

Travel **bulletin**

Giving agents the edge



Newmarket HOLIDAYS

New brochure out now!

SAVE
UP TO
15%
BOOK BY
31 JULY

**NEW
BROCHURE
OUT NOW!**

★ Trustpilot ★★★★★

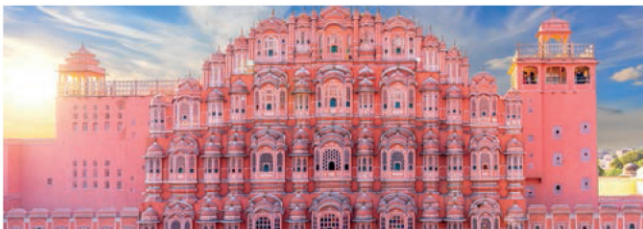
Excellent Based on more than 9,000 reviews

UK & IRELAND | ITALY | EUROPE & BEYOND | THE AMERICAS | AFRICA | ASIA

Premier Collection

We're thrilled to introduce you to our brand-new Premier Collection of seven tours, curated for a more intimate group experience (of 16 to 24 travellers), showcasing uniquely designed and located hotels and lighter paced to maximise enjoyment.

SAVE
UP TO
15%
BOOK BY
31 JULY



India Rajasthan – Grand Palace & Historic Fort Stays

- | 14-day escorted tour now from **£2,520pp**
- | September 2025 to November 2026
- | Fly from Heathrow (regional connections available)



The Majestic Cities of Andalucía

- | 8-day escorted tour now from **£1,710pp**
- | March 2025 to October 2025
- | Fly from 11 UK airports



Historic Paradores of Hidden Spain

- | 8-day escorted tour now from **£1,484pp**
- | September 2024 to October 2025
- | Fly from Bristol, Gatwick and Manchester



Paradores & Pousadas of Spain & Portugal

- | 8-day escorted tour now from **£1,836pp**
- | September 2024 to October 2025
- | Fly from 9 UK airports

Travel bulletin

Giving agents the edge

HOLLYWOOD

USA

A destination delivering record-breaking results: what keeps bringing Brits back to the USA?

MORE IN...

Agent Bulletin

Fam trip places, free stays and training rewards galore. **Pg. 7**

Ocean & River Cruising

A storied favourite and a burgeoning sector: all aboard for the latest cruise news. **Pg. 13**



What did CLIA learn from its biggest-ever conference? Find out from managing director Andy Harmer. **(Pg. 10)**

South African Tourism Roadshow 2024



SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

Connect over dinner, drinks and presentations with the product that makes the country so diverse. From luxury wine farms to incredible game lodges, there is so much in South Africa, come and be inspired by the people that live it everyday!



WIN!

A place at our
2024 Bush
Academy

25th June
EDINBURGH

26th June
NEWCASTLE

27th June
READING

EACH NIGHT WE'LL GIVE AWAY A
FAM TRIP PLACE TO SOUTH AFRICA!!

Amakhala
GAME RESERVE



Southern Sun

PEERMONT
HOTELS CASINOS RESORTS

LION ROARS
HOTELS & LODGES

STEENBERG
— HOTEL & SPA —

SPRINGBOK ATLAS
TOURS AND SAFARIS

Sun International

DISCOVER
Cape Town
AND THE WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA.
marketed by WESGRO

Register now at <https://travelbulletin.co.uk/events>



AGENT BULLETIN
Earn a fam trip spot, win a free stay, and bolster your booking value!



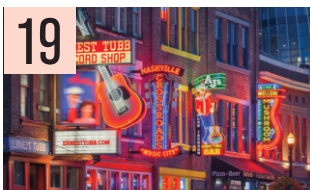
AGENT INSIGHT
The Hays Travel take on the current cruise market from Carlisle branch manager Martin Brown.



INDUSTRY INSIGHT
Andy Harmer reflects on CLIA's record-breaking conference.



OCEAN & RIVER CRUISING
The cruise bubble shows no signs of bursting: how are cruise lines keeping up?



USA
Which two iconic Stateside destinations smashed their visitation records in 2023?

Star AWARDS 2024

travel bulletin

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN...

Nominations are in and voting is officially open: you have just ONE MORE WEEK to vote for your shining stars in 27 supplier and four agent categories for the 2024 Star Awards!

AFTER THOUSANDS of nominations were submitted, we have narrowed our nominees down to a final shortlist!

You now have just one week (voting closes on June 21st) to have your say in 27 supplier awards across five competitive categories:

Stars in the Sky & At Sea: Star Ocean Cruise Company, Star River Cruise Company, Star Airline, Star Flight Only Specialist, Star UK Airport

Stars of Land: Star Accommodation-Only Provider, Star Resort & Hotel Chain, Star Luxury Hotel Brand, Holiday Add-Ons Company, Star Rail Company

Star Operators: Star Short Haul Operator, Star Long Haul Operator, Star Luxury

Operator, Star Touring & Adventure Operator, Star Family Holidays Operator
Star Destinations: Star Touring & Adventure Destination, Star Winter Sun Destination, Star LGBTQ+ Destination, Star Family Holidays Destination, Star City Breaks Destination, Star Luxury Destination, Star Agent Friendly Destination

Star Dream Teams: Star Hotel Sales Team, Star Tour Operator Sales Team, Star Cruise Sales Team, Star Tourist Office Team, Star PR & Representation Company

Discover the full list of finalists at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/starawards/voting

Already cast your vote? Secure your tickets now!

www.travelbulletin.co.uk/starawards/tickets

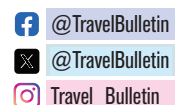


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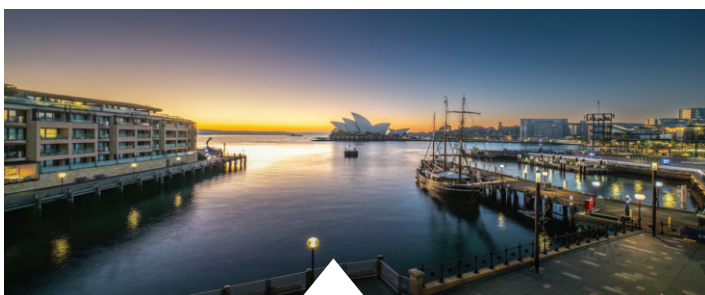
Virtuoso® tackles the future at symposium

OVER 400 industry professionals, including executives and agency members, attended Virtuoso®'s annual symposium last month.

Sessions included an examination of A.I., which chairman Matthew D. Upchurch encouraged agents to "integrate into their business... [but] they should also keep in mind a unique definition of AI – Appreciative Inquiry... [which] aids in asking

clients the right questions, which in turn promotes solid relationships between them and their adviser."

Executive VP David Kolner took to the stage to note that, over the next five years, there is expected to be a 28% increase in ultra-high-net-worth individuals: happy news for the luxury sellers in the audience. www.virtuoso.com



Sydney staple celebrates its 34th birthday

PARK HYATT Sydney, which sits scenically on the iconic Sydney Harbour, is nearing its 34th dockside anniversary.

In celebration, the hotel has launched a number of exclusive offers. The Park Hyatt Moments experience, on offer until September 30th, 2024,

upgrades the experience with AUS\$340 dining credit, complimentary valet parking and chilled champagne on arrival. Every Wednesday evening next month the hotel is offering a selection of main courses for AUS\$34. www.parkhyattsydney.com

Audley encourages thoughtful packing for World Ocean Day

FOR WORLD Ocean Day last week (June 8th), Audley Travel curated a 'Responsible Packing Guide,' highlighting fellow B-Corp-certified businesses and travel accessories that can help cut the carbon footprint of guests' packing habits.

The luxury operator's CEO, Nick Longman, described a "responsible tour operator" approach as central to Audley's DNA, continuing, "The new Responsible Travel Guide is an extension of Audley's sustainable travel ethos.

"This is not about promoting buying new, but inspiring travellers to source holiday necessities in a mindful way."

www.audleytravel.com/about-us/responsible-travel/responsible-packing-guide

Classic Collection rewards to be paid monthly

WHILE THE operator previously paid rewards onto agents' Black Cards each quarter, from June 1st, Classic Collection rewards are now processed and paid out on a monthly basis.

Jorge Quibell, head of sales South, hopes that "agents will be delighted that we've listened to their feedback" regarding the nature of the incentive processing and delivery.

"The spending flexibility that our Classic

Collection Black Card rewards scheme offers makes it one of the best agent incentives out there. With this adjustment things just got even better for our trade partners."

Rewards can vary in value between £10 and £1,000 depending on booking value: the delivery of the incentive on a four-times-more-frequent basis provides an extra bonus for those booking Classic.

www.classic-collection.co.uk



Latin Routes goes for Guatemala gold

LATIN AMERICA specialist Latin Routes has expanded into Guatemala, bolstering its Central American offering.

Following the addition of Belize to its portfolio last month, several itineraries to (or with stops in) Guatemala are now on offer, including a multi-centre holiday offering with stays in Mexico and Belize as well. Senior product manager Cat Davies said the addition is the "perfect complement to our recent addition of Belize." www.latinroutes.co.uk



Lapland launch sees 27-villa boost for Oliver's Travels portfolio

LUXURY VILLA provider Oliver's Travels has followed up last year's 'City Homes and Apartments' collection launch with Lapland villa options; a choice of 27 villas across Finland's northern region are now on sale.

Naturally, the villas are best-positioned for festive breaks, adventures in pursuit of the Northern Lights or natural escapes to the snow-covered and lake-laden Lapland.

Featured in the launch collection is the four-bedroom Villa Lumikukka, in the Ruka region, which features a fully-equipped kitchen, sauna, and outdoor terrace on the doorstep of Lake Vuosseljarvi and close to the Ruka ski resort for skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling and fishing. Seven-night stays lead in at £2,683 based on departures this year for up to eight guests.

www.oliverstravels.com/agents



Jet2.com sets sights on 2025/26 ski season

SKIERS CAN choose from eight of Europe's best slopes destinations as part of Jet2.com's winter 2025/2026 ski programme.

Services to Chambéry, Geneva, Grenoble, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Lyon, Turin and Verona will take flight, with 300,000 seats on sale across 34 weekly flights during the peak ski season, beginning in December 2025.

www.trade.jet2holidays.com

Inspiring Travel celebrates its half-century with city breaks expansion

NINE NEW cities have joined Inspiring Travel's city break portfolio as it celebrates 50 years of operation. Cities joining the portfolio include Amsterdam, Berlin, Budapest, Milan, Munich, Porto, Prague, Verona and Vienna.

Offerings span weekend city breaks, Christmas market tours, pre- and post-river cruise stays and brand new options, such as 'The European Golden Triangle' which ticks off Budapest, Prague and Vienna.

ITC Travel Group is this year celebrating its 50th anniversary, with a dedicated campaign



marking the group's top 50 experiences from around the world with several other events marking the half-century anniversary.

www.inspiringtravel.co.uk

Finnair's Santa shuttle service bolstered

FINNAIR WILL offer up to 63 flights per week between Helsinki and Rovaniemi – Santa's 'official' stomping ground – this winter, which marks a 26% increase against last year. The popular polar route between Rovaniemi and Tromsø will increase from two



to six times per week. www.finnair.com



NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS' Escorted Tours Collection 2024-2026 features 12 new tours and the first-ever brochure inclusion of the newly-introduced Premier Collection. Savings of 15% are on offer to support agent sales of the new brochure, valid on bookings made by July 31st, 2024. www.newmarketholidays.co.uk

52-guestroom property set to mark Banyan Tree's debut in Japan

BANYAN TREE'S upcoming Kyoto property, penned to open in Q3 2024, marks the brand's debut in Japan.

Located on the former site of the Hotel Ryozen in Kyoto, the Banyan Tree Higashiyama Kyoto will be home to the Higashiyama Onsen hot spring when it opens, and sit on the doorstep of the ancient Kiyomizu-dera and Kodai-ji Temples.

Alongside its 52 guestrooms, the Banyan Tree

Spa and two dining experiences will await guests upon opening.

The signature Banyan Tree Spa will integrate Kyoto-specific treatments, guaranteeing an authentically local twist on the brand's signature menu of spa add-ons, with two dining options promising to celebrate Kyoto's storied culinary past.

www.banyantree.com/japan/kyoto

MOVERS & SHAKERS



SEASIDE COLLECTION has appointed

ex-LUX* Collective Victoria Wake as its new UK sales manager.



DAVE WATSON has joined the short-

haul specialist team at Prestige Travel, after five years at Classic Collection.



HOTELPLAN UK'S agency sales team has been

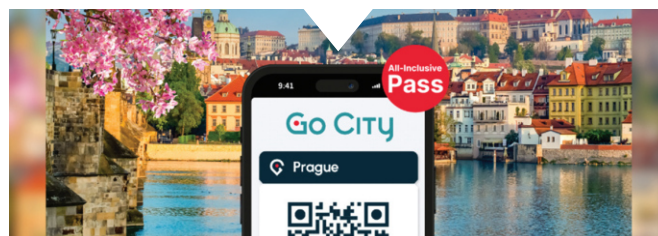
bolstered with the addition of Charlie Cooper as BDM for the North and Scotland.

Eastern European debut for Go City

MOMENTUM HAS not slowed after Go City added seven Merlin attractions to its London pass and teamed up with DoSomethingDifferent.com to sell its entire portfolio through the trade in recent months. The attraction pass provider has now made its Eastern Europe debut with the launch of its all-inclusive Prague pass.

Jon Owen, Go City's CEO, said, "It was clear that there's a real demand for our product in-market and that Prague would complement our portfolio of cities as we expand into Eastern Europe."

www.gocity.com



Icelandair and Emirates confirm codeshare

ICELAND AND Emirates' codeshare will see greater connection for Icelandair passengers from North America and Iceland to Dubai, while Emirates worldwide flyers will have access to the extensive Icelandair network. Fares go on sale on September 1st, 2024.

AGENT INCENTIVES

- AHEAD OF** a two-week 'blitz' of UK high street agencies, Star Clippers is encouraging agents to decorate their shop windows; the best effort will win a £250 Marks & Spencer voucher to spend on summer picnic items for their teams. Display packs can be requested from the trade team at agency.sales@starclippers.co.uk, the same email address where agents can submit photos of their display to enter. Winner confirmed w/c July 22nd. www.starclippers.co.uk
- EACH CARNIVAL** Cruise Line booking made for the remainder of the month includes 10 points on the Loyalty Rocks Club platform, which have the equivalent value of £10, redeemable on brands including M&S, Argos and Greggs. www.loyaltyrocksclub.com
- WINTER MEDITERRANEAN** sailings departing between December and February are part of Windstar's Star Group Sailings incentive, offering agents one free spot on a sailing for every seven sold. www.windstarcruises.com
- REGISTER ANY** and all Santa Monica bookings at www.shorturl.at/3smDz by the end of June for your chance to earn a spot on a fam trip. www.santamonica.com
- ALL RIVIERA** Travel river and ocean cruise bookings made by June 30th, 2024 include a £40 incentive in celebration of the operator's 40th anniversary. Vicky Billing, head of trade and partnerships, elaborated, "As we continue to mark our 40th year, this incentive is yet another way we are showing our gratitude to our trade partners." www.rivieratravel.co.uk

AGENT BULLETIN



ATLANTIC AIRWAYS hosted six agents on the inaugural service of its new service from London Gatwick to the Faroe Islands. Upon arrival, the group explored the quaint capital of Tórshavn among other excursions. Atlantic Airways' new service operates twice weekly throughout the summer from Gatwick to Vagar.

Travel **bulletin**

COMPETITION

Five prizes, including a four-night stay for two at the five-star Royal Apollonia Limassol, are up for grabs in our competition with Louis Hotels!

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



AGENT TRAINING

CRUISE TRAINING

- BUILD YOUR** Virgin Voyages know-how with Seacademy, the cruise line's online e-learning platform, teaching the trade how to sell and sail the Virgin way. The platform offers Inside Intel, a blended journey of education, marketing materials, and the chance to head aboard so you can get the first-hand experience you need in order to sell Virgin Voyages. www.travelbulletin.co.uk/virgin-voyage-travelgym

OPERATOR TRAINING

- CANADIAN AFFAIR'S** new website, launched last month, features a revamped travel agent portal: you can quickly narrow down holiday searches by duration, budget, and other preferences with the 'Find my Holiday' function, plus access the latest booking incentives, downloadable marketing assets and news & updates. www.canadianaffair.com/travel-agents

DESTINATION TRAINING

- SA SPECIALIST** equips you with the skills to better sell South Africa, with interactive modules across two courses, 'Essentials' and 'Experiences'. The former must be completed within 90 days, with no time limit for the latter. www.saspecialist.southafrica.net You can expand your South African knowledge and put it to the test with our South Africa UK Roadshow at the end of June – more details at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/south-african-tourism-uk-roadshow-june-2024
- THE MONTHLY** prize draw for a £50 shopping voucher when completing the first two modules of the New Smyrna Beach training platform continues: should you not win, you are guaranteed a host of selling tips and destination insight to the lush tropical beach destination an hour's drive from Orlando. www.tourismgivesback.com/courses-archive/nsb-insider/



AGENT INSIGHT

MARTIN BROWN

HAYS TRAVEL, CARLISLE

I HAVE travelled on many a cruise over the years, experiencing a range of facilities and acquiring bits of cruising knowledge along the way.

It's always nice when customers come into our branch and I can use what I've learnt to help them find their perfect cruise, which is why I'm excited about what's been going on in the cruise world. Over the past couple of years, cruising has become a more economical choice, particularly for families, with many cruise lines offering free places for children, some even up to age 18.

In 2024, family-friendly cruises are increasingly matching customer demands for the perfect multi-generational holiday, providing more diverse facilities, destinations, and dining options than ever before. With increased affordability and sailing options, more and more families are experiencing cruise for the first time.

I've found that interest in family cruising often stems from word-of-mouth. Customers want a smooth and reassured booking experience where queries are answered solidly and misconceptions are dispelled. Building trust increases the chance of word reaching other families, who may not have realised how affordable cruising is. Former first-timers may wish to rebook: like one family who returned from their cruise and came to thank us in-branch. A few days later, their friends came to see what all the fuss was about and became first-timers themselves.

I expect the family cruise market will continue to grow. We should look beyond the beach and embrace cruising, while continuing to keep pace with ship features and prices, so that more families can enjoy the perfect multi-generational holiday.



Give board basis a bump when booking Ras Al Khaimah

STAYS IN select hotels across Ras Al Khaimah feature the free opportunity to upgrade your guests' board basis to full-board when booked by the end of the month.

Participating hotels include the Mövenpick Resort Al Marjan Island; Sofitel Al Hamra Beach Resort; The Cove Rotana; Hampton by Hilton Marjan Island; and The Ritz-Carlton, Ras Al Khaimah, Al Wadi Desert.

The offer is only available when booking through select DMCs and tour operators.

www.raktda.com

News Bites

- TURKISH AIRLINES and KM Malta Airlines have signed a codeshare agreement to operate joint flights effective from June 2024.
- NOBU HOSPITALITY has unveiled 'Nobu Spanish Summer', an immersive culinary and cultural journey across Spain.
- TO CELEBRATE its 30th anniversary, Amari Bangkok has launched a new package from £96 per night which includes £60 credit for dining experiences and spa treatments.



INTREPID CELEBRATES the rail renaissance with a brand new rail travel range, feature 40 trips and three new itineraries through Europe and East Asia. The new itineraries include the 11-day Trans-Mongolian Railway Adventure, the 15-day Paris to Istanbul journey, and the 10-day Paris to Rome by Rail trip. The new product range follows the research conducted by Intrepid wherein 92% of UK travellers were found to be interested in taking a train journey during their next holidays.

www.intrepidtravel.com/rail

SUDOKU

WIN A £20 M&S VOUCHER IN THE *Travel* bulletin SUDOKU PRIZE PUZZLE

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

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk
Closing date for entries is Thursday, June 27th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

May 31st Solution: A=6 B=4 C=1 D=3

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



Known as the 'Gateway to the West', this Missourian city is home to the legendary Cardinals and boasts the oldest university west of the Mississippi.

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



- Across**
- 1 The cruise arm of TUI (7)
 - 4 First name of the 46th president of the USA (3)
 - 6 Antipodean city (9)
 - 7 Travel journalist, Simon (6)
 - 9 Health resort (3)
 - 12 Flag carrier of Portugal (3)
 - 13 Texas city and a retro soap opera about the Ewing family (6)
 - 17 Hotel and resorts group with HQ in Hong Kong (7-2)
 - 19 BBC programme presented by Alex Jones and others, The ___ Show (3)
 - 20 Vienna is the capital (7)

- Down**
- 1 City where the European Football Championships kick off on June 14th (6)
 - 2 Capital of the Hauts-de-France region (5)
 - 3 The Clifton Suspension Bridge spans this river (4)
 - 4 Jersey international airport code (3)
 - 5 Cornish eco project and popular tourist attraction (4)
 - 6 Historic Mediterranean island (5)
 - 8 Cross-Solent operator, ___ Funnel (3)
 - 10 Capital of Majorca (5)
 - 11 Volcanic Italian island in the Tyrrhenian Sea (6)
 - 14 Star sign depicted by a ram (5)
 - 15 City served by Gardermoen Airport (4)
 - 16 Home of the Taj Mahal (4)
 - 18 A perfect tennis shot (3)

CROSSWORD

Mystery Word: MALAGA
 Across: 1 MARELLA, 4 JOE, 6 MELBOURNE, 7 CALDER, 9 SPA, 12 TAP, 13 DALLAS, 17 SHANGRI-LA, 19 ONE, 20 AUSTRIA.
 Down: 1 MUNICH, 2 LILLE, 3 AVON, 4 JER, 5 EDEN, 6 MALTA, 8 RED, 10 PALMA, 11 ISCHIA, 14 ARIES, 15 OSLO, 16 AGRA, 18 ACE.



INDUSTRY insight by...

Andy Harmer, managing director UK & Ireland, reflects on CLIA's biggest ever conference, and explains how the association intends to continue its wave of momentum.

“

...the trade can feel confident recommending a cruise to their customers.”

IF EVER there were an event that showcased the very best of the cruise industry – including the incredible positive momentum we're seeing amid

record passenger numbers – it was last month's CLIA Conference.

The three-day gathering, which we themed *#DiscoverMore* in recognition of the extensive range of selling opportunities cruise destinations offer, was attended by a record 850 delegates in Southampton. With a wide range of activities on offer, including having seven ships available to visit, conference sessions, an industry trade fair and sailaway party, it was the ideal opportunity to take in the latest insight and information.



As a wealth of destinations are available to cruise guests via ocean, river, expedition and smaller ships, the conference was the perfect platform to highlight how the world is within easy reach via our member lines. In fact, we have over 20 vessels entering the market this year alone, which will allow the cruise lines to further expand their itineraries and ports of call, giving guests even more choice. As such, the yet-to-cruise market is more important



than ever, with the allure of the immersive destinations we serve a critical hook in tempting customers onboard.

With such a wide variety of destinations available, the trade can feel confident recommending a cruise to their customers no matter where they want to explore. When you combine this with the incredible service and offerings onboard, it makes an escape at sea the ideal holiday choice, both for newcomers and experienced cruisers alike.

We've also enhanced our training materials to ensure the trade are covered for all the key ports of calls. The CLIA website contains a wide range of tailored materials to suit every agent, regardless of their learning preferences, with material including factsheets, training modules, specialist podcasts and videos just a click away.

If you missed out on CLIA Conference or are keen to sample more of the cruise experience, we have two more essential events coming up this year. Our Destination Showcase will return from September 15th-17th in Gibraltar, while a new event, the CLIA Weekender, will take place in Barcelona from October 24th-26th.

Don't miss out!

Solmar Villas: 1,500 villas on sale and £250 to be won

SOLMAR VILLAS’ 2025 programme launch features over 1,500 villas across the globe, with the top three sellers by July 2nd, 2024 earning vouchers worth up to £250.

With options across Spain and its islands, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Portugal, Italy, Croatia, France and Florida, agents and their clients are spoiled for choice next year: prices start from £403 for a week’s stay at Villa Chiquita in Menorca based on an April arrival.

Elsewhere, school-holiday stays at Villa Ay Kyriaki start from £1,051 for week-long August arrivals.

Three vouchers are on offer to top sellers by July 2nd: the overall highest seller will earn a £250 Solmar Villas voucher, with second and third place earning £150 and £100, respectively. Qualifying bookings will be automatically logged.

www.solmarvillas.com



Dusit eyes 2026 opening for dual-resort

DUSIT INTERNATIONAL has confirmed a partnership agreement with VillaCarte Group to manage a dual-branded luxury hotel and serviced apartment complex at the upcoming Layan Verde Project on Phuket’s West Coast.

Dusit Collection - Layan Verde and Dusit Residences - Layan Verde are expected to open in 2027, with the former hosting 398 rooms and marking the first property signed under the new luxury Dusit Collection brand.

www.dusit-international.com



Jules Verne looks ahead: long haul 2025/26 brochure released

LOOKING AHEAD to 2025/26, Jules Verne has launched its ‘Worldwide Collection’ brochure, featuring over 75 tours described as “extraordinary adventures and pioneering journeys” by managing director Debbie O’Neill.

Continuing, Debbie elaborated on the operator’s thought process behind the new brochure, saying it was “informed by booking trends, guest feedback, and a desire to meet the demand for new, inspiring, and memorable adventures, every tour has been carefully curated with customer experience at its heart.”

Departures featured in the brochure include ‘Sikhs & Exiles’, an 11-night option departing throughout February, March, April, August, September, October and November 2025, with departures from £2,345 per person. ‘Discover Japan’ offers a 10-night overview to the iconic island nation from £4,795 per person.

www.vjv.com



Cathay and Singapore eye eco-initiatives

BOTH CATHAY and Singapore Airlines have made a sustainable commitment to the future, signing an MoU to collaborate on eco-initiatives, including the co-development and adoption of sustainable aviation fuel.

The current iteration of the agreement emphasises both airlines’ commitment to net zero by 2050. www.cathay.com www.singaporeair.com

TTC Tour Brands: “We are not standing still” on sustainability

THE TRAVEL Corporation, TTC Tour Brands’ parent company, has released the third in an annual series of impact reports, outlining its sustainable progress against its five-year How We Tread Right strategy.

TTC’s chief sustainability officer, Shannon Guihan, said of the report’s results, “This third impact report makes two things abundantly clear – we are not standing still, and yet there remains an incredible amount of work to be done.

“I’m immensely proud of TTC leadership for



taking such bold action, particularly through prioritising investments in carbon reductions through TTC’s Carbon Fund...”

Explore the full report at

www.impact.ttc.com/progress



AUTUMN RIVER CRUISES

Tourist crowds start to fade from the towns and cities, leaving a quieter and more authentic feel to the destination.



THE BLUE DANUBE - VIENNA, BUDAPEST & SALZBURG
8 days from only **£1,899pp**
September and October 2024



RHINE CRUISE TO SWITZERLAND
8 days from only **£1,949pp**
September and October 2024



BURGUNDY, THE RIVER RHÔNE & PROVENCE
8 days from only **£2,099pp**
September and October 2024



BUDAPEST TO THE BLACK SEA - GEMS OF EASTERN EUROPE
15 days from only **£3,849pp**
September 2024

RIVER CRUISE

UNBEATABLE VALUE
which always includes

- Direct flights & transfers
- Five-star ships
- Spacious cabins with windows
- Daily excursions & visits
- Full board dining
- Superior drinks package†
- Cruise Director and Concierge
- Evening entertainment
- Free Wi-Fi
- 20kg+ luggage allowance

For more information and to book:
01283 901 098 | rivieratravel.co.uk/agents



Riviera Travel terms and conditions apply. Prices correct at time of print. For more information visit our website.
†Unlimited quantity of drinks at lunch and from 6pm to midnight while on board (selected drinks available.)

EMERALD'S CITY STAPLES

Emerald Cruises is spotlighting its city cruise extensions, encouraging travellers to experience the best of Europe's cities and waterways.



IMMERSE DEEPER into some of Europe's hotspot cities as Emerald Cruises is highlighting its city stay extension programme across its 2024 European river collection.

Guests will experience the best blend of Europe's waterways with a tour of major European cities either pre- or post-cruise.

Uniworld releases annual Impact Report

UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE River Cruises has published its third annual Impact Report which details updates to the company's sustainability goals.

The plan consists of 11 measurable goals, including reducing 50% of food waste by 2025, eliminating single-use plastic and achieving net-zero by 2050.

Julie Higgins, sustainability officer at Uniworld, said: "Our annual Impact Reports help keep us accountable as we publicly outline our progress, and we're incredibly proud of the strides we've made – from reducing food waste to strengthening our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion."

www.uniworld.com

Nick Hughes, sales, strategy & partnership director for Scenic UK, welcomed the expansion, "City stay extensions have been a notable feature of Emerald Cruises' expanded 2024 European river cruise collection. Our network of local tour operators ensures our longer itineraries are both memorable and enriching, offering our guests a deeper immersion in the culture and lifestyle of a city."

Some of Emerald's most popular cruise stay extensions include the 11-day 'Classic Prague & Danube Delights' itinerary which expands on the operator's Danube Delights cruise with time spent in the Czech capital. Guests will be treated to a guided tour through

the Old Town, a Bavarian sausage tasting in Regensburg and two nights in Budapest. Prices lead in from £2,312 per person based on a October 15th, 2024 departure.

The 10-day 'Sensations of Lyon & Provence with Paris' itinerary combines a cruise through Provence with an extended stay in the City of Love. Guests can embark on a canoeing excursion in Avignon, explore the vineyards of Tournon and visit one of France's most famous wine auctions before settling for a serene two-night stay in Paris. Prices lead in from £3,221 per person based on a October 4th, 2024 departure.

www.emeraldcruses.co.uk

AmaWaterways expands river fleet for 2026

AMAKAIA AND *AmaSofia* are set to make their waterways debut in 2026 as the river cruise line continues to bolster its authentic offering. *AmaKaia* will join the *AmaDara* and sail along the Mekong on its first seven-night itinerary on August 3rd, 2026, while *AmaSofia* will become AmaWaterways' 24th ship to sail through the Rhine and Danube rivers from May 24th, 2026.

www.AmaWaterways.co.uk





Shangri-La's 'Stay of the Decade'

CELEBRATING ITS 10th anniversary in the capital, Shangri-La The Shard has launched a series of new experiences. 'The Stay of the Decade' offering blends a stay at the property with a two-hour Champagne cruise on the Thames aboard the luxury Italian-designed *Azimut* yacht.

'The Stay of the Decade' has a price to match: rates lead in at £12,500 per night.

www.shangri-la.com/en/london/shangrila/offers



A quarter-century of free cruises

BOOKINGS UNTIL June 30th, 2024 qualify for entries to A-ROSA River Cruises' biggest-ever agent incentive: 25 cruises will be given away. Managing director Lucia Rowe emphasised, "Agents are our core focus and offering them the opportunity to get under the skin of our product is so important." Email bookings to hello@arosa-cruises.co.uk to enter.



MS Porto Mirante christened ahead of Riviera debut

AS ITS maiden cruise on July 11th, 2024 draws closer, *MS Porto Mirante* was christened in Düsseldorf in esteemed company: several representatives from Riviera Travel and primary shipping partner Scylla joined the ceremony.

The vessel hosts 59 cabins, a sun deck with splash pool, atrium bar with a floor-to-ceiling-windowed lounge area and an on-board fitness centre.

MS Porto Mirante will set sail on a seven-

night 'Highlights of the Douro Valley & Salamanca' itinerary which, along with the sailing, features a guided tour of the Old Town in Porto, visits to the Mateus Palace gardens, Castelo Rodrigo and Lamego plus optional visits to Guimarães or a Porto port wine cellar. 10 departures are currently on offer between July and October. Prices lead in at £2,199 per person.

Head of cruise and long-haul product Will Sarson said, "Cruising on the Douro is growing in popularity, as people seek out holidays that provide a mix of beautiful scenery with cultural and immersive ports of call." www.rivieratravel.co.uk

CroisiEurope boosts Mekong sailings with all-inclusive upgrade

AHEAD OF the Mekong season kicking off in August, CroisiEurope has confirmed that all sailings between Cambodia and Vietnam will be upgraded to all-inclusive basis – with drinks included.

If that news weren't good enough, the river cruise operator also announced that savings of £715 per person (plus included excursions) are on offer on all Mekong sailings

throughout August and September 2024.

With that saving in mind, 2024 prices lead in at £2,801 per person for an 11-day cruise between Siem Reap and Ho Chi Minh City.

CroisiEurope's Mekong fleet is now a five-strong one. The *RV Indochine 1* draws on the traditional Mekong boats, with 24 cabins across two decks accommodating up to 48 passengers. The *RV Indochine 2* ups the ante with 31 cabins accommodating 62 guests with cleaner, contemporary lines. The *RV Lan Diep* guarantees a more intimate, traditional experience, with 22 cabins over two decks. The *RV Toum Tiou 1* is the cruise line's smallest, hosting 10 cabins across two decks with a capacity of 20 guests. Rounding out the fleet is the *RV Toum Tiou 2*, home to 14 cabins (with a maximum occupancy of 28 guests), pitched as an ideal option for a full-ship charter. www.croisieurope.co.uk



'Tis the season on the Seine

VIVA CRUISES has announced a series of seasonal Seine cruises sailing throughout November and December 2024.

Three options will sail throughout the festive period: a five-night 'Seine Advent Magic' itinerary from £795 per person, six-night 'Christmas Magic on the Seine' from £950 per person, and a six-night 'Seine New Year's Eve Sparkle' sailing from £1,295 per person.

All itineraries sail roundtrip from Paris aboard VIVA GLORIA, the river cruise specialist's recently-renovated premium ship, with a maximum capacity of 152 guests across its 76 cabins over three decks. Most cabins feature French balconies guaranteeing the best views from the cosmopolitan riverbanks of Paris to the scenic grace of

Conflans-Sainte-Honorine.

The vessel's new VINO wine bar, guaranteeing a taste of the best wines France has to offer and a true dose of festive spirit will on board.

Alongside the seasonal sailings themselves, guests can expect visits to the Palace of Versailles and Château de Chantilly, plus a festive city tour through Paris and other optional experiences. www.viva-cruises.com



Cru.se startup surpasses £1mn

ONLINE RIVER cruise specialist and Hays Travel Independent Group member Cru.se has passed the £1 million revenue milestone, less than 12 months since launching. The online platform streamlines river cruise booking processes with over 300 unique itinerary pages. www.cru.se

Image Credits: Left: VIVA Cruises, Right: Adobe Stock



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DISPELLING CRUISE MYTHS

Cruise.co.uk has conducted a survey to uncover the most common cruise myths that are still being floated.

LAST MONTH, cruise.co.uk revealed that 71% of guests who have never cruised before now might consider one and suggested that short sailings are bolstering the sector's impressive growth over recent years. With demand no longer a question, the provider's latest survey asked 700 respondents to name the biggest cruise myth they still hear floated around.

A quarter of respondents said that the most common misconception they hear is the prohibitive pricing of cruise, making the expensive nature of sailings the most common myth reported.

18% of respondents suggested that

cruises are reserved for retired guests – despite recent emphasis on multi-generational sailings and family-friendly offerings at sea.

In third was seasickness, reported by 13% of respondents as a barrier to cruising: cruise.co.uk notes the recent advancements of stabilisers largely ensuring plain sailing.

The fourth and fifth most common misconceptions reported were the lack of activities a cruise and the need to dress up on board.

51% of respondents continue to report common misconceptions about cruising among the public. While this

shows a significant decrease from a similar survey conducted last year – when the figure was as high as 84% – it continues to not remain a factor in buying decisions as 72% said the factors were not a consideration when they booked their first sailing. www.cruise.co.uk

Crystal hones in on UK market

CRYSTAL HAS turned its attention to the UK market, reshuffling its trade team and bringing the trade reservations team in-house. Steven Joyner has been promoted to senior sales manager for the UK & Ireland, with regional hires expected to follow.

The trade reservations teams across the globe (including in London) are now entirely in-house, which SVP global sales & reservations Mary-Beth Meadowcroft described as “a strategic move that underscores our commitment to providing the highest level of service to our travel partners.” www.crystalcruises.com

Cunard names unconventional *Queen Anne* godparent

A STAR-STUDED naming ceremony saw stars gather at Cunard's spiritual home in Liverpool. 184 years have passed since Cunard's first transatlantic crossing departed from the city, but the cruise line's love for the city still remains: Cunard's president, Katie McAllister, said, “Liverpool is the spiritual home of Cunard, and we are therefore delighted and feel it very fitting that the City of Liverpool is the godparent to *Queen Anne*.” www.cunard.co.uk





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Windstar unveils winter 2025/2026 Med sailings

REMAINING AS one of the only cruise lines to sail the Med during the winter season, Windstar Cruises has launched its 2025/2026 winter programme, featuring six unique itineraries plus six Star Collectors sailings.

To celebrate the sailings, Windstar is introducing an Early Booking Offer which includes US\$200 onboard credit per stateroom and a complimentary upgrade to All-Inclusive fares. The offer expires on October 31st, 2025. www.windstarcruises.com



MSC expands the family fun onboard

MSC CRUISES is expanding its onboard family entertainment programme from this summer, offering enhanced experiences for all ages. For the first time MSC will offer a dedicated baby care service for children six months and up, while for the older kids, new MSC Family Game Shows has been added, and the teen's club opening hours have been extended. www.msccruises.co.uk

Marella relaunches winter 2024 itineraries

MARELLA CRUISES has relaunched its winter 2024 itineraries after announcing *Marella Discovery 2* will homeport out of Malaga from November 7th, 2024 and then from Tenerife and Gran Canaria from December 2024 to March 2025.

The homeport of Malaga will offer sailings on two itineraries. The seven-night 'Spanish Flavours' sailing will call at Malaga, Palma de Mallorca, Barcelona, Valencia, Cartagena and Gibraltar, while the seven-night 'Sights and Delights' cruise will call at Malaga, Lisbon, Portugal, Cadiz, Casablanca, Cartagena and Motril. Prices for the cruises lead in from £931 per person on an all-inclusive basis with return flights from UK airports.

From Tenerife, Marella will also offer two new itineraries, the 'Winter Escape' sailing which calls at Malaga, Gibraltar, Cadiz and Gran Canaria, while the 'Sail into Spring' cruise will call into Gran Canaria, Tenerife,



Cartagena, Malta and Limassol, Cyprus.

In addition, Marella Cruises will also offer guests more choice with cruise and stay options for the winter season with 100 hotels across Malaga, Gran Canaria, Tenerife and Cyprus. www.tui.co.uk

Scenic shines the solo spotlight

SCENIC LUXURY Cruises & Tours has spotlighted some of its most popular itineraries with those who wish to sail the seven seas solo.

The 15-day 'Greenland Explorer' sets sail from Reykjavik towards Southern Greenland, with a call at the Dynjandi waterfall, otherwise known as the jewel of the Westfjords. Guests will also sail through the glacial waters of the Skjoldungen Fjord onboard *Scenic Eclipse* to the Prince Christian Sound which is only accessible during the summer months. Prices for the cruise lead in from £8,220.

The 'Tastes of Discovery Series: Rhythms of the Brazilian Coastline' will take travellers

down the coast of Brazil and Uruguay where they can spend a day in Ponta do Sul on an excursion led by a Discovery Team expert, or take advantage of the watersport options available. Prices begin from £6,199.

Guests can embark on a once-in-a-lifetime 22-day voyage from Buenos Aires to the historic Falkland Islands in the 'Antarctica, South Georgia and Falkland Islands' itinerary. Adventurers can kayak through glaciers and paddleboard around icebergs before taking to the skies in one of the two onboard helicopters. Prices lead in from £17,499.

www.scenic.co.uk



SMALL GROUP, BIG ADVENTURES

Titan Travel's 2025 small group holidays and solo tours brochure features several new additions and returning favourites, including an adventure along America's west coast.



TITAN TRAVEL'S 'Small Group Holidays and Solo Tours' brochure blends intimate adventures from across the globe. While two new options feature the best of Namibia and classic Nepal,

there are several Stateside options, including 'California and the Golden West' which draws on the great legacy of heading out West in pursuit of adventure.

Head of trade sales Hayley Morris noted that the brochure "has been designed for customers looking for authentic experiences," and this tour is no exception. From the tour's third day, ticking off iconic Hollywood fifth, exploring the pine forests and burnt-orange sandstone formations of Flagstaff

en route to the artist colony of Sedona, the itinerary is undeniably West Coast.

Departures for the 14-day 'California and the Golden West' itinerary start from £3,895 per person, based on a November 6th, 2025 departure date. Solo options start from £5,195 per person on the same departure date.

Other options to the USA include 'Southern Sights and Sounds', a 14-day option starting from £5,145 for a February 2025 departure.

www.titantravel.co.uk

Capital breaks pre-pandemic record

WASHINGTON D.C. welcomed a record number of visitors in 2023 – 25.85 million – surpassing 2019's figures by almost one million.

Four million shy of the 2019 record in 2022, the marked growth last year represented a 29% increase in visitor spend, supporting 102,366 jobs in the US capital.

The UK had a large part to play in setting the new record, taking the second spot in the list of most valuable international markets, only behind northern neighbours Canada. www.washington.org

DoSomethingDifferent.com's Disneyland discount

A NEW 'Summer Promo' ticket to Anaheim's Disneyland Resort offers three days' admission for less than the cost of a two-day, meaning agents can offer a day's free admission dream Disneyland escapes arriving before September 26th, 2024.

Weekday tickets start from £229 per adult and £137 per child, down from £359 and £335, respectively.

www.DoSomethingDifferent.com





Exclusive savings in the sunshine state

VISIT CENTRAL Florida is offering travellers a Sunshine Savings Pass which includes exclusive savings and offers on a vast range of Polk County attractions, accommodations, restaurants, retail outlets and more.

The pass includes discounted admission fees to Bok Tower Gardens and Florida's Children's Museum, as well as up to 20% off the price of the bill in selected dining establishments throughout the county. www.visitcentralflorida.org



Aer Lingus heads to Vegas

THE GLITZ and glam of Vegas is calling UK travellers, and the bucket-list destination is now closer than ever before after Aer Lingus has announced the launch of its inaugural service from Dublin to the entertainment capital of the world.

From October 25th, 2024, the service will operate three times per week until April 29th, 2025. www.aerlingus.com

What might surprise you about the Lone Star state?

TRAVEL TEXAS' UK and Ireland account director, Jane Dawkins, sat down with *Travel Bulletin* to break down the "diverse and innovative" cities and experiences on offer in the Lone Star state for agents.

"Major gateway cities such as Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin and Houston continue to attract UK travellers due to their diverse, innovative offerings ranging from quirky boutique hotels to thriving cultural scenes, rich histories and an abundance of sporting attractions.

"The U.S. road trip remains a favourite for travellers, and Texas is perfect for exploring the open road. The Central Triangle, covering Austin, San Antonio, Bandera and Fredericksburg, is a popular route (...) Road trips allow travellers to discover hidden gems, such as Big Bend National Park in Southwest Texas, which offers scenic drives, hiking and river trips through limestone canyons."

Journey Latin America launches dedicated US sister brand

SPECIALIST TOUR operator Journey Latin America has launched its new sister brand, Journeyscape, which will specialise in the US and Canada.

A dedicated team of experts have carefully curated over 60 authentic journeys across North America, offering travellers the opportunity to immerse into the rich cultures and diverse landscapes around the continent.

Head of product for Journeyscape and Journey Latin America, Stuart Whittington, stated the launch of Journeyscape will bring



Texas also plays host to an abundance of hidden surprises that may be a shock for agents: "Texas is considered 'very hip', Austin in particular. Crowned the 'Live Music Capital of the World', Austin boasts great nightlife, a vibrant culinary scene which includes iconic Texas BBQ and quirky boutiques."

Find out more on the unexpected side of the Lone Star state at www.travelbulletin.co.uk

the company's "expertise, philosophy and passion" to the USA and Canada. "We're excited to be working with some incredible local partners on the ground to offer classic trips and off-the-beaten-track experiences (...) from enjoying the rhythms of the Deep South to wildlife spotting in the remote Inside Passage between Canada and Alaska."

Example itineraries on offer with Journeyscapes include the 22-day 'Real Route 66 Extended' tour from £4,900 per person; the once-in-a-lifetime 15-day 'Native America Country' from £3,640 per person; the self-drive 16-day 'Cowboys and Cajuns, Mansions and Music' tour from £3,820 per person; and the 19-day 'Alaskan Expedition Cruise: Inside Passage4, Bears and Aleutian Islands' itinerary from £9,516 per person.

www.journeylatinamerica.com

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California and the Golden West

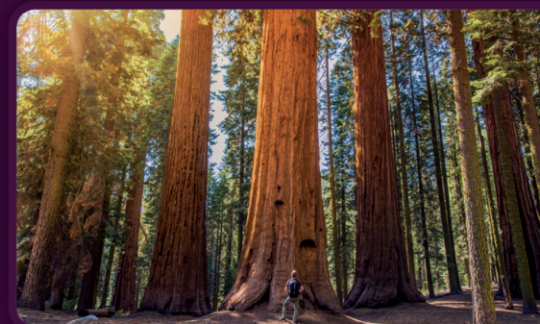
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Stateside heritage: it's an American Affair

AMERICAN AFFAIR'S vast range of tours, from the Big Apple on the East Coast to the border towns of the West, tick off the most iconic Stateside experiences. 'American Heritage by Rail,' a 13-day tour, is no exception: beginning in Washington D.C., guests have three days to immerse themselves in the capital, be it a tour of the Capitol Building or an afternoon at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

Onwards to Philadelphia, the Amtrak offers a scenic sit-back trip, before guests arrive in Pennsylvania's largest city, home to the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall.

Another regional Amtrak journey brings guests to the next leg of the tour, with three days in the Big Apple.

Need the offerings that await in New

York City be explained? Humour us: the Empire State, Central Park, the MoMA or a trip to Ellis Island might cut it. One final rail trip brings guests to Boston, home to some of the nation's finest coastal scenery, where three days bring the tour to a close.

'American Heritage by Rail' leads in at £2,691 per person.

www.americanaffair.com



\$10 billion spend for the Music City in 2023

WHILE NASHVILLE has long been the source of record-breaking hits, the destination in itself is now a record-breaking one: 2023 saw visitors spend US\$10.56 billion (US\$29 million a day), with a record 16.8 million visitors descending upon the iconic city. Deana Ivey, president and CEO of the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp. promised not to rest on very successful laurels: "We don't take our destination's success for granted... we work not only on today and tomorrow, but also next year and next decade to keep our industry growing." www.visitmusiccity.com

What advice would you give to your younger self?

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Publisher

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Learn to swim and wear a higher factor sun tan lotion!



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Don't care about what other people think about you.



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Don't hold grudges, they aren't worth your time.



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Stop taking everything so seriously.



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SHOWCASES

Invites you to a

JAPAN SHOWCASE

Agent networking evening

Monday

8TH JULY HYATT REGENCY BIRMINGHAM

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to our Japan Showcase! This is a fun filled evening dedicated to providing you with more knowledge about this beautiful part of the world. Look forward to engaging professional networking groups, hot meal and drinks, enjoying the entertainment and being in with a chance to win some truly incredible prizes in our free prize draw!

Timings

Registration & Drinks 5:45 ^{PM}	Travel Bulletin Welcome 6:10 ^{PM}	Supplier Presentations 6:15 ^{PM}	Hot Dinner 7:30 ^{PM}	Supplier Presentations 8:30 ^{PM}	Product Quiz and Prizes 9:10 ^{PM}	Event Ends 9:30 ^{PM}
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Features:



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THESE EVENTS ARE BY INVITATION ONLY and will be booked on a first come first served basis with limited space available.

Star AWARDS 2024

travel bulletin

Your nominations have now been counted and we are delighted to reveal this year's Travel Bulletin Star Awards finalists!

The official voting in the 25th Travel Bulletin Star Awards is now open so if you are a high street, online or home based travel agent have your say by voting for your favourite travel industry suppliers using the drop down menus. Voting couldn't be simpler!

Suppliers, please make your selections in the Star Agencies sector.

Cast your votes and every submission will be placed into a free prize draw to win one of 3 incredible prizes sponsored by



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All Star Awards winners will be announced at our prestigious gala dinner at the **Hilton London Bankside** on **Thursday 24th October.**

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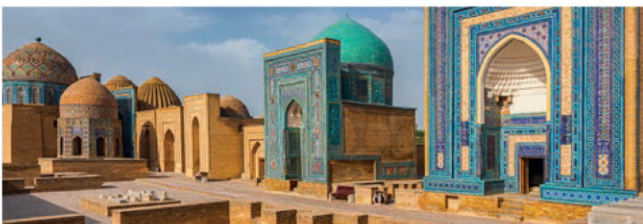
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India - Tigers & the Taj Mahal

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Get in touch

We're here to help!



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