

Travel bulletin

Giving agents the edge

Star AWARDS 2023

travel bulletin

A sneak preview of our star-studded Awards evening as nominations open!

MORE IN...

Agent Bulletin

Cash in with incentives and training Pg. 7

Malta

Clients in the mood for Malta or desperate to go to Gozo? Our top picks

Pg. 19

Theme Parks & Attractions

Thrills and spills across the globe Pg. 25



Agent Insight

Hays Travel's Donna Grasby on her Fiji fam and go-to Malta maestro (Pg. 8)

Travel **bulletin**
SHOWCASES
INVITES YOU TO A

FAMILY HOLIDAYS SHOWCASE

AGENT NETWORKING EVENING

TUESDAY 9TH MAY & WEDNESDAY 10TH MAY
READING & STRATFORD UPON AVON

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to our Family Holidays Showcase! This is a fun filled evening dedicated to providing you with more knowledge about the diverse range of destinations, family friendly resorts and hotels, fantastic facilities and exciting itineraries available. Look forward to engaging professional networking groups, hot meal and drinks, enjoying the entertainment and being in with a chance to win some truly incredible prizes in our free prize draw!

TIMINGS

Registration	Travel Bulletin Welcome	Client Presentations	Hot Dinner	Client Presentations	Product Quiz & Free Prize Draw
6:00 ^{PM}	6:25 ^{PM}	6:30 ^{PM}	7:30 ^{PM}	8:15 ^{PM}	9:15 - 9.30 ^{PM}

To confirm your place at one of these amazing events, email the name, company and contact details by Wednesday 3rd May to: events@travelbulletin.co.uk or Telephone: 020 7973 0136

LOUIS HOTELS



Inclusive
COLLECTION

DAYTONA BEACH.



THESE EVENTS ARE BY INVITATION ONLY
and will be booked on a first come first served basis with limited space available.

THIS WEEK



04
NEWS
The latest and greatest from across the travel sector.



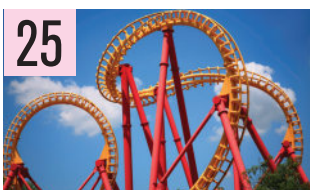
09
PUZZLE BULLETIN
Play to win a £20 M&S voucher



13
STAR AWARDS
The star-studded celebration returns for 2023!



19
MALTA
Heritage, heart and hospitality awaits travellers in this Mediterranean hotspot.



25
THEME PARKS
Experience the best thrills and spills from across the globe.



HERE WE GO AGAIN

The travel bug is well and truly back as research discovers that 54% of Brits are planning three or more holidays this year.

THERE IS a change on the horizon as a study conducted by American Express Travel has found that Millennials and Gen-Zers are shaking up traditional travel habits.

American Express Travel's 2023 Global Travel Trends Report showed that 54% of those surveyed are planning to take multiple holidays in 2023, ranging from international (72%), staycations (30%) and boating holidays (4%).

As the seasons make way for warmer weather, 41% of respondents said they are looking to embark on more than one holiday this year, with Gen-Z leading the charge (54%), followed by Millennials (43%), Baby Boomers (38%) and Gen-X (36%).

Craig Barclay, vice president at American Express, said: "Our research shows that holiday bookings continue to be a priority for many Brits, and this is particularly pronounced among Gen-Z and Millennials."

Generational divides are also becoming apparent in the ways in which we travel.

Whilst the Baby Boomer generation are more likely to travel for 10 days or longer, Gen-Z are more inclined to spend one to three days in any one place before moving onto the next.

The opportunity to show off holiday pictures on social media has become a huge catalyst for destination choice, with more than one third (34%) of Brits admitting to wanting to travel to a place that they can boast about on their socials, with that number increasing to 51% among Gen-Z.

Even though the differences in the way the generations travel are becoming more prominent, one aspect that remains the same is that we are still creatures of habit, with 89% of respondents saying that they wish to keep an element of routine within their holiday plans, no matter the destination. Activities like adhering to a set nighttime/morning routine (22%) or planning meals (31%) are still popular among British tourists.



Traversing Corsica for £100 less

CORSICAN PLACES is offering a £100 per person discount on a selection of walking holidays taking place in the La Balagne region and the popular town of Calvi, Corsica.

Eligible for bookings made by April 30, 2023, the selection of tours include the Villages of La Balagne itinerary, a leisure walking experience which will take visitors from the coastal villages to the seaside

town of L'Île Rousse. The seven night package is priced at £1,791 per person.

Another option is the Sea and Mountains tour, a challenging terrain which showcases a diverse selection of landscapes before blending the high-peak mountains with the coastal scenery of Calvi. The seven-night tour starts at £1,819 per person.

www.corsica.co.uk



Amadeus and Harmony face the music

AMADEUS RIVER Cruises has partnered with Harmony Voyages to offer a series of exclusive music cruises on the Rhine and the Rhone, featuring acts such as Fairport Convention, Paul Carrack, Richard Thompson and The Bootleg Beatles. Guests can

enjoy the scenic rivers and the music of the musicians up close.

Cruise prices start from £1,899pp, with departures from June 9 to June 22. Prices include the cruise with all meals, drinks, and more.

www.harmonyvoyages.co.uk

METT Resorts heads to the Costa del Sol this summer

SUNSET HOSPITALITY Group (SHG) has revealed the details of its highly anticipated second lifestyle hotel, METT Hotel & Beach Resort Marbella, following the success of the first METT Resort in Bodrum.

Due to open in July 2023, the five-star luxury hotel features 249 stylish guest rooms and suites with uninterrupted views of the Mediterranean Sea ready to host travellers as they enrich themselves in the stunning natural environment.

Antonio Gonzalez, CEO of SHG, said: "We are thrilled to bring the METT brand to the Costa del Sol. It is an amazing location and fits perfectly with the ethos of our brand. We are looking forward to welcoming guests and continuing to spread the METT spirit."

www.mettsocialliving.com/marbella



unlock
FREE DAYS
15 Apr – 14 May 23

Relaxed travel along the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland.



The Grand Train Tour of Switzerland merges all panoramic lines into one breath taking route. Year-round, this train ride of 1,280 kilometres leads from the most charming Swiss cities to Alpine hotspots through UNESCO World Heritage properties and past world-famous sights and landmarks.

Guests can either design their unique itinerary or follow one of the ready-made tours. The "Top Attractions Tour" consists of a five-day trip that leads travellers to some of Switzerland's hottest attractions. <https://trade.switzerlandtravelcentre.ch/en>

SWISS TRAVEL PASS OFFER



- + Switzerland has so much to offer. And with our upcoming Swiss Travel Pass offer, your clients get to see and experience even more
- + Stay longer and discover Switzerland's most stunning places along the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland
- + Limited Offer: Get up to two free travel days. During the promotion period from 15 April until 14 May 2023, your customers can get up to two additional travel days when buying an eligible Swiss Travel Pass. Free of charge!
- + An irresistible offer that comes with a major benefit: more time to see Switzerland's most picturesque places along the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland

EXCELLENCE PROGRAM



- + Want to deepen your knowledge about the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland? Then you should check out the Swiss Travel System Excellence Program, which was designed for industry professionals like you in mind
- + A dedicated course about the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland covers everything you ever wanted to know about what is arguably the world's top train experience, plus a wealth of information about the Swiss Travel System
- + Log-in or sign up today and become a certified Swiss Travel System Excellence Expert at <https://elearning.mystsnet.com/>

NEW SALES MANUAL



- + International overnight connections, GoldenPass Express information, and insights about Glacier 3000: the latest Swiss Travel System Sales Manual 2023 is filled to the brink
- + The 2023 edition is available as a digital version only. Learn about the 2023 ticket portfolio, train connections from neighbouring countries, or available luggage services
- + <https://www.mystsnet.com/en/services/sales-manuals/>

To book, order brochures or talk anything Switzerland

CALL: 020 7420 4900

sales@stc.co.uk

switzerlandtravelcentre.com

Ecuador reveals UK expansion strategy

ECUADOR HAS revealed a new strategy to promote European tourism, with a particular focus on increasing UK visitors.

As part of the strategy, Ecuador will position itself as a sustainable tourism destination, emphasising its diverse nature and adventure opportunities, gastronomy, culture, rural and community-based tourism offering.



The tourist board is keen to work with agents and tour operators to increase sales to the destination and generate more visibility to local businesses.

As of February 2023, Ecuador has recuperated 84% of its international connections with Europe, compared to March 2020.

Ecuador's minister of tourism, Neils Olsen, said: "Ecuador is ready and raring to meet this (post-pandemic) demand, which is why we're delighted to be launching this new strategy in the European market. Whilst positioning ourselves as a sustainable tourism destination, our aim is to attract more conscious British travellers who want to travel in a slower and more mindful way, and immerse themselves in our unique culture, heritage and outdoor activities."



NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS has launched a musical odyssey exploring the locations that inspired two worldwide greats, Elvis Presley and Dolly Parton. The 'Ultimate Elvis Presley and Dolly Parton Experience' is available from May to November 2024 at £2,124pp including a 5% discount for bookings made before May 2.

<https://www.newmarketholidays.co.uk/holidays/north-america/the-ultimate-elvis-presley-and-dolly-parton-experience>

Live like John Wick in Hard Rock Tenerife

HARD ROCK International has announced a partnership with Lionsgate, the movie and television studio behind the legendary hitman thriller franchise, John Wick, to celebrate the fourth installment in the series: John Wick: Chapter 4.

To celebrate, Hard Rock Hotel Tenerife is giving fans a taste of the luxurious Continental Hotel with exclusive culinary and beverage offerings that lean into the travel

themes, cocktails and cuisine featured in the John Wick franchise.

Fans of the franchise can delight in tasting and reminiscing over their favourite parts of the film in The 16th Sky Bar until April 30, displaying a series of 'killer' cocktails such as the '3 MEN 1 PENCIL' cocktail featuring Jim Beam Bourbon, Kahlua Liquor and Orange Bitter.

www.hardrockhotels.com/tenerife

Become a legend of the Silk Road with Wendy Wu

WENDY WU Tours is giving travellers the chance to follow in explorers' footsteps with a selection of tours dedicated to the Silk Road.

The Silk Road Explorer tour offers travellers an immersive experience where they can tread the same path Ghengis Khan and Marco Polo once stood, beginning in Xian and venturing across vast landscapes to reach the outpost in Kashgar, completing the journey of one of the world's most famous trading routes.

Prices for the 27-day tour start at £5,040 per person.

www.wendywutours.co.uk



Spring has come to Ambassador

AMBASSADOR CRUISE Line has launched a range of dedicated spring offers, valid for new bookings made up to and including May 17, 2023.

Campaign offers for the 2023/24 season include up to 59% off sailings, free port parking and more.

www.ambassadorcruiseline.com

AGENT INCENTIVES

- **JUST GO!** Holidays is offering agents the chance to earn a £50 Love2shop voucher with each A-ROSA river cruise booking. The first 20 agents booking this month will automatically earn the voucher.
www.justgoholidays.com/agents
- **AGENTS WILL** earn a £10 Lifestyle voucher with every new booking made in April through Titan Travel's contact centre, doubled to £20 for every new online booking. Hayley Morris, head of Trade Sales, explained: "With no need to claim, agents can focus on selling Titan holidays knowing each new booking will result in the Lifestyle vouchers sent directly to them. Happy booking!"
www.titantravel.co.uk
- **OLYMPIC HOLIDAYS'** Easter 'Eggstravaganza' sees the extension of its Love2shop voucher incentive until April 30, 2023. Claims must be made by May 5, 2023.
www.olympicholidays.com
- **SANDALS'** 'FALL for Dunn's River' incentive continues throughout April, offering a £25 voucher with each new booking to the Ocho Rios property, opening on May 24, 2023. The incentive can be earned by registering bookings with local Sandals business development managers by April 30, 2023.
www.sandals.co.uk/tas
- **THE JG Travel Group** is set to launch a new Agents Club, recognising the group's top-selling agents and rewarding them with extra benefits and incentives. Personalised monthly roundups will detail sales figures, product news and key information, with exclusive access to incentives, competitions, free tickets and fam trips.
www.justgoholidays.com/agents
www.nationalholidays.com/agents
www.omegabreaks.com/agents



MALAYSIA AIRLINES hosted a mega fam trip with a number of trade partners. Agents joined the airline for two seven-day itineraries, highlighting the unique features of Kuala Lumpur, Sabah, Langkawi and Penang. Daniel Bainbridge, the airline's regional director for the UK & Europe, explained: "The travel trade remains an important distribution channel... we are delighted that our team in conjunction with various partners were able to put together two amazing itineraries to showcase the best of Malaysia to our valued trade partners."

Travel **bulletin**

WEBINAR

Join Travel Bulletin for our Family Holidays webinar, with suppliers Malta Tourism Authority, Fort Myers, Daytona Beach, Central Florida, Delphina Hotels, Bahia Principe and Meliá on April 27!

Register at
www.travelbulletin.co.uk/webinar



AGENT TRAINING

- **AGENTS WHO** complete New Smyrna Beach Area Visitors Bureau's training course throughout April or May can earn a £50 High Street voucher each month. Agents will come away with an in-depth understanding of the destination and insider selling types.
www.tourismgivesback.com/course/travel-agents/
- **CLIA HAS** bolstered its trade support with a number of website enhancements. An online 'booking guidelines' page details how agents can get involved with cruise lines to become authorised sellers, with other pages outlining online training opportunities, a compilation of the latest fam trip, ship visit and networking opportunities, a sustainability toolkit with reports, statistics and posters, and more.
www.cruising.org
- **THE MALTA** Training Programme offers the chance to win a £50 Amazon voucher or Maltese gastronomy goodie bag each month. The more courses agents take, the more entries to the giveaway they earn.
www.malta-training.com
- **APT & TRAVELMARVEL** have hit the road for a series of homeworker coffee mornings. Becky Baumbach, business development manager for homeworkers, is joining agents for an informal chat and more details about upcoming fam trips and trade incentives. Homeworkers will receive a free goodie bag and be in with a chance of winning a prize. Becky will be joining agents at Novotel Southampton (April 25), Crowne Plaza Manchester City Centre (April 26), Holiday Inn Colchester (April 27), Holiday Inn Express City Centre Newcastle (May 3) and Doubletree by Hilton Glasgow Central (May 4). Homeworkers can sign up by emailing agentclub@aptouring.co.uk with preferred dates – places are limited.
www.aptagentclub.co.uk



AGENT INSIGHT

DONNA GRASBY

HAYS TRAVEL

WELL GUYS, peaks is over, hope you're still standing, what a crazy time that was!

Last month for me was nuts, after being whisked away in style on a fam trip with Fiji Tourism, British Airways and Outrigger, I stayed on Castaway Island and the Outrigger on the Coral Coast with amazing staff that became like family. Although it was Cyclone season, we managed to squeeze in a village visit, a cultural Kava Ceremony, Sigatoka River Safari and a Fire Walking show. I even joined their fab Kids' Club (I don't think I will ever grow up!) and made my very own coconut palm leaf bag. I wouldn't change a thing: experiencing a cyclone, lush island forest walks and morning yoga and meditation from my Bure nestled on the beach front, meeting some wonderful agents and those happy hour cocktails. Fiji has made a fan of me for life.

You will see the Malta & Gozo feature in this issue: I have to mention Peter Green from Visit Malta, my go-to person for all things Malta. He has so much information at his fingertips about what's happening and things to do. Make sure you are a part of the Visit Malta UK & Ireland Trade Group; you can also catch him at the *Travel Bulletin* events around the country. The Annual Malta Academy has just been increased to 50 agents and they run regular competitions – joining it will be well worth your time. It's a destination filled with culture and history, and it's hard to believe that it is only a three-and-a-half hour flight from the UK – it boast 3,000 hours of sunshine per year for our sun-loving customers. There are always new hotels, restaurants and festivals, making Malta a great all-rounder.

Enjoy your read and hope the success of peaks flows throughout the year for all!



Princess Cruises sails to 2024 for historic total eclipse

CRUISE CLIENTS aboard Emerald Princess when it sails the Mexican Riviera in April 2024 will have the rare opportunity to witness the last visible total solar eclipse in North America until 2024.

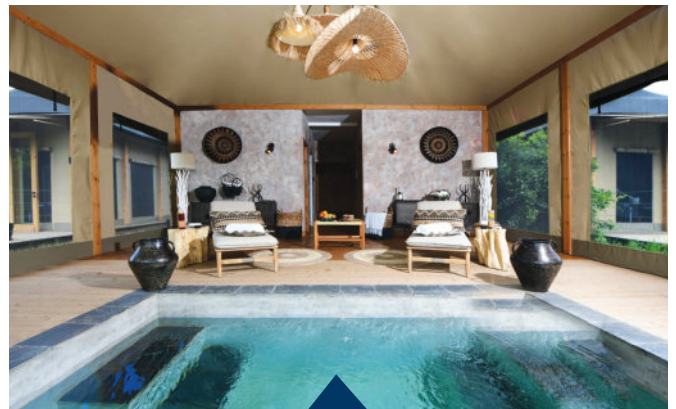
Princess Cruises has adjusted its 15-day Panama Canal cruise aboard the ship, after selling out the Discovery Princess '10-Day Mexican Riviera Cruise with Total Solar Eclipse' itinerary.

Guests will gather on the top decks and be equipped with special glasses to safely view the eclipse, under the guidance of on-board space exploration enthusiast Fred Cink.

www.princess.com

News Bites

- TRAVEL COUNSELLORS has reported a record breaking booking and sales period, with numbers reaching £90.1 million over the last 14 months, boasting a 22% increase on last year's figures.
- MSC'S FIRST LNG powered ship, the MSC World Europa, has set sail for the Mediterranean for its inaugural summer season.
- AER LINGUS has increased its seat capacity on its daily Manchester to New York service by 72% for the summer season.



JW MARRIOTT is set to enter the luxury safari market with the opening of the JW Marriott Masai Mara Lodge. The lodge's positioning makes it ideal to observe the 'Big Five' on game drives across the Masai Mara, and will be home to an Adventure Lounge, Cultural Deck, Spa by JW and more. Bookings are now open with prices from £1,166 per night on an all-inclusive basis. www.marriottbonvoy.com

SUDOKU

WIN A £20 M&S VOUCHER IN THE *Travel* bulletin SUDOKU PRIZE PUZZLE

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

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

Closing date for entries is Thursday, May 4. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

The winner for April 7 is Katharine Feely, The Holiday Village

April 7 Solution: A=8, B=6, C=7, D=3

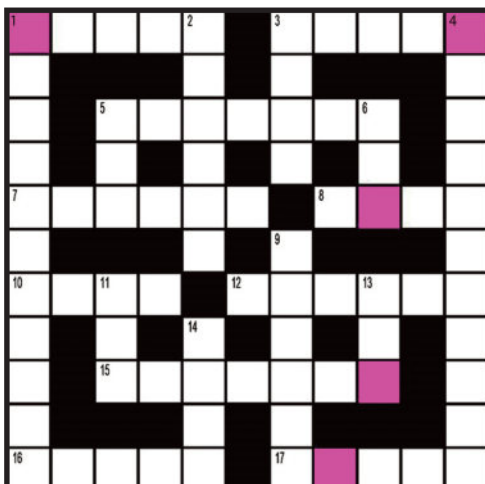
A	5	1		6			4	3
			8	2		9	6	1
		9						8
B	2	3			7			
				9				
C			3				5	2
	1					7		
	3	9	4		7	1		
D	7	5			3		2	9



WHERE AM I?

This Maltese town is the island's nightlife hotspot. It was once a small fisherman's town, and is now home to a shopping complex, marina and casino.

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



Across

- 1 Harrow based operator specialising in luxury travel (5)
- 3 A new holiday trend, ___ Tourism, ideal for insomniacs (5)
- 5 Luxury all-inclusive resorts operator with HQ in Paris (4,3)
- 7 Shakespearean character who was the Prince of Denmark (6)
- 8 Californian desert resort, ___ Springs (4)
- 10 Capital of the Algarve (4)
- 12 Glasgow based football club (6)
- 15 Bruno ___ the new judge on Britain's Got Talent (7)
- 16 P&O cruise ship (5)
- 17 Venezuela Falls (5)

Down

- 1 The new I'm A Celebrity spinoff has moved from Australia to this country (5,6)
- 2 Famous National Park located in 1 Down (6)
- 3 The culture and people of Northern Scandinavia (4)
- 4 Waterway linking the Atlantic with the Pacific (6,5)
- 5 Take a punt on this Cambridge river (3)
- 6 Douala (Cameroon) international airport code (3)
- 9 Historic Northern Italian city with an Arena older than the Colosseum (6)
- 11 Rotorua airport code (3)
- 13 One of the world's leading tourism groups (3)
- 14 First name of the British governess who was the inspiration for the musical, The King and I (4)

CROSSWORD

Mystery Word: SPAIN, Where Am I?: ST JULIAN'S
 Down: 1 SOUTH AFRICA, 2 KRUGER, 3 SAMI, 4 PANAMA CANAL, 5 CAM, 6 DLA, 9 VERONA, 11 ROT, 13 TUI, 14 ANNA.
 Across: 1 SOMAK, 3 STEEP, 5 CLUB MED, 7 HAWLET, 8 PALM, 10 FARO, 12 CELTIC, 15 TONIOLI, 16 AZURA, 17 ANGEL.



INGHAMS WALKING



Introducing Inghams Walking.
Walking holidays done differently.
Perfect for guests who want to wave goodbye to set itineraries and say hello to the flexibility to do whatever they feel like. Your guests can stroll, hike or stride around the most beautiful parts of Europe, whilst still enjoying everything else they love to do on holiday.

TOOLS AVAILABLE FOR AGENTS

AGENT PORTAL BOOKABLE WEBSITE

agents.inghams.co.uk

Manage my booking – download and print invoices and ATOL certificates.

Add customer API and holiday extras.

AGENT TOOLKIT

Images & videos on social media.

Inspirational posters.

Product & information guides to help sell.

YOUR CUSTOMERS BOOKINGS ARE IN SAFE HANDS WITH US

We've been helping customers explore the great outdoors for over 85 years

ABTA & ATOL PROTECTION

With these government backed schemes, your customers money is protected.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

e-mail agency.sales@hotelplan.co.uk or visit agents.inghams.co.uk

To book a training, call or virtual presentation you can contact our BDM team directly.

Sasha Darling (<https://calendly.com/sasha-darling-hotelplan-bdm>)

Laura Harrison (<https://calendly.com/laura-harrison-hotelplan-bdm>)



FOR THE OUTDOOR LOVERS

We'll take care of it all - from getting there and a place to stay, to sharing the inside track on our favourite walks. This is your guests holiday, so they can walk it their way.



DEPOSIT

Your customers can book their holiday with a deposit of just £150pp. Final balances are due 10 weeks before departure.

FEE FREE FLEXIBILITY*

Your customers have the flexibility to move their holiday to a later date up until the point that their final balance is due.

*Please note this excludes bookings with scheduled flights

(Pre-booking is essential, and terms and conditions apply. Please see <https://www.ingham.co.uk/summer-holidays/guided-walks> for more information)

Inghams Walking
For Travel Agents



Inghams
Trade Sales



ABTA
Travel with confidence

Jules Verne celebrates 100 days of trade

CELEBRATING 100 days since the company debuted to the trade, Travel Bulletin spoke with the operator's own general manager, Debbie O'Neill, and business development and communications manager, Abbey Renshaw, about the



joys of working with the trade and the importance of the agents they have brought on board.

"I stepped into this role a year ago and I knew I wanted change in the business, and I was really clear on a number of things: one being that I wanted us to make our product available to the trade," said O'Neill.

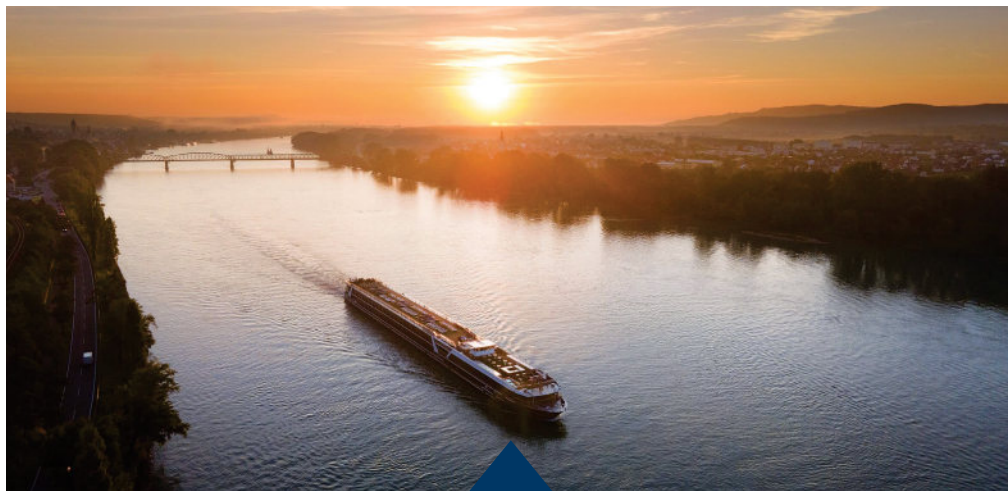
"We have a fantastic product – why are we marketing it solely to direct consumers? We were missing out on that big part of the market and the consumers that will only book through a travel agent, especially post-Covid-19," added Renshaw.

"I think we were a very well-kept secret, and 100 days ago, we said, 'Well, let's let the secret out!'"

Trade bookings already comprise 16% of Jules Verne's business this year.

To read the full interview, head over to the Travel Bulletin website:

www.travelbulletin.co.uk



APT & Travelmarvel has announced its Time to Travel sale, offering up to 50% off select 2023 departures if booked before June 30, 2023. The sale dates encompass the May day bank holidays, the King's Coronation and the peak of the summer season, all of which are among this year's most in-demand travel windows. The sale aims to stimulate bookings and ensure the company's agent partners are equipped to drive business over the period.

Atrium announces significant enhancements to Rhodes' properties

ATRIUM HOTELS Group in Rhodes has announced significant changes to the 2023 Atrium experience for guests, including room renovations, new food and beverage outlets and carefully crafted menus at all three of its luxury hotels on the Greek Island.

In addition, the Premium All-Inclusive concept has been upgraded with unlimited visits available in all à la carte and gourmet restaurants, as well as an exclusive Atrium

Dine Around option where guests can dine in all restaurants and use all the facilities at all three Atrium resorts for no extra charge.

Atrium has also created a branded app where guests can live chat with the concierge, among other services, and has enhanced its activities, sports, and experiences for kids and families staying within the resorts with its upcoming collaboration with Worldwide Kids. www.atriumhospitality.com

Sunlife's sustainability succession

SUNLIFE IS pioneering sustainable tourism in Mauritius as the hotel brand has committed itself to provide impact-driven tourism experiences to ensure the island is looking after its tourism offerings.

In the lead up to Earth Day, Sunlife is proactively developing its responsible and inclusive sustainability experiences across its four luxury hotels in Mauritius. Practices include a coral farming programme at La Pirogue Marine Centre, a twice-weekly Endemic Nature Trail at Long Beach, the Adopt a Mangrove initiative across all resorts, eco-lodges at Ile Aux Cerf, and a Bee Alive Kids scheme across all resorts.

www.yoursunlife.com



Star Clippers adds yoga experience

STAR CLIPPERS has announced new yoga-themed sailings for summer 2023, where guests can take part in daily yoga classes with professional instructors on board eight sailings from April to October, 2023.

www.starclippers.co.uk

STAR AWARDS SHINE IN 2023

Travel Bulletin's 25-year-strong awards evening is back at the ballroom of the Hilton London Bankside for 2023, with new star-studded categories announced and tickets on sale now.



Dates for the Diary

April 21: Nominations open

May 12: Nominations close

May 19: Finalists are announced in Travel Bulletin and online as the final round of voting opens

June 16: Voting closes

October 30: The glittering Star Awards presentation evening at the Hilton London Bankside

November 17: The Travel Bulletin Star Awards Souvenir Issue is published

THE STAR Awards are making a shining return this year. Due to popular demand, the glitz and glamour will return to the Hilton London Bankside on

October 30, 2023, yet again combining star-studded spectacle with a spooky twist as we recognise the shining Stars of the travel industry.

Introducing a Special Award for 2023

TRAVEL BULLETIN is delighted to introduce a new award, the Star Sustainability Initiative. This unique award celebrates the strides made by the industry to reduce carbon emissions, adopt sustainable practices and make travel more eco-friendly; you can nominate your preferred destinations, hotels and organisations or you can email your own initiative for consideration to: jeanette@travelbulletin.co.uk. A more detailed questionnaire will be sent to the nominees with the finalists being judged by a panel of environmental experts.



This year's voting system works as follows:

Phase One: Nominations

READERS ARE invited to nominate the Stars of 2023 in 33 supplier and agent categories between April 21 and May 12, 2023. Submissions will be counted and the companies with the most nominations in each category will be announced as finalists.

Agents will decide which suppliers have shone the brightest over the last 12 months, providing the best service levels, product, commission opportunities, training, and support. Suppliers can nominate their favourites in the four agent categories.

The nominations for 2023 are in your hands: submit your shining selections now!



New Announcement

AFTER THE announcement of new-for-2023 Star Awards last month, agents and suppliers can now visit www.travelbulletin.co.uk/starawards/categories and start nominating their shining stars in each sector:

- Star Operators
- Stars of Land
- Star Destinations
- Stars in the Sky & at Sea
- Star Personalities
- Star Agencies

Along with four new categories celebrating the 'Team' efforts that keep the industry shining:

- Star Hotel Sales Team
- Star Tour Operator Sales Team
- Star Cruise Line Sales Team
- Star Tourist Office Team



Phase Two: Official Voting

THE FINALISTS will be published in May 19th edition of Travel Bulletin and promoted online as the final round of voting opens.

Voters will be offered a drop-down menu of finalists from which they can select their favourites. Voting closes on June 16,

2023, with the outright winners being announced at our glittering Star Awards evening on October 30.

Email jeanette@travelbulletin.co.uk for further information, including sponsorship opportunities and ticket sales.
www.travelbulletin.co.uk/starawards #TBStarAwards

Travel Bulletin is proud to present some of this year's STAR AWARDS SPONSORS

Riviera Travel

RIVIERA TRAVEL is the UK's leading escorted tour company with over 39 years of experience designing and operating exceptional and truly memorable holidays. We offer an inspirational collection of carefully crafted European and worldwide escorted tours across the globe.

Why do you feel it's important to support the Travel Bulletin Star Awards?

At Riviera Travel we believe that it is important to reflect on the achievements of the last year, especially in the travel agent category recognising the hard work put in by agents. We have always enjoyed working with Travel Bulletin and have a long history including supporting their agent roadshows allowing us to help train agents all over the country. Sponsoring these awards continues to show our long-term commitment to the trade and agent partners.



Gran Canaria

GRAN CANARIA is experiencing a real boom in travel, with a 30% increased capacity in comparison to 2019. The number of British tourists is constantly growing producing a continued increase in market share on the island, with around one million British tourists. This beautiful island offers stunning resorts with luxury hotels and excellent facilities, located on the long ocean front promenades by the golden sand beaches.

Why we like to celebrate the Star Awards?

Gran Canaria is proud to return as a Travel Bulletin Star Awards sponsor! We are absolutely delighted that the Star Awards continues to thrive after the pandemic and this is a perfect occasion to celebrate the unbelievably strong and prompt recovery of our industry.....it shows how vital travel is for British people!



Expedia TAAP

OVER THE last 15 years, Expedia TAAP has been helping travel agents fulfil bookings for their clients with impressive rates and last-minute availabilities. These include access to a world class booking platform with flexible self-service agent tools designed to provide travellers a seamless booking experience. To join Expedia TAAP, go to www.expediapartnersolutions.com/jointaap

Celebrating Travel & Travel Agents

Expedia TAAP is proud to once again be a sponsor of Travel Bulletin's Star Awards. We believe that travel is a force for good. With the Star Awards we would like to celebrate the efforts of travel agents in helping create memorable travel experiences for their clients around the world.



Celestyal Cruises

CELESTYAL ARE the award-winning cruise line to Greece and the Eastern Mediterrean.

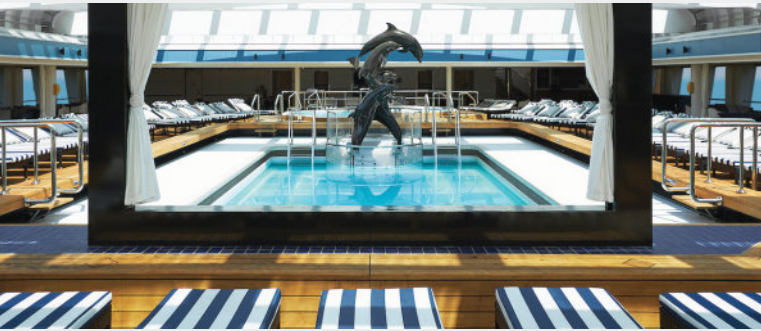
This year for the first time, we are sponsoring the Travel Bulletin Star Awards as we have many 'firsts' for 2023 and 2024! We have our new ship, the Celestyal Journey, which sails from

September 2nd this year, and we have also recently launched Celestyal Holidays, a dedicated trade packaging solution offering unbeatable flight-inclusive packages and generous rates of commission. Exclusively for the UK trade, Celestyal Holidays provides travel agents with a fantastic

opportunity to create tailor-made packages with regional flights, pre- and post-cruise stays and any Celestyal itinerary they choose, all wrapped up in one simple booking which is fully ATOL protected.

For 2024 we have several new destinations and itineraries including our 'Legendary' itineraries, Legendary Aegean and Legendary Ionian - 4 and 5-night cruises which feature exciting new destinations enabling guests to explore more of the Aegean Sea. Guests will have the chance to visit some of the most

beautiful, historic and picturesque ports of call in Greece, Turkey, and the Greek Islands. Authentic Greek hospitality is in Celestyal's DNA and guests experience the culture first-hand with a variety of onboard entertainment and activities. Explore ancient ruins, indulge in delicious cuisine, and navigate through crystal clear seas and stunning coastlines on this incredible journey. *Lee Haslett, our Chief Commercial Officer, will be on hand during the Awards to chat about all things Celestyal.*



Jetset

JETSET HAVE been involved with our friends at Travel Bulletin and the Star Awards for what seems like years. It is a relationship that has stood the test of time, Covid-19 and the changing landscape of the industry. The relationship is built on respect, understanding and the sharing of common values.

Travel Bulletin are a vital part of the UK travel industry bringing an independent, unbiased angle to their reports and features. Jetset in similar style look to bring an independent and unbiased approach to

everything that we are looking to do to support the trade. In our 5 decades of trading we have built fantastic relationships with travel agents across the whole of the UK and know that our 55th year will see us further enhance the great belief that relationships are one of the few things that get better with age!

At the start of the year agents were given a unique tool for booking villa packages with our HomefromHome, in February we pioneered a unique development to help combat fraud and the

Security PIN function has proved immensely successful in its objective and now has almost total take up with the trade. Eurostar pulled onto the booking platform in May; enabling agents to book standalone Eurostar and packages to France,

Belgium and The Netherlands.

We may be 55 years young but we are still going strong and we hope delivering just what our agency friends need to succeed...it's what friends are for!

www.jetsetflights.co.uk





NOMINATION FORM 2023

The Travel Bulletin Star Awards nominations are open.

If you are a travel agent please nominate your favourite suppliers in the first 5 Awards sectors. Suppliers, please nominate those agents that support you the most in the Star Agencies sector.

All Travel Bulletin readers can nominate in this year's special award, Star Sustainability Initiative.

STAR OPERATORS

Star Long Haul Operator

Star Short Haul Operator

Star Family Holidays Operator

Star Escorted Tours Operator

Star Luxury Operator

Star Holiday Add-Ons Operator

STAR DESTINATIONS

Star Family Holidays Destination

Star Escorted Tours Destination

Star Winter Sun Destination

Star LGBTQ+ Destination

Star Luxury Destination

Star All-Round Destination

STAR PERSONALITIES

Star PR & Representation Company

Star Hotel Sales Team

Star Tour Operator Sales Team

Star Cruise Sales Team

Star Tourist Office Team

STARS OF LAND

Star Worldwide Attraction

Star Car Rental Company

Star Accommodation-Only Provider

Star Resort & Hotel Chain

Star Luxury Hotel Brand

Star Rail Operator

STARS IN THE SKY & AT SEA

Star Airline

Star Flight Only Specialist

Star UK Airport

Star River Cruise Company

Star Ocean Cruise Company

STAR AGENCIES

Star Travel Agency Group - Small

Star Travel Agency Group - Medium

Star Travel Agency Group - Large

Star Homeworking Group

SPECIAL STAR AWARD 2023

Star Sustainability Initiative

THANK YOU FOR MAKING YOUR SELECTIONS!

NOW COMPLETE YOUR DETAILS AND RETURN THIS FORM TO
 Travel Bulletin, University House, 11-13 Lower Grosvenor Place, London SW1W 0EX or email
 to jeanette@travelbulletin.co.uk. You can also nominate online at
www.travelbulletin.co.uk/starawards/voting.

Name:..... Job Title:.....

Company: Email:

Address: Tel:

..... ABTA No:

Jetset

WELCOME TO OUR HOME

James
VILLAS

&

3 new
destinations

Now part of our unique villa packaging tool



No. 1

For Creating
Dream
Packages

JETS powered by  TRAVELPORT

MARRIAGE IN MALTA

Olympic Holidays adds the Mediterranean island to its Weddings in the Sun brochure



OLYMPIC HOLIDAYS has introduced Malta to its recently launched Weddings in the Sun brochure. The Mediterranean island will join Cyprus and the Greek Islands of Rhodes, Santorini and Zante in showcasing the best destinations to tie the knot with a tan.

On the launch of the new brochure, Olympic Holidays managing director, Michael Vinales, said: "We're incredibly proud of our new Weddings in the Sun

brochure. Not only is it packed full of ideas and inspiration for couples who are looking to head abroad to celebrate their nuptials, but this year we've incorporated real life wedding photography from past Olympic guests giving the brochure a much more personal feel.

"There is also the addition of Malta, a destination we believe is set to become as popular as Cyprus and Greece for weddings. Malta has a fascinatingly rich culture and whether you're looking for a hotel style venue with five-star service and views, a more rustic vineyard location set in secluded countryside or a private beach – there really is something for everyone."

The four Maltese venues that are ready to host the happy couples

include the five-star Water's Edge, with incredible views over St Julian's Bay; the authentic Mdina Views; the Wine Estates, which doubles up as a working vineyard; and Sandy Beach, which combines unique views of Malta, Gozo and Comino.

Whether guests are looking for a traditional ceremony, a sun-kissed civil service, a same-sex union or a vow renewal, Olympic Holidays will provide the right package for the occasion. The services provided include a registrar, a dedicated wedding co-ordinator and photographer, a vintage car to arrive in style and the complete set-up of the ceremony and reception, leaving guests only needing to say 'I do'. www.olympicholidays.com

Newmarket to celebrate Christmas in Malta

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS has launched its 2023 Festive Brochure featuring a Christmas in Malta experience.

The eight-day tour includes the chance to visit the cities of Vittoriosa, Cospicua and Senglea, a gala dinner on Christmas Eve, festive entertainment at the traveller's chosen hotel, a tour of Valetta, and the complete Malta Experience.

Prices start at £950 per person for seven nights' half-board at the four-star Dolmen Resort Hotel in Qawra, including flights, transfers and the services of a tour manager.

www.newmarketholidays.co.uk

Floriana is ready to be entertained

THE DJ is ready to rock as Robbie Williams is set to bring his European Tour to Malta at the Granaries in Floriana on August 24, 2023.

"We are optimistic that Robbie Williams in concert will be another event to be remembered in Malta's cultural and entertainment itinerary," said Tourism Minister Clayton Bartolo. www.visitmalta.com



Xara celebrates Michelin star



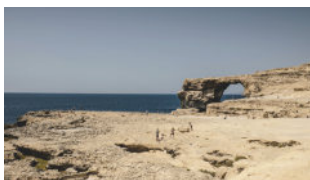
Classic agrees deal with Air Malta

CLASSIC PACKAGE Holidays has agreed a partnership with Air Malta.

The new deal means the operator will be offering flights with the carrier for the first time, allowing Classic to expand its portfolio and offer new UK regional routes to the Mediterranean island.

The operator currently works with 18 airlines across short, mid and long-haul destinations spanning across more than 30 UK airports.

www.classic-collection.co.uk



Jet2 to launch flights from Belfast to Malta

JET2 HAS announced plans to launch weekly flights from Belfast International Airport to Malta next year.

The service will operate on Thursdays from March 28 to October 31, 2024.

Visit Malta will be visiting agents in Northern Ireland to conduct training sessions this year and next to educate consultants about the Mediterranean island.

www.jet2.com

THE EXCLUSIVE Xara Palace hotel in the medieval fortified city of Mdina, the old capital of Malta, has retained its Michelin star for the fourth year running for its restaurant, de Mondion.

Executive chef Clint Grech commented: "Once again our team has shown that our passion, dedication, and creativity can be rewarded. I could not be prouder of my team, who have a hunger to keep building and improving themselves and a maniacal focus on detail. They are a pleasure to watch and the best team I could hope to work with."

Joining the Michelin Guide is The Xara Collection's latest culinary experience, Rosami, which is located in the heart of Balluta, in the historic building of The Villa.

Chef Cliff Borg stated: "We opened our doors just a few months ago and didn't expect in such a short time to be

recognised by the highest entity in the gastronomic scene. I would like to thank my sous chef Andrea Amore and my young team to be honoured with such a recognition."

Last month, The Xara Collection, a family-run Malta-based brand of hotels and restaurants, welcomed the new addition of the Medina restaurant, just off Mdina's main Cathedral Square, in one of the Silent City's typical winding alleys.

www.xaracollection.com



Andante Travels breathes life into prehistoric tour

ARCHAEOLOGY TOURS specialist Andante Travels has relaunched its Prehistoric Malta & Gozo tour, allowing travellers to experience the complex and colourful heritage the island boasts.

The seven-day itinerary is led by expert guide lecturer, Jeremy Bennett, who specialises in the history of Malta, particularly prehistory Malta.

The itinerary visits the Mdina, which provided one of the grand backdrops for the hit TV show Game of Thrones; the temple sites at Haġar-Qim and Mnajdra; the UNESCO-listed Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum; a day on Gozo to witness its fascinating sites; a chance to explore the Ghar Dalam Cave where the oldest layers date back to more than 500,000 years ago; and an in-depth city tour of Valletta.

The tour departs October 2, 2023 with prices starting at £3,995 per person, including return flights, guide lecturer and tour manager services, who will both accompany the tour, local travel all aboard a private air-conditioned coach, provided accommodation, entry to all the sites as per the itinerary, all taxes and tips, and all meals with wine at dinner.

www.andantetravels.co.uk



World Club Dome promises song, sea and sand

CLUBBERS FROM across the world will be heading to Malta this year for the World Club Dome Island Edition, taking place from August 4-6.

The exclusive event will feature some of the top global DJs, performing at pool and boat parties across the island, as well as evening raves at Malta's finest open-air nightclubs and beach bars.

During the day, guests will have the chance to explore Malta's landscapes and picturesque sites, indulge in the local cuisine, and soak up the Mediterranean sun with their friends. By night, Gianpula Village, Malta's most popular clubbing destination, will host the Friday and Saturday night events, featuring an exciting lineup of diverse artists

to suit everyone's taste.

To wrap up the event on Sunday, August 6, the closing party will take place at the legendary Café del Mar, the home of chill out music.

The event is ticket-only, with prices starting at £64.32. FTI Touristik is also offering packaged deals to the festival with accommodation included.

www.worldclubdomemalta.com



Malta prepares to host wine festival


GET THE wine glasses ready as Malta International Wine Festival 2023 arrives on the island from June 21-25. Expert sommeliers will guide visitors through 13 wine experiences, featuring more than 300 wines from around the world.

www.visitmalta.com



Image Credits: Middle and Right: Visitmalta

ISTANBUL
IS THE
NEW COOL

 Galata Tower

Istanbul, the bustling metropolis of Türkiye, is a city full of charm, where the past goes hand in hand with the present and every step brings to light a relic of times gone by. At the crossroads of two continents - Europe and Asia - this spectacular city has absorbed the best of both worlds. With its beautiful historic landmarks, quintessential cuisine, vibrant nightlife, festivals of art and music, celebration of faith, labyrinths of marketplaces and shopping arcades, the beating heart of Istanbul, and the soul of Bosphorus under the watchful eye of the Maiden's Tower is a traveller's dream.

Head over to Youtravel.com to view an enchanting collection of hotels to experience Istanbul!



Jules Verne turns back the clock

TAKE A step back into history as Jules Verne's Heritage of Malta holiday package will transport travellers all the way to the 16th century.

Visitors can walk where the Grandmasters once stood, visit the silent city of Mdina and enjoy a short boat ride to the historic town of Vittoriosa.

Available for departures in May, September and October, prices for the five-day the tour start at £1,045, including return flights, accommodation and excursions.

www.vjv.com



Princess sails to the Grand Med

PRINCESS CRUISES goes grand this summer in its 10-day Grand Mediterranean excursion in August, 2023.

Stopping off in Italy, Malta, Greece, Montenegro and Croatia, the cruise aims to highlight the grandeur of the Med and all she has to offer.

Travellers can spend a day in Valletta, discovering the history and enjoying Malta's world-class seafood while taking in the sights.

www.princess.com

Intrepid highlights the past

INTREPID TRAVEL is offering visitors the opportunity to get up close and personal with some of the oldest archeological sites in Europe with its Highlights of Malta & Gozo package.

Dating back to 3,600BC, the Hager Qim is one of the oldest religious sites in the world. The megalithic temple, once thought to be a symbol of fertility, offers tourists a look into a gateway of the past.

Malta's rich heritage seeps out across each region of the island, leading visitors to learn an extra piece of history with each step. Travellers on this tour have the chance to get to know the ins-and-outs of Valletta, the current capital city, as well as Mdina, the ancient predecessor, blending the past and the present together. There is also the opportunity to spend time with and learn from a local family at the Xwejini Salt Pans, which dates back to the Roman era, and take a Blue Grotto boat trip to Gozo.



Prices for the seven-day tour start at £1,521 per person, including accommodation with breakfast, local transport transfers and a full roster of activities and excursions. Flights will need to be booked separately.

www.intrepidtravel.com

Go solo in the sun

WITH ITS picturesque beaches and high-end resorts, Malta poses itself as a haven for generational family getaways, boasting something for everyone to enjoy. However, solo travellers are taking advantage of the island's beauty and want to experience the rich culture for themselves.

Riviera Travel has put together the 'Malta Uncovered for Solo Travellers' package, including guided tours of the historic hot spots, ancient wonders and serene fishing villages, all the while offering the traveller

free days to be able to go off the beaten track and explore the nuances that make up the heart of the island.

The eight-day package includes accommodation at the four star Maritim Antonine Hotel & Spa, set in the idyllic village of Mellieha. Departures are for October 4 and October 19, 2023, with prices starting at £1,689, which includes return flights to either Manchester, Birmingham, London Heathrow or Bristol Airport; any and all excursions; local tour guides; half board services; seven night's accommodation and all coach travel.

Excursions include a guided tour of the capital Valletta, a ferry to the unspoilt landscape of Gozo, a tour of the St. Paul's catacombs and a tour of the Mediterranean's lesser-known vineyards, with a complimentary sampling afterwards.

www.rivieratravel.co.uk



 VALLETTA

MORE TO EXPLORE



Luxury can be found all over Malta, from its glamorous 5 star & boutique hotels to its Michelin Star restaurants and carefully cultivated wines, this island has everything you need to make for an amazing vacation. Ancient backdrops like the UNESCO recognized city of Valletta & the Silent city of Mdina offer experiences that can't be beaten.

[VisitMalta.com](https://www.visitmalta.com)



VisitMalta



Historic gems of the Med

HISTORY IS being bought to the present as SAGA highlights the Historic Gems of Malta in its eight-day tour.

Travellers can explore Valletta, the golden-stone 16th century capital, before stepping further back in time to visit the worshipping stones of Hagar Qim. Tourists can also become a part of history as they immerse themselves into the atmospheric towns of Mosta, Rabat and Mdina. Prices for the cruise start at £1,709 per person.

www.travel.saga.co.uk



Indulge the senses with Viking

VIKING CRUISES is allowing travellers to indulge themselves in local delights as its Malta, Morocco & the Mediterranean cruise heightens the senses and lets guests explore with not only their eyes, but their taste buds as well.

Prices for the 16-day cruise start at £5,790 per person for departures in November and December, 2024.

www.vikingcruises.co.uk

Exodus unveils Malta's secrets

EXODUS TRAVELS' latest Malta self-guided walking tour allows holidaymakers the chance to discover the largest of the Maltese islands at their own pace.

The flexible itinerary of the 'Secrets of Malta Walking Tour' will give travellers ample opportunity to take their holiday into their own hands, whether they are avid hikers and wish to conquer all the terrain they can during the seven-day schedule, or if they would favour a more relaxed approach and take in the history simmering from the surfaces of each building.

Suggested excursions consist of walking around Malta's 'fish tale', seeing first-hand the evidence of days gone by as 16th century towers line the coast, breathe in the fresh air in the Majjistral Nature Park and discover ancient Punic tombs and relics all over the island.

The eight-day package starts at £1,289 including return flights, seven-night single



centre accommodation in the quieter area of St Julian's with breakfast included, a seven-day bus ticket for walking transfers, and management from an appointed agent. Departures are available throughout the year.

www.exodus.co.uk

Gozo's Gaultitana hits the right note

A MONTH long celebration of culture has come to Gozo this April, offering a diverse programme of events which showcases both local and international artists with a range of musical styles.

The Gaultitana: A Festival of Music 2023, the 16th edition of the annual springtime event hosted by Gaultitana Choir, offers a roster full of musical theatre opera, instrumental, vocal and classical events to locals and tourists alike. Each of the events aim to transform Gozo into an island of creativity with the locals at its heart.

Alongside the performances, the festival also includes educational events and a folk music exhibition, as well as live painting, art and literature.

The festival's pivotal moment will take place on April 29, for the full-scale production of Verdi's *La Traviata*, held as part of the OPERA+ Weekend and under the distinguished patronage of H.E. President of Malta.

Tickets to the event are free, however booking is required for the *La Traviata* spectacle.

The major classical music festival will run until May 1, 2023.

www.visitmalta.com



ON A MISSION TO THRILL

Ferrari World Abu Dhabi launches new 5D mega-coaster



FERRARI WORLD Abu Dhabi theme park has launched a new immersive 5D mega-coaster called Mission Ferrari.

The ride is set in a top-secret international spy headquarters and guests become part of the stealth mission to safely deliver a high-spec

Ferrari spy car, commissioned especially for agent Cavallino, to a rendezvous deep within the subterranean level of the Ferrari Factory in Maranello Italy.

The launch of Mission Ferrari will bring the park's offerings to 44 Ferrari-inspired attractions and comes as part of the park's commitment to adding new offerings that complement its Ferrari-inspired adventure.

Located on Yas Island, Ferrari World Abu Dhabi launched more than a decade ago and is home to a variety of family-friendly rides and attractions. Ferrari World Abu Dhabi lays claim to being home to the world's fastest roller coaster,

Formula Rossa, as well as record-breaking roller coaster Flying Aces.

In 2020, Ferrari World Abu Dhabi launched the Roof Walk and Zip Line and welcomed the state-of-the-art Family Zone. Designed to entertain guests of all ages, the Family Zone features four miniature versions of the theme park's most iconic, record-breaking rides for the entire family to enjoy.

Ferrari World Abu Dhabi is just minutes away from Yas Waterworld, the world's first and only Emirati-themed waterpark that is home to 45 attractions, and CLYMB Abu Dhabi, the UAE's ultimate adventure hub.

www.ferrariworldabudhabi.com

Europe's largest aquarium looks ahead to busy year

VALENCIA IS home to Europe's largest aquarium, the Oceanogràfic, which currently houses close to 45,000 living creatures across 500 different species.

The aquarium has an ideal balance of excitement and education as it houses examples of the most important ecosystems from each of the planet's seas and oceans. The aquarium is home to the longest underwater tunnel in Europe, where sharks gather over the visitor's heads.

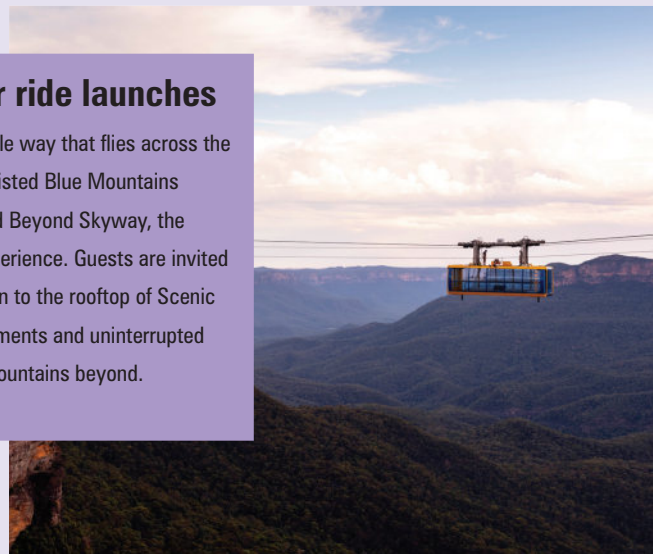
The Dolphinarium has daily educational shows to learn more about aquatic mammals. Visitors who book ahead with the Valencia Tourist Card will get a 10% discount, with prices starting from £23.28.

www.visitvalencia.com

First rooftop cable-car ride launches

SCENIC WORLD'S 270-metre-high cable way that flies across the Jamison Valley in the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park in Australia has launched Beyond Skyway, the world's very first rooftop cable-car experience. Guests are invited to go that one step further and climb on to the rooftop of Scenic World's cableway for sky-high refreshments and uninterrupted views of eucalyptus forests and the mountains beyond.

www.visitnsw.com

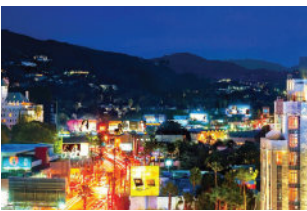




Fall head first into the world of Warner Brothers

PREPARE FOR an unforgettable experience as Kenwood Travel offer packages to Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi theme park, where the best of Warner Brothers' creations come to life. Visitors can meet their favourite characters while taking a trip down nostalgia avenue in the fully-immersive setting.

The package includes accommodation at the stunning WB Abu Dhabi resort, with prices starting at £1,120, with flights from several UK regional airports. www.kenwoodtravel.co.uk



Lights, camera, action for LA film attraction

THE ACADEMY Museum of Motion Pictures is gearing up for a busy year.

The West Hollywood attraction gives visitors the chance to go behind the scenes at some of Hollywood's most iconic films with immersive exhibitions.

Tickets are available via the museum website and admission is free for those under 17. www.visitwesthollywood.com

Parc Asterix opens with new coasters and zones

PARC ASTERIX has reopened for the season with a new zone, Festival Toutatis, following a £32 million investment, one of the largest sums ever made by Parc Asterix.

The new area is dedicated to the God of the Gauls, Toutatis, and features a roller coaster ride that reaches speeds of up to 110km per hour, making it the fastest attraction in France. The project of the new zone is in keeping with the spirit of a Gaulish Festival, which opened this month, in the middle of the Carnutes Forest where the tribes of Gaul come to celebrate their God Toutatis. The elements of the programme and the scenery will all relate to this festive Gaulish atmosphere.

Chez Gyrofolix is another new zone that has opened as well as the Sanglier d'Or play area for younger ones. Kids will need to keep their wits in order before riding the four spinning gondolas and needles, and if they succeed, they will win Toutatis and



Allatis' blessing.

The theme park is also home to three themed hotels.

Parc Asterix's current offers include child goes free with one paying adult. The ticket price is £52.

www.parcasterix.eu

Mario and Luigi land in Hollywood

SUPER NINTENDO World has opened at Universal Studios Hollywood and is the first Super Nintendo World to debut in the US, following its launch in Japan in 2021.

The new themed land transports guests into the iconic world of Mario, Luigi and Princess Peach as visitors are encouraged to try the Toadstool Cafe, where nostalgia tantalises the tastebuds, before coming face-to-face with Mario and Friends, and finishing off the day in the 1-UP Factory,

where guests can take home Nintendo-themed merch to honour their time in the Mushroom Kingdom.

Visitors to the park can experience Mario Kart like never before in the Mario Kart: Bowser's Challenge ride. Ride along the iconic courses as the battle against Bowser commences. Collect coins and throw shells to win the Golden Cup on the groundbreaking new ride, showcasing the cutting-edge technology prevalent throughout the park.

Super Nintendo World has been created in partnership with Nintendo and the visionaries at Universal Creative to deliver exhilarating entertainment with innovative technological achievements inspired by characters and video games that have appealed to generations of Nintendo fans for over 40 years. Tickets start at £16.28.

www.visitcalifornia.com





SURFIN' ALL THE WAY

SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment is welcoming an ocean of excitement across its three Florida theme parks this year, with thrills and spills for guests of all ages making a splash.

FEEL THE power of the ocean in a whole new way on Pipeline: The Surf Coaster – the world’s first ‘Surf Coaster’ only at SeaWorld, Orlando. Pipeline will be every thrill-seeker’s newest obsession and takes riders on an unparalleled journey that will keep them coming back for more.

The innovative design elements make this rollercoaster a first-of-its-kind, featuring surfing launch and ‘wave jumping’ motions. The unique surfboard-shaped ride vehicle will give riders an immersive experience from the moment it starts. Guests will be secured in a surfing position and launched at top speeds, as if they are catching a wave, before feeling like they are hanging loose when their seats rise and fall to mimic the sensation of riding on a wave, sending them through several gnarly twists and turns. Reaching heights of 110 feet in the air, riders will feel like they are about to ‘wipe out’ when they go upside down on a wave

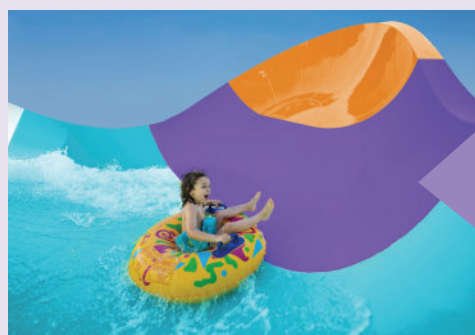


curl along the 2,950-feet of track. Pipeline reaches a maximum speed of 60-miles-per-hour, with five different airtime moments and lasting a total of 1 minute and 50 seconds. Pipeline: The Surf Coaster launches this spring and will be the seventh rollercoaster at SeaWorld Orlando, reinforcing the theme park’s reputation as the Coaster Capital of Orlando.

3 Visits for the price of 2 and Eat Free

Your clients can experience all the thrills with the 3-Visit Ticket. This includes a day each at SeaWorld, Aquatica PLUS Busch Gardens and access to all the rides and experiences they have to offer. Guests also get to eat FREE at the parks with three All-Day Dines included – one for each park. PLUS, don’t forget to remind your clients to take advantage of the FREE return bus to Busch Gardens on the Shuttle Express service. With the 3-Visit Ticket costing the same as the 2-Visit Ticket, this really does provide exceptional value with a whole extra park and day of eating for free. It really is the must have ticket for your customers. For more information or to book tickets, go to www.login.attractionworldportal.com or visit your preferred ticket supplier.

MEANWHILE, OVER at Busch Gardens, Tampa, Serengeti Flyer, the world’s tallest and fastest ride of its kind, has recently opened. Serengeti Flyer features twin duelling arms that soar progressively higher, reaching speeds of 68 mph, a maximum height of 135 feet at the ride’s peak and the pulse-pounding thrill of multiple negative-G moments. The park’s new thrill features the capability to adjust the ride’s intensity level, giving guests the opportunity for a milder or wilder experience. Serengeti Flyer allows 40 guests to experience the ride at once, seated back-to-back in rows of 10 across two gondolas. Serengeti Flyer joins a world-class portfolio of attractions at Busch Gardens, Tampa, offering breath-taking views of the park and a one-of-a-kind experience.



THIS YEAR Aquatica Orlando is celebrating 15 years of fun, and is marking this milestone with a new children’s water Play Area. Turi’s Kid Cove which opens this spring, will feature watering palms, tipping buckets, spraying jets, water bobbles, and more. Plus, kids can grab a tube and slide into fun on the

new Tamariki Twirl water slide featuring a pint-sized half pipe just for them! This new play area will be located between Big Surf Shores and Mango Market and will be the perfect place for Aquatica’s youngest guests to cool off with plenty of splashy water fun and ample seating all around for rest and relaxation.

ADVERTORIAL



Dine like a legendary sailor in Efteling

EXPERIENCE LIFE as a heroic mariner as Efteling unveils the Kashba self-service restaurant, the newest addition to its World of Sindbad zone.

Located next to the rotating merchant boats of Sirocco and the Vogel Rok indoor rollercoaster, visitors can take a break and discover cuisine fit for the hero of One Thousand and One Nights from the World of Sindbad as the oriental market serves sandwiches, salads and hot meals suitable for all ages. www.efteling.com



Busch Gardens hosts Tampa Bay spring festival

A WORLD of culinary wonders await visitors at the annual Busch Gardens Tampa Bay Food & Wine Festival.

Running across Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until May 21, park guests can explore a variety of flavours and mouthwatering treats while enjoying a diverse concert lineup as unique as the park's thrilling rides. Entry is free with park admission.

www.buschgardens.com

Explore the unbelievable at the Arizona Boardwalk

SCOTTSDALE'S ARIZONA Boardwalk has added the weird and wonderful to its already jam-packed entertainment district with the addition of the Museum of Illusions and Ripley's Believe It or Not!.

With more than 60 mind-boggling exhibits, including a collection of perspective-changing rooms and intriguing images, the Museum of Illusions changes the way visitors interpret reality. Adult tickets start at £20, with children's entry beginning at £14.

Inspired by Robert Ripley and his travels across the globe searching for extraordinary objects and people, Ripley's Believe It or Not! embraces the spirit of curiosity.

The world famous attraction showcases a large collection of the world's strangest and most bizarre items, including a host of new additions, such as a brick that was once part of the iconic 'yellow brick road' from The



Wizard of Oz; a scale replica of the 'Predator' built entirely from scrap metal; and a portrait of Tom Cruise drawn completely from cigarette ashes. Tickets can be bought singular or in a combo deal where visitors can bundle and save up to 20% on attractions across the Boardwalk. www.visitarizona.com

Everything is awesome in Atlanta

LEGO® DISCOVERY Center Atlanta has officially opened its block doors to the public, marking the first-of-its-kind attraction in North America.

The centre brings fantasy and creativity together as families can create and play together as they make their way through 10 unique zones.

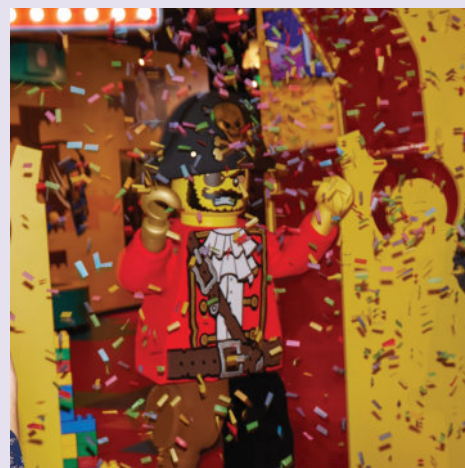
Jamica Butler, general manager, LEGO® Discovery Center Atlanta, said: "Over the past few months, we've worked very hard to make the LEGO® Discovery Centre Atlanta the ultimate adventure for families

to play, explore, create and have fun together. We are thrilled to see the excited faces of families as they explore all-new experiences!"

The all-new features zones include the Spaceship Build & Test – a place for families to reach for the stars as they design and build their own LEGO spaceship before launching into the digital universe. Also available is the Build Adventure zone which offers visitors the chance to let their imaginations take the lead and immerse themselves into their creations, whether that be swinging through the jungle or driving through the desert.

The attraction has also been certified with a Certified Autism Center distinction, with all employees being highly trained in sensory disorders and specially designed sensory guides are available for guests throughout their visit.

www.legodiscoverycenter.com



US welcomes Dr. Seuss and Barbie experiences

LEADING OPERATOR for one-of-a-kind retail and mixed-use properties, Macerich, has launched two new attractions in the US – The Dr. Seuss Experience and the World of Barbie, both of which of due to open this month.

The Dr. Seuss Experience, coming to Washington D.C, offers an imaginative and interactive immersion into the wondrous world of Dr. Seuss, where guests of all ages can come face-to-face with their favourite characters, from the Cat in the Hat to the Lorax.

The World of Barbie, making its US debut in Santa Monica, invites visitors to step directly into an inspiring world where they can explore a life-sized Barbie’s Dreamhouse, try several of Barbie’s long list of careers across various interactive rooms, and even sit behind the wheel of Barbie’s

iconic full-sized Camper Van. Imagination is key as endless possibilities await guests as they follow in the footsteps of one of the world’s most renowned figures.

Other popular ticketed attractions Macerich host within its properties include Banksy was Here, a pop-culture tour exhibition of the illusive street artist, and Candytopia, an immersive candy-themed wonderland.

www.macerich.com



Visitors prepare for Alton curse

THE CURSE at Alton Manor, the latest spine-tingling attraction at Alton Towers, is now open to the public and promises brave visitors a series of spooky shenanigans.

The resort has promised visitors will appear to vanish in plain sight and be confronted by flying demons, levitating dolls and haunted chandeliers, all charting the story of Emily Alton and her permanent residence within Alton Manor.

A one day pass for Alton Towers is priced at £68.

www.altontowers.com



Experience Thorpe Park’s Underworld

VISITORS SAY their final farewell as they depart the mortal world on a one-way ticket in Thorpe Park’s latest experience attraction – Ghost Train.

Expected to open this spring, the next generation Ghost Train, one of the UK’s longest ride experiences, will take riders into the world beneath Thorpe Park, featuring live actors and multisensory effects in a terrifying adventure like no other.

www.thorpebreaks.co.uk



It’s a Gruffalo! The children’s classic comes to Blackpool

BELOVED CHARACTERS from the UK’s bestselling children’s author, Julia Donaldson, are coming to Blackpool’s famous seafront this May in the world’s first ‘Gruffalo & Friends Clubhouse’.

Bringing together six of the best-loved children’s stories, the clubhouse will offer an indoor play adventure unlike anywhere else. Guests will burst through the pages of some of their favourite stories which have been transformed into a magical 3D world.

Distinct play areas have been inspired by The Gruffalo, The Snail and the Whale, Room on the Broom, Zog, and the Highway Rat, and feature play areas suitable for children under 10, with a designated area specifically for toddlers under three.

www.merlinentertainments.biz

Spring into action at PortAventura World

SPRING HAS sprung at PortAventura World, as the park is blooming with new activities and events for visitors to enjoy. As the weather warms up and the flowers begin to bloom, the park has transformed into a vibrant and exciting destination for families and thrill-seekers alike.

One of the most popular attractions at the park is the new Spring Festival, which features a variety of activities and events to celebrate the season. Visitors can enjoy live music, dance performances, and other entertainment while taking in the beautiful spring scenery.

For those looking for a thrill, the park's roller coasters and other rides are in full swing, offering heart-pumping excitement and

adrenaline-fueled fun. The park has also introduced several new rides and attractions for the spring season, including the new Dragon Khan roller coaster, which takes riders on a wild journey through loops and twists high above the park.

Offers are available until October 31 from £60 per night.

www.portaventuraworld.com



LEGOLAND to open Woodland Holiday Village

LEGOLAND WINDSOR Resort has announced plans to open the UK's first LEGO Woodland themed holiday village in Spring 2024. Costing £35 million, the LEGOLAND Woodland Village will feature 150 accommodation lodges in its Phase One development, surrounded by a 10-acre site designed around the Resort's woodland area and lake. The village will offer nature trails with LEGO brick animals, family entertainment, an on-site restaurant, and story time areas. www.merlinentertainments.biz

Ride the rollercoaster or hold the bags?

Jeanette Ratcliffe Publisher

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Bags for me obv!



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Ride twice!



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Ride but with fear.



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Ride with regret!



Tim Podger

Account Manager - Far East
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Used to ride, now look after the daughter!



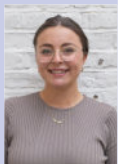
Melissa Paddock Events Coordinator

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Ride but with my eyes closed as I have a fear of heights!



Holly Brown Events Coordinator

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Travel **bulletin**
SHOWCASES

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Agents, come and join the Travel Bulletin team and leading suppliers at one of our fun and informative Showcases where you can improve your knowledge of this thriving market. The evening will involve lively presentations, as well as amazing hot food, drinks, action packed entertainment and a free prize draw for many lucky winners!

Monday 15th May
Alderley Edge

Tuesday 16th May
Southport

TIMINGS

Registration 6:00 ^{PM}	Travel Bulletin Welcome 6:25 ^{PM}	Client Presentations 6:30 ^{PM}
Hot Dinner 7:30 ^{PM}	Client Presentations 8:15 ^{PM}	Product Quiz & Free Prize Draw 9:15 - 9.30 ^{PM}

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