



MORF IN

Malta, Gozo & Comino These Med islands are home to a host of earning opportunities Pg. 17

Theme Parks & Attractions
Thrills & spills Pg. 19



How this Not Just Trave agent fell in love with Malta (Pg. 10)



The year of more



Don't stand on the sidelines, join our fantastic Titanium community and get all the latest news and offers.

Expect:

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04 NEWS

NEWS

Your latest headlines from across the sector.



ROADSHOW ROUNDUP

Take a look at what we've been up to on the road this week!



STAR AWARDS PREVIEW

The shiniest night of the year is back!



MALTA & GOZO

From prehistoric discoveries to brand new openings.



THEME PARKS & ATTRACTIONS

The thrills and spills just keep on coming.

SPORTS TOURISM GOES FOR GOLD

Research by Expedia Group has found that sports tourism continues to score the big points across the industry.

MOMENTUM CONTINUES to build globally for sports tourism as the industry now represents 10% of global tourism spending, and with the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup and the highly anticipated 2028 LA Olympics, that demand is only predicted to continue.

Expedia Group has conducted a study into the sports mania, with the 'Sports Tourism Study: How to Win Big with Sports Tourism' document available to view online. 2,000 respondents were sampled who had travelled to a sporting event in the last 12 months across Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the US and the UK.

According to the research, fans are willing to travel great distances to watch their favourite team win, with 44% of respondents having travelled internationally in the last year, jumping to 56% for those within the 16-34 age bracket. Travellers aren't just staying for the event either: 81%

of those who booked accommodation visited other destinations, with 45% choosing to explore close by, 30% travelling within the same country and 21% heading abroad once again.

NEWS BULLETIN

The data shows that three in five travellers with trips booked longer than a day stayed in a destination outside of the event location for part of their trip, with one in three staying close to the location, 20% opted for a destination over an hour away, and 20% chose lesser-known nearby cities.

While men's football continues to dominate, women's sports are continuing to climb the table. Younger generations are breaking the pattern, with 24% of 16-34-year-olds attending mixed-gender sporting events, and 12% attending women's sporting events. As events such as the Women's European Championships, Rugby World Cup and Solheim Cup continue to gain popularity, there is a strong possibility those numbers will continue to rise.



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Showcase Calendar

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Emerald Cruises announces new ship trio

2027 WILL see the addition of three new Emerald Cruises vessels: one new European river ship and two new superyachts, described as "a transformational moment for Emerald Cruises" by founder Glen Moroney.

Emerald Lumi will be the brand's first river ship stationed on the Seine, hoping to modernise (yet stay true to) the French river cruise experience.

Two new superyachts will join the fleet: Emerald Raiya and Emerald Xara promise all-suite accommodations and private cabanas on the Sky Deck. Both will accommodate up to 128 guests.

The trio of new additions join the upcoming *Emerald Kaia* and *Emerald Astra*, both hitting the seas in April 2026.





ECN unveils new agent training platform

AS THE Expedition Cruise
Network (ECN) celebrates its
second anniversary, it has
unveiled Expedition Cruise
Academy, a training platform to
help agents boost their sales in
the expedition sector.

Akvile Marozaite, the ECN's CEO and co-founder, said,

"There is nothing like this comprehensive hub on expedition cruise in the market today and it not only offers key insights into the industry but provides a key training path for travel advisors to become professional experts in expedition cruising."

Antalya made more accessible with SunExpress UK flight duo

TWO NEW Antalya routes have taken flight from SunExpress' UK bases.

The joint venture between Lufthansa and Turkish Airlines has enhanced connectivity with the Turkish city this month, thanks to the addition of two new services from Glasgow and Liverpool John Lennon.

Glasgow will now host four weekly flights to Antalya, joining its existing twice-weekly service to Dalaman.

Liverpool John Lennon now offers three weekly flights to Antalya.

Tobias Bracht, SunExpress' head of sales, described Antalya as "a world-class destination renowned for its breathtaking coastline, rich history, and exceptional hospitality, and we are excited to make it even more accessible."

TAKE OFF TO ATLANTIC CANADA WITH WESTJET



WITH EXCITING new openings, new direct flights enhancing accessibility for UK holidaymakers, and even more chances to enjoy the region's top activities, 2025 is the perfect year to explore Atlantic Canada's breathtaking scenery, thrilling outdoor adventures, mouthwatering local cuisine, and welcoming communities.

Close Proximity to the UK: Atlantic Canada is located on the east coast of Canada and is made up of the scenic provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward

Island.

Each province has its own character but all are renowned for their outstanding natural beauty, stunning coastline, friendly people, incredible seafood, UNESCO World Heritage sites and National Parks.

Getting there is easy with non-stop WestJet flights to Halifax, Nova Scotia and St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador, and just a five or six hour flight from the UK. In fact, Atlantic Canada is the closest North American destination from Europe.



NOVA SCOTIA and New Brunswick share the Bay of Fundy, home to the highest tides in the world at 50 feet. Twice a day, over 160 billion tonnes of seawater flow in and out of the Bay with each tide cycle. At Hopewell Rocks in New Brunswick, which have been carved by the power of the tides, you can walk on the ocean floor at low tide and kayak up to 50 feet higher at the same spot just six hours later. This is approximately the height of a four-storey building - it's truly an unforgettable experience!

The Bay is also a lush feeding ground for a variety of whales, including humpbacks, minke, pilot, fin, and the endangered North Atlantic Right whale, with only 400 remaining on the planet. In Nova Scotia, visitors can experience the power of the tides by meeting and riding the bore in a zodiac boat. Fun doesn't even begin to describe this adventure.

New Indigenous-owned glamping experience

OFFERING A luxurious glamping experience in Nova Scotia, guests can stay in geodesic domes with the benefit of modern amenities like wood-fired cedar hot tubs and rain showers. With stunning views and hiking trails, the property is 30 minutes from Halifax Airport and is Indigenous-owned. It's an ideal retreat for both romantic getaways and family holidays.

Prices for a two-person dome start at £313 per night. https://flowedge.ca/ NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR has a rugged coastline and a long seafaring history. The province is famous for iceberg viewing. Iceberg Alley is an area stretching from the coast of Labrador to the northeast coast of Newfoundland. May, June and early July are the best months for viewing. These 10,000 year old mountains of ice range in colour from snow white to deep aquamarine. The best ways to watch icebergs are by boat tour, kayak, and from land. After the excitement, indulge in iceberg water, vodka, rum, gin and yes even iceberg beer!

Enjoy a Nordic-style getaway at the new The Cape Retreat

OPENING IN 2025, The Cape Retreat is a Nordic-style getaway offering the "return to wildness." A sustainable luxury retreat, The Cape Retreat is already generating a buzz with its on-site culinary programme led by Chef Alex Shaw, focusing on home-grown and foraged ingredients. Prices TBC per person https://www.thecaperetreat.com/

Also new for 2025 are two new restaurants: La Roca at The Bread and Cheese Inn (along the East Coast Trail and also a beautiful place to stay) featuring a fusion of Asian and Spanish-inspired cuisine https://www.breadandcheeseinn.com/. The Cliff's Edge Retreat (with cottage-style accommodations perched on the edge of the Atlantic) have recently opened Forager, a new restaurant promising a culinary adventure to match the breathtaking surroundings. https://www.cliffsedgeretreat.ca/

WESTJET ALL routes from UK/Ireland to Canada as follows:*

London Heathrow to Calgary – Now to April 19, 2026 – Daily

London Gatwick to Halifax – April 29 – Oct 26, 2025 – peak frequency 3x weekly

London Gatwick to St. John's – April 28 – Oct 26, 2025 - 4x weekly

Edinburgh to Calgary – May 12 – Oct 12, 2025 – peak frequency 3x weekly

Edinburgh to Halifax – May 16 – Oct 19, 2025 – peak frequency 3x weekly

Edinburgh to Toronto – May 16 – Oct 19, 2025 – peak frequency daily

Dublin to Calgary – April 27 – Oct 26, 2025 – peak frequency 4x weekly

Dublin to Halifax – May 21 – Oct 19, 2025 – peak frequency 4x weekly

Dublin to St. John's – May 22 – Oct 26, 2025 – 2x weekly

Dublin to Toronto – April 1 – Oct 19, 2025 – peak frequency dail

*Schedule reflects peak frequency and is subject to change.

Unforgettable launches 2026 programme

UNFORGETTABLE CROATIA
has launched its 2026 smallship cruising programme,
featuring 144 departures
across eight itineraries
between May and October.
Bookings made by June 30th,
2025, will receive additional
perks including bar credit.
www.unforgettablecroatia.co.uk







INTREPID
TRAVEL has
appointed
Joanna

Reeve as the new general manager for the UK & Ireland, where she will be responsible for providing leadership in the region, implementing strategic plans, managing day-to-day operations and ensuring the company achieves its growth ambitions.



CELINA
TAVARES has
been
appointed as

the new UK director at
VisitPortugal with the focus of
deepening partnerships with
the UK travel trade and expand
the regions offerings in this
market.



JA RESORTS & Hotels is offering travellers a complimentary stay in Dubai in its new twostop package. Guests will receive a free two-night stay in Dubai at either JA Ocean View Hotel, JA Hatta Fort Hotel or JA Lake View Hotel when they book a seven-night stay in the Maldives or the Seychelles.

Swan Hellenic announces balcony stateroom offer

SWAN HELLENIC announces a three-month sale offering combined air credit of up to £5,000 per person with an upgrade to Gold Wi-Fi worth up to \$525.

The offer is valid for bookings made until July 7th, 2025, for balcony stateroom options on voyages exploring Antarctica, Europe, Africa, Latin America and the Arctic. Any agents who complete bookings during this time frame will receive up to £400 bonus

commission per booking and a £100 gift card.

Patrizia lantorno, chief commercial officer at Swan Hellenic, said, "Everyone needs something to celebrate at this time of year. And something to look forward to [...] We're delighted to offer this wide choice of generous balcony stateroom possibilities to our passionate adventurers and great offers for travel agents."

www.swanhellenic.com

Just You combines relaxation and adventure

THE SOLO tour operator's trio of new tours stars in its new brochure, which MD Adam Kemp hopes will "appeal to repeat and new-to-solo guests". New tours include a 12-night 'Balkan Adventure' with two departures in June and September and two seven-night options: 'Switzerland's Scenic Railways and Alpine Winter Wonders' (with three departures from January to March) and 'Turkish Treasures: From Istanbul's Palaces to Cappadocia's Wonders' (departing thrice between April and September). Lead-in prices vary from £1,899 for the seven-day Turkish tour to £3,099 per person for the 12-night Balkan itinerary.

www.justyou.co.uk





Black Friday goes blue this April

BLACK FRIDAY has come early for Blue Diamond Resorts as the 'Summer Black Friday' campaign is officially underway. Travellers can earn big savings until April 30th, 2025, across any of the company's beachfront properties.

www.bluediamondresorts.com

Image Cedits: Top: JA Resorts 6 Hotek, Left: Unforgettable Croatia, Right: Blue D'amond Resorts, Bottom: Just Vou Movers and Stakens: Top: Intrapid Tovel, Bottom: VisitPortugal

- SELECT HURTIGRUTEN bookings confirmed by April 28th, 2025 could earn £50 in **Hurtigruten Rewards points** and a 12-day full-board sailing. The incentive applies to agents selling The Coastal Express -Northern Lights cruises with direct flights from Bournemouth, Bristol, Nottingham East Midlands, Newcastle, Norwich or Manchester. Every booking confirmed on those eligible cruises will earn 500 points (equivalent to £50) and be entered into a prize draw for a cruise for two on a charter of their choice. covering a 12-day sailing on full-board in an outside cabin. James Howlett, Hurtigruten UK's head of sales, said, "We deeply value our UK-based agent partners and recognise their crucial role in helping travellers discover the wonders of the Northern Lights. This incentive is our way of showing appreciation and providing them with the tools and rewards they need to succeed."
- BY ENGAGING with the Prestige Travel Agent Friends Facebook page, agents could win a pair of VIP tickets to Gary Barlow's show at Thetford Forest. Australia programme manager, Jenny Taylor Page, will post weekly content in the run-up to each episode showcasing different regions from the show. Agents must like, share and comment to be entered into the prize draw.
- FRED. HOLIDAYS has partnered with several tour operator partners for its new Extraordinary Encounters campaign, supported with a 32-page brochure. Until June 26th, all new Fred. Holidays package bookings could earn agents up to £1,000 in One4All vouchers, depending on booking value.



NEIL READ, Sandals' business development manager, presented lucky winner Emma Smith with a spot on Sandals and Beaches Resorts' fam trip to Sandals Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the brand's newest resort. Emma, an agent at Hays Travel's Newton Abbott branch, won through Sandals' 'Spin the Wheel' agent incentive in February.



Win one of five amazing prizes, including a four-night stay for two at the five-star Cali Resort & Spa in Paphos with Louis Hotels!

Find out more at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/louishotels-competition-2025

AGENT TRAINING

AGENT BULLETIN

- TRAVEL BULLETIN is teaming up with Tourism Austria for a webinar showcasing the incredible summers that await in Austrian Tirol! This exclusive webinar is your chance to dive deep into the beauty of Tirol in the summer. Discover the top resorts, main attractions, hidden gems and insider tips that will set you apart as a trusted advisor for travellers seeking an active holiday in nature. The live webinar will take place on April 29th, 2025. Registration is open at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/we
- AS THE Expedition Cruise Network celebrates its second anniversary, it has unveiled Expedition Cruise Academy, a training platform to help agents boost their sales in the expedition sector. Agents can choose from free or premium memberships; the latter will upgrade the experience with exclusive destination training opportunities and features that help match client expectations or wishes with the ideal operator or vessel. Free membership enables access to taster training with the network's members and other online resources, including downloadable factsheets and marketing materials. Each taster course follows the same format but includes details on accessing each operator's dedicated training and resources for agents. www.expeditioncruiseacade my.com
- ANY AGENTS completing the new Visit Isle of Man training course could win a two-night stay for two with flights and Go Explore Heritage Cards, covering public transport and access to Manx National Heritage sites. The course hopes to educate agents and operators about the island's heritage and experiences. Beyond the launch incentive, agents can log bookings in exchange for points, with the top-scoring agents potentially earning hundreds of pounds in Amazon vouchers. www.isleofmanexpert.com



Holland America celebrates anniversary

HOLLAND AMERICA Line is celebrating its 152nd anniversary with an exclusive sale including up to US\$300 onboard credit per stateroom and up to 25% off cruise-only fares.

The sale comprises global voyages sailing between April 2025 and April 2026, including Alaska cruises, Cruisetours and Collector's Voyages. A sample itinerary included in the offer is the 12-day 'Panama Canal Discovery' from £1,549 per person including US\$100 onboard credit.

www.hollandamerica.com

Up to 50% off in Travelmarvel's 'Final Call Cruise' sale

APT & TRAVELMARVEL have launched the 'Final Call Cruise Sale', offering savings of up to 50% across a range of European river cruises departing from July to December 2025. Bookings must be made by May 31st, 2025, for the savings to be valid.

As well as saving big on the European waterways, the Final Call Cruise Sale includes savings of up to 40% for Croatia Yacht Cruises, and up to 30% for Mekong River cruises.

Brad Bennetts, APT & Travelmarvel's head of sales and business development, said, "This is the most competitive cruise campaign we've launched this year, and we've built it with the trade in mind. These savings — up to 50% — speak to today's value-driven market and will help agents to convert interest into firm bookings." www.aptouring.com

Upgrade your ocean with Explora

TRAVELLERS WHO book with Explora Journeys from now



until June 3rd, 2025, will be able to upgrade select suites as well as enjoy savings of up to 25% as part of the 'Upgrade Your Ocean' offer. Reduced deposits of 15% are also included in the offer.

www.explorajourneys.com

nage Credits: Left: Holland America Line, Right: Explora Journeys



With 17 miles of sun-bathed beach, bountiful coastal cuisine, and relaxing places to stay, this is where people with too much going on go to forget about it all. So, if you've been looking for your happy place, Relax, you've found it.

to win a £50 shopping voucher on our agent training program.

visitnsbfl.com/tourism-ambassadors





WIN A £20 M&S VOUCHER IN THE TOULE SUDOKU PRIZE PUZZLE

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

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

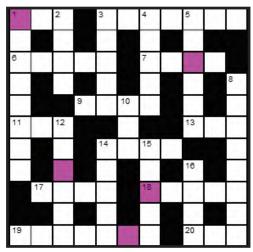
Closing date for entries is Thursday, May 1st. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

April 4th Solution: A=8 B=6 C=9 D=4

_									
Α	9	8				7	1		3
		6				4	7		9
_	7				9		8	2	
В	3		8			5			
				2		3			
С				1			2		5
		1	4		3				2
	2		7	4				9	
D	2 5		6	7				8	4



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



Across

- 1 World America, is the newest cruise ship 1 in their fleet (3)
- 3 Californian city famous for its theme parks (7)
- 6 You need to bend over backwards for this Caribbean dance (5)
- 7 Major car rental company (4)
- 9 Traditional Mexican tortilla (4)
- 11 Melbourne is the capital, in short (3)
- 13 There are five rivers in the British Isles with this name (3)
- 14 Havana is the capital (4)
- 17 The UK's largest independent travel agent (4)
- 8 English singer-songwriter, goes by just her first name (5)
- 19 Florence is the capital of this region (7)
- 20 Relative found in the Welsh resort of Mumbles! (3)

Down

- The Made in Chelsea gang were recently seen holidaying in this Indian Ocean destination (8)
- 2 Beautiful Italian lake (4)
- 3 Hawaiian greeting (5)
- 4 Remember the _____, is a popular historical tourist attraction in San Antonio (5)
- 5 Manchester City's football stadium is named for this Middle East airline (6)
- 8 Oxfordshire Palace, home to the Churchill family (8)
- 10 Corfu international airport code (3)
- 12 DFDS and Irish Ferries operate to and from this French port (6)
- 14 Cruise company, sounds like a beach area of Spain (5)
- 15 Baroness Karren ____, recently seen on TV helping Lord Sugar find his new apprentice
- 16 Tiny, car free island a short ferry trip from Guernsey (4)

CROSSWORI

Mystery Word: MILAN



DONNA RYDDERCH

NOT JUST TRAVEL

MALTA MAY be small, but it's packed with history, sunshine, and a quirky charm that makes it impossible to forget. From Valletta's grand baroque streets to Mdina's Game of Thrones fame, this Mediterranean gem feels like an open-air museum - only with better weather and excellent food. And for those wondering if it's family-friendly - absolutely!

Both my sister and cousin got married on Malta so there was lots of different generations included in both groups from young children to great aunts as well as young friends.

Getting around Malta and its sister island Gozo is incredibly easy, especially with public transport. The buses are affordable, making it a breeze to explore we were hopping on and off all day at different stops, whether it was at the beaches or one of the historical sites. Gozo, in particular, is a joy to explore by bus, with routes that take you through scenic countryside and stunning coastal views.

Some highlights from my trip included Valletta, the UNESCO World Heritage capital, with its stunning architecture and historical significance and Mdina for all you Game of Thrones fans. For a more relaxed vibe, we ventured to Gozo, where we enjoyed the peaceful countryside, rugged coastline, and, of course, the famous Azure Window.

For beaches, Golden Bay and Mellieha Bay offer soft sand, while Comino's Blue Lagoon is pure Instagram magic. Want something wilder? Gozo's Blue Hole is a dream for divers and wannabe mermaids alike.

Malta is a place where history meets beach life, every corner has a story to tell. It's a destination that's easy to navigate, incredibly welcoming, and full of surprises.



Newmarket sails the Rhine in enhanced itinerary

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS has expanded its André Rieu concert tours with the addition of a Rhine river cruise to combine natural beauty with a world-class musical performance. The seven-day tour will set off from Cologne where guests will then cruise into Bonn, Nijmegen, Arnhem, Rotterdam and Dordrecht before making a final stop in Amsterdam to watch the King of Waltz perform. The tour will depart on January 5th, 2026, with prices leading in from £1,719 per person. The package includes six nights' aboard the five-star Amadeus Cara, as well as return flights. www.newmarketholidays.co.uk



- . MSC CRUISES has officially opened the doors on the world's largest cruise terminal: MSC Miami Cruise Terminal.
- TRAVELLERS CAN earn up to 25% off villa holidays to Greece and Türkiye with Solmar Villas when booked by May 6th, 2025.
- DUSIT INTERNATIONAL is set to expand its presence in India with a new focus on metro destinations.



NOT IN the Guidebooks has launched its own honeymoon portfolio, featuring an extensive catalogue of immersive adventures for an alternative take on the once-in-a-lifetime holiday. For any honeymoon booking made in 2025, Not in the Guidebooks is offering couples a free airport lounge pass to help them start their journey in style. www.notintheguidebooks.com













Train & Gain Reading

WHAT BETTER way to start the Easter break than with a Train & Gain with some of the best suppliers in the business?

United Airlines, Alabama Tourism
Department, Specialist Holidays Ltd.,
Expedia TAAP and Abercrombie & Kent
were joined by Reading's finest
homeworkers and high street-ers!







We return to the South for our first-ever Greece Showcase in Marlowe on May 7th! Registration is now open at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events where you can also find a full list of the upcoming #TBShowcases for the remainder of the year!

STAR AWARDS

WE ALL SHINE ON!

The Travel Bulletin Star Awards will return for travel's most star-studded show!



FOLLOWING ON from last year's glittering extravaganza, the Travel Bulletin Star Awards 2025 is back again at the London Hilton Bankside!

For over a quarter of a century, these highly coveted awards have celebrated excellence and success by showcasing the highest travel agency and supplier standards in the UK travel trade.

Voted for exclusively by experienced trade professionals, these trophies are hard to come by and only the industry's star performers will prevail.

12 new awards categories have been introduced this year with nominations opening on Friday 18th April so it's time to

start thinking about which companies deserve your seal of approval.

Those with the most nominations will be announced as finalists on May $23^{\rm rd}$ when the second and final round of voting opens.

The 2025 glittering awards ceremony, honouring the travel industry's finest and announcing the winners in 33 highly competitive sectors of the industry, will take place at the Hilton London Bankside on October 27th!

Don't miss out on the celebrations, the sumptuous dinner, live music and of course FUN.... book your tickets now! www.travelbulletin.co.uk/starawards/tickets

Moments not to be missed...

ANY LUCKY attendees of 2024's Star Awards will never forget the travel community's incredible rendition of Angels by Robbie Williams... be sure not to miss out on a whole host of unforgettable moments at this year's events and secure your tickets now at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/starawards/tickets



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Star Award Sponsors

Jetset



Jetset are delighted to be sponsoring this fantastic annual event. The event is one of the highlights in the industry calendar and continues to go from strength to strength.

In 2025, Jetset are making sure that the JETS system also continues to go from strength to strength. In March, we launched Booking Basket 2.0 which has transformed the speed and ease of booking multi sector itineraries – agents clearly approve and are certainly lending their vote to Jetset and JETS; in the first 3 weeks post launch, we saw online bookings climb 2% points!

Back to the awards and the fact that every award is voted by agents where once again they have true power to say which organisation they definitely approve of.

Use that vote!

Expedia TAAP



Expedia TAAP is proud to be a sponsor of Travel Bulletin's Star Awards. We believe that travel is a force for good. Through providing travel agencies with a wide range of products and services geared towards growing their business, we are also enabling travellers to chase their dream vacations. With Star Awards we would like to celebrate the efforts of travel agents in helping create memorable travel experiences for their clients around the world.

Teldar Travel



Teldar, a key player in accommodation and activity booking solutions for travel professionals, is proud to be a Travel Bulletin Star Awards sponsor in 2025.

Gran Canaria



Gran Canaria is proud to return as a Travel Bulletin Star Awards sponsor. We celebrate British Tourism on the island, which is experiencing a truly positive trend, and is constantly increasing its UK market share on the island, with no seasonality and both, numbers and expenditure are growing.



Karina Fox-Andrews



TRAVEL COUNSELLORS

"Thank you for a lovely evening!

"The venue, food & entertainment were all excellent.

"It was a pleasure to attend on behalf of Travel Counsellors."



Cara Standen



EUROSTAR

"What an evening for us! We are all incredibly proud of our achievements and 2 awards.

"I always enjoy Travel Bulletin's events and this was no exception. Its always so well organised and the staff are the Bankside are great."



Andy Gibb

Explore!

EXPLORE WORLDWIDE

"Thanks so much for a great night, I haven't had so much fun in a long time!

"As for my Robbie Williams rendition I am bookable for future events..."























NOMINATIONS 2025

The Travel Bulletin Star Awards nominations are officially open!

Agents: Nominate your favourite suppliers in the first five awards sectors.

Suppliers: Nominate those agents that support you the most in the Star Agencies categories.

STARS IN THE SKY & AT SEA

Star Airline

Star Flight Only Company

Star UK Airport

Star Ocean Cruise Line

Star River Cruise Line

STAR OPERATORS

Star Short Haul Operator

Star Long Haul Operator

Star Luxury Operator

Star Mainstream Touring Company

Star Adventure Operator

Star Family Holidays Operator

SUPPORTING STARS

Star Sales Team

Star Emerging Brand

Star PR & Representation Company

Star Of Agent Perks

Star Agent Friendly Hub

STARS OF LAND

Star Bed Bank

Star Hotel & Resort Chain

Star Luxury Hotel Brand

Star Holiday Add-Ons Company

Star Worldwide Attraction

Star Rail Provider

STAR DESTINATIONS

Star Touring & Adventure Destination

Star Winter Sun Destination

Star LGBTQ+ Friendly Destination

Star Destination For Families

Star Honeymoon Destination

Star Gastronomy Destination

STAR AGENCIES

Star Homeworking Group - Small

Star Homeworking Group - Large

Star Travel Agency Group - Nationwide

Star Regional Travel Agency Group - North

Star Regional Travel Agency Group - South

THANK YOU FOR MAKING YOUR SELECTIONS!



MALTA ON SALE

Just Go! has put its Winter Sun programme on sale for package holidays to the Med island.



FOLLOWING THE previous success of the programme last year, coach holiday and escorted tour operator Just Go! Holidays has launched its 2025/2026 Winter Sun Programme in Malta, with packages now on sale.

Once again holidaymakers can enjoy either seven- 14-, 21-, or 28-night all-

Novotel makes Malta debut

NOVOTEL IS continuing its global expansion with a series of new openings across Europe.

One of the new properties set to open its doors later this year is the Novotel Malta Sliema, marking the brand's debut on the island.

The 293-room waterfront property will welcome its first guests in time for summer, offering them easy access to the city of Valletta. Guests will enjoy a rooftop pool, a spacious bar and terrace, and a wellness centre including a heated indoor pool, a gym, a sauna, treatment rooms and a Jacuzzi.

www.novotel.accor.com

inclusive options as the operator continues to advocate for its popular 'stay longer for less' messaging, which has been well received by agents.

Just Go! offers a 'four weeks for the price of three' discount deal where travellers can embark on a 28-night Maltese holiday from £1,499 per person for travel in January 2026 which includes 28 nights spent in all-inclusive accommodation as well as return flights from London Gatwick, four excursions and transfers.

Departures are available in November 2025 and January, February and March 2026, with a choice of staying at either the Preluna Hotel in Northern Harbour District town of Sliema or the Canifor Hotel in the popular Owara.

Claire Dutton, trade sales manager at Just Go! Holidays comments: "Agents have really embraced our winter sun holidays and recognise the great value they offer."

Flights are available from London Gatwick and Manchester Airport. Prices for Malta holidays lead in from £699 per person for seven nights; £1,049 per person for 14 nights and £1,499 per person for 21 or 28 nights for a January 2026 departure.

Melia's Malta masterpiece

THE END of 2024 saw the opening of Melia's new Maltese property: ME Malta. Located in the town of St. Julian's, the property is poised to become a cultural hub for travellers and locals alike with its 113 rooms, 27 suites and 25 residences all designed by the globally acclaimed Zaha Hadid. The hotel also hopes to elevate the destination's urban scene with its restaurants, bars and events programme.

Kirker brings the jazz

18

SPECIALIST TOUR operator Kirker has announced additions to its escorted programme for 2025, with a focus on cultural tours and music holidays. One of the new additions is the Kirker Jazz Festival in Malta, where guests will experience a series of concerts inspired by the Great American Songbook. The itinerary itself will explore coastlines, fishing villages and Baroque architecture over Malta and Gozo. Prices lead in from £3,998 per person for the five-night holiday.



Increased services to Malta this winter

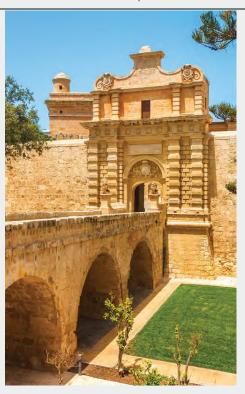
AS PART of Jet2.com and Jet2Holidays' expanded Winter 2025/2026 roster, an additional 8,500 seats have gone of sale for new services to Malta. The capacity boost comes from additional services taking to the skies from Bristol, Edinburgh, East Midlands, Glasgow, Leeds Bradford and Newcastle International airports. Flights to Malta will take off from November 2025.

A prehistoric look into Malta's past

AS DEMAND continues to rise for Andante Travels' eight-day 'Prehistoric Malta & Gozo' tour, the special interest operator has added a third departure date in 2025 to ensure agents can continue their selling streak for the destination.

The tour looks back into the history of the island, focusing on the earliest occupation some 5,000 years ago when the archipelago was home to a bustling civilisation who created rock cut tombs and elaborate stone temples which still reside there to this day.

The tour will be led by expert guide lecturer Dr. Jeremy Bennett, a British archaeologist whose research specialises in Malta and Gozo and will guide travellers through the ancient architecture. During the eight days, holidaymakers will discover the stone monuments that predate the Pyramids of Giza by over 1,000 years and explore the Ghar Dalam Cave which has



existed for over 500,000 years, before heading into the city of Valetta.

The additional departure date is scheduled for October 13th, 2025, with prices leading in from £4,240 per person including return flights from London and accommodation.

Qatar Airways to make Malta return this summer

IT IS not long now until Qatar Airways resumes its operations to Malta which will bring the airline's European network up to nearly 50 destinations.

This summer, Qatar will add four weekly flights to the Mediterranean island with tickets now on sale. The new service will commence from July 2nd, 2025.

Not only does the new route allow visitors from Australia, China, India, Japan and the Philippines increased



access to blue waters of the Med after travelling through Hamad International Airport, but travellers from Malta can also enjoy bolstered connectivity through Qatar Airways' extensive network of more than 170 global destinations.

Qatar Airways' group chief executive officer, Badr Mohammed Al Meer, said, "Qatar Airways is delighted to announce the resumption of our flights to Malta, which marks a vibrant addition to our robust European network [...] from historic and cultural sites and attractions, sun and sea activities, to cities serving as locations for Hollywood movies and TV shows, Malta offers an exciting blend of memorable experiences for travellers."

The service will take off every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, setting off from Malta International and Hamad International.

THEME PARKS

FAIRYTALE FANTASY

The Netherlands' hidden theme park gem, Efteling, could be your clients' fairytale theme park dream.



WHILE ITS continental theme park neighbours might lay claim to the title, fairytale-themed Efteling in the Netherlands is a worthy competitor as Europe's most magical theme park—and a bargain for your clients in comparison.

Efteling's storied history dates back to the mid-20th century, and that heritage

TruTravels ticks off bucket list adventures

TRUTRAVELS HAS unveiled a new travel style, Limited Edition, which ticks off bucket-list events and festivals around the world.

The inaugural tours include a six-day tour in Mexico to take in the iconic Día de los Muertos festival. Guests will party in Mexico City and uncover hidden gems like Xochmilco thanks to the helping hand of expert local guides. Prices lead in from £795 per person.

Several Limited Edition tours are expected to join the inaugural options later this year.

has its fingerprints all over the park: the Fairytale Forest, the park's original attraction, stands as a well-preserved example of its mid-century European charm. That historic charm of the park hasn't got in the way of modern upgrades that maintain the magic. Symbolica is a technological marvel, inviting guests to the fantastical planet of Symbolica with mischevous park mascot, Pardoes, in tow. Recent additions such as Max & Moritz and Danse Macabre heighten the thrills while maintaining the wonder that the park is rapidly earning renown for.

Now that the park is "focusing on

international growth," according to its director of parks & resorts, Nicole Scheffers, it is investing substantially in all areas. Efteling Grand is the latest investment: the four-star hotel is due to open this August and marks the first accommodation inside the park. Summer breaks to the hotel start from £1,706 for a family of four based on an August 2025 arrival. Accommodation covers four days of park entry for all four guests and breakfast at the on-site Brasserie 7 restaurant. Agents can book directly with Efteling or book tickets through operators including Viator. www.efteling.com

Universal confirms plans for new UK park

UNIVERSAL DESTINATIONS & Experiences' long-rumoured park in Bedford has been confirmed by NBCUniversal and the UK Government. The park will be Universal's first in the UK and Europe, and has been confirmed to open in 2031. Alongside the theme park, which is expected to live up to its existing parks in Orlando and Pacific Asia, it will also host a 500-room hotel and a retail, dining, and entertainment complex.





Caribbean Showcase

Welcome to our

Tuesday 8th April, The Queen at Chester Hotel

resortmarketing

















Caribbean Showcase

A TASTE of the Caribbean was brought to Chester last week as agents were joined by Jetset, Hyatt Inclusive Collection, Sandals Resorts, Pure Grenada, the British Virgin Islands, and Resort Marketing to learn more about the bucket-list destination.

The prize winners took home a series of impressive prizes, including gift sets, travel youchers and more!









Visit Orlando showcases the other side of Orlando

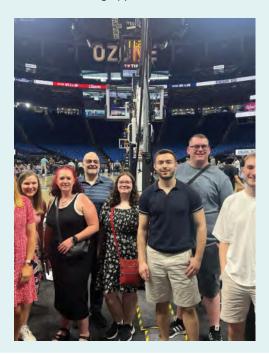
VISIT ORLANDO hoped to showcase what the city has to offer beyond its iconic theme parks on a fam trip with reps from Barrhead, Budget Travel, Inteletravel, Luxe Holidays, Magic Breaks, Ocean Holidays, TUI, Travel Counsellors and Virgin Holidays.

British Airways joined the 'Orlando Uncovered' trip to celebrate 40 years of its first flight to Orlando from London.

The hidden gems beyond Orlando's theme park bubble on show included an Orlando Magic NBA game at the Kia Centre and a behind-the-scenes tour at the Cirque de Soleil *Drawn to Life* show, which is currently running at the Disney-adjacent entertainment and dining complex, Disney Springs.

Agents also took part in a 15-partner marketplace event, helping showcase

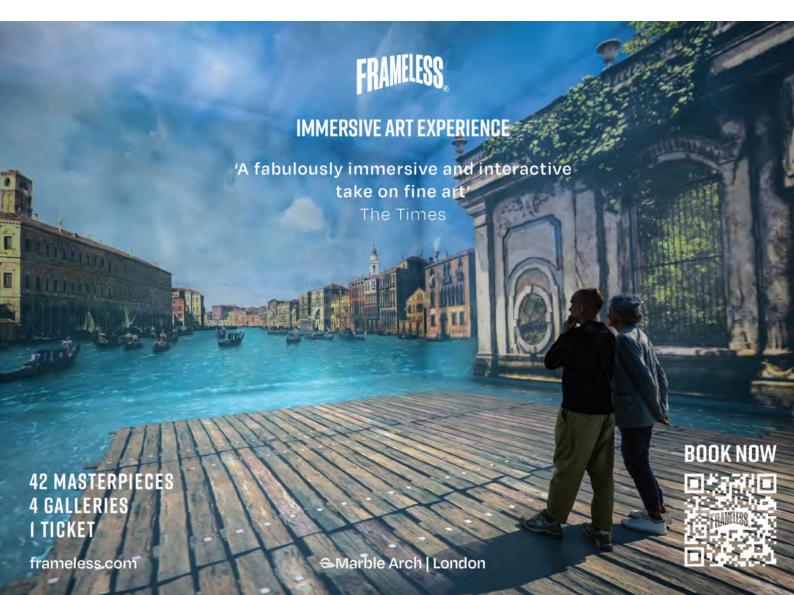
Orlando's earning opportunities.





Emirates attraction perks now year-round

FOR THE first time, the My
Emirates Pass, which allows
Emirates flyers to unlock over
600 offers including discounted
attractions, is now available
year-round. Guests can unlock
the offers by showing their
boarding passes at participating
yenues. www.emirates.com



From Durham to Neolithic Britain: the UK's time-travelling theme park

THE UK is firmly putting its hat in the ring when it comes to destinations offering visitors a holiday jam-packed with adventure as the creators of *Kynren – An Epic Tale of England* have announced a new historical theme park ready to bring the adventure to the North.

Set to open by summer 2026 in County Durham, *Kynren – The Storied Lands* will offer visitors an immersive journey steeped with exploration and connection to the past as the park transports visitors through history, myths and legends with live performances and experiences.

Visitors will be transported back to Neolithic Britain and have the chance to witness Viking battles before moving through gaslit Victorian streets and ending the day with the park's biggest show – Fina, an epic spectacle of medieval battles and daring stunts.

Anna Warnecke, CEO at Kynren, said, "This is a game-changer for us and for the UK visitor experience market [...] you won't just witness history –you'll live it, feel it, and be moved by it."





Welcome to the Okinawa Jungle

A NEW nature-immersive theme park is set to open in Okinawa, Japan this July, promising guests the chance to experience cutting-edge attractions and family-friendly entertainment in the heart of Yambaru Forest.

Junglia Okinawa's stand-out attractions will include a gas-balloon ride promising 360-degree views of the surrounding vistas; a dinosaur safari through the savannah; and a tree-top trekking adventure across the jungle's suspension bridge. Restaurants and a luxurious spa featuring infinity pools and natural hot springs will also be found onsite.

Have you ever won an award?

Jeanette Ratcliffe

Publisher

jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk I won a karaoke competition at a Manchester club singing Message In A Bottle.



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Sarah Terry Senior Account Manager

Senior Account Manager sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk



Tim Podger Account Manager - Far East

tim@travelbulletin.co.uk Longest ball throwing competition, show jumping, debating champion , the list is endless!



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Melissa Fox Events Coordinator

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Holly Brown
Events Coordinator
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Leah Kelly
Acting Deputy Editor
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Lwas awarded 'I ittle Miss

I was awarded 'Little Miss Organised' on the last day of school



Areti Sarafidou Events Coordinator

areti.sarafidou@travelbulletin.co.uk I have won dance competitions and a good samaritan award!



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CIRCULATION

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INVITES YOU TO OUR

LUXURY HOLIDAYS SHOWCASES

AGENT NETWORKING EVENING

Monday 19th May 2025 Lancaster

Tuesday 20th May 2025 Manchester

Wednesday 21st May 2025 Sheffield

TIMINGS

5:45PM - Registration

6:10PM - Travel Bulletin Welcome

6:15PM - Client Presentations

7:30PM - Hot Dinner

8:30PM - Client Presentations

9:10PM - Product Quiz & Prizes

9:30PM - Event Ends





Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to our informative and fun events, enabling you to learn more about the luxury holidays industry from leading luxury suppliers. All three evenings will involve networking and presentations along with a delicious hot dinner, drinks, exciting entertainment and a free prize draw with prizes galore!

FEATURING:





Expedia TAAP









vinccihoteles







To confirm your place at one of these amazing events, email the name, company and contact details by Thursday 15th May 2025 to: events@travelbulletin.co.uk or Telephone: 020 7973 0136

THESE EVENTS ARE BY INVITATION ONLY

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





Discover the Austrian Tirol in Summer

Think Tirol is just for winter and skiing? Think again.

Once the cold of winter is gone, the Austrian Tirol transforms into an idyllic summer paradise full of rolling green hills, crystal clear lakes, stunning mountain peaks and almost limitless possibilities for outdoor pursuits. Conquer a mountain or take a dip in a lake before indulging in local delights at the closest mountain hut. No matter if your client is a family with young children, an active couple or a solo traveller – Tirol offers something for everyone in the summer.

This webinar is your gateway to gaining in-depth knowledge on Alpine summer holidays in Tirol, enabling you to offer your clients a unique and immersive travel experience. Discover the top resorts, main attractions, hidden gems and insider tips that will set you apart as a trusted advisor for travellers seeking an active holiday in nature.

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your expertise on Tirol in the summer and have the chance to win an Austria backpack filled with Tirolean summer holiday essentials.



Webinar Welcome from your Travel Bulletin Host: **2**PM

Presentations and Q&A sessions: 2:05^{PM}

Competition
Announcement:
2:35^{PM}

Webinar Ends: 2:45PM

Features:

TIMINGS:



REGISTER HERE