

Travel bulletin

Giving agents the edge

Greece & Cyprus

Beach breaks, island-hopping & cultural escapes.



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A world of adventure on the bucket-list continent **Pg.17**

Far East

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PATA UK & Ireland

Sam Collins on hopeful signs from the Far East and how to prepare for pent-up demand. **Pg.10**

BRAND NEW SHIPS ON THE 130 YEAR OLD COASTAL ROUTE

Havila Voyages is the new operator of the brand new ships sailing the historical Norwegian coastal route between Bergen - Kirkenes.



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Find out more on havilavoyages.com or contact agents.voyages@havila.no

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VOYAGES



NEWS
What's new in travel from all corners of the industry.



BULLETIN BRIEFING
A spokesperson from PATA UK & Ireland on Far Eastern outlooks and market potential.



THEME PARKS & ATTRACTIONS
A rollercoaster ride of picks.



AUSTRALASIA & PACIFIC
Head down under from the hotspot with everything from luxury escapes to outback adventures.



FAR EAST
A destination reopening to travel with new experiences, attractions and accommodation.



ADVENTURE CALLS

World Nomads has found confidence in overseas travel continues to improve, with Brits seeking far-flung adventures.

INSIGHTS FROM travel insurance provider World Nomads find that confidence in overseas travel continues to improve, notably in the long-haul adventure sector.

Morocco, the Philippines and Japan are the top-searched insurance policies for UK adventure seekers, with searches for Morocco up 1,585% year-on-year, 1,042% for the Philippines and 553% for Japan.

Jonathan Frankham, World Nomads' general manager UK and Europe, said: "Our insights show that there is a clear demand for far-flung destinations and whilst different in their offering, Morocco, the Philippines and Japan each have adventure and excitement in abundance."

33% of respondents to World Nomads' survey indicated they intend to travel two to three times in the next 12 months, with 15% indicating they would travel more than six times. 66% suggested they plan on travelling to a new destination, with

relaxation and disconnection (31%) and outdoor adventure (23%) leading the way for primary motivations to travel.

The research also found customers, on average, are purchasing insurance two weeks out from their trips; agents can step up to the plate and over insurance as early as possible in the booking process to guarantee peace of mind for clients.

Frankham continued: "Having adequate travel insurance is important for long-haul destinations. Our data shows that on average customers purchase insurance two weeks before their trip starts, but by doing so you're potentially missing out on coverage that may provide some recourse in the event of something happening before leaving the country.

"If they're covered from the point of purchase, then they may be protected if certain events lead to your trip being cancelled or postponed."

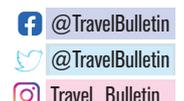


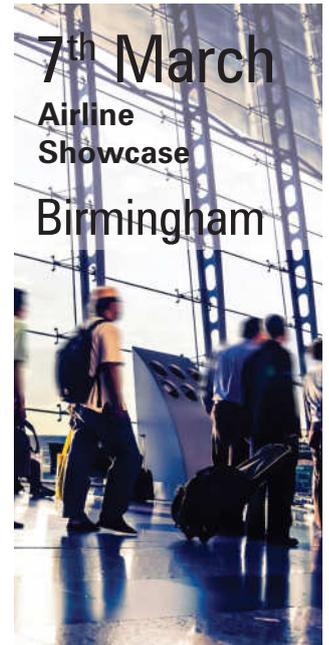
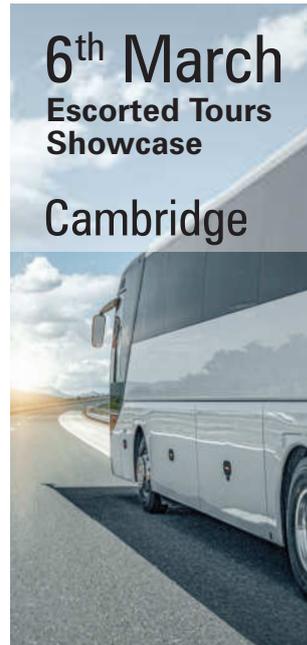
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Canadian Affair launches February sale

CANADIAN AFFAIR, the UK's largest tour operator to Canada, is launching its February sale, offering up to £500 off all 2023 package bookings for travel before October 31.

Savings start at £150 for a package holiday valued at £2,500 to £4,999. For holidays valued between £7,500 to £9,999, £350 can be saved, and for packaged deals

worth over £10,000, travellers can expect to see savings of £500. All bookings must be made by February 28, 2023 to utilise the offer's savings.

The offer extends to all of Canadian Affair's collection of holidays, including rail, cruise, motorhome tours and many other tailor-made itineraries across the country. www.canadianaffair.com



Demand for cruises higher than ever

RESEARCH HAS shown a 10% increase in the number of holidaymakers looking for a getaway at sea compared to last year. The survey, carried out by cruise.co.uk, found that over half (51%) of the 8,000 respondents said they were 'certainly' going or 'very likely' to book a cruise starting in a UK port this year.

"The cruise industry has face a challenging few years, so we're very encouraged by these figures. It's great to see demand higher than ever," said Tony Andrews, deputy managing director.

www.cruise.co.uk

Virgin Voyages bids farewell to retail partner Harding

AFTER SIX years, Virgin Voyages and retail partner Harding have decided to part ways to pave the way for an exciting new chapter with alternative retail opportunities.

"We have had great fun leading the cruise retail proposition and working as two innovative companies with shared values for six years, but sometimes we need to part as friends and make some tough choices together around what's right for business," said Harding CEO, James Prescott.

Moving forward, Virgin Voyages will be working with Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton (LVMH) company, Starboard Cruise Services, to continue offering sailors an elevated on-board luxury retail experience.

www.virginvoyages.com



Love is in the air with Emirates

EMIRATES IS offering its loved-up passengers a number of romantic sweet treats, rosé champagne, a choice of gift-giving offers, and an array of romantic films and music.

Passengers in all classes will be treated to brownies or red velvet cupcakes adorned with red and pink hearts in their own Emirates mini giftbox, with red mood lighting adding a romantic sheen to the cabin. From February 13-15, Emirates Lounges worldwide will raise

the romance with a selection of themed treats, from chocolate hearts to Valentine's mud cake and chocolate-covered strawberries.

Special shopping offers on EmiratesRED mean fragrances are available with US\$15 off (when purchasing two) on a luxury range of brands.

www.emirates.com



Top destinations for Valentine's Day revealed

WITH VALENTINE'S Day quickly approaching, research has discovered that Lisbon has been ranked the number one romantic capital city in Europe.

Catamaran Charter Croatia analysed data from TripAdvisor, specifically the number of romantic restaurants and hotels within the city in relation to population density, Lisbon reigned supreme with a total sum of 1,077 restaurants and 278 hotels per million people. The other top five spots went to Monaco, Paris, San Marino and Rome.

It is not only city breaks that are of interest this Valentine's Day, as luxury cruise experts Panache Cruises has found a 200% increase in booking numbers for exotic cruise holidays for couples wanting a lover's getaway. Among the most popular destinations are Santorini, Venice, the Maldives and Bali, offering couples the chance to explore idyllic beaches and bustling cities.

Founder and managing director of Panache Cruises, James Cole, said, "As pandemic restrictions have lifted, we have seen a sharp rise in bookings around Valentine's Day as couples seek to celebrate their relationship. There are places around the world that offer enchanting settings that are bound to make couples swoon."



NOBU HOSPITALITY launches the brands second development in the UAE with a new hotel, restaurant and resident complex on Al Khaimah Island.



SEATTLE welcomes the 252-room InterContinental Bellevue at the Avenue hotel which promises elevated luxury and sophistication for all. Opening date is to be confirmed.



THE LANDING Hotel, Pittsburgh, offers guest panoramic views of the historic city and direct access to the Rivers Casino. Room rates start at £182.



New European tours available at Newmarket

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS has launched two new European tours to Sardinia and Andalucía in a bid to capitalise on strong short haul sales for 2023.

'Classic Sardinia' offers a chance to balance the archeological wonders with peaceful relaxation as they take in the historical landscape. The eight-day itinerary starts from £1,107pp for departures between May and October, with optional savings of £122pp if booked before February 28.

'Explore Andalucía by Little Boats' offers an alternative view of Spain from the rivers of the south. The eight-day adventure starts from £1,040pp, with optional savings of £115pp if booked before February 28, with departures available from September. www.newmarketholidays.co.uk

Ocean Holidays reports record-breaking month

OCEAN HOLIDAYS has confirmed a record-breaking January with sales up more than 50% compared to 2020. It was also reported that 20% of its January revenue came from trade distribution.

Co-founder and co-CEO, Harry Hastings, said: "It is incredible after such a turbulent few years to finally see, not only a return to



normal, but a bumper peaks. This January has been a jolt of confidence the industry needed after so much uncertainty."

Image Credits: Top Left: Nobu Stock, Middle: Newmarket Holidays, Bottom: Ocean Holidays
Hotel Bites: Top: Nobu Hospitality, Middle: InterContinental, Bottom: The Landing Hotel



AGENT INSIGHT

DAVID GAMBIER

GREAT EXPERIENCE TRAVEL, WITNEY

WHEN I speak to clients, I tell them that there are three views that, in my 40+ years in travel, never let visitors down, even though we all know exactly what to expect. The first is from Brooklyn Bridge to the Manhattan skyline, the second is the Taj Mahal, and the third is the view of the Sydney Opera House and the Harbour Bridge. It took my breath away when I saw it for the first time. I was lucky enough to work in Sydney and my daily commute to Darling Harbour took me over the Bridge at the beginning and end of each day. The view never failed to make me smile.

Australia is apparently the most popular destination for winners of the lottery to visit having suddenly become overnight millionaires. It's easy to understand why when it is home to so many of the world's most iconic locations such as Uluru and the Barrier Reef, and the great cities of Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth. As so many clients refer to Australia as a 'one in a life-time holiday', not unsurprisingly they want to see as much as possible, but often underestimate the travelling times and distances between each place. My recommendation is always less is more – fewer places, but spend longer in each. It's less exhausting and more rewarding.

People often want to combine Australia with a visit to New Zealand, but we try to dissuade them from doing this. You can fit the whole of Europe into Australia with space around the sides, and it's more than a three-and-a-half hour flight from Sydney down to Auckland, so what might appear near neighbours on a map are far from it in reality. The ideal durations for a North and South Island trip around New Zealand is at least 26-28 nights. You can shorten this, but you will rush through the best bits if you do. Break the journey home with a stop in the Cook Islands and your clients will thank you forever.



Visit St. Pete/Clearwater launches new brand campaign

THE OFFICIAL destination marketing organisation of Pinellas County in Florida, Visit St. Pete/Clearwater, has launched a new brand campaign, 'Let's Shine'.

Spanning photography, video, written content, refreshed logos and design elements, 'Let's Shine' showcases the vibrancy of the destination.

Steve Hayes, CEO of VSPC, said: "Our campaign is all about highlighting the very best of St. Pete/Clearwater for travellers. There's so much that really shines in our destination, and we want to bring that to light through this campaign." www.visitstpeteclearwater.com

News Bites

- SAIL CROATIA has launched a 'Zen-sational' sailing and wellness experience, departing Split on April 29, 2023.
- BLUE BAY Travel enjoyed a record-breaking January, with January 5 the busiest single day in the company's history.
- JG TRAVEL Group has revealed a 'Happy Valley'-themed break to coincide with the series finale, which was broadcast on February 5. The package includes visits to the show's filming locations.



FRED. OLSEN Cruise Lines' annual 'Cruise Sale' has been extended until February 28, 2023 after a record-breaking January booking window. Sailings start from £599 per person, with dedicated offers for solo travellers starting at £849 per person. The sale includes the chance to unlock free all-inclusive drinks packages and on-board spending. www.fredolsencruises.com/agent

AGENT INCENTIVES

- **AZAMARA IS** giving agents the chance to win a cruise for two when making a stateroom or suite booking by March 31, 2023. A monthly winner is selected from agents who book a stateroom or suite on any Azamara voyage. www.uk.azamaracommunity.com
- **MOUNT CINNAMON**, Grenada, is enticing trade partners with free stays: agents can make two bookings for a free three-night stay, three bookings for a free five-night stay, and four bookings for a seven-night free stay. Bookings must be made by July 9, 2023 and include a minimum of seven nights (any room category on a bed-and-breakfast basis or above). Email patricia@lepetit-monde.com for a claims form upon qualification.
- **TUNE INTO** 'Secrets of the World's Most Expensive Cruise Ship', Regent Seven Seas Cruises' new Channel 5 documentary, and keep an eye out for the first appearance of senior sales director Paul Beale for the chance to win a spot on Seven Seas Grandeur's preview cruise in November. www.rssc.com/watch-and-win
- **TITAN HAS** announced its February 'Cabins for Agents' incentive, meaning any agents who book a new Titan River booking aboard MS River Discovery II or MS Serenade I by February 28, 2023 will be in with a chance of winning a cabin aboard a river cruise this October. Winning agents are selected from four UK regions. £20 lifestyle vouchers are included on any Titan bookings made in the same period via the Titan trade portal, with £10 up for grabs for offline bookings. www.titantravel.co.uk

AGENT BULLETIN



HAYS TRAVEL North West hit the floor on the final weekend of January, capitalising on the growing demand for sunshine holidays. January 28 was one of the busiest days of the year at the company's 47 shops across North Wales and the North West. Managing director Don Bircham took a whistle-stop tour of nine of the company's branches, including Hays Travel North West in Runcorn (pictured).

Travel bulletin

COMPETITION

Win a two-night stay for two at the four-star La Bisaccia in Sardinia, as well as a £100 Love2shop voucher!

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



AGENT TRAINING

- **JOIN THE Rocky Mountaineer** team to learn more about the operator's rail journeys through the Rockies and American Southwest with their agent platform. Discover the brand's signature service and find out how to craft the ideal bucket-list rail experience. Agents can earn discounted rates to experience the brand for themselves. <https://communities.rockymountaineer.com/agent/s/tracks>
- **BECOME AN Italy specialist** with the Italy Online Training course, providing agents with the knowledge and confidence to sell and upsell the land of 'La Dolce Vita'. Modules cover 'What Makes Italy a Unique Destination', 'Italy's UNESCO World Heritage Sites', 'Italy's Art Cities' and more. www.italyonlinetraining.co.uk
- **THE CELESTYAL Stars** training scheme equips agents with the must-have know-how to sell the cruise line's voyages around Greece and the Eastern Mediterranean. Agents will find lots of useful assets to boost sales, including current campaign offers, commissionable pre-bookable extras and exclusive industry rates. www.celestyalstars.com
- **BECOME A certified 'Tampa Bay Specialist'** upon completion of the Tampa Bay Agent Academy. The new programme keeps agents up-to-date on Florida's diverse travel destination. Comprising of two modules, the programme offers agents the chance to delve deeper on the latest product updates and why Tampa Bay should be part of any Floridian itinerary. www.visittampabay.com/academy
- **OURAFRICA.TRAVEL WILL** take place from February 24-30, 2023, with agents having the chance to complete destination training from around 240 exhibitors worldwide. www.ourafrika.travel

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Emerald Cruises sees high demand for Douro

EMERALD CRUISES has added an additional one-off Douro River sailing to the end of its 2023 itinerary due to unprecedented demand.

The eight-day 'Seasonal Secrets of the Douro' will depart on December 2, 2023, allowing guest to enjoy the Portugese winter sun. Prices start from £1,990pp.

Andrea Stafford, director of trade sales,

Scenic Group, said: "The Douro is always a fantastic seller for us and this year is no exception. Demand has been high and so we wanted to ensure that we can satisfy as many customers as possible."

As an additional benefit, guests can choose to extend their holiday with an optional three-day break in Lisbon post-cruise.

www.emeraldcruiises.co.uk



Luxury Gold rebrands for new era of travel

HIGH END tour company, TTC Tour Brands, is rebranding as Luxury Gold to usher in a new era of travel, focusing a more intimate, personalised and luxurious feel to the small group journeys.

The brand is offering 30 idyllic journeys to the world's most sort after places, including a stay at the Lion Sands Game Reserve in South Africa, an immersive tour of New Orleans, and the opportunity to visit a Nashville music studio. Guests will stay in luxurious 5-star accommodations and receive bucket-list inspired experiences.

www.luxurygold.com



MOVERS & SHAKERS



UNFORGETTABLE TRAVEL Company has appointed Simon Clifford as European product manager as part of the company's product expansion into Europe.

Audley Travel expands trade activity

TAILOR-MADE SPECIALIST Audley Travel plans to expand its trade focused activity in 2023 following the success of last year, where bookings from agents went up 75%, and the number of agents booking with Audley doubled. The operator will launch a wider range of agent-friendly marketing materials in 2023, after its first brochure was well received with more than 2,000 copies being distributed since July.

Trade sales manager, Greg Thurston, said: "It is really important for us to be able to give agents an in-depth understanding of how we work and the quality of service we will provide their clients. We also want agents to experience this for themselves, and we will be therefore be running our first ever agent fam trips later in the year."



KAREN CAMERON has joined Ambassador Cruise Line as divisional sales manager.

Turkey's visitors reach pre-pandemic numbers

TURKEY'S VISITOR numbers surpassed 51.4 million last year, once again hitting pre-pandemic levels and cementing itself as the third biggest tourism market in the world.

Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mehmet Nuri Ersoy, said: "These results certify that Turkey has a great comeback after the



pandemic, and we are confident to bring 90 million tourists and achieve \$100 billion in tourism revenues by the end of 2028."



Titan Travel expands its tour portfolio

TITAN TRAVEL is launching three new Private Jet Tour itineraries departing in 2024.

The 'Captivating Cultures: A Grand Tour from Rome to Rajasthan'; 'Africa Uncovered': 'Atlas Mountains to Maasi Mara'; and 'Egypt's Nostalgic Nile' all offer travellers a fully unique and immersive experience, showcasing the landscapes, historic value and beauty that each of these destinations is renowned for.

www.titantravel.co.uk



AIR ASTANA welcomed Andrew Fish to the team as the new county sales & marketing manager UK and Ireland.



INDUSTRY insight by...



Sam Collins, Far East product manager at Best at Travel and Far East spokesperson for PATA UK & Ireland, on the outlook for Asia in 2023 and considerations that must be made.

WE START this year with cheer and caution. The outlook for Asia remains positive in 2023 and there are reasons to be positive which agents can use to their advantage when selling the Far East. However, there are reasons to be cautious. Asia specialists must be ready to adapt – it's the last wholesale region with differing restrictions in place. Be prepared that not everything could be smooth sailing in 2023.

Open for business

China and Hong Kong are showing the possibility of full openings, but travellers

are cautious, watching how the current 'openings' unfold. For these countries we're optimistic for the 2nd half of 2023. There's the feeling that Indonesia is preparing to withdraw restrictions, but with a focus on domestic tourism, closure of international offices and a re-introduction of visa fees, Bali & Lombok are still impacted.

Increased airlift

Supply is starting to meet demand as airlift is improving. This has made a noticeable difference to Malaysia with continued presence from the national carrier – good offers abound for those looking for alternative destinations. There's increased flights via Middle East hubs to the Far East such as Indonesia and Bangkok and UK regional departures such as Hainan Airlines to China.

Hotel boost

Hotels are almost fully reopened with great rates available for luxury hotels and almost complete unrestricted access. There continues to be a number of new openings across the region.

Multicentre & Touring

The Far East is very accessible now and we're seeing a shift away from 'long stay in one destination' towards multicentre

and touring itineraries. This is beneficial for Northern Thailand and especially Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos.

Strong Sales Forecast

International tourism arrivals are fast returning to pre-pandemic levels in parts of the Far East, notably Thailand – the region's top selling destination – aiming for 80% of 2019's total arrivals.

“
The outlook for Asia still remains positive in 2023... there are a number of reasons to be positive.”

Affordability

Travellers are expected to seek value for money in response to the economic climate but this is where the Far East holds its own with competitive rates. This allows for higher margins and the opportunity to upsell. Flight prices remain higher than usual as demand outstrips supply.

PATA's 2023 Travel Trends Report is now available at pata.org.uk

DREAMING BIG IN 2023

Cyprus looks ahead to the launch of Europe's first integrated resort in Limassol



EUROPE'S FIRST integrated resort is scheduled to open in the second quarter of this year in the Cypriot resort of Limassol.

City of Dreams Mediterranean will comprise of 500 guest rooms and suites; all rooms will feature private balconies with views overlooking the Akrotiri Salt Lake, the Troodos Mountain range and the famed Lady's Mile Beach.

The new development will be home to a casino, an array of lagoon-style pools and water slides; an Adventure Park, complete with zip line, extreme ropes, and trampoline zone; and the

adrenaline-pumping Waverider. There will also be a Renu Spa and a fitness centre.

Culinary experiences include Pan-Asian fusion, Middle Eastern delights, European contemporary and authentic Mediterranean cuisine.

MICE facilities will include the largest expo centre in Cyprus, a Grand Ballroom seating 880 guests, and state-of-the-art meeting rooms.

The integrated resort will also host an amphitheatre, designer shopping promenade, Marcos Baghdatis Tennis Academy, and an entertainment

programme featuring guest DJs and legendary acts from around the world.

City of Dreams Mediterranean is a member of Melco Resorts and Entertainment, which also operates City of Dreams Macau, Studio City Macau and City of Dreams Manila.

www.cityofdreamsmed.com.cy

Classic Collection's biggest-ever G&C brochure

CLASSIC COLLECTION is offering agents more product choice than ever before with the launch of its new 244-page 'Greece & Cyprus' brochure.

The new release spans 210 properties, 94 of which are new to the operator, and 11 Greek islands.

Director of internal sales, Alex Galvalda, said of the launch: "To meet the requirements of our agent partners we've produced our most comprehensive Greece & Cyprus brochure to date."

E-brochures are available at www.classic-collection.co.uk with printed copies available via Tradegate.



Aldemar Resorts focuses on mainland Greece for 2023

ALDEMAR RESORTS is working with agents in 2023 to promote across mainland Greece and the surrounding islands.

The luxury hotel group offers the all-inclusive Aldemar Olympic Village in the Peloponnese, a collection of rooms, bungalows and apartments, which also features 42 swimming pools, eight restaurants and bars.

www.aldemar-resorts.gr

Cyplon Holidays rewards the trade

CYPLON HOLIDAYS is rewarding its trade partners with a jam-packed incentive brochure offering vouchers, free stays in Cyprus, Greece and beyond.

The 'Earn Free Stays' incentive is applicable for two people and features a number of free stays at a choice of hotels. Included in the offer is a seven-night stay at the Four Season Hotel in Limassol, Cyprus, valid after making a booking of seven nights or more for two guests. The incentive is valid for bookings made for the 2023/2024 period, with complimentary stays available between April 3 to May 31, 2023, and November 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

In the brochure, Cyplon Holidays' managing director, Harry Hajipapas, explained: "One thing is for certain and that is Cyplon Holidays would not have achieved 50 years of trading without all of our agent

partners, both past and present."

Join the *Cyplon Holidays Trade Friends Facebook page* to keep up with the operator on a regular basis.

www.cyplon.co.uk



Ikos Resorts set for new Corfu opening

IKOS RESORTS is poised to open its sixth all-inclusive hotel on May 19, 2023.

The Ikos Odisia will sit on a secluded bay across from sister hotel Ikos Dassia in Corfu. The latest offering from Ikos will have 395 bedrooms, 10 heated pools, menus created by Michelin-star chefs and spa experiences.

Inspiring Travel is offers seven nights on an ultra-all-inclusive basis for £9,659 based on a family of four sharing including flights and transfers.

www.inspiringtravel.co.uk



Olympic adds island hopping for 2023/24

OLYMPIC HOLIDAYS has launched its 'Find Your Sunshine: Summer and Winter Sun 2023/24' brochure featuring a new section dedicated to island-hopping, which continues to be a key growth area for the operator.

Agents who require copies of the brochure can order them via Tradegate.

www.olympicholidays.com



Mandarin Oriental prepares to launch in Greece

THE GREEK resort of Costa Navarino in the southwest Peloponnese will be home this year to the first Mandarin Oriental property in Greece.

The beachfront hotel will feature 99 guest rooms, including 48 earth-sheltered pool villas, all with outdoor terraces and sea views, along with five restaurants and bars, and a spa and fitness centre and a 25-metre pool. The resort is designed in alignment with the destination's sustainable principles, featuring planted roofs blending into the topography of the land.

www.costanavarino.com

New experiences at Sani Resort



Three new hotels to open in Larnaka

LARNAKA IS looking forward to a busy 2023 with the opening of three new hotels. The Mercure Beach Hotel Larnaka is set to launch in April. Set on an exclusive part of the beach along the Voroklini coastline, the resort will feature the closest beach rooms on the island. A second globally-branded hotel is also planned for Voroklini coastline by Yiannades (Goldfish) Beach. The island's first Holiday Inn Express will open in Larnaka and the Pallas Hotel in a historic 1953 building in the commercial centre will open to travellers. www.larnakaregion.com



Sunvil in driving seat new Halkidiki flydrive

SUNVIL HAS added a 10-day 'Halkidiki Flydrive' exploring the peninsula areas of Kassandra, Sithonia and Athos, home to its long, golden sandy beaches, verdant landscape and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Prices lead in at £1,286 per person and includes all accommodation, some meals, flights and car hire. The specialist has also added the island of Skyros. www.sunvil.co.uk

THE SANI Resort in Halkidiki is extending its season by opening its doors to guests from March 31, 2023, as well as launching a series of new offerings and experiences for guests for the year ahead.

Two Michelin starred chefs Stephanie Le Quellec will be designing the new menu for the Over Water restaurant at Sani Asterias, while Porto Sani will be introducing two new restaurants, adding flavours from Peru and Greece to the collection of 24 international dining venues. Michelin-starred chefs will also be visiting throughout the whole season offering culinary long weekends.

New accommodation is being introduced at Porto Sani for families with a new

complex of suites, pools and gardens. Also, the new Spa Suite at Porto Sani will be rolling out a new range of tailor-made face and body treatments. The Spa Suite has a heated indoor pool, thermal area with an ice fountain for a quick blast to improve circulation and release toxins, steam room and sauna and a couple's cabin.

www.sani-resort.com



Planet Holidays serves up variety of experiences

PLANET Holidays is gearing up for a busy 2023 with a packed brochure of destinations featuring 28 Greek islands, featuring island-hopping suggestions as well as mainland resorts and the capital, Athens, and the second largest city Thessaloniki with an option to do private boat hire to travel between islands and the mainland for those that want something extra special.

The specialist has made a number of suggestions for top places to visit this year: Spetses for its glamour, Sifnos to get off the beaten track, a stay in Athens followed by

five nights in Iraklia and 10 nights in Naxos for island hoppers, Zante for families, Santorini for sunsets, Crete for its Greek charm and Mykonos for its boutique appeal.

The operator has specialised in tailor-made holidays for more than two decades and provides holidays to suit individual requirements rather than offering standard packages, ideal for the independent traveller who wants to be covered by ABTA and AITO – with 'accommodation-only' bookings also protected.

www.planet-holidays.co.uk

JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

Disneyland Paris is offering magical experiences for the grand finale of its 30th anniversary.



THE GRAND finale of Disneyland Paris' 30th anniversary is underway, with the first ever daily Marvel drone show at a Disney park, the return of the Disney Dreams@! nighttime spectacular, a new show bringing guests alongside classic Pixar characters, and a number of other magical surprises.

The anniversary celebrations are continuing until September 30, 2023.

Following the recent openings of the Marvel Avengers Campus and the Disney Hotel New York® – The Art of Marvel, the new 'Avengers: Power the Night' nighttime drone show is lighting up the sky at the Walt Disney Studios Park until May 8, 2023. The worldwide exclusive combines music, lights, pyrotechnics, video projections and 500 drones to form the popular Marvel hero stories.

At Disneyland Park, the 'Disney Dreams!' show returns, with Peter Pan's

shadow tracing the classic Disney stories. The show initially debuted in 2012, but is upgraded with LED technology and laser projectors.

'it's a small world' reopens in the spring of 2023 after a refurbishment, with the new 'Pixar: We Belong Together' show taking to Walt Disney Studios Park this summer.

Do Something Different offers a choice of Disneyland Paris tickets and packages, with prices available on the trade portal.

www.dosomethingdifferent.com / www.disneylandparis.com

Ghibli Park opens for international bookings

AS JAPAN continues its reopening for international tourism, Ghibli Park, the immersive world based on the films of Studio Ghibli, is open for international bookings.

Located on the near 500-acre site of Aichi Earth Expo Memorial Park, a few hours from Tokyo, the park features artefacts from past productions, behind-the-scenes secrets, and fantasy lands from the world of the animated studio's films.

Adult weekday admission starts from approximately £13 per person.

www.japan.travel/en/uk

Top budget-friendly stateside parks

FAMILYDESTINATIONSGUIDE.COM HAS revealed its list of budget-friendly amusement parks in the States.

Kings Island topped the bill, with an average daily spend of US\$368.20, followed by Silver Dollar City in Missouri (US\$578.01), Cedar Point, Ohio (US\$585.27), the Walt Disney World Resort (US\$603.32) and Universal Studios Orlando (US\$608.62). Averages calculated based on families of four.





Get lost in Gardaland's Labyrinth

ITALY'S GARDLAND, adjacent to Lake Garda, is inviting guests into the world of Jumanji with Jumanji® - The Labyrinth, a new attraction opening in spring 2023.

The experience will provide guests with a multi-layered and sensorial experience as they make their way through the adventure, inspired by the Sony Pictures Entertainment film franchise.

Agents can unlock discounted rates to experience the park.

www.gardaland.it



Spooky spring at Alton Towers

ALTON TOWERS Resort has released the first details of a new attraction coming to the park this spring.

The Curse at Alton Manor has been teased with a new spooky graphic, with details, including the backstory of the Manor's sinister past, under wraps.

Guests can rest assured special effects and UK-firsts will offer scares like no other.

www.altontowers.com

Savour and sip with the Seven Seas Food Festival at SeaWorld Orlando

SEAWORLD ORLANDO has welcomed the return of the Seven Seas Food Festival, Orlando's largest at a theme park.

All-new flavours are on offer at the park, as the festival runs from Thursday to Sunday every week through May 7, 2023.

Guests can taste flavours from around the world while enjoying the park's attractions and animal presentations, with more than 200 food and drink offerings at international marketplaces scattered through the park. Italy, Ireland, Brazil, Germany, Asia and beyond are showcased.

Live performances invite a number of concert guests to the park, from Don McLean (February 25), Ludacris (February 26) and the Eli Young Band (March 26).

The park recently unveiled Florida's steepest beyond-vertical drop on the Ice



Breaker rollercoaster, with SeaWorld Parks' other parks, including Busch Gardens and Discovery Coast, hosting a number of new additions, making it a prime time to visit.

Tickets are available through SeaWorld Parks' dedicated agent support network.

www.seaworldagents.co.uk

Minions, Mario and more at Universal's Stateside parks

UNIVERSAL PARKS & Resorts is kickstarting 2023 with a number of new attractions at its two American parks: Universal Studios Hollywood and Universal Orlando Resort.

The latter will welcome 'Illumination's Villain-Con Minion Blast', inspired by the Despicable Me franchise.

'Villain-Con Minion Blast' combines screen technology, cutting-edge gaming interactivity and physical sets to transport guests to Villain-Con and take part in a

competition to see if they have what it takes to join The Vicious 6, a group of supervillains from 'Minions: The Rise of Gru'. The attraction will open in summer 2023 in the new Minion Land, alongside the Despicable Me Minion Mayhem attraction and a new Minion Café.

On the west coast, Universal Studios Hollywood is opening the new SUPER NINTENDO WORLD on February 17, marking a Stateside first.

The new land is a spectacle of vibrant colours and architecture inspired by the characters from the Super Mario Bros series.

Guests can get behind the wheel in the 'Mario Kart™: Bowser's Challenge' ride, along with a number of other interactive activities and retail/dining spaces.

Register for the brand's travel partner training and portal at

www.universalpartnercommunity.com



BUCKET-LIST MARVELS

APT & Travelmarvel has launched its 2023/24 Australia and New Zealand programme



APT & TRAVELMARVEL has launched its 2023/24 'Australia and New Zealand Collection' featuring 17 luxury, five-star APT touring and expedition cruising itineraries, and 16 trips from the company's sister brand, Travelmarvel.

To help agents effectively market the destinations and convert their customers' excitement for longer-haul

Southern Ocean Lodge to reopen in November

WORK IS underway on the rebuild of Baillie Lodges flagship property Southern Ocean Lodge on Kangaroo Island, three years after the lodge was razed by bushfires. The new property will have 25 suites newly reoriented to take in more of the coastal views. Included is the new Ocean Pavilion which features a wet-edge pool, terrace and four bedrooms and bathrooms. A new location for the Southern Spa allows space for three treatment rooms, a gym, sauna and hot and cold plunge pools. The \$50million project will host up to 50 guests with opening planned for November. www.baillielodges.com.au/

travel into sales, APT & Travelmarvel is offering savings of up to £400 per person off all 2023 and 2024 departures booked before 31 March 2023.

Sample packages with early-booking discounts include APT's 15-day 'Kimberley Complete 4WD Wilderness Adventure', which begins and ends in Broome, costs from £5,795 per person (was £6,195, saving £400) with stays at APT's network of Wilderness Lodges, 41 meals, sightseeing in 19 destinations, travel in a custom-designed 4WD vehicle and the services of an expert APT driver-guide.

Travelmarvel's 15-day 'New Zealand Getaway' from Auckland to Christchurch costs from £3,995 per

person (was £4,195, saving £200), including accommodation, 22 meals, sightseeing, transfers and the services of a Travelmarvel tour director and driver. Highlights include an Maori hangi feast in Rotorua, riding the iconic TranzAlpine Train across the Southern Alps and cruising Milford Sound. Trips run from September 2023 to May 2024.

Brad Bennetts, APT and Travelmarvel head of sales and business development UK and Europe, said: "Our bolstered APT and Travelmarvel sales team is hitting the road in February to help agents convert the pent-up demand of their customers into commission-rich bookings for the year ahead." www.APTAgentClub.co.uk

Bruce Munro makes Red Centre return

BRITISH, WORLD-RENOWNED light artist Bruce Munro is returning to the Red Centre with his new illuminating extravaganza, Light Towers, bringing colour and excitement yet again to the Northern Territory's Red Centre. Munro's 'Light Towers' forms a new multi-million-dollar partnership with the Kings Canyon resort, and is due to open in April. www.northernterritory.com



Tourism Fiji rolls out new branding with five focuses



Qantas to start flight to Ningaloo Reef

QANTAS IS launching a new flight from Melbourne to Ningaloo Reef (Exmouth) on April 30, 2023. The new service means travellers can now head straight to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Ningaloo, rather than travelling via Perth. Famed for its reliability for swimming with whale sharks, it's also the place where visitors can swim with humpback whales and manta rays – giving visitors the chance to see the Big Three.



10 eco tents launch at Drover's Dream

TEN NEW en-suite eco tents have launched at Drover's Dream, Kings Creek Station in the Northern Territory. The premium glamping tents are positioned for views of George Gill Range and are 22 miles from Kings Canyon (Watarrka) which is set among desert oaks. Kings Creek Station is a cattle station that offers a range of accommodation. www.kingscreekstation.com.au/accommodation/

TOURISM FIJI is rolling out a new brand platform 'Where happiness comes naturally', which will have five key focuses: the natural environment; adventurous experiences; community connections; recharge and reconnect; and food and drink.

Tourism Fiji's chief executive officer, Brent Hill, said: "With new flight routes opening up from the UK to Fiji and long-haul travel firmly on the rise for British and Irish travellers, we wanted to roll out 'Where happiness comes naturally' to capture that

demand, and welcome even more visitors back to Fiji in 2023, showing them a side of the country that they may not have experienced. We are a small island nation with a lot of happiness to offer, and this new brand platform showcases the rich and diverse cultures and traditions that exist within Fiji at their most authentic."

The roll out also includes a new logo which fuses modern and bold typography with the traditional Fijian art form of masi. www.fiji.com.fj



Inspiring Travel: clients want experiences

INSPIRING TRAVEL is seeing an increase in bookings for products such as Luxury Lodges of Australia as clients seek out more cultural and wildlife experiences.

David Pointer, senior product manager said that products such as One&Only Wolgan Valley in the Blue Mountains and the newly refurbished Silky Oaks are selling well, where these experiences are all part of a stay.



"Two of the most exciting hotels opening in 2023 will be The Ritz-Carlton Melbourne and Capella Sydney and we can't wait for Southern Ocean Lodge on Kangaroo Island to reopen in the second half of 2023."

Last summer Inspiring Travel launched a dedicated agent sales team solely focused on serving travel agent partners.

A new team of 10 Travel Specialists has been able to offer dedicated agent support for all Inspiring Travel enquiries and, launched this January, agents can also now browse offers in a brand new Agent Toolkit.

To contact Inspiring Travel's trade team email inspiringagentenquiries@itc-uk.com or call 01244 355 500.

ITC also offers a dedicated trade Facebook group to keep agents updated with the latest news.

Indigenous light and sounds take to the skies

VOYAGES INDIGENOUS Tourism Australia is set to launch a fully-immersive light and sound show at Ayers Rock Resort in May, combining ancient Anangu storytelling with drone and laser light technology.

Called Wintjiri Wiru – a ‘beautiful view out to the horizon’ in the local Anangu language – this will be the first time a light, laser, projection and drone experience of this magnitude has been performed on a regular basis anywhere in the world.

The show will bring to life a chapter of the Mala ancestral story which sits between Kaltukatjara (Docker River) and Uluru.

Designed and produced by Media Architecture studio RAMUS, the Wintjiri Wiru experience will illuminate the Central Desert with a spectacle of lights, projections and lasers shining on the spinifex and mulga, connecting the earth and sky to offer an expansive experience of light and sound

in the presence of Uluru.

The depth of the story is revealed when more than 1,000 luminous drones take flight each night to lift the ancient images to the sky. Through choreography and visual artistry, the drones depict aspects of the Mala story accompanied by a narration in Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara languages, and a soundtrack with traditional inma recorded with members of the local Anangu community. www.ayersrockresort.com.au



New Camping with Custodians site opens

THE SIXTH Camping with Custodians campground has opened at Djarindjin on the Dampier Peninsula on Yawuru Country. Camping with Custodians is an initiative that began in 2019, that sees indigenous communities own and operate campgrounds for tourists. As part of the stay, they will engage with visitors and tell dreamtime stories over the fire and under the stars, as well as offer unique experiences such as mud crabbing showcase their way of life.

www.djarindjin.org.au



UWEA launches new wine experience

ULTIMATE WINERY Experiences Australia has launched a ‘Ten Minutes by Tractor’ experience.

Hosted in an exclusive private tasting room, guests are taken on an in-depth exploration of each unique vineyard site and their individual characteristics. This is a rare opportunity to taste through a selection of limited release wines that are not usually available for tasting.

www.ultimatewineryexperiences.com.au



First Aboriginal tour added to Ningaloo Reef region

BAIYUNGU DREAMING is set to be the first Aboriginal tour experience on offer in the Ningaloo Reef region in Western Australia’s Coral Coast. Baiyungu woman Hazel Walgar will take visitors on a 4WD tagalong tour from the Aboriginal-run Carbadia Station in Coral Bay to explore hidden locations along the Ningaloo coast, discover culturally significant places and hear the stories

connected to them. Tour options include sunset campfire experiences with Dreamtime stories, exploring the coastal plain near Coral Bay to discover shell middens and a sea turtle nursery, learning how to find fresh drinking water, plus the chance to snorkel on the World Heritage-listed Ningaloo Reef.

www.baiyungudreaming.com.au/

Image Credits: Top Left: Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia; Top Right: Custodians Camping; Bottom Left: Baiyungu Dreaming; Bottom Right: Ultimate Winery Experiences Australia

NEW OPENINGS IN JAPAN

The bucket-list destination looks forward to a busy year of new hotels and resorts.



JAPAN IS looking forward to a series of new hotel openings this year, starting with the Hotel B4T Iwaki, which launched in Fukushima last month.

The first in a series of hotels being developed by Japan Railways East, Hotel B4T Iwaki offers a contactless and affordable stay. The hotel offers a variety of rooms from capsule style to suite rooms, as well as communal working spaces. The key feature will be the compatibility with the Suica card, a prepaid e-money card for transport and shopping in Japan, which will allow guests to enter the facility, pass security and access their rooms, completely contactlessly. After the opening in Iwaki,

two more Hotel B4Ts are scheduled to open in Tokyo in 2023. Prices lead in at £18 per night.

In Tokyo, the Bulgari Hotel is opening in spring, occupying the upper seven floors of a new skyscraper. It will comprise 98 rooms as well as brand staples such as The Bulgari Bar, Il Ristorante, the fireplace Lounge, Il Cioccolato store and an outdoor terrace.

The luxury hotel Janu Tokyo is also set to open this spring in Japan's newest and tallest high-rise building, marking the debut of the Janu brand in Japan. The hotel, which is Aman's wellness-oriented sister brand, will include 120 rooms and suites, the largest spa in Japan, and six

dining and bar spaces. Janu will be part of the Toranomon-Azabudai Project, a futuristic development project by Heatherwick opening in 2023, and also including an eight-hectare garden district, a new temple and retail spaces designed by Sou Fujimoto.
www.japan.travel/en/uk

Pavilions to open Indonesian hideaway

THE PAVILIONS Anambas is a new private hideaway set to open towards the end of this year off the northwest coast of Indonesia.

Accessible only by private boat or floatplane, the property from Pavilions Hotels and Resorts will integrate 12 guest villas and 10 luxury residences and will also offer guest facilities including a Clubhouse with gourmet restaurant and saltwater pools.

There will also be a sandbank seafood beach bar, a spa and access to myriad dive and snorkelling sites.
www.pavilionshotels.com/anambas/

Sarojin launches plant-based menu

THE SAROJIN in Khao Lak has introduced a new plant-based menu as a result of growing demand from guests and as part of its ongoing commitment to continuously grow its range of non-meat options and care for the environment with the use of local and seasonal produce.

www.sarojin.com





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Centara celebrates Japan launch

THAI HOTEL group Centara Hotels and Resorts is opening its first hotel in Japan and, to mark the occasion, the company is offering an exclusive introductory rate.

To celebrate the launch of Centara Grand Hotel Osaka, the hotel chain is offering 25% off standard room rates, as well as complimentary room upgrade, late check-out until 2pm, dining privileges and branded giveaways. This offer runs from until June 30 for stays from July 1 to December 21, 2023.

Opening in July 2023, the Centara Grand Hotel Osaka is located in downtown Osaka, just steps from Namba, the city's vibrant shopping and entertainment district. The hotel

will offer a selection of bars and restaurants, including rooftop venues with spectacular skyline views.

Each room and suite will feature stunning floor-to-ceiling windows along with a spa, a fully equipped fitness centre and co-working spaces, meeting rooms, a Grand Ballroom and the rooftop Sky Event space. www.centarahotelsresorts.com



Malaysia's Datai Langkawi turns 30

THE DATAI Langkawi, in Malaysia, is celebrating its 30th anniversary with a series of events and residences to mark the occasion.

To kick off the festivities, the Datai has launched the 2023 edition of The Chef Series, its signature dining experience celebrating gastronomic talent from around the world. Guests will be treated to specially crafted menus featuring organic produce cultivated from the resort's zero-waste Permaculture Garden, as well as a series of live cooking demonstrations and masterclasses.

The Datai will also launch a new in-residence programme, 'Serenity, The Datai Well-being Series'. This new wellness programme brings holistic practitioners from around the world to the heart of the Malaysian rainforest to host a series of week-long residences for guests. www.thedatai.com

Who should play you in your biopic?

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