December 09 2022 | ISSUE NO 4,212



Merry Wistmas

& Happy New Year

FROM THE TRAVEL BULLETIN TEAM

MORE IN...

MTTC Christmas Ball

Pictures from Midland Travel Trade Club's glitzy ball. **Pg. 12**

Canada

A choice of experiences from winter escapes to sun-soaked roadtrips. **Pg. 15**



Alex Buckle, Travel Counsellor, on the power of digital in today's travel landscape.

OVER 60 GREAT PRIZES

Jamaica's Christmas Giveaway competition

INCLUDING

Tickets for Bob Marley's musical in London

Jamaican Rum Fam trip places Gift vouchers And many more

travelbulletin.co.uk/jamaica



Travel Bulletin Exclusive



NEWS

From Jet2 teeing off with Turkey golf packages to Riviera's 2024 schedule, all the latest.



AGENT BULLETIN Incentives and training to capitalise on the upcoming peak booking period.



PUZZLE BULLETIN Your chance to earn a £20 M&S voucher with our Sudoku!



INDIAN OCEAN Escape the winter blues with our picks of experiences and resorts from across the Indian Ocean.



FAR EAST Adventures and new openings from a region finding its way back onto bucket lists.

RARING TO GO

UK travellers are the most likely market to travel internationally over the next 12 months, according to research from Expedia Group.

EXPEDIA GROUP has published the insights from its Traveller Value Index, spotlighting the most up-to-date booking habits alongside survey responses and predictions for the upcoming year.

The key takeaway from 2023's Traveller Value Index is the large potential of the UK market. While a global average of 30% of consumers are expected to travel internationally in 2023, 43% of UK travellers have said they are very likely to book (or have already booked) an international trip. Of this group, 49% say they are comfortable booking trips less than a month in advance.

UK travel professionals and consumers are aligned on the role of air travel priorities, with full refunds upon cancellation taking the top spot for considerations when booking flights.

Priorities for the wider consumer

demographic mostly relate to price, which tops the list as the most important factor for travellers, with consumers stating inflation is impacting their travel plans more than ongoing pandemic concerns and travel restrictions, especially across Europe.

Across all modes of travel, accommodation, and activities, low pricing sits within the top three considerations consumers make when booking, showing the importance of offering clients value for money across all bookings.

Despite the priority of cost, almost three in four respondents are willing to pay more for sustainable travel options, from destination, accommodation and transportation choices that are committed to supporting local communities, cultures and the environment.

The survey quizzed 11,000 consumers along with 1,100 industry professionals from 11 markets on booking habits and expectations.

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Riviera Travel showcases the hearts of Europe with 2024 itineraries

RIVIERA TRAVEL has launched its 2024 European river cruise programme, with a roster full of 13 different itineraries to please any traveller.

From March to November 2024, 301 departures will set sail, seven of which will be



dedicated to solo travellers. Guests will be able to save 10% on middle or upper deck cabins for all 2024 river cruises when booking before February 28, 2023.

The 2024 itineraries include voyages to France, Germany, Portugal, Austria, Switzerland, Hungary and the Netherlands, and include an eight-day cruise to Douro, Porto and Salamanca with guided visits from £1,699 per person, and a 15-day cruise to the 'Heart of Europe' for £2,799 per person.

Prices include return flights, Eurostar travel on select itineraries, full board, and scheduled visits and tours.

Head of cruises at Riviera Travel, Katja Hildebrandt, said: "We're thrilled to offer these popular and well-loved classic itineraries. Our extensive range of river cruises will allow guests to effortlessly sail along some of Europe's most incredible waterways in 2024." *www.rivieratravel.co.uk*



THE FIFTH Avenue Hotel, located in the heart of Manhattan, will open its doors to the public in March 2023. The historic venue has undergone seven years of restoration by a collection of top designers to offer guests a hotel which combines the Romanticism period with modern day New York. Rates will begin at approximately £787 per night. *www.thefifthavenuehotel.com*

Jet2holidays tees off for a hole-in-one with new Turkish golf packages

TRAVEL AGENTS can now offer customers a hole-in-one getaway as Jet2holidays has launched a section of golf packages to Antalya, Turkey.

Upon the announcement, Jet2holidays' CEO, Steve Heapy, said: "Thanks to the launch of this new product, golfers can now visit their local independent travel agent to book a bespoke golf package. With all the benefits of a package holiday on top of four

Star Clippers to offer French Open package

STAR CLIPPERS is offering a specialist French Open package for 2023, including a French Riviera sailing with daytime session tickets to the highly sought-after French Open. This is the first time the company has offered the opportunity to see the widely-recognised tennis tournament in line with their unique sailing experiences, The 10-night package will depart on May 31, 2023, with prices beginning at £4,759 per person. On offer is a threenight stay at Paris' Plaza Tour Eiffel Hotel and a seven-night round trip to Cannes. The partnership comes after a successful Rome Ryder Cup package in September 2022. *www.starclippers.co.uk*



rounds of golf, we know that these new packages will prove popular with golfers looking to hit the finest courses in the Turkish sunshine all-year round."

Packages include four rounds of golf per seven-night stay at one of Antalya's luxury five-star hotels, including the Sueno Hotel Deluxe Belek, Cullinan, Titanic Deluxe Golf Belek, Regnum Carya and Gloria Golf Resort. www.jet2holidays.com



Cruise prices stay low amid increased costs

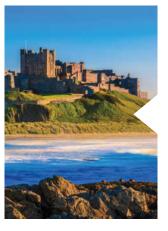
CRUISES WILL continue to buck the trend in increased holiday costs going into 2023, as cruise.co.uk has found the majority of Mediterranean, Northern Europe and Caribbean voyages next year will stay cost consistent with those from a decade ago. www.cruise.co.uk

Lifts To launches Search and Book API

LIFTS TO has launched its new high speed, secure API which will allow partners to efficiently access the company's entire transfer product portfolio for easy booking opportunities.

The API grants access to one of the largest inventories on the market today, as well as having the added benefit of enabling multi-leg bookings.

Lifts To technical director, Cian Kennedy, said: "Our tech team have worked hard to deliver what our partners need - the API will make it easy to access one of the most comprehensive portfolios of ski, golf and cruise transfer products."



Just Go! Holidays celebrate Britain's heritage with new tours

JUST GO! Holidays has launched its 2023 'Heritage and Culture Collection', comprising 13 bespoke tours which offer customers the chance to visit eclectic symbols of Britain's rich heritage.

Trade sales manager Claire Dutton said: "There is everything from a visit to the Battle of Britain bunker, or stepping back in time in Northumbria to exploring the most haunted historic castle in England, or discovering Lennon and McCartney's truly humble beginnings on a visit to their childhood homes in Liverpool." www.justgoholidays.com

Kon Tiki Tahiti offers sustainability in the island haven

KON TIKI Tahiti, an eco-friendly boutique hotel located in the Islands of Tahiti, has opened its doors to travellers wanting to immerse themselves in the Maohi Tahitian culture. In this uniquely sustainable complex, guests can expect to find locally-sourced hygiene products

based on monoi oil, Stopsol glazing fitted throughout the hotel which reduces solar heat by 65%, and a plastic reduction policy adopted by everyone inside the complex.

Kon Tiki Tahiti offers a range of rooms mixing Tahitian authenticity with modernity, from home studios

to Polynesian cabins. Guests of the hotel will adopt an eco-responsible approach during their stay, with an 100% selective sorting process throughout the hotel. Room rates start at £107 per night for two people.

www.kontikitahiti.com



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Follow the link below to download full entry details and terms and conditions: www.freebirdairlines.com/files/promform.xlsx

*Terms & conditions apply. Promotion applies to UK ABTA travel agents only.





When it comes to earning for the work you do booking your Sailors on the best vacations of their lives, you can kiss asterisks goodbye. We take you to the bank with **a brilliant commission of 16%** on voyage fare and **no NCFs...ever.** And that's not just 16%; it's 16% on a sailing with a higher fare than many other cruise lines and travel products.

Then, when you set your Sailors up with pre-voyage bookables to make their getaway truly the greatest including airfare, hotels, Shore Things, and Bar Tab **you'll earn 10% commission** on those (even when your Sailors add it on their own). Just as we want to see your Sailors thrilled with their experience when they're sailing away, we want to see you loving the money that you're banking away.

Have further queries about our commission structure? Well, we've got an email hotline for exactly that. commissions@virginvoyages.com

As far as other ways you can reap returns, have you started learning in Seacademy? Our virtual training program speeds your knowledge of selling Virgin Voyages and leaves the snooze-fest saga of neverending training modules to other lines. You'll become a five-star First Mate in five hours, and completing Seacademy also opens the gate to First Mate rates and additional opportunities, not to mention that Gold-level Seacademy agents are 15 times more likely to make bookings.

Having brilliant commissions and a rewarding way to level-up your learning are truly some of the most integral tools we have that directly help you continue to build your business and further your success.



Shane Riley VP International Sales Virgin Voyages

Crown Towers highlights Sydney property

CROWN RESORTS has highlighted its Sydney property, Crown Towers Sydney, as a new benchmark of luxury in the Australian city.

As travel returns across Australia, the property's 349 rooms, suites, and villas offer a luxurious experience, standing alongside the landmarks of the Sydney Harbour.

Scaling 275 metres above the skyline, the hotel is situated in the dynamic area of Barangaroo, the waterfront destination with bustling city life on its doorstep, unique public artworks and a choice of restaurants and bars.



Rooms at the hotel lead in at approximately £476 per night. www.crownhotels.com.au/sydn ey/crown-towers

American Cruise Lines sails into 2023

AMERICAN CRUISE Lines has announced three new small ships, 10 new itineraries, and 21 new ports for the 2023/24 season.

The company's new 2023/24 brochure coincided with all voyages going on sale online, with the season seeing the cruise line's fleet of 17 ships cruising 35 states across 50 itineraries.

New ships include the 175-passenger American Serenade, sailing the Mississippi River from April, and two 109-passenger vessels, American Eagle and American Glory.

The new itineraries feature the brand's first-ever California cruise: an eight-day round-trip 'San Francisco Bay Cruise', highlighting Napa and wine country. www.americancruiselines.com



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AGENT INCENTIVES

- FREEBIRD AIRLINES has teamed up with Travel Bulletin to relaunch its 'Fly to Turkey for Free' incentive for all ABTA agents. Any agent booking 10 or more return flights by January 31, 2023 will earn one free return flight for themselves. Reward flights are valid for travel between May 1 and June 29, 2023, and October 1 and October 21, 2023. Blackout dates include those between May 26 and June 2 and October 19 to 28, 2022. Full details can be found at www.freebirdairlines.com/ files/promform.xlsx
- CANADIAN AFFAIR, the UK's largest operator to Canada, has launched a Christmas incentive to reward its agent base. Every day until December 14, 2022, the operator is rewarding agents who sign up to the campaign on its website with the chance to win a choice of prizes, including a £250 John Lewis voucher and Christmas hampers. www.canadianaffair.co.uk
- TRAVEL PROMOTERS is offering agents the chance to win one of two holidays to South Africa. For every room night booked at one of Travel Promoters' properties by March 31, 2023, agents earn an entry into the prize draw, with added bonuses for select combination bookings. The prizes include six nights combined at the Madikwe Safari Lodge, Lanzerac, and The Old Rectory, and a five-night escape combining the Saxon Hotel, Villas & Spa, the Sala Beach House, and Thanda Safari. Both stays are valid for two guests sharing. Find the entry form at

AGENT BULLETIN

NOT JUST Travel hosted 16 of its homeworking agents for a luxury golf trip in Mauritius, celebrating a recordbreaking month of sales in October. The agents enjoyed a stay at the Shandrani Resort & Spa, with rounds of golf at the 18-hole Avalon Golf Course and Paradis Golf Club.

WEBINAR

TRAVEL BULLETIN'S Peaks &

Incentives Special webinar is quickly approaching! Register for the final spaces at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/webinar

AGENT TRAINING

• THE SCENIC Group has ramped up its agent support with a series of new training webinars. After debuting on November 25, the cruise group has been running weekly sessions focusing on the best of Scenic and Emerald's product, aiming to drive trade engagement ahead of the peak selling period.

Scenic and Emerald Cruises' director of trade sales Andrea Stafford explained: "We've made no secret of the fact that Scenic sees huge potential in the travel trade, and we're keen to spread our message far and wide. "Our new webinar series serves as a great introduction to our brands, offerings and itineraries, as well as providing the essential information retailers need to secure lucrative bookings going forward." Remaining webinars include the Wave campaign overview on December 16, 2022 followed by 'Top 5 Highlights on Christmas Market Cruises' on December 21. Each webinar will be uploaded to the brands' agent portals for on-demand viewing. www.scenic.co.uk/agentportal

- AGENTS CAN enter the final monthly draw for the chance to win a pair of Manchester City tickets for the 2022/23 football season or £50 Love2shop vouchers when registering for and completing the Abu Dhabi Speicalist Programme by December 31, 2022. www.travelbulletin.co.uk/trav elgym/destination-training
- THE OMAN Ambassador programme gives agents all the latest insight on the Sultanate's 3,000km of Indian Ocean coastline, culture of Arabia and hidden gems! Modules cover the landscapes, from beaches to mountains, sands to fjords, and everything in between. Agents who register and complete the programme will earn official Oman Ambassador status. www.omanambassadors. com



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POLISH TOURISM ORGANISATION

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last longer in Poland

www.poland.travel

WIN A £20 M&S VOUCHER IN THE **Mould**in Sudoku prize puzzle

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

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

Closing date for entries is Thursday, December 22. Solution and new puzzle will appear in next year's first issue.

The winner for 25 November is Lisa Clover, from East of England Co-op Travel

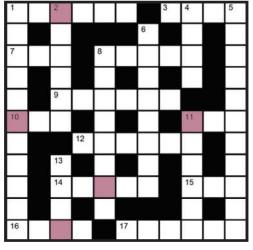
November 25 Solution: A=1 B=6 C=5 D=9

A		7		1	2	3		9	4
	4		2	6				7	
			3		5		2		
В	7	6				2			5
		2		7		5		4	
С	8			3				2	7
			8		7		4		
		4				6	1		9
D	1	9		5	8	4		3	

The world's only

transcontinental capital city is home to a centuries-old covered market and over 3,000 mosques, attracting almost seven million tourists in the first 10 months of 2021.

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



Across

- 1 One of Santa's reindeers, sounds like he's in a rush (6)
- 3 Well known hotel brand (4)
- 7 London Heathrow airport code (3)
- 8 Jill, former lioness, now queen of the celebrity jungle (5)
- 9 Country where you can visit all the historical Christmas sites (6)
- 10 National flag carrier of Pakistan, initally (3)
- 11 Arrecife, Lanzarote airport code (3)
- 12 Combine this decoration with turkey for a festive holiday break (6)
- 14 A card game in which you take tricks (5) 15 Flag carrier of South Africa, initially (3)
- 16 Number of ladies dancing in The Twelve Days of Christmas (4)
- 17 Cruise company whose ships are named for queens (6)

Down

- 1 Her Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol is currently playing at the
- Southbank Centre (5,6)
- 2 Belgrade is the capital (6) 4 Pulteney Bridge is an famous
- Puttency Bridge is an famous landmark in this English spa city
- (4)5 European country with a white cross on a red flag (11)
- 6 English county, home to 4 Down (8) 8 Cagliari is the capital of this island
- (8)
 11 Largest of the US states (6)
 13 Company offering cultural expedition cruising _____ Hellenic (4)

CROSSWORD

Nystery Word: SPAL, Where Am I?: Istanbul



ALEX BUCKLE

TRAVEL COUNSELLORS

I FIND it amazing people talk these days of having a Deliveroo, catching an Uber and staying in an Airbnb, when basically they're saying they had a takeaway, got a taxi and stayed in a cottage!

However, technology has been key to growing my business post-pandemic. I was even awarded for embracing digital at the recent Travel Counsellors Conference where I won the Business FIT award.

While there is no disputing the Travel Counsellors model is all about caring and personalised tailoring for our customers, the MyTC app is growing in popularity and I have 900 personal customers who are signed up. Travellers who have their 'holidays in their pocket' really value easy access to keep up to date with their bookings. I've even got more customers as my travellers show their friends the details of their trip via the app while they're down the pub!

By embracing technology I have improved the way I market myself and seen my market change. During the pandemic, I grew my Instagram following (@alexb_travelguru) from 1,000 to 13,500+ by highlighting what we were going through as an industry and offering advice. That got me the chance to appear on Sky News as an industry expert! Previously, my customers were empty nesters, mostly in the 50+ age group wanting a tailored package, now I am appealing to those in the 25-40 age bracket, who had never even heard of a travel agent before!

The recent conference proved to me the power of the TC network from fantastic suppliers to fellow TCs but it was the focus that was important, not travel per se but the people, the technology and the positioning that is key. And, with the company investing £10 million into technology next year, I am excited for 2023 and how we continue to care for all our customers with digital help.

JANA CA®

Travel Bulletin teams up with Jamaica Tourist Board for its Christmas Giveaway

TRAVEL BULLETIN has teamed up with the Jamaica Tourist Board to launch 'Trade Secrets', offering agents exclusive insights into new campaigns and prize giveaway opportunities.

The first episode features Torrance Lewis, district sales manager of the Jamaica Tourist Board, sharing details of the board's Christmas Giveaway along with the 'Come Back to Jamaica' consumer campaign.

Agents can get involved by visiting

www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travel-trade-secrets/come-back-tojamaica

News Bites

- FRED. HOLIDAYS Rail Journeys has updated its offerings with three cruise-and-rail itineraries in Spain and South America, including Star Clippers' tall ship sailings with rail journeys on the Al Andalus and Hiram Bingham.
- THE HILTON Molino Stucky Venice is offering a series of yuletide festivities across the Christmas and New Year period, with firework displays, seasonal spa treatments and live performances running until January 7, 2023.



SANDALS AND Beaches Resorts' UK operator, Unique Caribbean Holidays Ltd., has launced a new compact 38-page brochure, featuring details of the brand's 'Luxury-Included' offering, along with information on all Sandals and Beaches luxury resorts across the Caribbean. The brochure highlights the eight destinations on offer, with hard and digital copies available for agents. *www.sandals.co.uk/tas*

Now we're Following the Sun.

We didn't just build a cruise; we set out to create a revolutionary way to explore the world.

Combining the luxury of a yacht with the diverse options of a larger ship, our four gorgeous lady ships—Scarlet Lady, Valiant Lady, and, debuting in 2023, Resilient Lady and Brilliant Lady—sail 26 curated itineraries of 2 to 15 nights, visiting over 100 ports across 4 continents.

Onboard, the vibe is relaxed luxe—we've ditched buffets to bring your Sailors fresh flavors and unexpected pairings. They'll dine on churrasco steak and lemon cheesecake at The Wake, mezze-style bites and glasses of rosé in the open air of The Dock, or they'll get their crew together for a lively Korean BBQ free-for-all at Gunbae—all with views of the waves. And these are transformative travels, with late stays and overnights in captivating destinations like Ibiza, Málaga, Mykonos, Lisbon, San Juan, and our private Beach Club at Bimini, giving your Sailors the opportunity to get to know the real people and real experiences of each destination.

All our voyages are exclusively adult and always include over \$600 in extras, like dining at 20+ eateries, WiFi, essential drinks, tips, and group fitness classes.

Send your Sailors to sea for the vacation of their lifetimes, and we'll take you straight to the bank. As part of our drive to be Brilliant To Do Business With, we offer a compelling commission of 16% on voyage fare (with no NCFs), plus 10% on all pre-voyage sales, like airfare, hotel, and even Shore Things.

Learn more at FirstMates.com









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MTTC Christmas Ball

Moxhull Hall, Sutton Coldfield, recently hosted the Midlands Travel Trade Club's Christmas Ball. Alongside sponsors Emirates, Birmingham Airport, Sandals and Beaches Resorts, *Travel Bulletin* was there to capture the evening.











NDIAN OCEAN

ACCESSIBILITY FOCUS

Amilla Maldives Resort and Residences has been recognised for prioritising accessibility and inclusivity



AMILLA MALDIVES Resort and Residences has become one of the first resorts in the world to be verified by UK-based accessible and inclusive hospitality experts, Inclucare.

The resort has been recognised for prioritising inclusivity and accessibility in every part of the holiday experience, including from the provision of

Region-first links course to open in Mauritius

THE INDIAN Ocean's first contemporary links course is opening in Mauritius next September.

La Reserve Golf Links will be launching at the Heritage Golf Club and will feature ocean views from every hole. It will be available for guests at Heritage Awali, Heritage Le Telfair and Heritage The Residences. It has been co-designed by former Open Champion Louis Oosthuizen, alongside course architect Peter Matkovich.

www.heritagegolfclub.mu

information, booking procedures, sea and air transfers and staff awareness and understanding to identifying the physical adjustments and adaptations needed to establish Amilla, and the Maldives, as an accessible and inclusive destination for all.

The resort has installed new adaptations and innovations including: deaf-alert systems and adaptive yoga and snorkelling adventures; sensory touch, aroma and sound experiences for vision-impaired guests; and a dedicated calming space – anxiety and stress-reducing havens for guests on the autism spectrum, with learning difficulties, or dementia.

Turquoise Holidays offers seven nights at Amilla Maldives Resort and Residences from £8,399 per person based on two people sharing a sunset water pool villa on a half-board basis. Price includes return seaplane transfers and international flights departing from Heathrow on December 19, 2022 with Qatar Airways.

The offer includes a 50% discount on accommodation plus complimentary half board. www.amilla.com

Finolhu serves up the Dream experience

FINOLHU Baa Atoll Maldives has a new experience that offers guests the chance to enjoy some time under the stars in complete seclusion. The 'Dream Eclipse Experience' features three connected bubble rooms, with separate space for the bedroom, living room, bathroom and an outdoor bathtub.

The experience includes a sunset dinner, served by the personal 'Bubble Butler', who is on call until checkout the following morning. Up to 30% off is available on last minute bookings for stays until March 31, 2023. www.finolhu.com



New villas create ultra-luxury Atmosphere in the Maldives

ATMOSPHERE KANIFUSHI has expanded its accommodation with the opening of two new villa categories, Kanifushi Grand Pool Villa and Kanifushi Residence.



Classic expands with 34 Mauritius properties

CLASSIC PACKAGE Holidays has introduced Mauritius to its 2023 programme with the addition of a choice of Mauritian hotels.

Si Morris-Green, director of agency sales and marketing, said: "We want to offer agents the ultimate in flexibility and choice and are constantly reviewing our product and booking process via feedback from our trade partners. The increased market share our new destinations will bring ties in with our strategy of becoming the market-leading B2B-only proposition."

The operator's Mauritius expansion debuts with 34 hotels. Alex Gavalda, director of internal sales, added: High demand from our trade partners for the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius has seen us cover the key hotels on the island."

www.classic-package.co.uk

The 241 sqm Kanifushi Grand Pool Villa features a spacious open-plan room, outdoor bathroom, an outdoor deck and pool space, offering a 42 sqm lap pool, shaded seating table and a gazebo with a traditional Maldivian swing.

The Kanifushi Residence features three bedrooms, a living and dining room, an entertainment space, and two open-air bathrooms. Outside, guests can enjoy an 115 sqm infinity pool with clear glass feature panels, pit-style sofa seating area,



outdoor dining table and semi-submerged sun loungers.

From December 22, 2022 to January 7, 2023, Atmosphere Kanifushi is hosting a number of additional activities including guest cocktail parties with Christmas carols, the chance to decorate the gingerbread house at The Spice restaurant, Christmas tree crafts, movie night under the stars, and champagne breakfast on Christmas Day. Kenwood Travel offers seven nights departing on December 21 from £5,201. www.atmospherekanifushi.com

It's written in the Milaidhoo stars

MILAIDHOO MALDIVES has teamed up with astronomy expert Valerie Stimac to tap into the increasing popularity of astrotourism.

Along with the expertise of Valerie, the resort is launching a series of retreats to allow guests to discover the dark skies of the Maldives. The retreats will include a 'Healing Space Massage', dinner under the stars and stargazing on a secluded sandbank, wayfinding/sailing by stars on a Maldivian Dhoni, astrophotography sessions, and night-sky mythology sessions focused on the history of the night sky from various cultures in the Maldives and India.

Guests who wish to take the retreat to new heights can even opt to spend the

night as castaways under the stars on their own private sandbank with a canopied fourposter bed and a private yacht anchored nearby. After dinner, as the crew sail away, couples are left to enjoy post-dinner drinks before heading off to sleep under the stars. Dates for the retreats will be selected in accordance with the weather, moon phases and other astronomical events to allow for good conditions and clear skies.

Prices lead in at £1,326 per night in a Water Pool Villa on a half-board basis, based on two sharing. The 'Milky Way from The Maldives' retreat will take place from May 15 to 21, 2023. www.milaidhoo.com



Thinking about the Maldives? ...Think RIU



Did you know that RIU has 2 amazing All Inclusive Hotels in the Maldives?

Two private islands, just 180 km from MLE International Airport. Transfer by domestic flight or sea plane (about 40 min) plus 10 min speed boat transfer.

HOTEL RIU PALACE MALDIVAS Dhaalu Atoll - Kedhigandu Island

- 176 guest rooms
- 24hr All Inclusive: main restaurant and two speciality restaurants and poolside bar
- Infinity pool with swim-up bar
- The facilities of the Riu Atoll (connected by a walkway) can be used without restriction

HOTEL RIU ATOLL **** Dhaalu Atoll - Maafushi Island

All Inclusive 24

- 264 guest rooms
- 24hr All Inclusive: main restaurant and two speciality restaurants, salon bar, sports bar and pool bar
- Swimming pool with swim-up bar, children's pool
- RiuLand children's club, Fitness room and steam bath, wellness centre, several sports included

For more information and to book visit www.riupro.com

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As you like it



InterContinental welcomes wellness practitioners

THE INTERCONTINENTAL Maldives Maamunagau Resort has a new wellness programme that features visiting practitioners, including specialists in acupuncture, stress management and meditation, physical therapy practitioners and international wellness consultants in body therapy and emotional release therapy, massage and yoga. Rates start at £776 per night for stays in a Water Pool Villa.



Kuda Villingili adds new suites and villas

THE Maldives resort of Kuda Villingili has added new suites and villas and upgraded existing accommodation. The resort has 75 one- to four-bedroom villas and, for this winter sun season, private pools have been added to the hotel's 28 water villas. Beach residences with private pools have also been introduced, including a three-bedroom beach retreat which has an oversized pool. *www.kudavillingili.com*

Le Meridien Ile Maurice invests \$60m in refurb

THE FIVE-STAR resort of Le Méridien IIe Maurice in Pointe aux Piments on the northwest coast of Mauritius has undergone an extensive \$60million refurbishment, which has aimed to reimagine the hotel as one of Mauritius' leading resort destinations.

The hotel has redesigned its 261 rooms and suites with modern luxury in mind, taking cues from the resort's surrounding landscape. Each room now has an outside terrace or balcony and guaranteed sea views.

Nirvana is the adults-only wing and houses 51 guest rooms and suites. The 16 Nirvana Prestige Suites have private plunge pools, as well as a separate bar and living area, while the Royal Suite has a terrace overlooking the ocean, alongside a dedicated butler service. Nirvana also has a private infinity swimming pool and pool bar. Le Méridien Ile Maurice is home to four restaurants and three bars, the Escape to Explore spa, a Kids' Club for children aged between four and 12 complimentary activities including kayaking, pedal boating, snorkelling, windsurfing, volleyball and tennis. www.marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/mrumdle-meridien-ile-maurice/



Conscious launch from Fairmont

THE FAIRMONT Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi has launched new Beach Tented Villas that are set among lush foliage and with direct access to the beach.

The safari-style villas are designed with natural wooden frames swathed in white fabric, which can be rolled up to offer views of the ocean. They are a unique alternative to the traditional beach villa and overwater accommodation. The Beach Tented Villas house a master suite with a California king bed and ensuite bathroom, separate children's bedroom, spacious alfresco decking area with loungers and hammocks,



outdoor roll-top tub and rain shower, and a Sala for communal dining that overlooks the private pool.

In celebration of the launch, Fairmont Maldives has introduced a new 'Conscious Castaway' experience, with in-villa experiences, including movie nights under the stars, private beachfront barbecues, as well as in-depth exploration of the island's many sustainability initiatives, including snorkelling safaris around the Coralarium, and workshops in the Sustainability Lab. 'Conscious Castaway' also includes champagne and canapés on arrival, daily breakfast at Raha Market, one breakfast picnic, one beach barbecue dinner, treeplanting ceremony with Bodu Beru, island bicycles with personalised name tags, nonmotorised water sports, a complimentary gourmet bar in-villa and a personal villa host. Prices start at £1,765 per night in the Beach Tented Villas.

www.fairmont-maldives.com/

FAR EAST

HANOI TO HO CHI MINH: NEW OPENINGS

Vietnam's post-pandemic surge in tourism has welcomed a number of new properties up and down the country.



VIETNAM HAS seen a number of new openings across the nation, as returning guests and new adventurers take to the far-flung Far Eastern hotspot for postpandemic travel.

October saw the opening of NovaWorld Phan Thiet's Mövenpick Resort. The luxury resort boasts 248

Hotel group sets new Standard in Singapore

THE STANDARD continues its expansion into Asia with the planned opening of The Standard Singapore next year.

News about the Singapore property follows hot on the heels of the opening of The Standard Hua Hin in 2021, and The Standard Bangkok Mahanakhon in 2022. The Standard Singapore will be the city's new social hub featuring 143 rooms close to Singapore's premier shopping destination. The hotel will feature The Standard's signature restaurant and nightlife vibrancy, and arts and cultural programming along with an infinity pool and pool bar set within a botanical courtyard. guest rooms with panoramic ocean views, indoor and outdoor swimming pools and two restaurants offering a taste of authentic local and exotic international dishes. Families have a choice of suites with bunk beds, along with other spacious room categories.

Stays at the Mövenpick Resort Phan Thiet start from approximately £84 per night. www.all.accor.com

The Capella Hanoi opened in spring in the nation's capital, adjacent to the Old Quarter and Hanoi Opera House. 47 rooms and suites are uniquely decorated with operatic memorabilia, with premium categories featuring a French balcony to soak up the atmosphere of the charming surroundings. Three restaurants are available for guests.

Rooms are priced from around £316 per night including breakfast. www.capellahotels.com

2022 doesn't see the end of new properties, however, with The Anam, Mui Ne expected to debut 77 villas and 136 suites in early 2023. All rooms will boast expansive balconies, mosaic floor tiles, hardwood finishes and andoriginal local artwork. A choice of dining plans will be available, making the most of the local ingredients on offer.

Rooms start from approximately £132 per night. *www.theanam.com*

JW Marriott unveils Khao Lak resort

JW MARRIOTT Khao Lak Resort and Spa is set to unveil the newlytransformed five-star beachfront retreat which now features 76 deluxe lagoon pool view rooms, 28 deluxe lagoon pool access rooms, 20 family pool access studios, one-bedroom villas and two-bedroom villas. The resort will soon be complemented by JW Marriott Khao Lak Resort Suites, which will have 52 two-bedroom suites designed to offer the comforts of home to families and friends looking to holiday together. *www.marriott.com*



mage Credits: Top: Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts, Bottom: Marriott International

www.standardhotels.com



Wendy Wu offers savings of £300

WENDY WU Tours has unveiled its spring 2023 sale, offering savings of up to £300 on tours to Vietnam, Cambodia, India, Laos, the Philippines, and Japan. Tours featured in the sale include the 17-day Classic Mekong with prices from £4,390 with flights, hotels, meals and the cruise, with savings of £200 per person. The operator's 17-day Japan Uncovered tour starts from £7,090 (saving £300). The savings are available on bookings made before 15 December 2022. www.wendywutours.co.uk



Adventure awaits in Japan

JAPAN'S TWO-AND-A-HALF year closure saw a number of adventurous experiences open.

Zip World Hanazono, in the Niseko ski resort, will return in summer 2023, offering an opportunity to zipline past the stratovolcano Mount Yotei.

2023 will also see the return of the Sapporo Snow Festival, bringing winter festivities, sports, and culture to guests. www.japan.travel

Dive into the Philippines with new small-group tour

DIVE WORLDWIDE has added a new smallgroup trip to its experiences for 2023.

Dive Bohol's Secret Wonders explores the Philippine island of Bohol and its 15km array of dive sites, with all manner of marine life to be seen, from rays, turtles, moray eels and flying gurnards to critters such as bargibanti pygmy seahorses and the Shaun of the Sheep nudibranch. Guests are also afford the chance to take a trip to Lila on Bohol's south coast for the chance to dive with whale sharks.

Alongside the full programme of diving, the group visits a tarsier sanctuary and the

Chocolate Hills.

The trip is based at Magic Oceans resort, which has its own on-site dive centre, and is led by Simon Rogerson, an award-winning underwater photographer and writer and the editor of SCUBA Magazine.

Prices start at £3,545 per person based on two sharing and include 10 nights' accommodation, 17 dives, tanks and weights, transfers, guiding and return flights from the UK. The tour departs on June 7, 2023 and can cater to a range of group sizes up to 12 people.

www.diveworldwide.com



Langham launches GenZ brand

LANGHAM HOSPITALITY Group is celebrating its 20th anniversary with the launch of Ying'nFlo, an upper midscale hospitality brand, with its sociable approach accented with emerging music and art, geared at capturing the optimistic spirit of millennials and GenZers across the globe.

The first Ying'nFlo concept has launched in the district of Wanchai, Hong Kong in October 2022 with plans to expand rapidly in the region.

The pipeline already includes a hotel in Xiamen, as part of Langham Hospitality Group's first multi-brand project.



Brett Butcher, Chief Executive Officer, Langham Hospitality Group said: "Ying'nFlo is a bold colourful canvas for the younger urban travellers, at an affordable price. It's a smart guest experience for a generation that has grown up with digital. The concept combines simple stylish design with brilliant basics which are efficiently executed with a strong social vibe.

"We will locate Ying'nFlo in destinations where our guests want to travel. These locations would be the front door to cultural, entertainment and tech hub districts," he added. "There is a strong opportunity to grow Ying'nFlo in Asia-Pacific and beyond where 50% of the population are millennials or GenZers." www.yingnflo.com



RUNNING WITH THE WOLVES

Audley Travel introduces a new overnight wolf-focused experience in British Columbia for 2023

TAILORMADE operator Audley Travel has added a new overnight experience in Canada to its 2023 programme. The three-day, private wolf-focused indigenous experience in British Columbia includes two nights camping in the traditional territory of the Tlatlasikwala First Nation.

Customers travel with their indigenous

Headwater takes a hike on Sunshine Coast

HEADWATER has a nine-day, self-guided Walking Canada's Sunshine Coast experience which explores the 112- mile shoreline from Howe Sound to Desolation Sound in British Colombia. Accessible only by plane or boat, the remote location allows visitors the chance to connect with nature, become immersed in local communities and soak up the contrasting scenery of forests, mountains, and oceans.

The experience leads in at £3,199 including accommodation, international flights, transfers, GPS route directions and maps, transfers and services of a local representative. www.headwater.com guides, looking for sea and coastal wolves by boat and on land. Smaller than their grey wolf cousins and with noticeably red-tinted coats, these wolves are only found between the coastlines and islands of Southwestern Alaska and Vancouver Island and have adapted to a diet of around 90% seafood.

Clients may fall asleep, or wake, to the sound of howls between pack members, spot their tracks across the beaches, and wait for them to slip out from the dense forest to forage along the beaches. The experience, designed to be intimate with room for only six guests and two guides, is exclusively available through Audley Travel and can be booked on selected dates in May through to August 2023 as part of a tailor-made trip to Canada.

A nine-day tailor-made trip to Canada, including two nights on the wolf tour as well as two nights in Port Hardy and three nights in Vancouver costs from £5,280 per person (based on two sharing) and includes flights, transfers, accommodation and excursions. www.audleytravel.com/canada

Ffestiniog gets on track with Canada Wilderness tour

FFESTINIOG Travel has introduced an 11-day 'Canada's Winter Wilderness by Train' tour that includes visits to Toronto, Vancouver and Niagara Falls as well as a journey on The Canadian train from Toronto to Vancouver in Sleeper Plus accommodation with the opportunity to see the Rockies during daylight hours.

The tour departs on February 5, 2023, and costs £4,070 per person based on two sharing including flights, accommodation in Toronto and Vancouver, 'Sleeper Plus' hospitality on The Canadian with all meals included and the services of a tour leader throughout. *www.ffestiniogtravel.com*





Inspiring Travel gets in the driving seat with British Columbia fly-drive

INSPIRING TRAVEL has introduced a 14-night fly-drive holiday that showcases some of British Columbia's breath-taking scenery and experiences.

The flexibility of the fly-drive package gives travellers the chance to explore the vibrant and multicultural city of Vancouver, explore the Okanagan Valley with its lakes, mountains, vineyards and fruit farms, discover the Canadian Rockies and Yoho National Park while staying at the stunning Cathedral Mountain Lodge, visit Wells Gray Provincial Park, famous for its 39 named waterfalls and hike through the wild Chilcotin Mountains and travel on the Peak2Peak Gondola between Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains.

Prices start at £3,639 per person for 14 nights' accommodation, car hire and international flights. The price is based on a June 2023 departure. *www.inspiringtravel.co.uk*

Tours offer the Scenic way to explore Canada

SCENIC LUXURY Cruises and Tours has two big tours next year that visit Canada's interior and explore its coastline.

The 24-day 'Icons of Western Canada and Alaskan Cruise' departs on April 28, 2023, and travels from Victoria and includes visits to Whistler where local black bear expert Michael Allen will give insights into the lives of the bears in this region.

There's also the stargazing 'Dark Sky' experience in the Rockies, a drive along the Icefields Parkway to Athabasca Glacier and the chance to watch the sunrise at Lake Louise and enjoy wildlife spotting for some of the globe's most revered creatures in Banff. Guests will then cross the Capilano Suspension Bridge before cruising up to Juneau, Alaska's state capital before heading to Skagwa, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan and Vancouver. Prices start from £9,895 per person.

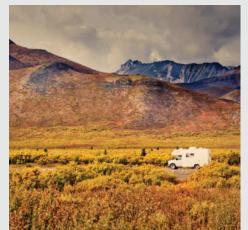
The 21-day 'Eastern Canada and USA Explorer' departs from Montréal and explores Québec City, Ottawa and Toronto before heading to the Parc Omega to discover the incredible wildlife and then on to the world-famous Niagara Falls. After a visit to this legendary site, the experience takes guests across the border into the US where guests can learn all about the historical significance and influence of Washington DC before heading on to Philadelphia and New York. Prices start at £7,395 for a departure date of May 20, 2023. www.scenic.co.uk



NATS hits the road with Yukon adventures

NORTH AMERICA Travel Service has added three brand new itineraries to give travellers the opportunity to explore the Yukon territory.

The 11-night 'Yukon Circle by Motorhome' fly-drive leads in at £1,945 per person, based on two adults sharing, and includes flights one night arrival stay at the Best Western Gold Rush Inn, Whitehorse, 10 nights C-Medium motorhome rental, Gold Package including convenience kits, RV preparation,



unlimited kilometres and CDR coverage,

The eight-night 'Whitehorse and Dawson City Delights' twin-centre package starts at £1,999 per person, based on two adults sharing, and includes flights, four nights' accommodation in the Best Western Gold Rush Inn, Whitehorse, four nights in the Aurora Inn, Dawson City and five days' car hire.

The 12-night 'Yukon Arctic Explorer' flydrive package includes flights, stays at the Nest Western Gold Rush Inn, Whitehorse, the Aurora Inn, Dawson City, the Eagle Plains Hotel, Eagle Plains, the Nova Inn, Inuvik, the Bedrock Motel, Mayo and 13 days' car hire. Prices start from £3,069 per person, based on two adults sharing.

Email: travel.agents@nats-uk.com www.northamericatravelservice.co.uk



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tiviera Travel booking terms and conditions apply. *Canada's Rocky Mountaineer and Alaska cruise is 16 days from £4,299. /isit the website for full tour details and inclusions.



Frontier Canada launches new bucket-list escapes

FRONTIER CANADA offers a choice of bucket-list escapes to Canada.

The itineraries include 'Polar Bears in Churchill Enthusiast', a five-night experience comprising two nights in Winnipeg and three nights in Churchill, giving guests plenty of time to soak in the areas' landscapes and elusive polar bear population. The package, including Air Canada, accommodation and two full days on the Tundra Buggy, starts from £5,450 per person based on two sharing.

'Vancouver Island Fly Drive' compiles a flexible choice of accommodation across seven nights (two in Vancouver, two in Victoria, and three in Tofino) with a whale watching trip, compact car hire and ferry crossings. The tour starts from £1,635 per person based on two sharing.

The eight-night 'Northern Lights and Winter Sights' offers the chance to capture the natural phenomenon and soak in the winter landscapes. Prices start from £3,650 per person based on two sharing, with flights, accommodation, all meals, and selected activities and transfers. www.frontier-canada.co.uk





Maple Leaf Trail with Newmarket

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS offers an expansive itinerary from Toronto to Montréal, taking in a choice of charming cities and towns en route.

Day one starts as guests arrive in Toronto and travel to Niagara for two days at leisure, including a day in Niagara-on-the-Lake, a quaint fallside village. Day five brings a day of leisure in Toronto, with opportunities to head for heights at the CN Tower or take in any number of museums or galleries.

Guests will then begin their pursuit on the Maple Leaf Trail, along Lake Ontario's northern shores, before arriving in Ottawa.

A coach on day six brings guests to Québec City for a two-night stay. An optional sightseeing tour on day seven will showcase Québec City's cobbled alleyways and Basse Ville and Haute Ville areas.

Day eight brings the tour to the final destination, Montréal, with an optional sightseeing tour or day at leisure. Sightseeing takes in the Vieux Port and Plateau Mont Royal. The combination of French flair and modernity is a highlight. Guests return home on day ten.

The tour starts from £2,229 per person based on a May 2023 departure. www.newmarketholidays.co.uk

What was your favourite travel moment of 2022?

Jeanette Ratcliffe Publisher jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk Amsterdam (after a two-year wait!)



Matthew Hayhoe Editor matthew.hayhoe@travelbulletin.co.uk California - a bucket-list trip.



Simon Eddolls Sales Director simon.eddolls@travelbulletin.co.uk Córdoba in September... a beautiful city!



0

Tim Podger Account Manager - Far East tim.podger@travelbulletin.co.uk Heading back to the UK for WTM!



Melissa Paddock Events Coordinator melissa.paddock@travelbulletin.co.uk



Holly Brown Events Coordinator holly.brown@travelbulletin.co.uk Disneyland in California.



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TIMINGS

Registration

Welcome 6:25^{PM} Client Presentations 6:30^{PM}

Hot Dinner

lille

7:30PM

Client Presentations 8:15^{PM}

Travel Bulletin

Product Quiz & Free Prize Draw 9:15 - 9.30^{PM}

To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by Wednesday 16 February 2023. to: events@travelbulletin.co.uk or Telephone: 020 7973 0136

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