elevated position with stunning views of Arenal d'en Castell beach, the hotel will feature a whole host of facilities including two restaurants, a splash pool for the kids and a spa for adults to unwind.

Palladium Hotel Group CEO, Abel Matutes, Prats, stated: "These openings represent a very important investment for the company with which we seek to continue growing and improving our products and services, but they also reflect Palladium Hotel Group's commitment to continue promoting sustainable tourism and position us as a benchmark for quality accommodation in the Mediterranean."

Palladium Hotel Group now has 50 properties with more than 14,000 rooms in six countries around the world.

www.palladiumhotelgroup.com

Lanzarote luxury with Hotel Farinones

HOTEL FARINONES, a new luxury five-star hotel in Lanzarote, Las Palmas, officially opened its doors on September 1.

Featuring 213 contemporary rooms, guests can choose from a range of categories, all with outdoor terraces and many with panoramic views over the Atlantic Ocean. A sea view infinity pool and two heated outdoor Jacuzzis encircled by palm trees provide a tranquil setting to enjoy Lanzarote's year-round sunshine, while a rooftop pool offers the best sunset view on the island, overlooking Fuerteventura and The Isla de Lobos.

Four chic bars are spread out across the hotel's grounds including the rooftop bar and a lobby bar, both offering an eclectic mix of cocktails and daily live music in the evenings.



Jet2holidays offers a package deal for a stay at the hotel, with a saving of £100 for summer 2021 holidays.

www.jet2holidays.com



Canary Islands updates COVID-19 travel assistance

THE MINISTRY of Tourism, Industry and Commerce of the Canary Islands Government has closed an agreement with AXA Spain for the subscription of a travel assistance policy applicable to all tourists who travel to the Islands.

Whether foreign or national, The Canary Islands Government has chosen to respond to incidents related to COVID-19, including the need to prolong stays due to quarantine. In the unfortunate case of a positive test for COVID-19, this agreement guarantees cover for all related medical expenses, health repatriation and extension of stays due to quarantine related regulations.

This insurance policy will be valid for 12 months and it will cover all visitors who did not know they had the virus and do not have personal insurance to cover the costs.

www.hellocanaryislands.com

LOCATION, LOCATION, ISOLATION

The Balearic Islands Tourism Board highlights hidden spots that are perfect for a socially-distanced break any time of the year.



AS BIG cities and popular beaches are now slightly less appealing, many holidaymakers are looking for breaks that offer more space and isolation. To lend a hand, the Balearic Islands Tourism Board suggests hidden spots that are perfect for holiday isolation.

Reconnect with nature in Cabrera National Park

Cabrera is an uninhabited island which floats ten miles off the coast of Mallorca and is one of the Balearic archipelago's most hidden gems. Thanks to the island's landscape that has remained unchanged for centuries, Cabrera is home to an abundance of seabirds, rich marine life and indigenous flora and fauna, and since 1991 has been recognised as a National Park.

Take on archery in rural Ibiza

Besides its bohemian vibe and picturesque beaches, Ibiza is also known for its charming

villages with characteristic whitewashed buildings. Many of the island's traditional lime-coloured farmhouses have been turned into stylish rustic hotels and retreats, allowing their visitors to stay away from other sunseekers and enjoy the island's tranquil and natural surroundings.

Discover the charming island of Formentera

Dangling off the south coast of Ibiza, a mere half-hour away by fast ferry, the 20km-long island of Formentera is somewhat left out from the collective conscience of Britons when thinking of the Balearics. The picture-postcard island treats visitors with pristine, Caribbean-style beaches and wide views over the islands beautiful and preserved nature, which all contribute to its secluded charm.

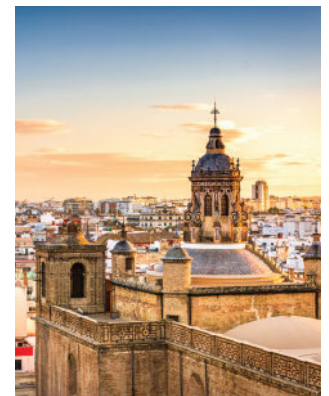
Visit www.illesbalears.travel for more on this.

Self-drive in sun-kissed Spain with Exsus Travel

FOR CLIENTS who are looking to take a more culture-focused holiday, Exsus Travel is offering a self-drive holiday grand tour of southern Spain.

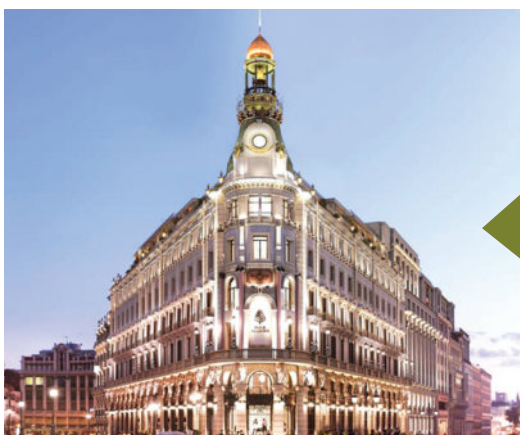
Exsus Travel's trip recommends a tour of Andalucia, taking in Granada, Cordoba and Seville, and finishing up in style by the coast in Estepona.

Being a self-drive holiday, all guests will have the freedom to travel at their own pace, visiting the Alhambra and numerous other historic and cultural sights. Guests can also stop off for delicious tapas in atmospheric bars, before relaxing by the Mediterranean on the Costa del Sol.



Exsus Travel offers a 13-night holiday in Andalucia from £2,700 per person, including accommodation, flights, transfers and car hire.

www.exsus.com/destinations/europe/spain/spain-itineraries/grand-tour-of-andalucia



The Four Seasons Hotel opens its doors in Madrid

FOUR SEASONS Hotel and Private Residences Madrid is now open.

Located in the very heart of the capital between Puerta del Sol and Barrio de las Letras, the grand hotel stands at the central point of the entire country.

"Four Seasons Hotel Madrid began with a visionary plan by our owner partner OHL to unite and breathe new life into a collection of historic buildings in the heart of Madrid. Together with recent partners Mohari Hospitality, the result is a modern luxury experience in a magnificently restored property – the perfect debut for Four Seasons in Spain," noted Christian Clerc, president, global operations, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts.

Four Seasons Hotel Madrid is currently extending an introductory offer, featuring 20% off the room rate through March 31, 2021 with a minimum two-night stay.

www.fourseasons.com

WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS

PLANNING AHEAD

A new report from Kuoni reveals the latest honeymoon trends in light of Covid-19.

WEDDING AND honeymoon plans have been thrown into disarray over the past six months as a result of the Covid-19 crisis, yet couples are more determined than ever to make their first trip after tying the knot a trip they will never forget.

A new honeymoon report from worldwide travel specialist Kuoni, has revealed a steady stream of bookings for 2021 which includes both re-bookings for cancelled honeymoons this year and new bookings from couples planning ahead.

Saving up and upgrading

is a trend, as couples pull out all the stops to make their honeymoon extra special, with the average spend per honeymoon rising by £530 from £7,709 in 2019 to £8,247 for 2021, based on advance bookings so far. There has been a double digit increase in couples taking two honeymoons, one short trip to places in England, Scotland, Ireland, Italy or Greece immediately after their wedding ceremony with plans to take a bigger long-haul trip next year or the year after.

Honeymoons in the UK and Ireland have also

increased as travel restrictions this year continue, and Kuoni has reported helping a couple, due to honeymoon in the Maldives this year, change their trip for a luxury, two-week road trip in Scotland.

The report reveals that with an extra year to save, couples are taking the opportunity to make their plans more special, upgrading the flights or arranging a helicopter transfer rather than a car so they arrive in style, upgrading their accommodation to overwater pool villas or adding extra experiences such as hot air

balloon flights.

Remote retreats away from the crowds, private pool villas and tented camps in Africa are all in demand.

The Maldives tops the dream honeymoon destination list for 2021 followed by Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Kenya and Tanzania, South Africa, Italy, Bali, Thailand, Greece and the Seychelles. Despite travel restrictions for immediate travel, couples are continuing to plan ahead.

To see the full report, visit www.kuoni.co.uk/press-room



VIRTUALLY PERFECT

Sandals has introduced a complimentary wedding live streaming service, as well as a virtual wedding planning tool to help couples dream up their perfect wedding day celebration.



SANDALS RESORTS has made it easier for couples to not alter their plans to the altar with a variety of virtual wedding planning tools, including a complimentary ceremony video stream and digital tours of the venue and available services.

All couples that book a destination wedding or tie the knot between now and December 31, 2020, with plans to wed in 2020 and 2021, will receive a 'Complimentary Wedding Ceremony Live Stream Service', so families and friends can – virtually – be part of that special moment when the couple says "I Do".

Along with offering the ability to virtually stream weddings, Sandals is also offering the 'Virtually Every Wedding Planning' tool for couples planning their wedding ceremony, which includes:

360-degree digital tours: Guests can virtually "walk" through some of the Luxury Included resorts in the Caribbean, giving the ability to explore the resort and its extensive grounds,

providing an inside look at Sandals' luxurious suites, beaches and expansive pools to set the stage for a picture-perfect destination wedding.

Virtual Wedding Design Experience: Guests can virtually meet a Sandals and Beaches wedding planner while being transported virtually to a customisable wedding showroom to explore the décor options available for ceremonies and receptions, discovering the perfect inspiration for the big day.

The Ultimate Digital Wedding Planning Tool: Clients will have the ability to browse through Sandals' wedding offerings from every island and picturesque venue to choose from, as well as hair and makeup services for the actual wedding day.

For more information about Sandals and Beaches' customisable weddings, visit www.sellingsandals.co.uk

Say I do in the Cook Islands

THE COOK Islands in the South Pacific is the ultimate romantic setting in which your clients can exchange their wedding vows.

Most wedding ceremonies take place on a sun-drenched beach, under an archway of tiare akaipoipo (jasmine) and frangipani with a turquoise lagoon backdrop. The bride and groom can make a dramatic entrance arriving on a traditional vaka (outrigger canoe) paddled by a warrior, an unforgettable experience.

As a wedding destination, the Cook Islands are most famed for their picture-perfect beaches, however many alternative wedding settings are available. The main island of Rarotonga offers an interior dominated by spectacular volcanic peaks, cloaked in dense vegetation. To get that spectacular wedding shot, guests can exchange vows on the mountains, with a view of the reef encircled lagoon below.



The climate in the Cook Islands is warm and sunny year-round, with temperatures rarely below 24°C.

www.cookislandstravel.com



Honeymoon haven in Petit St. Vincent

GUESTS LOOKING to take a tropical and secluded honeymoon can head to the dreamy private island resort of Petit St. Vincent, (PSV), which will reopen from November 1, 2020.

The island offers an ideal location to naturally social distance, with only 22 cottages spread across the entire 115-acre island, plus a quarantine free arrival. PSV guests will enjoy an individual standalone accommodation style that – due to the small number of cottages – allows for a maximum of 44 guests on the island at a time, meaning two acres to each guest.

The St. Vincent Government have just announced that PSV island is one of the few designated 'bubble zones.' This status allows guests to visit PSV with much less restrictions than other parts of the country, due to PSV's isolated location and new procedures adopted to combat the pandemic.

Rates at Petit St. Vincent start from £870 per room per night, based on two sharing a one-bedroom cottage in low season.

www.petitstvincent.com

SRI LANKAN SWOON

Elevate your client's destination wedding experience, with some hand-picked stays on the stunning island of Sri Lanka.



ALTHOUGH THE island is only small, Sri Lanka has become one of the top wedding and honeymoon destinations, as it caters to diverse needs and wants from spotting leopards or encountering elephants, sampling delicious cuisines, exploring Buddhist temples and leafy tea plantations, to relaxing on miles of sandy beach with year-round sunshine.

Jean-Marc Flambert, director, Your Tourism Partner and former director of Sri Lanka tourism, says: "Sri Lanka's varied attractions are even more appealing to couples now there are romantic, luxurious hotels to match. The destination has seen a particular growth in small, intimate, luxury boutique-style hotels in main tourist areas. Recent additions include a charming 180 year-old restored Manor House – 'Taru Villas Riva' in Negombo which opened August 2020 and a former tea planters bungalow – 'W15 Hanthana Estate',

which opened June 2020 in the hills, near the cultural capital Kandy."

"Couples looking for a picture perfect resort will love this. Located in the hills, it's a perfect place to enjoy each others company surrounded by nature. At Taru Villas Riva, it's all about tranquillity as it is set in a five-acre coconut plantation. There is a choice of charming spaces and villas for couples tying the knot, for beach or garden weddings."

Experience Travel Group has a honeymoon package including three nights (all inclusive) staying at W15 Hanthana Estate and three nights at Kumu Beach hotel, including bed-and-breakfast with economy return flights from the UK and private transfers.

Prices are from £2,186 per person, based on two people travelling in March 2021.

To book, call 020 7924 7133

Spa-tastic staycation at the Gilpin

FOR CLIENTS who would prefer a staycation-style honeymoon, agents can recommend a stay at the Gilpin Hotel & Lake House in the Lake District.

The hotel has unveiled the next generation of their Spa Lodge concept, the Spa Suites – perfect for clients looking for some extra rest and relaxation. Designed as the ultimate private spa sanctuary for two, at 100m², the Spa Suites consist of a themed décor and a lush display of live plants suspended from a lightwell to create each suite's own atrium.

With views to the mountains to the west, and tranquil woodlands with a stream to the east, each nestles into a private space with delightful planting behind a beautiful curved Lakeland stone wall. Every room has floor-to-ceiling windows and patio doors opening out onto private south facing decked garden with fountain water features, living wall of ferns, and a 2m² stone-built hot tub.



Spa Suites start from £850 per night, based on two sharing.

The hotel offers agents 8% commission.

www.thegilpin.co.uk



Planet Weddings adds new venues to its website

PLANET WEDDINGS has introduced new pages of wedding venues in all European locations on its website.

Destinations covered include Croatia, Cyprus (the whole island, including villages and off-the-beaten track places) Greece (islands and mainland), Italy (Lakes, Tuscany, the cities as well as Sorrento and the Amalfi coast), Malta and Gozo, plus Portugal's Algarve.

Mathilde Robert, managing director, commented: "Despite these challenging times and more so for the travel industry, the wedding market is doing very well and we urge agents as always not to miss out, as we provide commission on the holiday and honeymoon sales through Planet Holidays as well as the weddings, plus the extras."

www.planetweddings.co.uk

CANADA



FULL STEAM AHEAD

Looking to the new year, guests booked on 2021 qualifying packages with Rocky Mountaineer are entitled to free perks and added booking flexibility.

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER has extended its 'All Aboard 2021' deal, and its 'Mountain Bound 2021' deal for guests looking to book a rail trip through Canada in 2021.

Guests on a qualifying package for the 'All Aboard 2021' deal, of eight days or more, get four free perks, valued up to £600 per couple. The four perks include two hotel nights, airport transfer and dinner. For extra flexibility, this offer can be secured with a risk-free, fully refundable deposit up to 60 days after booking. This offer is available until October 16.

The 'Mountain Bound 2021' deal means that guests can book a 2021 qualifying package of eight days or more and get three free perks, valued up to £500 per couple. The three perks include a hotel night, airport transfer and dinner. For enhanced flexibility, guests



'Rainforest to Gold Rush at Leisure' includes daily tours and activities.

can secure their seat today with a risk-free, fully refundable deposit up to 60 days after booking. This offer is available until October 30, 2020.

One example of a qualifying trip is the 'Rainforest to Gold Rush at Leisure' trip, which includes Vancouver, Whistler, Quesnel, Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff and Calgary.

Your clients will be able to enjoy the extreme and

diverse landscapes of the Northern Rockies, temperate rainforests and desert canyons – experiencing all that Western Canada has to offer. They will also enjoy stays in the stunning mountain towns of Banff, Lake Louise and Jasper.

The price for this trip starts from £3,411 to £5,786 per person, 11 days and 10 nights in total.

www.rockymountaineer.com

Destination Canada adds content to its training hub

DESTINATION CANADA has added 12 new videos to its Canada Training Hub.

Covering all provinces and territories, with the exception of Nunavut and Northwest Territories, the videos average between 20-30 minutes and provide a rapid introduction to key areas of Canada that British holiday makers travel to.

The training hub was first launched in mid-June, 2020, and includes interviews with tour operators and industry partners, providing reasons to visit Canada, as well as highlights and tips on selling the country to your clients.

"We are delighted to have Provincial and Territorial focused webinars along with our friends at Parks Canada and Indigenous Tourism on our Training Hub. They give an excellent overview of the regions and product to help agents get to grips with selling Canada and putting together the perfect itinerary for their clients", said Adam Hamner, travel trade manager, Destination Canada.

www.destinationcanada.com/en/canada-specialist-program-united-kingdom

COAST TO COAST

TITAN TRAVEL offers a 17-day 'Grand Canadian Coast to Coast' escorted tour, from £3,499 per person.

The trip will traverse Montréal to the Pacific coast, ticking off the mighty Niagara Falls, touring Toronto and Québec City, and experiencing a scenic drive through the Rocky Mountains. Rounding things off is a stay in laid-back Vancouver.

The tour includes 15 nights hotel accommodation, four meals, and 10 excursions, including a full-day excursion to Niagara Falls and a Columbia Icefield Glacier Adventure. The price also includes transport in destination and return international flights. This is based on May 11, 2021, departures.



www.titantravel.co.uk/destinations/north-america/canada/grand-canadian-coast-to-coast

Alternatively, agents can also create their own Canada brochure online, by selecting specific brochure pages from Titan's Worldwide brochure and emailing it straight to their clients using Titan's new tailor made brochure facility.

www.titanagents.co.uk/trade/current-brochures

Air Transat unveils winter 2020/21 timetable

AIR TRANSAT has unveiled its winter 2020/21 timetable, with plans to operate from airports across the UK during the winter season, thus restoring year-round operations.

The Canadian airline recommenced flights from London Gatwick, Manchester and Glasgow to Toronto in July when it restarted operations, and it has now confirmed it will continue to offer flights from all three airports during the winter season, from November.

Along with flights from the UK to Canada, Air Transat will also operate domestic flights between Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, for your clients looking to take multi-destination trips through the country.

www.airtransat.com

Glaciers and the great outdoors

EXODUS TRAVELS is offering travellers a chance to discover the nature and wildlife abundantly found at the Canadian Rockies, on the 'Canadian Wildlife and Vancouver Island' trip.

Travellers will discover rugged peaks, untouched fir forests and radiant glaciers interspersed with valleys rich with wildlife, from black bears, to deer, moose and coyotes.



Your clients will visit the unmissable sights of the Rockies and Lake Louise, as well as venturing far off-the-beaten track for a wilderness experience in Bella Coola and Tweedsmuir. Two dedicated Zodiac boat trips from Vancouver Island provide opportunities to spot bears and whales and get close to the wonderful nature this region is deservedly famous for.

A highlight is a ferry trip through the Inside Passage, which reveals one of the richest marine habitats of the world.

Prices for the 15-day trip start from £3,899 per person.

www.exodus.co.uk

CANADA* **BECOME A CANADA SPECIALIST**

www.canadaspecialist.co.uk

ITALIAN CHARM

Select UK tour operators have introduced new holidays to Italy – a place that retains its old-world charm and yet still manages to offer travellers something new every time.

SEEING A consistent rise in demand for trips to Italy, some UK tour operators are offering a new line-up of holidays.

Scenic wonders

Travel Expression has an elaborate seven-day walking tour, which explores the area around Lake Maggiore, in Northern Italy. The trip begins with a journey to Milan via rail or air, and is followed by several local trips to nearby places, such as Cannero Riviera.

www.expressionsholidays.co.uk

Winter wonderland

For those looking to enjoy the snow, Inntravel provides a seven-day winter snow break (2020-21) at Naturhotel Moosmair, a four-star



The stunning Lake Maggiore is featured in Travel Expression's tour.

accommodation. The winter walking tour here offers rare delights, such as enjoying farm fresh food, or enjoying a meal at a mountain hut.

www.inntravel.co.uk

Wine and exploration

Wine connoisseurs have reason to be happy too, as Typically Holidays will be launching some special

Prosecco and wine experiences, as well as Calabria tours for the coming season.

www.agentsonly.co.uk

Luxury retreats

To Tuscany is presenting Borgo San Paolino, a new luxury nine-bedroom villa immersed in the heart of the Chianti region, surrounded by vineyards, olive groves

and wild oak forests.

www.toscany.com/borgosanpolino

Off-the-beaten track

Just Sardinia is adding two properties to its Sardinia programme: Cascioni Eco Retreat, a 'suite only' small and exclusive hotel in the tranquil countryside in North Sardinia, and the luxury beachfront hotel 7Pines Kempinski Sardinia, opening June 2021.

www.justsardinia.co.uk

Those planning to explore and stay in more niche parts of the country can stay at Citalia's newly introduced, luxurious properties in Matera, Forio or San Gimignano.

www.citalia.com

MSC Mediterranean cruise offers Italy port excursions

MSC MEDITERRANEAN cruises in 2021/22 is offering excursions to Italian ports, including Palermo, Venice, Naples, Livorno, Messina and Trieste, among others.

One excursion option is 'Naples Sightseeing by Bike'. The guided tour will allow guests to

experience the city's historical monuments and colourful street life, while also delivering a lower-body work out!

Travellers will follow their bike leader into the town centre, then take to quieter side roads and pedestrian zones to avoid heavy traffic. The tour will include ride-

by views of structures such as the 13th-century Castel Nuovo, the Teatro San Carlo and the 14th-century Castel Sant'Elmo from afar.

An excursion option from Venice includes the 'Gondola Tour and Guided Walking Tour', in which guests will admire the

beautiful bridges, the magnificent royal palaces and the typical narrow Venetian streets, called calli, from a unique perspective from within a Venetian gondola.

For more information on the Mediterranean cruise, visit www.msccruises.co.uk



ITALIAN TRAIL BY RAIL

Italy is a perennial favourite with Railbookers' customers, and now the company is offering more options than ever for trips to The Boot, as well as an upcoming webinar for agents too.



RAILBOOKERS IS offering travellers a chance to explore Italy by train, with a selection of trips to choose from.

One of the highlights of travelling to Italy with Railbookers is that customers can travel along the spectacular Simplon Pass between Switzerland and Italy before visiting any number of iconic Italian resorts, towns and cities. Railbookers has a wide range of holidays combining this ever popular 'Via The Alps' route into Northern Italy to then travel onward to any number of great destinations, including the 'Venice, Florence and Rome' trip or 'Amalfi Coast Via the Alps', for example.

Railbookers are also offering combinable trips through Italy for 2021, where travellers can combine a stay in some of the company's most popular Italian destinations, including

Venice, Verona and Florence, with a trip of a lifetime on the Venice-Simplon Orient Express. The train leaves from London Victoria, and costs from £3,599 per person for five days.

All Railbookers holidays can be customised, creating the perfect holiday to Italy, and can be booked up to two years in advance.

What's more, the company currently have an offer on for Italian holidays of seven nights or more, with savings of up to £400 per couple.

If agents would like to find out more, Railbookers' 'Wednesday Webinar' training will take place on October 21, and will focus on Italy. To reserve their seat, agents should call 0203 780 2222.

www.railbookers.co.uk

A Grand experience in Venice

NH COLLECTION'S Grand Hotel Dei Dogi: The Dedica Anthology has created a series of new experiences for guests to safely savour Venice.

The Taste of Vogà

This experience celebrates the Venetian Gondolier. Guests will learn Venetian rowing, also called 'vogà', through a two-hour lesson winding through the city's canals. Prices start from £95, based on four people.

The Artist's Garden

Experience the traditional ice-house and hear how Lorenzo Patarol planted and catalogued rare species in the early 1700s. The tour, coupled with an hour-long botanical drawing session, is known to have a therapeutic effect on individuals. Prices start from £78, based on four people.



The Garden Party

Guests can learn how to make a perfect signature cocktail with an expert mixologist and pop-up bar on the private wooden dock. The Garden Party experience is available from £96, based on two people sharing.

www.dahotels.com/grand-hotel-dei-dogi-venezia



Viva Dante in Ravenna

THE CITY of Ravenna, Emilia Romagna, will celebrate the 700th anniversary of world-renowned poet, Dante, in 2021.

To commemorate this major anniversary, the city has launched 'Viva Dante', a series of events offering tourists and locals the opportunity to discover places which were special to Dante and learn all about one of the world's most famous literary figures.

Visitors can walk in Dante's footsteps, and experience Vie di Dante, 'The Roads of Dante' by going through the villages, nature and cultural landscape of the stretch between Tuscany and Romagna. People can travel by bike, on foot or by train along the ancient Faenza-Florence railway route. www.italia.it/en/home.html

BEACH BUDDIES

Club Med Cefalu is the perfect place for a beach holiday, offering scenic views in the lap of luxury and nature.

CLUB MED's first 5-Trident resort in Europe is situated on the northern coast of Sicily, within a quaint traditional fishing village, amidst the blue waters of the Mediterranean.

Inside the resort, there are unrivalled gourmet restaurants and four bars for guests to choose from, including the Palazzo Gourmet Lounge which serves an à la carte menu designed and created by renowned chef, Andrea Berton. Guests can take a walk down to the beach club and dive off wooden decking straight into the ocean or simply head round to one of the two hotel pools and settle into one of the luxury lounge beds.

As part of the Exclusive Collection, guests can expect special service from arrival to



departure, with a private transfer and champagne on arrival.

www.clubmed.co.uk

Festivities and fun in Italy with Newmarket

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS is offering a specially curated 'Christmas On Lake Garda' tour this year.

The six-day trip includes a visit to the Christmas markets in Trento, Verona city and a trip to Venice's St Mark's Square and Cathedral, the Bell Tower, the Doge's Palace, the Palace of Prisons and the Bridge of Sighs on Boxing Day.

On Christmas Eve, celebrations begin with a four-course dinner followed by a midnight mass at a church in Riva del Garda, followed by a boat trip the next day on Lake Garda, and a turkey lunch.

www.newmarketholidays.co.uk

Where would you hold your dream destination wedding?



Jeanette Ratcliffe
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At Old Trafford, the Theatre of Dreams.



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Sydney Harbour Bridge.



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The Maldives!



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In a beach cove on an island in the Med.



Simon Eddolls
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Japan with Mount Fuji in the background.



Hannah Carter
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The Cook Islands.



Tim Podger
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On a beach in Koh Samui, Thailand.



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