

Travel bulletin



FREE

Superior Drinks Package for 2024



Your guests can enjoy a free Superior Drinks package worth £400pp on all 2024 European river cruises. More details on back cover.



Free cabin upgrades from middle to upper deck on July & August 2024 river cruises

- Free upgrades available on all European river cruises from 15 July to 31 August 2024
- Excludes our two Douro river cruises
- Upper deck cabins include Riviera Plus

- ★ For that extra touch of indulgence your guests bathroom will be stocked with luxury toiletries
- ★ A bottle of champagne awaiting your guests when they arrive
- ★ Locally inspired gifts for your guests to take home
- ★ A massage, spa treatment or hairdresser with a 10% discount
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The Blue Danube

8 days from **£2,449PP** (MIDDLE DECK)

14 Departures in July & August 2024

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Dürnstein • Salzburg or Linz • Vienna



Burgundy, the River Rhône & Provence

8 days from **£2,599PP** (MIDDLE DECK)

10 departures in July & August 2024

Avignon • Arles & Pont Du Gard • Ardèche Gorges & Tournon
Vienne • Beaune & Burgundy • Lyon



Rhine Cruise to Switzerland

8 days from **£2,649PP** (MIDDLE DECK)

15 departures in July & August 2024

Koblenz • Rüdesheim • Speyer • Strasbourg • Breisach
Black Forest • Lucerne • Bernese Oberland



To find out more, request a brochure or to book
01283 744370 | rivieratravel.co.uk/agents



Travel bulletin

Giving agents the edge

Australasia & Pacific Islands

Head to the land down under!



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We've been on the road again!
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Indian Ocean

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INDIAN OCEAN

What's new from the island paradise that has long been a haven for luxury, lovers and families?



TIME FOR CELEBR-ACATION!

Inspiring Travel's luxury specialists have noticed a growing trend towards enquiries in celebration of clients' life-changing moments.

HONEYMOONS ARE making way for what Inspiring Travel has dubbed 'holiday-moons': breaks to celebrate landmark life events beyond the traditional post-wedding escapes.

Kathryn Robinson, head of sales & service at Inspiring Travel, explained the trend: "Our clients come to us for personalised holidays to create an unforgettable experience.

"We often get requests for life-changing and milestone events that are worth celebrating such as a new baby or graduation. We call these 'holiday-moons'."

Four key 'holiday-moons' have seen consumers shift from a monumental honeymoon to a luxury escape in celebration of landmark moments in their life, with notable traction on TikTok reflecting in a search engine enquiry and booking surge.

The first, dubbed 'new-job-moon', has seen a 546% rise in Google Search Trends, as more people than ever are heading abroad to celebrate new jobs. Kathryn

explained: "Taking a couple of weeks of holiday before starting a new job is highly recommended as it can help reset and shift your mindset to your new job; it can help you be more productive! The break between your two jobs can give you something to look forward to when you return from a relaxing break."

The second, so-called 'thirty-moons', have seen a 75% search increase as milestone birthdays appear to warrant a break away. The less-specific 'birthday-moon' has seen a 14% increase in search engine enquiries in the past month.

'Mini-moons', shorter post-marriage trips, have garnered over 28 million views on TikTok under #minimoon. Interest has risen by 19% for enquiries.

The final, 'new-home-moon' holiday, has also risen month-on-month, with nothing extinguishing the stress of moving better than a luxury break.

www.inspiringtravel.co.uk



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10th October
Family Holidays Showcase
Preston



11th October
Family Holidays Showcase
Chester



17th October
Airline Showcase
Guildford



13th November
Indian Ocean Showcase
Norwich



Manchester Airport lands on 'one of the best summers ever'

AS SCHOOL holidays drew to a close, Manchester Airport looked back on an impressive summer, with 3 million passengers passing through in August alone.

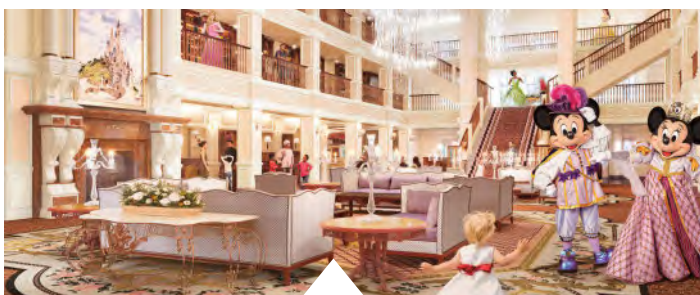
Increasing by 13% on August 2022's numbers, the airport reached the highest figure of the summer last month.

98% of those heading on their holidays

were through security in under 15 minutes, with 79% in under five minutes, which marked the airport's best figures on record.

The top destinations throughout August included Palma de Mallorca, with 132,000 passengers heading to the island haven, Antalya and Dalaman in Turkey, Dubai, and Alicante.

www.manchesterairport.co.uk



Disneyland Paris royally reimagines resort hotel

DISNEYLAND PARIS has unveiled the first magical glimpse of its five-star on-resort Disneyland Hotel.

Reopening after an extensive refurbishment on January 25th, 2024, the property interweaves the existing luxury with Disney's classic royal

fairytale. All 487 rooms and suites have been reimagined with an elegant royal touch, reflecting the Disney storytelling tradition.

Reservations are now open for the hotel ahead of next year's reopening.

www.disneylandparis.com

Hays Travel announces Just Go Travel acquisition

45 OF JUST Go Travel's branches across the North West and North Wales will fall under the Hays Travel banner after Hays completed the acquisition earlier this month.

Just Go Travel's owner and MD Don Bircham previously joined Hays Travel as an Independence Group over 22 years ago, and became a franchisee in 2015.

He said of the acquisition: "Although there has to be an element of sadness that my journey has come to an end, it gives me great comfort that all my staff have found a great home with Hays Travel, our partners for over 20 years.

"All 300 jobs are safe and secure, with little disruption to day-to-day activity and better opportunities for career development and progression."

www.hays-travel.co.uk



Glacier Express: The most spectacular train in the Alps

The Glacier Express is one of the world's classic train journeys. It is committed to the pioneering days of the railway, when travelling was still about unforgettable journeys. The eight-hour journey across the Swiss mountains takes you from Zermatt at the foot of the Matterhorn to the chic St. Moritz. Thanks to large panoramic windows, passengers on the "slowest express train in the world" have unobstructed views of idyllic mountain meadows, snow-capped peaks and deep blue mountain lakes.



Zermatt is the most famous mountain village in the Alps with over 500-year-old wooden houses, views of 38 four-thousand-metre peaks and the most photographed mountain in the world, the Matterhorn.

Winter guests experience magical winter landscapes with sleepy hamlets. In summer, hiking trails lead through romantic mountain forests. Zermatt also offers its guests the highest density of gourmet restaurants in the Alps.



The next highlight is Alp Grüm, whose claim to fame is being the one Swiss hotel and restaurant that is accessible only by rail. Here the magnificent Palü glacier dominates the view, and the train stands still beneath it.

Enjoy a short stop at Alp Grüm and capture this unforgettable moment forever; the photo spot will help you get the perfect shot.



This section takes you through the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Rhaetian Railway in the Albula/Bernina Landscapes" with masterpieces of engineering. The most spectacular bridge constructions are the Solis Viaduct and the elegant Landwasser Viaduct.

After a good eight hours, the Glacier Express reaches the Engadin with its magnificent houses and arrives at the prestigious holiday resort of St. Moritz towards the evening.

To book, order brochures
or talk anything Switzerland

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sales@stc.co.uk

switzerlandtravelcentre.com



Explore more possibilities

After a busy summer season across The Maltese Islands this year, I am looking forward to attending the upcoming Travel Bulletin roadshows in Harrogate, Sheffield and Maidstone to showcase what the Autumn and Winter months can offer for travellers.

The team have been working hard on refreshing our Visit Malta training platform which will go live over the next couple of weeks, so do keep an eye on the website malta-training.com for refreshed content and new training courses to assist you in selling The Maltese Islands and answering any queries you may have.

The team are looking forward to celebrating the top agents and suppliers at the Travel Bulletin Star Awards next month; hopefully we shall see you there!

For more info contact

Peter Green,
peter.green@visitmalta.com

malta-training.com



22 TRAVEL COUNSELLORS and their plus-ones experienced the luxury of Explora Journeys' brand-new ship, Explora I, on 'The Wild Heart of Iceland' itinerary in Reykjavik. Recognising and rewarding the recent successes of Travel Counsellors, the trip was incentivised as part of a new reward scheme on the new in-house integrated booking platform, Phenix. Cruise demand remains high for TCs, with a 57% annual sales boost in July and August. www.travelcounsellors.co.uk

Haunted hotspots revealed ahead of spooky season

A NEW ranking from JeffBet reveals the top Halloween hotspots among the UK's theme parks, based on amenities, attractions, crowd levels, spooky theming and more.

Alton Towers, where ScareFest has been a spooky season staple for years, came top, with Merlin parks also taking the second and third spots; Legoland Windsor Resort's family offerings came just short of first place and Thorpe Park's Fright Nights event secured it

third place.

Curveball picks comprise the fourth and fifth spots (Flamingo Land and Lightwater Valley), with Chessington World of Adventures and Blackpool Pleasure Beach confirming the classics still hit the mark at Halloween.

Data was gathered from attraction websites, Google Reviews, www.queue-times.com, Google Trends and Ahrefs.

Exodus Travels gears up for 50th anniversary with brand refresh

EXODUS TRAVELS' new name and logo puts adventure front and center, with Exodus Adventure Travels kicking the brand into the next 50 years and beyond.

Sam Seward, Exodus Adventure Travels' managing director, explained: "We think our new look gives a nod back to our routes exploring overland while also capturing that we are a modern, responsible and forward-thinking tour operator." www.exodus.co.uk

exodus ADVENTURE TRAVELS



Singapore sets non-stop service in its sights

SINGAPORE AIRLINES is set to launch non-stop services between Singapore and Brussels.

It marks the airline's return to the Belgian capital after more than 20 years. Services will take flight from April 5th, 2024.

www.singaporeair.com

AGENT INCENTIVES

- IN CELEBRATION of the launch of its 2024 river cruise programme, JG Travel Group is offering agents a £24 Love2shop voucher per passenger. The incentive is valid on new 2024 bookings made by October 15th, 2024; you must email booking references to agentcomps@justgoholidays.com to earn the incentive. Find out more about 2024's programme on page 8.
- TIME IS ticking on your chance to earn £25 on package bookings to The Gambia, Goa and Cape Verde with Serenity Holidays. Package bookings confirmed by September 30th include the bonus. www.serenityholidays.co.uk
- AS CRUISE Week sails to a close, you've got two days left to earn £50 with every Silversea booking. Bookings must be confirmed by September 24th and submitted via the Silversea Agent Rewards platform by September 30th. www.silverseaagentrewards.com
- YOU CAN win a bucket-list 'India's Golden Triangle and Sacred Ganges' trip for yourself and a guest with Uniworld's new 2024 Cruise Collection. The prize will go to the top booker based on points (higher-class cabins, long-haul and 2023 bookings earn bonus points) by October 31st, 2023. Runner-up prizes include an eight-day 'Christmas Market' cruise for two. Contact your local Uniworld key account manager for more information. www.uniworld.com
- DOUBLE REWARDS are still available on Playa Hotels & Rewards bookings registered by October 31st, 2023. Points can be converted to cash rewards or free stays. The higher room category, the more points available. www.playarewards.com



WE TEAMED up with Gran Canaria to reveal a Trade Secret... to hear the latest on the island hotspot from Katerina Bomshtein, the Gran Canaria Representative UK & Ireland, head to the latest episode of Trade Secrets at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travel-trade-secrets/. You might just be in with the chance to win an amazing luxury prize!

Travel bulletin

COMPETITION

Star Awards tickets, a £1,000 holiday voucher, Amazon gift cards and a fam trip place... only three questions stand between you and Travelsphere's bumper prize giveaway!

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



AGENT TRAINING

- FIVE TRAINING modules cover all there is to know about the Cook Islands. Learn about how easy each of the 15 islands are to reach and what's in store for your clients. Plus, if you complete the five short modules by October 31st, you'll be in with a chance of winning a Love2shop voucher worth up to £100. www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travelgym/destination-training
- THE CANADA Specialist Platform has been upgraded with a Sales Companion tool. Alongside all the essential facts and diverse experiences on offer in Canada, a comprehensive toolset helps you retain that knowledge and promote and sell the destination. The platform can be downloaded as an iOS or Android app to keep you in the know on the go. www.destinationcanada.com/en/canada-specialist-program-united-kingdom
- BECOME A Qatar Specialist and earn a chance to join a 2024 fam trip. The Qatar Specialist Programme has a range of content and tools to support your sales, with the ability to build tailor-made itineraries and browse local events to craft the perfect Qatar holiday. www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travelgym/destination-training
- EXPAND YOUR knowledge and earning power with Newmarket Holidays, and learn your way to a 15% discount on a Newmarket holiday of your own. You'll be in with a chance of winning a fam trip place and become a certified Newmarket Graduate. www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travelgym/tour-operator-training
- BECOME A Seychelles Superstar and cover all the knowledge you need to maximise sales. Whether its couples breaks, honeymoons, destination weddings, family breaks or scuba escapes, the five training modules cover it all. www.seychellesuperstar.co.uk

IN THE HOT SEAT WITH...

Pete Mills

TOURISM AUSTRALIA



Tourism Australia's partnerships & distribution manager gives us an update on the Aussie state of play and explains why agents are key to the organisation's strategy.

How is travel to Australia performing at the moment?

Like most destinations we're not quite back to where we were, but we are on track to return to pre-pandemic visitation and grow beyond it. The UK is a resilient market and became Australia's number one long-haul market when borders reopened, with year to date arrivals from the UK having reached 570,000. Despite economic headwinds, we've seen the average stay increase to 33 days. British travellers have responded really well to the work we've been doing, including the launch of our Come & Say G'Day campaign last year and with our efforts to leverage the moment the world was watching Australia host the FIFA Women's World Cup.



What part does the UK market play in Australia's global inbound tourism?

The UK is crucial to Australia's long-term inbound tourism. In 2019, it was our fourth largest inbound market for

visitor arrivals (over 715,000), third largest market for total visitor spend (A\$3.4B) and second for regional dispersal. The UK has a substantial leisure travel market who fit Tourism Australia's core global target audience as well as a lucrative premium market and a significant youth audience, with one in four travellers in 2019 being from this category, meaning either a backpacker or Working Holiday Maker.

Both prior to the pandemic, and since the reopening of Australia's borders in 2022, the UK has remained the number one source market for Working Holiday Makers, who travel longer, disperse more widely and support regional economies by filling crucial jobs in tourism and hospitality.

Why are agents such a big part of your strategy in the UK?

Australia is a complex long-haul destination and UK consumers will often require support when booking a holiday down under. For this reason, we

encourage all agents to update their destination knowledge through Tourism Australia's award-winning online training platform, the Aussie Specialist Program. By registering, agents arm themselves with the knowledge required to confidently sell multi-centre, high yielding Australia holidays.

What resources does Tourism Australia offer agents?

The first is our award-winning Aussie Specialist Program (www.aussiespecialist.com). By becoming qualified, Aussie Specialist's will have the opportunity to attend events, webinars, roadshows and fam trips. We also have a Trade Resources Hub www.resources.australia.com that includes images, videos, logos, media kits, materials, Signature Experiences of Australia assets and videos that agents can refer to or use as background material. We also have additional images and video assets in our online libraries (www.images.australia.com and www.video.australia.com). And of course there's our friendly and dedicated UK trade-facing team who are always happy to hear from agents.

SUDOKU

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

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

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk
Closing date for entries is Thursday, October 5th. Solution and new puzzle will appear in the next issue.

The winner for September 8th is **Suzanne Barney from Travel Counsellors.**

September 8th Solution: A=4 B=7 C=9 D=8

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



THIS COASTAL resort contributes a quarter of it's country's tourism revenue, with 30 million visitors soaking in the sun there last year.

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

1				2		3			4
		5						6	
7					8				
									10
		11				12			
13						14			
				16					
15									
17						18			

Across

- 1 Ferry line operating between Norway, Sweden and Denmark. (5)
- 3 Girls name and European capital (5)
- 5 Flows through Glasgow (5)
- 6 Vienna international airport code (3)
- 7 Scenic Italian island (4)
- 8 English actor Hugh (5)
- 11 Mix the primary colours of blue and yellow to find a political party (5)
- 12 Currency of 1 Down (4)
- 15 By way of (3)
- 16 Popular Spanish holiday isle (5)
- 17 Jane Austen novel, ___ and Sensibility (5)
- 18 Multinational hospitality company (5)

Down

- 1 Country hosting the 2023 Rugby World Cup (6)
- 2 Hotel brand, ___ Inn (4)
- 3 Jerez is famous for producing this tippie (6)
- 4 Advance discounted fare, initaly (4)
- 5 Area which includes the English Lake District (7)
- 6 P&O cruise ship (7)
- 9 There is A Haunting in this city, at a cinema near you (6)
- 10 Ferry company operating to the Channel Isles (6)
- 13 Major car hire company (4)
- 14 Capital of Latvia (4)

CROSSWORD

Across: 1 FLORP, 3 SOFIA, 5 CLYDE, 6 VIE, 7 COMO, 8 GRANT, 11 GREEN, 12 EURO, 15 VIA, 16 IBIZA, 17 SENSE, 18 ACCOR.
Down: 1 FRANCE, 2 DAYS, 3 SHERRY, 4 APEX, 5 CUMBRIA, 6 VENTURA, 9 VENICE, 10 CONDOR, 13 AVIS, 14 RIGA.
Mystery Word: DENVER

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*Based on upgrading from a Riviera Bamboo Grove Deluxe to a Butler Village Poolside One Bedroom Villa Suite at Sandals Ochi in Jamaica in Sep '24. [^]Applicable when travelling outside of 71 days, with the exception of select suites at Sandals & Beaches and select dates at Beaches. Use promo code AUTUMN100 to save £100 off new 7-9 night bookings or promo code AUTUMN150 to save £150 off new 10+ night bookings. Valid for bookings made between 30 August - 03 October '23 when travelling between 30 August '23 - 30 June '26. Further terms and conditions may apply, please visit www.sandals.co.uk/specials for more information. Unique Caribbean Holidays Ltd, registered office 2nd Floor Nucleus House, 2 Lower Mortlake Road, Richmond, England, TW9 2JA, acts as an agent for Sandals and Beaches Resorts Intl. All holidays are ABTA (Y6413) and ATOL (11174) protected.



Japan Showcase

WE BROUGHT Far East fun to London and Manchester for our double-bill Japan Showcase!

Agents were joined by All Nippon Airways, Japan Airlines, the Japan National Tourism Organization, the Okinawa Prefecture, Explore!, the Inside Travel Group, Toka-machi, Japan-san, The Dragon Trip, Japan Experience, Japan Journeys and Etihad Airways.

Back-to-back nights of networking, our beloved Prize Bingo and giveaways saw agents leave with all the insight they need to sell Japan and prizes including Japan-inspired gift bags, hampers, champagne and Manchester City tickets!



Feeling the #TBShowcases FOMO? We're taking our fan-favourite Family Holidays Showcase on the road to Preston and Chester on October 10th and 11th. Register now or find out when we'll be in your area by emailing events@travelbulletin.co.uk

£400 off 2024 and 2025 options with Wendy Wu

IN CELEBRATION of the launch of its new Southeast Asia brochure, Wendy Wu Tours is offering agents the chance to save their



clients up to £400 per person on a host of tours to Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Borneo, the Philippines and more Southeast Asia favourites. Explore the brochure at www.wendywutours.co.uk



Emirates and Maldivian takes flight

A NEW interline partnership will enable Emirates customers to access 16 Maldivian destinations beyond Malé.

The two airlines will offer greater connectivity choice for guests taking flight to the Maldives, blending both carriers' services on a single ticket and enhancing customer experience throughout their journeys.

From Malé, guests will be able to explore other Maldivian gems including Ifuru, Hoarafushi, Funadhoo, Madivari, Kooddoo Island and more. www.emirates.com

Half-price carriage as Jet2.com drifts into the ski season

JET2.COM IS hitting the slopes with half price ski carriage on 2023/24 winter ski flights.

The promotion is available on ski services from 10 of the airline's UK bases this winter to eight destinations across the continent: Chambéry, Geneva, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Turin, Lyon and Barcelona (Andorra).

50% off equates to a £30 discount per customer. Jet2.com's ski services include 10kg hand luggage,

22kg baggage, and 22kg ski carriage.

Belfast International, Birmingham, Bristol, East Midlands, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds Bradford, London Stansted, Manchester, Newcastle International will also offer various capacity ski schedules this winter.

The half price offer is valid on travel dates between November 1st, 2023 and April 30th, 2024. www.jet2.com/promotions



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Pura Aventura kicks off Canary programme

SUSTAINABLE OPERATOR Pura Aventura has expanded its Spanish programme with the first of its Canary Islands itineraries.

‘Ultimate Tenerife: Walking, Wine & Volcano Views’ (from £1,750 per person) and ‘Tropical Landscapes of La Gomera’ (from £1,450 per person) showcase the first islands to receive the Pura Aventura treatment. The breaks blend self-guided walking with special, sustainable experiences to spotlight all the islands have to offer.

www.pura-aventura.com

Selling stats suggest the solo market is all in for Africa

AMERICAN SMALL group and solo operator Overseas Adventure Travel has unveiled its top-selling solo itineraries,



revealing that the three of the four are in Africa. Spanning safaris in Botswana to the ancient gems of Egypt, it’s clear that the diverse opportunities on offer across the continent are a prime sell to solo travellers.

www.oattravel.com

Image Credits: Left: Pura Aventura, Right: Overseas Adventure Travel (O.A.T.)

Stay-cations stay put with £25.6 billion spend expected in 2023

TRADE CREDIT insurer Atradius has unveiled findings that suggest the ‘staycation’ is here to stay, and is expected to give the UK economy a £25.6 billion boost this year alone.

The insurance provider’s hospitality expert, Ruby Hartery, explained: “Ahead of the summer season, the tourism sector was braced for a rocky road as consumers navigated a ‘quadruple threat’ of a cost-of-

living crisis, rising energy costs, labour shortages, and changing consumer spending habits.

“Although the road to recovery has been challenging, the adaptability shown by the hospitality sector, with the ongoing popularity of staycations, offers hope for its resilience, as there are still opportunities for those who are more agile and can adapt to market conditions.”

www.atradius.co.uk



COMPETITION ALERT!



travelbulletin.co.uk/gran-canaria-competition

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Celebrate Australia

WE BROUGHT a taste of Down Under to Dorking in partnership with Tourism Australia.

Agents said G'Day to supplier partners including Qantas, Journey Beyond, Tourism and Events Queensland, Destination New South Wales, Tourism Western Australia, Tourism Northern Territory, Visit Victoria, the South Australia Tourism Commission, and Prestige Travel.

Lucky prize winners left with gin and wine straight from Australia, goodie bags and hampers with local goodies, and gift vouchers for Daisy Green, Amazon & John Lewis!



Desperate to head Down Under with a range of brilliant supplier partners? We're heading to Solihull on November 20th for an Australasia & Pacific Showcase! To confirm your place or find out when we will be hosting our next event near you contact events@travelbulletin.co.uk

PUTTING A SUSTAINABLE FOOT FORWARD

Tropical North Queensland is urging visitors to partake in science-led expeditions to help with conservation efforts and help organisations care for the future.



TRAVELLERS HAVE the opportunity to gain a deeper connection to the environment as Tourism Tropical North Queensland has launched a series of expeditions and initiatives to support the fragile ecosystem and raise awareness for the importance of sustainability for our oceans.

Cosmos celebrates the Wonders Down Under

COSMOS TOURS is offering 10% off 2024 tours to Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji.

The tours focus on beyond-the-guidebook experiences to build the ultimate adventure for guests.

Adventurous itineraries on offer include the 'Highlights of New Zealand' trip, an 11-day tour from Auckland to Queensland. The eponymous highlights include Rotorua, Napier, Wellington, Christchurch, and Lake Tekapo. Prices start from £2,582 per person based on a double occupancy April 2024 departure.

10% discounts apply to the land-only portion of Australasian tours. www.cosmos.co.uk

A rise in science-led expeditions have become of growing interest to travellers wanting to give back on their holidays as they offer once-in-a-lifetime experiences that have an equal benefit on the surrounding environment.

Tourism Tropical North Queensland's chief executive officer, Mark Olsen, said: "Snorkelling and diving on the Great Barrier Reef is a very special experience that helps the reef as each visitor pays a \$7 (£3.60) Environmental Management Charge towards managing the health of the reef.

"While hand-on assistance is not always possible, many expeditions give valuable support to volunteer-run organisations, such as Cairns Turtle

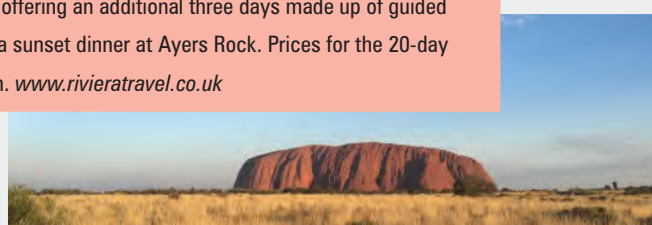
Rehabilitation Centre or the Tolga Bat Hospital simply by paying to bring their guests there."

Some of the expeditions available include the Citizen Series with Coral Expedition Cruises, where guests and researched explore the outer reefs and unique marine systems of the Great Barrier Reef; volunteering at the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre for a week on Fitzroy Island or joining the Marine Conservation Program on the Great Barrier Reef while learning to scuba dive; and joining the four-day Nature, Wildlife and Conservation Safari with FNQ Nature Tours to learn more about World-Heritage listed rainforests and conservation efforts.

www.tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au

Discover Australia Highlights with Riviera

RIVIERA TRAVEL has announced the launch of its long-haul escorted tour programme for 2025, featuring two new exclusive Australian itineraries. The 17-day 'Highlights of Australia' tour includes stays in Sydney, Brisbane, Cairns and Melbourne, with a cruise of the Great Barrier Reef and a visit to the Blue Mountains. Prices begin at £4,999 per person. An Uluru extension of the tour is also available, offering an additional three days made up of guided walks of Kata Tjuta National Park and a sunset dinner at Ayers Rock. Prices for the 20-day itinerary starts from £6,299 per person. www.rivieratravel.co.uk





Gastronomic delights at dizzying heights

GET READY for a dining experience like no other as Vertigo takes guests four stories above the ground to an alcove overhanging the edge of Brisbane Powerhouse. The adventurous gastronomy experience will see guests wear harnesses as they climb 17 metres to taste the fine dining set menu crafted specially by Powerhouse's Italian restaurant while taking in the stunning panoramic views of the city. www.vertigobrisbane.com



Rosewood begins New Zealand journey

ROSEWOOD HOTELS & Resorts is embarking on a journey to bring its luxurious Robertson Lodges to the serene landscape of New Zealand.

From December 1st, 2023, Rosewood Kauri Cliffs, Rosewood Cape Kidnappers and Rosewood Matakauri will join the brand's impressive portfolio, uniting the North and South of the island in luxurious harmony. www.rosewoodhotels.com

It's getting hot in here: Tourism Australia releases its spring Hot List

SPRING HAS firmly sprung in Australia, and Tourism Australia has released its Hot List of top products and experiences to enjoy around the land of Oz.

Kiff and Culture is offering a bespoke selection of foodie tours across Queensland and Northern NSW with its Artisan Series experiences, offering a culinary odyssey for the taste buds through local delicacies and cultural activities.

For those missing a European touch to their dining, Melbourne's lavish new venue offers a French flair to what promises to be an experience dripped in elegance. Housed in the original stock exchange in Melbourne, the heritage-listed venue takes visitors back in time to a period that oozes theatricality and glamour, promising a bespoke evening not to be missed.

Moving away from the culinary scene, the



Hot List features a list of festivals and events for holidaymakers to plan their visit around. Some of the highlights coming up for the rest of the year as summer begins to take route include the Wynward Tulip Festival, Melbourne Fashion Week, Adelaide Film Festival, Perth International Jazz Festival and the Effervescence Tasmania Sparkling Wine Festival.

www.tourism.australia.com

Original Diving's highway to help

WITH THE increasing trend of 'waterculturists' taking over the diving scene, Original Diving has launched a new collection of itineraries which will enable guests to get involved with innovative projects and deepen their understanding of the seas.

Tom Barber, co-founder of Original Diving, said: "Divers are by nature curious types, so it was only a matter of time before dive holidays evolved into something more than just seeing pretty fish and colourful

reefs (...) we have really enjoyed researching some of the most important and innovative projects around, in order to offer them to our discerning travellers."

One of the new itineraries focuses on building reef highways in Fiji, where guests will spend 14 days with marine biologists helping to build coral highways between existing reef pinnacles. Guests of any dive level can partake, whether they are seasoned pros or complete novices, and in each session a group will create a 10-metre long highway.

The itinerary also includes five nights in Tavenui where guest can dive through the Rainbow reef sites and the Somosomo Strait which houses manta rays, hammerheads and turtles. Prices for the itinerary begin at £6,400 per person, including all flights, accommodation, the Reef Highway experience and 10 boat dives.

www.originaldiving.com



Emirates ups services Down Under

EMIRATES IS giving travellers more opportunities to head Down Under as the airline has announced a partnership with Destination NSW as demand for travel to the region soars.

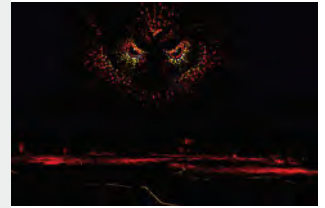
Capacity for the Dubai to Sydney route has been enhanced and now operates a thrice daily service, with the airline's new Premium Economy product to Sydney available on every flight. Flights to Sydney have been among the first to welcome the latest Premium Economy cabins after Emirates has undergone a US\$2bn retrofit programme, decking out the cabins with spacious seating, increased legroom and a carefully curated entertainment system.

The partnership opens even more doors for travellers to discover the state of New South Wales, boasting one of the most geographically

diverse regions in all of Australia.

Sydney is often a bucket-list destination for most, and the increased service makes it possible for more people to cross it off their lists. Beautiful beaches, buzzing nightlife and world-class attractions await visitors in the heart of the city, while wine country, lush rainforests and even snowfields lie just a few hours away.

www.emirates.com



Wintjiri Wiru adds Twilight addition

IN RESPONSE to outstanding global demand, Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia has added a third nightly show to its Wintjiri Wiru experience. Voyages has also introduced pricing and hampers for children aged five to 15 so they can enjoy the experience to the full.

www.voyages.com.au

Image Credits: Centre: Destination NSW, Right: Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia



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Our fleet of Dreamliners incorporates the latest technical innovations to offer you even greater comfort with a full Polynesian welcome onboard.

Air Tahiti Nui has two gateways in the USA; Seattle and Los Angeles as a destination or transit on your way to Tahiti or New Zealand (AKL). Airfares include a full onboard service.

www.airtahitinui.com



AIR TAHITI NUI

www.emirates.com Copyright: © Gregoire Le Blouin © Air Tahiti Nui



Western Australia hits the silver screen

WESTERN AUSTRALIA has made its mark on the small screen as the destination has recently featured on hit daytime show 'This Morning', and in Channel 5's 'Secrets of the Universe' documentary with Tim Peake.

Both shows have sparked an interest with agents and operators alike, with competitions and exclusive itineraries being created to meet the growing demand for the region.



Samoa at centre stage

AS SAMOA continues to make its mark on the global stage at this year's Rugby World Cup, agents can make the most of the destination's potential with the Beautiful Samoa training course.

Spotlighting all the Pacific Island has to offer, Samoa's natural beauty, classic hospitality and bucket-list experience, along with its connectivity with Auckland, make it an easier sell than ever.

www.samoa.travel

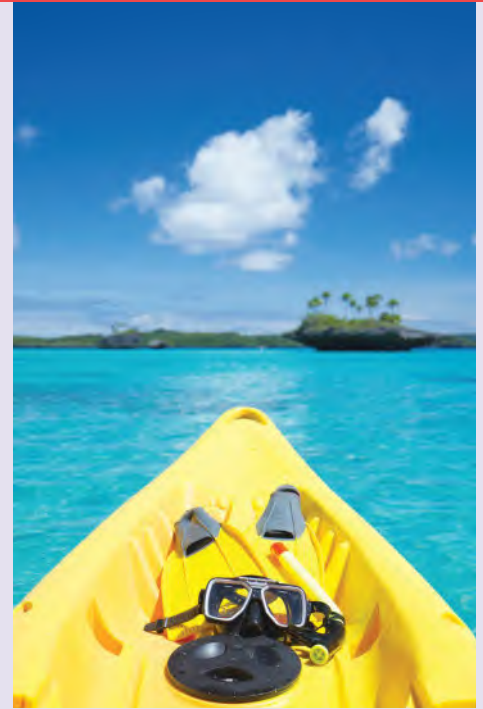
Captain Cook changes the cruising game

FROM NOVEMBER 11th, 2023, Captain Cook Cruises will launch the MS Caledonian Sky for a series of high-end cruise experiences across Fiji.

Setting sail from Nadi, MS Caledonian Sky promises an elevated cruising experience for the adventurous traveller, taking guests to corners of the Pacific that can't be accessed by larger ships. Itineraries have been tailor-made in order to explore the most the remote and sought-after destinations across Fiji, Tonga and Samoa, ensuring guests have a unique experience witnessing wonders mostly unseen by anyone else.

Prices for the MS Caledonian Sky will begin from approx. £2,654 per person for her three-night Itineraries, and from around £6,194 per person for seven-night cruises.

The vessel offers spacious comfort for the 114 guests onboard, with 57 ocean view suites that allow guests to never miss a



moment of their adventure.

Captain Cook Cruises has also begun an exclusive half-day sailing to Tivua Island where guests can join a raft of marine biologist-led activities, including a glass-bottomed boat tour, snorkelling, scuba diving and kayaking to explore the island paradise.

Windstar takes in Tahiti with new voyages and yacht for 2024

WITH A long standing history on the French Polynesian island of Tahiti, spanning over 35 years, Windstar Cruises has unveiled two new cruise-tour options, with the debut of a new ship in the region scheduled for February 2024.

The new 'Tahiti & Moorea Foodie Cruise Tour' adds a three-day extension to the existing 'Dreams of Tahiti' itinerary. Guests will enjoy the extended voyage with three nights in a garden bungalow at Moorea's Hotel Manava Beach Resort & Spa, with a

half-day food tour giving them a taste of locally-produced liquor and juice, and stops at charming roadside food stops. Guests will also get to make a splash during their land stay with a full-day snorkelling tour of Cook and Opunohuy bays with lunch and cultural experiences.

In February 2024, Windstar will transfer the all-suite *Star Breeze* to sail the island year-round, replacing *Wind Spirit* as the cruise line's vessel of choice in French Polynesia.

www.windstarcruises.com



ANGSANA-VERSARY

In celebration of its 23rd anniversary, Angsana has unveiled its Heritage Collection, featuring six riads steps away from the cultural heart of Marrakech.



BANYAN TREE brand Angsana has unveiled its 'Heritage Collection': a portfolio of properties that spotlight the architectural, historical, and cultural significance of their destinations.

Minutes away from the iconic Jemaa

el-Fna Square in Marrakech, Riads Marrakech, Angsana Heritage Collection stands as the Moroccan jewel in the Heritage Collection crown.

Six riads, totalling 42 rooms and suites, spotlight the iconic Moroccan style. Previously family homes, the properties are built around a central square patio.

Riad Si Said, originally built in 1860, hosts six accommodation options, with three suites and an Ambassador suite facing the central courtyard along with an outdoor pool, roof terrace, and a

solarium.

Riad Tiwaline sits in a more discrete location, with five airy rooms offering a more intimate and warm vibe for those seeking a break from the Moroccan capital's bustling souks.

The property's other riads, Riad Blanc, Riad Bab Firdaus, Riad Dar Zaouia, and Riad Lydines, offer a diverse choice of accommodation with Moroccan hospitality and a luxury haven from the capital guaranteed.

www.angsana.com/morocco/riads-collection

Red Sea recommences fam programme

RED SEA Holidays' first fam trip post-pandemic will take place this November. Agents from Not Just Travel, Blue Bay, Hays Travel and Fred. Olsen Retail among others joining Nicky Bird as the operator strives to strengthen trade relations.

The operator's Egyptian holiday picks span Sharm el Sheikh, Hurghada, Makadi Bay, Nile cruise options along with cruise-stay itineraries.

'Sunshine Deals' currently on offer include seven nights' all-inclusive in Hurghada, and a 14-night all-inclusive Nile cruise & stay from £1,385 per person. www.redseaholidays.co.uk

MSC conduct from Egypt this winter

MSC ORCHESTRA will sail a new itinerary this winter, hitting the seas from Safaga in Egypt, with 20 seven-night itineraries to Jeddah, Petra, Sharm El-Sheikh, and Sokgna on offer.

Sharm El-Sheikh has long been a favourite for the British market, with the flexible cruise-stay options allowing guests to uncover its hidden gems.

www.msccruises.co.uk





Radisson adds eighth Moroccan hotel

RADISSON HOTEL Group is opening the doors of the Radisson Blu Residences, Saidia property, marking the brand's eighth hotel in Morocco.

The hotel comprises 13 contemporary units overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, complete with two large pools, two à la carte restaurants that feature live show kitchens and creative fusion menus, and a wide selection of sports and leisure activities for both adults and children.

www.radissonhotels.com



Wizz through the Egyptian air

WIZZ AIR has launched a new route to Sphinx International Airport in Cairo from London Luton as demand for Egyptian holidays continues to increase. The new service will take to the skies from October 30th, 2023, thrice weekly on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Fares for the new route lead in at £53.99 one-way.

www.wizzair.com

New Nobu partnership sees Egyptian expansion

NOBU HOSPITALITY is bringing two luxury hotels, restaurants and residential projects to Egypt as it has entered into a partnership with leading real estate developer SODIC to further expand the Nobu brand.

The Nobu Hotel and Residences Cairo will be nestled in West Cairo's up-and-coming neighbourhood, New Zayed, located a close distance from some of Egypt's most renowned sights including the Great Pyramids and the Sphinx, as well as in walking distance of the highly anticipated Grand Egyptian Museum scheduled to open later in the year.

The second Nobu Hotel and Residences will be located on the North Coast, offering breath-taking views of the Mediterranean Sea in the Ras El Hikma area. The North Coast property will operate seasonally from May through to October.

Trevor Horwell, CEO of Nobu Hospitality, said: "We are extremely excited about our



partnership with SODIC and the launch of these two exceptional properties. These developments will not only redefine luxury living but also offer a distinct blend of hospitality and lifestyle experiences for our guests and residents." www.nobuhotels.com

Viking sets sail once more for the Nile

TRAVELLERS HAVE even more opportunities to glide luxuriously down the Nile River as Viking Cruises has announced voyages aboard its latest ship, *Viking Sobek*, are now on sale for the popular 12-day 'Pharaohs & Pyramids' itinerary.

With Viking's 2024 Egypt season nearly sold out and the 2025 season selling fast, strong demand has led to the early opening of *Viking Sobek's* inaugural season in 2025, as well as the opening of 2026 departures across the entire Nile fleet.



Torstein Hagen, chairman of Viking, said: "We are very pleased with the continued interest in Egypt (...) With the addition of the *Viking Sobek*, we will offer the largest fleet and the most elegant ships on the Nile, by far. We look forward to introducing even more curious travellers to the rich history, culture and antiquities of Egypt in the coming years."

During the 'Pharaohs & Pyramids' itinerary, guests will experience the very best Egypt has to offer, including visits to the iconic Great Pyramids, the Tombs of Nefertari and Tutankhamun, and the Saqqara Necropolis. If guests don't want their Egyptian odyssey to end, Viking offer a series of Pre and Post Extensions, that provide Privileged Access to archives and exhibits.

www.vikingrivercruises.co.uk



easyJet holidays Big Orange Party 2023

easyJet holidays invited its partners and agents for the annual BOP on September 7th!

With lunch, prizes, partying and festival vibes, agents enjoyed a weekend stay at Warwick's Walton Hall.

Kelly Walker, easyJet holidays' head of distribution, said: "We're delighted to have hosted our first ever Big Orange Party (...) our travel agent partners are an extension of the easyJet holidays family and have played a key role in the rapid growth of our business so I can't wait to see what the future has in store."



MALDIVES RAISES THE BALLET BARRE

Avani Hotels & Resorts is offering an exclusive ballet-inspired retreat to bring a classical touch to the upbeat island.



FROM PIROUETTING to pliés, guests staying at the Avani+ Fares Maldives Resort can learn it all with the launch of its exclusive ballet retreat programme, 'Baa Atoll Ballet Retreat'.

From November 6th to 19th, 2023, holidaymakers can indulge in the art of ballet in a picturesque location alongside Royal Ballet-trained dancer Karis Scarlette. This retreat represents a shift in Avani's offering, moving towards a more holistic and wellness-based programme, and this event marks the first in a series of innovative retreats planned by the resort to unite mindfulness and relaxation.

The programme is suited for guests of all ages and abilities, from the

experienced dancers who want to hone their skills to the novices whose only ballet experience is watching the Nutcracker. Karis will offer group classes and one-to-one sessions that will focus on perfecting posture and finessing footwork. Younger dancers can also enjoy the retreat, with little ones aged five and under able to take part in the 'Tutus & Twirls' class which will blend storytelling with interactive props.

Guests who want to be at one with their surroundings can enjoy the 'Sunrise Serenity' class, combining stretching, exercises and mindful breathwork with the natural sounds of the island at dawn.

The resort's special opening offer for villas lead in at US\$510 (£410) per night

based on two people sharing. Available classes for the retreat include Adult Ballet Basics for Beginners priced at £48; Tutus & Twirls: Ballet for Tots priced at £28; Kid-Friendly Ballet Basics for £28; and Sunrise Serenity: Breathwork in Baa for £40.

www.avanihotels.com

A new way to relax in Maldivian luxury

HERITANCE AARAH has unveiled a new concept of luxurious living with its Ocean Suites Wing – creating a resort within a resort.

Located in the Raa Atoll region of the Maldives, the Ocean Suites Wing offers an intimate, adults-only experience, featuring an overflowing infinity pool, an exclusive restaurant and a private bar solely for Wing guests.

The 26 duplexes within the Ocean Suites Wing each has their own private pool complete with a deck and a Maldivian-style swing, perfect for an idyllic evening relaxing in the sun.

www.heritancehotels.com

JA enchants guests with Seychelles residence

HIDDEN AMONG the flora at Saint Anne Marine National Park, JA Enchanted Island promises guests a timeless stay in serene luxury. At the Owner's Signature Villa, guests have access to three beaches and a private infinity pool overlooking the crystalline waters beneath. The interior decor tells the story of the island, merging traditional local pieces with antiques, creating a harmonious blend for the guests to sit back and relax in.

www.jaresortshotels.com



Dive head-first into Aqua Utopia this Christmas

KICK OFF the festive season with a tropical Christmas celebration as Nova Maldives is hosting an 'Aqua Utopia' programme where the island will be transformed into an underwater-themed paradise for the festivities.

From December 22nd, 2023 to January 6th, 2024, guests will be able to take part in a wide array of water-themed activities from gala dinners under the stars, ocean-themed parties and underwater adventures. The festivities will begin with the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony with the following days being filled with splendour events, including the arrival of Saint Nicholas himself.

Guests will experience a magical Christmas Eve with a cocktail party followed by an enchanting gala dinner, as well as have the chance to partake in some culinary wonders themselves through authentic

Japanese cuisine and island-style barbeque.

Throughout the programme, guests can discover life beneath the waves by snorkelling and swimming with whale sharks and manta rays, as well as witnessing the graceful dolphins dance through the water.

To celebrate the end of 2023 with style, guests can attend a magical countdown party complete with illuminating fireworks, incredible LED and fire performances and a live band before raising a glass and toasting to the New Year.

www.nova-maldives.com



Atmosphere's Maldivian marvels

ATMOSPHERE HOTELS & Resorts is offering a selection of packages to its picture-perfect Maldives' resorts fit for any traveller.

The five-star Atmosphere Kanifushi resort is perfect for solo travellers and families alike wanting to spend time on the white sandy beaches among the natural coral reefs. Prices for a seven-night stay lead in from £2,541 per person for travel between April and May 2024.

The five-star VARU by Atmosphere blends Maldivian culture with luxurious accommodation. Prices for a seven-night stay begin from £2,530 per person for a travel departure in April, May and June 2024. www.atmosphereresorts.com



Explore Sri Lanka in private

OFFERING A more intimate affair, Wendy Wu Tours has introduced a collection of Private Tours to Sri Lanka, promising travellers a more bespoke and authentic experience in a more intimate setting. Holidaymakers embarking on a private tour can choose from crafted itineraries for parties as small as one, including the 16-day 'Sri Lanka & Maldives Escape' from £6,790 and the 16-day 'Treasures of Sri Lanka' tour from £4,090, including return flights, four-star accommodation and a private tour guide.

www.wendywutours.co.uk



'Bake Off' heads to the Maldives

CALLING ALL culinary connoisseurs: the Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands has launched an immersive gastronomic experience with best-selling food writer Rachel Khoo as the host. The experience will take place from October 29th to 31st, 2023, including a choux pastry masterclass, a breakfast grazing table take-over and a special 'Bake Off' style event.

www.ritzcarlton.com

Fairmont Maldives' plastic-free partnership

FIRMLY BRINGING the union of luxury and sustainability to the forefront, Fairmont Maldives, Sirru Fen Fushi has partnered with Global Green Journeys to expand sustainable efforts.

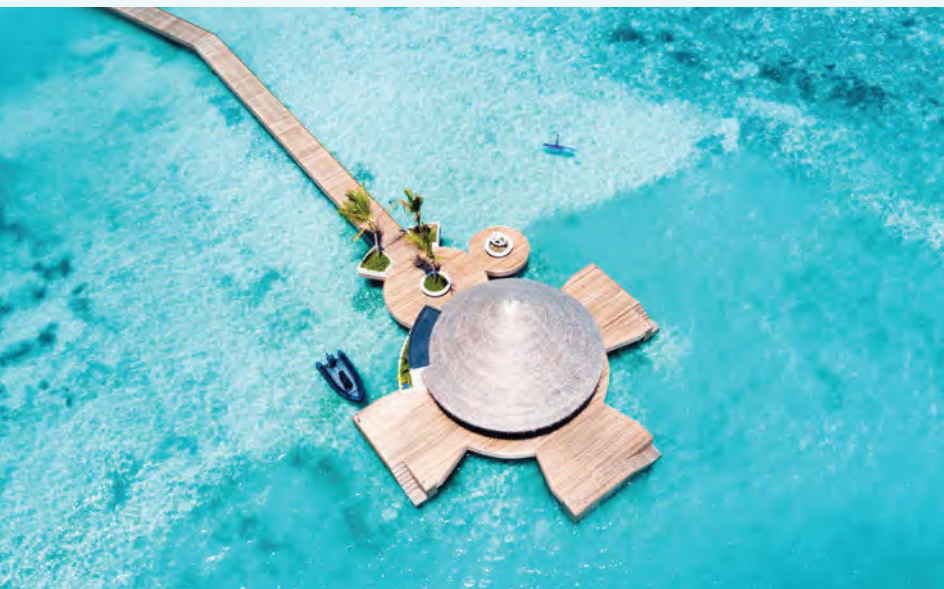
The partnership's pilot project will focus on the plastic epidemic that is sweeping across the Indian Ocean and will utilise technology provided by Precious Plastic to deal with plastic recycling while creating socio-economic benefits for the surrounding community.

The project hopes to contribute to global conservation efforts by providing an insight into the resort's on-site Sustainability Lab, the Maldives's first resort-based recycling facility.

Two star-studded guests have already visited the resort to design

bespoke products from the recycled plastic and participated in various eco-inspired activities, including visits to local schools as part of the resort's CSR School Education programme to inspire the future generation to understand the importance of sustainability.

www.fairmont-maldives.com



Kandima celebrates a kaleidoscopic Christmas

EXPERIENCE THE festive season like never before as Kandima Maldives promises to glow up the holidays with a ho-ho-holographic dreamscape. The highly-anticipated Holoworld will transform the island paradise into an iridescent carnival which will run from December 22nd, 2023 until January 7th, 2024.

Whether guests want an adventure under the lights or that romantic festive feeling, Holoworld offers something special for everyone this holiday season.

www.kandima.com

What would be your first purchase post-lottery win?

Jeanette Ratcliffe Publisher

jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk
A cottage in Cornwall



Simon Eddolls Sales Director

simon.eddolls@travelbulletin.co.uk
A château with a vineyard in France



Sarah Terry Senior Account Manager

sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk
Charter a yacht around the Caribbean after a mega shop in Miami, before I decide where I want my beach house!



Tim Podger Account Manager - Far East

tim.podger@travelbulletin.co.uk
A country house in Sussex with a 1969 Porsche roadster in one of the garages.



Matthew Hayhoe Acting Editor

matthew.rhayhoe@travelbulletin.co.uk
A seaside townhouse.



Melissa Paddock Events Coordinator

melissa.paddock@travelbulletin.co.uk
A house overlooking the beach in South Africa



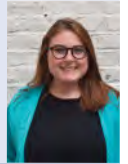
Holly Brown Events Coordinator

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A beach house in Orange County and a Magic Key



Leah Kelly Acting Deputy Editor

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