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Giving agents the edge

AGENT BULLETIN

More training and incentives for agents

PIX MIX

All the best shots from the Macerich pre-Christmas shopping FAM to Chicago!

SPAIN & ITS ISLANDS

Tenerife to Madrid, there is never a bad time for a Spanish escape

WINTER SUN

Winter fun in the sun options for your clients

UK & IRELAND

Get your clients excited for these gems on our doorstep



JAMAICA

SAINT LUCIA

ANTIGUA

BAHAMAS

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WINTER SUN

Salute the sun in Sharm El-Sheikh

MIND, BODY AND SOUL

Global travel network Virtuoso reveal that stressed out travellers are driving wellness tourism, with mindful meditation the focus for 2020.



Virtuoso specialists report that wellness travel sales are pacing solidly for 2020.

A STUDY by global travel network Virtuoso found that reducing stress and anxiety are paramount with travellers in the new year. Similar findings were seen in ABTA's 'Travel Trends Report' of 2019, which found that "travel companies are increasingly catering to the demand for wellness holidays, with companies such as G Adventures, Intrepid's 18-29 brand and Uniworld offering new programmes which seek to alleviate stress and boost wellbeing."

Virtuoso found that travellers resolving to improve themselves in 2020 are focusing on wellness of the mind and spirit – even more than the physical. They

named meditation and mindfulness as the top wellness travel activity and cited spiritual and mental wellness as significant emerging trends.

The survey revealed that the typical wellness traveller is a Generation-X woman who most frequently goes on trips with a small group of friends or solo. With today's increasingly hectic lifestyles, due to work, family and other obligations, travellers are looking to wellness trips to provide a relaxing escape that restores balance and transforms mind, spirit and body. They are seeking to gain skills while away to help maintain that calm and support their mental, spiritual and physical health

once they return home.

Asian destinations emerged strongly as favourite wellness settings. Although the U.S. tops the list of wellness travel destinations, Bali and Thailand follow close behind. Two other Asian locales, Bhutan and Vietnam, appear high on the roster of wellness destinations on the rise. The prevalence of meditation, yoga, spirituality, fresh cuisine, spa treatments and outdoor activities makes Asia compelling for travellers focusing on wellbeing.

This is a travel trend that is not expecting to slow down anytime soon, as Virtuoso specialists report that wellness tourism will continue to build.

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Gold Medal rolls out 2020 brochures

GOLD MEDAL is going for the 'Perfect 10' in 2020 with the launch of its latest line-up of brochures.

The bumper crop of programmes feature the addition of 246 new properties, 41 new day tours or experiences and 20 new destinations.

The brochures will be familiar to agents, with the range featuring four for North America (USA; Canada; Florida; Caribbean & Mexico), plus The Far East; Thailand; Dubai & Arabia; Africa; Indian Ocean & India; and Australia, New Zealand & South Pacific.

In a unique twist for this year's brochures, the cover of each includes illustrations of regional highlights hand-drawn by Gold Medal staff.

Nick Hughes, sales director Gold Medal and



The scenic Montego Bay in Jamaica is featured in the Caribbean brochure.

Travel 2, commented: "Print products provide a valuable resource and selling tool in stores, and this year will be a great gateway into our enhanced Gold Medal website, with new functionality and features including filtering search results, new product maps and the ability to email or print bespoke quotes with the agents' call to action. We

have holiday content for all budgets, can cater for growing trends such as multigenerational travel and celebrations, and have a huge variety of activity, sightseeing and cultural experiences."

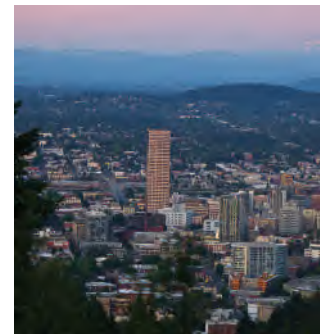
The brochure is now available and can be ordered via TradeGate or viewed online at www.goldmedal.co.uk

Hop across the pond to Portland with British Airways

BRITISH AIRWAYS will launch the first year-round, nonstop flight from London to Portland, Oregon.

With return fares starting from £459 in World Traveller, £758 in World Traveller Plus and £1,399 in Club World, flights to Portland will depart on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the summer, moving to a four day a week schedule in the winter. Flights will be operated on a Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

"Portland's world-class food and beverage offerings, vibrant maker culture and access to outdoor adventure make our region a great destination for UK travellers," says Jeff Miller, president and CEO of Travel Portland.



British Airways joins current nonstop seasonal service from London Heathrow on Delta Air Lines as well as services from Virgin Atlantic and Norwegian via Seattle and Icelandair via Reykjavik. For more information on the city of Portland and the state of Oregon visit travelportland.com and traveloregon.com

Advantage Holidays relaunches online platform

ADVANTAGE HOLIDAYS, the in-house tour operator service from Advantage Travel Partnership, announced the relaunch of their online platform.

Five USA City destinations will be available, featuring flights with low-cost and scheduled carriers and a choice of up to 20,000 hotel options, customers will benefit from deposits of £150 per person.

Fly-Cruise & Stay packages will become fully bookable online from early 2020 and will enable members to differentiate the product

they offer in their local areas. Worldwide departures with pre- and post-stay options and itineraries from leading cruise lines will all be underpinned with deposits from £150 per person on European cruises while transatlantic and rest-of-the-world cruises will be available from £250 per person.

Members will continue to have access to short and mid-haul holidays covering 43 beach and city destinations, as well as customer favourites.

www.advantageholidaysagents.com



A blow out sale with Explore

EXPLORE IS offering savings of up to £630 per person in its January peak sale which includes more than 150 trips and over 400 departure dates.

An example is 'Cycle Japan', a 13-day trip with prices starting from £4,082 per person. Guests will explore Japan's historic cities and rural landscapes. They will get to cycle the scenic coastal trails of Noto Peninsula and take a bike tour of historic Kyoto.

The offer applies to bookings made before 23:59 GMT, January 22.

For more information, visit www.explore.co.uk

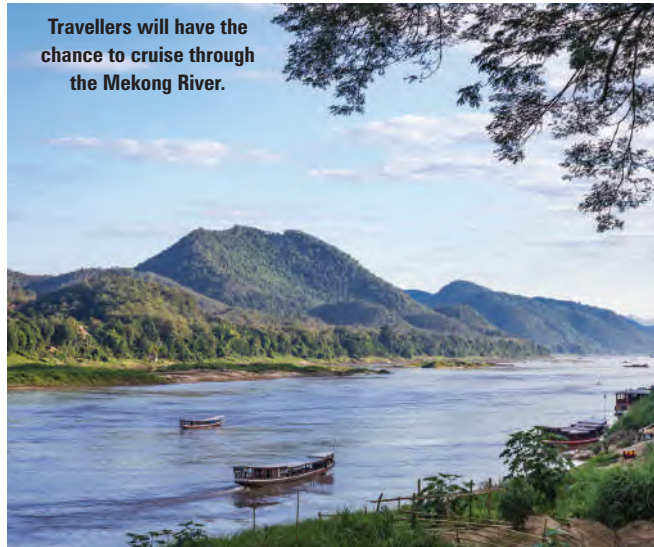
Wendy Wu Tours launches new offerings for 2020

WENDY WU Tours have four offers on sale for a limited time. The operator has teamed up with Cathay Pacific for a one-way Business Class Upgrade from £299 per person on an extensive range of China and Japan group tours plus Southeast Asia group tours for £399 per person.

In addition, the operator is offering Business Class Upgrades (one-way) with Air China across selected China and Japan Group Tours. Alternatively, there is an option to upgrade both ways for £899 per person.

The travel specialist is also offering free upgrades to Upper Deck Cabins on its new deluxe and state-of-the-art Mekong river cruise ship, Victoria Mekong. Upgrades are available on all Victoria Mekong tour packages

Solo travellers benefit as the operator is providing



Travellers will have the chance to cruise through the Mekong River.

free single supplements on all 2020 departures across 16 tours in China, India, Southeast Asia, Central Asia and Peru.

Commenting on these New Year offers, John Warr, global sales director at Wendy Wu Tours, said: "There's never been a better time to travel to Asia especially when you

combine these incredible offers with the fantastic experiences on our tours. These unbelievable Business Class flight upgrades are a luxurious addition to some of our most popular tours, providing a much more comfortable and relaxing long-haul experience." For more information, visit www.wendywutours.co.uk

Travel 2 unveils PEAKS campaign for agents

TOUR OPERATOR Travel 2 has revealed its PEAKS campaign with its biggest-ever package of agent perks showcasing their worldwide holidays, cruise, touring and luxury offerings.

Topping the chart is 'T2 Ready to Rock' - the chance to win VIP tickets to some of the UK's top music festivals next summer. Sales via Travel 2's Worldwide Reservations department or online at travel2.com during January and February 2020 all qualify for a chance to win one of five pairs of festival

tickets when deposits of £100 or more have been secured.

For an extra chance to win, all qualifying bookings with Travel 2 including flights with Virgin Atlantic or Delta Air Lines will be counted as two entries.

To help agents attract touring booking during the incentive period, Travel 2 will be supplying its 'Little Book of Incredible Journeys' brochure featuring rail and touring options available. www.travel2.com

Go Caribbean crazy with Caribtours

CARIBTOURS HAS launched 'The Caribtours Sale', which is accompanied by the ninth edition of 'The Luxury Travel Magazine from Caribtours', and runs from now until February 7.

The Luxury Travel Magazine comprises holiday ideas from the Caribbean, Mexico, Indian Ocean and Europe. The editorial includes Caribtours' pick of the best family resorts, where to go for some beach bliss, which resorts offer wellness facilities beyond the spa, and top recommendations for romantic holidays and affordable luxury.

The tour operator's team has negotiated a host of offers, many of which are exclusive, and include savings of up to 50%, complimentary upgrades and added value extras, plus an additional £500 off 2020 holidays.



Within the magazine, there's a competition to win a seven-night all-inclusive couples' holiday to Jamaica, courtesy of Couples Resorts and the Jamaica Tourist Board. The competition ends February 7. www.caribtours.co.uk/sale caribtours.co.uk/sale



Cruising through at the last minute with Fred. Olsen

IF YOUR clients are enticed by the thought of a last minute winter getaway, there is still limited availability on a number of Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' sailings departing over the next couple of months. From a five-night European city break – with fares from £629 per person – to island-hopping Caribbean adventures, there is bound to be an itinerary to capture the imagination.

All prices are based on two adults sharing an Interior Room, unless stated otherwise.

To see all the available options, visit www.fredolsencruises.com/agent



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This romantic getaway also features 24-hour in-suite dining, gourmet dining at the Greathouse Restaurant, premium spirits, pool and beach cabanas, private airport transfers and more. All just minutes from Hewanorra International Airport and ideally located to explore Saint Lucia's famous attractions.



For reservations or more information

Call: 01582 792260

Email: serenity@group-promotions.com

Visit: SERENITYATCOCONUTBAY.COM

*Offer valid for bookings made 1 Jan – 31 Jan, 2020 and valid for travel 1 Jan – 31 Dec, 2020. Serenity Bonus' valid for travel on stays on 7 nights or longer. Bookings must be registered on SERENITYREWARDS.CO.UK. Bonus' may be redeemed as MasterCard gift card or Amazon Gift Card per program terms and conditions. See website for details. Full terms and conditions apply.

Getting physical with G Adventures' 'Active trips'

G ADVENTURES has introduced eight new 'Active trips' for travellers looking to combine physical activity with cultural interaction on their next getaway. The new tours include multisport itineraries in Indonesia and Cuba, and fresh hiking options in the United States' National Parks. There is also a new way to hike Peru's famous Inca Trail for one day, during the alternative Lares Trek hiking route.

Simon Ma, brand manager for G Adventures' Active travel style, says the small group adventure operator has seen a 10% increase in global sales for their Active travel style, which combines daily outdoor activities with the local community tourism aspects G Adventures is well known for.

"Health and wellbeing have become a priority for many travellers, and people are increasingly enjoying



Travellers will have the opportunity to hike up the Inca Trail in Peru.

seeing new places by foot, bike and kayak. These modes of transport are lower-impact on the ground, so better for the environment, and they get travellers closer to a place and its people. There's also the added benefit of burning off all the delicious local cuisine they'll be trying

along the way," says Ma.

Highlights of the new Indonesia multisport trip include whitewater rafting down Bali's longest river, and hiking to the crater of the active Ijen Volcano to view the famed blue fire, ascending to the crater rim in time for sunrise.

www.gadventures.com

Latin Routes honours top agents

LATIN ROUTES honoured their top-selling agents at a dinner held in London's Gherkin building. The winner of Top Agency was Beaver Travel Radlett, Top Homeworker was David Walker.

Suppliers were also on hand to talk about their products with the dinner guests.

Australis shared details of its four-night expedition voyages which give travellers the highlights of regions, such as Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia aboard luxury vessels.

Celebrity Cruises also shared details of

expedition voyages aboard all-suite vessels and discussed how the company is working to be more sustainable.

The Chilean tourist board told guests about the diversity in geography and types of holidays which can be taken in Chile, including wine tourism, beaches, city breaks, adventure holidays and winter sports.

LATAM showed guests the upgraded aircraft, including flat beds in business class and more comfortable seats in Premium Economy and Economy cabins.

Classic Collection Holidays launch new long-haul holidays

LUXURY OPERATOR Classic Collection has launched new long-haul holidays, with a selection of private recommended tours for each destination, shared departure tours for solo travellers and 'Fly Drive' holidays, all with beach holiday extensions.



Introducing eight new destinations in its first phase, the long-haul destinations of Vietnam, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa, will be followed later in 2020 with more hot spots.

Offering luxury beach holidays and selling through a network of third-party travel agencies including high street independents and homeworkers, Classic Collection has partnered with luxury hotel brands such as Aman, Four Seasons, Six Senses and Anantara, along with local hotel brands which offer the same quality and customer experience.

The new products are available now and the brochure are now available.

For additional information, visit www.classic-collection.co.uk/



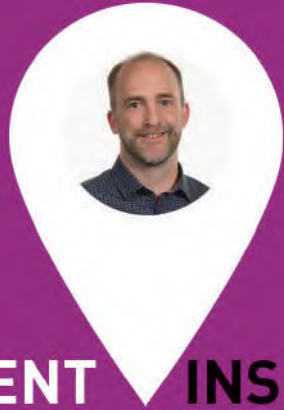
Discover the Greek islands with Cyplon Holidays

FOR 2020, luxury tour operator, Cyplon Holidays is adding 12 new Greek Islands to their Greek island programme.

These islands are located across the Cyclades, Sporades, North East Aegean and Saronic, including Ios & Syros in the Cyclades and Poros, Hydra, Spetses & Agistri in the Saronic.

In total, the operator now features 37 Greek islands and has added a new feature of island hopping and multi-centre itineraries, designed to inspire travellers to discover Greece's hidden treasures.

www.cyplon.co.uk/bulk-order-brochures



AGENT INSIGHT

Andy La Gette
Travel Counsellors

THE TRAVEL industry seems to have become “ethical” and “sustainable” in the last couple of years. I wonder how many are tick-boxing and flag-waving for effect, and how many are actually taking this seriously?

I was once told that “we don’t inherit this world from our parents, we borrow it from our children”. If we believe this, we need to ensure that we pursue sustainability from our roots. It needs to be a cultural adoption that leaves no room for laziness. No more of the target-driven “Wolf of Wall Street” organisations of the recent past, with battery-hen call-centres playing the numbers games with endless incoming calls. The market has changed, and now demands the personal touch. We need to do things right, and we need to do it now.

Sustainable travel evokes all kinds of concepts that demand mass-adoption to make a difference. It can be daunting to make the change and take the first step – but what choice do we have? Recycling, eliminating plastic waste, planting trees, animal conservation, removing carbon emissions, reducing water wastage. Let’s get behind the hoteliers, airlines and tour operators that have started to take the first steps.

Travel agents have the power to influence travel decisions for the entire market. The corporate and leisure clientele select items from our travel menu – so as the head chefs, we have to pick our ingredients with greater responsibility. Let sustainable partners be the new superfoods. Make the tough decisions around the contracting table. Forge relationships with DMC partners who give back to local communities. Don’t be afraid to discuss why some elephant camps are dreadful and others deserve support. Champion cruise lines that are carbon neutral or who have the foresight to fuel their ships with dead fish. Our buy-in starts now.

Jet2 announces Lisbon as new destination

JET2.COM AND Jet2holidays has announced that it will operate to Lisbon for the first time, with flights, city breaks and holidays going on sale from Manchester and Birmingham Airports from April 20, well timed for the Easter holidays.

Customers can enjoy a city break to the capital city of Portugal with Jet2CityBreaks. Lisbon offers everything for explorers including ancient ruins, white-domed cathedrals and gastronomic delights around every corner.

The leisure airline and package holiday specialist will launch flights, holidays and city breaks to the Portuguese capital from April 2020, and two weekly flights are now on sale from both bases.

The company will operate Thursday and Sunday services from Manchester Airport and Monday and Friday services from Birmingham Airport.

Steve Heapy, CEO of the airline and holiday operator, said: “We are delighted to be launching flights, holidays and city breaks to Portugal’s stunning capital of Lisbon for the first time from Manchester and Birmingham Airports. Offering the best of both worlds, holidaymakers can explore the charismatic and vibrant city, or head to one of many coastal resorts.”

www.jet2holidays.com



AURORA EXPEDITIONS LAUNCHES WEBSITE

AURORA EXPEDITIONS has launched their new website, offering a plethora of information with itinerary details, bios on the expedition team, details of the ship and its layout to help with cabin selection and much more. Exclusively for trade eyes only, there are sections with news, updates, pre-registration with preferential offers and webinar announcements.

www.auroraexpeditions.com.au

AGENT INCENTIVES

- TO KICKSTART 2020, Faremine is giving agents and tour operators the chance to win their dream destination holiday, with free long-haul tickets to be won on Virgin Atlantic and Emirates, plus £1000s of Love2shop vouchers to be won and earned. Every Virgin Atlantic and Delta Air Lines booking, in January, goes into a prize draw to win a pair of Virgin Atlantic tickets to any US gateway. All Virgin Atlantic and Delta Air Lines bookings earn Love2shop vouchers, up to £30 per booking. Every Emirates booking, in January, also goes into a prize draw to win a pair of tickets anywhere on the network, with upgrades and lounge access, and Love2shop vouchers up to £50. The more bookings agents make, the more chances they have to win. For more information, go to www.faremine.com.
- AGENTS CAN win a five-star trip to Las Vegas, which includes five nights at The Cosmopolitan Of Las Vegas, Upper Class flights with Virgin Atlantic and resort credit and experiences with Pure Luxury. To be in the chance of booking, agents must make bookings before February 29. Pure Luxury's 2020 programme comes with a raft of new luxury product in best-selling destinations and an expanded selection of upmarket cruise packages. The expanded offering comes on the heels of the operator's fully transactional agent-facing website, launching this month. The 2020 brochure can be ordered via TradeGate or viewed online at www.pureluxuryholidays.co.uk.
- TITAN TRAVEL has announced its New Year incentive campaign, with a number of lifestyle vouchers up for grabs as well as a £4,000 holiday voucher. The incentive runs until February 29. Each booking made over the campaign will qualify as one entry and will be automatically placed into the draw. The more holidays an agent books, the more chances to win. A winner will be picked at random and notified by March 8. Agents can also cash in this January by receiving a £20 lifestyle voucher for every long-haul booking secured over the campaign period, and a £10 voucher for every short-haul booking. All vouchers must be claimed by emailing agentincentives@titantravel.co.uk within seven days of making the booking. All holidays booked in January will also qualify for a special low deposit of £99 per person.
- LINKS TRAVEL & Tours is offering travel agents £20 Love2Shop vouchers for every booking they make over the value of £2,098 during January 2020. For every small group tour and tailor-made journey confirmed between January 2 and 31 inclusive, agents will be sent a £20 Love2Shop voucher in February. This incentive is per booking, so the more bookings made, the higher the value of vouchers received. No claims for the vouchers need to be made by agents, as the company will arrange everything. www.linkstravelandtours.co.uk/travel-agents/agents-portal/january-2020-incentive/
- TO INCENTIVISE trade partners, Silversea Cruises will be offering 50 reward points – equating to a £50 gift voucher – which can be used to redeem Love2Shop, Amazon and Virgin Wines vouchers for any 2020 booking. Also, the cruise line has announced a 10% early booking bonus, inclusive flights on all voyages, and Bonus Savings of up to £500 per suite on selected worldwide voyages in 2020 and 2021. Guests can save on a selection of voyages in Europe, the Caribbean, Asia, Antarctica, Galapagos Islands, Alaska, Arctic, South America, and Australia & New Zealand – and all with the cruise line's all-inclusive experience on board. Bookings must be made before February 28. To claim and redeem points visit www.silverseaagentrewards.com.
- AGENTS CAN win a seven night stay for two at the Iberostar Dominicana in Punta Cana (flights included) with Youtravel Peak Deals. From December 26 to January 31, any booking made through us will automatically enter into the weekly prize draw. Booking any property from the hotel list will increase agents' chances of being one of the lucky winners and allow them to benefit from exclusive discounts. Further, winners will have the opportunity to choose between an annual Cinema pass, a Merlin family pass and a Premier League hospitality package for two people. Follow www.facebook.com/youtravel.com/td/ to find out the weekly winners. To have a look at the complete hotels list, go to www.youtravel.com/hotel-groups/youtravel-peak-deals

AGENT TRAINING

WIN A Maltese gastronomy goody bag with the Malta Training Programme. It boasts five courses, which provide you with the inside knowledge and top tips to share with your customers; be it city breaker, families, under-30s or the LGBT+ community. Goody bag includes: Maltese wine, prickly pear jam, sea salt with lemon, extra virgin olive oil of Gozo and more. Go to www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travelgym



SETOUCHI TOURISM Authority and Kyushu Tourism Promotion Organization hosted a week-long FAM trip to Japan for four lucky agents who won places on the excursion after signing up to the Setouchi Training Platform in partnership. Winners came from Barrhead, Travel Counsellors, Travel 2 and Moran Travel.

travelbulletin COMPETITIONS!

Two return tickets on the Eurostar to The Netherlands

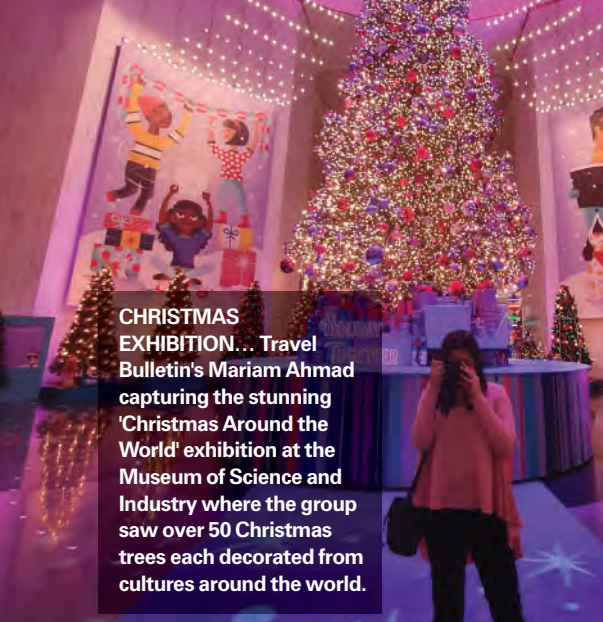
Flights to be won with Air New Zealand and Singapore Airlines

Luxury Italian Hamper with Typically Holidays

**FOR ALL COMPETITIONS
ON THE SITE VISIT
travelbulletin.co.uk/competitions**

Macerich treats the travel trade to a pre-Christmas shopping FAM in Chicago!

IN DECEMBER, MACERICH Shopping Centers & Fashion Outlets, partnered with British Airways and Choose Chicago, to host members of the travel trade for a festive shopping trip to Chicago. The action-packed, four-day itinerary included deep dish pizza and food aplenty, a Christmas market, ice skating, pasta making, and of course, much time spent shopping at Fashion Outlets of Chicago and The Shops at North Bridge!



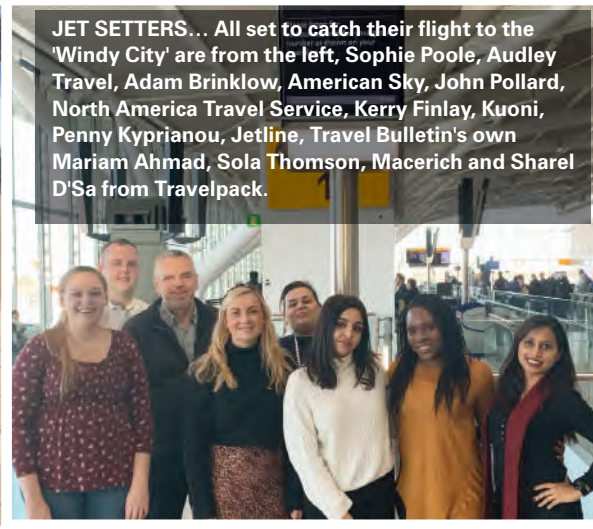
CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION... Travel Bulletin's Mariam Ahmad capturing the stunning 'Christmas Around the World' exhibition at the Museum of Science and Industry where the group saw over 50 Christmas trees each decorated from cultures around the world.



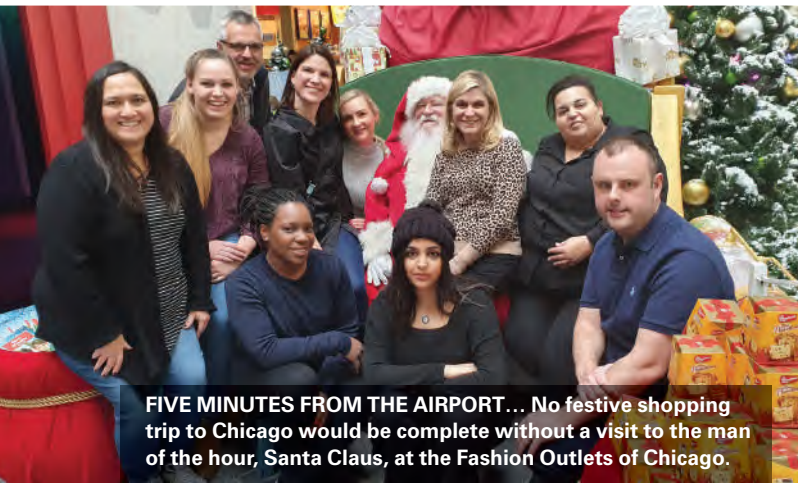
WORLD-RENOWNED ART... Travepack's Sharel D'Sa and Travel Bulletin's Mariam Ahmad admire the renowned 'Paris Street; Rainy Day' painting by the French artist Gustave Caillebotte at the Chicago Art Institute.



CLOUD GATE... The group headed to Millennium Park, home to the wow-worthy attraction, "The Bean", one of Chicago's most well-known landmarks.



JET SETTERS... All set to catch their flight to the 'Windy City' are from the left, Sophie Poole, Audley Travel, Adam Brinklow, American Sky, John Pollard, North America Travel Service, Kerry Finlay, Kuoni, Penny Kyprianou, Jetline, Travel Bulletin's own Mariam Ahmad, Sola Thomson, Macerich and Sharel D'Sa from Travepack.



FIVE MINUTES FROM THE AIRPORT... No festive shopping trip to Chicago would be complete without a visit to the man of the hour, Santa Claus, at the Fashion Outlets of Chicago.



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SPREE... A successful pre-Christmas shopping trip! The group enjoyed world-class brands like Tory Burch and Michael Kors at the Fashion Outlets of Chicago, the Midwest's ONLY two-level indoor outlet shopping experience.



COOKING SCHOOL... Macerich organised a pasta making class at the beautiful Eataly Italian marketplace at The Shops at North Bridge in the heart of downtown Chicago, which saw the group attempting to make different pasta shapes.



CHRISTKINDLMARKET... The group experienced the German-style outdoor market featuring international and local vendors as they enjoyed sweet mulled wine.



CHICAGO'S SKYLINE... 1000ft up in the sky, the group extended out over Chicago on the thrilling attraction TILT at the 360 Chicago observation deck on the 94th floor of the John Hancock Building, where they were offered stunning views across the city.

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, January 16th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

The winner for December 6th 2019 is Ron Cassidy, Central England Co-op travel in Birmingham..

December 6th Solution: A=7 B=5 C=4 D=3

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



WHERE AM I?

Visitors can soar above unique rock formations and caves in a hot air balloon, or perhaps visit the renowned open air museum featuring ancient paintings, churches and cave houses from centuries ago. This area is famous for its beautiful pottery and its delectable doner kebabs.

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										
16									17	18
19										

Across

- 1. Group of independently owned and managed hotels (4,7)
- 5. Salzburg airport code (3)
- 7. Capital of Vietnam (5)
- 10. Carrier, ___ Airways with a hub at Suvarnabhumi international airport (4)
- 11. Nevada city, famous for casinos (4)
- 13. Cosmopolitan beach resort close to Rhodes Town (4)
- 14. Broadcaster Andrew, with his own politics show (4)
- 16. City hosting the 2020 Olympics (5)
- 17. Scandinavian airline, initially (3)
- 19. Louisa May Alcott story, now a major movie (6,5)

Down

- 1. Airport code for 9 Down (3)
- 2. Capital of Poland (6)
- 3. Vibrant area of London (4)
- 4. East African capital city (7)
- 6. Major UK airport (7)
- 8. An IOW Landmark Attraction, The ___ (7)
- 9. City where you can visit Brunel's SS Great Britain (7)
- 12. Sometimes called the Mother River of China (6)
- 15. Table game, sounds like a Dorset harbour (4)
- 18. Red top daily, The ___

Mystery Word: SARK Where am I? - Cappadocia, Turkey

Across: 1. BEST WESTERN, 5. SZG, 7. HANOI, 10. THAI, 11. RENO, 13. KIA, 14. NEIL, 16. TOKYO, 17. SAS, 19. LITTLE WOMEN
Down: 1. BRS, 2. WARSAW, 3. SOHO, 4. NAIROBI, 6. GATWICK, 8. NEEDLES, 9. BRISTOL, 12. YELLOW, 15. POOL, 18. SUN.

Titan launches 'Worldwide Collection 2020/2021'

TITAN TRAVEL has launched its latest worldwide brochure for 2020 and 2021 holidays. Complete with updated departure dates and the latest tour prices, the brochure will help agents who are looking for holiday inspiration for their clients in 2020 or are planning ahead for 2021.

Andy Squirrell, managing director, Titan Travel, comments: "Whether you're looking for a European escape or want to explore the fascinating Far East, our worldwide brochure covers some of our best escorted tours and cruises across world."

"We've also included our biggest collection of 2021 departures for travellers who like to plan ahead and benefit from our Early Bird Price Promise – guaranteeing the best possible price for all travellers at the time of



Tourists can visit the colourful temples of Southern India with Titan.

booking new tours departing in 2020/2021."

Titan's latest worldwide brochure features two brand new tours, 'Kenya Tracks and Trails' and 'Sicilian Escape', as well as a number of other tours that are departing for the first time in 2020. Travellers looking to join one of Titan's new tours departing this

year can explore wild Zimbabwe, discover Southern India's colourful temples and laid-back lakeside resorts, or immerse themselves in the wonders of Central America, travelling across Costa Rica, Colombia and Panama. *For further information on tours, visit www.titantravel.co.uk*

Crystal Endeavor makes its debut in Germany

CRYSTAL ENDEAVOR has rolled out of MV Werften in Stralsund, Germany, touching water for the first time.

Video footage from the shipyard gives viewers a close-up look of the roll-out process and aerial views of the ship, including its expansive deck space and helicopter pads. The latest addition to the Crystal fleet, the German-built Crystal Endeavor, will embark on her maiden journey from Tokyo on August 10, 2020.

The ship's worldwide itineraries through early 2023 are now available for booking, comprising three dedicated categories of exploration: Remote Expedition, visiting some of the far-flung destinations and uninhabited locales; Cultural Discovery, distinguished by an emphasis on the region and its people; and Destination Exploration, highlighting the natural wonders and beauty of the destinations. *For more information, call 020-7399 7603 or visit www.crystalcruises.co.uk*

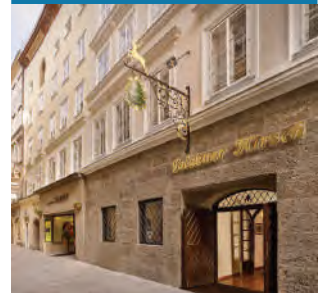
NEWS bites

HOTEL BITES

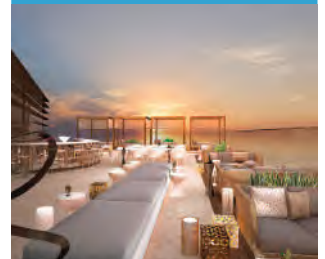
Barbados' newest hotel, The Sands Barbados, has opened, bringing condo-hotel living to the South Coast of the island.



Hotel Goldener Hirsch, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Salzburg has announced the culmination of a 30 million euro, full-scale renovation.



The avant-garde lifestyle brand, SO/ Hotels & Resorts, has arrived in Cuba with the opening of SO/ Paseo del Prado La Habana.



Forget January blues with Singapore Airlines' seat sale

FOR CLIENTS looking to escape winter in January, Singapore Airlines has launched special return fares from the the UK to destinations across Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the USA throughout 2020.

All prices include baggage allowance, more than 1,800 entertainment options, plus meals.

Options range from four daily flights from London Heathrow to Singapore and beyond, or five weekly departures from Manchester to Singapore and Houston.

A full list of promotional fares is available at singaporeair.com

SPAIN & ITS ISLANDS



MAKE MEMORIES IN MADRID

Spain's capital city is a world leader when it comes to offering authentic experiences for 2020

MADRID HAS long been a hot-spot for art, gastronomy, culture and nightlife and this year it promises a year packed with entertainment and authentic experiences.

When it comes to food, the city is offering exceptional tapas and wine during the Gastrofestival (www.gastrofestivalmadrid.com). From February 7 to 23, the festival will showcase some of the most iconic restaurants in Madrid allowing visitors to try the best dishes and cocktails across all 21 districts.

For art lovers, Madrid has

three of the world's most prestigious galleries located in the centre, near and around Paseo del Prado. What's more, Madrid's impressive Palace of Liria has recently opened its doors to the general public for the first time in November 2019. The Palace, is the home of the Duke of Alba, and is one of the most prestigious private residences in the city.

Tickets to the Palace of Liria, which includes an audio guide in different languages, are priced from around £12. For more information

visit www.palaciodeliria.com.

Tourists can then go behind the scenes with a professional flamenco dancer, followed by dinner and show with Insiders Madrid (www.insidersmadrid.com) from around £148 per person.

For sports enthusiasts one of the most highly anticipated events of the year takes place on March 1. El Clasico, which is the clash between rivals Real Madrid and FC Barcelona, is being hosted at the Santiago Bernabéu stadium.

Fast Facts

- **Currency**
£1 is €1.19
- **Flight time from UK to Madrid**
2hrs 30mins
- **Time difference to the UK**
+1hr GMT
- **Most visited areas**
Catalonia is the most popular followed by the Canary Islands and the Balearic Islands
- **Driving in Spain**
Currently only a UK driver's licence is needed. This might change in the case of Brexit.



CARNIVAL IN THE CANARIES

All eyes will be on Tenerife this month as Europe's biggest street spectacular gets underway



FROM JANUARY 24, hundreds of thousands of people will flock to the island of Tenerife to take part in the the biggest carnival in the world after Rio de Janeiro.

The Carnival of Santa Cruz de Tenerife is the most important carnival in Europe. In 1987, 250,000 people took to the streets to dance to the music of Celia Cruz and beat the Guinness world record. Since then, visitor numbers have continued to increase. In 2019, 400,000 people gathered on Piñata Saturday, the most important day of the carnival. The celebrations consist of two distinct parts: The Official Carnival and The Street Carnival. The Official Carnival is made up of more than 100 designated groups. There are bands clothed in fancy dress, troupes of dancers, actors and singers, street musicians, stringed ensembles and other musical groups. In total more than 5,000 people flood the streets in a spectacle

of light, sound and colour. Alternatively, The Street Carnival – declared a 'Fiesta of International Tourist Interest' by the Spanish Ministry of Tourism in 1980 – is open entry: anyone can dress up, dance and participate. One of the most important events is the Carnival Queen Election Gala. On January 24, dozens of competitors in various categories flaunt their wares in costumes that have been carefully tailored over many months. In some cases, outfits have been valued at tens of thousands of euros. Masi Carvajal, the director of one of the murgas called Diablos Locos, says that "the best thing to do is to see the whole carnival all the way down to the day-to-day contests of the street performers. That way you get to see the whole range."

For more information, visit www.hellocanaryislands.com

Romantic island breaks

THE CANARY Islands ooze romance with plenty options for Valentine's Day getaways.

Corralejo Natural Park is the best place to go to enjoy the desert beauty of Fuerteventura.

In the north, alongside the large tourist resort of Corralejo, is the biggest dune spread in the whole of the Canary Islands; an enormous extension of white sands bathed by the turquoise waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

To the south, the opposite awaits: a volcanic landscape, red and ochre, dramatic and rugged.

La Gomera – the second smallest of the islands – has palm-filled valleys, deep ravines, black sand beaches with crystal-clear waters, ancient forests refreshed with babbling streams.

Nestled in the lush and impressive nature of Garajonay National Park are the Chorros of Epina (Epina's Jets) – one of the most romantic spots on the island, said to have magical properties like the 'fulfillment of love wishes'.

Elsewhere, watch the sun rise from the summit of Tenerife's Mount Teide, the world's third largest volcano and a Unesco World Heritage Site. This is a must in the top ten romantic things to do in the Canary Islands.

Or how about Roque Nublo, in Gran Canaria, which is considered one of the biggest natural crags in the world. This cracked rock, riddled with pathos, is the true heart of Gran Canaria.



Spain's new luxury train

SPANISH RAIL firm Renfe has launched a new train journey through Green Spain, from Bilbao to Gijón, starting in May 2020.

The Costa Verde Express offers a unique six-day, five-night programme staying in a Gran Clase Room.

The new launch maintains the philosophy of Renfe's Luxury Tourist Trains, highlighting the gastronomy, landscapes, excursions, and magnificent trains, visiting Bilbao, Laredo, Santoña, Santoña, Santander, Santillana del Mar, Llanes, Covadonga, Oviedo and Gijón. The Costa Verde Express is priced from £2,390 per person including accommodation, all meals, gala dinner, activities on board, excursions and scheduled tours, tour guides, and other extras.

For more information, visit www.renfe.com.

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THE 2019 BRITISH TRAVEL AWARDS'
BEST VILLA HOLIDAY COMPANY



FOODIE HEAVEN

Valencia has an impressive food scene from street food to Michelin-starred fare



VALENCIA CITY, known as the birthplace of paella, is seeing more new Michelin star restaurants emerging.

Thanks to the excellent quality and locally grown ingredients such as rice, oranges, tiger nuts, fruits and vegetables, it doesn't come as a surprise that in recent years the city, which is located on the eastern coast, has seen its finest restaurants receive either their first or second Michelin stars. So far, the city has seven Michelin stars and the restaurants awarded are: Ricard Camarena, Riff, Sucede, El Poblet and last but certainly not least La Salita.

Another important category in Michelin guides is Bib Gourmand, which is an award given to restaurants which have good quality, fine dining and very good value for money. It

is rated by the Michelin inspection team so you are guaranteed to have an amazing meal. The new addition of restaurants that have received this award are Forastera, Gallina Negra and Canalla Bistro.

The most important gastronomic festival that all foodies should include in their diaries is the Valencia Culinary Festival which is held on February 24 until March 8. Some of the best Valencian chefs, sommeliers and traditional producers will make food that will be a feast for the senses. This year, eighteen restaurants taking part at the event including Michelin-starred chefs.

For more information, visit

www.visitvalencia.com

For the full list of Michelin restaurants

visit www.guide.michelin.com

Iconic Gran Canaria hotel reopens after £21.4m restoration

THE BARCELÓ Hotel Group has relaunched the Santa Catalina, a Royal Hideaway Hotel, in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

Once attracting the likes of Winston Churchill, Agatha Christie and Prince Charles, the five-star hotel has been restored to its former glory after an extensive renovation.

Since its original opening in 1890 by British architect James MacLaren, it has become a landmark of luxury tourism in Palmas de Gran Canaria.

Now under the management of the Barceló Hotel Group, the hotel has 204 elegant guest rooms, a world-class restaurant and a rooftop infinity pool, whilst being just a short walk to Las Canteras beach and the city's main attractions. The reimagining of the hotel saw the restoration of its original architecture and its iconic artwork, with the latter led by conservator-restorer Beatriz Galán. The hotel's flagship restaurant is Poemas by the Padrón brothers, under the leadership of Juan Carlos and Jonathan Padrón; the only Michelin-starred chefs of Canarian origin. Elsewhere in the hotel, the wellness centre houses a sauna, spa circuit, gym, thermal baths and treatment rooms. The spa offers treatments from Volcanic Stone Therapy to Ayurvedic Massage. Rates start from approx £115 (€136) per night for a double room on a room-only basis.



The other Mallorca on the Orange Blossom Train

NEWMARKET IS offering a six-day Mallorca & the Orange Blossom Train tour, available to book for February to May 2021 from £765 per person. The tour promises to reveal another side to the one you see in travel brochures, one steeped in history and carpeted in spectacular scenery. Guests will stay in historic Palma, with its picturesque enclosed Old Town and monumental cathedral, La Seu, which is the world's second-largest Gothic church. Its nave and altar canopy were designed by the famous Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí. Tapas bars, cafés and restaurants line the picturesque cobbled streets of the Old Town, bordered on one side by the sweeping seafront boulevard. A scenic ride aboard the vintage Orange Blossom Train reveals the island's wild interior, as it heads through picturesque citrus and almond groves. Newmarket Holidays' new Holidays & Tours Collection 2020–22 is now available to order from Tradegate.

THE WONDERS OF WALES

South Wales revealed as UK's fastest growing tourist hotspot

SOUTH WALES was the fastest-growing UK destination last summer with more than 35% year-on-year visitor growth, according to Expedia Group.

This shows that more UK holidaymakers chose to stay on home soil. In addition to Wales, hoteliers in a number of English regions experienced double-digit growth, including the Cotswolds (more than 20% year on year), a corner of the

country which is rising in popularity, and Yorkshire (also almost 20+% year-on-year). Other top performing cities climbing the list of holiday hotspots this summer included Cambridge, Manchester and East Anglia, which each experienced notable growth of nearly 20+% year-on-year. The data also revealed that traveller demand for the Lake District and Cumbria has continued to grow year-on-year by over 15% since it became a World Heritage

Site, while Bristol attracted increasing numbers of visitors with its cultural hub, experiencing 15% year-on-year growth.

Helen Maher of Expedia Group, said: "The strong growth of cities outside of London in the third quarter of the year is also hugely encouraging, demonstrating that our proposition of providing hotel partners with a global reach is helping to capture visitors and drive conversions."

Fast facts

- The UK is set to welcome a record 39.7m visitors in 2020
- **Ireland**
Galway becomes the European Capital of Culture 2020 with the opening ceremony on February 8
- **Scotland**
3.2million overseas tourists visited Scotland in 2017 – the population is only 5.4million
- **Wales**
There are 230 beaches and 50 islands in Wales
- **England**
The three most visited free attractions are the British Museum, National Gallery and Tate Modern

PILGRIMAGE TO DURHAM

New walking trails trace the footsteps of the Northern Saints

2020 HAS been designated as Durham's Year of Pilgrimage, with a programme of events and activities set to take place across the county.

Central to the celebrations is the launch of new walking trails across the region in Spring 2020, which tell the fascinating stories of the Northern Saints. At Beamish, The Living Museum of the North, walkers can discover the centrepiece of the £20m Remaking Beamish project and explore the latest developments in the new 1950's Town. Groups can climb aboard and explore the county's transport heritage at the recently opened Northern General Transport Bus Depot, and experience 50s community spirit in the 1950s Welfare Hall.

From buses to trains, railway enthusiasts can rejoice as Locomotion's Festival of Steam returns in May 2020, with a programme packed full of the sights, sounds and smells of steam power. Summer 2020 will also see the return of the world-famous Flying Scotsman to Durham, where groups can get up close to the steam locomotive.

The 900-year-old Auckland Castle reopens for its first season in 2020 following a multi-million-pound conservation project. Summer 2020 sees the return of Kynren, an Epic Tale of England, a spectacular outdoor live-action show set amidst the backdrop of Auckland Castle. The new year sees new show



experiences and attractions for 2020, including an exhilarating horse stunt show, park, maze, lakeside live music experience and new dining options. For more tailored tours, a range of bookable world-class itineraries featuring Durham are available.

For more information, visit: www.thisisdurham.com/discover-durham/2020

Big Spring weekend in Norwich

THE BIG Weekend is Norwich and Norfolk's tourism opportunity to showcase the county's credentials as a year-round visitor destination.

On April 4-5, free tickets are available to win experiences through a dedicated ballot system on norwichbigweekend.co.uk. From entry to museums and galleries, to theatres and attractions across Norwich and Norfolk, Norwich Big Weekend is focused on giving residents the opportunity to explore attractions and places that they might not have visited before.

The ballot will open on February 20 and run until March 16.

The campaign is being delivered in part by Go To Places – the people behind the Kent Big Weekend campaign, which has been running for over 12 years. David Curtis-Brignell of Go To Places said: "Our data shows that since Go To Places launched their Big Weekend campaign in Kent, spend from visiting friends and relatives has increased by 50 per cent and during the last five years, the number of local attractions taking part has increased by over 20 per cent with applications for tickets from local residents increasing by nearly 200%"



Cycle Galway's breathtaking coast

FREEDOM TREKS is offering cyclists the chance to explore Galway and the Connemara Coast with tours starting in April. The self-guided trips begin and end in Galway and will journey through natural unspoilt mountains, past ancient buildings and alongside the rugged coastline. Highlights include the 800 year old Ashford Castle in the village of Cong, cycle north into the spectacular Doo Lough valley, visit Derrigimlagh – the site of the first ever transatlantic crossing – and explore Dun Aonghusa, a 3,000 year old fort perched on the cliff.

The average daily cycling distance is 40km along easy to moderate trails, with options to lengthen the distance to 60km if wanted.

Accommodation is provided by bed and breakfasts and guesthouses, all of which will serve a home-cooked and hearty breakfast.

A seven-night self-guided bike tour, departs every day from April to October 2020 and costs from £622 per person. Return flights, bike hire and cycle helmets are extra.

Dreamland Margate celebrates 100th anniversary

THE ICONIC amusement park Dreamland Margate celebrates its centenary in 2020.

The venue has existed in Kent since the 1870s, but it was not until 1920 that John Henry Iles transformed it into the pleasure garden and amusement park Dreamland – and opened the famous Scenic Railway to the public.

It reopened again in 2015 with 2019 being its most successful year, welcoming more than 700,000 visitors throughout the season.

To mark the landmark anniversary, a series of large-scale events, new art commissions and festival fun is being planned for the amusement park. Acts already announced include Mike Skinner (DJ set), DJ Spooky, Faithless (DJ Set),



The Levellers and a huge line-up for the Soundcrash Funk and Soul Weekender in May.

Dreamland has also revealed that it will host two major international music acts on the park in the summer, each with a 15,000 capacity – the biggest events since the 2017 one day takeover by Gorillaz.

The 2020 Dreamland’s heritage slogan will be: 1000 smiles per hour, 100

years, 10 decades, 1 Dreamland.

CEO Eddie Kemsley, said: “Our 100th year will celebrate the future of Margate and Dreamland as well as its past.

“This year will go down in Dreamland’s history books as one of the greatest ever – watch this space.”

Dreamland is free to enter although is closed in January. www.dreamland.co.uk

A dram good idea at Edinburgh Airport

PASSENGERS AT Edinburgh Airport will be able to sample some of Scotland’s finest drams after the opening of the Usquabae Whisky Bar and Larder.

Located in the departures area, the venue features a hand-crafted oak bar and a wide selection of whiskies from celebrated distilleries across Scotland.

The original Usquabae is based in the heart of Edinburgh’s West End, becoming a hugely popular whisky bar since it first opened in 2015. This is the first addition to the brand.

Simon Watson, of Caledonian Heritable Ltd, the firm that owns Usquabae, said: “Expect great fayre, rare whisky and a celebration of the best of Scotland.”

HOSEASONS

START 2020 IN STYLE!

We have **8 Lifestyle vouchers*** worth **£100** each up for grabs!

HOW TO ENTER?

Simply register every Hoseasons booking you confirm between 30th December 2019 – 23rd February 2020 to agency.sales@hoseasons.co.uk along with your name, reference number and ABTA no. to be entered into the prize draw.

BE SOCIAL [facebook.com/HollieHoseasons](https://www.facebook.com/HollieHoseasons) [@HollieHoseasons](https://twitter.com/HollieHoseasons)

Last chance to book visit www.hoseasons.co.uk/agents or call 0345 498 6153

*The prize draw is open to all UK Travel Agents. Entrants must be over 18 years. The prizes are non-transferable and no cash alternative is offered. For the promoter details and full terms and conditions of the prize draw please visit: www.hoseasons.co.uk/assets/2020instyle.pdf

NEW YEAR EVENTS IN ENGLAND



VISIT ENGLAND has put together a list of what's new in 2020 making it easy for agents to pass on the best there is to offer when it comes to cultural experiences.

Events in January and February include wassailing, which is an ancient Saxon custom that involves drinking cider and singing to the trees in the hope of a good harvest and scaring away evil spirits. This takes place at National Trust locations across the country. In Somerset, cider-makers wassail their apple trees at locations including Sheppy's Cider Farm and Avalon Orchard on Glastonbury Tor, which offers family tours featuring Glastonbury's druids and town crier and storytellers. (Adult £3, child £1). For more information, visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wassailing.

In London, the Barbican is marking the 250th birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven

with Beethoven Weekenders (Feb 1-2) – a symphony cycle, chamber music concerts, talks, screenings of the cult 70s cartoon Ludwig, and family events (Adult £25, under 14s £10); BTHVN on TOUR (27 Jan-6 Feb) – is an exhibition from the composer's birth place including Beethoven's own violin and sketch books as well as Andy Warhol's famous Beethoven screen-print and many more. For more information, visit www.barbican.org.uk.

Elsewhere, Norwich hosts its first Love Light festive in time for Valentine's weekend in February. This will be an illuminating trail of light and fire artworks, installations, performances and interventions will celebrate the city's art and innovation, all set to a love and belonging theme. For more information visit www.visitnorwich.co.uk.

The best of Blackpool

THE 2020 Blackpool Destination Guide, showcasing the myriad events and attractions, is now available.

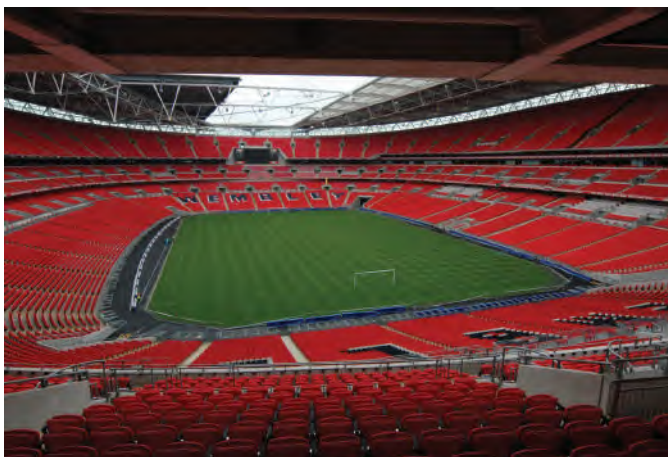
The free 100-page guide highlights a huge range of new shows, hotels and entertainment for the coming year including the opening of the resort's first five-star hotel, the Sands Venue Resort Hotel & Spa situated on the historic Golden Mile, as well as a new 150-bedroom Premier Inn opposite North Pier.



It also includes the Tower Coaster, one of several virtual reality experiences in the new Fifth Floor family entertainment area within The Blackpool Tower.

Plus it has the line-up of top-class shows, concerts and festivals including We Will Rock You, The Sound of Music, Grease the Musical, Footloose, Nickelodeon's SLIMEFEST, Hot Ice Euphoria, the British Country Music Festival and concerts by international stars including Sir Cliff Richard.

To order a copy, visit www.visitblackpool.com/plan-your-trip/request-a-brochure/.



Get pitch side with a ticket to Wembley

SHEARINGS HOLIDAYS is featuring breaks that offer the chance to experience the thrill of an international football game at Wembley Stadium.

As part of the preparations for UEFA Euro 2020 finals, England will host a series of matches including England v Italy on March 27 and England v Denmark on March 3. Shearings Holidays has two-day breaks on sale for both of these games. Prices are from £139 per person (England v Denmark) and £149 per person (England v Italy) to include return coach travel from North West and Yorkshire pick up points, one night's bed and breakfast accommodation, a ticket to the game and free time to explore London.



WINTER SUN

A PERFECT FAMILY GETAWAY

From UNESCO heritage sites to rugged mountains and stunning beaches, Muscat, the capital of Oman, has something for everyone.

MUSCAT, THE capital of Oman, is a great choice for a winter sun holiday, especially if you're travelling with a family. The combination of guaranteed sunshine, friendly people and safety makes it popular with people travelling with kids, as well as solo travellers.

With more than 3,000 km of coastline, the country has some beautiful beaches. Oman has a number of museums, primarily in the capital area, that is focused on promoting culture, science, and heritage. Its historic forts are a living testament to the craftsmanship of the period. For those golf lovers, worry not, got you covered as the capital boasts some worldclass clubs such as the Al Mouj Golf Club, Muscat Hills Golf and Country Club, Ghala Valley Golf Club, and the Ras Al Hamra Golf Club.

Fred. Olsen's Boudicca is offering a 28-night 'Ancient Sites of Oman,

Jordan & the Med' fly-cruise, ex London Heathrow / Manchester / Scotland on February 20, via Dubai, United Arab Emirates, returning to Dover, UK. Prices start from £2,899 per person and port calls include: Dubai, United Arab Emirates (overnight stay) – Muscat, Oman – Salalah, Oman – Aqaba, Jordan (overnight stay) – Cruising the Suez Canal, Egypt (overnight) – Ashdod, Israel – Limassol, Cyprus – Heraklion, Greece – Piraeus, Greece – Valletta, Malta – Palma, Spain – Cartagena, Spain – Malaga, Spain – Leixões (for Oporto), Portugal – Dover, UK

G Adventures offers eight days Muscat to Muscat tour for small groups limited to 16 members. Guests will get to explore the city highlights of Muscat, visit a turtle sanctuary, watch the sunset from a desert camp, visit the cattle market in Nizwá, see

the canyon views of Jebel Shams.

For families looking for a winter city break, especially with newborns and toddlers, Kempinski Hotel Muscat can be an ideal choice. The spacious Deluxe Suites are equipped for all parent and child needs. The hotel offers families complimentary baby monitors, bottle warmers, car seats, pushchairs, a variety of Sebamed children's amenities, baby cots, and there is a specialised kids menu at the hotel's all-day dining restaurant The Kitchen. The children's pool and the hotel's two private pools (one of which is for adults only) can be enjoyed by the whole family whilst overlooking the scenic coastline. It also boasts direct beach access to 6km of coastline, three swimming pools, and a kids club. Nightly rates start from GBP 170 ++ per night inclusive of breakfast for one.

BEYOND THE SPANISH SUNSHINE

While most Brits choose Spain to beat the winter blues, destinations such as Grenada, Morocco and Namibia offer less crowded beaches and more diverse landscapes to explore



SPAIN IS the most popular hot spot for sun-seeking Brits this winter sun season, while Portugal's ever-popular Algarve region is named the second most popular, according to a research conducted by On the Beach.

The Canary Islands of Tenerife, Lanzarote and Fuerteventura, which enjoy temperatures of up to 23°C during winter, are the most popular Spanish destinations this winter, however booking data reveals several summer sun favourites, such as the Costa Blanca and the Costa Del Sol, are growing in popularity over the winter sun season too.

The top ten most popular destinations this winter sun season are: Spain; Portugal; Egypt; Malta; Morocco; Cyprus; Turkey; Mexico; Thailand; and Cape Verde.

ABTA in its '12 destinations to watch for 2020' report lists Grenada, Morocco and Namibia among others.

Grenada is an ideal destination for those seeking to beat the winter blues. It has some beautiful beaches which are less crowded than

many other Caribbean islands. Grenada's green hills are full of fruit, nut and spice bearing trees and chocolate also grows happily on the island.

Morocco has varied landscapes offering windswept beaches, the sand dunes of the Sahara and the rugged beauty of the High Atlas and Rif mountains. Beach lovers are well served in Morocco with the resorts of Agadir, Taghazout and Essaouira. To get a taste of another side of Morocco head into the mountains for hiking trails, beautiful waterfalls and picturesque Berber villages.

Namibia boasts spectacular landscapes, and is home to some of the world's largest sand dunes, oldest cultures and the most extensive conservation areas in Africa. Guests can head to Etosha National Park for elephants, big cats, antelope and the eerie Skeleton Coast, strewn with shipwrecks and whale bones. The traditional peoples of Namibia, the Himba in the north west and San of the Kalahari are humbling examples of how to live a lifestyle in tune with your environment.

TUI UK adds 10,000 seats for winter 2020 from Edinburgh

TUI HAS announced its winter 2020 programme with the reintroduction of holidays to Sharm El Sheikh.

The new flight to Sharm El Sheikh from Edinburgh is on sale with weekly flights operating on a Monday with the first flight departing on November 2, 2020.

Famous for the red sea and sandy beaches, holidaymakers can expect high quality hotels and the year round sun the region is known for.

Four hotels including old favourites along the beautiful Red Sea coast are now on sale, with even more in the pipeline.



The company is also introducing flights from Doncaster Sheffield Airport to Sharm El Sheikh. New flight routes to Cape Verde, Fuerteventura, Hurghada, and Cancun have also been added. Flights will be operating on a weekly basis every Sunday from May 3. It will be increasing this to two flights a week with the addition of a flight every Thursday for winter 2020 with the first winter flight jetting off on November 1.



Experience Down Under with Scenic's 20-day itinerary

BODY SCENIC is offering a 20-day Grand Australia tour which takes guests from Perth to Sydney, taking in some of the continent's most iconic destinations including Alice Springs, Melbourne and Cairns. Highlights include an exclusive visit to a Kangaroo sanctuary in Alice Springs, before a Scenic Enrich dining experience as the sun sets at Uluru. In Melbourne, guests can witness the penguin parade of Phillip Island, before continuing their culinary adventures on board a restored Colonial tramcar. Followed by a journey to Cairns, where guests can marvel at the enchanting rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef shoreline, before flying over it in a helicopter. Prices for the 20-day itinerary start from £6,545 per person in a Twin Share departing January 27. www.scenic.co.uk



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Kuoni adds Sharm El-Sheikh hotels

SHARM EL Sheikh has returned to Kuoni's latest Egypt & Morocco programme after the FCO lifted its advice against air travel to the resort in October last year.

Four hotels ranging from three-and-a-half to five-star have been added for Sharm El Sheikh including: Hilton Sharks Bay Resort, Cleopatra Luxury Resort, Four Seasons Resort and the Hyatt Regency.

Angelo D'Avino, product and purchasing manager, said: "Kuoni holidays to Egypt have been growing over the past couple of years and we hope that with the Egyptian government investing over £26mn worth of extra security at airports and tourist resorts that this will build customers' confidence in the destination moving forward. Nile river cruises have also been proving popular and we have seen a massive increase in bookings year-on-year." A total of 34 hotels and resorts are featured in the collection, including three Nile river cruise itineraries, a Moroccan escorted tour and a handpicked selection of pre-bookable experiences.



Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, Oman

PEGASUS OFFERS some of the most exciting winter-sun destinations without having to spend a fortune. With the recent addition of Manchester airport to its network, the budget airline now operates four times daily from London Stansted and daily from Manchester airport, connecting to a wide range of sunny destinations via Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen. It connects flights to Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Muscat, Doha, Antalya, and Tel Aviv among others.



Witness the whale sharks

EVERY YEAR, the remote volcanic island of St Helena, located in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean, becomes a hub of excitement as locals and Blue Planet-inspired travellers prepare for one of the world's most extraordinary wildlife experiences, the annual arrival of whale sharks. These magnificent creatures are drawn to the island during the summer months, particularly in January and February, to feed on plankton and small fish. The pristine waters that surround the small island is one of the best places in the world to offer the unique experience to swim alongside and observe their behaviour. SA Airlink is offering mid-week flights to St Helena from Cape Town, South Africa till February. www.sthelenatourism.com

What is your travel related New Year's resolution?

 <p>Jeanette Ratcliffe Publisher jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk Stop complaining about SW trains.</p>	 <p>Matt Gill Senior Account Manager matt.gill@travelbulletin.co.uk Use the One Second Everyday app.</p>	 <p>Ashweenee Beerjeraz Events Assistant ashweenee.beerjeraz@travelbulletin.co.uk 5+ holidays is a must in 2020.</p>
 <p>Georgia Lewis Managing Editor - News news@travelbulletin.co.uk Drink more water on flights!</p>	 <p>Tim Podger Account Manager - Far East tim.podger@travelbulletin.co.uk To explore new destinations.</p>	 <p>Alice Tully Events Assistant alice.tully@travelbulletin.co.uk Finally go to Asia!</p>
 <p>Mariam Ahmad Staff Writer - News news@travelbulletin.co.uk Go on more adventurous holidays!</p>	 <p>Bill Coad Account Manager bill.coad@travelbulletin.co.uk To go somewhere I haven't been.</p>	<p>EVENTS events@travelbulletin.co.uk</p>
 <p>Vidwan Reddy Online Editorial Assistant vidwan.reddy@travelbulletin.co.uk More sea and mountains.</p>	 <p>Sarah Terry Account Manager sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk To travel as much as possible!</p>	<p>PRODUCTION production@travelbulletin.co.uk</p>
 <p>Simon Eddolls Sales Director simon.eddolls@travelbulletin.co.uk Not travelling a day after we 'leave' Europe.</p>	 <p>Hannah Carter Events Coordinator hannah.carter@travelbulletin.co.uk Travel more.</p>	<p>CIRCULATION circulation@travelbulletin.co.uk</p>

Invites you to a

SPAIN & THE CANARY ISLANDS SHOWCASE

Agent Networking Evening

Tuesday 28th January
Mercure Box Hill Burford Bridge Hotel

Agents, come and join the Travel Bulletin team and leading suppliers at one of our fun and informative Showcases where you can improve your product knowledge for this beautiful part of the world. The evening will involve lively presentations, as well as amazing hot food, drinks, action packed entertainment and a free prize draw for many lucky winners!

FEATURING



Registration: 18.00 hours

Networking & Presentations: 18.20 hours

Dinner, Entertainment & Prizes: 20.30 hours

Carriages: 21.45 hours

To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the names and job titles of up to 5 staff members by **Friday 17th January 2020** to events@travelbulletin.co.uk or telephone:

020 7834 6661

for more information.

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

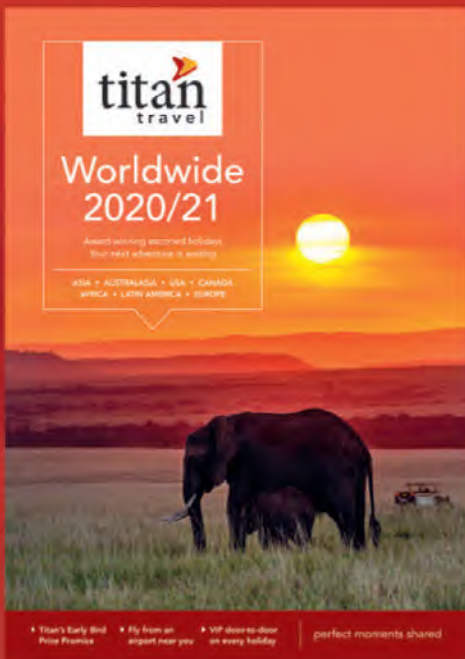
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