

# Travelbulletin

Giving agents the edge

## Escorted Touring

Help your clients get the most out of a  
destination with the aid of expert  
guides



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Multi-generational gems across  
the world Pg. 15



The Elite Travel  
Conference took to the  
shores of Guernsey earlier  
this month. (Pg. 12)





# MAGICAL SAVINGS

*this Winter*

PACKAGE HOLIDAYS | FROM | **£649pp**

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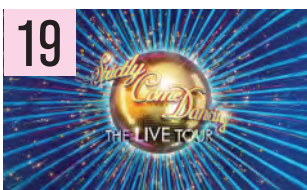
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Multi-generational gems to create life-long memories.

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**ESCORTED TOURING**

Dedicated guides to show your clients the best the world has to offer.

# EXTRA VALUE FOR 2026

## Holiday Extras has revealed its top trends set to make their mark in 2026

AS TRAVELLERS set their sights on their 2026 getaways, Holiday Extras has dusted off its crystal ball, revealing the top trends and travel predilections for next year.

Seamus McCauley, Holiday Extras' head of public affairs, said, "2026 looks set to be more adventurous, more thoughtful and more personal.

"Travellers are broadening their horizons – choosing places that reflect their values, their stories and their families' needs."

With an Entry/Exit Scheme-shaped shift in EU travel now in effect, it appears holidaymakers are already willing to ditch established European favourites for more alternative options. Destinations across eastern Europe, North Africa and Asia are welcoming more tourists, with Tunisia, the Black Sea coast and the Caucasus becoming the new holiday hotspots to watch out for.

In keeping with changes to EU regulation, early 2026 will see baggage allocations

change, making small cabin bags a mandatory inclusion on European airlines.

With more flexibility around how many outfit changes one can pack for a weekend away, short breaks are expected to become more appealing.

With the pace of life showing no signs of stopping, travellers are looking to slow things down and switch off from their daily lives. Train and ferry travel is rising in popularity, proving to be an affordable alternative with added options often not available on the usual package holiday.

Multi-generational travel is set to rise once again as the cost of living crisis continues to send travellers to the 'bank of grandma and grandpa'. Holiday Extras has noted it expects to see villa holidays, family cruise cabins and large countryside rentals to be in high demand, with locations along the Adriatic Coast to compete with Mediterranean favourites.

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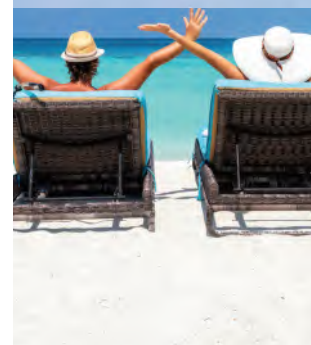
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## Ocean Florida's first trade guide

FLORIDA SPECIALIST Ocean Florida has launched its guide dedicated to the trade.

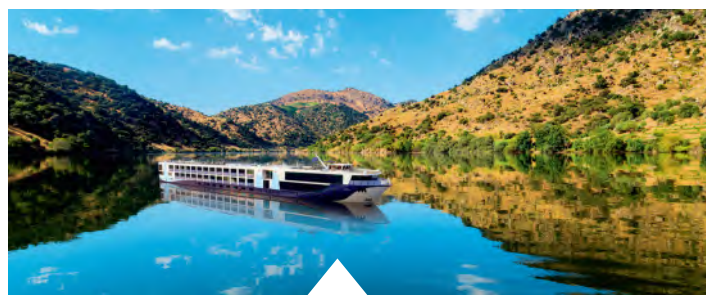
The brochure arrives shortly after the five-year anniversary of Ocean Florida's trade division in May; since then, trade sales have come to represent 40% of the operator's total business.

The new Travel Trade Guide collates 132 pages of insider insight, the latest

attractions across Florida and the States as a whole, and a choice of new itineraries.

Co-founder Daniel Ox promised that the Florida specialist is "committed to investing further in tools, training and education to keep our trade partners growing with us."

Ocean Florida's incentives pay out up to £600 per booking, plus free Orlando experience passes on Florida bookings.



### TUI River Cruises to debut Douro ship in 2027

THE 111-GUEST *TUI Luzia* will debut on the Douro in March 2027.

*TUI Luzia*, named after the Portuguese word for 'light', has been purpose-built to sail on the Douro, and will do so on 35 sailings between March and October 2027.

When the summer 2027 programme went on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, it became the line's largest-ever summer season, with sailings between three and 15 nights now on sale across the Danube, Douro, Belgian and Dutch waterways, Rhine, and Moselle.

### Newmarket's 2027 short haul launch sets operator record

THE LAUNCH of Newmarket Holidays' 2027 short-haul programme earlier this month marked the earliest the operator has opened short-haul sales.

More than 80% of the traditionally best-selling options are now on sale for 2027—brand new tours are expected to join existing favourites in due course.

Hayley Morris, head of trade sales and partnerships, launched the programme. "This is the earliest we have ever launched our short-haul season, and it's a fantastic opportunity for agents to capitalise on strong customer demand, encourage early bookings and help travellers secure their preferred dates and tours well ahead of time. "With lots of our best-selling European tours already live, agents can help their customers choose from the widest range of dates and the best availability..."



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**switzerland  
travel centre**

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Experience a journey to some of the most breathtaking locations in the Swiss Alps aboard the Jungfrau railways, providing year-round access to hiking trails, ski slopes and scenic viewpoints, all while marvelling at the spectacular peaks of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau.

Switzerland Travel Centre presents the

# *Jungfrau Railways*



## **Christmas on the Jungfraujoch**

At 3,454 metres, the Jungfraujoch – Top of Europe offers a unique Christmas experience. Explore the Ice Palace, step onto the Aletsch Glacier Plateau, and stroll through festive tunnels and walkways. Shops at the summit invite you to find special gifts, while panoramic views across the Bernese Oberland make Christmas here magical.



## **Jungfrau Region for Non-Skiers**

Non-skiers can enjoy winter in the Jungfrau Region on foot or by sledge. Over 100 km of winter hiking trails lead through forests and plateaus with views of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. Europe's longest sledging runs, including the Big Pintenfriz from Faulhorn to Grindelwald, promise thrills. Every step reveals the joy of winter in the Alps.



more info

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or talk anything Switzerland

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**+44 207 420 4900**  
**switzerlandtravelcentre.com**



## Younger travellers fuel confidence spike in ABTA's index

TRAVELLERS BETWEEN 25 and 44 have been reported as the most confident demographic in ABTA's Travel Confidence index.

2025's Travel Confidence Index sits at +53 across the UK, which is a six-point increase against last year's report and 12 points up against the first Index in 2023.



Those aged 25 to 34 have delivered the largest boom in confidence in the last year, up 19 points to +79 overall. 18-to-24-year-olds scored +57, up nine points in the last year.

Method of booking, naturally, remains a key driver in travel confidence. Those who booked with an agent (+78) were only usurped in confidence by those who booked a package holiday (+80).

Mark Tanzer, ABTA's chief executive, introduced the findings. "It's really encouraging to see that the UK's overall confidence to travel overseas continues its upwards trend. It's also reassuring to see that booking with an ABTA member continues to be rated essential or important by 75% of people to give them confidence to travel. This is testament to the work of ABTA members in making sure their customers are advised, informed and prepared to have an amazing holiday."



**MSC CRUISES** has opened bookings for its 2027 Alaska season from April to September, when *MSC Poesia* will set sail on seven-night itineraries from her homeport in Seattle. The ship will call into some of the region's most picturesque itineraries, including Ketchikan, Icy Strait Point, Tracy Arm and Juneau, as well as Victoria in BC, Canada.

## New transatlantic routes for Air Transat

AIR TRANSAT is heating up its 2026 summer network with a series of major international route additions.

For the first time in the airline's history, travellers will be able to fly from London Gatwick to Ottawa beginning from May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The service will operate three times per week.

Additionally, a new weekly direct service will be available between Quebec City and

Marseille, complementing the existing Quebec City-Paris route. The service will be available from May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.

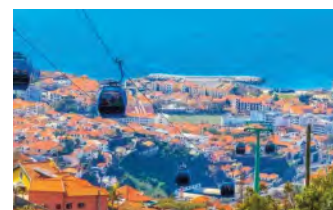
Sebastian Ponce, chief revenue officer, said, "We're accelerating our growth in Quebec City, launching our first transatlantic route from Ottawa, and expanding our international connections. This is just the beginning of a season full of exciting new developments."

## All-in to ski this winter

SKIWORLD HAS enhanced its 'Ski All-In' packages for the 2025/2026 winter season, offering up to £300 off per person in its early booking offer, as well as £100 off for first-time skiers.

The package includes return travel from major UK airports; accommodation in a classic SkiWorld chalet; catering in the form of continental breakfasts, daily afternoon teas, three-course dining menus and a two-course Alpine speciality; and a local lift pass and beginner-level ski or snowboard hire.

Packages are available across Europe's top resorts, including Val d'Isère, Courchevel, Les Arcs, and St Anton.



## ABTA announces 2026 Convention hosts

MADEIRA WILL host ABTA's Travel Convention for the first time from October 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026. ABTA chief Mark Tanzer promised "a standout event... we're pleased to be able to use the Convention to celebrate and showcase all Madeira has to offer."



## AGENT INCENTIVES

- **AUDLEY TRAVEL'S** autumn & winter 2026 incentive, running until December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, will see an agent who books with the tailor-made operator win a £10,000 voucher for an adventure of their own, with one runner-up earning a spot on a fam trip to Namibia next year. Trade sales manager Greg Thurston kicked off the incentive. "After much success last year we've re-launched the £10,000 booking incentive to help inspire agents to continue with their support as we head into the colder months and a key booking period."
- **YOU COULD** win a branded Celebrity Cruises suitcase and up to £1,000 in Amazon vouchers when booking Fred. Holidays' range of Celebrity Cruises packages, which combine Fred. Holidays land experiences and Celebrity voyages and are available to book throughout October. Booking any of the itineraries will see agents entered into a prize draw to win a Celebrity Cruises suitcase, with winners drawn at random on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, after the incentive closes at the end of October. Any packages that include an ocean, river or expedition cruise element booked in the same period earn an additional £25 Amazon voucher (up to £1,000).
- **CONFIRMING A** booking on Canyon Spirit's Rockies to Red Rocks route and completing the train operator's online training programme could see you win a free rail journey for two. You must book and complete the course by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, to qualify for the incentive. The winner of the prize giveaway will enjoy a Signature service experience with several add-ons en route.

# AGENT BULLETIN



**AMBASSADOR CRUISE** Line hosted 37 partners in Mallorca last month for its first Extreme Day Trip. On board *Renaissance*, agents got a taste of the cruise line's newest ship ahead of its inaugural Caribbean fly-cruise season, which kicks off this month. Interim head of trade Karen Cameron described the visit as "a fast-paced and fun way to discover the authentic, affordable quality experience that defines a sailing with us."

## Travelbulletin COMPETITION

**Win a night's stay for  
at London's five-star  
Kensington Hotel!**

**Find out more at**

**[www.travelbulletin.co.uk/](http://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/)**

**[amelia-island-competition](#)**

## AGENT TRAINING

- **EGYPT SPECIALIST** is home to an agent toolbox, events calendar, and contact directory to bolster your selling to the iconic ancient destination.
- **VISIT CENTRAL** Florida's new Tourism Institute platform blends classic e-learning opportunities with sales and marketing tools purpose-built for agents. Mark Jackson, Visit Central Florida's director, said, "As we become a more mobile and technologically integrated world, Visit Central Florida remains committed to providing information about our destination in the most digestible manner possible." Completing the training course earns agents certified Central Florida Insider status and access to the Sales Companion: a resource to maintain their expertise, find resources and assets to market, and confirm bookings.
- **ACCOR'S LEARN** With Us training programme is home to 18 modules covering the company's brands, with up-to-date insight and recommendations on the likes of Mercure and Sofitel.
- **BARBADOS ELITE** Club earns you access to exclusive agent rewards, a variety of different themed training modules, and fam trip opportunities.
- **DESTINATION DC'S** Special Agent Academy blends the core information about America's capital with in-depth insights into its varied neighborhoods, festivals and unique landmarks. Elliott L. Ferguson, II, Destination DC's president and CEO, said the platform "will help us enhance the knowledge, image and perception of Washington, DC as we focus on growing DC's global visitor market share..."
- **AGENTS WHO** complete Visit Isle of Man's training course can log their bookings in exchange for points and the chance to win hundreds of pounds' worth of Amazon vouchers.



## Royalton introduces new suite & villa tier

ROYALTON SUITES & Villas, a new tier of the brand's Diamond Club class, recognises accommodation with expansive layouts and strong square footage. Bookings from the Royalton Suites & Villas label will include an elevated version of the Diamond Club service, with certain exclusive inclusions like signature cocktails or daily breakfast in the privacy of the suite, depending on accommodation and location.



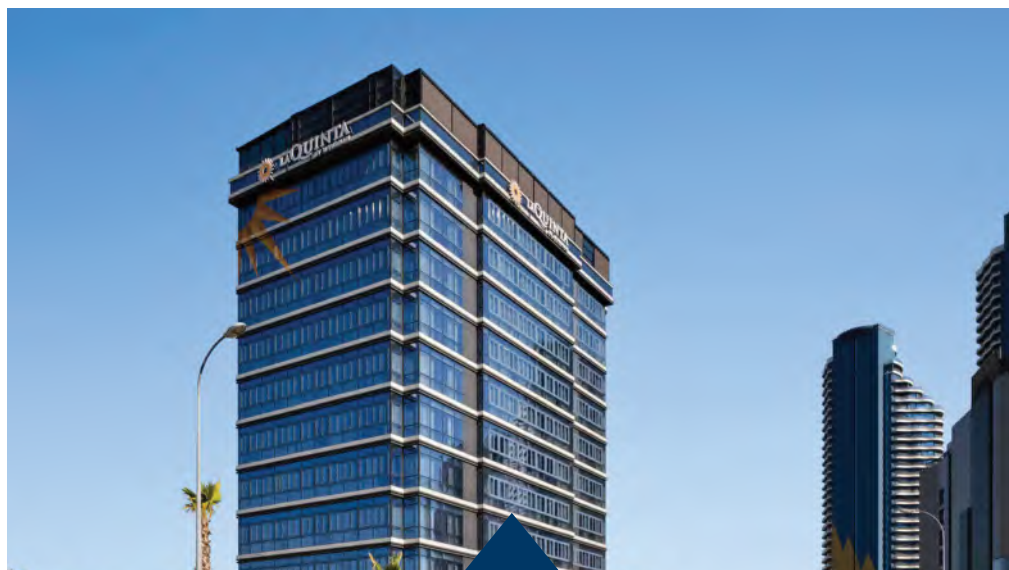
## MOVERS & SHAKERS



INTREPID TRAVEL has appointed Kaigan Lewis as Senior Partnerships Manager (North) where he will be responsible for delivering the company's trade strategy, support agent rewards and incentives programmes, and driving regional growth.



LAST MONTH AmaWaterways appointed two new hires in the UK marketing and commercial teams. Kate Norris is the new Marketing Executive while Modupe Femi-Ogundele has joined as the new Commercial Manager.



WYNDHAM HOTELS & Resorts is introducing two new hotels in Istanbul: La Quinta by Wyndham Istanbul Kartal and TRYP by Wyndham Istanbul Beyoglu. The properties will add approximately 200 new rooms to the brand's 40+ portfolio across the city, cementing Wyndham's commitment to providing more choice for travellers in the heart of one of the world's most popular cities.

## Railbookers expands Luxury Collection for 2026

FOUR NEW itineraries have been added to Railbookers' Luxury Collection for 2026 as President and CEO Frank Marini says luxury train travel continues to be "one of the biggest trends and desires we see among our guests."

2026 will see the return of the flagship 'Around the World by Luxury Train' itinerary featuring new trains, hotels and excursions over two months. In total, the Luxury Collection will feature 11 luxury train routes ranging from

29 to 48 days to create the ultimate bucket-list experience.

The four new itineraries include the 35-day 'Grand Rail and Safari Journey: Singapore to Venice by Train'; the 48-day 'Luxury Rails and Wonders from Vietnam to Scotland by Train'; the 32-day 'Grand London to Istanbul: Royal Scotsman, VSOE & Golden Eagle'; and the 29-day 'Venice to Victoria Falls and South Africa by Luxury Train'.

## Riviera expands Ocean offering with Clipper cruises

AGENTS CAN secure their clients up to 10% off Riviera's new range of unique Clipper Cruises for 2027, featuring three updated itineraries sailing throughout Europe.

The Clipper season highlights include the 11-day 'An Aegean Odyssey' itinerary from £3,014 per person; the 13-day 'A Mediterranean Odyssey' from £3,599 per person; and the 11-day 'Ephesus & Greek Islands Cruise' from £2,879 per person.

Travellers can enjoy a 10% Early Booking discount on all 2027 Clipper Cruises when booked by November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025.



## Record demand for Unforgettable Croatia

OVER HALF of Unforgettable Croatia's 2026 small-ship cruising programme has already been sold after seven months on sale, marking the strongest early demand in the company's history. The operator has also reported a 150% uplift in trade revenue.



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, October 16th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

**October 3rd Solution: A=5 B=3 C=7 D=2**

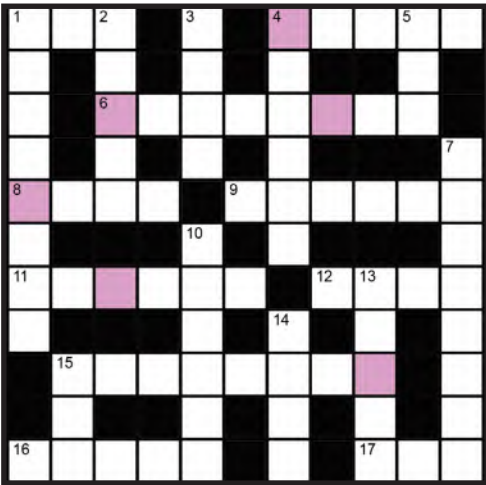
A		7		5	9	8	4	3	
	5				3				
		3			6				2
B		4	9				5		8
	5		1	2		4	3		9
C	7		8				2	4	
	4			6			9		
			8					2	
D		2	5	7	3	1		8	



### WHERE AM I?

THE LARGEST city in Dalmatia, this destination is home to the preserved ancient Roman Diocletian's Palace, as well as the location for Meereen in Game of Thrones, Klis Fortress.

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



- Across**  
1 E4's Married At First Sight is sponsored by this travel group (3)  
4 Capital of Egypt (5)  
6 Famous Mexican resort city and port (8)  
8 A UK river and cosmetics company (4)  
9 Holiday isle in the Gulf of Naples (6)  
11 Airline based in the UAE (6)  
12 Hotel brand, sounds like a wading bird (4)  
15 Male is the capital (8)  
16 Official language of Iran (5)  
17 Carrier with HQ in Warsaw (3)
- Down**  
1 Olympian diver recetly seen on Celebrity Traitors (3,5)  
2 US state, home to the Craters of the Moon National Monument (5)  
3 Former name of Thailand (4)  
4 Holiday afloat (6)  
5 Rhodes international airport code (3)  
7 Essential overseas travel document (8)  
10 New Delhi international airport is named for this former Prime Minister (6)  
13 Swiss city known for its history and culture (5)  
14 Major car rental company (4)  
15 Flag carrier of Lebanon (3)

CROSSWORD

Across: 1 TUI, 4 CAIRO, 6 ACAPULCO, 8 AVON, 9 ISCHIA, 11 ETIHAD, 12 IBIS, 15 MALDIVES, 16 FARSI, 17 LOT.  
Down: 1 TOM DALEY, 2 IDAHO, 3 SIAM, 4 CRUISE, 5 RHO, 7 PASSPORT, 10 GANDHI, 13 BASEL, 14 AVIS, 15 MEA.  
Mystery Word: CALAIS





# LUXURY HOLIDAYS SHOWCASE



## Luxury Holidays Roadshow

TAUNTON & PLYMOUTH got a true taste of luxury courtesy of our Luxury Holidays Roadshow last month, where we were joined by Transun, SPL Villas, Tunisia, Barut Hotels, Jetset, Seaside Collection, Louis Hotels, Bahamas, Sun Siyam Resorts, Abercrombie & Kent, Scenic Tours & Emerald Cruises, World of Hyatt Inclusive Collection, Domes Resorts, Atrium Hotels, and the Seychelles.



The Luxury [#TBSHowcases](https://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/showcases) action returns in February of next year, where our Roadshow takes us to Salisbury, Chichester and Cobham on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. To confirm your place or find out when we will be hosting our next event near you, visit [www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events/agents](https://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events/agents)



## 10% discount on Sail Croatia whole ship charters

ANY SEVEN-NIGHT whole ship charters booked for 2026 with Sail Croatia are eligible for a 10% discount.

Sailings, which leave from Split and Dubrovnik, have already seen impressive demand for group charters in 2025 and beyond. Sail Croatia is hoping to double down on that demand with the discount.

Helle Seuren, co-founder of Sail Croatia, elaborated on the demand reported so far.

"We have hosted many special interest groups, from board-gamers to language schools, to cycling groups, hikers, yoga classes and wine tasting groups, to mention just a few!

"We even offer weddings! What better way to say "I Do"..."

A choice of five itineraries is available to book. During the sale, seven-night charters start from £58,627.



## Madeira to welcome bolstered connectivity this winter

ADDITIONAL SERVICES from Luton and Bournemouth are set to add almost 5% capacity to Madeira compared to last winter, with up to 55 weekly flights from the UK.

Jet2.com will extend its weekly service to Madeira from Bournemouth into the winter after launching the service on Mondays this summer.

easyJet will operate a twice-weekly service on Wednesdays and Fridays from London Luton, which will also be served by an additional Monday service each week from Jet2.com.

British Airways and TUI are among the other airlines operating to Funchal from the UK.

Just under half of the services of the 55 weekly flights at the season's peak (of the 257 operating throughout the season) will take flight from outside of London.

## A Seine first: CroisiEurope to operate paddlewheel cruises in 2026

TWO NEW itineraries will debut aboard *MS R.E. Waydelich L.J.* on the Seine next year, marking the first time CroisiEurope have offered paddlewheel options on the river.

*MS R.E. Waydelich L.J.* can host up to 81 guests in its 42 cabins, alongside a restaurant, sun deck and lounge bar.

'Little Gems on the Seine' uncovers some of the river's gorgeous hidden gems, including La Roche-Guyon, Giverny, Saint Mammes among others.

Departures are scheduled from March to

November 2026, with prices from £1,158 per person.

'The History of France from Paris to Normandy' showcases just that on a roundtrip voyage from Paris, tracing the nation's history through its castles, villages, cities and heritage between April and September 2026 from £1,639 per person.



## Strictly stars only a coach ride away

DON THE sequins and the Strictly spray tan in the New Year: Just Go! Holidays is offering a new two-day break to see the 2026 Live Tour in Birmingham.

Janette Manrara will return as host, while Shirley Ballas, Anton Du Beke and Craig Revel Horwood make up the judging panel ready to keep the celebrities on their (pointed) toes.

Two-day coach breaks start at £179 per person, including return coach travel from a range of pick-up points, accommodation and a ticket to the show in Birmingham.



## New Hong Kong layover programme

PASSENGERS STOPPING over at Hong Kong can now enjoy a choice of complimentary half-day guided tours of the city, including 'Victoria & West Kowloon Waterfront Journey', which explores the contemporary West Kowloon neighbourhood and the Avenue of Stars to soak in the star-studded nighttime views from Victoria Harbour. Trip.com partnered with Hong Kong's Airport Authority to develop the free tours.



# ELITE TRAVEL CONFERENCE



**From October 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, agents and suppliers headed to Guernsey for two days of networking, workshops and sightseeing.**

ELITE TRAVEL Group stands as one of the UK's longest-established and most collaborative travel consortiums, built on decades of friendship and trust among its Members and Directors. The past year has marked a milestone as potentially the most profitable yet, reflecting the strength and resilience of its network.

Elite's Members continue to shine, earning industry awards and recognition, while also enjoying enriching fam trips and events that deepen their expertise. The Group has received glowing feedback from operators, reinforcing the value and professionalism the Members bring to the table.

At the heart of Elite is a spirit of mutual support—Members

regularly collaborate and assist one another, creating a uniquely supportive environment. Elite has also embraced digital growth with the launch of a new website and Facebook presence, enhancing its visibility and engagement.

With what are arguably the best commercials in the industry, Elite remains committed to delivering exceptional value to its Members and its profit, unlike other consortia, is paid back to the members in the form of dividend.

As we look ahead to the conference and beyond, the aim is to strengthen these foundations, celebrate collective achievements, and continue evolving as a trusted, forward-thinking consortium.

## WORDS FROM OUR SPONSORS

### Azamara Cruises

AZAMARA CRUISES is redefining immersive travel with Destination Immersion® Elevated, a new initiative offering deeper cultural connections both onboard and ashore. With 51% of port time now late nights or overnights, guests can explore more meaningfully. Azamara continues to lead the industry in delivering authentic, unforgettable travel.



### Birmingham Airport

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT is on its way to offering greater choice for its passengers, whether it's how they get to the airport, the places they eat or drink when they arrive or the destinations they fly to. The future growth of BHX will be delivered in a responsible and sustainable way, creating journey's to be proud of.



### Visit Guernsey

THE ISLANDS of Guernsey, Alderney, Sark, Herm and Lihou offer unforgettable experiences that blend relaxation, inspiration, and discovery. We can't wait to welcome delegates and visitors to explore, taste, and enjoy everything our islands have to offer.



### JTA Travel Group

JTA CONFIRMED that 2025 is set to be its strongest year on record, with outstanding results across flights, hotels, and cruise. Increased collaboration with trade partners and expanded sales and marketing activity have driven exceptional growth and profitability.



### Premier Holidays

PREMIER HOLIDAYS has launched its new Channel Islands and UK Islands brochure for travel in 2026, packed with new hotels, unmissable excursions throughout and soon to be followed by the relaunch of its bookable website for this programme.



### Turkish Airlines

IN RESPONSE to growing demand, our Birmingham–Istanbul service has increased to 18 weekly flights as of June 2025, providing even more flexibility and seamless onward connections across our global network of over 300 destinations.







AGENTS AND suppliers braved the elements as Storm Amy brought the drama to proceedings, but that didn't deter anybody's spirits!

The Friday morning was spent sightseeing around the island before agents were treated to an afternoon full of networking and workshops with the suppliers, teaching attendees about the latest product news, updates and what exciting prospects lie ahead for the upcoming year.



THE FOLLOWING day, agents heard from suppliers in the form of panel sessions and keynote speeches, giving attendees the opportunity to learn more about each business' strategy and exciting updates.



The conference concluded with a Dine Around experience in St. Peter Port, and the big reveal of where the event will be hosted next year: Liverpool!





## Family Holidays Showcase

OUR LATEST showcase was a family affair in the heart of Watford where agents were treated to an evening full of networking and grand prizes!

A big thank you to our suppliers – Grecotel, Beaches Resorts, Transsun, Anex Tour, Explore!, Eurostar, Catalunya, PortAventura World, Barut Hotels, Yas Island and Sandos Hotels & Resorts.



Want to get in on the [#TBShowcases](https://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/showcase) action? Our next Family Holidays showcases will return on January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> in Liverpool and Middlesbrough. To confirm your place or find out when we will be hosting our next event near you contact [events@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:events@travelbulletin.co.uk)



# ALL AGES WELCOME ON P&O CRUISES

Families will soon be able to sail together on select sailings aboard *Aurora* and *Arcadia*

GUESTS OF all ages will be welcome aboard select cruises on both *Aurora* and *Arcadia* from December 2026 to provide a wider variety of multi-generational escapes during peak holiday periods.

The change provides 23% more cruises for families to choose from during the school summer holidays in 2027, as well as festive sailings during

the Christmas season in 2026.

A total of 12 sailings are available on *Aurora* and eight on *Arcadia* for families to set sail between December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and September 2027.

Ruth Venn, Carnival UK & P&O Cruises associate vice president of sales and distribution, said that after looking into recent data from CLIA, it is clear that multi-generational travel is a rising trend, with “over 30% of families now cruising with at least two generations onboard.

“In response to guest feedback and increasing demand we are excited to invite all ages to join *Arcadia* and *Aurora* on selected holidays meaning the whole family can come together to

experience these elegant ships.

“These cruises will provide agents with even more opportunity to promote P&O Cruises.”

Some of the holidays welcoming families in 2026 and 2027 aboard *Aurora* include the four-night ‘Short Break to Rotterdam’ sailing; the 14-night ‘Christmas Scandinavia’ itinerary and the 21-night ‘Western Mediterranean Discovery’. Aboard *Arcadia*, families can embark on itineraries including the 16-night ‘Spain, Portugal and Canary Islands’ sailing; the 14-night ‘Norway and Iceland’ sailing; and the 24-night ‘Eastern Mediterranean Discovery’.

Bookings for the new family-friendly options are now open.

## A festive experience not to be missed

THE 31<sup>st</sup> edition of the Dubai Shopping Festival is coming to the Emirate this winter.

From December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, visitors can shop until they drop while being in with a chance of winning life-changing prizes. With access to world-class family entertainment and the opportunity to enjoy the star-studded opening weekend, this event is a must for guests looking to spend their Christmas holidays with a touch of glamour.

Popular events and activities will return to the festival, as well as a new Drone Show Spectacular.

## JA's seasonal staycations for families

A NEW all-in-one family experience is coming to JA Resorts & Hotels with the launch of personalised seasonal staycations. Each customised itinerary includes a full-day experience with tailored activities and amenities to fit the needs of all family members, from babies to the grandparents, allowing for cherished memories to be made while indulging in luxury.







### Agent-exclusive animal folly

AGENTS CAN save clients 20% on direct rates to Chester Zoo's new lodge accommodation, The Reserve, which opened its doors for the first time in August.

Agents can pass on the savings or take the 20% as commission. Bookings made by August 2026 qualify.

A variety of room categories and tiers are included: 'Savannah Explorer' includes out-of-hours entry to the zoo's Heart of Africa zone, two days' admission, and £25 dinner allocation per person from £410.83 per night.



### Mirabello's multi-gen marvels

NEW VILLAS at Mirabello Bay Luxury Resort in Crete are tailor-made for the indulgent multi-generational escapes of your clients' dreams. Signature Villas house between two and five bedrooms with private pools, outdoor dining areas (with shade, when needed) and views of the Aegean Sea.

Guests have access to a kids' club and activities tailored for teens, plus an on-site waterpark.

## Selling Dubai? Earn a tenner this month

BOOKING SELECT attractions in Dubai with DoSomethingDifferent.com gets you a £10 Virgin Leisure Choice voucher throughout October—with some of the Emirate's most iconic family attractions included.

Among the family-friendly experiences included in DoSomethingDifferent.com's October promotion is the 90-minute 'Inside Burj Al Arab Tour' experience, which includes a visit to the 25<sup>th</sup> floor panorama, and return buggy transfers from Burj Al Arab Island. Tours start from £47 for adults and £19 for children.

Dubai Parks & Resorts, the theme park resort home to MOTIONGATE Dubai, Real Madrid World, LEGOLAND Dubai and LEGOLAND Water Park, is also included. One-day, one-park admission starts from £53 per person or £69 for a one-day, two-park ticket.

The View at The Palm, Wild Wadi Waterpark and The Green Planet Dubai



comprise the remainder of the lineup of included attractions.

Bookings must be made by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025; order numbers must be sent to [WIN@dosomethingdifferent.com](mailto:WIN@dosomethingdifferent.com) with a subject line containing the word 'DUBAI' by November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to redeem vouchers.

## Bibbidi Bobbidi Book: new Disney platform sprinkles magic on your selling

YOU NEED some faith, trust and Pixie Dust to unlock immersive training and reward opportunities in Disney Destinations International's new one-stop magical hub.

Pixie Dust HQ allows agents to access immediate information on campaigns, new offers, virtual event details, downloadable assets and competitions, all wrapped with a sprinkle of Disney magic.

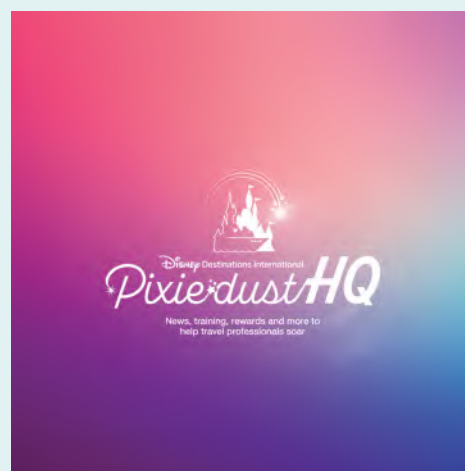
Torey Kings-Hodkin, director of trade sales and marketing EMEA, highlighted how important the trade is for the Disney brand

and how "it is vital they have the right tools to be able to sell Disney holidays and Disney Cruise Line at their fingertips.

"Pixie Dust HQ is an incredibly user-friendly platform that has brought all different touchpoints together in one centralised hub that offers dedicated support and handy toolkits."

Agents who complete the training modules through the HQ platform will unlock a complimentary one-day Walt Disney World Resort ticket.

The platform drops in a magical time for the brand: last month, at Destination D23 it was announced that World of Frozen would open its doors next spring at Disneyland Paris. Disney Cruise Line is also experiencing a period of unprecedented growth with *Disney Destiny* set to sail its maiden voyage from Fort Lauderdale on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025.





# Celebrating Christmas in style at Jumeirah

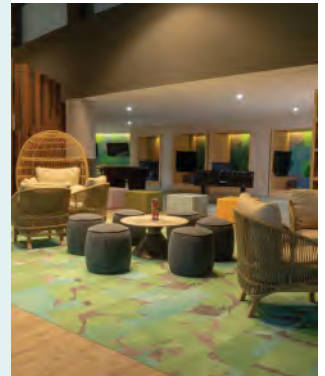
CELEBRATE THE festive season in style as Jumeirah's Dubai properties are offering a range of seasonal activities to create unforgettable memories for all the family.

From December 5<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, Madinat Jumeirah will transform into a winter wonderland with a Festive Market at its heart. Guests will walk by the 36-foot Christmas tree, set sail with Santa on abra tours, and the little ones can board the North Pole Train for a whimsical journey.

At Jumeirah Beach Hotel, the season will come alive as a special Cinderella Kids Show before Christmas Day will see the arrival of the main man himself just in time for dinner. The celebrations will continue through until the New Year, where guests will be treated to a show-stopping gala dinner.

Jumeirah Zabeel Saray will begin the festive cheer from December 12<sup>th</sup> with a grand tree-lighting ceremony and an

enchanted show at the Zabeel Theatre. Guests will also be able to stroll around the Festive Market, before dining on an international buffet on Christmas Eve, complete with live entertainment. On Christmas Day, guests can opt for a festive brunch while enjoying live music before meeting Santa Claus. The celebrations will draw to a close on New Year's Eve but not before ending the year with a bang at the gala dinner and lively after-party.



## New Kids' and Teens' Clubs come to Riviera Maya

DESIGNED TO create engaging experiences bridge the divide between modern entertainment and nature, Grand Velas Riviera Maya recently opened its new Kids' and Teens' Clubs, promising youngsters the chance to pursue creativity and cultural enrichment.

The Kids' Club is inspired by a Mayan jungle, emphasising the importance of screen-free activities. The space includes a dedicated arts and crafts area, a dance floor, a playhouse, and an outdoor terrace to host picnics and painting workshops. Kids can also try out their culinary skills in a series of decorating classes, and enjoy eco-tours.

Over at the Teens' Club, older children can escape into a high-tech gaming centre complete with billiard and foosball tables, PlayStation 5 consoles, and a disco room. An extensive arcade with basketball games, sports simulators and car racing games was added at the end of August. Sushi-making classes, Mexican bracelet making, water bottle painting and skincare activities



## Glasgow re-Unites with New York City

SCOTTISH FAMILIES will be offered greater choice of flights to the city that never sleeps in summer 2026: United Airlines has confirmed its return to Glasgow, reinstating its direct service to Newark Liberty International in May next year. The direct service promises Scots a swifter

connection to the Big Apple, with a host of activities and experiences suitable for all ages, whether that be Central Park, a Broadway show, or indulging in a humble slice of pizza.

The new service will take to the skies between May 8<sup>th</sup> and September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.





**Newmarket**  
HOLIDAYS

2026-2028 dates *now available*



#### On Safari in South Africa - Mabula Lodge

| 10-day escorted tour was from ~~£3,039pp~~ now from **£2,736pp**  
| Departs January 2026 to November 2027  
| Fly from 6 UK airports | 10 excursions & visits included



#### India - Tigers and the Taj Mahal

| 11-day escorted tour was from ~~£1,795pp~~ now from **£1,616pp**  
| Departs January 2026 to November 2028  
| Fly from 5 UK airports | 12 excursions & visits included



#### Elvis Presley's Memphis, New Orleans and Nashville

| 9-day escorted tour was from ~~£2,495pp~~ now from **£2,246pp**  
| Departs February 2026 to December 2028  
| Fly from 2 UK airports | 3 excursions & visits included



#### Follow The Mekong - Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam

| 15-day escorted tour was from ~~£3,525pp~~ now from **£3,173pp**  
| Departs April 2026 to November 2028  
| Fly from 5 UK airports | 9 excursions & visits included



#### Canadian Rockies

| 11-day escorted tour was from ~~£2,905pp~~ now from **£2,615pp**  
| Departs April 2026 to November 2028  
| Fly from Heathrow | 2 excursions & visits included



#### Borneo's Orangutans and Rainforest Adventure

| 13-day escorted tour was from ~~£3,169pp~~ now from **£3,011pp**  
| Departs February 2026 to November 2028  
| Fly from Heathrow | 9 excursions & visits included

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## A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY?

Tom Morgan, Travelsphere's trade sales director, has declared that group travel is "booming," and explains why the sector represents a golden opportunity for travel agents



"GROUP TRAVEL isn't just back—it's booming. And in the world of escorted touring, that offers a big opportunity for agents."

Tom Morgan, trade sales director for one of agents' favourite brands in the escorted touring space, should know.

He revealed that enquiries are up 300%, and encouraged agents to think

outside the box when it comes to pitching the travel style to the perfect client. "What's changing is who is buying it and why. Today, it's not just solo travellers or couples; it's birthday parties in Bordeaux, reunions in Rome, walking clubs in the Dolomites. The market is evolving—and that presents a golden opportunity for agents."

And why the shift in clientele?

"In short: ease, connection and value. For many, the planning involved in coordinating group travel—flights, transfers, hotels, sightseeing—is overwhelming. Escorted touring removes the hassle. One booking and one itinerary with expert guides—and

everything is taken care of. This peace of mind is a powerful message for agents to share with clients.

"But it's more than logistics. It's the rise of experience-driven travel. People want to make memories together and turn special occasions into unforgettable journeys.

"Add in the benefits—such as potential upgrades and additional extras—and it becomes even more appealing.

"Escorted touring is sociable, seamless and packed with sales potential. For agents, the message is clear: this is the time to think big—and think groups."

### Cosmos to introduce flight-inclusive pricing

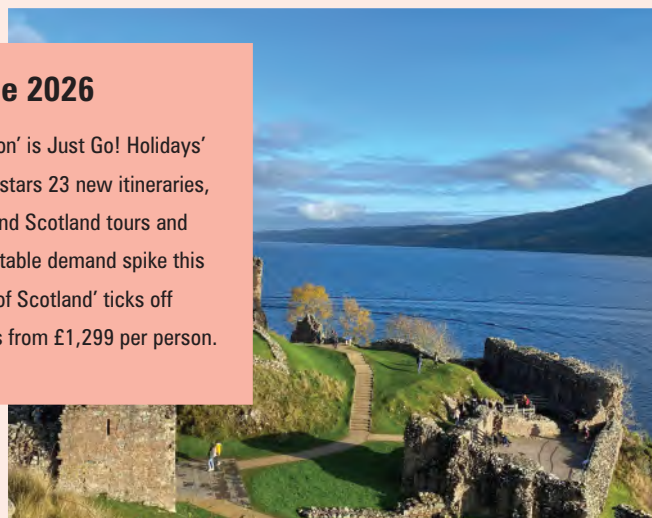
NEW AGENT-FRIENDLY pricing options will include flights on select Cosmos itineraries and, according to UK & Ireland MD Lesley Taylor, make it "even easier for agents to confidently sell our tours and ensure the World is Within Reach for their customers."

Flights from London, Manchester, Birmingham and Edinburgh can now be priced up alongside some of the most popular Cosmos itineraries. For the next four weeks, booking earns you a spot on a Cosmos fam to Canada next year.

The new pricing structure does not impact commission structure or agent rewards.

### Just Go!'s close-to-home 2026

'BRITAIN AND Ireland Holiday Collection' is Just Go! Holidays' 2026 domestic offering. The brochure stars 23 new itineraries, with plenty new options centring around Scotland tours and vintage railway experiences after a notable demand spike this year. The new seven-day 'Grand Tour of Scotland' ticks off highlights like Balmoral and Loch Ness from £1,299 per person.







## G Adventures adds 14 new trips with NGE

G ADVENTURES and National Geographic Expeditions are introducing 14 new small-group trips for 2026, bringing the total to 106 trips in 59 destinations.

New locations include South Korea, China, Egypt, Portugal, and The Stans, alongside expanded itineraries in mainland Greece, the Greek Islands, and Mexico.

The National Geographic Journeys with G Adventures range from eight to 23 days and offer immersive, hands-on experiences with local cultures.



## Early bird catches the deal

TRAVELLERS CAN save up to £1,000 per person with Wendy Wu Tours' Early Bird Sale.

The offer is available across select 2026 and 2027 tours to China, Japan, Southeast Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Central Asia and Latin America when booked by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. The sale includes the 21-day 'Japan by Rail' tour from £9,790 per person and the 28-day 'Grand Tour of Indochina' from £6,190 per person.

## Riviera rolls out its long-haul autumnal offers

A SERIES of autumnal offers await travellers as Riviera's new sale provides ample opportunity for agents to drive bookings and showcase the operator's diverse product range.

Alongside half-price extensions for European river cruises, Riviera is shining the spotlight on its 2026 long-haul product by offering free upgraded experiences for guests when booked by November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

For experiences valued up to £399, the operator is offering upgrades including a cooking class in the Atlas Mountains on the eight-day 'Imperial Cities of Morocco' tour; a cabin upgrade on the 16-day 'Grand Journey on Canada's Rocky Mountaineer & Alaska Cruise'; a Buffalo Rock tented camp stay in the Kurger National Park on the 16-day 'South Africa' tour; and a Bartolomé Island excursion on the 16-day 'Ecuador and the Galapagos Island' tour.



Vicky Billing, director of trade and partnerships UK & Ireland, said the autumnal offers "give our trade partners simple ways to add extra value for clients and boost bookings, while highlighting the unique experiences only Riviera Travel can provide."

## 10% off Titan Tours through 2027

TITAN TOURS departing between November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027 are eligible for a 10% discount, as director of trade distribution Shane Lewis-Riley reiterates that Titan Travel "want[s] to give agents every chance to turn every enquiry they get in to a booking."

Over 130 itineraries are included in the promotion across 60 countries, including Greenland, Malaysia, Norway, Mexico, Namibia, and Costa Rica.

Shane continued, "To help them [agents secure bookings] by offering their customers

even more great value, we're delighted to announce this discount on all departures and every destination.

"But the special offer won't be available for long, and so our team will be working hard with their agent partners in the coming weeks to ensure they really make the most of it."

The promotion sees Titan flagships like the 11-day 'Natural Wonders of Costa Rica' tour lead in from £3,776 per person and the 16-day 'Grand Tour of Italy' start from £3,146 per person.

Other tours included in the offer are the 16-day 'Greenland Expedition Cruise and Iceland' tour from £10,166 per person; and the 10-day 'The Majesty of Morocco' tour from £2,111 per person.

Each tour includes return flights, excursions and transport within the destination.





## From Taj to tea: Ramble expands India portfolio

FROM THE high-altitude Himalayas to the southern backwaters of Kerala, Ramble Worldwide has updated its India programme for 2026 to include four new guided tours.

Managing director, Wayne Perks, said the new itineraries “not only strengthen our ability to meet rising demand for meaningful, experience-led travel, but also underline Ramble Worldwide’s position as the walking experts.

“By curating a refreshed programme that blends the familiar with the new, we are showcasing the very best of India while strengthening our long-haul portfolio in a market with clear growth potential.”

The new itineraries comprise of the 14-night ‘Trekking in Ladakh & the Indian Himalaya’ from £3,999 per person; the 14-

night ‘Bhutan & India’s Himalayas Explored’ from £6,299 per person; the 16-day ‘South India’s Hill Stations & Tea Plantations’ from £4,849 per person; and the 13-night ‘Wilderness Walks in the Heart of India: Taj, Tigers and Temples’ from £3,879 per person.

Each itinerary includes return flights to London, accommodations and the full services of an expert guide.



### UCLH adds new Island Routes tours

UNIQUE CARIBBEAN Holidays Ltd

is offering a new selection of Island Routes tours for agents to book for their clients when they travel to the Caribbean. Foodie tours in Nassau, adventure excursions in Barbados and boat experiences in Grenada are all available to book.








## Imperial Cities of Morocco

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-  Four- to five-star accommodation in the best locations for all the sights
-  Daily excursions & visits
-  Breakfast each morning, plus select other meals
-  Expert Riviera Tour Manager looking after you throughout

### tour highlights

Guided tours including Marrakesh, Volubilis, Fez, Meknes and Rabat

Visits including the Jemaa el-Fnaa square, Jardin Majorelle gardens, Meknes, Casablanca and the Hassan II Mosque



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[rivieratravel.co.uk/agents](http://rivieratravel.co.uk/agents)



# Leger introduces Mini-Cruise & Tour collection

LEGER HOLIDAYS has launched the new 'Mini Cruise & Tour' collection, featuring combined overnight sailings from Newcastle to Ijmuiden, north-west of Amsterdam, with escorted coach tours.

Head of Retail sales, Ashley Dellow, said, "Leger Holidays has many tours to Europe with short sailings across the Channel but the new overnight crossings from Newcastle have some great USPs agents should bear in mind when selling the new 'Mini Cruise & Tour' holidays."

The new collection features a series of five-night itineraries, including the 'Siegfried Line & Battle of the Bulge Mini-Cruise & Tour' from £729 per person; the 'Dutch Bulbfields & Amsterdam Mini-Cruise & Tour' from

£749 per person; the 'WW1 Flanders to the Somme Mini-Cruise & Tour' from £799 per person, and the 'WW2 Arnhem & Rhineland Mini-Cruise & Tour' from £939 per person.

Each tour includes overnight ferry travel from Newcastle, three-star accommodation, escorted excursions, and coach travel from regional joining points in the UK.



# Explore Worldwide unveils new Kyushu tour

TRAVELLERS CAN explore one of Japan's lesser-known islands next year as Explore Worldwide launches the new nine-day 'Highlights of Japan – Kyushu Island Tour'. Guests will visit the vibrant cities of Fukuoka and Nagasaki, enjoy an overnight stay on a traditional ryokan and sample the region's famous tonkotsu ramen.

The tour will offer 15 departures through 2026, with the first beginning on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Prices lead in from £2,995 per person.

## Any plans for Halloween?

**Jeanette Ratcliffe**  
Publisher  
jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk



**Simon Eddolls**  
Sales Director  
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No.



**Sarah Terry**  
Senior Account Manager  
sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk  
Yes, love it. Tulleys Farm this year! Spooky!



**Tim Podger**  
Account Manager - Far East  
tim@travelbulletin.co.uk  
None for me but will pray for Man Utd on all saints day!



**Matthew Hayhoe**  
Editor  
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Going to a concert dressed as Alvin and the Chipmunks with my friends.



**Melissa Fox**  
Events Coordinator  
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We're going to a friends' house.



**Holly Brown**  
Events Coordinator  
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Not yet.



**Leah Kelly**  
Deputy Editor  
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Annual Halloween/Bonfire Night party with my family.



### EVENTS

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### PRODUCTION

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### CIRCULATION

circulation@travelbulletin.co.uk





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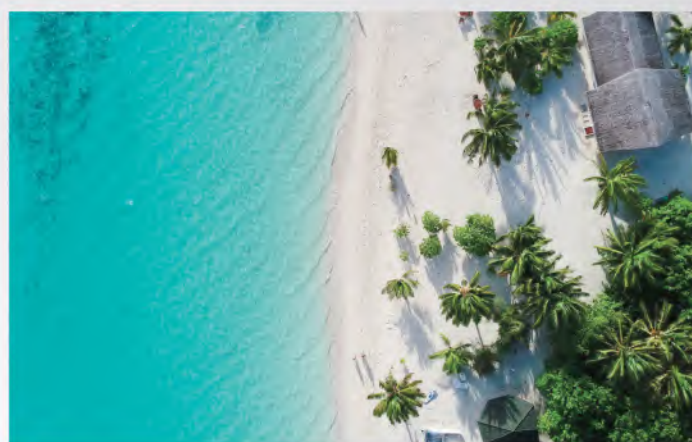
# INDIAN OCEAN SHOWCASE

AGENT NETWORKING EVENING

**Tuesday 18th November  
Newcastle**

## TIMINGS

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



Travel Bulletin is excited to welcome you to our Indian Ocean Showcase an evening of fun, food, and fantastic travel inspiration! Discover a vibrant mix of destinations, top resorts, and exciting itineraries, while enjoying great networking, a hot meal, drinks, entertainment, and the chance to win amazing prizes in our free prize draw.

## FEATURING:

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To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by Friday 14th November 2025 to: [events@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:events@travelbulletin.co.uk) or Telephone: 020 7973 0136

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and will be booked on a first come first served basis with limited space available.





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travel bulletin

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