

travelbulletin

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Giving agents the edge

AGENT INSIGHT

David Bishop, Travel Counsellors, on the appeal of staycation style holidays

SHORT BREAKS

Short-haul holiday destinations in Europe and beyond

PACIFIC ISLANDS

Cruises, tours, and updates from across the islands

LGBT HOLIDAYS

Choose the perfect getaway at these inclusive destinations

WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS

Dream destinations from across the globe





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TIMINGS

2PM : Welcome From Your Host | **2:05PM** : Partnership presentations & prize give away
2.45PM : Q&A session | **3PM** : End of Webinar

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AGENT INSIGHT

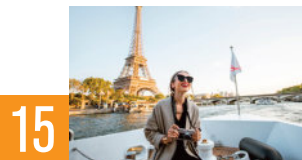
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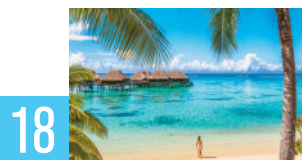
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LGBT

Learn more about what makes Thailand an inclusive destination.

ALL IN FOR EUROPE

Europe is the most-favoured destination for Brits who are dreaming about their next travel destination, once the travel restrictions are lifted in the UK and abroad.



Image Credit: Adeline Stock

40% of people are thinking of taking out adequate travel insurance cover before travelling.

EUROPE TOPS the list of destinations that Brits are planning to visit once travel restrictions are lifted in the UK and the rest of the world, reveals a new study by comparethemarket.com.

The research survey, completed by 1,000 UK adults, found that more than half of Brits (58%) are dreaming about their next holiday abroad, with most (59%) looking closer to home with a European break.

The study also found a marked shift in British travellers' attitudes towards travel since the pandemic began. Now, as many as 40% are planning to take out the right level of travel insurance cover before

travelling. 37% of respondents are likely to avoid the countries that suffered majorly during the pandemic.

People are also more likely to take a number of precautions while travelling; 34% of respondents are likely to continue current hygiene measures, using face masks and anti-bacterial gels whilst travelling.

More than half of those surveyed above the age of 65 admitted that their attitude towards their preferred holiday types has remained unchanged, in stark contrast to Gen Z, who seem more enthusiastic (57% of the respondents), about their future travel

plans abroad, with Europe still being the most likely destination (55%).

Meanwhile, travellers between 18 to 24 years of age are looking to explore newer options, with 24% of respondents showing a keen interest in adventure holidays, followed by countryside breaks and beach holidays, favoured by 22% of the young people surveyed.

Millennials are most likely to book a holiday in advance to save money and plan ahead, with 63% of respondents reflecting this trend, compared to 35 to 44-year-olds, who are the least likely to book, preferring to opt for last minute deals when travelling.



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See South Africa with Riviera Travel's new flights

RIVIERA TRAVEL has added several new South Africa flight choices for its 2022 tours, including the option to fly from regional airports in the UK and Ireland.

The return flights will now be available with Qatar Airways from Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, Edinburgh or Dublin.

To mark the announcement, all trade South Africa bookings in March and April will be entered into a draw for agents to win one of four £100 John Lewis vouchers. A pair of upgraded business class flights to South Africa, worth £2,000 per person, are also available for two prize-winning customers.

Currently, Riviera flights to South Africa fly via Heathrow only. The new flight choices



Currently, all Riviera flights to South Africa fly through London Heathrow.

are available at the same price or less, with the first departure from Qatar Airways starting from January 24, 2022. They will have a business option at a supplement of £2,000 per person from Heathrow and Manchester.

Riviera Travel offers a 16-day tour to South Africa. Post-arrival in Johannesburg, The tour includes a full-

day safari in Kruger National Park, a guided tour of the Zulu War battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift, a stay in the Western Cape's Winelands, as well as three nights in Cape Town, and the chance to explore the Cape of Good Hope.

Prices start at £2,299 per person, including flights.

www.rivieratravel.co.uk

Nicko Cruises joins CLIA

GERMAN RIVER cruise operator, Nicko Cruises, has been confirmed as a member of Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Europe.

The partnership will enhance Nicko Cruises' brand awareness across Europe, bringing them into CLIA's wider community of cruise lines, travel agents and executive partners.

The company has introduced a 10-point health and safety plan to ensure passenger wellbeing.

For more than 25 years, the Stuttgart-based line has operated as a specialist in small ship cruising. Its all-inclusive ships are

designed for 50-125 passengers, with English spoken on board and no-fly options available from the UK.

Andy Harmer, CLIA UK & Ireland director, said: "We're delighted to have Nicko Cruises join CLIA. They are a well-established, premium brand which provides guests with unique river cruise experiences. We look forward to supporting them as they develop and build relationships with the trade across Europe."

www.cruising.org

Oceania Cruises launches 2022-2023 Tropics and Exotics Collection

OCEANIA CRUISES has launched its 2022-2023 Tropics and Exotics Collection, featuring 127 new late-2022 and early-2023 voyages, with diverse itineraries ranging between seven to 77 days.

The 2022-2023 Tropics and Exotics Collection consists of a variety of week-long winter getaways to month-long sojourns, with itineraries that include a short escape to the Caribbean from Miami, Aruba, Barbados, or Panama City and some adventurous trips to Tahiti, and the islands of French Polynesia, Africa, Asia, as well as Australia and New Zealand.



There will be four new South America voyages this season, with visits to metropolitan cities such as Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires, as well as trips to the pristine Chilean fjords and the Amazon River basin. In addition, there will be a three-day trip to Antarctica.

For the complete brochure, visit: www.oceaniacruises.com/emags/2022_2023_collection_tropics_and_exotics_uk/



Club Med Québec Charlevoix to open its doors this year

SITUATED BETWEEN the St. Lawrence River and the Rocky Mountains, Club Med Québec Charlevoix will offer all-inclusive ski stays, lift passes, group lessons, children's ski clubs, and après-ski entertainment throughout Québec's ski season.

During the summer, visitors can experience a whale watching adventure, visit Québec City's famed Old Town, sample some locally produced maple syrup at the Sugar Shack, or simply soak in the picturesque surroundings. All-inclusive ski holidays at the property start at \$239 per night, per adult. www.clubmed.co.uk/

MSC Cruises announces the launch of MSC Seaside

MSC CRUISES has announced that the MSC Seaside will be deployed for the first time in Europe since its launch in 2017, joining the company’s flagship, MSC Grandiosa, in the Mediterranean from May 1.

MSC Seaside will operate a brand-new itinerary featuring seven-night cruises calling at Genoa, Valetta in Malta and Civitavecchia with two first time ports of call – Siracusa in Sicily and Taranto in Puglia.

MSC Grandiosa’s current itinerary will be extended to the end of May, with the ship calling at the Italian ports of Genoa, Civitavecchia, Naples, Palermo as well as Valetta in Malta. MSC’s flagship has been welcoming guests for a holiday at sea from August of last year and has since safely and

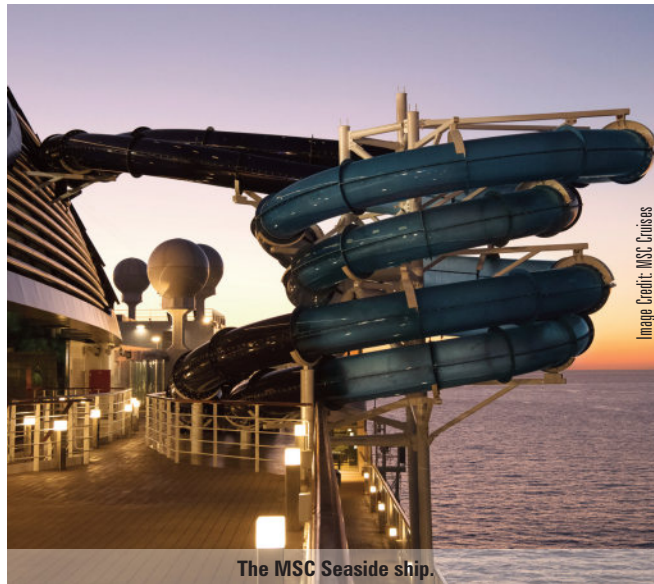


Image Credit: MSC Cruises

responsibly carried more than 40,000 guests.

MSC Cruises has updated the itineraries for the start of its summer season as a result of the delay in availability of certain ports across Europe due to current restrictions,

and has cancelled all other itineraries in the West Mediterranean for April and May, with cruises in the area penned to resume from June as planned.

www.msccruises.co.uk

Sunway Resort to renovate Kuala Lumpur property

SUNWAY RESORT, Kuala Lumpur, has embarked on a landmark US\$60 million transformation to become one of Asia’s leading integrated resort destinations. The revitalisation of Sunway Resort, the most extensive upgrade in its 25-year history, will embrace the latest in design and cutting-edge technology. Once the property reopens this year, it will be completely transformed with 477 smart, environmentally-friendly and intuitively-designed room and suites, an international celebrity chef restaurant, and

extensive family, leisure and wellness facilities.

Every aspect of the guest experience will be enhanced by the latest technological solutions starting from the reception with contactless check-in and keyless room entry to streamline the arrival process. In every room and suite, travellers can stay connected with IPTV, telephones and complimentary Wi-Fi, along with motion sensor night lights and more.

www.sunwayhotels.com

Travelsphere launches an early bird sale

TRAVELSPHERE IS launching its 2022 touring holidays with an early bird booking offer of up to £300 off per couple.

Travelsphere’s early bird offer is combined with its lowest ever deposit of £21 and a 21% discount on travel insurance. Its 2022 collection of smaller group, experience-led holidays over six continents is headlined by some of its most popular tours to Italy, Croatia, Japan, Vietnam, and Australia.



Image Credit: Travelsphere

Travelsphere’s most popular destination, the Grand Tour of Italy, is a must for anyone wanting to see the highlights of the country in one holiday. Across 15 days, Travelsphere’s expert tour managers will guide customers from Venice to Sicily, ticking off all the highlights along the way, with prices starting at £2,249 per person.

Travelsphere’s ‘Croatia’s Opatija Riviera’, with prices from £1,349 per person, is an eight-day tour of the Croatian coast, allowing plenty of time to explore and be immersed in local culture and cuisine.

www.travelsphere.co.uk



Image Credit: Jumeirah Hotels

Jumeirah Hotels & Resorts launches Jumeirah Escapes

JUMEIRAH HOTELS & Resorts has launched a special global promotion for travellers, offering 20% off bookings made before March 31, 2021, for stays until December 18, 2021.

The ‘Jumeirah Escapes’ discount applies to all stays for three nights or longer, along with 15% savings on spa, food, and beverages at select hotels. This latest promotion comes after Jumeirah launched various new initiatives. In addition, Jumeirah One Loyalty Members also save an extra 5% and are entitled to a complimentary room upgrade.

www.jumeirah.com



AGENT INSIGHT

DAVID BISHOP TRAVEL COUNSELLORS

WHETHER HOLIDAYING at home or abroad this year, one thing is for sure – we will make the very most of it.

I love my country, both being a proud Shropshire Lad and also a 'Sassanach' living in Edinburgh, and I've travelled a lot around the UK, but never, until now, really focused on this part of the market as a business opportunity.

In the past I have been guilty of getting more excited about Bali than Bognor, but as with all things at the moment, the times they are a-changing and opportunity favours those who take it.

We saw an increase in popularity of staycations booked in the last week of February 2021 compared to the same time last year. This is clearly due to uncertainty in the market for overseas travel, and this presents us with a new opportunity to showcase 'local expert knowledge' from a community that spans the length and breadth of the UK.

I have been directly involved in creating tools behind the scenes that enable my fellow TC business owners and colleagues to pick the brains of the people in our community who happen to be lucky enough to live in some amazing parts of blighty, gathering essential, yet sometimes little-known, information from local experts.

Now we can find the best fish and chip shop in Norfolk, a scenic walk that isn't on any map in Glencoe, a day out which will have the kids mesmerised on the Isle of Wight, and every other hidden British gem that only locals would know about.

The commercial reality of ignoring the staycation opportunity is simply not viable, and indeed crucial to the long-term success of many businesses at the moment.

So, while I cannot wait to get on a plane somewhere exotic soon, for now, there is no place like home, and I am off to the Outer Hebrides to check out some highly recommended beaches that look like they could be in the Seychelles!

www.travelcounsellors.co.uk



LUFTHANSA HAS announced a new daily service from Bristol to Frankfurt, set to launch on June 28, 2021. The new route will provide business travellers with more opportunity to trade in one of the world's financial hubs and gives leisure travellers even more choice on the continent. A return fare, including taxes, carrier charges and carry on luggage, starts at £104. www.lufthansa.com

Lap up Lapland with Transun's expanded offering

TRANSUN HAS increased capacity for the Lapland December 2021 season after an unprecedented surge in bookings. The operator will run extra seats on flights from Leeds Bradford, Bristol, London Gatwick, and Manchester.

A new three- or four-night 'Sleigh Bells Ringing' package has launched, taking guests to the Pallas-Yllas National Park and the winter resort of Jeris. The package includes: husky sled, snowmobile and reindeer sleigh rides; a private meeting with Santa; ice fishing; snowshoeing; and, Finnish baking sessions.

Accommodation will be in Jeris Log Cabins, equipped with private saunas and log burners. Optional extras include a night's stay in an Aurora Dome, where guests can experience the Northern Lights from the comfort of their bed.



Guests can experience the Northern Lights from the comfort of their own dome with the Aurora Dome optional extra.

Transun director, James Crawshaw, explained: "We are pleased to be offering this new holiday... we have been cautious to balance capacity with preserving the authenticity of the quaint Lapland resorts we operate in."

Reservations can be made through Transun's online agent portal, with prices starting from £1,319 per adult and £1,219 per child on a full-board basis.

www.transun.co.uk



IF ONLY... has launched its 'Wish You Were Here' Peaks campaign, working in conjunction with 16 luxury hotel partners to provide agents with offers and marketing materials. The campaign will also offer agents the chance to win one of 11 luxury stays for themselves, with £1,000 of flight credit also up for grabs for the top booker throughout the campaign period. To enter, agents simply have to make a booking for a participating hotel for one of the campaign partners from now until May 31, 2021, with each booking automatically counting as one entry into the draw. <https://ifonly.net/agent-incentives>

AGENT INCENTIVES

- SAINT LUCIA'S Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa and the couples-only Serenity at Coconut Bay have announced a new incentive offer giving travel agents the opportunity to double or triple their bonus as part of their CBAYREWARDS\$ programme. They will also pass along savings up to 70% to their clients. These new, limited time CBAYREWARDS\$ incentives are valid for direct bookings seven nights or more made now through March 31, 2021, for travel through December 20, 2021. Travel agents will earn from £10 to £40 at Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa as well as one free night for Deluxe Oceanview or higher room category. At Serenity at Coconut Bay, travel agents will receive bonuses of £50 for a Plunge Pool Butler Suite, £100 for a Premium Plunge Pool Butler Suite and £150 for a Grande Plunge Pool Butler Suite. www.mybookingrewards.com/program/Serenity-Rewards-UK
- TRAVELSPHERE IS offering agents a £21 Love2shop voucher for every new booking made until April 30, and will also be continuing to support ABTA LifeLine by donating £21 for each booking made.



AGENT TRAINING

BECOME AN expert on all things Qatar, with the TAWASH Online Training Programme. The five modules are designed to help agents discover everything Qatar has to offer, including traditional souqs, luxury hotels, exciting desert adventures, great art and culture. Sign up at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travelgym

ELEGANT RESORTS has organised a series of virtual webinars for travel agents, keeping them in touch with the brand's experts, sharpening their sales skills on the operator's products, and boosting destination knowledge. Each session is led by the brand's key suppliers, focusing on specific hotels, destinations or themes. Upcoming events include a Tuscany showcase, Barbados: the Elegant Way, Specialist Caribbean, Luxury Cruise, and Specialist Cruise, amongst others. To register interest for any of the webinars, agents can contact Jon Hardcastle by email at jon.hardcastle@elegantresorts.co.uk



travelbulletin WEBINARS

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Showcase**

on 16th March and train with
Constantinou Bros Hotels, Domes
Resorts, Grecotel Hotels & Resorts, and
H10 Hotels

CLICK HERE to reserve your space.

Princess Cruises reveals short UK coastal cruises

WITH DEMAND for close-to-home cruising rising this year, Princess Cruises has unveiled a series of short summer cruises for UK passengers sailing from Southampton.

Regal Princess and Sky Princess will give guests a 'Truly Touchless' experience. Wearable devices will streamline check-in and safety training, reduce queuing and simplify the order process for food and drink from anywhere on the ship on all sailings.

Vice president of Princess Cruises UK & Europe, Tony Roberts, explained: "Recent announcements from the UK Government on the lockdown roadmap has given us all optimism that we will be able to have a summer break. We are eager to welcome our guests back onboard as soon



The cruises will offer a 'Truly Touchless' experience.

as it is safe to do so."

To account for the schedule, Sky Princess, Regal Princess and Island Princess' planned voyages through September 25, 2021 have been cancelled.

Guests booked on any of these voyages will be rescheduled to a 2022 equivalent or choose Future Cruise Credit equivalent to 100% of the fare, plus a

bonus FCC of 10%.

Bookings made by April 30, 2021, are protected by Princess' 'Book with Confidence' policy, letting guests cancel up to 30 days prior to sailing for voyages departing through October 31, 2021, and receive cancellation fees back as Future Cruise Credit.

www.princess.com

Give the 'Gift of Wellness' at BodyHoliday, St. Lucia

WELLNESS-CENTRIC resort, BodyHoliday, in St. Lucia, has launched a new 'Gift of Wellness' offering, encouraging clients to treat themselves or a loved one after a gruelling year has given many a newfound appreciation for health and wellbeing.

BodyHoliday bases its experiences on four pillars: exercise, diet, restorative beauty and relaxation, which all fuel the variety of therapeutic experiences on offer at the resort.

The Wellness vouchers can be utilised against any direct hotel charges, from spa

treatments to massages and other activities.

To celebrate the launch, BodyHoliday is increasing vouchers' worth by 25%, meaning a voucher costing £1,000 is worth £1,250.

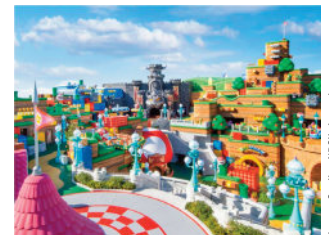
Vouchers must be booked by the end of May 2021, and are applicable for stays with travel by March 2022. Wellness vouchers can be purchased by contacting the BodyHoliday team directly; a team member will arrange a personalised voucher sent by email to the chosen giftee.

www.bodyholiday.com

SUPER NINTENDO WORLD to open this month

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS Japan will hold its grand opening of the world's first SUPER NINTENDO WORLD on March 18, 2021 – bringing to life a highly themed and immersive land featuring Nintendo's worlds, characters and adventures where guests will be able to play inside their favourite Nintendo games. The grand opening of SUPER NINTENDO WORLD will kick off the park's year-long 20th Anniversary Celebration.

SUPER NINTENDO WORLD will make its debut as the first multi-level land at Universal Studios Japan where Peach's Castle and Bowser's Castle tower over the area. It will feature Mario Kart- and Yoshi-themed rides and attractions, as well as restaurants,



shops and other experiences that can only be found at Universal Studios Japan.

Guests can purchase a Power-Up Band and sync it to their smartphones to keep track of their score and compete with other park guests.

For more information, visit www.usj.co.jp



Santa's Lapland expands 2021 programme

FOLLOWING UNPRECEDENTED demand, festive family holiday specialist Santa's Lapland has expanded its 2021 programme, adding over 1000 seats on flights from Bournemouth, Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle and London airports.

Joe Ponte, Santa's Lapland CEO, explained: "We've seen great numbers filling our 2021 programme. So much so, that we have added more seats from our regional airports to keep up with demand."

Breaks can be secured with deposits of £150 per person. www.santaslapland.com

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, 25th March. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

The winner for 26th February is Nigel Furlong from Mid Counties Coop Travel.

26th February Solution: A=8 B=4 C=5 D=1

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



WHERE AM I?

Known as the "Pink City" for the distinctively painted buildings, it was founded in 1727 by Jai Singh II. Many of the buildings were painted pink in 1876 to welcome the Prince of Wales and have remained that colour ever since.

Image Credit

CROSSWORD

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

1	2	3	4	5
6	7			
8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	
16	17			
18	19			

Across

- 1 Hotel brand, part of Accor (7)
- 4 Media and telecommunications conglomerate (3)
- 6 Netherlands city (9)
- 8 Des Moines is the state capital (4)
- 10 French city with a Flemish feel (5)
- 12 Airline offering Cedar Miles (3)
- 13 Volcanic Tenerife Mount (5)
- 14 Lima is the capital (4)
- 16 P&O cruise ship, sounds patriotic (9)
- 18 Norwich international airport code (3)
- 19 Author of The Canterbury Tales (7)

Down

- 1 Northern Island actor James, currently starring in the drama Bloodlands (7)
- 2 Vienna international airport code (3)
- 3 Flows through Newcastle (4)
- 4 Historic Spanish city (7)
- 5 Currency of Japan (3)
- 7 Polynesian dance and hoop (4)
- 9 Oahu's famous hotel and resort area (7)
- 11 Country, shares a border with 14 Across (7)
- 12 Colorado national park, ___ Verde (4)
- 15 People who created Machu Picchu (4)
- 16 TV presenter and adventurer ___ Fogle (3)
- 17 Paris landmark ___ de Triomphe (3)

Mystery Word: NEVADA Where am I? - Jaipur, India

Solution: Across: 1 NOVOTEL, 4 SKY, 6 EINDHOVEN, 8 IOWA, 10 LILLE, 12 MEA, 13 TEIDE, 14 PERU, 16 BRITANNIA, 18 NWI, 19 CHAUCER. Down: 1 NESBITT, 2 VIE, 3 TYNE, 4 SEVILLE, 5 YEN, 7 HULA, 9 WAIKIKI, 11 ECUADOR, 12 MESA, 15 INCA, 16 BEN, 17 ARC.

Industry insight by...



Cherie Richards, CEO of Not Just Travel, talks about increasing confidence in summer holiday bookings, as well as questions that still remain unanswered.

SPRING IS upon us, and it will soon be Easter. What a busy few weeks it has been! As I'm writing this, we heard about the Government's roadmap to ease us out of lockdown, schools are gearing up to reopen and everyone is starting to really feel we can look forward to a much

brighter spring and summer.

By the time this goes to press, the warmer, longer days will be with us and we will have been back in some kind of 'new normal routine' for a few weeks. There's a new air of confidence about and the hope that we will all be getting our vaccinations

soon, if we haven't had them already. This is leading to real customer confidence in the travel industry and across the board we, at Not Just Travel, are seeing families and loved ones booking holidays to give themselves something to look forward to. 2022 and

even 2023 are popular times and we are seeing families booking big, bucket list trips, but what could summer 2021 look like? There are still a lot of questions to ask and answers to find.

I, like many parents, have a family holiday booked in Greece for May, which was rebooked from May 2020, but as yet it's still not certain whether this will take place. Will we be able to travel? Will we require a COVID-19 test or a vaccine to allow us travel? And will we have to quarantine when we return? These are the questions and answers we all are eagerly waiting for.

In terms of staycations, we have seen a large increase in bookings over the recent weeks. I too, am looking forward to a UK break – and I am so lucky to have my parents' caravan that we can use.

Meanwhile, Not Just Travel co-founders Paul and Steve have also been planning their trips. Paul can't wait to be back to playing golf, while Steve is looking forward to a trip with the family to Croyde Bay in Devon. In the meantime, I still have my fingers crossed for Greece in May.

There's a new air of confidence about and the hope that we will all be getting our vaccinations soon...



WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS



BARBADIAN BLISS

The SoCo Hotel Barbados has introduced two new wedding packages, taken care of by the SoCo Hotel team, for your clients looking for a destination wedding in the sun.

THE SOCO Hotel Barbados has launched two new wedding packages, specially designed for UK couples. Each package comes with special benefits and the SoCo Hotel team's expert services in creating a dream wedding for couples, depending on their budgets and interests.

The Simply SoCo package provides all the essentials for a wedding – starting with the boutonniere for the groom, tropical bouquet for the bride, and the couple's choice of pre-recorded music for the ceremony, as well as the marriage documents and legal advice about getting married in Barbados.

If required, the team will also provide witnesses, along with a one-tier wedding cake, and a decorated honeymoon room for the newly weds.

Those looking for a bigger



The SoCo Hotel Barbados offers personalised service, such as a private, water-front dinner.

celebration can opt for The Blissfully SoCo, which includes all of the above benefits, with the addition of a personalised service from the SoCo Wedding coordinator, a private water-front dinner during the honeymoon, an intimate breakfast served in-room, and the couple's chosen wedding location, decorated in tropical foliage.

A 14-night, all-inclusive stay at The SoCo Hotel in Barbados starts from £2,195

per person. This is based on two adults sharing a SoCo Deluxe room, complimentary resort transfers and return economy flights with Virgin Atlantic from either London or Manchester when departing on September 13, 2021. Couples can then add the Simply SoCo wedding package on a complimentary basis or upgrade to the Blissfully SoCo wedding package for £741.

www.agents.travelpack.co.uk

Sandals bestows benefits for 'to be wed' couples in 2021

SANDALS AND Beaches Resorts is offering an array of benefits and services for couples planning to tie the knot in 2021, including a complimentary Wedding Ceremony livestream service, if they book a destination wedding or 'ReTie the Knot' ceremony by March 31.

Sandals also offers some unique wedding venues such as the Over-the-Water Serenity Wedding Chapels, and oceanfront gazebos, which allow for intimate, open-air ceremonies. In addition, couples can book a Wedding Moon, and have access to some of the Caribbean's most sought-after private suites, the second they say "I do."

Couples can also qualify for a free ceremony when staying for three nights or more, and have the services of a personal wedding planning team, ceremony, a bouquet and wedding reception, among other features.

The live streaming service needs to be pre-booked 60 days in advance. The service is not available at Sandals Emerald Bay Golf, Tennis & Spa Resort.

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

Image Credit: The SoCo Hotel Barbados

ROMANCE ON THE RIVIERA

For clients seeking a destination wedding in the sun, Mexico's Riviera Nayarit region offers plenty of options to say 'I do' on swathes of white-sand beaches.



Image Credit: Grand Velas Nuevo Vallarta

MEXICO'S RIVIERA Nayarit region offers couples the opportunity to tie the knot against a backdrop of sun, sand and sea.

Mexico's hidden beach

Those seeking the ultimate seclusion can wed on Hidden Beach, also known as 'Playa de Amor' or Love Beach, in Marietas Islands National Park, just off the coast of Riviera Nayarit.

Offered exclusively to guests of Grand Velas Riviera Nayarit hotel, lovebirds are whisked away to "Hidden Beach" by catamaran and joined by a minister to officiate. If not eloping, friends and family can watch the ceremony from the catamaran via drone livestream. Canapés and champagne are served on the ride back to the hotel, where a special reception with wedding cake, live music and cuisine awaits.

The hotel group offers agents the chance to become a 'Velas Wedding Expert' with incentives including a cash bonus and two-night stays. (agents.velasresorts.com)

Fauna and flora

Couples looking to wed amongst nature, Grand Palladium Vallarta Resort & Spa is surrounded by lush vegetation and 300 metres of glistening beach, providing the ideal spot for couples to say "I do", backed by the golden sunsets of Riviera Nayarit. The hotel's contemporary architecture is complemented by its more traditional Mexican décor including a colonial-style chapel for religious ceremonies, as well as various flexible beachside wedding locations and styles to suit each individual couple.

With grand dining areas for wedding parties, beautiful rooms equipped with hydromassage baths, as well as the Zentropia Spa & Wellness centre and Infinite Indulgence packages, the wedding party can rest assured that every detail has been taken care of.

www.rivieramaya.grandvelas.com

Honeymoon like royalty at Royal Mansour Marrakech

CARRIER IS offering a stay for two at the Royal Mansour Marrakech, for couples looking to take a luxury-focused honeymoon.

A quiet retreat just steps from the Medina, couples will be welcomed with an open-air courtyard, nearly four acres of gardens and private multi-story riads.

Couples can cocoon themselves in the 2,500sqm spa for a range of holistic treatments, enjoy sundowners in the landscaped gardens, unwind on their Riad's private terrace or take a dip in the outdoor swimming pool.

Royal Mansour's concierge can arrange an array of destination experiences, including a romantic picnic spread and hiking trip in the Atlas Mountains, horseback riding



Image Credit: Royal Mansour Marrakech

and stargazing in the Agafay Desert, a vintage side car tour of Serge Lutens' Residence, and a sunset hot air balloon ride over the Sahara Desert.

Carrier offers five nights from £3,685 per person based on two adults sharing a one-bedroom Superior Riad, including breakfast, return flights from Gatwick with British Airways and private car transfer.

www.carrier.co.uk



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

Under the St Lucian stars...

FOR COUPLES who desire food-focused activities while on their honeymoon, Rendezvous St Lucia offers a farm-to-table candlelit dinner followed by a cinema night under the stars. The hotel now offers an excursion that will see guests visiting a local farm, selecting organic produce and receiving tips from the chef on how to create a meal.

Caribtours offers a seven-night stay at Rendezvous Saint Lucia in October 2021 from £2,499 per person – based on two guests sharing a Premium Garden View room with the Rendezvous Honeymoon package. The offer also includes return flights from London, all transfers and complimentary airport lounge access. www.caribtours.co.uk

ADORE ANGUILLA

There's plenty of romance amongst the picturesque coastlines and luxury accommodation of the Caribbean – Visit Anguilla highlights the island's ideal spots for Weddings and Honeymoons.



Image Credit: Visit Anguilla

VISIT ANGUILLA invites couples to say "I do" in the Caribbean sun, on one of the island's postcard beaches this summer. The island boasts a range of romantic offerings for honeymooners and ideal backdrops for destination weddings.

The island offers a myriad of choices for destination weddings:

CuisinArt Golf Resort and Spa hosts a 300-capacity ballroom, with elegant Swarovski lighting only enhancing the romantic luxury on offer. The 'Bougainvillea' package includes a five-course meal, one hour photo session, hair and makeup for the bride and a couple's spa session.

Malliouhana, a member of the Auberge Resorts collection, hosts its own Wedding Deck, or the Malliouhana deck for larger ceremonies. Packages include 'Island Dreams', from US\$3,970, including champagne upon arrival, a floral arch, an hour of photography and an officiation ceremony. On-site catering and wedding specialists are

available; the resort can work directly with guests or alongside external wedding planners. Couples booking weddings at the resort get their fifth night free, as well as a complimentary welcome party reception.

Those looking for relaxation and rejuvenation on their honeymoon can explore the island's wealth of wellness-fuelled amenities, including treatments at the island's luxury spas. From the new Malliouhana Spa, the Thai houses at Zemi Beach House Resort to The Spa at the Four Seasons Resort, there's plenty of choice for private suite or poolside cabana treatments.

Couples can enjoy nearby private islands Sandy Island or Prickly Pear for secluded coastline meals, guided tours showcasing Anguilla's many caves and hidden coves, or a breathtaking nighttime 'Liquid Glow LED' transparent kayaking trip exploring the island's tropical marine life.

www.िवisitanguilla.com

The Sarojin launches new honeymoon experience

THE SAROJIN, Thailand's 56-roomed boutique residence, has launched a new package for honeymooners. Blending romantic luxury with community-based excursions, the package is ideal for ethically-conscious couples.

The community-based excursions include guests kickstarting their stay with a couple's cooking class. The 'Street Food, Cook for Kids' experience at the local Camillian Social Centre, which cares for disabled children, sees couples cook a Thai feast to share with the centre's children, with a helping hand from the resort's executive chef.

A 90-minute spa Royal Oriental treatment at The Sarojin's Pathways Spa is an ideal secluded haven for rejuvenation.



Image Credit: The Sarojin

From £1,988, couples can enjoy seven nights at The Sarojin, including a Little Amazon canoeing and mangrove planting excursion, a 'Just for Two' dining experience on a candlelit beach, all day breakfast and private transfers to and from Phuket International Airport.

www.sarojin.com



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

Here comes the bride (of the Atlantic!)

FOR CLIENTS searching for a unique destination wedding, Puerto Plata, in the north of the Dominican Republic could fit the bill. With classic, colourful houses and an iconic old English gazebo in the city's central square (both ideal for wedding photos), the city is a perfect backdrop for a one-of-a-kind wedding.

Beyond their magical day, guests can enjoy Puerto Plata's blue waters and coastline, which fittingly earn the city its nickname: "la novia del Atlántico" (the bride of the Atlantic). Couples and guests are encouraged to explore the rest of the Dominican Republic's luxurious offerings.

www.godominicanrepublic.com

POSTCARD PERFECT

Long stretches of sandy white beaches and crystal clear waters, the Pullman Maldives Maamutaa Resort is a picturesque postcard spot, perfect for weddings and honeymoons.



Image Credit: Pullman Maldives Maamutaa

PULLMAN MALDIVES Maamutaa Resort offers various romantic wedding and vow renewal packages.

The resort, located on Maamutaa Island in the Gaafu Alifu Atoll, is set amidst 18-hectares of tropical foliage, golden beaches and landscaped gardens surrounding a natural lake.

The resort's romantic offerings include the 'L'Amour' package. The package includes a private four-course dinner accompanied by traditional Maldivian BoduBeru music performed live, a couples' spa treatment, two-tier wedding cake, in-villa breakfast and floral decorations, from US\$2,700.

The 'Romeo and Juliet' package, from US\$1,400, gives couples a choice of private locations across the island. Whether couples would like to exchange their vows in the privacy of their own Beach Villa, celebrate the day with friends and family on the Panorama Lawn (a secluded point at the top of the island with stunning ocean views) or at the resort's Romeo & Juliet Pavilion, there's a wide variety

of postcard-worthy spots for the couple's special day. The package also includes a one-tier cake, floral decorations and a champagne ceremony.

Pullman Maldives Maamutaa Resort boasts 122 decadent villas, including two unique Aqua Villas. Alongside their ceremonies, couples are treated to one of these during their stay. The unique accommodation options are set amongst a thriving coral reef, where couples will get an up-close and memorable experience with the region's marine life, and the chance to see blacktip sharks, sea turtles and surgeonfish. As well as the aquarium-bedroom, the rooms offer a private pool, a second bedroom with ocean views and an open-air bathroom.

Stays at the Pullman Maldives Maamutaa Resort in an Aqua Villa start from £4,855 per night, based on two people sharing.

www.pullmanmaldivesmaamutaa.com

Elivi Skiathos launches new couple experiences

ELIVI SKIATHOS has launched a new experience menu, targeted at couples looking to plan a honeymoon or celebrate an anniversary in 2021.

Ahead of its seasonal opening on May 7, the hotel's range of new experiences are purpose-built for couples looking to celebrate romantically with a private dinner on the beach, sunset cruises, private film screenings, or in-suite spa treatments.

Perched on a hilltop on a secluded part of the island, the hotel offers a picturesque backdrop nestled among pine trees and olive groves with direct access to four sandy beaches.



Image Credit: Elivi Hotels

Couples can set sail on a yacht from Koukounaries cove and take a dip in the waters by the intimately remote islands of Tsouggria or Arkos. Couples will be treated to an indulgent four course meal back on board, prepared by the captain.

Rates for ELIVI Skiathos, staying in a Nest Suite, start from £1,130 per night, whilst a private gazebo beach dinner starts from £608.

www.elivihotels.com



Image Credit: Ritz Carlton Abama

Just the two of us...

FOR THOSE looking for a more intimate ceremony, the 'Just The Two Of Us' package at The Ritz-Carlton, Abama, offers a tailored and personal destination wedding. Situated on the coast of Tenerife, the resort boasts balmy weather, ensuring ideal conditions almost year-round.

With a maximum party size of twenty, the offering removes the pressure of a traditional, large-scale wedding.

The 'Just The Two of Us' package includes bespoke cocktails served with canapés selected by the resort's chef, followed by a three-course dinner at El Mirador for guests as well as a personalised wedding cake.

www.ritzcarlton.com



Image Credit: Adina Stock

SMELL THE ROSES

Held once every decade, Shearings is offering tours to see the Floriade Expo in Holland – perfect for the anthophiles among your clients.

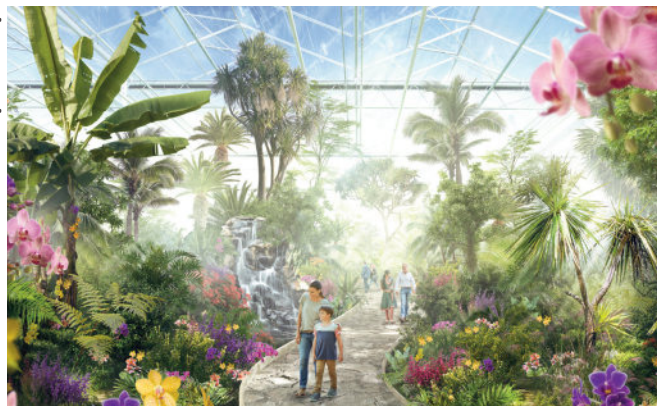
SHEARINGS HAS added to its 'Flowers and Garden' holiday collection with 2022 tours to the world famous botanical Floriade Expo in Holland.

Held only every 10 years, Floriade is similar to the giant RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The event is located near Amsterdam and open to visitors between April and October.

The 2022 Expo will include participation from some 40 countries presenting plants, flowers and cultures. There will be opportunities to see the exhibits from the air with an 850-metre cable car link providing a connection between the southern and northern parts of the huge Floriade park.

Shearings has a choice of a four or five-day Floriade Expo escorted coach holidays departing from the UK every few days for the

Image Credit: Shearings



The event is located near Amsterdam.

duration of the event, with tours priced from £399 per person.

All tours include comfortable coach travel to Holland with local UK joining points, four-star hotel accommodation, with portorage and breakfast and at least one evening meal. Both tour durations include a day at the magnificent Floriade World Horticultural Expo, with other excursions depending on date, duration

and personal preference.

The options include a visit to the fantastic Keukenhof Botanical Gardens, a day trip to Amsterdam and an optional visit to Apeldoorn to visit the 'Versailles of Holland' Het Loo Palace.

Holidays can be secured with a £1 deposit until March 31, with nothing more to pay until around six weeks before travel.

www.shearings.com

Five days of summer in Reykjavik with Exodus Travels

EXODUS' 'ETERNAL Summer in Iceland' itinerary offers guests the chance to bathe in geothermal springs, go hiking to the Eldborg crater, or visit the town of Reykholt, where Snorri Sturluson, a medieval chronicler of Norse sagas and histories, once lived.

While in Iceland, travellers can visit the Thingvellir National Park, and observe the Eurasian and American tectonic plates pulling away from each other, creating rivers and fissures along the Thingvellir plain; or see the Geysir, the original hot water spring. They can also take a midnight dip in Reykjadalur Hot Creek.

On day four, guests will visit the Skogarfoss and Kvernufoss waterfalls, followed by a glacier walk and kayaking tour to see giant icebergs and glaciers. They will also visit the abandoned wreck of a 1973 US Navy plane on the Sólheimasandur Beach, followed by a lunch with locals in a Reykjavik restaurant.

Prices start at £2,049 per person (based on a double sharing basis), for a September 22, 2021 departure date.

www.exodustravels.com

SWISS SKI SPOTS

Inghams and Flexiski's winter 2021 offerings help guests get away for a short break on the slopes with three- or four-nights on some of Switzerland's most popular ski spots.

Image Credit: Hotelpflan



IF A short break on the slopes is exactly what your clients need, Inghams and Flexiski's winter programmes could be ideal. With tailor-made options and a diverse programme of offerings for the upcoming winter season, there's something, for even the most particular prospective skiers this year.

Hotel Derby, Grindelwald, Switzerland

With stunning scenery, including the infamous Eiger mountain, Grindelwald's views are hard to beat. Dramatically set in the Bernese Alps, the three-star Hotel Derby's chalet-style buildings are as picturesque as can be.

The centre of Grindelwald is a postcard-style ski town with cog railway stations and an unmatched old-world charm.

The resort's neighbouring towns, Wengen and Murren, are ideal spots for skiers looking to escape the slopes and enhance their trip by exploring the picturesque and diverse landscapes of Switzerland's Bernese Alps.

Flexiski offers a three-night getaway at the three-star resort, with prices starting from

£560 per person (based on two people sharing), including flights; packages can be entirely customised to customers' needs.

Allalin Apartments, Saas Fee, Switzerland

Celebrated by skiing fanatics worldwide, Saas-Fee is known as 'the pearl of the Alps'. The high Alpine village boasts an impressive snow record and ideal conditions for glacier skiing.

The three- to five-star Allalin Apartments include chalets and apartments, including pet friendly offerings. The diverse portfolio can accommodate groups of up to 12 people and all budgets with affordable to luxury offerings.

Inghams' winter break programme includes four nights at the Allalin Apartments' three-star offering from £589 per person, based on two people sharing, including flights, on January 4, 2022 from London Stansted.

For more on Inghams' and Flexiski's short break ski offerings, visit www.inghams.co.uk and www.flexiski.com

Once upon a time in Puglia: Italy's fairytale town

ALBEROBELLO, PUGLIA, is home to whitewashed, historic buildings, known as 'trulli', perfect for your clients looking to take a cultural break in lesser-known Italy.

Recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the photogenic town draws a wealth of tourists every year. Guests from around the world are always eager to explore the village's timeless, fairytale atmosphere.

Beyond its fairytale villages, Puglia is well celebrated around the world for its cuisine; from its popular local cheeses to homegrown olive oils and artichokes, visitors can try out unmatched local produce.

Perfectly positioned along the Adriatic coastline, Puglia also offers classic Italian sunshine on a number of picturesque beaches.

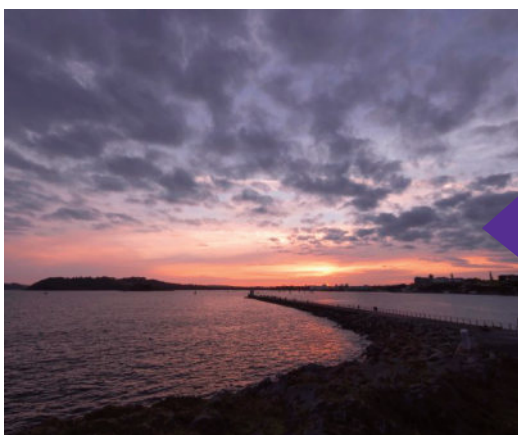


Image Credit: Adobe Stock

Citalia offers seven nights in Alberobello, at the Trulli Soave, on a bed-and-breakfast basis, from £797 per person, including return flights from London Gatwick and private transfers.

Visit www.citalia.com for more information

Image Credit: ToursByLocals



Plymouth: the surprising destination on your doorstep

FROM A 17th century fortress to classic 1950s architecture, Plymouth is an ideal Devon hotspot that never fails to surprise on a short break.

ToursByLocals offers the Plymouth Devon Walking Tour, spotlighting the expanse of Plymouth Hoe and the old medieval town, and the port city's more recent history. The city also hosts the UK's first National Marine Park, the Plymouth Sound.

The three-hour Plymouth Devon Walking Tour starts from £340 for up to six people, and serves as an ideal eye-opener for guests on a short summer stay.

www.toursbylocals.com

SAY HELLO TO HALKI

Covid-secure hidden gem, Halki, is an ideal destination for a short break in the sun this summer. Olympic Holidays spotlights the smallest inhabited island in the Dodecanese.

Image Credit: Adobe Stock



WITH A population of just 300, Halki is truly a hidden gem of the Dodecanese, off the beaten track from the tourist hotspots. With the UK government announcing international travel could resume as early as May 17, and the island celebrating the completion of their vaccination programme, it's no surprise that Olympic Holidays has seen a surge in bookings to the hilly, sun-soaked island.

The island boasts a number of beaches hosting tavernas, sunshades and sunbeds, along with a host of history, with monasteries, churches and chapels showing remnants of the 'authentic Greece' of the past.

Olympic Holidays offers a choice of accommodation in Halki, along with flights from Rhodes and ferry transfers to the island.

Aretanassa Hotel

This three-star bed-and-breakfast offers sea view rooms set in a classic Mediterranean seafront property. From £679 per person, clients can enjoy seven nights in a Deluxe Double Room with a sea view at the

Aretanassa, including flights from London Stansted. Departures are available from September 30, 2021 and includes a 25% saving of £235 per person.

Villa Chrysodomi

This three-star traditional townhouse lets guests enjoy a self-catered break and a bedroom with a sea view. A seven-night break starts at £595 per person (based on a couple sharing), with departures from London Stansted from September 25, 2021, and savings of almost 30% currently available, saving clients £235 per person.

Elena Studios

This two-star, self-catered serves as a spacious springboard for basking in the Mediterranean sun, just a short stroll away from many of the island's highlights. Seven nights, including flights from London Stansted, starts from £459 per person, including a 33% discount (saving £210 per person).

www.olympicholidays.com

Wilderness England: cycling and scenery in the Yorkshire Dales

WILDERNESS ENGLAND'S new short break ventures through the Yorkshire Dales blend cycling with self-guided exploration.

Starting its two-wheeled adventure in Pateley Bridge (home to England's oldest sweet shop), the tour heads to Masham for the first night's stay. Continuing to Hawes, via Yorkshire's highest road, travellers soak up the Dales' iconic landscapes. The third day's travel rolls through Wensleydale and Swaledale, passing the iconic Castle Bolton and Birkdale Common, with views of the Lake District. The last two days run through Sedbergh, Dentdale and Grassington before a final descent back into Pateley Bridge.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

The break gives guests the flexibility of travelling at their own pace and the security of travelling within their bubble, but with the added helping hand of a Wilderness England guide acting as a soigneur. Starting from £845 per person, the tour includes four nights' bed-and-breakfast accommodation, a soigneur and transfers.

www.wildernessengland.com

Image Credit: Scenic Cruises



A taste of Europe's waters with Scenic

ON A five-day 'Tastes of Imperial Europe' voyage, sailing from Vienna to Budapest, guests get a brief but immersive introduction to Europe's Danube river, one of the continent's most iconic sailing routes.

The itinerary includes a visit to Bratislava to spend time at with a local family, as well as an exclusive private classical concert at the majestic Gödöllő Royal Palace, famous for being a favourite place of Queen Elisabeth of Hungary.

Prices for the five-day itinerary start from £1,595 per person, based on an April 6, 2022, departure date.

www.scenic.co.uk

PACIFIC ISLANDS



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

POLYNESIAN PARADISE

Hayes and Jarvis' multi-centre, 16-day itinerary offers an island hopping adventure to Fiji and the Mamanuca Islands, with daily snorkelling sessions and a scenic flight.

HAYES AND Jarvis is offering a multi-centre, 16-day itinerary, which allows travellers to explore Fiji and the Mamanuca islands, with regular snorkelling sessions, nature hikes and spa treatments.

Fiji

Fiji will be the first stop for guests, where they can either explore the island on a scenic flight from above, or take a River Safari down the magnificent Sigatoka River.

Matamanoa Island

The next transfer, scheduled for Matamanoa Island, will be 90-minutes long. This will be the first of the two Mamanuca Islands that guests will be visiting. There are only 46 rooms available on the island, and staying here will make for a secluded and private holiday. The

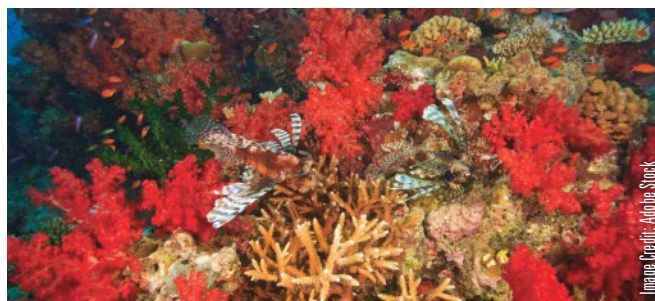


Image Credit: Adobe Stock

Guests can go snorkelling to see the reefs near the Tokoriki Islands.

island, located within a marine sanctuary, offers various snorkelling tours.

Tokoriki Island

A helicopter transfer takes guests to Tokoriki Island, a boutique adults-only resort, and the northern-most of the Mamanuca Islands which offers daily snorkelling tours over the next six days to discover the house reef located off the shore, and opportunities to look at the reefs from a glass-bottomed boat. Those who are interested can also take a

guided nature hike and immerse themselves in the local culture.

Guests will be transferred back to Fiji for one final night on the mainland, before being taken to the airport for their return flight.

Prices start at £4,899 per person, and includes international flights, accommodation in Fiji, Matamanoa Island and Tokoriki Island, flight tour, and breakfast.

For dates, visit www.hayesandjarvis.co.uk

Explore the Easter Islands with Intrepid

INTREPID TRAVEL'S Easter Island (Rapa Nui) holiday offers the chance to experience the remote beauty of the south-eastern Pacific, and explore the fascinating folklore of the indigenous Rapa Nui culture.

The four-day trip allows plenty of time to admire the many stone moai structures at Ahu Tautira, Ahu Vaihu, and Ahu Tongariro; some of which are preserved in their original condition, while others have been restored, since they were last built, approximately around 1250 and 1500.

Guests will have the chance to view remnants of the past at ancient ceremonial sites and villages, such as the Ana Te Pahu cave, Ahu Tahai ceremonial site, Orongo Ceremonial Village, Ahu Akivi seven moais, and the dormant Rano Kau volcano, as well as a day trip to Anakena beach. The fee for entry to Rapa Nui National Park is included in the price.

Prices starting at £775 per person (based on double sharing), based on a November 6, 2021, departure date.

www.intrepidtravel.com

A man with tattoos, shirtless and wearing purple shorts, sits on a green bench under a thatched hut, playing an acoustic guitar. A woman in a yellow and white swimsuit sits on the same bench, looking towards him. The scene is set on a sandy beach with turquoise water and a blue sky in the background. The text 'Beautiful Anticipation' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Beautiful
Anticipation

Discover how beautiful Samoa truly is. Explore untouched landscapes and dive in warm crystal clear waters packed with tropical fish. Self drive, bike or stroll through the wonders that make this island life one to cherish just like the locals do. Beautiful Samoa is worth the wait.

Beautiful
SAMOA

Find Beautiful **WWW.SAMOA.TRAVEL**

SAIL THROUGH THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Coral Expeditions is offering travellers an opportunity to venture through the battlefields and beaches of the Solomon Islands.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

CORAL EXPEDITIONS is offering cruisers a 13-night Pacific Island voyage through the Solomon Islands, which will depart from Honiara on November 30, 2021.

This voyage through the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu visits the palm-fringed beaches of Melanesia, explores shipwrecks, and discovers the remnants of WWII in the Pacific.

Onboard the Coral Geographer, this voyage reveals the remote coral atolls and beaches of the idyllic Melanesia region, with time to explore the wrecks and remnants of the war in the Pacific theatre, with expert guides on hand to discuss the various battle sites, historical significance, and strategies.

Highlights include visits to the spectacular Marovo Lagoon and Marau Sound, the opportunity to meet and interact with locals at many locations, learning more about conservation efforts in the Arnavon Islands, and the chance to gaze into the heart of a

volcano on Tanna Island. In addition, special guest lecturer Rear Admiral Allan du Toit will share his knowledge on the historical and wartime significance of the region.

Coral Expeditions has introduced its SailSAFE Plan and health protocols, developed by Australian medical specialists for the current environment. The SailSAFE plan is based on the safety principles giving guests and crew confidence and peace of mind to travel. The pre-screening protocols effectively create a 'safe travel bubble' for guests and crew, supported by onboard mitigation and authorised response procedures.

Prices for the cruise start at \$8,990 per person and are all inclusive of shore excursions, meals, and beverages.

For further information, visit www.coralexpeditions.com

STA to renovate tourism sites

THE SAMOA Tourism Authority (STA) is leading ongoing renovation works for sites within the country, with assistance from the Government of NZ through the Samoa Tourism Growth Partnership (STGP). This Partnership is a five-year investment, which also includes broader support of product development, tourism training and destination marketing.

"These are some of many valuable tourism projects we continue to implement for our members, which in turn increase economic value for our country." Said STA CEO, Faamatuainu Lenata'i Suifua.

"As there is sufficient time with the current closure of borders, we continue to work closely with our Industry in preparing our destination for when borders open up." Faamatuainu added.

The Authority is also looking at ways to develop other sites within



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

the country, with current works scheduled to be completed at the end of July. All works are being locally procured and implemented by local contractors.

For more, visit www.samoatourism.com



Image Credit: Exsus Travel

South Pacific holiday in style with Exsus Travel

EXSUS TRAVEL'S New Zealand and French Polynesia holiday is the perfect way to push the boat out on a post-lockdown holiday and make up for the lack of travel over the past year.

This 16-night holiday takes in the best of New Zealand, including Auckland and adventure capital Queenstown, with opportunities and activities such as whale watching to bungee jumping, before heading to a private island in French Polynesia for some idyllic beach relaxation. Prices start from £16,200 per person, including flights, transfers including helicopter and boat transfers, accommodation and meals.

www.exsus.com

LGBT HOLIDAYS



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

THE GOLDEN CITY

Well celebrated for its LGBT appeal, earning the nickname of 'Gay Capital of the World' – Abercrombie & Kent offers four days in San Francisco as part of their 'Cutting Edge California' tour.

SINCE THE Summer of Love at the height of flower power, San Francisco has been a hub of love and acceptance, quickly becoming home to one of the biggest LGBT communities in the world.

For clients looking to explore the city and its history whilst soaking up the Californian sun and ticking off plenty of bucket list sights along the way, the 'Cutting Edge California' offering from Abercrombie & Kent might be ideal.

Arriving in San Francisco, guests are greeted by an expert guide from Abercrombie & Kent, who begins the introductory tour with the city's Chinatown district and North Beach. Continuing, holidaymakers visit a photo-stop at Lombard Beach, one of the city's most picturesque spots, famous for its winding



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

San Francisco has long been a hub of acceptance for the LGBT community.

roads and colourful planters.

On the second day, guests cross the iconic Golden Gate Bridge on their way to the Muir Woods and the seaside town Sausalito for a seaplane voyage over the city.

The third day brings travellers to the city's Art district and the Bay Area, both areas well known for their LGBT presence.

In the following morning, guests are collected by a classic Ford Mustang

convertible for the remaining nine days of their West Coast tour, which takes guests across the Napa Valley, Big Sur, Santa Barbara, and Los Angeles.

This 13-day tour starts from £14,450 per person, based on two sharing, including flights, car hire, accommodation, selected meals and guided experiences.

www.abercrombiekent.co.uk

Celebrate pride in Copenhagen this summer

WITH LEISURE travel hopefully making a long-awaited return this summer, WorldPride 2021 is a perfectly timed celebration of LGBTQ+ pride and acceptance.

The main event, on August 21, 2021, will be held in the City Hall Square in central Copenhagen.

The entire 10-day celebration will begin on August 12, 2021; thousands of people are expected to join the celebrations in the Danish capital.

The 2017 event saw an attendance of 300,000, with a parade composed of 25,000, making it one of the world's biggest annual Pride events.

easyJet Holidays offers a seven night break with departure dates perfectly timed for Copenhagen Pride. From £889 per person, based on an August 20, 2021 departure date from Gatwick, two guests can enjoy a Double Superior room at the four-star Absalon Hotel. More affordable options are available, including the two-star Annex Copenhagen with the same departure dates from London Gatwick, starting at £286 per person.

www.easyjet.com

Go Thai, be free in Thailand!

VISITORS TO Tourism Thailand's Go Thai Be Free website, a dedicated hub for the LGBT+ community, have quadrupled in recent weeks, showing an upturn in consumer confidence to start planning and booking travel again. Chris Lee, head of marketing for TAT, UK & Ireland, said: "UK visitors to the site are looking for inspiration and tips before they travel, and ideas for honeymoon and romance. Destinations at the top of travellers list are Bangkok, Hua Hin, Pattaya, Phuket and Chiang Mai – a great mix of city, the adventure of northern Thailand and beaches and islands in the south. Events are also a



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

LGBT travellers are increasingly turning their interest towards holidays in Thailand.

popular search term and Thailand has a very colourful calendar of festivals and parties each year which are set to come back bigger, better and bolder! Honeymoon searches have increased, perhaps a sign of couples replanning after postponed wedding dates. In line with a consumer shift to

travel more responsibly we have also seen an increase in searches for 'green stays' as well as lesser-known gay scenes, such as Koh Samui, as travellers seek to avoid the crowds and enjoy more local and community based experiences."

www.gothaibefree.com

Daily dose of romance in Aruba

THE ISLAND of Aruba is fast making its way on the scene for LGBT travellers.

Just as same-sex wedding ceremonies have gained popularity in Aruba, gay nightlife is growing as well, with clubs and bars found throughout the capital city of Oranjestad. The Aruba Tourism Authority has stated that many hotels in Aruba are Travel Alternative's Group (TAG) approved as well, meaning that staff are well-trained in accepting diversity.

Tui offers a seven-night all inclusive stay at Divi Aruba from £1,522 per person, based on two people. The price includes return flights from Gatwick. www.tui.co.uk

What was the first concert you ever attended?



Jeanette Ratcliffe
Publisher
jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk
The Selecter around 1980!!!



Bill Coad
Account Manager
bill.coad@travelbulletin.co.uk
Brass Construction in 1977.



Mariam Ahmad
Assistant Editor - News
news@travelbulletin.co.uk
Guns N Roses - I met some of the band members too!



Sarah Terry
Account Manager
sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk
Madonna's Blonde Ambition Tour in 1990.



Simon Eddolls
Sales Director
simon.eddolls@travelbulletin.co.uk
Status Quo in 1981... I think.



Hannah Carter
Events Coordinator
hannah.carter@travelbulletin.co.uk
The Hives.



Tim Podger
Account Manager - Far East
tim.podger@travelbulletin.co.uk
Showaddywaddy 1979 in Brighton!



Ashweenee Beerjeraz
Events Assistant
ashweenee.beerjeraz@travelbulletin.co.uk
Bullet for My Valentine.



Matt Gill
Senior Account Manager
matt.gill@travelbulletin.co.uk
Scouting for Girls in 2007.

EVENTS: events@travelbulletin.co.uk

PRODUCTION: production@travelbulletin.co.uk

CIRCULATION: circulation@travelbulletin.co.uk

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Join Travel Bulletin and our leading supplier partners for an informative networking opportunity where you can explore our little isles from the comfort of your home, enabling you to advise your clients on the perfect spot for their 2021 "staycation"! Then enter the short product quiz at the end for your chance to win some fantastic prizes!

TIMINGS

2PM : Welcome From Your Travel Bulletin Host | 2:05PM : Presentations | 3.15PM : Prize give away

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