

# Travel **bulletin**

Giving agents the edge

## *Escorted Touring*

Tours that will appease everybody's tastes.



### MORE IN...

#### **Australasia & Pacific Islands**

The southern hemisphere shines with bespoke adventures. (Pg. 11)

#### **Latin America**

The best for weather, experiences, and atmosphere. (Pg. 21)



No one knows the Land Down Under quite like this Hays Travel agent. (Pg. 10)



# AWARD WINNING VACATION HOMES



**WE'VE GOT IT ALL,  
WE'VE GOT THE LOT,  
WE'RE JETSET HOMEFROMHOME  
& WE'RE NEVER GONNA STOP....**



**No. 1**

For Creating  
**Dream  
Packages**

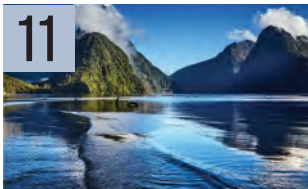


[www.jetsetholidays.co.uk](http://www.jetsetholidays.co.uk)

# THIS WEEK



**NEWS**  
Stay up to date with the latest headlines as the summer season approaches.



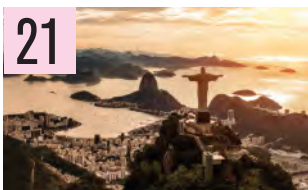
**AUSTRALASIA & PACIFIC ISLANDS**  
The other side of the world just got a whole lot closer.



**ESCORTED TOURING**  
Get the most out of a destination with the help of an expert guide.



**INDUSTRY INSIGHT**  
The chairman of LATA says there is 'no better time' to join the network.



**LATIN AMERICA**  
Culturally-rich and experience-driven itineraries await across this vibrant region.

# TOO HOT TO GO

**Booking.com has revealed its 2026 Travel and Sustainability Report, highlighting how Brits are finding some destinations 'too hot' to visit.**

ACCORDING TO Booking.com's 2026 Travel and Sustainability Report, nearly half of Brits view extreme weather as a major stressor when it comes to booking their holidays, driving a shift in where and when trips are booked.

The data shows that 69% of Brits say they consider extreme weather risk when choosing a destination, and more than one-in-five will cancel trips due to these risks. The worry is warranted, as 16% of Brits have experienced extreme weather or a natural disaster when travelling over the last 12 months.

Due to the risks of extreme summer temperatures, peak season seems to be shifting. While June to August have been hailed as the peak summer travelling months over the years, 41% of Brits are planning to travel out of season. More than half of the holidaymakers surveyed have deemed some destinations too hot to visit during their preferred time of year, pointing

to a larger trend towards more climate-reliable travel.

Accommodation searches on the booking platform have witnessed an increase to Slovenia (+29%), Norway (+33%) and Finland (+27%) during the peak travel months in 2025 compared to previous years. Research has found that September is emerging as a major travel month in Europe, with 22% of Europeans planning a holiday during the month, following just behind the 25% heading on their holidays in July and August.

Alongside this data, there is a generational shift in what travellers value the most when it comes to sustainable travel. Boomers are more focused on limiting their impact on the ground, with 65% always cutting waste and 60% reducing their energy use when away; while Gen Z is driving the demand for more immersive and enriching travel experiences that prioritise conservation and culture.

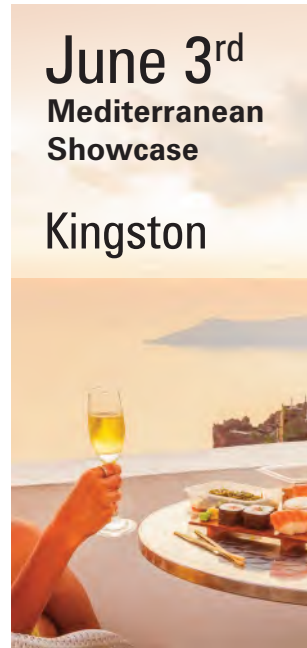


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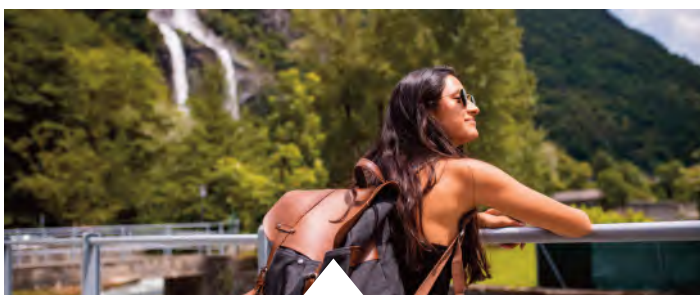
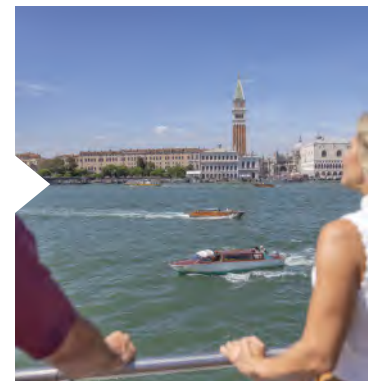
## Uniworld's Ultimate Journey Collection

UNIWORLD'S NEW brochure includes European Cruise & Tour options and luxury long-haul land journeys for the first time.

With journey's up to 25 days long, Uniworld's portfolio now includes a vast variety of luxury land, rail, and river cruise holidays in India, Southeast Asia, South America and Egypt, alongside a new Cruise and Tour programme exclusive to Europe.

The luxury land-only tours will be provided by Uniworld's sister brand, Luxury Gold, in Europe, Japan, South Africa, and Eastern Canada.

'Cruise & Tour: Delight in Switzerland & the Rhine' is a 19-day journey from Geneva to Amsterdam that pairs the alpine grandeur of Switzerland with a Rhine river cruise. Prices lead in from £10,995.



### Riviera supports solos with special cabin rates

THE OPERATOR has revealed an enhanced range of specially priced solo cabins across its most popular river and yacht cruises in 2026.

Following a 41% year-on-year increase in solo passengers, demand for Riviera's solo offers remains

strong. The operator prides itself on offering solo travellers unforgettable experiences and underscores its commitment to the growing market through initiatives such as additional cabin options and the launch of the first dedicated solo ship in 2027.

### easyJet launches new UK route to Seville

EASYJET HAS launched flights and package holidays from Bristol Airport to Seville, expanding connectivity for customers in Southwest England.

The new service will operate twice per week on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Seats are available from £33.99 per person, with package holidays to Seville starting from £214 per person.

In addition to the new route, easyJet will welcome its 20th aircraft to the airport, as well as new routes to Reus and Thessaloniki.

Kevin Doyle, easyJet UK's Country Manager, said, "Our continued success in Bristol is a clear testament to the popularity of our flights and holidays and the growth of our fleet with an additional aircraft this summer will further unlock the opportunity of the demand that we see for both leisure and business travel."

## JTA Travel Group makes waves with new brochure

THE GROUP has revealed its new Cruise brochure highlighting a range of fly, cruise and stay holidays to support agents with a comprehensive offering in all things cruise.

The brochure brings together a collection of ocean, river, luxury and expedition cruise partners, with itineraries spanning across Europe, the Mediterranean, Asia, Alaska and beyond.

Agents will be able to find packages with regional flight details from the UK, pre-and post-cruise hotel stays, and added extras including onboard credit, cabin upgrades and exclusive offers.

Wayne Darrock, CEO of JTA Travel Group, said, "Cruise continues to be a key area of growth for us, and this latest edition of our JTA Cruise brochure reflects how far our offering has evolved."



ETIHAD AIRWAYS' award-winning loyalty programme, Etihad Guest, will enhance the premium customer experience with additional benefits to Promo seats.

Now, Etihad Guest offers exclusive discounts of up to 10% off regular Promo seat fares for Etihad Guest members with Gold, Platinum, or Emerald membership status, offering greater value to the programme's loyal members across the world.



## Sunvil shines the spotlight on Greece

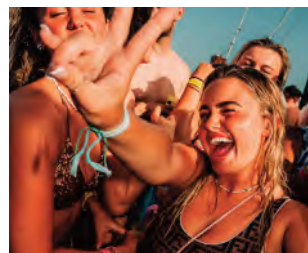
SUNVIL HAS released a new Greece brochure in response to the growing demand for multi-island holidays.

The Greece brochure suggests itineraries across all island groups, with easily-made adjustments for travellers' personal preferences to create a unique and bespoke experience across multiple islands. The brochure highlights the lesser-known North Aegean, where slow-paced island-hopping is integral. Chios, Lesbos and Samos offer an authentic taste of typical Greek island life. An example 15-night itinerary to the region leads in from £2,340 per person, with return flights to Athens and accommodation across the islands included.

## Bundles of fun for the summer

ATTRACTION WORLD has launched new Bucket List bundle in Rome and a Party Hard package in Tenerife ahead of the summer season.

'Bucket List Bundles' bring together multiple tours and tickets into a single bookable item for agents. 'Party Hard Packages' are designed for young adults to maximise



their nightlife in a cost-effective and stress-free way.

Prices lead in from £199 and £147 per adult respectively.

### Birmingham Airport Update

## Update from Tobias Morter

Birmingham Airport Business & Travel Trade Executive



Welcome to May's edition of our travel trade update. Here's the latest from across BHX.

### Lufthansa increases Birmingham operations

For summer 2026, Lufthansa will operate three daily flights to Frankfurt alongside a daily Munich service. The Frankfurt services will be operated using larger Airbus A320 family aircraft representing a clear increase in capacity.

### Jet2.com expands Mediterranean portfolio

Jet2.com has launched new services to Palermo and Samos, further expanding its Mediterranean network, while also confirming that Thassos will be added to the programme next year - giving travellers even more choice across Southern Europe.

### New security lanes open ahead of summer season

Two new security lanes have opened adjacent to the Jet2.com check-in area, increasing total capacity to up to 12 operational lanes.

### More choice to Jeddah as Saudia adds fourth weekly service

Saudia has increased its Birmingham-Jeddah service from three to four flights per week, offering greater flexibility for travellers. The move highlights Jeddah's growing appeal, from its historic Al-Balad district to Red Sea attractions and wider tourism investment.

### easyJet expands Birmingham base with new Agadir route

easyJet has unveiled winter 2026 flights from Birmingham to Agadir, following additional new routes to Nice and Inverness earlier this year. The expansion will see easyJet grow its BHX base to six aircraft, boosting choice and connectivity.

Written by  
Tobias Morter  
Business & Travel Trade  
Executive

/tobiasjm

Birmingham Airport

www.birminghamairport.co.uk

## A cruising programme fit for four Queens

A HUGE cruising programme is coming for 2028 as luxury line Cunard has unveiled 190 voyages will take to the seas.

Cunard's Queens will visit 125 ports across 36 countries worldwide, including 98 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, as well as 19 overnight stays



and 37 late-evening departures, giving guests ample time to explore bucket-list destinations.

2028 will also see the landmark occasion when all four Queen ships will unite for the first time in Liverpool, giving guests the chance to be part of history on one of the Four Queens Celebration voyages.

In another first for the brand, guests can experience the elegance of all four ships in one single journey. The Queen-to-Queen voyages feature a collection of back-to-back sailings, allowing guests to combine cruises onboard two, three, or all four Queens in one extended luxury adventure.

Guests can enjoy a 10% Early Booking discount when booking a Cunard Early Saver, or Cunard Fare, before June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, on sailings departing between April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2028, and January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2029.



**HOLIDAYMAKERS IN Aberdeen can rejoice as airBaltic is set to relaunch its flights to Riga from June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026. The service, which is now on sale, will offer twice-weekly flights between the Scottish city and the Latvian capital on Tuesdays and Saturdays for the summer season. The route will be available until September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

## Solmar makes booking Promise

SOLMAR VILLAS has developed a new Book with Confidence Promise with the aim to reassure travellers that their 2026 holidays are safe to book.

The Promise boosts existing reassurance guarantees, including ABTA protection and 24/7 Holiday Helpline support.

Some of the new guarantees include fair flexibility for villa-only bookings, wherein if the FDCO advises against travel to the chosen

destination, or airlines cancel flights, Solmar will waive the £150 admin fee to amend the booking; and no surprise flight surcharges after the booking is made.

Sharon Bradbury, general manager at Solmar Villas, said, "We have seen the impact from recent world events and want to do everything we can to minimise the effect this has on our customers and their confidence in booking with us."

## Angela Rippon heads to the waterways

SCENIC IS teaming up with British icon Angela Rippon for a new four-part documentary on Channel 5: *Angela Rippon's River Cruises*. The show will follow Angela as she travels on the ultra-luxe ships along the Danube and Mekong. She will travel aboard *Scenic Amber* through Budapest, Vienna and Austria's Wachau Valley, and aboard *Scenic Spirit* as she explores Cambodia's temples and Vietnam's bustling waterways. Nichola Absalom, UK managing director of sales and marketing at Scenic Group, said, "To have someone as respected as Angela Rippon get to the heart of what it's really like to travel onboard a luxury river ship, and to use television and its audiences to showcase that experience, was an exceptional opportunity for us."



## Saint Lucia dedicates discounts to agents

THE SAINT Lucia Tourism Authority is strengthening its commitment to the travel trade through its annual Saint Lucia Agent's Months programme, featuring limited-time offers and discounts across the island's resorts and experiences.

## AGENT INCENTIVES

- **NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS** has launched its most ambitious fam programme to date, including a mix of long-haul and regional destinations, expanded agent participation, and the introduction of a Mega fam. The fam trips will cover key growth regions, including the US, Canada, Borneo and South Africa, as well as a Mega fam to India. Overall, the programme will cover 10 trips for approximately 130 agents.
- **SEABOURN HAS** launched an agent-dedicated campaign to instill confidence in travel partners to sell ultra-luxury expedition cruising. Agents can earn rewards whilst unlocking added value for their customers, such as £200 Amazon vouchers for every new Seabourn Expedition made and confirmed during May.
- **RIVIERA TRAVEL** is reinforcing its commitment to the travel trade by showcasing the scale of its fam trip programme in 2026. The operator is set to deliver 15 fam trips throughout the year, welcoming 152 UK & Irish agents onto a wide range of itineraries.
- **AGENTS CAN** win a £20 Love2Shop voucher with every booking made for Just Go! Holidays' new Sri Lanka programme. The Mermaid Hotels & Club in Sri Lanka is now bookable with a choice of 12-, 16-, 23- and 30-day durations throughout the winter season. Bookings for the property will be combined with direct British Airways flights from either London Gatwick or Heathrow. Agents will automatically receive a £20 Love2Shop voucher for every booking made to the hotel until July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

# AGENT BULLETIN



**G ADVENTURES** hosted 75 agents and tour operators aboard its 'Little Red Ship' in Scotland as part of an exclusive showcase designed to highlight its small-ship expedition offering. The ship docked in Troon, following its successful Antarctica season, to show its offering to agents first-hand. The expedition team provided guided ship tours and delivered insights into the unique life aboard a polar voyage.

Travel **bulletin**

## COMPETITION

**Win a five-night all-inclusive stay for two people at Bahia Principe Explore Punta Cana in a Junior Suite Superior room!**

Find out more at [www.travelbulletin.co.uk/competitions](http://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/competitions)

## AGENT TRAINING

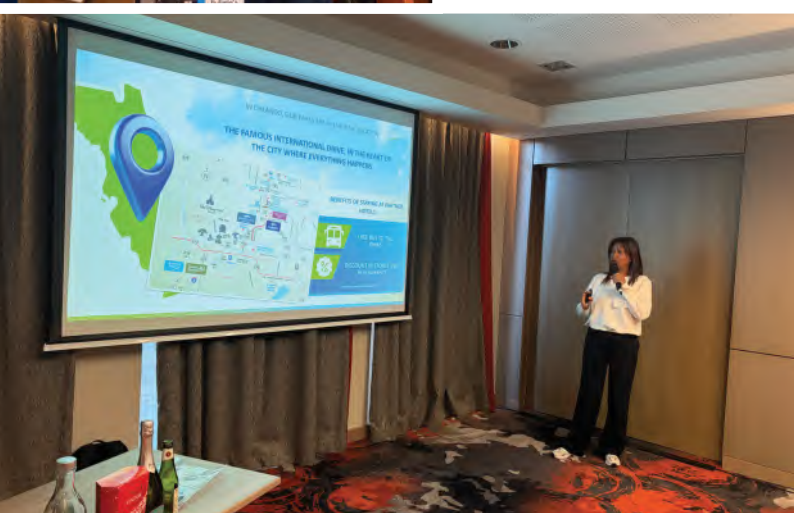
- **BECOME AN** Austrian expert with the Austrian Tourist Board's interactive training course that offers agents a range of AI modules, quizzes, coaching, and roleplay scenarios to help sell the destination with confidence. Once you have applied everything you have learnt in a roleplay exercise, a certificate will be awarded to you, making you a certified expert in all things Austria, from winter escapes to city break experiences.
- **EARLIER THIS** year, Travel Counsellors launched a new training programme to help businesses grow their digital communities through authentic, personal content, while also enhancing their skills and confidence in the online world. 'Supercharge Your Socials' was developed in partnership with School of Social to help Travel Counsellors understand more about why personality makes or breaks an online persona, and the importance of amplifying customer advocacy. The programme features short, on-demand modules and live content creation clinics.
- **ONLY AN** hour's drive from Orlando, yet a world away, New Smyrna Beach offers holidaymakers a lush tropical landscape with 17 miles of white sand beaches, endless activities, amazing eateries and a friendly welcome from the locals. Agents who complete the short modules will be entered into the monthly draw to win a £50 shopping voucher.
- **NYC TOURISM +** Conventions has bolstered its NYC Travel Trade Academy with a dedicated luxury module and committed to upgrading its B2B NYC Luxury guide regularly.



## The Americas Showcase

WE UNITED the continents in Manchester last month at our Americas showcase, treating agents to a full evening of learning, giveaways and prizes.

As always a big thank you to our suppliers for helping us put on an unforgettable evening: Expedia TAAP, United Airlines, United Parks & Resorts, and Sun Peaks.



Want to get in on the [#TBShowcases](https://twitter.com/TBShowcases) action? Our next events will be the Luxury Holidays Showcases taking place in Wokingham on May 18th, St Albans on May 19th, and Royal Leamington Spa on May 20th. To confirm your place or find out when we will be hosting our next event near you contact [events@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:events@travelbulletin.co.uk)

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, May 28th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

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

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



WHERE AM I?

THE SAMOAN capital is the only city on the island, offering visitors and locals a charming, small town vibe and the opportunity to be one of the first people on the planet to welcome the new day.

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

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

Across

- 1 Cruise company, sounds fit for royalty (8)
- 6 Mecure is one of this company's brands (5)
- 7 Scenic Italian lake (5)
- 8 Luanda is the capital (6)
- 11 Currency of Ghana (4)
- 12 Could be a pantomime character or a British honour for females (4)
- 13 Wightlink ferries cross this stretch of water (6)
- 17 Country popular for safari holidays (5)
- 18 Airline consolidator, \_\_\_ Travel, sounds like a military rank (5)
- 19 England's most southernmost county (8)

Down

- 1 The Devil wears this, at a cinema near you (5)
- 2 Sea bordering the Great Barrier Reef (5)
- 3 Company specialising in travel, insurance and financial services (4)
- 4 Florida city and popular holiday resort (5)
- 5 European country with a flag of blue and white (6)
- 9 Star sign known as The Twins (6)
- 10 Amsterdam Schiphol international airport code (3)
- 12 Capital of Senegal (5)
- 14 Richard, author and host of House of Games (5)
- 15 Innsbruck is the capital of this Austrian state (5)
- 16 Main airport for the Algarve (4)

CROSSWORD

Across: 1 PRINCESS, 6 ACCOR, 7 GARDIA, 8 ANGOLA, 11 CEDIL, 12 DAME, 13 SOLENT, 17 KENYA, 18 MAJOR, 19 CORNWALL. Down: 1 PRADA, 2 CORAL, 3 SAGA, 4 MIAMI, 5 GREECE, 9 GEMINI, 10 AMS, 12 DAKAR, 14 OSMAN, 15 TYROL, 16 FARO. Mystery Word : CROATIA



# AGENT INSIGHT

## CEARA RUMSEY

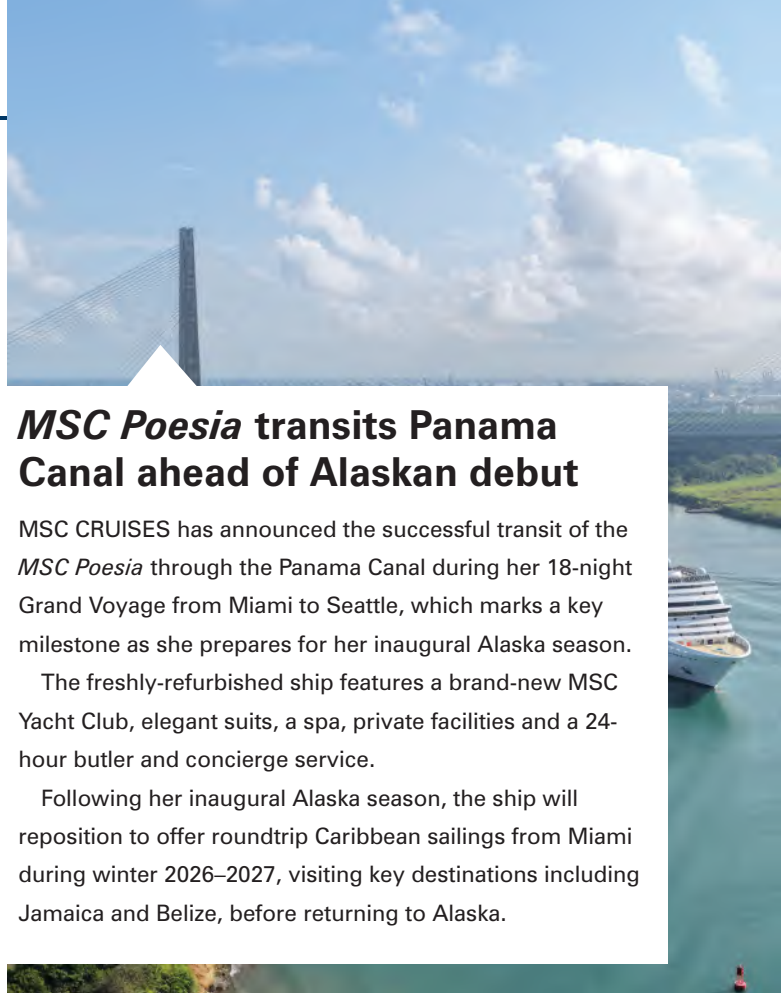
### HAYS TRAVEL

AUSTRALIA HAS always been on my bucket list. Even as a little girl, it felt like a place that was calling to me. In September 2019, I finally took the leap, leaving my job behind to travel and live in Australia.

I began my adventure in Sydney, spending two incredible weeks exploring the city. Sydney is beautiful and vibrant, with iconic landmarks, great shopping, easy transport, and of course, the famous Bondi Beach. I highly recommend visiting the Blue Mountains and completing the Coogee to Bondi coastal walk – both are unforgettable experiences.

From there, I travelled up Australia's iconic east coast, spending a few nights in each destination before moving on. My journey included Bondi Beach, Surfers Paradise, Brisbane, Noosa, Rainbow Beach, K'gari, the Town of 1770, Airlie Beach, the Whitsundays, Magnetic Island, Mission Beach, Cairns, and Innisfail. Each place had its own charm, but the Whitsundays stood out for the stunning landscapes, crystal clear water, and diverse wildlife. Sadly, my adventure was cut short after six months when Covid-19 brought me home early. However, Australia left a lasting impression.

Australia is also more accessible than many people realise, with flights arriving from all over the world. You can even reach Perth from London in under 17 hours – much shorter than the traditional Sydney route. One of the things I love most about Australia is the sheer variety of its landscapes. Within one country, you can experience world class beaches, lush rainforest, remote outback, tropical islands, and buzzing cities. Each destination is unique, making every stop along the journey exciting and unforgettable. I love reliving my experiences through my customers and helping them create their dream trips – it gives me such a buzz. My eyes light up whenever someone mentions visiting Australia!



## MSC Poesia transits Panama Canal ahead of Alaskan debut

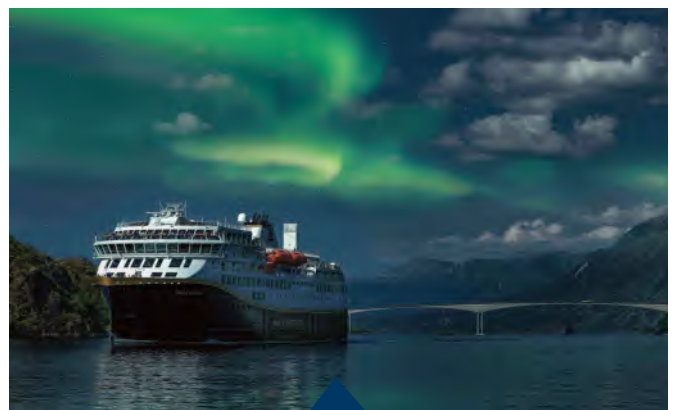
MSC CRUISES has announced the successful transit of the *MSC Poesia* through the Panama Canal during her 18-night Grand Voyage from Miami to Seattle, which marks a key milestone as she prepares for her inaugural Alaska season.

The freshly-refurbished ship features a brand-new MSC Yacht Club, elegant suits, a spa, private facilities and a 24-hour butler and concierge service.

Following her inaugural Alaska season, the ship will reposition to offer roundtrip Caribbean sailings from Miami during winter 2026–2027, visiting key destinations including Jamaica and Belize, before returning to Alaska.

## News Bites

- HUNTERMOSS HAS launched a new website that reflects its experience as an evolved luxury travel brand, and the launch supports a broader phase of strategic growth and milestones, such as the expansion of its global travel team.
- MERCURY HOLIDAYS has launched an upgrade to its 'Manage My Booking' platform to reduce administration work for agents while giving their clients direct access to key booking information.



HAVILA VOYAGES has launched a new 'Book with Confidence' campaign in order to give guests the greatest possible flexibility and security. The campaign includes flexible changes to departure dates and no fuel surcharge after booking, allowing guests to reserve their trip with added peace of mind until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

## ONE ISLAND IS NEVER ENOUGH

PATA UK & Ireland spokesperson Alison Haining spoke to *Travel Bulletin* about how multi-island journeys set French Polynesia apart from any other destination.



“WHAT I love most about the Islands of Tahiti in the South Pacific, an iconic destination within the Pacific Asia travel region, is the incredible variety and natural beauty you find across each island. While Bora Bora rightly gets a lot of attention, Moorea is full of adventure and charm. I highly recommend a yacht charter through the lagoons of Taha’a

and Raiatea, it’s a truly special and peaceful experience.

All international flights arrive into Tahiti, making it the natural starting point. While it is more developed, it is also full of local colour. Spend a day or two exploring waterfalls, browsing the markets, or visiting Teahupo’o, one of the world’s most famous surf breaks. Then move on to the quieter islands for a deeper sense of escape.

Just a short ferry ride from Tahiti, Moorea offers dramatic peaks, lush green valleys, and a spirit of adventure. Unlike Bora Bora, you arrive by road, adding to its easy-going feel. Popular

activities include 4x4 tours to Magic Mountain and exploring the pineapple plantations. The island has a rugged beauty that invites exploration.

The quieter islands of Raiatea and Taha’a share a peaceful lagoon, ideal for chartering a private yacht or simply relaxing in nature. Visit a pearl farm, snorkel in clear waters, or wander through vanilla plantations. Raiatea holds deep cultural significance and is often considered the heart of Polynesian history and tradition.”

*Read the full article on the Travel Bulletin website.*

### A grand voyage to the other side of the world

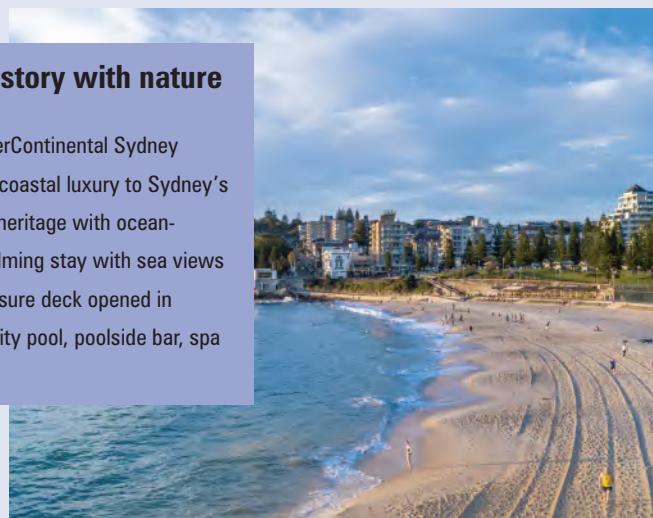
HOLLAND AMERICA Line has revealed the details for its 2028 Grand Voyages, featuring a 90-day ‘Grand Australia & New Zealand’ itinerary sailing aboard *Zaandam*.

The voyage will depart from San Diego on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2028, before heading west through the South Pacific towards Australia and New Zealand. Overall, the itinerary will call into 41 ports in 12 countries, including Fiji, Samoa, French Polynesia and Bora Bora.

Bookings made before June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2027, are eligible for early booking benefits including up to \$2,500 per person in onboard credit.

### InterContinental blends history with nature

SET ON the beachfront at Coogee, InterContinental Sydney Coogee Beach brings a fresh wave of coastal luxury to Sydney’s shoreline. The 198-room hotel blends heritage with ocean-inspired interiors, offering guests a calming stay with sea views and private outdoor spaces. A new leisure deck opened in March, featuring an ocean-facing infinity pool, poolside bar, spa and Club InterContinental.





## Waldorf Astoria takes to Sydney

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST Waldorf Astoria is set to open in late 2026 in Sydney's Circular Quay, and promises to be one of the standout hotel debuts of the year.

The hotel is set in a 28-storey tower with panoramic views of Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge, and was designed by Kengo Kuma.

The 220-room property will include ultra-luxe suites, two signature restaurants, a rooftop bar, spa, indoor pool, and ballroom.



## Dunk Island adds luxury twist to camping

DUNK ISLAND's beachfront Eco Tents have opened for guests as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

On the Cassowary Coast, the Eco Tents are designed for guests who love the outdoors but still want a bed for at night.

The Eco Tents are the latest launch on the island, and introduces a new camping and dining experience. Prices lead in from £140 per night, with a max stay of 4 nights.

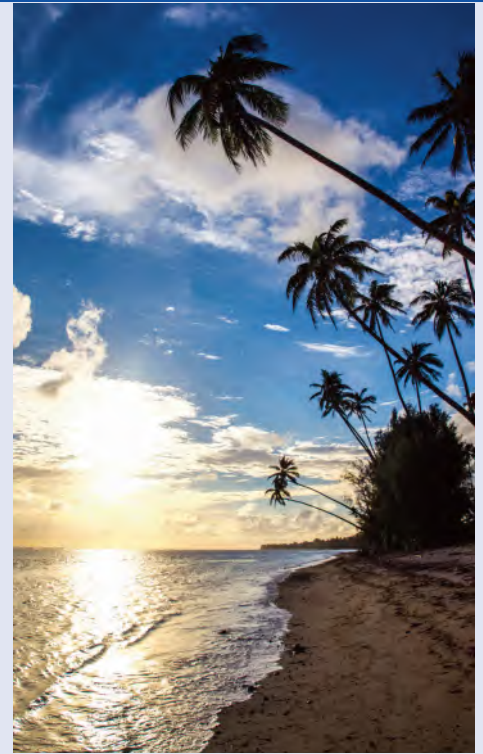
## The Grand Rarotonga redefines luxury

THE GRAND Rarotonga is set to open in the middle of 2026 on its namesake island in the heart of the Cook Islands.

The property is set to become a new benchmark in luxury for the Cook Islands as a world-class, five-star resort that brings elegance, authenticity, and contemporary architecture together in one, refined, destination.

The luxury resort is located on the pristine shores of Arorangi and features three main buildings for guests to explore, all centring around a signature sky bar, an infinity pool, and an ocean-front dining experience to immerse visitors in grand elegance and authentic connectivity to the island itself.

Accommodation in The Grand Rarotonga is as elegant and luxurious on the inside as it is on the out, with a collection of spacious suites that include ocean-front views, private balconies, and swim-up suites.



Guests can indulge in signature gastronomies in the Blu and Dolci Cafe, before enjoying a drink in front of a panoramic sunset view from the Sky Bar.

The resort blends philosophies of Mediterranean and Pacific influences with an emphasis on openness.

## Journey Beyond acquires Voyages

JOURNEY BEYOND has announced the completion of its acquisition of Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia, including its iconic properties Ayers Rock Resort in Yulara and Mossman Gorge Culture Centre in Far North Queensland.

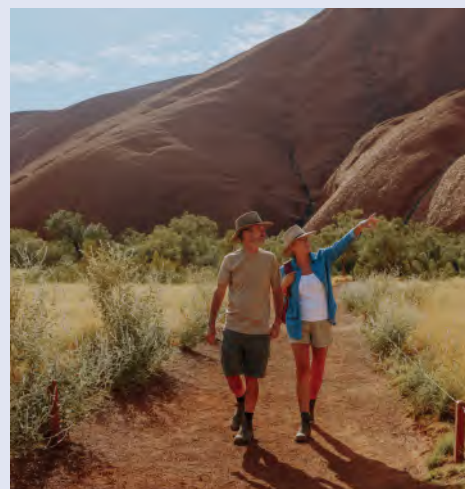
The transaction follows extensive consultation led by the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation with the traditional owners, Anangu of Yulara and the Kuku Yalanji of Mossman Gorge, and represents a

significant step towards returning the lands at both sites to community ownership.

Journey Beyond harbours a strong history of partnership with First Nation communities across its businesses, and the company will continue Voyages' commitment to respectful cultural tourism, and to partnering with and delivering positive economic outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

The National Indigenous Training Academy will also continue to play an important role in developing education and employment pathways for the growing First Nations representation across the broader tourism industry.

A condition of the sale was to remove 'Indigenous' from Voyages name to reflect new ownership and to respect the community by acknowledging it is no longer owned by the ILSC.



# A tropical trek along Queensland's coast

IN PARTNERSHIP with the Bandijin and Girramay Peoples, World Expeditions is offering a new four-day guided walking experience along the 20-mile Thorsborne Trail in Hinchinbrook Island National Park, Queensland.

Launching this month and running until the end of October, the journey blends cultural storytelling with the island's picturesque rainforests, cloud forests, mangroves, waterfalls and white-sand beaches. Guests can gaze over the tropical vistas and soaring mountains before cooling off in some of Australia's most pristine waterholes.

The trek will begin in Townsville before heading to Ramsay Bay, South Zoe Bay, Mulligan Falls, and George Point, before

circling back via boat for a celebratory drink.

The four-day camping trek leads in from £1,550 per person based on two people sharing a tent.

The itinerary includes tented accommodation for three nights, along with a selection of meals including three breakfasts, four lunches and three dinners.



## A bold new era descends into Sydney

ONE OF Sydney's most significant heritage buildings has entered a bold new era with the opening of The Lands by Capella Events, marking the debut of the Sandstone Project – a new luxury, cultural and events destination in the heart of the city's Central Business District.

Image Credit: Middle: Tropical North Queensland, Right: The Lands by Capella (Timothy Yonge)



## Discover Australia's wildlife like never before at Taronga Sydney

Step behind the scenes with the Wild Australia Experience on an exclusive guided journey through iconic habitats, with close-up encounters and insights from expert keepers. Learn how conservation efforts are helping protect Australia's unique wildlife.

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## THE DEMAND FOR MORE

Wendy Wu Tours has launched a new collection as multi-centre demand soars.



THE OPERATOR has reported a 25% year-on-year increase in travellers adding short-stay extensions to their itinerary, with one-in-three holidaymakers now extending their trips.

In response to the demand for multi-centre holidays, Wendy Wu Tours has launched its first dedicated

### Explore the other side of Europe with Jules Verne

THE SMALL group escorted tour operator is offering over 60 adventures for guests to explore the most bespoke, intimate, and lesser-known destinations Europe has to offer.

One example itinerary is the 'Ancient Albania: Cities, Mountains, Castles & Coastlines' which takes guests through scenic landscapes on a seven-night journey.

Prices lead in from £1,948 per person. Jules Verne customers can enjoy savings of up to 20% on selected European adventures when making a new booking before May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Tour & Beach Collection to give agents a chance to capitalise on that demand.

Launching this month, the collection features 13 itineraries, including a trio of brand-new escorted tours and a range of combinable options to pair with curated beach stays.

The new itineraries include the 13-day 'Treasures of Thailand & Phuket Beach' from £3,990 per person; the 14-day 'Classic Sri Lanka & Maldives Beach' from £4,990 per person; and the 14-day 'India Explored & Goa Beach' from £3,190 per person.

The collection includes flexible

combinations of the operator's most popular itineraries, including the 21-day 'Japan Uncovered & Okinawa Beach' from £10,090 per person.

To mark the launch, £400 savings per person is available across all Tour & Beach holidays for bookings made before June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

Head of trade sales, Gary King said, "More people want to combine high-impact touring with time to unwind, and they want it packaged in a simple, seamless way [...] instead of building itineraries piece by piece, they now have one product, one price and one straightforward booking journey."

### Fred. Holidays releases European brochure

THE LAUNCH comes as touring and rail holidays become the most popular travel style for Fred. Holidays, with bookings up 10% year-on-year.

One of the new itineraries is 'Monet's Gardens from Paris City Break', a no-fly city break with travel via Eurostar from London, and is priced from £599 per person, with upgrades available including a city-tour addition or a hotel upgrade.





## Christmas is calling to solo travellers

**SOLO SPECIALIST** Just You is offering 27 itineraries across the festive and New Year period.

One of the itineraries available is the new five-day 'Christmas in Stratford-upon-Avon' tour which features the exploration of Shakespeare's birthplace with prices leading in from £1,399 per person for a departure date of December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.

For the New Year period, a five-day 'Lisbon Coast' tour takes guests to Lisbon, Sintra, and Cabo da Roca from £1,799 per person.



## New Italian recipes are on the cards

**DUE TO** agent demand, Magari Tours has expanded its popular range of recipe cards with new additions from Western Sicily, a newly introduced destination for the tour operator.

The recipe cards are designed to help agents increase awareness of lesser-known regions through the local way of life and culinary experiences.

Magari Tours offers small group tours across Italy.

## Trafalgar launches new French itinerary

TRAFALGAR HAS officially launched an inaugural French itinerary with a new, deeper travel philosophy focused on the art of slow travel.

The company's new nine-day French itinerary, 'Villages of France', signals a strategic shift towards deeper immersion and a slow-travel philosophy within the French countryside. The itinerary focuses on the road less travelled, and prioritises storytelling and community connection over high-volume, over-saturated tourism hubs.

The journey takes guests through France's lesser-known locales, in villages such as Beaune, Colmar, and Ribeauville.

A highlight of the journey is the 'Be My Guest Experience' at the Chateau de Vieux Chambord, which emphasises personal connection through authentic culinary craft and curated ambience.

The 'Villages of France' itinerary starts from £2,350 per person.

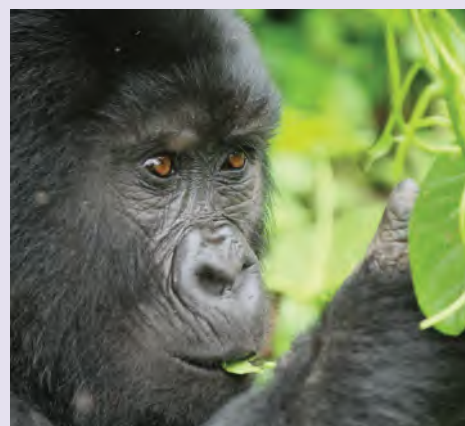


Kelly Jackson, MD for TTC Tour Brands, said, "When travel is designed with care, purpose, and respect for local culture, it doesn't just show you a destination, it stays with you long after you've returned home."

## Attenborough inspires surge in gorilla trekking itineraries

THE POWER of David Attenborough can't be undermined as Acacia Africa has stated there has been a renewed appetite for one of Africa's most powerful wildlife experiences following the release of Netflix's new documentary *A Gorilla Story: Told by David Attenborough*.

The show follows the descendants of a gorilla family Attenborough first encountered 50 years ago, and it seems holidaymakers are eager for a similar experience.



Arno Delpont, Acacia Africa's sales and marketing manager, said, "Uganda is emerging as the practical choice for travellers seeking the same iconic wildlife moment, especially with wider global pressures affecting the cost of travel."

The operator offers a six-day 'Gorilla Encounter Adventure Camping Tour' leading in from £1,245 per person with an additional £820 for gorilla and chimp permits. The itinerary includes chimp trekking near Queen Elizabeth National Park, a two-night stay at Lake Bunyonyi which acts as the base for mountain gorilla trekking, kayaking across the lake's waters, guided nature walks with birdwatching experiences, and the chance to visit a local orphanage and free time to explore nearby villages and communities.

Departures are scheduled year-round.

# 'Tour Only' option comes to Newmarket's portfolio

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS' new 'Tour Only' product enables agents to build unique itineraries and grant greater flexibility and control for their clients.

In partnership with Incredible Journeys, the product also allows agents to package escorted tours with flights and add extra excursions to create journeys that meet the growing demand for more personalised travel experiences.

Phase one of the programme includes 30 tours across the USA, Europe, Asia and Africa, including Greece, Malaysia, South Africa, Italy, France, Croatia, India, Japan, Kenya and Sri Lanka.

The 'Tour Only' range is available to book with Incredible Journeys which allows agents to seamlessly combine land arrangements

with flights and additional components.

Hayley Morris, head of trade sales & partnerships at Newmarket Holidays, said, "Tour Only unites the strengths of Newmarket Holidays and Incredible Journeys, giving agents the flexibility to craft bespoke journeys for customers who want to do more than just the escorted tour."



## Contiki calls to Cambodia

CONTIKI IS expanding its Southeast Asia portfolio with a new destination: Cambodia. The new eight-day itinerary offers deep immersion into Cambodian culture, with prices leading in from £1,270 per person, including all accommodation and excursions.



Image Credit: Middle: Adobe Stock, Right: Contiki

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**Included highlights**

- Game drives in Chobe & Hwange National Parks
- Victoria Falls guided tour
- Vintage tram ride

**Winter in Switzerland**

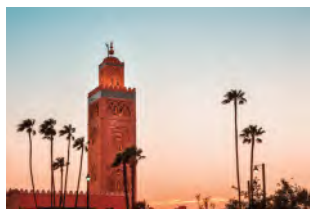
7 days from **£2,569** (25 Jan 2027)  
**Departures:** Jan 2027 - Feb 2027  
**6 nights** in a 4-star hotel  
**10 meals:** 6 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners

**Included highlights**

- Journey on the GoldenPass Express
- Visit Latuerbrunnen and Gruyères
- Guided tour of Château de Chillon

**Optional experiences available**

Fly from London Heathrow, Manchester or Birmingham



## Riviera's Moroccan magic

RIVIERA TRAVEL is offering an eight-day adventure across Morocco with unique experiences and included flights.

The 'Imperial Cities of Morocco' itinerary takes guests on guided tours of Marrakesh, Casablanca, and Rabat alongside dinner at local restaurants to get a true taste of Moroccan culture.

Guests can also experience vineyard wine-tasting, cooking workshops, and rooftop drinks.

Prices lead in from £1379 per person with a 2026 departure.



## Walk through the history of Crete

SOLOS IS celebrating National Walking Month with a Crete escape for solo travellers.

Based in the coastal town of Kossamos, the social, week-long walking holiday combines guided routes through olive groves, gorges, and hillsides with ample time to relax. Guests can soak in sea views and traverse winding Chania alleys.

An October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, departure is priced at £1,795.

## Cosmos offers big savings across North America

COSMOS IS offering savings of up to £300 on select tours across its USA and Canada portfolio.

A unique option for those wanting a different take on a traditional Canadian itinerary is the 10-day 'Canadian Maritime Adventure' which takes guests along the Atlantic coast. Destinations include Halifax, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. A tour of Saint John and St. Andrews-by-the-Sea will immerse guests in nature with whale-watching opportunities and a visit to Kingsbrae Gardens, rated one of Canada's top ten public gardens. Prices lead in from £1,929 per person, with a departure date of July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2027.

'Highlights of the Canyonlands' takes travellers through many national parks across Nevada, Arizona, and Utah. The seven-day adventure will start and end in Las Vegas, with a visit to the UNESCO Grand Canyon National Park being a once-



in-a-lifetime highlight of the trip. Guests will also take in the endless vistas at Navajo National Monument. Prices lead in from £1,339 per person, with a departure scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2027.

The savings offer is applicable for bookings made before June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

## 75 years of the Lake District

RAMBLE WORLDWIDE is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Lake District National Park with special offers.

The anniversary of the Lake District National Park falls onto the same calendar page as National Walking Month, and Ramble Worldwide is celebrating this cross-over with up to 20% off bookings on its Hassness House holidays in Buttermere and double loyalty points on bookings for all its tours around the world.

The 'Three-Night Hassness Country



House Guided Walk Weekends' is now priced from £447 per person with the 20% special discount savings applied and includes full board, a choice of walks around the Lake District with varying difficulties, travel to and from trails, and an expert guide.

Another discounted itinerary is the 'Seven-Night Hassness Country House Walk Week' which is priced from £983 per person with 20% savings applied.

Furthermore, Ramble Worldwide has more to celebrate with its 80th anniversary event, which offers free guided taster walks around England and Scotland for guests this August. These walks include the countryside, city-walks, and everything in-between.

The 20% discount is applicable for bookings made before May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 for travel throughout the year.

# Just Go! Holidays shares the festive spirit with new European breaks

CHRISTMAS TIME is here again, and Just Go! is getting into the spirit with the launch of its latest European festive breaks, including a range of new four-, seven-, eight-, and 14-day itineraries.

Last year's four-day Christmas Market breaks had unprecedented demand, so much so the operator is offering them across two weekends this year, giving agents more opportunities to sell festive trips to destinations including Bruges, Luxembourg, Paris, and Cologne.

Additionally, two new four-day itineraries have been added, combining the Christmas Markets of Antwerp, Brussels and Ghent, as well as offering art lovers the chance to visit both the Kröller-Müller Museum, and one of the largest Christmas Markets in the Netherlands. Both itineraries lead from £499 per person.

New seven-day options have been added, including the 'Christmas Markets of the Black Forest and Alsace' and the 'Christmas Markets of Frankfurt and the Mighty Rhine'. Prices start from £799.

Travellers can also choose to spend the New Year in Italy with the 'Tyrolean Xmas & Italian New Year' itinerary leading in from £2,249 per person.



## Walk this May, talk this May

INVOLVED HOLIDAYS is celebrating National Walking Month with savings for agents to offer their clients.

Running until May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, adventurers can save up to 10% on all 2026/27 departures with the code 'MAY10' at the time of booking.



Image Credit: Left: Just Go! Holidays, Right: Involved Holidays

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# INDUSTRY insight by...



## Chairman of the Latin America Travel Association, Martin Johnson, shares his thoughts on how to give your Latin American business a boost.

“

**When travellers are cautious, reputation and reliability matter more, not less. I can think of no better time to be part of the LATA network.”**

THE START of 2026 has been eventful. Uncertainty tends to make travellers think harder about where they go and who they book with. For those of us focused on Latin

America, that's not necessarily bad news and we see an opportunity for potential new business for travel agents and operators.

### Growth opportunities

We have already seen airlines add capacity on routes with Costa Rica having British Airways fly five times per week from later 2026 and KLM flying in from Amsterdam. TAP Portugal has also expanded its network from Lisbon across Brazil. We hope more will follow.

At the end of last year, we employed Georgia as our fantastic Business Development Manager, and also opened the LATA membership to travel agents. Georgia is working hard to encourage more agents to join us at LATA Expo. For agents and operators who haven't experienced the new residential format of LATA Expo, I urge you to give it a go. After two excellent years, and our move this year to a fabulous new venue in the Cotswolds, now is the time to take the leap. I firmly believe there is no better opportunity to enhance your Latin America business, with trusted and valued LATA overseas members, in a format that is both inspirational and enormously useful – all without even having to leave the country.

LATA members have complimentary access to specialist partners. The Long Run runs our Sustainability Training Programme

and The TRIP Group organises insightful webinars and masterclasses into travel risk management – vital for all businesses now more than ever.

### Looking to the future

Later this year we will be launching our long-awaited new website, which will have improved resources for agents and operators. We are also working with The Travel Hub Collection, a fantastic training resource for agents and travel designers, and will be announcing locations for this year's LATA Roadshow in the coming weeks.

When travellers are cautious, reputation and reliability matter more, not less. I can think of no better time to be part of the LATA network: made up of the best UK travel companies to arrange those trips and look after your customers from start to finish; Latin America's most reputable ground handlers to expertly care for those customers once they land; the best hotels, cruises and experiences enabling them to see the very best of the continent; and our network available to you to leverage and support you.

Let's work together, leverage the strengths of the LATA network, and keep looking at the bigger picture. I believe there's never been a better time to develop your business into Latin America.

# PERUSING PERU

With solo travel on the rise, Peru is the perfect place to lose yourself in a solo escape.



RECENT ABTA travel research has revealed one-in-five adults prioritise solo travel. Peru stands as an exceptional location for solo travellers eager to try a bit of everything.

Peru is ideal for travellers seeking elevated experiences with 14 Michelin Key hotels, two iconic luxury train journeys' and four restaurants ranked

## Travel green to Los Cabos

LOS CABOS is emerging as a destination where environmental stewardship and high-end tourism go hand-in-hand. UNESCO has recognised Los Cabos as a 'Gem for Conservation'.

From June to December, Los Cabos becomes a vital sanctuary for sea turtles during nesting season, and conservation efforts have seen more than 2.5 million hatchlings since 2003.

25 Blue Flag-certified beaches are found on Los Cabos. These beaches are eco-aware and perfect for snorkeling among marine life and dining besides clear waters.

among the World's 50 Best.

Solo travellers seeking an authentic experience and connection in Peru can find it in the Sacred Valley in Cusco, where they can visit a llama sanctuary to learn about ancestral Peruvian dyeing and weaving techniques.

60-70% of solo travellers are women, and plenty of Peruvian tour operators design itineraries specifically for women, such as a visit to Bosque de Las Nuwas, which is a woman-led initiative run by members of the native Shampuyacu community who aim to preserve ancestral knowledge and cultural traditions whilst fighting

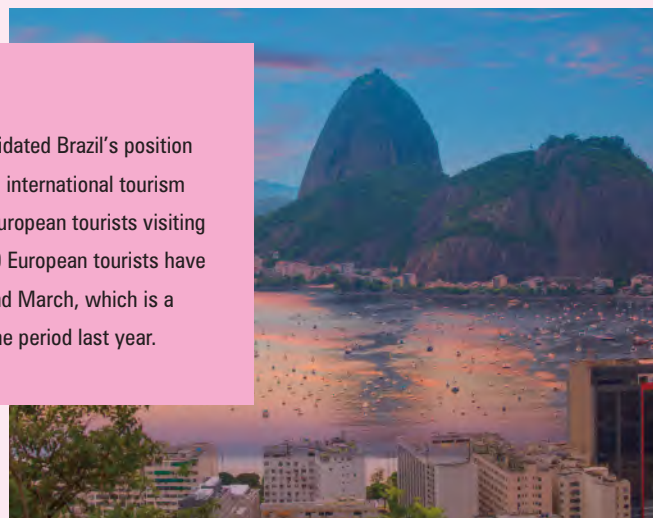
deforestation.

For solo travellers seeking a physical experience, hiking to the lesser-known Incan citadel of Choquequirao would scratch that itch. The site is accessible only by foot and features colcas, ceremonial halls, temples, and ritual baths.

The Santa Cruz Trek is a challenging yet rewarding four-day hike through the Cordillera Blanca in Huascarán National Park. Elevations ranges from 2,900 metres to 4,750 metres at Punta Union Pass, and the trek includes three nights of high-altitude camping in ancient archaeological sites.

## Brazil is on the rise

THE FIRST quarter of 2026 has consolidated Brazil's position among countries registering growth in international tourism worldwide, with a record number of European tourists visiting the country thus far this year. 632,300 European tourists have travelled to Brazil between January and March, which is a 23.09% increase compared to the same period last year.



## Wedding for one: Velas Resorts' self celebration

WHO NEEDS a partner to have the 'wedding' day of your dreams? Mar del Cabo by Velas Resorts has released a new product, the Celebration of Self, for those choosing to mark a personal milestone with all the grandeur normally reserved for a wedding.

Over four days, guests will move through an itinerary that mirrors the full arc of a wedding weekend with the friends and family that matter most in the tropical paradise of Los Cabos.

From seafood dinners, private pamper sessions, dinners under the starry sky, full editorial photo shoots, and celebratory brunches, the four-day package is the perfect opportunity to put yourself first and

experience a full wedding extravaganza without the lifelong commitment.

Prices for the Celebration of Self package start from \$1,418 (approx. £1,040) for one person, or \$5,924 (approx. £4,350) for a party of four. The package can be enjoyed with a group of up to eight people.



## Sofitel marks first flagship in Brazil

SOFITEL HAS announced the transformation of Sofitel Rio de Janeiro Ipanema into the brand's first flagship property in Brazil. With its inauguration set for the end of the year, the hotel is ready to become the new icon on Ipanema Beach, offering 172 rooms and suites blending the timeless elegance of the French Riviera with the vibrancy of Rio de Janeiro. CEO Maud Bailly said, "The project marks a strategic milestone for Sofitel in Latin America – setting a new benchmark for the brand in the region and reaffirming its confidence in destinations with strong cultural identity and global appeal."

### What theme would you choose for the Met Gala?

**Jeanette Ratcliffe**  
**Publisher**  
 jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk  
 Nile Rodgers theme... Le Freak!



**Simon Eddolls**  
**Sales Director**  
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 Aldi middle aisle.



**Sarah Terry**  
**Account Manager**  
 sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk



**Tim Podger**  
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- **Vaud Promotion**
- Lausanne Tourism
- Villars Loisirs et Tourisme
- **Travel Switzerland**
- Bernina and Glacier Express
- Lake Lucerne Navigation Company
- Jungfrau Railways
- **Ticino Tourism**
- Benvenuti Hotels
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