

# Travel bulletin

Giving agents the edge

## Escorted Touring

Your guide to the latest earning opportunities from one of travel's most enduring sectors.



### MORE IN...

**Australasia & Pacific Islands**  
Connectivity and capacity  
boosts as demand for  
Australasia excels **Pg. 19**



A South African safari  
reimagined how this Hays  
Travel agent sold escorted  
tours (**Pg. 10**)





The  
Gambia  
Experience

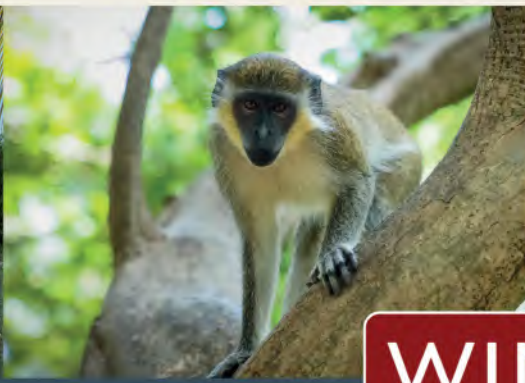

*More flights, more options,*  
**THE SAME AMAZING  
HOLIDAYS!**

The Gambia is a unique holiday destination where sun seekers and nature lovers enjoy a harmonious experience. With breathtaking beaches, unforgettable adventures, and welcoming locals, it's clear why it's affectionately known as 'The Smiling Coast.'

We are delighted to offer a **NEW Saturday daytime flight** to The Gambia from London Gatwick, starting October 2025! Allowing your customers to swap the cold for a coastal paradise, just six hours from the UK and no jet lag!

**Making life even better for your customers:**

- Saturday, Tuesday and Friday flight options from London Gatwick, with Monday departures available over the Christmas period. Sunday and Wednesday flights available from Manchester Airport.
- NEW Star Class upgrades available – Gold & Silver.
- More ticket options, with great flexibility available.
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**WIN £1,000**  
**IN SHOPPING VOUCHERS**

When booking any Serenity Holidays holiday in May!

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THIS  
WEEK

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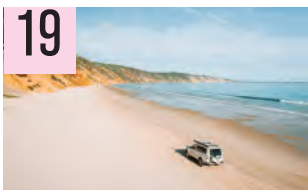
Product training & prizes in prime locations!

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Get the most out of a destination with our selection of guided experiences

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# TIDES ARE CHANGING

**CLIA has unveiled its latest research, revealing that the average age of cruisers continues to decrease.**

THE AVERAGE age of cruisers has once again decreased as research by the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) states the average cruiser is now 54.3 years old – down from 55.1 in 2023 and 57 in 2019.

Andy Harmer, CLIA UK & Ireland managing director, said that a younger demographic aboard ships globally means the future of cruising has “never looked brighter.”

The findings come shortly after CLIA's announcement that holidaymakers from the UK and Ireland favoured hitting the high seas for their holidays more than ever last year—taking 2.4 million cruises—surpassing its highest benchmark, 2.3 million, set in 2023.

Of those 2.4 million cruises, the Mediterranean continued to be the hottest ticket available with 35% of passengers choosing to sail the warm waters. 26.5% decided to take in the

panoramic vistas of Northern Europe, while 13% chose to explore the colourful shores of the Caribbean.

In terms of passenger growth, Asia and China have witnessed the biggest growth at 96%, with the Canaries following with 31%. There is an uptick in numbers across the entire industry as, for the first time, the CLIA-member cruise fleet has exceeded 310 ocean-going vessels, increasing its overall capacity by 3.4% across the year.

Andy continued, “Cruising continues to capture the imagination of travellers across the UK and Ireland, as more and more people embrace the diversity, value and unique experiences a holiday at sea offers.”

*CLIA's annual conference will be returning once again to Southampton from May 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, bringing the latest industry insights right to agents: stay tuned at [www.travelbulletin.co.uk](http://www.travelbulletin.co.uk) for our coverage.*

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## Trafalgar to debut river cruises in 2026

TRAFALGAR IS hitting the shorelines with an inaugural river cruise programme set to make a splash in 2026. Agents get early access to the programme and are in with a chance to win a cruise of their own as well as £50 per booking.

Melissa DaSilva, TTC Tour Brands' interim CEO, explained the brand's thinking behind expanding to river cruise. "Our strategy is

simple: unlock the best of Europe's rivers through trusted Trafalgar touchpoints. These include our much-loved 'Be My Guest' and 'MAKE TRAVEL MATTER™' Experiences, which will give travellers a fun, new way to river cruise that is as enriching as it is responsible."

The programme will set sail for the first time on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026.



## Air Canada announces largest winter expansion

AIR CANADA'S new winter schedule reflects the airline's largest expansion into Latin America to date. The programme includes services to new destinations such as Rio de Janeiro, Cartagena, Guatemala City and Guadalajara.

The additional destinations come as a result of a 13-route network boost.

Other cities to receive new routes from Canadian hubs include Santiago, Pointe-a-Pitre, Fort-de-France, Nassau, Montego Bay, and Huatulco, among others.

## RateHawk records 67% growth in 2024

ONLINE B2B booking platform RateHawk has recorded a 67% growth as it stepped into its ninth year of operations. With growth in transportation bookings, including flights and transfers, doubling in 2024, the company also extended services to commissionable railway bookings across Europe.

According to Felix Shpilman of Emerging Travel Group, RateHawk's parent company, API integration remained a focal point last year; "In 2024 alone, we doubled the number of API integration contracts, partnering with over 500 new entities, including Ctrip."

"This year, we aim to maintain this momentum, focusing on partnerships with OTAs and innovative travel tech platforms and providing the best product and technology for travel agents,"

## Yas Island selected as next home of Disney

YAS ISLAND has been selected as the home for Disney's next theme park resort. Joining existing parks like SeaWorld, Ferrari World and Warner Bros. World, the waterfront resort has not yet been given an opening date – but Disney CEO Bob Iger suggested it could open its doors in the early 2030s.

"Disneyland Abu Dhabi will be authentically Disney and distinctly Emirati – an oasis of extraordinary Disney entertainment at this

crossroads of the world that will bring to life our timeless characters and stories in many new ways and will become a source of joy and inspiration for the people of this vast region to enjoy for generations to come."

Disney reported the UAE's proximity to a third of the world's population within a four-hour flight as a key driver behind opting to build its seventh theme park resort in Abu Dhabi.



### Riviera Maya to welcome Palladium Select

PALLADIUM HOTEL Group has expanded its premium Grand Palladium Select Collection with the renovation and renaming of Grand Palladium White Sand Resort & Spa in Mexico's Riviera Maya.

The hotel will be integrated into the Select Collection portfolio from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, following the completion of a \$6 million renovation. Grand Palladium Select Collection offers guests a premium experience with exclusive benefits, services and facilities to enhance any holiday.



### Olympic adds Albania to portfolio

KNOWN FOR its extensive offering across the Greek Islands, Olympic Holidays has set its sights on the neighbours and welcomed Albania into its portfolio.

After remaining relatively free from the effects of mass tourism, Olympic feels it is now time for the destination to share the spotlight and for UK travellers in particular to visit. Olympic offers resorts in Vlore, Golem and Durres with prices leading in from £800 per person.



### Spectate reports post-pandemic boom

LUXURY SPORTS operator Spectate has reported its best trading year since the pandemic, with bookings up 10% year-on-year.

Notably, Spectate's trade booking channel has delivered a 39% increase in volume, with head of Spectate Jimmy Rowan thanking agents for their part in delivering new clients to the brand.

"We've had phenomenal growth from our valued trade partners across F1, cricket, rugby, tennis and horse racing.

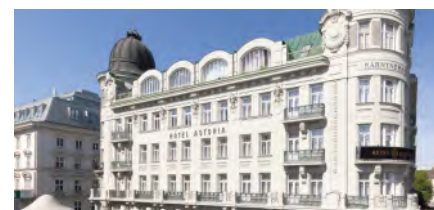
"Introducing new clients to Spectate has resulted in an astonishing growth and we're thankful to our trade partners for their unwavering support."

### New airline partner for The Gambia Experience

THE GAMBIA Experience has partnered with Ascend Airways to enhance its winter 2025/2026 flight programme to The Gambia. Taking flight from October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, direct flights will depart from London Gatwick every Saturday, with additional services on Tuesdays from November and Fridays from December.



The additional seats equate to a 25% increase in capacity during the winter season, with package prices leading in from £749.



### Hilton opens Viennese property

HILTON HAS announced the opening of the new 125-key Hotel Astoria Vienna, Curio Collection by Hilton in the heart of the Vienna's First District.

Following an extensive refurbishment, the property, which has been welcoming guests since 1912, now brings Hilton's distinct style to the capital, combining the brand's stylish design with Viennese hospitality and art deco aesthetics.



## Join the Cocoon Circle for elevated perks and discounts

COCOON COLLECTION has launched an exclusive loyalty programme, Cocoon Circle, designed to reward returning guests with elevated experiences.

Members can take their Maldivian holiday to the next level with surprise room



upgrades, candlelit dinners by the sea and sunset cruises through the programme's reward scheme.

Guests can enrol in the programme through The Cocoon Collection website, and any guest who completes a minimum five-night stay at any Maldives-based resort within the collection, will earn one complimentary night stay to redeem with future visits.

Agents are also encouraged to join the Circle and reap the rewards. Discounted rates are available to agents who wish to experience the Cocoon magic for themselves. Agents must book by July 31<sup>st</sup> for travel before September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to qualify for the discounts. Agent rates lead in from \$250 per day in a Beach Villa at Cocoon Maldives and Joy Island on an all-inclusive meal plan. Children will be charged \$50 if sharing with their parents.



SWAN HELLENIC'S new 'Celebration Voyages' turn any significant moment in a guest's life into a grand celebration on the seas. Whether it be a birthday, anniversary, engagement, promotion or a family reunion, guests can now fully customise their voyage to turn that moment into a series of unforgettable experiences. The full details of the new service can be found at [www.swanhellenic.com/celebrations-at-sea](http://www.swanhellenic.com/celebrations-at-sea)

## Star Clippers makes Antigua debut

THE SPECIALIST cruise line is offering three brand-new seven-night roundtrip sailings from St. John's, Antigua in March 2027, as well as a 10-night voyage from Oranjested, Aruba, as part of its 2026/2027 winter programme. Prices for the Antigua sailings lead in from £1,835 per person. During the inaugural sailing on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2027, guests will be taken to ports in St. Barts, St. Kitts, Iles des Saintes and Guadeloupe before returning

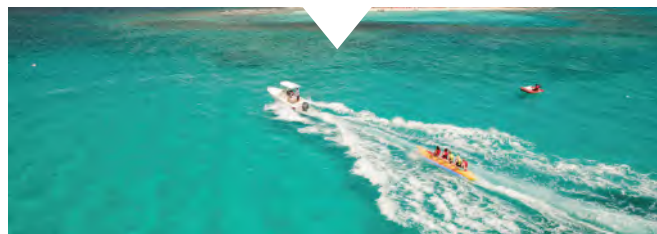
to St. John's where the ship will depart on its next sailing, incorporating the best of the British Virgin Islands.

Fay McCormack, general manager of Star Clippers' UK GSA, said, "With over 60% of our passengers returning to Star Clippers, it is vital we refresh our sailings whilst maintaining the same truly unique sailing experience we have prided ourselves on for over thirty years."

## Anguilla smashes visitor records

THE EASTERN Caribbean territory is celebrating a record-breaking surge in arrivals as 23,871 visitors stepped onto its shores in December 2024, reflecting a 24.5% increase compared to 2023 and marking the highest number of December arrivals in over 30 years. March and December were the island's best-performing months.

Anguilla's director of tourism, Stacey Liburd, stated that this milestone strengthens the island's position on the global tourism stage. "These impressive figures showcase Anguilla's growing appeal to travellers, confirming our status as a preferred choice in the Caribbean, particularly within the luxury sector."



## Amadeus offers £300 flight credit

AMADEUS RIVER Cruises has launched its summer campaign where guests can take advantage of complimentary flight credit up to the value of £300 as well as free overseas transfers on select European voyages when booking by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## AGENT INCENTIVES

- **WITH EVERY** Not in the Guidebooks Morocco booking this month, you earn entries into a prize draw for a spot on an upcoming fam trip to experience Moroccan magic for yourself. Debbie Sowden, sales director, said, "Bookings are currently up 40% year-on-year for Morocco and its popularity for 2025 is not abating... what we have planned for Morocco will give those that join us a genuinely transcendental experience that will forever transform their understanding of this magical destination."
- **UNTIL JUNE 30<sup>th</sup>**, you can win one of four £250 vouchers with Attraction World by either making a ticket booking departing by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and posting it on Attraction World's VIP Agent Facebook Group with the booking reference, ABTA number and the hashtag #FlashingMyTix; or posting photos and videos to [showus@attractionworld.com](mailto:showus@attractionworld.com) to highlight how you are promoting Attraction World's tickets.
- **EVERY RIVIERA** Travel booking made until July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, will be entered into a weekly prize draw for hands-on experience prizes, from sushi-making to afternoon tea. Bookings must be registered on The Riviera Explorer platform, and each booking counts as a separate entry, giving agents the chance to win multiple prizes. Vicky Billing, head of trade & partnerships UK & Ireland, said the incentive is all about "giving agents a flavour of what makes our tours and cruises so special [...] make sure you're signed up to Riviera Explorer and you could be jetting off – or cooking up something delicious – in no time!"

# AGENT BULLETIN



TO COMMEMORATE its return to Dover after a decade-long hiatus, Holland America Line (HAL) donated 200 Lindt bunnies to a local project which provides opportunities for disadvantaged children (including young carers) to exercise creativity. Pictured above is Sonia Limbrick, head of business development for cruise at the Port of Dover; Dawn Foulkes, Dover SmART Project's CEO; Karen Farndell, HAL's UK director of sales and marketing; Bianca Carini, Trustee of Dover SmART Project; Peter Wright, head of cruise at the Port of Dover.

## Travelbulletin COMPETITION

**Win a luxury journey to  
Amsterdam, courtesy of Eurostar!**

**Enter now at  
[www.travelbulletin.co.uk/eurostar-competition](http://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/eurostar-competition)**



## AGENT TRAINING

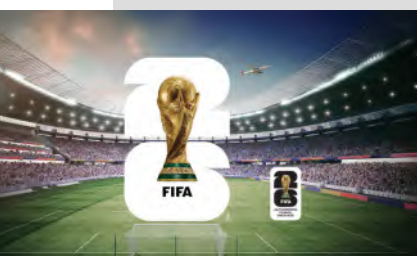
- **AMBASSADOR CRUISE** Line recently enhanced its online training platform, covering onboard entertainment, its new ship *Renaissance*, and what the booking process looks like for its agent partners. Karen Cameron, the cruise line's interim head of trade, hopes agents will be "armed with all the tools they need to confidently sell the Ambassador brand" thanks to the new modules.
- **THE CROATIA** Full of Life Specialist is agents' new one-stop shop for essential destination knowledge, split across five webinars, covering Zagreb & Central Croatia; Istria & Kvarner; Zadar & Lika; Central Dalmatia & Dubrovnik; and Slavonia. A final quiz puts your knowledge to the test before granting you certified Specialist status.
- **HOUSTON TRAVEL PRO** is your port of call to learn, promote and sell one of the Lone Star State's most iconic cities. You can download Houston Travel PRO on the App Store and Google Play store for on-the-go product delivery and high-impact marketing assets.
- **LAST YEAR**, the St. Martin Tourist Office went live on a new agent platform, home to a wealth of training resources (exclusive insights and guides), sales materials and connectivity information. Aida Weinum, the St. Martin Tourist Office's director, said the new platform "underscores our commitment to supporting travel agents and ensur[es] they have the tools to promote St. Martin effectively."
- **NEW ZEALAND** has refreshed its online training programme, reframing destination insight around shorter, simplified course modules. All graduates of the programme, dubbed New Zealand Specialists, can apply for the Explore self-fam programme with exclusive agent rates and opportunities available to book.



## Qatar Airways to launch World Cup packages

REGISTRATION is now open for Qatar Airways' all-in-one travel packages to the 2026 FIFA World Cup across Canada, Mexico and the US.

The packages provide the first chance for football enthusiasts to secure their seats at the historic event. International and domestic flights, four- and five-star accommodations and match tickets are also available within the packages.



**FROM NOW** until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, guests who book onto a Nile cruise with AmaWaterways can enjoy complimentary return flights as well as savings of up to £450 per person. Guests will embark on an 11-night 'Secrets of Egypt & the Nile' sailing which combines a seven-night roundtrip cruise from Luxor with a luxury stay in Cairo.

## SunExpress expands Turkish network in the North East

SUNEXPRESS HAS launched a new route from Newcastle to Dalaman for the 2025 summer season.

Travellers from the North East can fly to the Turkish district twice weekly throughout summer, with return fares leading in from £169.99.

Tobias Bracht, head of sales, said, "Our new route to Dalaman reflects the success of our services from Newcastle and our

continued commitment to connecting the UK with Türkiye. Combined with our flights to Antalya, this new service opens up new holiday horizons for passengers from the North East."

Alongside the Dalaman route, SunExpress will continue to operate its service to Antalya from Newcastle International with five weekly flights this summer.

## Etihad brings long-haul luxury to domestic services

ETIHAD AIRWAYS' renowned long-haul luxury is now available on its brand-new short-to-medium-haul aircraft: the Airbus A321LR. The aircraft will bring the airline's signature luxury and first-class experience to a narrowbody aircraft. Etihad's A321LR introduces the new First Suite concept – a private space with a sliding door, lie-flat bed and elevated dining. Business class has also received an upgrade with new wide-body style seats in a 1-1 configuration with 14 fully-flat beds. In Economy, 144 seats offer up to 5" recline with enhanced ergonomics for a more comfortable journey. Sitting at 18.4", the seats are one of the widest Economy options in the industry.



## A meeting of Queen and Princess

HER ROYAL Highness Princess Anne will lead Cunard's highly-anticipated 185<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in Liverpool at the end of the month when *Queen Anne* will arrive in Mersey – almost a year to the day after her naming ceremony in the same city.

## MOVERS & SHAKERS



**DOMES RESORTS** has welcomed Joanna Moran as the new sales & marketing manager for the UK & Ireland.



**LAURA HOLMES** has joined Ambassador Cruise Line as the new business development executive – South Midlands.



**AUDLEY TRAVEL** has expanded its trade team with the addition of Lisa Burton as BDM.



## 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 29th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

**May 2nd Solution: A=6 B=4 C=1 D=3**

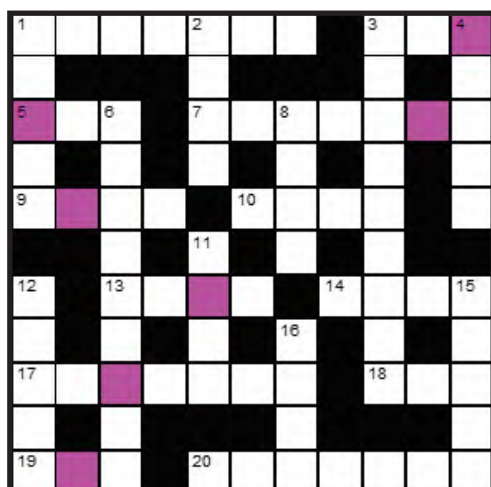
A				3	6			5	
	5						2	4	3
	1			5	4	2			
B	6	9	2						5
				8		5			
C	3						9	7	4
				1	8	6			9
	9	1	8						6
D		7			5	3			



WHERE  
AM I?

HOME TO thousands of pink flamingos and a vast underground network of tunnels and crypts, this Mediterranean capital is said to be the birthplace of Sardinian Opera.

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



## Across

- 1 Operator specialising in tours to 14 Across (5,2)
- 3 Home of The Star-Spangled Banner, initially (3)
- 5 London Heathrow international airport code (3)
- 7 State capital of North Carolina (7)
- 9 Independent travel agent with HQ in Sunderland (4)
- 10 Popular Italian city-break destination (4)
- 13 Mountain range on the French-Swiss border (4)
- 14 Continent featured in BBC's Race Across the World (4)
- 17 The UK's leading river cruise and tour operator (7)
- 18 Flag carrier of Poland (3)
- 19 Currency of Albania (3)
- 20 Capital of Puerto Rico (3,4)

## Down

- 1 Surname of TV's Breaking Dad stars, Bradley and Barney (5)
- 2 The Romans called this city Jorvik (4)
- 3 Company planning a new theme park near Bedford, but you have to wait until 2031 (9)
- 4 England and Australian cricketers compete for this prize every two years (5)
- 6 Capital of Iceland (9)
- 8 Animal featured in the MGM Resorts logo (4)
- 11 One of the Great Lakes, sounds spooky (4)
- 12 Innsbruck is the capital of this region (5)
- 15 First name of Strictly dancer, turned judge (5)
- 16 Found on a chessboard (4)

CROSSWORD

Across: 1 WENDY WU, 3 USA, 5 LHR, 7 RALEIGH, 9 HAYS, 10 ROME, 13 JURR, 14 ASIA, 17 RIVIERA, 18 LOT, 19 LEK, 20 SAN JUAN.  
Down: 1 WALSH, 2 YORK, 3 UNIVERSAL, 4 ASHES, 6 REYKJAVIK, 8 LION, 11 ERIE, 12 TYROL, 15 ANTON, 16 PAWN.  
Mystery Word: ALGARVE





# AGENT INSIGHT

## NATALIE TAYLOR

### HAYS TRAVEL

WHEN I thought of touring holidays, I pictured endless coach rides, a blur of landmarks through the window, and a pace that left little time to truly experience anything. I assumed it was something reserved for the older generation—a surface-level glimpse of the world.

That was, until I travelled to South Africa in April 2024. This wasn't just a tour, it was an immersive adventure. From the very start, I felt part of something special.

The local tour guides weren't just knowledgeable—they were passionate. They encouraged questions, welcomed detours, and went above and beyond to make the experience unforgettable. It never felt rehearsed or routine. Their excitement matched ours. Even when seeing animals they must encounter daily, you could tell they loved sharing these moments just as much as we did.

There's a stigma that touring is rigid or impersonal, but our experience was anything but. We were fully immersed in South Africa's breathtaking wildlife and landscapes. We were not just passing through—we were present, engaged, and moved.

This trip completely changed my perspective. I would return in a heartbeat and wouldn't hesitate to bring my family along.

Touring, when done right, is about so much more than ticking off destinations. It's about finding your client the right operator—one that understands what matters to them—whether it's wildlife, culture, or simply making time to soak it all in. After all, they may never return to these places again.

If your clients have ever questioned whether a touring holiday is for them—encourage them to take the leap! Choose wisely, and it could become the most meaningful trip they've ever taken.

## Gateway to Kruger refreshes and revamps

KRUGER GATE Hotel, which sits at one of the most convenient access points to Kruger National park's game-rich southern region (Paul Kruger Gate), is subtly enhancing the guest experience this year.

Kruger Deluxe category rooms are set for a soft refurbishment; guests will not be relocated and renovations will happen during term time.

The room refresh follows a revamp to its Pool Deck, a riverfront vantage point overlooking an area frequented by elephants, antelope and



other game. The hotel's spa facilities were also expanded with a couples' treatment room with a private balcony to help couples unwind.

Guests at the property's self-catering chalets now have access to a new infinity pool; a unit is being renovated per month.

## News Bites

- HX HAS joined CLIA ahead of its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which SVP of Europe Nathaniel Sherbourne believes "reflects our continued commitment to the trade and our ambition to further strengthen relationships across the cruise industry."

- SCENIC HAS launched its 2027/28 Worldwide Discoveries collection, with all-inclusive voyages across all six continents.

## Ambassador celebrates VE Day

BRITS ABOARD *Ambience* this month were treated to a truly British 'street party' at sea as Ambassador Cruise Line marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

The celebration, aboard a 'Treasures of the Mediterranean' itinerary ahead of the ship's arrival in Lisbon, featured a two-minute silence, VE Day-inspired food, trivia, a singalong, and a cabaret.







# INDUSTRY *Insight*

**As the Advantage Travel Partnership wraps up its flagship conference in Malta, business development manager David Moon explains why travel conferences still matter**

“

**A successful conference needs three key ingredients: a great location, rich networking opportunities, and impactful content.”**

AT ADVANTAGE, we never take delegate attendance at our conferences for granted and invest significant time and care to ensure our events are

purposeful, impactful and truly worth attending.

The Advantage annual conference takes place in May, and this year, we've been on the beautiful island of Malta from May 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, under the theme *Journey Reimagined*.

A successful conference needs three key ingredients: a great location, rich networking opportunities, and impactful content. We're confident this year's event ticks all three boxes.

Over the past decade, Malta has transformed into a dynamic Mediterranean hub, blending rich history with modern innovation and shifting its tourism strategy towards sustainable travel and year-round cultural experiences. It's the embodiment of *Journey Reimagined*!

Conferences are the ultimate business reset—a chance to step away from the day-to-day, gain fresh perspective, and return with ideas you're excited to implement. But it's not just about inspiration — it's about action.

Take Artificial Intelligence (AI), for example. It's a hot topic, but often discussed in vague or overwhelming terms. This year, we dived into the practical side of AI. Partnering with AI experts Lokulus, we ran discovery

sessions with two Advantage members to explore how AI can help solve real-world business challenges. I can't share the outputs of those sessions now, but they provided practical insight into how AI can help reimagine travel businesses in the future.

We have also tackled TikTok, which continues to disrupt and redefine travel marketing. TikTok is a powerful platform, and the session was crafted to help provide practical strategies and tactical know-how to cut through the noise.

Our ever-popular speed-networking sessions brought our members and supplier partners together: an opportunity to cement existing partnerships and seek out new ones!

And of course, no conference is complete without a compelling speaker line-up. I'm especially delighted that Sophie Morgan, disability advocate and broadcaster, joined us in Malta. As the father of a son who is a wheelchair user, I know how vital it is to shine a light on accessible travel. It's a market full of untapped potential — and one our industry needs to better understand.

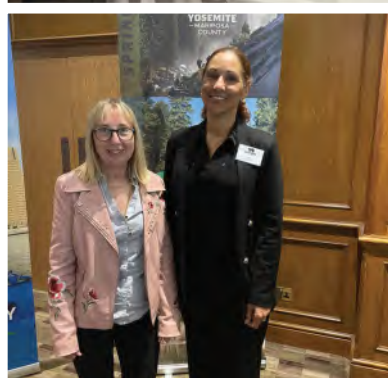
Inspirational Content + practical takeaways + action = *Journey Reimagined*.





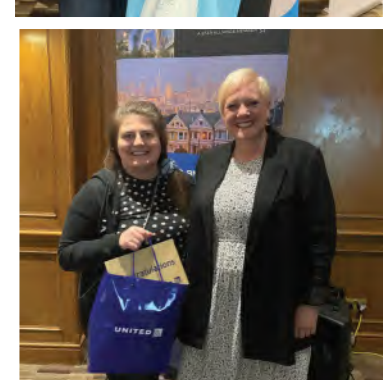
# INVITES YOU TO A NORTH AMERICA SHOWCASE AGENT NETWORKING EVENING

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April at  
DoubleTree by Hilton  
Southampton



## North America Showcase

WE BROUGHT a slice of Stateside magic to Southampton at the end of April, as Kennedy Space Center, New Smyrna Beach, Pure Michigan, Tampa Bay, United Parks & Resorts, eRoam, United Airlines & Yosemite showcased their earning opportunities to Southampton's finest agents!



June sees a stacked lineup of #TBShowcases action! We're bringing the Med to Stratford-upon-Avon and Chester on June 2nd and 3rd, waving the Pride flag in Bristol on June 10th at our LGBTQ+ Holidays Showcase, and showcasing City Breaks in Liverpool on June 30th! Email [events@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:events@travelbulletin.co.uk) to confirm your attendance.



## TOURING IN STYLE

Jules Verne has added four new itineraries to its premium 'In Style' collection of escorted tours.



AS PART of its new premium 'In Style' group range, Jules Verne has introduced four new itineraries where travellers can journey across Europe, Asia and Africa in the epitome of style and comfort.

The operator's In Style range offers a luxurious spin on its classic touring offering, giving guests access to five-star properties and exclusive stays in unique

locations. The itineraries in the collection combine that luxurious finesse with plenty of time to relax and savour a destination.

New for 2025, the 13-night 'Sri Lanka In Style' itinerary whisks guests from the capital of Colombo to the shores of the Indian Ocean, complete with a train journey through lush highlands and the chance to see first-hand the abundance of wildlife in two of the country's national parks. Prices lead in from £6,695 per person, including return flights from London Heathrow.

Travellers can explore some of the Italian Great Lakes in the seven-night

'Lake Garda In Style' and the seven-night 'Lake Como In Style' itineraries. Guests will sip drinks along the scenic shoreline of Lake Garda before delving into the Shakespearian heritage of fair Verona from £3,195 per person. Travellers will lap up the luxury by Lake Como, with boat trips and scenic strolls before heading to the cultural hotspot of Milan from £7,225 per person

The final addition is the nine-night 'Zimbabwe & Botswana In Style' itinerary where guests will wander through rainforest trails to Victoria Falls and spot elephants in the wild. Prices lead in from £6,195 per person.

### Popular Pride for Contiki

BUILDING ON the success of its previous Pride trips, Contiki has launched a special edition of its popular 11-day 'Greek Island-Hopping' itinerary.

The 2025 Pride edition will take the itinerary to new heights, with guests having access to one of Europe's most vibrant Pride celebrations: the Athens Pride Parade. Guests will also visit Mykonos for a night spent in the party scene; and Paros, Santorini and Ios for some sun and relaxation by the water. Prices lead in from £1,968 per person, including all accommodation and activities. The trip will depart on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### Travelsphere expands RGS collection

TRAVELSPHERE HAS added two new itineraries to its Royal Geographical Society Collection for 2026, including an 18-day journey through India and Nepal as well as a 21-day odyssey along the Silk Road. The RGS Collection, which was first announced in January, features expert-led insights into the destinations and offer a new perspective away from the tourist trail.







### Insight Vacations launches women-only tours

FOR THE first time in its history, Insight Vacations has launched a series of women-only itineraries which began this month. The intimate tours, limited to 24 guests, were created to meet the rising demand for female solo travel. One such itinerary is the 12-day 'Splendours of Egypt' tour, where the group meets with members of a local women-owned co-operative which empowers over 300 women from local villages in and around Aswan to learn new skills. Prices lead in from £4,055.



### Visit the Jewel of the Adriatic

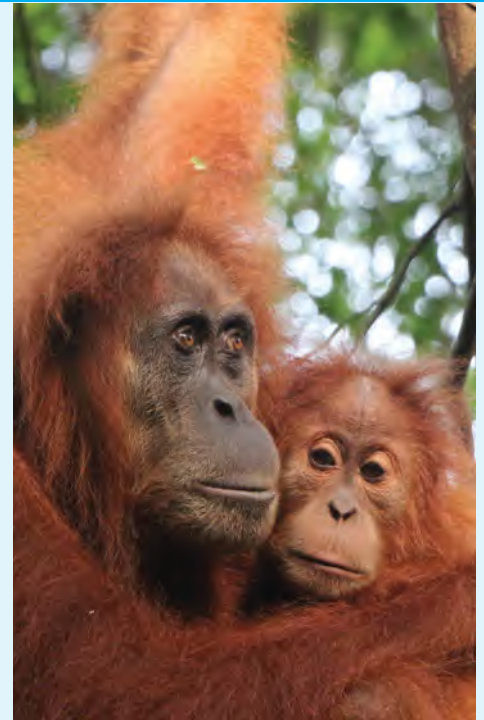
JUST GO! is shining the spotlight on its 14-night 'Jewels of Croatia' escorted tour, offering guests an all-inclusive escape to the Adriatic coast. The tour will spend four nights in Trogir, six nights on Hvar Island and three nights in Tucepi with guided visits to a variety of towns as well as Krka Waterfalls, food-themed trips to Jelsa and a catamaran trip to Korcula. Prices lead in from £1,999.

## G Adventures unlocks Indonesia with 20 new tours

IN ONE of its biggest product developments to date, G Adventures has introduced 20 new trips to Indonesia in its Classic travel style, giving travellers the opportunity to explore untouched regions across the islands while introducing them to a series of community-led initiatives.

Included in the new collection is the nine-day 'Sulawesi Adventure: The Culture of Tana Toraja' tour. Travellers are taken off the tourist trail to explore Tana Toraja where they learn the intricacies of life, death and the afterlife. The group will visit the Cliffside tombs and elaborate funeral ceremonies before hearing stories first-hand from the Torajan people. Prices lead in from £1,199 per person, with departures scheduled from December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Another new addition is the seven-day 'Indonesia: Borneo Orangutans of Tanjung Putting National Park' where guests will



journey deep into the wild heart of Indonesian Borneo to search for orangutans. Three nights will be spent aboard a traditional klotok boat as well as treks through lush rainforests and time spent in Camp Leakey – an orangutan conservation and rehabilitation centre. Prices lead in from £1,179 per person.

## Explore Algeria with a new tour trio

EXPLORE WORLDWIDE has unveiled three new tours in the North African nation of Algeria which will kick off from 2026.

The trio of tours will take a closer look under the skin of the vast country that has long been missing from the tourism spotlight. Michael Edwards, managing director of Explore Worldwide, said that travellers are often surprised by the country once they visit as it is "not just deserts and ruins – but a country with incredible warmth, hospitality and heritage."



The new tours aim to turn the spotlight firmly back onto the destination. The 10-day 'Wonders of Ancient Algeria and the M'Zab Valley' takes guests through the ancient Roman ruins and UNESCO sites before journeying to the edge of the Sahara to learn more about the ancient civilisations that once resided there.

Prices lead in from £1,695.

The nine-day 'Algeria's Sahara Desert Adventure' includes visits to one of the region's richest pre-historic rock art collections in the Tassili n'Ajjer plateau and promises guests a digital detox from the real world as they will spend five nights camping in the desert with no signal.

Prices lead in from £1,795.

The third tour in the new range, 'Ancient Algeria and the Sahara Desert' is a 16-day combination of the above itineraries priced from £3,245.





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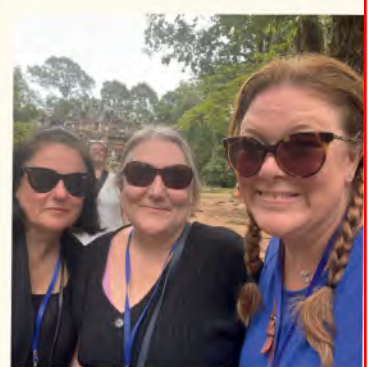
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## Newmarket adds Caribbean tour & cruise option

THE LATEST addition to Newmarket Holidays' rapidly-expanding tour & cruise collection is a new 18-day adventure exploring the Panama Canal, Costa Rica and the southern Caribbean.

The packaged itinerary combines a 12-night full-board cruise with four nights spent in an oceanfront property in Fort Lauderdale where guests can take guided day trips to Miami Beach and Little Havana, as well as the option to explore the Everglades and Palm Beach.

Guests will cruise to the Bahamas and enjoy a stop in Half Moon Cay before heading south to Curacao, Cartagena and into the Panama Canal. Once through, guests will sail past Panama City before sailing an about-turn to Puerto Limón and George Town and ending the voyage back in Fort Lauderdale.

Hayley Morris, head of trade sales &

partnerships, said, "For travel agents, it's an easy-to-sell package with huge appeal, great winter-sun timing, full-board cruise value, and a product that feels exclusive and fresh in the market."

Prices lead in from £4,305 per person and includes return flights to London Heathrow, accommodation in Fort Lauderdale, 12-nights aboard a Holland America vessel and excursions. Departures are scheduled for February 2026 and March 2027.



### Iceland Travel launch Solar Eclipse tours

GUESTS WHO join Iceland Travel's six-day 'Iceland's Total Eclipse Experience' in 2026 will be able to watch the once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse in August 2026 against some of nature's most stunning backdrops. Guests will also be able to explore the Golden Circle, Kirkjufell Mountain and Reynisfjara Black Sand Beach. The tour includes an expert guide, two nights' accommodation in Reykjavik, and three nights' in the countryside.



### Just You reveals new European trio

THE SOLO specialist has unveiled a trio of new escorted tours across the European continent for 2026. The options consist of the seven-day 'Switzerland's Scenic Railways and Alpine Winter Wonders'; the seven-day 'Turkish Treasures: From Istanbul's Palaces to Cappadocia's Wonders'; and the 12-night 'Balkan Adventure'. The operator has also added more regional departures from the UK.



## Exodus takes travellers to a World Wonder

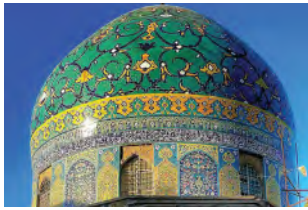
EXODUS ADVENTURE Tours is offering a culture-packed tour through Brazil where guests will feel the rhythms of Rio and hike through jungles.

The tour includes a visit to the majestic Iguazu Falls and a stay in a local community nestled within a nature reserve. Guests will

also hike to reach the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue and take in the panoramic views of Rio below.

The 11-day 'Discover Brazil' itinerary leads in from £3,999 per person, including B&B accommodation. Departures are scheduled from December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.





### Breaking Wild Frontiers

WILD FRONTIERS has unveiled a 15-day tour tracing Iraq's storied history, leading in from £5,495 per person. Director of product Mark Leaderman, said, "Iraq is not a destination for everyone... but the rewards of visiting this diverse land [...] make it the perfect destination for the more adventurous traveller."

## Canterbury Travel expands 2025 range

TWO NEW destinations have been added to Canterbury Travel's brand-new 'New Year Lapland Arctic Adventure' itinerary departing on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The post-Christmas break will now operate to Ruka and Suomu, with new activities added to each respective city to enhance the experience and match it up with its popular existing departures.

Nicola Blair, Canterbury Travel's general manager, explained, "We are delighted to be in the position to increase our New Year's departures this season and to welcome more guests to the magic of Lapland."

"In January, we expanded our programme of regional departures, so demand is even stronger for our high-quality holidays this year."



The New Year break departs London Stansted on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, with prices from £1,915 per person.

Image Credits: Left: Wild Frontiers. Right: Canterbury Travel










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\*2026 river cruises, the free all-inclusive drinks includes unlimited quantity of drinks from 10am to midnight while on board (selected drinks available).



## ON LOCATION

**AAT Kings will host agents 'On Location' down under later this year: top bookers will be rewarded with the trip of a lifetime.**



ANY 2025 holiday booked before July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 could earn you A-Lister status with AAT Kings, with the highest-selling agents invited on a five-day tour of Australia or New Zealand. Agents must book and deposit AAT Kings or Inspiring Journeys guided holidays to qualify: the two highest-selling agencies with both brands will be

### **New South Wales makes historical strides**

NEW SOUTH Wales, Australia's most populous state, recorded record-breaking visitor spend in 2024.

Notably fuelled by the 324,700 Brits travelling to the state (and spending AUS\$791.3 million as they went), total state spend from international arrivals surpassed AUS\$12 billion.

Those Brits who visited NSW represented over half (54%) of all UK visitors to Australia last year. One in three visiting travelled beyond Sydney, representing substantial twin- or multi-centre demand for Brits making the trip down under.

invited to participate on the A-LISTERS ON LOCATION prize trip. The prize trip includes return economy flights to the mystery tour destination, four nights' accommodation, all-inclusive touring with most meals covered, experiences pulled straight from the operator's roster, and a Top Achievers award dinner.

Ben Hall, AAT Kings Group's CEO, said, "We're thrilled to offer our trade partners this exclusive opportunity to experience the incredible destinations that AAT Kings [is] known for."

Earlier this year, the operator boosted its Guided Holidays programme across

Australia and New Zealand with a trio of new 'Make Travel Matter' experiences. In the new experiences, adventures can learn stories and test their artistic side with the Walkatjara Dot Art Painting Experience at Uluru; explore the Murchison Rover Gorge while uncovering and exploring the area's ancient cultures; and discover First Nations culture in depth and hear stories from a Gooniyandi guide as they explore the Mimbi Caves.

Senior sales manager Heather Colbourn said the experiences "offer fresh insight... we are excited to have our guests try them out this year."

### **Fiji fires on all cylinders**

FIJI AIRWAYS has joined oneworld Alliance, promising integration with its loyalty schemes and online training academy, fare products and AI-powered booking tool for travel agents.

At the start of April, the airline launched a new year-round service to Cairns from Nadi, making both Fiji and Tropical North Queensland more accessible than ever.







## Greece Showcase

GRECOTEL, HYATT Inclusive Collection, Aldemar, Constantinou Bros. Hotels, Domes Resorts, SKY Express, SPL Villas and Explore Worldwide were the lucky partners at Travel Bulletin's first-ever Greece Showcase, which took place in Marlow this month!

Marking the occasion was our ever-popular prize draw, with lucky winners walking away with free stays and goodies fresh from Greece!



The Med-inspired [#TBShowcases](#) continue! Our Mediterranean Roadshow sets course for Stratford-upon-Avon and Chester on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>! Confirm your place by emailing [events@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:events@travelbulletin.co.uk)



## Stunning depths, extraordinary heights

FRED. HOLIDAYS has partnered with several tour operator partners for its new Extraordinary Encounters campaign, supported with a 32-page brochure and an incentive worth up to £1,000 per booking.

Tricia Birmingham, Fred. Holidays' director of tour operations, promised "a blend of adventure and comfort, balancing independent discovery with expertly guided experiences," explaining that the collection is centred around hybrid travel styles.

The new brochure stars an exclusive collaboration with G Adventures and Celebrity, 'The Great Barrier Reef, Whitsunday Islands & New Zealand'.

Spanning 29 nights, the cruise-tour itinerary blends G Adventures' 13-night 'Best of Australia' tour with an 11-night full-board

cruise aboard *Celebrity Edge*.

The exclusive Extraordinary Encounters departure is currently penned for September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, with prices starting from £7,589 per person.

Until June 26<sup>th</sup>, all new Fred. Holidays package bookings could earn agents up to £1,000 in One4All vouchers, depending on booking value.



### Slow pace and charm on the Sunshine Coast

90 MINUTES from Brisbane International is Noosa; from cruises through the Everglades (one of two on Earth) to a whale- and dolphin-spotting kayak adventure at Double Island, the destination is the ideal balance of sunshine, slow pace, Aussie charm and barefoot luxury.

Image Credits: Left: Adobe Stock, Right: Tourism Noosa



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# Audley and Azamara team up to tackle Kiwi by land and sea

AFTER SAILING into the ocean cruise space in 2024, Audley Travel has now enhanced its land-and-sea combination tours with four new itineraries, specially crafted with UK guests in mind.

Chief among them is 'New Zealand, Tasmania and Australia by land & sea', which sees Audley team up with Azamara on a joint 27-day itinerary.

On the 16-night stretch on sea aboard Azamara, guests will navigate Auckland to Sydney on the cruise line's 'Australia & New Zealand Voyage' itinerary on a full-board basis.

The cruise is bookended with two nights in Auckland pre-cruise and three nights in both Sydney and The Blue Mountains post-cruise.

During that stint on dry land, guests will explore some of Australasia's finest wineries (including famed options on Waiheke Island), get a behind-the-curtain tour at the Sydney Opera House and soak in the rugged landscapes and gorges of the Blue Mountains National Park.

Prices lead in from £14,065 per person.




## New Zealand's brick-by-brick smash hit

WELL OVER 20 years on from New Zealand's starring role in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, another smash hit has made it onto the map: *The Minecraft Movie*.


To celebrate the certified box office phenomenon, New Zealand has teamed up with Warner Bros. Pictures and Mojang Studios (the behemoths behind the film and game, respectively) to bring some of the film's locales to life in the game with exclusive downloadable content. A '100% Pure Minecraft' itinerary has also been developed for families following in Steve & co.'s footsteps.

If you could live anywhere else in the world, where would it be?


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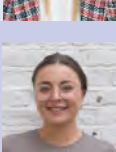
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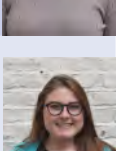
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# MEDITERRANEAN SHOWCASE

## AGENT NETWORKING EVENING

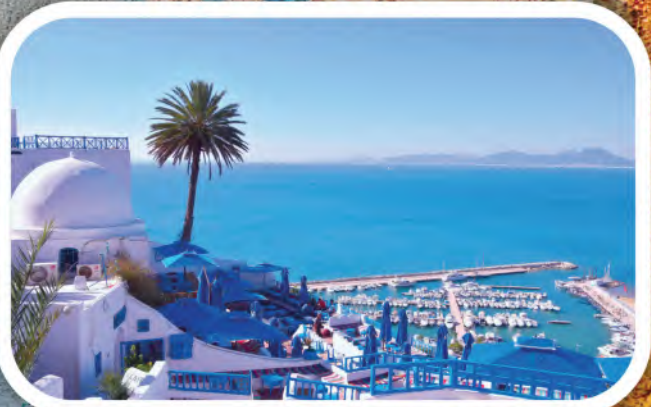
Monday 2nd June,  
The Welcombe Hotel,  
Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 0NR

Tuesday 3rd June,  
Chester

Join us for our upcoming Travel Bulletin Showcases, where we'll be diving into the magic of the Mediterranean! Discover everything this stunning region has to offer, straight from our fantastic suppliers & don't miss this chance to learn, connect, and win amazing prizes!

### TIMINGS

5:45<sup>PM</sup> - Registration  
6:10<sup>PM</sup> - Travel Bulletin Welcome  
6:15<sup>PM</sup> - Supplier Presentations  
7:30<sup>PM</sup> - Hot Dinner  
8:30<sup>PM</sup> - Supplier Presentations  
9:15<sup>PM</sup> - Product Quiz & Prizes  
9:30<sup>PM</sup> - Event Ends



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To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2025 to: [events@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:events@travelbulletin.co.uk) or Telephone: 020 7973 0136

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# Travelbulletin

## TRAIN & GAIN DAYS 2025

We are delighted to bring you the next instalment of our highly popular Train & Gain events programme on



## Monday 9th June - St Albans

Inspired with the needs of the busy home based agent in mind, this event will run between 10am and 3pm. Involving in-depth presentations from six leading industry suppliers, this day-time training opportunity will offer additional time for Q&A sessions and informal networking.

### SUPPLIER PARTNERS



### TIMINGS

10.00am Registration, coffee & biscuits	10.30am - 12.45pm Presentations from 4 leading suppliers	12.45pm Lunch	1.30pm - 2.30pm Presentations from 2 leading suppliers	2.30pm - 3pm Free prize draw.
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## #TBSHOWCASES

To confirm your place at this amazing event, email your name, company, and contact details by **Friday 6th June** to [events@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:events@travelbulletin.co.uk) or telephone:

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