

travelbulletin

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Giving agents the edge

AGENT BULLETIN

Become a pro on Florida and win vouchers with Bourne Leisure

PRIZE BULLETIN

Seasoned Su Doku players can bag £50 with M&S

MALTA & GOZO

Find out why Michelin star Malta is a must see

INDIA & INDIAN OCEAN

Venture off the beaten path in India and Sri Lanka

CARIBBEAN

Set your sights on the sun-soaked islands





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saving your work will always be in fashion!**

Logon now to see the latest tool within the JETS arsenal...
with '**Reprice**' simplicity!

THIS WEEK



04

NEWS

Updates for agents selling holidays in the UK and abroad



09

AGENT BULLETIN

Exciting incentives and training opportunities for agents

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7	6	1		3	4	5
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	7		9	1	5	6
3	1			4		9
5	2	6	4	1		

11

PUZZLE BULLETIN

Your chance to win a £50 voucher with M&S!



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CARIBBEAN

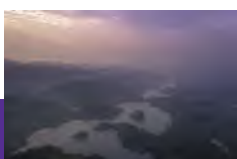
From hiking to hotel getaways, your clients will be crazy for the Caribbean



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MALTA & GOZO

Find out why Malta is dubbed a foodie favourite destination



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INDIA & INDIAN OCEAN

Voyage on the roads less travelled in this stunning part of the world

FLYING SOLO

A survey of singles by 101 Holidays, the travel inspiration site, revealed that singles holiday bookings are growing by 10% every year – with 68% of solo travellers now female.



The survey found that 78% of people taking singles holidays are now aged 50 or over.

DESPITE A slowdown across the travel industry in 2019, including the failure of Thomas Cook in September, the singles sector is booming. Bookings were up 10.5% in 2019 and are expected to grow by a further 11% this year.

The figures are based on analysis by the website, 101 Holidays, which examined more than 53,000 singles holidays taken in 2019. The website conducted similar research in 2017.

The survey covered a range of trips including beach holidays, cruises, group adventures, escorted tours, spa and wellness retreats and activity holidays. Italy was the most popular destination

followed by Vietnam, Egypt, India and Greece.

On average, 68% of travellers were female and 32% male. This compares to 63% female and 37% male in 2017.

The average cost of the holidays taken in 2019 was £1,487 (excluding spending money) compared to £1,374 in 2017, an increase of 8.2%.

Cathy Winston, editor of 101 Singles Holidays, said:

“The figures reflect a growing trend in society. More people are living alone and choosing to travel alone, even when they are in committed relationships.

“But all the growth is being powered by women. Increasingly, women have the

spending power and feel empowered to travel by themselves. This is particularly true of women aged 50 and above who may be single, widowed or divorced. They don’t need a man to accompany them on holiday – they will do it anyway, whether that’s learning to scuba dive in Thailand or joining an Arctic cruise to experience the Midnight Sun.

“Today’s singles holidays are not for lonely hearts seeking love or hook-ups. They are aimed at solo travellers looking for the thrill of discovery and adventure, whether that’s alone or with a group of likeminded people.”



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All aboard for bargains with Great Rail Journeys

2020 BRINGS A flurry of offers from escorted rail holiday provider Great Rail Journeys.

The experts in rail travel are helping guests to welcome in the New Year by travelling into 2020 in style, with flight upgrades on selected worldwide tours, allowing a little extra luxury on client's global adventure.

An example of an offer with Great Rail Journeys is the 'Hidden Italy & The Keys to The Vatican 2020' trip. From pasta making and truffle hunting in the Umbrian countryside and staying at an authentic 'trulli' resort, to watching the Vatican City come to life on a private visit, this holiday takes travellers off the beaten track to showcase the hidden experiences Italy has to offer. Travellers can discover this different side to Italy on an exclusive small group tour,



The stunning Tuscan countryside in Italy remains a client favourite.

as part of an intimate party of no more than 20 travellers. Clients will have the advantages of travelling with others as well as access to more intimate experiences, hotels and venues.

Prices start from £3,050 per person. This includes 11 nights hotel accommodation,

including one outbound overnight stay in Turin. A total of 20 meals, including breakfast in Vatican City, a homemade lunch with local wines in Pettino and a typical rustic lunch at a local masseria in Ostuni, and a farewell dinner in Rome. www.greatrail.com

Australia bushfire: Safety advice and alerts for travel

TOURISM AUSTRALIA has developed a resource that shows which tourism areas have been affected by bushfires to ensure that industry and travellers have the most accurate and up-to-date information.

The webpage has been developed in consultation with the states and territories and will be updated daily with further information. Additionally, the webpage will provides useful links and general bushfire safety information.

The tourism body urges travellers to "speak

with your travel agent, accommodation provider, tourism operators and local visitor information centres for advice about local conditions and how best to experience Australia's tourism destinations."

Most destinations in Australia remain safe and continue to welcome visitors, and all international airports in Australia are operating as normal.

To access the resource, go to www.australia.com/en/travel-alerts.html?

Holiday savings for 'Just You'

JUST YOU is celebrating the new year by offering early savings of up to £500 on a selection of its 2021 solo guided touring worldwide holidays.

"Our Just You customers like to book their holidays early, so we are rewarding their loyalty and early commitment with a saving of between £50 and £500 on a selection of our worldwide 2021 holidays," said Alastair Campbell, Just You's managing director.

"To thank our trade partners for their loyalty, we will be offering a £35 incentive on every Just You holiday booked between December 27 and March 2, 2020" added Alastair.



Holidays that Just You is offering its early bird saving on includes 'Japan Revealed', an 11-day adventure which begins in Tokyo before travelling by Bullet Train to Kyoto, and exploring the cities of Hiroshima, Okayama and Kobe. Continuing in Asia, there is the 'Spirit of India' tour, 13 days of exploring northern India, taking in the Taj Mahal and Varanasi. www.justyou.co.uk



Jump into January with Finnair's sizzling sale

FINNAIR HAS launched a selection of January sale fares to a range of different destinations in Asia and the Far East for flights departing from London Heathrow.

The sale is on now and will last until January 27 for travel between January 23 and November 30. Finnair customers can save on their Economy and Business Class flights to destinations including Beijing Delhi, Nanjing and Singapore, all via Helsinki. There is a total of 19 destinations available to Finnair customers across Asia.

www.finnair.com

Sail into the new year with Emerald Waterways

WITH THE Christmas break over and the new year in full gear, your customers may be looking towards what adventures 2020 will bring. If they are looking to set themselves some travel related resolutions, Emerald Waterways offers a collection of cruises and tours for guests to choose from. To make these trips more affordable, Emerald Waterways is offering 'The Ultimate River Cruise Sale', with savings of up to £1,200 per person across their collection of 2020 European river cruises and 2020/2021 Southeast Asia itineraries. If your customers have set a goal in the new year to try something different, Emerald Waterways offers a range of excursions on board. This includes mosaic tile painting,



clog painting, and cooking demonstrations. Activities with the 'Activity Managers' include yoga, Pilates, aqua aerobics, canoeing, hiking and bike tours – so guests will be spoilt for choice whilst away. If tightening up dancing skills

is on the list, guests can join an exclusive interactive dance masterclass on board with former Strictly Come Dancing champion Pasha Kovalev. This is priced from £1,845 per person sailing on April 3. www.emeraldwaterways.co.uk

Fred. Olsen launches gin masterclass

FRED. OLSEN Cruise Lines, as part of its immersive onboard enrichment programme, is giving guests the chance to create their own bespoke gin during their cruise holidays, with guidance from expert gin-makers, Nigel and Debbie Wright. The first Gin Masterclasses took place on its flagship, Balmoral, during its 70-night L2001 'South American Exploration' cruise, which departed from Southampton on January 6. Fred. Olsen's gin-making



experience will take place in Balmoral's Grill Restaurant, on Lido Deck 8, and will last around two hours, including introductions and tastings. Classes will be limited to between six and eight guests, and will cost £25 per person, with the chance to make up to six gins per session. For more information, go to www.fredolsencruises.com

Warner Leisure Hotels launches 2020 brochure

WARNER LEISURE Hotels launched their 2020 brochure, with news on its entertainment, activities and general development additions for 2020, as well as offering early booking savings of up to 50% on thousands of rooms across its entire hotel portfolio.

Designed as a reference guide for breaks until the end of August, the brochure provides early bird savings and offers low deposits of £10 per person, per break for bookings made before February 3; further

savings of £20 per person on seven night stays; no single occupancy supplement on hundreds of rooms; and cheap ferry prices guaranteed.

Prices for a three-night break at Bembridge Coast Hotel, start from £226 per person – including the saving of up to 50% – when arriving on March 20, and is based on two adults sharing a Standard Room inclusive of the Simply Dine package. www.warnerleisurehotels.co.uk



Israel witnesses record number of UK tourist arrivals

THE ISRAEL Government Tourist Office in the UK has announced that 2019 saw a record number of tourist arrivals to Israel from the UK, with 235,400 visiting the country throughout the year, representing an increase of 8% from 2018 and 19% from 2017.

As a whole, Israel welcomed a record-breaking 4,551,600 international tourists to the country throughout 2019, an increase of 11% from 2018 and 26% from 2017.

Sharon E. Bershadsky, director of Israel Government Tourist Office UK, said: "We're thrilled to end 2019 with a new record for inbound tourists to Israel from the UK. Our 'Two Cities, One Break' campaign continues to inspire UK travellers to get a taste of the buzzing, metropolitan, seaside delights of Tel Aviv."

For more information, visit www.citiesbreak.com

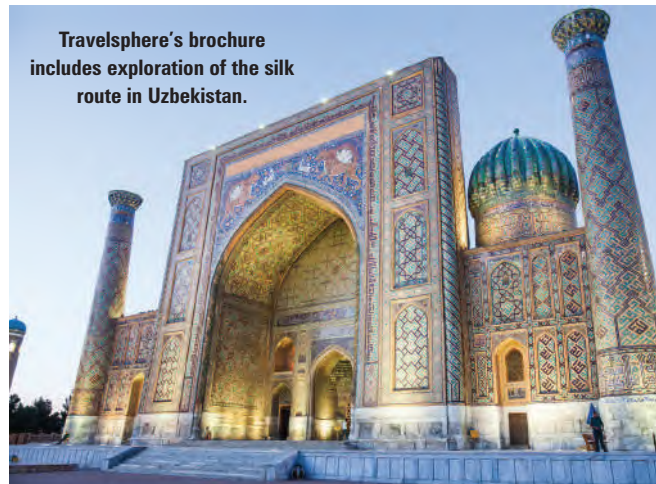
The early bird catches the worm with Travelsphere

TRAVELSPHERE HAS launched its latest brochure with a early bird offer of up to 10% off the brochure price on selected 2020 and 2021 holidays.

With a range of more than 150 unique holidays across 60 countries, Travelsphere offers 'Bigger Experiences in Smaller Groups' on holidays across the Northern and Southern Hemisphere from North America to Australia and India to Italy.

With 15 to 35 people or fewer on every Travelsphere touring holiday, customers are always right at the heart of the adventure, gaining a more intimate experience of each and every country they will visit.

"It is all about the experience for our



Travelsphere's brochure includes exploration of the silk route in Uzbekistan.

customers at Travelsphere, our smaller size groups mean that they are really at the heart of each and every holiday. There will always be the incredible atmosphere that comes when you share the experience of discovery with other like-minded travellers," said Alastair

Campbell, Travelsphere's managing director.

Agents can get in on the fun too, as Travelsphere is offering an incentive of £35 for every booking made with the company until March 2. Turn to page 9 for more details. For further information, visit www.travelsphere.co.uk

Aurora Expeditions launches Sylvia Earle

AURORA EXPEDITIONS has launched their purpose-built expedition ship Sylvia Earle after the acclaimed marine biologist and oceanographer, Dr Sylvia Earle.

Activities will play a major part in the passenger experience – with expert-led kayak expeditions, polar ski touring, climbing, snowshoeing, hiking and exploration by Zodiac.

Sylvia Earle will launch in October 2021 in Ushuaia, Argentina. www.auroraexpeditions.com.au



WIN A TRIP TO THE RICHEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

Register by 30th January

PERUAGENT.COM



Gold Medal provides new tools for agents

GOLD MEDAL is helping travel agents to secure more bookings with the launch of two new mini brochures, a customer magazine and access to 'DOUBLE Farebank Rewards' on all package bookings.

The 40-page 'Worldwide Holiday Sale' mini brochure – highlighting some of the operator's biggest deals – landed in stores at the beginning of January. The brochures include more than 90 hand-picked special offers and 21 day tours and attractions in destinations around the globe.

The targeted publication features a selection of products that are new to the Gold Medal brochure portfolio. Debutants include Marsa Malaz Kempinski, located on The Pearl – Doha; Fair House Villas & Spa, Koh Samui, Thailand; and AAT Kings' seven-day 'Great Ocean Road & Kangaroo Island Escape' guided tour.

Featured are a selection of top-sellers. For example, three nights at the Luxor Resort & Casino Las Vegas leads in at £629 per person with daily food and beverage credit; while a family deal at the Atlantis The Palm, Dubai is available from £589 per person for three nights, offering a saving of up to £765 per person. All holiday offers are priced with leading scheduled airlines flying from London, Manchester and Scotland.

As an extra support, the launch is being backed up with a new issue of the operator's Worldwide Travel Magazine, designed to give agents a host of inspirational ideas for their client's next holiday adventure.

Both the brochure and magazine will be distributed this month to more than 1,500 retailers across the country. As an extra incentive, the package bookings made until January 31 will qualify for 'DOUBLE Farebank Rewards.'

Featuring 74 worldwide luxury holiday offers – and again priced from London, Manchester and Scotland – the brochure comes hot on the heels of the fully transactional agent website launched in December.

Visit www.goldmedal.co.uk

Love is in the air in Philadelphia

AGENTS CAN suggest a trip to Philadelphia for clients looking to fly abroad for a long weekend on Valentine's Day, which falls on a Friday this year.

The city hosts a range of romantic pursuits, including strolls and selfies in the iconic LOVE Park and an excursion to see 50 romantic public murals during the Mural Arts' Love Letter Train Tour. Couples can enjoy a cocktail at the new Four Seasons Philadelphia JG SkyHigh bar or an intimate dining experience at the aptly named restaurant The Love, a cosy American bar and restaurant.

www.discoverPHL.com



LOVE Park is located in the heart of the city, near City Hall.

Meet the 2020 Sagababes!

TO HONOUR a host of celebrities who have become eligible to join Saga's holidays by turning the big 50, the Saga team has chosen holidays to recommend for Naomi Campbell and other A-listers.

Naomi enjoys sunshine and loves Africa, so Saga suggest the 16-night 'Pride of Africa' tour covering Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa which features a journey on an elegant vintage train, game safaris in Chobe and Hwange National Parks and sundowner cruises on the Chobe and Zambezi rivers. This holiday is 16 nights from £4,799 per person with a departure on May 2 or June 22.

Broadcaster Louis Theroux does not shy from difficult subjects, but he has admitted being a 'nervous flyer'. For travellers who share a similar fear to Louis, Saga recommends the new ship Spirit of Discovery to enjoy luxury travel at sea. The all-inclusive 'Greenland Explorer' would offer plenty of opportunities to meet interesting people, including a choir of Inuit children, plus a wealth of wildlife in stunning landscapes. This 21-night holiday will depart on June 16 from Dover, with prices from £5,856 per person.

The Guinness Book of World Records lists Mariah Carey as the 'Songbird Supreme' due to her five-octave vocal range and style. For those who enjoy vocal range, Saga recommends watching and listening to the amazing birdlife in San Gerardo do Dota in a deep valley surrounded by the Talamanca mountains, during the coast to coast tour of Costa Rica. This holiday is 12 nights all-inclusive from £3,099 per person, and departs on November 10.

For information contact alex.brazier@saga.co.uk or visit www.saga.co.uk for further details on more trips.

O&E
Osborne & Ebel

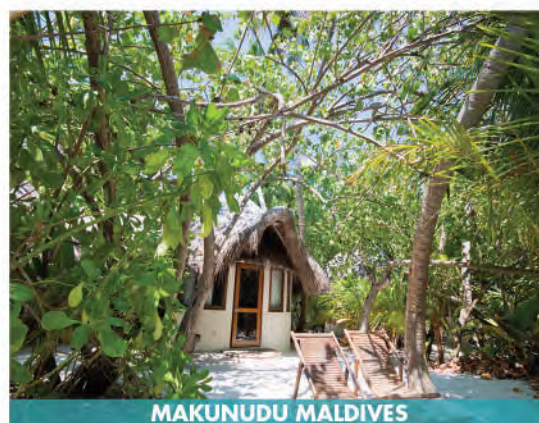


COCOON MALDIVES

LAST MINUTE OFFER MALDIVES

All new bookings receive
20% Discount on Room Rates
PLUS

Complimentary Upgrade from HB to All Inclusive
Valid for stays between now – 30 Apr 20

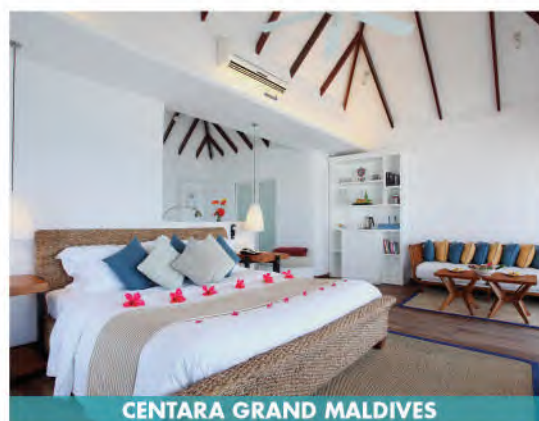


MAKUNUDU MALDIVES

RUSTIC ROBINSON CRUSOE MALDIVES

Magical Retreat in North Male Atoll
Book by 31 Jan 20 and receive:

30% DISCOUNT ON ROOM RATES!
Valid for stays between now – 30 Apr 20



CENTARA GRAND MALDIVES

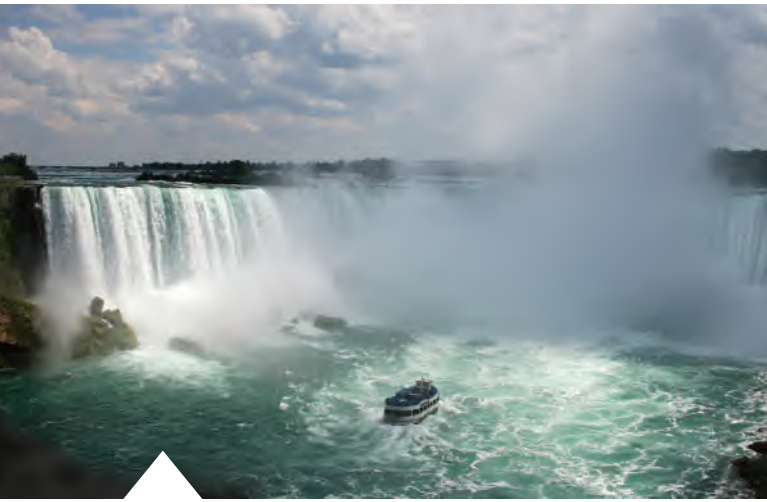
WINTER OFFER STILL OPEN

Book any category by 31 Jan 20 and receive
30% OFF ROOM RATES
PLUS Reduced Seaplane Transfers for all
Valid for stays between now – 30 Apr 21

SRI LANKA - MAURITIUS - SEYCHELLES - INDIA - UAE - CARIBBEAN
Including exclusive offers for Summer 2020
WINTER 2020/21 RATES NOW RELEASED

www.osborneandebel.com

All above offers are subject to availability. Terms & Conditions Apply



TOUR CANADA WITH RAIL DISCOVERIES

TRAVELLERS CAN explore the beautiful scenery of Canada on an adventure to the 'Great White North' with Rail Discoveries. This includes a unique journey across the entire country, visiting the Niagara Falls and cities such as Vancouver and Toronto.

'Trans Canadian Adventure' is a 13-day trip and starts from £3,595 per person.

www.raildiscoveries.com

MOVERS and SHAKERS

Mark O'Donoghue, former CEO of digital learning solutions provider AVADO Learning, joins independent travel company Travel Counsellors as chief operating officer.



The Elite Travel Group has announced the appointment of Abigail Shelton as business development manager. Her role will be to ensure a high level of interaction with the Elite Travel Group members through regular visits and communication.



Sophie Milner is Solmar Villas' first ever trade sales executive and will be responsible for growing the firm's presence with agents who are switching on to the potential and value for money of villa holidays.



Aurora Expeditions continues to expand its global team with the appointment of James Turner as business development manager based in London serving the United Kingdom.



STUBA - THE SUPERPOWER IN BEDBANKS



The Stuba Super heroes will be out in force this peaks period giving our travel agents super powers when you need it the most.



To ensure you don't 'peak' too early we will be dropping in Stuba Survival kits to see you through the long hours.



PLUS as a thank you, you could win 4 x Experience Day vouchers to the value of £100, or one of our extremely popular Stuba Chilly Bottles. Simply make a booking of £250 and over between 13 January and 28 February to be entered into the prize draw.





Esprit Ski hosted eight agents on a fam trip to La Plagne, France from Dec 15 – 18, 2019. The group stayed at the Hotel des Deux Domaines, Belle Plagne. From left to right – Komeil Nefoli (Iglu); Ian Williams (Skiline); Lisa White (Snowfinders); Lucy Pierce (Ski Solutions), Nigel Furlong (Midcounties PTA); Louis (EFS guide); Katie Simpson (Skiline); Charlie Tyler (Alpine Answers) and Paul Farley (Sno).

AGENT TRAINING

MAKE YOURSELF a Florida Keys & Key West expert using an e-learning platform and earn a goody bag. The training contains important information on the sights, beaches, nature parks, accommodations and sales tips. At the end, your aquired knowledge will be put to the test. Score at least 60 points and you'll receive a valuable training certificate. Goody bags include items such as: Key West Aloe Vera, Mugs, Thermos flasks, Coasters and more. Go to www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travelgym



AGENT INCENTIVES

- TRAVELSPHERE HAS launched its latest brochure with an early bird offer of up to 10% off the brochure price on selected 2020 and 2021 holidays and is rolling out a £35 incentive for every booking made up to March 2, 2020. With a range of more than 150 unique holidays across 60 countries, the operator offers Bigger Experiences in Smaller Groups on holidays across the Northern and Southern Hemisphere from North America to Australia and India to Italy. Go to www.travelsphere.co.uk.
- AMRESORTS IS rewarding agents with £50 for each booking they make for all Zoetry, Secrets & Breathless Resorts or earn £30 for bookings in all Dreams, Now, Reflect & Sunscape Resorts. Bookings must be made by January 31 for stays up to December 23 with a participating tour operator as the incentive is combinable with any existing tour operator own incentive. It should be a minimum of seven-night stay. For more information, go to www.amragents.blog.
- AGENTS CAN win up to £170 in Love2Shop vouchers each week with Bourne Leisure's January incentive campaign. The 'Discover with Bourne' incentive running till February 9 provides agents that make and register a Butlin's, Haven or Warner Leisure Hotels booking the chance to win one of three fantastic prizes. A top prize of a £100 Love2Shop voucher; A second prize of £50 Love2Shop voucher; and A third prize of £20 Love2Shop voucher. All weekly winners will be chosen at random via a prize draw mechanic. Agents can register each booking by simply logging them at www.BourneLeisureSales.co.uk.

travelbulletin
COMPETITIONS!

Flights to be won with
Air New Zealand and
Singapore Airlines

7 nights all inclusive stay for
2 people at the Bahia Principe
Sunlight Tenerife to be won!

FOR ALL COMPETITIONS
ON THE SITE VISIT
travelbulletin.co.uk/competitions

Gibraltar has always made an impact.
Now we'd like to make your day.



Become a Gibraltar expert take our training programme and have a chance to win Love to Shop vouchers and fam trip places.

www.gibraltartraining.com

With 30 degree average summer temperature, a UNESCO world heritage site offering 120,000 years of human history and only 2.5 hours from the UK, where else can you relax in the heat of the Mediterranean, enjoy the warmth of the British Gibraltarians and splash out VAT-free in Sterling?

Gibraltar. Sun, sea and history served with a very British twist.



Premier Holidays launches USA brochure

A NEW USA brochure has been launched by Premier Holidays with excursions, tours and hotels around the states.

The brochure features four new tours including the 12-night 'Great North Music' self-drive tour, travelling across Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, New York City and Boston to learn more about their diverse music scenes and see where some of the most iconic American music originated.

For foodies, the 'Lip Smacking Afternoon Culinary Adventure' in Las Vegas has been added to the brochure, a chance to combine eating and exploring and stopping off at four highly acclaimed restaurants to feast on at least 12 chef prepared dishes and three signature drinks, as well as a Chicago food



Guests will have a chance to sample the many food options of Sin City.

tour, a half day excursion to give an insight into the culinary delights this midwestern city has to offer.

The new brochure includes a solo traveller price for many tours to make it accessible for all itineraries.

Tim Greathead, product manager for the USA, said: "The new 2020 brochure has an increased focus on

unique experiences and delving into the cultural and musical heart of the USA. We hope the new product will continue to inspire and excite our clients and encourage them to take the trip across the pond."

Visit www.trade.premierholidays.co.uk

Experience a solar eclipse from Antarctica

IN DECEMBER 2021, Hurtigruten, the expedition cruise operator, offers guests the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to possibly experience the solar eclipse from one of two expedition ships.

"This is a truly unique opportunity for a very limited number of modern-day adventure travellers to both immerse in the seventh continent and its icebergs, penguins, seals, whales and birds, and at the same time have front-row access to an astonishing planetary display" says Hurtigruten CEO, Daniel Skjeldam.

The December 4 eclipse is only visible from Antarctica and it will be 75 years until the next time a similar opportunity presents itself.

The solar eclipse experts will supplement Hurtigruten's already extensive onboard expedition teams consisting of experts on scientific areas such as marine biology, sustainability, history, glaciology, oceanography and photography.

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



Expanded cruise programme by Travel 2

AGENTS LOOKING for the best deals in small ship and upmarket cruising can now refer to the 'Luxury, River and Expedition' brochure from Cruise Plus by Travel 2.

The expanded programme features product from a total of 22 cruise operators, with Virgin Voyages and A-Rosa River Cruises both making their debuts. Travel 2 offers the full programmes of featured cruise lines, meaning itineraries for 2020, 2021 and 2022 are available for booking.

Visit www.travel2.com

NEWS bites

FLIGHT BITES

Qatar Airways is now flying three times a week between Doha and Gaborone, the capital of Botswana. It is the only non-African airline to offer flights to Botswana.



Singapore Airlines will be flying between Singapore and Brussels non-stop from October 25.



Vueling's regular seasonal link between Milan and Barcelona will become year-round from summer this year. The daily service will start from March 29 and seats are now on sale.



SUDOKU

Win a £50 M&S voucher in the **travelbulletin** Su Doku prize puzzle A

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 3 x 3 squares contains the digits 1-9.

Once you have completed the puzzle, simply identify the numbers that relate to the letters, A, B, C and D then e-mail the solution, with your name, company name, and full postal address plus phone and ABTA number if applicable to:

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

Closing date for entries is Thursday, January 23rd. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

The winner for December 13th 2019 is George Kounnas, Travel PA in Enfield.

December 13 Solution: A=5 B=7 C=1 D=6

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



WHERE AM I?

A major, Hindu Shaivite water temple located on the shores, nestled near the mountains. Built in 1633, this temple is used for offerings ceremony to the water, lake and river goddess Dewi Danu.

CROSSWORD

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

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

Across

- 1. State capital of California (10)
- 6. Carnival cruise ship and New York statue (7)
- 8. Estimated time of arrival, initially (3)
- 9. Devon fishing village, sounds alcoholic (4)
- 11. Flag carrier of Portugal (3)
- 13. Hotel chain, part of Wyndham, ___ Inn (4)
- 14. Major travel and tourism company (3)
- 16. Honiara is the capital of the ___ Islands (7)
- 17. ITV2 reality show, sounds like a romantic destination (4,6)

Down

- 1. Director of the award winning movie, 1917 (3,6)
- 2. Canadian city famous for its annual Stampede (7)
- 3. Iconic London concert venue, The ___ Hall (6)
- 4. Currency of 10 Down (4)
- 5. The longest river in Scotland (3)
- 7. Singer and actress, Barbra (9)
- 10. Tallinn is the capital (7)
- 12. Part of the Dodecanese group, it's known as the Sacred Isle (6)
- 15. Colour of the luxury train that travels through South Africa (4)
- 16. San Francisco international airport code (3)

Solution:
 Across: 1. SACRAMENTO, 6. LIBERTY, 8. ETA, 9. BEER, 11. TAP, 13. DAYS, 14. TUI, 16. SOLOMON, 17. LOVE ISLAND.
 Down: 1. SAM MENDES, 2. CALGARY, 3. ALBERT, 4. EURO, 5. TAY, 7. STREISAND, 10. ESTONIA, 12. PATMOS, 15. BLUE, 16. SFO.

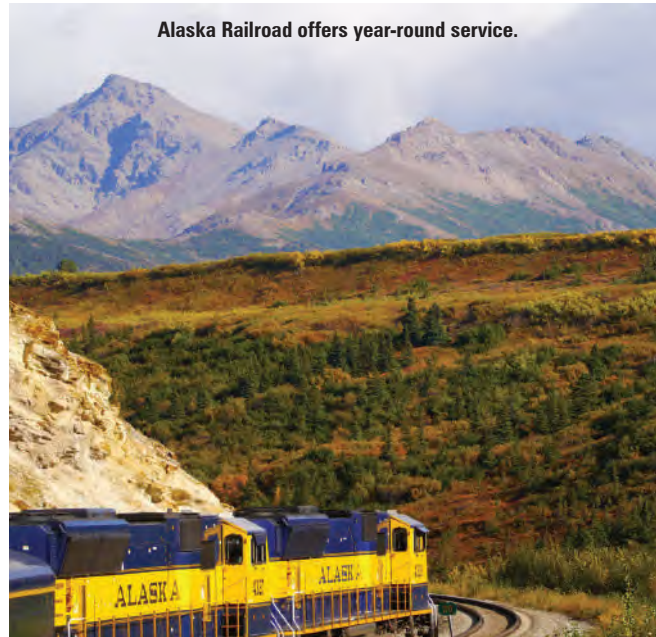
Mystery Word: APIA Where am I? - Pura Bratan Temple, Bali

Journey through Alaska with Railbookers

RAILBOOKERS HAS introduced eight trips to Alaska, featuring a wealth of must-see destinations and experiences on and off the Denali Star and Coastal Classic Trains, including Alaska's ultimate showstoppers: Denali and Kenai Fjords National Parks and Resurrection Bay.

Travellers will have the opportunity for views of wild coastal plains, dazzling wildlife, towering snow-capped mountains, bustling cities and old mining towns, and glacier-rimmed fjords.

The Alaska Railroad offers two classes of passenger service. First is the GoldStar Service, which is only available between Anchorage and Seward. This includes inclusive full-service onboard dining, soft drinks and two complimentary alcoholic beverages.



Alaska Railroad offers year-round service.

Secondly is Adventure Class, which is available on every Alaska Railroad route. This option offers full-service onboard dining, large picture windows and comfortable seating.

A perk of booking with Alaska Railroads is that the

service operates year-round.

The busy peak season stretches from mid-June through mid-August, while the quieter off-season schedule is from mid-September to mid-May.

For additional information, visit www.railbookers.co.uk

New itineraries in 2021 for CMV's Marco Polo

CRUISE AND Maritime Voyages (CMV) is introducing a number of revised itineraries in 2021 for their liner Marco Polo following passenger concerns over visiting Hong Kong.

Sales director, Lisa Jacobs, said: "The current situation in Hong Kong has adversely affected sales of the 110-night Oriental Odyssey Cruise and two shorter Hong Kong fly cruise sectors where we had planned to fill half of the ship's capacity,"

Marco Polo will now sail on a 42-night cruise to the Amazon departing from Bristol

Avonmouth January 5, 2021 or passengers can stay on board for an extra two nights and disembark at London Tilbury.

Guests will now have the opportunity to experience the wildlife and vegetation of the Amazon jungle. The itinerary visits Cape Verde and the Azores plus sun-splashed islands in the West Indies. This is an ideal way to escape the cold weather for six weeks next winter. Fares are available from £2,999 per person.

www.cruiseandmaritime.com

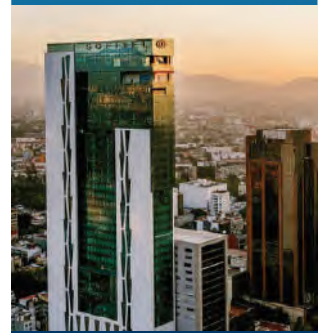
NEWS bites

HOTEL BITES

MarBella Elix Hotel is opening its doors in June 2020. The hotel will be positioned close to the cosmopolitan Parga area of mainland Greece.



Sofitel has announced the opening of Sofitel Mexico City Reforma, the first Sofitel property to open in Mexico. The hotel is located on Paseo de la Reforma.



The Luxury Collection has unveiled their debut Property in the Seychelles. The 11 villas are located 30 km from the mainland and are accessible by a scenic helicopter flight or an hour boat ride.

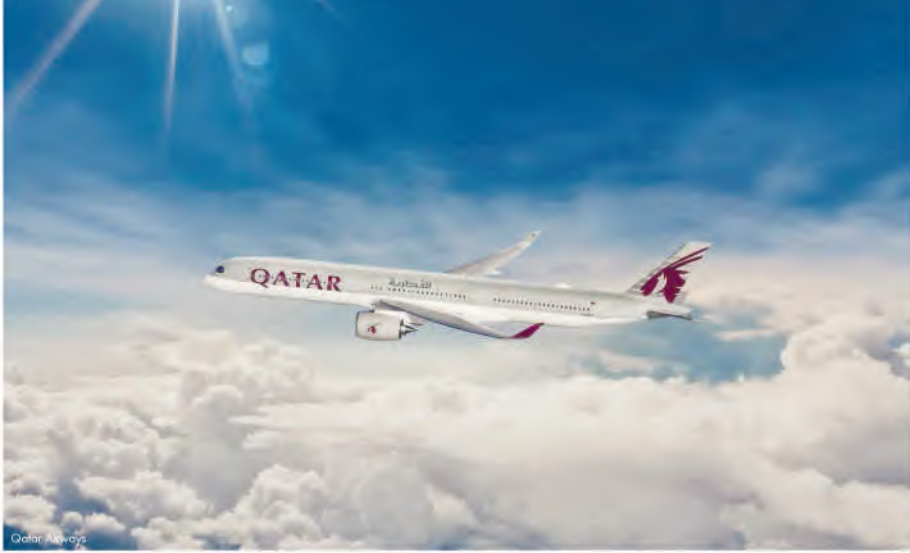


Non-stop fun with EVA Air's new route to Da Nang

FOR AGENTS booking clients on multi-destination Asia holidays, EVA Air's new Taipei to Da Nang route could prove useful.

The airline is now offering non-stop flights between Taipei and Da Nang, serving the route with an Airbus A321-200 configured for 184 passengers with eight in Business class and 176 in Economy class. The new route will give passengers greater itinerary flexibility and more convenient access to the largest city in central Vietnam via easy, one-stop connections through Taipei.

www.evaair.com



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Sri Lanka	£525 _{pp}	Valid for departures 20 Jan - 26 Mar, 12 Apr - 15 Jul & 02 Aug - 16 Dec 2020
Langkawi	£605 _{pp}	Valid for departures 20 Jan - 26 Mar, 12 Apr - 15 Jul & 02 Aug - 16 Dec 2020
Zanzibar	£750 _{pp}	Valid for departures 20 Jan - 26 Mar, 12 Apr - 15 Jul & 02 Aug - 16 Dec 2020
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CARIBBEAN

ON THE RUM IN ANTIGUA

Antigua and Barbuda celebrates tourism boom with a gastronomy line-up set to welcome even more visitors in 2020

THE ANTIGUA and Barbuda Tourism Authority celebrated its 300,000th visitor milestone on December 31.

Overall, the country saw numbers increase for last year by 14.9% following a strategic push targeting low season travel.

With tourism booming, the island has a big year ahead showcasing its history and local gastronomy – including a hotel with a rum sommelier and a tempting ‘Rum in the Ruins’ tour.

The Hammock Cove Resort and Spa is one of

Antigua’s newest luxury resorts. It’s located just a short walk from the UNESCO World Heritage Site Devil’s Bridge National Park and sits on its own private, protected bay. The resort will feature its own rum sommelier for guests to enjoy the best of carefully selected Caribbean rums.

Nonsuch Bay is one of the most luxurious all-inclusive hotels on the island and is launching the new, adults-only area called The Escape, ideal for a romantic getaway.

The Great House Antigua has opened its new cottage suites. This is a 350-year-old sugar plantation has recently undergone renovation and building work.

‘Rum in the Ruins’ tours explore Antigua’s rich history and is held on Fridays. Rum’s seductive history is inextricably linked to the story of Antigua, from Nelson’s Dockyard and to the historic British military sites in the surrounding hills.

For more information, visit www.visitantiguabarbuda.com

Fast facts

The islands have their own currency, many use the East Caribbean Dollar, but most accept US dollars

£1 is \$3.52 XCD

The biggest carnival in the Caribbean takes place in Trinidad on February 24

The Caribbean is made up of more than 7,000 islands

Time difference to the UK
-5 or -4 GMT



CASH PRIZES UP FOR GRABS

For a limited time only travel agents can earn up to £50 on St Kitts holidays



ST KITTS Tourism Authority has quadrupled its agent incentive for a limited time – providing a cash reward to travel agents for all holidays booked and logged to St. Kitts between now and March 31.

Through the busy peaks period, agents can earn a £50 reward per booking for all package holidays made via the Rewards programme.

St. Kitts is a great destination for families and couples, offering zip-lining through the rainforest, hiking up Mt. Liamuiga and history at Brimstone Hill Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Bookings must include flights as well as a minimum seven-night stay at a St. Kitts hotel, made through any tour operator.

To help inspire agents, St. Kitts Tourism

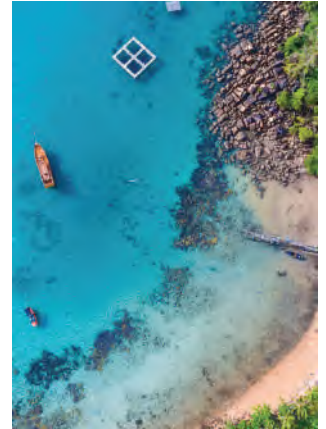
Authority's online training programme (www.StKittsSpecialist.com) features a range of modules and up-to-date information for agents to learn about the island's hospitality, wide range of accommodation, and adventure activities. Agents must register to www.stkittsrewards.co.uk and log each booking to receive their cash bonus.

St. Kitts is a year-round Caribbean destination with sunny skies, warm waters, and white sandy beaches. Located in the Eastern Caribbean, the island is easily accessible for British travellers with twice-weekly British Airways flights from London Gatwick, with a short stop in Antigua.

For more information about St Kitts, visit www.stkittstourism.kn.

Float your boat on a Caribbean cruise

2020 SEES THE award-winning Celebrity Silhouette set sail from Southampton following her modernisation as part of the Celebrity Revolution – a \$500-million (£384 million) investment to take all Celebrity Cruises' ships to the edge.



With upgrades to the iconic Lawn Club, 85% of the ship's staterooms are enhanced by sweeping veranda views.

An example itinerary on the Celebrity Silhouette: Set sail on a nine-night Southern Caribbean Cruise. Departing March 27, prices are £1,454 per person based on two people sharing an Oceanview Suite. The cruise departs from Fort Lauderdale in Florida, and calls at Oranjestad on Aruba, Willemstad in Curacao, Kralendijk in Bonaire and, George Town on Grand Cayman before returning to Fort Lauderdale.

Celebrity Cruises has 13 ships that offer modern luxury at sea and visit all seven continents.



Take a leap and propose on Nevis

NISBET PLANTATION Beach Club in Nevis is offering a romance package for leap year proposals.

There are several opportunities to pop the question on the island, from a picnic on Lover's Beach to champagne over breakfast and a soothing couples massage.

The package can be booked for stays between February 1 and 29. It includes accommodation on a bed-and-breakfast basis, 3% savings on food and beverages and water taxi transfers between St Kitts and Nevis. A minimum five-night stay is required. The package includes one champagne breakfast that's served in the room. Couples are also pampered with a candle lit aromatherapy massage in the resort's Palms Spa. Called the 'Fanny & Nelson Couples Delight', the 60 minute treatment is named after Fanny Nisbet who lived at the plantation and met and married Horatio Nelson in Nevis in 1787.

For more information, visit www.nisbetplantation.com.

Tall ship adventure offers fitness and fun

STAR CLIPPERS has revealed its themed sailings for 2020 on board its tall ships during voyages in the Caribbean.

New yoga and meditation offerings enable guests to relax mind, soul and body on sun-baked teak decks morning and evening beneath thousands of feet of billowing sails, while a fitness instructor and two life coaches instruct them on how to optimise health and wellbeing.

The themed sailings are offered at the same rate as standard sailings, with no supplement for lessons, lectures, yoga or fitness.

Star Clipper's tall ships offer the exhilaration of



travelling in the company of around 200 like-minded guests. They can climb the rigging up to 20 metres for a birds eye view amid the sails and the rigging, learn navigational skills, take part in complimentary water sports or enjoy long, relaxing days at sea, and many more ashore, discovering far off and idyllic islands, beaches, small villages and lush, tropical forests, calling

into small ports and harbours inaccessible by larger vessels. Fay McCormack, general manager for Star Clippers UK said: "The speakers, fitness and yoga practitioners on board enhances the experience of a tall ship sailing even more." Star Clippers is represented in the UK by Fred Olsen Travel. For more information, visit www.starclippers.co.uk.

Take the 007 tour of Jamaica

FILM FANATICS can follow in 007's footsteps across Jamaica with Sandals Resorts and Island Routes Caribbean Adventure Tours, visiting settings from the famous movie series in anticipation of the 25th James Bond release due to hit cinemas in spring 2020.

Set in Ocho Rios and steeped in history, Sandals Royal Plantation resort has been a popular hideaway, with Ian Fleming seeking its laid back vibe back in his day.

Guests can re-enact a number of the famous movie scenes on the Island Routes tours.

They can impersonate Sean Connery with a visit to Dunn's River Falls, one of Jamaica's natural treasures and the setting for Ursula Andress' beach bikini scene in Dr. No. For more information, visit www.islandroutes.co.uk.

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RUN OFF AND JOIN THE CIRCUS

Cirque du Soleil performs at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, for the first time in 2020



CIRQUE DU Soleil is set to perform at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Punta Cana with the gravity defying show, 'Bazaar', which sees acrobats, dancers and musicians coming together to take guests on a journey into an eclectic performance lab of infinite creativity. The show is inspired from a traditional market (Bazar) and expressed with vibrant scenes in a high-octane performance.

Cirque du Soleil opens on January 29 until February 23. The show is free for all hotel guests.

If this inspires, guests can have their own musical adventure at the resorts' Music Lab where they will receive expert instruction and accelerated stage training; play an instrument or sing in a rock band.

Away from the music, guests can venture

out on excursions. Guests can explore the making of the islands infamous cigars, coffee and chocolate and get to know more about the 42 different kinds of artisanal rums in the region. They can visit the old Mediterranean villa Altos de Chavon, explore a typical house, sugar cane plantations and butterfly zoo. There's also sailing along the Bavaro coast on a catamaran, stopping to snorkel and swim with the sharks and see some of the best beaches in the area.

Seven nights costs from £1,643 per person. The price is based on two adults sharing a Caribbean Junior Suite on an all-inclusive basis and includes return economy flights from London Gatwick and transfers. Price is based on the February 9 departure. *To book, go to tui.co.uk.*

Dominica trails ahead with hiking passport

THE GOVERNMENT of Dominica through the Ministry of Tourism and Culture has invested in the restoration of various hiking trails to provide great walking experiences to visitors and locals.



They have launched an official Trail Hiker's Logbook and Passport for those wanting to track their progress as they explore the vast network of hiking trails on the island. Most trails traverse through diverse natural habitats such as rainforest, montane thicket or elfin woodland. The scale and diversity of hiking in Dominica makes the island unique to the Caribbean region.

Because Dominica's hikes are all very different and have their own unique challenges, each is given a score against the Tread categories listed in the hike passport. These ratings are only indicators and also provide details on the level of difficulty.

Hike passports are free of charge.

For more information, visit www.discoverdominica.com



Perfect ports of call with Silversea

SILVERSEA IS offering travellers looking to explore the Caribbean a saving of up to £500 per suite, roundtrip economy flights, overseas transfers, one-night pre-cruise hotel stay, plus complimentary shore excursion in every port on selected sailings from January to March, 2020

A nine-night Bridgetown Roundtrip cruise on Silver Whisper, departing November 20, 2020, starts from £3,000 per person, based on two sharing – including an Early Booking Bonus, plus £150 bonus savings. Ports of call include Bridgetown (Barbados), Castries (St Lucia), Falmouth (Antigua), Road Town (British Virgin Islands), Gustavia (St Barts), St Kitts, Trois Ilets (Martinique), St George's (Grenada), Bequia Island (Saint Vincent) and Bridgetown (Barbados).

For more information, visit www.silversea.com

ESCAPE TO BARBADIAN BEAUTY



BARBADOS' NEWEST hotel opens this month bringing condo hotel living to the south of the island.

The Sands Barbados, situated directly on a white sandy beach, is an all-inclusive resort which blends contemporary style with a cool Caribbean vibe.

The 153-room, oceanfront property features a pool with sea views, a spa, fitness gym, two restaurants, two bars, and a variety of non-motorised water sports.

The non-motorised water sports include kayaking, body boarding, snorkelling and free scuba lessons in the pool.

The two restaurants serve local Caribbean and international dishes including Noir, the

speciality roof deck a la carte restaurant by celebrated Barbadian chef Jason Howard. Jason, was a quarter finalist in the UK TV show 'Masterchef The Professionals' and specialises in modern Caribbean cuisine, combining his love of native Caribbean ingredients with his classical French training gained as sous chef at the two Michelin-starred Connaught Hotel in Mayfair.

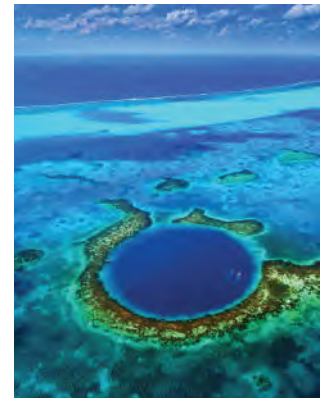
TUI is offering seven nights at the new four-star 4T The Sands resort from £1,374 per person. This price is based on two people sharing and includes return direct flights from London travelling on selected dates in June 2020 and transfers.

To find out more, visit tui.co.uk.

Cruising classic with Cunard

LUXURY CRUISE line Cunard has announced its 2022 collection of voyages, which will allow passengers to explore inspirational destinations on board its fleet. The flagship Queen Mary 2 will sail on a grand Caribbean and South American adventure; with options to depart from Hamburg, Southampton or New York.

The trip will commence with the most iconic of voyages, transatlantic Crossing, before following the sun, taking in the Eastern Caribbean, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile. The Queen Mary 2 then retraces the route of famous explorers, rounding Cape Horn before returning to New York via Rio de Janeiro – in time for the world famous Rio Carnival.



Simon Palethorpe, president of Cunard said: "Cunard's newly announced 2021 and 2022 voyages take in some of the most breathtaking scenery on the planet, and call at the world's most famous destinations."

For more information about Cunard, visit www.cunard.com



Sandals serves up sizzling new restaurants

SANDALS RESORTS International has introduced two new five-star global gourmet dining options to Sandals Royal Caribbean Resort & Private Island in Jamaica.

The new developments include the Bombay Club, serving aromatic Indian fare, including shrimp pakoras and butter chicken, along with vegan and vegetarian options, like aloo gobi and the dal basanti. Meanwhile, the second new restaurant addition to Sandals Royal Caribbean, Spices, is an open-show kitchen serving Pan-Caribbean favourites. It offers breakfast options and a changing daily lunch buffet with made-to-order options. In the evenings, guests can enjoy a la carte dishes infused with popular Caribbean spices like pimento, nutmeg and cinnamon.

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MALTA & GOZO



MALTA IS A MICHELIN STAR

With Malta joining the Michelin Guide for the first time along with new hotel openings, here's what to go for in 2020!

MALTA'S FOODIE scene is set for a boost in 2020 with the island being added to the Michelin Guide for the first time.

The island has a diverse culinary heritage, with influences from all over the world, including Italy, the Mediterranean, North Africa and Great Britain.

Gwendal Poullennec of the Michelin Guide, said: "The Maltese culinary scene has talents that are worthy of discovery by foodies

from around the world. In the centre of the Mediterranean, Malta is a very attractive cultural destination with a unique cuisine style which beautifully combines European influences and local traditions." Michelin will release its selection on February 26.

With food in mind, the Corinthia Hotel has created its own take on a traditional afternoon tea, showcasing the very best of Malta's

local produce as a homage to the very best of Maltese cuisine. The menu includes the rabbit confit tart with fig chutney, a warm sheep cheese pie and two flavours of scones; dried figs and fennel seed and another scented with cumin and orange blossom, served with whipped ricotta instead of traditional clotted cream.

Afternoon tea is served daily at the hotel from 3-6pm. Prices start from £18.95 (€22.50) per person.

Fast facts

Currency
£1 is €1.17

Time difference to the UK
+1 GMT

Flight time from UK
3hrs 45mins

Valletta is the smallest capital in the EU

Malta uses UK three-pin plugs



SUN-SEEKERS HAVEN

Malta has a jam-packed schedule with new hotel openings and an events list that makes the island a perfect winter getaway



THE NEW Marriott Hotel and Spa is set to open, following a £26 million (€30 million) refurbishment. Located just metres from Balluta beach, the hotel is in the heart of the vibrant St Julian's town.

Elsewhere, the four-star superior Embassy Valletta Hotel will open and be located in the heart of Valletta. The hotel will feature 81 Deluxe and Superior Rooms, in-house meeting facilities and a rooftop overlooking the harbour and city.

In its eighth year, the Valletta Baroque Festival is a prestigious two-week event that showcases the very best musical talent in some of Valletta's historical venues. It takes place from January 10 to 25.

Malta's annual carnival returns on February 21 with extravagantly decorated floats, while people in vibrant fancy dress line the streets ready for processions, and

Paceville, the hub of Malta's nightlife, gets into full swing.

The Malta Marathon takes place on March 1. The route starts in the idyllic town of Mdina and finishes in Sliema, passing through the towns of Rabat and Mosta to name a few. It's a difficult course that must be completed in less than five hours.

Superstar Celine Dion will perform on July 27 as part of her world tour in support of her upcoming album 'Courage'. Concert-goers will be able to enjoy hits such as 'My Heart Will Go On' and 'Because You Loved Me' live on stage at Ta'Qali.

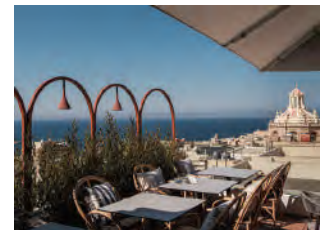
Tourism figures in Malta show that visitor numbers are on the up. Between January to October, tourists to Malta have increased by over 100,000 compared to this time last year, with a total of 571,454 visiting in 2019 from the UK alone.

Luxury Maltese charm

CLASSIC COLLECTION Holidays is featuring luxury hotel Rosselli, located in the heart of Malta's capital Valletta.

This five-star hotel is the former 17th-century home of a wealthy goldsmith. A bar and pool grace the roof terrace, offering views of the city.

Seven nights start from £1,647 per person including return flights and private transfers.



Don Pietro rooms each have a two-person sauna and twin rain showers. Three Heron suites feature double-height ceilings, all the better to view the city, and an ornate spiral staircase. The Mezza Croce rooms are wheelchair accessible and some other rooms are fully adapted. Guide dogs are welcome to stay, too. There are butlers on hand to provide high service standards.

Although there is no spa, Don Pietro rooms boast saunas and hot-cold showers. In-room treatments can be arranged with local therapists: couples massages, vinotherapy body-wraps and Thai massages.

For more information, visit www.classic-collection.co.uk



Take a dive in Malta

MALTA HAS won second place in the 'Destination of the Year' category at the 2019 Diver Awards.

The island is consistently named the best diving destination in Europe, with its azure waters renowned for their abundance of wildlife and incredible wrecks. Clear blue waters and excellent visibility have created the ideal conditions to explore reefs and underground caverns, while Malta's role in the Second World War can be viewed from a different lens, as divers discover historic shipwrecks across the archipelago.

The Malta Tourist Board say 'learning to dive in Malta is a fantastic way to unwind and be immersed in the islands.'

For more information, visit www.maltauk.com

Soothing spa breaks at Corinthia

THE CORINTHIA has two wellness offerings in Malta for those looking to refresh in the New Year.

The Spa Experience overnight stay at Corinthia St George's Bay is a coastal retreat that can help instil a sense of calm. The package includes accommodation, a full-body glow treatment and a buffet breakfast each morning. The price is £171 (€206) per night with two sharing. This is valid for stays throughout 2020, two-night minimum stay. Guests are also invited to take advantage of the late check out option to relax awhile longer.

Corinthia's second option is the new Athenaeum Spa at Corinthia Palace due to open in April. Located next to the San Anton Palace, the hotel



was established more than 50 years ago and the new spa will mark the final phase of a significant refurbishment of the property. The spa has been designed to evoke a sense of calm and serenity. Leading skincare brand ESPA

will provide a range of luxury products and treatments, while facilities will include seven treatment rooms, a relaxation lounge and a thermal area. For more, visit www.corinthia.com

Win shopping vouchers with Belleair

BELLEAIR HOLIDAYS is offering a monthly love2shop incentive for travel agents and a January shop prize draw to say thank you for their continuing support.

This year, the company is celebrating 50 years of being an established Malta & Gozo specialist. With everything from short city breaks in Valletta to your traditional 14-night holiday, they feature more boutique properties in Malta and Gozo tailor-made to fit customers' needs with the flexibility to pick and choose flights, accommodation, cruise line and any other additional services they may need, whilst putting it in a fully protected package.

To find out more about the incentives, visit www.belleair.co.uk/incentive

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BELLEAIR HOLIDAYS 50th ANNIVERSARY | **VisitMalta** OFFICIAL DESTINATION PARTNER

Belleair Holidays in conjunction with the Malta Tourism Authority would like to offer all our agents the opportunity to win a ticket to a Manchester United home match in 2020!

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FOUR TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR **MANCHESTER UNITED** VERSUS **WEST HAM UNITED** ON SUNDAY 9TH MAY 2020

HOW TO ENTER

For a chance to win a ticket all you need to do is make a package holiday booking to Malta with Belleair Holidays! Every passenger you book counts - so the more bookings you make, the more chances you get.

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INDIA & INDIAN OCEAN

HILLS AND HARMONY

India's northeast is a must-visit with lush green forests, pristine lakes, fascinating local traditions, and unique gastronomic experiences

WITH MORE than 100 tribal communities and over 60% forest cover, India's northeast is a feast for culture seekers and nature lovers. While each state of India offers a diverse experience, the northeastern region offers distinctly different encounters.

The region comprises of eight states – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura – home to plethora of indigenous people. Almost all the states experience breezy summers and bone-chilling winters.

Arunachal Pradesh, situated on the eastern most side, is called 'the Land of the Rising Sun'. Namdapha National Park in this region is the largest protected area in the Eastern Himalaya biodiversity hotspot. The park harbours the northernmost lowland evergreen rainforests in the world. It is home to a

many mammal species. Four big cat species occur in the park: snow leopards, clouded leopards, common leopards and tigers. Other large predators are dholes, wolves, and Asiatic black bears.

Shillong, the capital of Meghalaya, is known as "Scotland of the East". This name was given by the British, as the rolling hills around the town reminded them of Scotland. The state is home to one of the cleanest villages in Asia, Mawlynnong. Located around 90 km from Shillong, it is picturesque especially in the monsoons when there is lush greenery all around. The village has a 100% literacy rate and most of the villagers are conversant with the English language.

Mizoram's Chapchar Kut is a popular spring festival. At the end of February, when winter starts receding, the Mizos

prepare the land for fresh planting. There are a few days of relaxation before sowing starts and that is when this festival is celebrated. On this day, people dress in their colourful costumes and distinctive head gear and jewellery, to perform folk dances and sing traditional songs accompanied by the beating of drums, gongs and cymbals.

The Hornbill festival of Nagaland, in the first week of December, showcases a mélange of cultural displays under one roof. This festival usually takes place between December 1-7 every year at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, which is about 12 km from Kohima. It is a great opportunity to experience the food, songs, dances and customs of the various tribes of the state.

www.northeasttourism.gov.in/

Workshops for kids to 'See Clearly'

THE WESTIN Maldives Miriandhoo Resort, situated in the Baa Atoll UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, has launched a host of workshops for kids called 'See Clearly'.

The new series of fun and educational activities are designed to help children respect and appreciate the beautiful natural world in which they live and travel.

The resort, which opened in October 2018, is spread over 14 acres and comprises of 70 villas and suites.

The programme highlights the importance of looking after our climate, with activities including: exploring the island and its pristine beaches and collecting beautiful shells that can be painted in art classes; snorkelling to appreciate the island's marine life; sports that embody the theme of sustainability and the ocean; and, song and dance – creating and performing songs and dance routines about the ocean and the abundance of life it supports.

www.westin.com/maldivesmiriandhoo

Go wild for Eco Team's nature focused trips



EXPERIENTIAL TRAVEL specialists Eco Team highlight their nature and wildlife focused trips in Sri Lanka through a range of different tour operators in the UK.













Travellers will have the chance to be at one with nature, enjoying activities such as the 'Ahaspokuna Bush Walk', where there will be the chance to stay at luxury tents and experience a safari in the hills, with unique treks to a waterfall to observe elephants who have made the hills tops their home. This is presently sold by Selective Asia and Hummingbird. For more information, visit www.ahaspokuna.com

Another example of an available trip is the 'Big Game Safari' experience, where travellers will experience an authentic, budget-friendly forest campout in Sri Lanka's wildlife zones, on

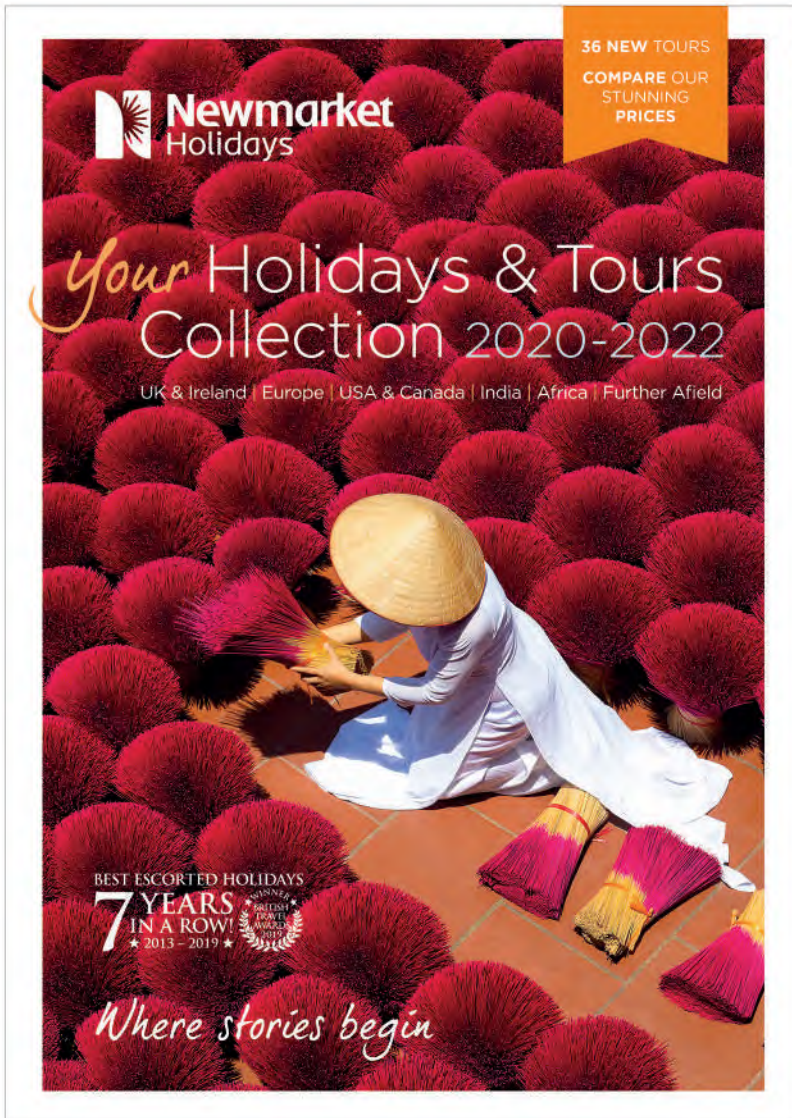
the borders of National Parks and Nature Reserves. After an exciting safari, there will be a BBQ and bonfire under the stars in quiet wilderness, before retreating to tents that are fitted with a bedroom and en suite bathroom. Tented safari experience for group travel specialists (Presently sold by tour operators such as G Adventures, Explore, Intrepid, and Toucan Travel). Visit www.srilankabiggame safaris.com

Anuruddha Bandara, founder of the Eco Team group, said: "The UK has a huge potential and one we want to develop. The decision to engage Country Envoy stems from our belief in the market, and our ability to both meet and exceed the needs of our tour operator partners. We need to create greater awareness of our unique offerings."

Where is your dream Caribbean holiday?

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