

Travel bulletin

Giving agents the edge

Tech for the Trade

Shining a spotlight on the tech platforms streamlining selling and bolstering bookings!



MORE IN...

Agent Bulletin

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Escorted Touring

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Enhance The Experience!

JETS rips off the 'clothes of confusion' around airline Fare Branding

We asked 100 agents what they loved about the new JETS TECH, released on Valentines Day...



Jetset
JUST JUMP ON JETS
www.jetsetflights.co.uk



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This staple of travel continues to reach new heights and destinations!



GETTING IN EARLY

Sabre Corporation’s latest global travel study offers up interesting insight into recent booking patterns.

IT SEEMS as though clients are feeling more confident than ever about future travel plans: not only spending more, but planning further in advance safe in the knowledge that they can get planning and packing without risk of cancellation or rescheduling.

Largely, leisure travellers appear to be booking flights at least three months in advance according to Sabre’s data. This is a clear departure from recent years, when clients were perhaps more cautious about looking too far ahead.

Another departure from the shadow of Covid-19’s tough travel lessons is consumers’ willingness to spend: nearly 90% of those surveyed for the study

suggest at the very least similar spend on travel in 2024 as 2023.

The significant 40.7% share of those expecting to increase travel budgets makes happy reading.

Interestingly, all respondents were willing to pay a 5% premium for sustainable travel options, with a healthy proportion willing to up that premium to 15% to offset their carbon footprint during travelling.

Leisure travellers appear to put more value than ever on in-flight meals, comfort and seat selection: perhaps a luxury that increased budgets can enable for those heading on holiday in 2024.

www.sabre.com



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AIUla bolsters air connectivity options with three new routes

AIR CONNECTIVITY to AIUla has been boosted following three major airlines announcing new flight options to the luxury destination.

Gulf Air, the national carrier for the Kingdom of Bahrain, is expanding its presence with direct flights to AIUla operating twice-weekly from Bahrain.

Royal Jordanian Airlines is set to launch direct flights between Amman and AIUla

beginning February 16th, 2024, operating twice weekly, and Saudia has made AIUla more accessible to the European market with the relaunch of seasonal flights from Paris. The first service took off last month, and will continue until April 28th, 2024, operating once per week to connect the key European city with the Saudi destination.

www.experiencealula.com



Virgin expands Jamaica flight frequency

VIRGIN ATLANTIC has announced it has increased service frequency from London Heathrow to Montego Bay, bringing the service from five to seven flights per week.

Taking to the skies from March 31st, 2024, the new frequency will be available all

year round, with the low season addition of a Saturday and Sunday service.

With the increased frequency, Virgin Atlantic will now operate daily between London and Montego Bay, adding an extra 516 seats weekly.

www.visitjamaica.com

It's time to say hello to Star Clippers' Andrea Bocelli experience

CALLING ALL music lovers, Star Clippers has created a new package to celebrate the legacy of world-renowned Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli as he brings his celebratory concert to his home town in Tuscany.

Departing on July 6th, 2024, guests can enjoy a memorable 12-night package cruise which includes a seven-night sailing aboard the *Star Flyer* from Rome, a two-night post-cruise stay in Rome and a three-night post-cruise stay in Pisa. That package includes stops in the Aeolian Islands, Sicily, Amalfi and the Pontine Islands, before guests can witness the 30-year legacy of Andrea Bocelli at his open-air concert in Lajatico, Tuscany.

Prices for the package lead in from £4,249 per person, including return flights from London, post-cruise accommodation and Andrea Bocelli tickets.

www.starclippers.co.uk

Paradores to open 99th establishment

SPAIN'S STATE-run historic hotelier, Paradores, is set to open its 99th establishment this year with the Parador de Molina de Aragón in the Spanish region of Castile La Mancha.

Situated on a 26,000 square metre site, the new Parador will incorporate historical prestige with contemporary style, offering an accommodation option unlike anywhere else.

The Parador comprises 22 rooms, two

suites, wellness facilities, a spa, a cafe and a restaurant which promises to create an authentic culinary journey for guests.

Located two hours from Madrid, the region is easily accessible for British tourists, and allows guests to combine stays with the nearby Parador de Sigüenza, a 12th-century Moorish castle, or the Parador de Cuenca, a 16th-century convent.

www.paradores.es



Riviera to expand fleet

RIVIERA TRAVEL is sailing ahead into 2025 with an improved fleet as the operator has announced two new vessels will take to the water from March and April, 2025.

The 178-guest *Riviera Radiance* and the 114-guest *Riviera Rose* will join the fleet next year, marking the next chapter in Riviera's legacy and offering an elevated guest experience to all those who sail within. Full details regarding their itineraries will be released over the coming weeks.

Both vessels will be available to book from February 29th, 2024.

www.rivieratravel.co.uk



Yes chef: MSC bolsters culinary offering

MSC CRUISES is elevating its culinary offering by welcoming three celebrity chefs onboard the *MSC Poesia* during the second leg of her 2024 World Cruise.

The three chefs will be joining at different intervals to prepare a complete three-course menu inspired by cuisines from around the globe.

The star-studded lineup includes Reuben Riffel, Allan Vila Espejo and Niklas Ekstedt.

www.msccruises.co.uk



Greece growth for Solmar Villas

SOLMAR VILLAS has increased its portfolio in mainland Greece, adding 18 new properties to the collection, bringing Solmar's offering to more than 530 options across the destination.

Predominantly focused in the Halkidiki and Olympus Riviera regions, the properties range from one to four bedrooms, with prices leading in from £1,097 per week based on a stay in Villa Veronika in April 2024.

www.solmarvillas.com



Ambassador announce 23 ORCA itineraries

AMBASSADOR CRUISE Line is celebrating the renewal of its partnership with ORCA, its charity partner dedicated to marine conservation, and will launch 23 dedicated ORCA itineraries throughout the 2024/2025 season. *Ambition* is set to host 11 dedicated sailings, with *Ambience* hosting 12.

Each ORCA itinerary will see a minimum of two ocean conservationists join guests onboard to collect important data aimed at protecting marine life while educating guests over the fragility of the seas and the importance of maintaining a strong and sustainable marine ecosystem through an interactive education programme.

www.ambassadorcruiseline.com

Barceló sets sights on Thailand

BARCELÓ HOTEL Group has expanded its international presence in Asia with the opening of Barceló Coconut Island hotel off the coast of Phuket.

Situated in an exclusive beachfront location, Barceló Coconut Island boasts 274 rooms, including 120 two- to five-bedroom villas perfect for a family retreat or a fun-



filled vacation with friends.

Watersport facilities and wellness options are available.

www.barcelo.com

Christmas is calling: Jet2 expands winter 2024 offering

ALREADY MISSING that festive feeling? Fear not as Jet2.com and Jet2CityBreaks has announced a significant expansion to their Winter 2024/2025 offering.

Due to extraordinary levels of consistent demand, the operator has launched seven



new routes and extra capacity to festive favourite destinations.

Jet2 will operate to seven Christmas market destinations for the upcoming winter season, including Berlin, Budapest, Cologne, Copenhagen, Krakow, Prague and Vienna, from across 11 UK airports.

For the first time ever, Jet2 will offer a Christmas Markets programme from Liverpool John Lennon Airport to Krakow and Vienna, with twice-weekly services respectively operating between November 28th to December 22nd, 2024.

The winter expansion has aided Jet2 into reaching a huge milestone – the operator now has more than 500 routes on sale across its vast network. The expansion also sees more than 100,000 Christmas Market seats on sale next winter, boasting a capacity increase of 30% compared to winter 2023/2024.

www.trade.jet2holidays.com



NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS has launched a flash sale for its entire 2024 and 2025 programme, offering up to 15% savings across the portfolio. Agents can help secure their clients' dream holiday for less by booking before February 29th, 2024, across the whole range of European, long haul and Exclusively Solos escorted tours. Departures in 2026, ocean and river cruises, special events and Lapland itineraries are not included.

Lepogo opens new ultra-luxe property

LEPOGO LODGES, the non-for-profit safari lodge, has unveiled its second property, the ultra-luxe Melote House.

The brand-new exclusive-use lodge sleeps 16 people and has opened its doors inside the Lapalala Wilderness Reserve in the heart of South Africa.

Built into the side of a hill, the new property has sustainability at its heart as it blends into the natural surroundings of the Reserve and

offers a meaningful bush experience for all. 100% of profits are funded back into the Reserve and guests are encouraged to participate in one of three conservation projects to offset their carbon footprints.

Not only can guests witness the 'Big Five' in their natural habitat, but also gaze upon the 'Awesome Eight' – the Big Five alongside cheetahs, wild dogs and pangolins.

www.lepogolodges.com

Wizz Air hits platinum passenger milestone

IT IS time for celebration for Wizz Air as the airline has achieved another passenger milestone – more than 70 million passengers have travelled through London Luton Airport with the airline.

Wizz Air is the largest airline carrier at Luton Airport, boasting 11 aircraft which operate 50 return flights per day to 60 destinations. The 70 millionth passenger was welcomed on a flight from Tirana to Luton last week.

Jonathan Rayner, chief commercial officer at London Luton Airport, highlighted the partnership with Wizz Air that has achieved "impressive sustained growth in passenger numbers and an ever-greater choice in destinations, as well as collaborating on new solutions that support the airport's commitment to sustainable aviation." www.wizzair.com



Blue Lagoon Island unveils enhancements

BLUE LAGOON Island has undergone several enhancements to elevate guest experiences. Nassau's private island has unveiled an Ocean View Terrace option, expanded the dock, and began renovations on the all-natural sea lion habitat within the resort setting.

www.dolphinencounters.com

AGENT INCENTIVES

- £25 LOVE2SHOP vouchers are included with Cox & Kings group tours, with a bolstered £50 incentive on tailor-made bookings made by the end of February. www.coxandkings.co.uk
- LONG-HAUL CLASSIC Collection bookings made this month include the chance to win a seven-night twin-centre break in Sri Lanka. Each week, entrants will be selected for a deciding prize draw. www.classic-collection.co.uk
- ABERCROMBIE & KENT is thanking trade partners with rewards on bookings made by March 31st, 2024: £50 Love2shop vouchers for bookings up to £10,000; £175 vouchers for bookings between £10,000 and £25,000; £300 vouchers for bookings between £25,000 and £50,000; £300 vouchers for bookings between £50,000 and £75,000; and £1,000 vouchers for bookings over £75,000. www.abercrombiekent.co.uk
- ST LUCIA'S Coconut Bay is incentivising the trade with a new reward scheme. The incentive includes a £60 reward per seven-night booking in the Splash Tow-Bedroom Connecting Room; £50 in Harmony Concierge Junior Suites; and £25 for an Oceanview Room at Harmony or Splash. Agents can also earn one free night per booking. Bookings made by September 30th, 2024 of seven nights or more are valid. www.cbayresort.com
- WHILE VALENTINE'S Day might be way in your rearview mirror, AmaWaterways' loved-up incentive continues: you can win a Valentine's Day 2025 river cruise with bookings made by February 29th, 2024. www.amawaterways.co.uk



NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS dispatched account managers **Claire Hodgkin and Stuart Cowell** to deliver pancakes, maple syrup and tasty toppings to shops across Witney, Oxfordshire on Pancake Day earlier this month: pictured here at Great Experience Travel. Fittingly, Claire said it was "a flipping fun day!"

Travel **bulletin**

WEBINAR

Join us and marvels on **March 28th** for our **Middle East webinar!**

Find out more at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/webinar



AGENT TRAINING

DESTINATION TRAINING

- VISIT MALTA'S recently-revamped trade training platform features four new training modules and three promised in due course. Social-ready videos and both in-destination and domestic events are also on offer through the platform. www.malta-training.com
- EIGHT MODULES on the Qatar Specialise Programme stand between you and a place on a fam trip this year, with a host of trade-friendly tools and itinerary builders included along the way. www.qatarspecialist.lobster-access.com/selfregistration

OPERATOR TRAINING

- THE AAT tour collection, destinations covered, and top selling tips are all collated on the trade-exclusive A-LIST ACCESS podcast. The podcast ties in with online quizzes that help you grow from 'Go-Getter' to 'A-LISTER' status and unlock the incentive benefits as you go. www.aatkins.com/alisters
- 15% OFF Newmarket adventures of your own, the chance to win a spot on one of the operator's upcoming fam trips, plus a Newmarket Achievement Award certificate? All that and more on the operator's trade training programme. www.training.newmarketholidays.co.uk

CRUISE LINE TRAINING

- WIN A Virgin Voyages swag bag worth £50 when signing up for the Seacademy. Go one step further and complete the Gold tier module and you can join the cruise line's First Mates Rewards incentive programme. www.travelbulletin.co.uk/virgin-in-voyage-travelgym
- PRINCESS CRUISES' dedicated trade site features the Academy training programme, the POLAR ONLINE booking system and more. www.onesourcecruises.com

Playa's peaks campaign: fams, incentives & agent interaction

PLAYA HOTELS & Resorts' BDM, Jade Calver, gave *Travel Bulletin* a rundown on the brand's peaks campaign, emphasising the importance of agents getting first-hand experience of Playa properties.



Hailing praise on Playa's agent partners, Jade explained: "The trade plays a pivotal role in Playa's success, and agents are key to our selling strategy across the UK and Ireland."

Adding that Playa Hotels & Resorts prides itself on "being a truly trade-friendly brand," Jade and the wider Playa team "work hard to ensure we always support agents with the best resources..."

Playa's comprehensive incentive campaigns are hard to miss: Jade highlighted the "Playa Rewards programme... [which] offers agents the chance to earn free night stays and cash rewards by simply logging their Playa bookings."

Six fam places are up for grabs, randomly awarded to bookings logged at Playa Rewards by February 29th, 2024. An additional incentive offers you the chance to join Jade and co. for an exclusive screening of the new Bob Marley: One Love biopic. www.playaresorts.com



CELESTYAL HAS spiced up its onboard speciality dining offering: the Grill Seekers restaurants on both ships will offer more indulgent options including American Wagyu beef and Australian lamb chops, while *Celestyal Journey's* exclusive Pink Moon restaurant will now offer a revised Asian menu, including ramen and noodle bowls, with décor taking notes from Japanese interior design. www.celestyal.com

TTC Tour Brands eyes UK expansion

TTC TOUR Brands (comprising Contiki, Trafalgar, Insight Vacations, Luxury Gold and Cost saver) has revealed plans to ambitiously expand its operations across the UK.

Kelly Walker (former head of distribution at easyJet Holidays) has been recruited as director of sales, joined by former G Touring national account manager Polly Poulton, in moves that the group described as "solidifying TTC's dedication to agent

partners."

Kelly Walker said the group is targeting "ambitious growth trajectory for the UK... we are focusing on offering and developing some great new tours and experiences across our brands."

Roles including sales manager for homeworking agents and two new area sales managers are currently being recruited for. www.ttc.com

Advantage reports half-term booking boom

ADVANTAGE TRAVEL Partnership has reported strong bookings for both February half term and the Easter Bank Holidays as consumers continue to prioritise travel.

Advantage's travel agents have report that booking for February half term are up 15%, with revenue up 25% in comparison to 2023. In need of a dose of sunshine, the Canary Islands are the most popular getaway destination, accounting for 15% of all bookings.

The US remains a popular choice, accounting for 9% of bookings, with New York reigning in the top spot. www.advantagemembers.com



Malawi waives visas for UK arrivals

THE UK is one of 79 countries to have its requirement for entry visas to Malawi revoked. The destination's minister for tourism said the "decision isn't just about visas; it's about unleashing the untapped potential of Malawi." www.malawitourism.com



Spain & Her Islands Showcase

¡HOLA! WE brought a sold-out roster of Spanish hoteliers, attractions and operators to Sheffield for our Spain & Her Islands Showcase!

Headline sponsor Fergus Hotels was joined by Formentera, PortAventura World, SPL Villas, Vibra Hotels, World of Hyatt Inclusive Collection, Sandals Hotels & Resorts Spring Hotels Group, and Meliá Hotels & Resorts, and a host of Sheffield's finest agents!



Fancy a slice of the [#TBSHOWCASES](https://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/agents) action? We're bringing a taste of Australasia and the Pacific Islands to Canterbury on April 16th... register at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/agents to join us or find out when we're bringing the show to you in 2024!

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Use promo code LEAP129 to apply an additional £129 saving off new bookings made between 22 – 29 Feb '24. Minimum stay: 7 nights. Please note: Promo code LEAP129 cannot be used in conjunction with any other promo code at the time of booking. Plus, save 29% off the cost of a Romantic Candlelight Dinner when booking between 22 – 29 Feb '24. *With our Booking Bonus promotion, offering up to £1,200 off per booking. ^Valid when travelling outside of 71 days, with the exception of select suites at Sandals & Beaches and select dates at Beaches. 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.



Africa Showcase

OUR 2024 SHOWCASE schedule kicked off in the right fashion, welcoming over 50 agents and nine suppliers to the Guildford Harbour Hotel & Spa for our Africa Showcase!

South African Tourism, Abercrombie & Kent, Riviera Travel, Visit Rwanda, RwandAir, Newmarket Holidays, East Cape Tours, Explore! Worldwide, and Serenity Holidays & The Gambia Experience were delighted to meet the happy agents and get their peaks campaigns off to a great start.



#TBShowcases are back in full force in 2024... throughout March we're bringing the show on the road to Cheltenham (Escorted Tours), Manchester (Airlines), Edinburgh (Cruise) and Cheshire (North America). Don't miss out and register now at events@travelbulletin.co.uk

READY, JETSET, GO!

Adrian Smyth breaks down Jetset's JETS platform, now approaching its 25th year of operation.



WHILE IT'S unlikely that Jetset nor its amicable sales director Adrian Smyth have escaped your network, in this, our first *Tech for the Trade* feature, Jetset makes an ideal launchpad into the world of the platforms designed to make your trading easier. Adrian explained: "Jetset's now in our 56th year, remaining a bona-fide trade-only

operator. In 2006, we embarked on a journey to create our own bit of tech, that we called JETS. JETS is our overarching system, and we've since introduced sub-categories like 'Home from Home', our villa packaging site."

Despite JETS reaching its 18th birthday with more comprehensive functionality than boasted upon launch, the innovation hasn't slowed. Just this past Valentine's Day, a minor change to JETS bought major enhancements: the ability to view benefits included in various tiers of flight fares and upgrade your clients' experience accordingly. Adrian explained: "No one is an expert on every single airline and every single

fare inclusion... a series of tabs shows you exactly what each tier offers. Nothing out there is as user-friendly as JETS, or specifically, the 'Enhance The Experience' (ETE) add-on for the trade."

Adrian also confirmed the return of the 'High Flyers' incentive this May, site speed enhancements, and Maldives package transfer integrations coming to JETS in the near future.

Throughout February, Jetset's partnership with Virgin Atlantic and Delta offers £20 per Business Class passenger, £15 per Premium Cabin passenger, and £10 per Economy Class passenger booked through Jetset. www.jetsetflights.co.uk

Travel Counsellors targets tech growth

AT THE turn of 2024, Travel Counsellors confirmed the acquisition of the Planisto travel technology platform along with its key development team.

The proprietary platform allows agents to create and manage complex bespoke itineraries, with Travel Counsellors across the Netherlands and Belgium previously integrating the software before the acquisition.

Further investment into the in-house Phenix digital platform has also been confirmed to scale the tech and operations arm of Travel Counsellors. www.travelcounsellors.com

Windstar makes waves with tech partnership

WINDSTAR CRUISES has confirmed a technology and distribution partnership with Traveltek, enhancing the cruise line's visibility with GBP pricing, product information, itineraries and ship content viewable through platform. While itineraries will not be bookable, through Traveltek the feed, availability and assets should streamline Windstar sailing selling. www.windstarcruises.com





Top Villas' trade-friendly platform

2,500 AGENTS AND homeworkers have already signed up to Top Villas' new Luxury Villa Rentals platform, with 10,000 properties available to book. Live availability and rates are guaranteed, with search results displayed on interactive maps or lists for maximum ease. Full customisation will shortly be integrated, allowing you to customise the interface with logos, enquiry forms, and more. www.thetopvillas.com/en_gb/agent-sign-up



Sail on to affiliate earning

GETMYBOAT'S RAKUTEN-INTEGRATED affiliate programme helps you earn commission worth almost £40 on boating adventures. More than 170,000 boating excursions are bookable, spanning over 9,000 destinations. Commission can be secured through bespoke links, and bookings can be integrated on your own sites and booking platforms. www.getmyboat.com

Daytrip: trade-friendly door-to-door adventures

DAYTRIP'S HEAD of partnerships and business development, Alexandra Mamrillova, spoke to *Travel Bulletin* on Daytrip's potential to reinvent the traditional door-to-door transfer model, with a trade-centric strategy at its heart.

"We offer extensive coverage of door-to-door rides in over 110 countries, utilising point-to-point technology and a favorable pricing model.

"As a curated platform, we not only offer up to 40,000 possible routes but also provide unique ways to transform transfers into experiences for travel agents' clients by offering additional sightseeing stops to discover the area.

"Agents have access to a user-friendly tool for booking door-to-door rides and... content about potential sightseeing stops along the way. With Daytrip, simply search for a ride from point A to point B, and we'll guide you on how to make the most of your



client's journey.

"By working with agents, we engage with industry professionals who haven't lost touch with customer interactions. They're significant to us because they foster a vibrant Daytrip community and contribute not only to our growth through bookings but also through valuable feedback and ideas on our product, portal, and drivers."

RateHawk's rise to the top of trade charts

THE PRESIDENT and CEO of the Emerging Travel Group spotlighted RateHawk's ability to push the envelope of trade potential in an interview with *Travel Bulletin*.

Previously an early investor in Uber among other tech giants, Felix Shpilman joined Emerging Travel Group (the parent company of RateHawk) in 2013, and asked one simple question: "Why is nobody building a great user experience for professionals in the travel trade?"



Kickstarting the development of RateHawk, Felix explained the fundamentals behind the platform: "The first is the product itself. So it has to be functional, it has to have all of the right feature sets built into the product on both mobile and web."

The emphasis on tech has provided a platform for almost-unparalleled growth since: "Starting with eight connections in 2013, the group has grown to have 220 active direct connections with suppliers."

In late 2023, RateHawk integrated third-party reviews through a partnership with Expedia Group, meaning you can explore over 138 million reviews from Expedia, Hotels.com and more when choosing that perfect property for your clients.

Felix concluded: "RateHawk is committed to developing tools that help travel professionals work more efficiently..."

www.ratehawk.com

DISCOVER THE WORLDS BEAUTY

Ramble Worldwide has launched its 2024 'Discover Collection' featuring 104 escorted tours across the world.



COMBINE YOUR clients' love of exploring and adventure with the great outdoors as Ramble Worldwide has unveiled its 2024 'Discover Collection', offering an immersive mix of heritage, cuisine, wildlife, nature and history through a bespoke collection of escorted walking tours.

The collection emphasises the company's ethos of 'the world is more

beautiful on foot' by incorporating 104 meticulously curated itineraries that range from city breaks and culture, food and wine, wellness and wildlife to cruise and walk holidays, offering something for everybody, from the care-free ramblers to the active adventurer.

For the 2024/2025 season, Ramble Worldwide has 31 new tours lined up, with some of the highlights including the nine-night 'Exploring Egypt & the Nile' itinerary which allows guests to experience the captivating history of Ancient Egypt by wandering through the Valley of the Kings and embarking on a Nile cruise, and that is just the beginning. Prices for this tour lead in from £3,049 per person including return

flights and hotel accommodation.

For those wanting a more cosmopolitan feel on their walks, the four-night 'Riga City Break' comprises gothic architecture and hidden courtyards with a pristine mix of lakes, woods and the coast. Local guides take guests through the narrow alleyways of Riga's Old Town before heading up to St Peter's Church, one of the oldest medieval buildings in the Baltic and the centrepiece of Riga's skyline. Prices for the itinerary start from £1,379 per person, including return flights from London, four-star accommodation and three local dinners.

All itineraries include the service of an expert guide.

www.rambleworldwide.co.uk

Full steam ahead for Wendy Wu

WENDY WU Tours' Rail Touring Collection is back and bigger than ever following the success of the previous two rail journey itineraries, 'Japan by Rail' and 'China by Rail'.

Some of the brand new rail journeys available include the 17-day 'Tibetan Railroad' tour where guests will whiz along the world's highest railway from £4,640 per person, and the 18-day 'Singapore to Bangkok by Rail' itinerary where guests will travel through Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand by way of trains, coaches and a funicular railway from £5,590 per person. www.wendywutours.co.uk

Riviera encourages guests to Explore for More

RIVIERA TRAVELS' 'Explore for More' campaign features savings of up to £100 per person on more than 30 departures from its 2024 European escorted tour programme. To celebrate the operator's 40th anniversary, the campaign allows guests to experience a wide array of itineraries for less, including the 'Lake Garda, Venice and Verona' tour from £1,389 and the 'Istanbul, Ephesus and Troy' tour from £1,119. The savings offer is valid until February 29th, 2024. www.rivieratravel.co.uk



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Show me Heaven: Celestyal launches new shore excursions

CELESTYAL CRUISES has released its shore excursion programme for its new 'Heavenly Adriatic' itinerary this year, with 35 tours available to book now.

The new itinerary will see passengers sail from Greece with port stops in Croatia, Montenegro and Italy over a seven-night period, with the available shore excursions ranging from half-day to full day experiences.

The excursions include eight 'Authentic Encounters', which provide experiences with local people and attractions, to immerse guests into the local culture and their surroundings.

Examples of the excursions include a 'Hike and Bike' tour in Kotor, comprising a 15km bike ride from Kotor towards the village of Donji Stoliv followed by a guided hike to the completely abandoned village of

Gornji Stoliv. Prices for this excursion lead in from £77 per person for a half-day tour.

The half-day 'Monopoli & Rural Life Experience' in Bari takes guests on a tour of the ancient Messapian settlement the city of Monopoli was built on, before they have the chance to sit back and enjoy a mozzarella and focaccia tasting in a traditional Apulian farm. Prices for this excursion lead in from £102.

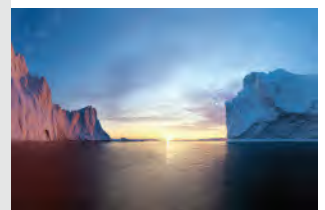
www.celestyal.com



AAT Kings heads to the North

EXPLORE THE Northern Territory of Down Under easier than ever before as AAT Kings has launched two new short breaks to the region, featuring immersive adventures into local culture and postcard-perfect surroundings.

The two three- and four-day options centre around the exploration of Uluru and Kings Canyon, with an added option of a trek through Walpa Gorge at Kata Tjuta for the longer itinerary. Prices lead in from £815 per person for the three-day excursion. www.aatkings.com



Last chance savings with Chimu

THIS IS the last chance to grab your clients a discount worth up to 30% across Chimu Adventures' 400 itineraries as the Great Chimu Sale is set to end on February 29th. With exclusive savings available across a wide array of Antarctica itineraries, as well as deals for the Arctic and South American tours, there is no better time to secure your client the bucket-list adventure of their dreams. www.chimuadventures.com



All aboard the South America express

RAILBOOKERS IS charging full steam ahead into South America with 21 brand new itineraries centered in Peru. Each crafted journey aims to provide the ultimate bucket-list experience, with packages ranging from eight to 25 days and are available to book now into 2025.

Guests can expect to enjoy luxurious train rides, stunning scenery, unparalleled sight-seeing experiences and an abundance of activities, all the while enjoying the gastronomic delights of Lima and the legendary history of Machu Picchu. www.railbookers.co.uk

Image Credits: Top: Celestyal Cruises, Top Right: AAT Kings, Bottom Right: Adobe Stock, Bottom: Railbookers



Cosmos offers long haul savings

COSMOS IS offering up to £700 off per couple for selected long haul escorted tours in its programme.

Available until February 29th, 2024, a range of long haul itineraries are on offer for a discounted price, meaning it is the perfect time to whisk loved ones away on the holiday of their dreams. Tours available in the offer include the nine-day 'Best of Brazil & Argentina' from £1,686 and the 11-day 'Highlights of New Zealand' from £2,559.

www.cosmos.co.uk



Exodus announces Mega Fam details

EXODUS ADVENTURE Travels has released details of its 2024 Mega Fam trip to celebrate 50 years of authentic journeys across the globe.

50 agents will be whisked away for a week-long trip to Morocco on November 9th, 2024. All agents who make a booking before the end of March will be entered into a prize draw, with the lucky winners drawn soon after.

www.exodus.co.uk

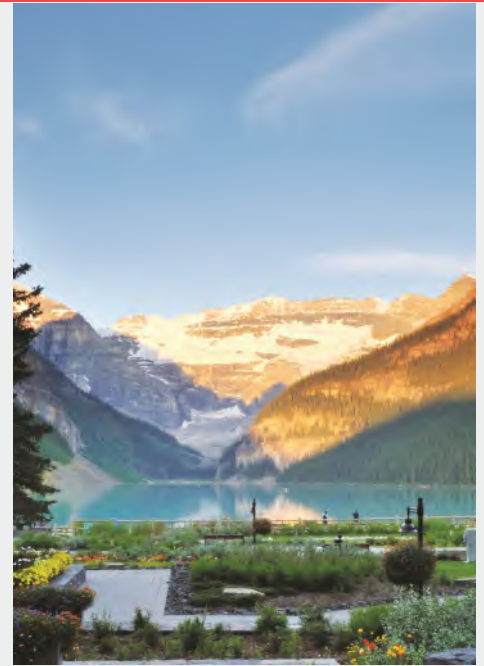
Clash of the great Titan savings

ADVENTURE FOR less this year as Titan Tours is offering big savings of up to £900 across a selection of 2024 tours, as well as a free airport lounge pass offer when booked before February 29th, 2024.

Travellers can enjoy a wide array of itineraries spanning across the globe, from Africa, Asia and the Americas over to Europe for departures throughout the year.

Some of the itineraries highlighted in the offer include the 14-day 'Zimbabwe – The Path to the Smoke that Thunders' which allows guests to witness the incredible wildlife of Lake Kariba and the majesty of Victoria Falls from £5,295 per person, boasting savings of up to £900.

The 14-day 'Essence of Japan' itinerary boasts savings of up to £450 per person, allowing guests to experience everything Japan has to offer from £5,345 per person, and the 17-day 'Grand Canadian Coast to



Coast' tour takes travellers from the French grandeur of Montreal to the maritime charm of Vancouver from £3,995 per person, offering a discount of up to £400 per person.

The offer will last until February 29th, 2024.

www.titantravel.co.uk

Inside India: Authentic tours to the heart of the country

TREAD OFF the beaten path and encourage your clients to explore the hidden gems of the subcontinent as Authentic India Tours is offering an unusual take on the traditional tourist holiday.

India offers many extraordinary spectacles, from the snow-capped Himalayas and the prestige of the ancient monuments, to the vibrant Holi Festival of Colours. Authentic India Tours is encouraging travellers to delve deeper into

Indian culture and discover the treasure trove of sights and activities that slip through the average tourist experience.

Witness the Golden Triangle with a colorful twist as part of the eight-day 'The Golden Triangle Tour – Holi Special' which sees visitors see the wonders of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur before joining the Holi Festival of Colours and immersing into the local culture as they celebrate the arrival of spring. Prices for the tour begin from £1,445 per person.

To experience the more scenic views India has to offer, 'Trekking in India – Munnar Adventure' allows guests to explore the Western Ghats and learn more about the quieter regions of the subcontinent. Prices for the tour begin from £590 and can be tailored to either a two-day or five-day programme.

www.authenticindiatours.com



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Bosnia boost courtesy of G Adventures

G ADVENTURES has promised an extended programme of trips to Bosnia and Herzegovina, hoping to support local communities and showcase the Balkan nation's brand of culture, nature and heritage.

VP of product, Yves Marceau, emphasised that "as more travellers start to visit, it's important that tourism develops the right way - a way that supports local people and communities."

Trips are expected to begin next year. www.gadventures.com



Agents a 'massive part' of Newmarket success

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS' long-haul bookings have returned to pre-pandemic levels, with Verity Rice, director of product, purchasing & operations, saying "agents are playing a massive part in the success."

India, Japan and Borneo have emerged as the most popular long-haul destinations for 2024, with Italy taking the top spot on the short-haul charts.

www.newmarketholidays.co.uk

Leger Holidays waves a chequered flag on price parity

TRADE BOOKINGS are eligible for a £20 discount on four-day coach breaks to the Belgian Grand Prix as Leger Holidays wears its trade-friendliness on its sleeve.

The four-day trip, departing on July 26th, 2024, is part of Leger Holidays' 'Live Events' collection.

Ashley Dellow, the head of retail sales for the wider Leger Shearings Group, said: "Normally our prices are identical for trade and direct sales, but periodically we like to feature special trade-only discounts and that's in addition to agents' commission."

On the wider 'Live Events' collection, Ashley added that it "has some excellent events scheduled... with the motorsports being among the most popular, so it's great to be able to offer an exclusive trade-only discount on the Belgian Grand Prix."

Prices start from £769 per person, with direct-to-consumer prices starting from



£789 per person, with solo supplements from £169 per person.

Bookings include return coach travel from the UK, three nights at a three-star hotel with continental breakfast, transfers to the race circuit and admission for both the Qualifying and Race days.

www.leger.co.uk

All in for all-inclusive Croatia

PRECIOUS GEMS await to be uncovered throughout Croatia: Just Go! Holidays' aptly-titled 'Jewels of Croatia' gets clients' sense of adventure brewing with a 15-day itinerary through Split, Hvar and Tucepi.

The tour's three bases are ideal launchpads for the country's sights. A guided tour uncovers all Split has to offer, along with a guided island tour of Hvar.

Optional excursions feature the chance to tick off even more popular locations, such as Šibernik, the picturesque Krka Waterfalls, Korcula (only accessible by catamaran) and the historic Dubrovnik.

The all-inclusive nature of the 'Jewels of Croatia' tour covers return flights (from Gatwick, Luton, Bristol or Manchester), 14 nights' all-inclusive accommodation in a range of hotels including three meals and a free bar open daily, portorage, all mentioned excursions, and the services of a tour manager throughout.

Departures are on offer on April 16th, May 14th and 29th, June 11th, September 17th, and October 1st, 2024, with prices starting from £1,699 per person for April and October options (based on two sharing).

www.justgoholidays.com/agents



SETTING THE WELLNESS STANDARD

The Standard invites guests to embark on a journey of mind and soul in its selection of wellness packages.



TAKE YOUR clients on a wellness journey of a lifetime as The Standard, Huruvalhi Maldives is offering an unforgettable package of rejuvenation and wellbeing that promises guests the opportunity to immerse themselves into a realm of serenity and self-discovery.

The 'Retreat in the Maldives' package, available over three, five or seven days,

Vakkaru Maldives celebrates six years

CELEBRATING SIX successful years of memorable experiences and award-winning luxury, Vakkaru Maldives has revealed a host of new developments at the resort to help enhance guest experience, with a particular focus on the family market.

Families can now choose the new three- and four-bedroom Beach Pool Residence, with a spacious pool and outdoor gazebo, as well as partake in new marine experiences, such as the 'Be A Marine Biologist For A Day' youth programme, and stage their very own photoshoot with the onsite studio.
www.vakkarumaldives.com

is designed to nourish the body and mind, featuring a programme of facials, body massages, sound healing, deep sleep treatments, meditation, and sunrise yoga sessions, all set against the backdrop of the resort's overwater spa. Prices for the package lead in from US\$1,920 based on a three-night stay in May 2024. The three-day programme includes sound-healing massages, sunset yoga, discovery treatments and mud detoxes.

Guests also have the chance to discover The Standard's signature Hammam experience – a sanctuary where ancient bathing traditions convene in a modern setting. Guests can unwind with traditional treatments

from Moroccan and Turkish ancient practices, and for the larger groups of wellness enthusiasts, the Hammam Sampler Special offers the chance to partake in DIY sessions involving scrub and mud.

After a day of indulgence, whether that be from enjoying the Hammam traditions or from the activities available through the retreat programme, guests are invited to sit back and relax at Tonic, the adults-only lounge that offers post-treatment tranquility and the perfect place to unwind and recharge. Guests can also enjoy a moonlit soirée under the stars to complete their journey of wellness and self-fulfillment.

www.standardhotels.com/maldives

Love is always in the air at Nova

CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S Day all year round at Nova Maldives as the resort promises a perfect romantic escape for lovers no matter the season. The adults-only resort offers an array of wellness workshops and opportunities to better oneself, as well as the chance to see marine life up close. Taking advantage of the Summer Early Bird offer, prices lead in from £264 per night based on a stay in a beach villa. www.nova-maldives.com



Kandima's Easter egg-travaganza

LOOKING TO spice up your client's Easter celebrations? Look no further than Kandima Maldives which promises an Easter extravaganza not to be missed! Located on a 3km-long island in the Dhaalu Atoll, Kandima offers culinary delights, adventurous watersport, and a sunset cruise that allows guests to create their own romantic magical movie moments.

There is something for everybody to enjoy at the resort, and this Easter Kandima will put on its bunny ears and host a wide array of family-fun activities, including an Easter Bazaar which will showcase local art products and handicrafts; as well as seasonal spa treatments 'Sun Kisser' and 'Sun Soothers'; an Easter

breakfast spectacular of pancakes and waffles; and a multi-course lobster dinner on the beach. Golden eggs will also be hidden around the island for a one-of-a-kind egg hunt.

Kandima is offering a limited-time deal to enjoy the Easter celebrations from £270 per night for a five-night stay for two adults and two children on a bed and breakfast basis.

www.kandima.com



Hilton sets sights on the Seychelles

READY TO set a new benchmark of luxury in the Indian Ocean, Hilton Hotels is bringing its iconic luxury brand Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts to the Seychelles, with Waldorf Astoria Seychelles Platte Island set to debut later this quarter. The property, located just 20 minutes by plane south of Mahé, offers 59 seafront villas, six restaurants and bars, an outdoor observatory and a marine conservation discovery centre, all within the sanctuary of Platte Island.

www.hilton.com

Who is the best celebrity you have ever met/saw?

Jeanette Ratcliffe
Publisher

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Kylie Minogue in a local pub in Victoria!



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Pete Sampras.



Sarah Terry
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George Michael and Daniel Craig.



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Georgie Best in a Fulham pub.



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Weddings & Honeymoon Showcase

WE WERE off at the races in Ascot this month with our Weddings & Honeymoons Showcase!

Joined by Coral Beach Hotel & Resort, Formentera, Delphina Hotels & Resorts, World of Hyatt Inclusive Collection, Sun Siyam Resorts, Finolhu Maldives, SO/ Maldives, Discover Tunisia, and over 50 agents, we very much felt the love...



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Agent Networking Evening

MONDAY 4TH MARCH 2024

CHELTENHAM

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to this informative and fun event, enabling you to learn more about escorted tours holidays from leading luxury suppliers. The evening will involve networking and presentations along with a delicious hot dinner, drinks, exciting entertainment and a free prize draw with prizes galore!

TIMINGS

5:45PM
Registration &
Drinks

6:25PM
Travel Bulletin
Welcome

6:30PM
Supplier
Presentations

7:45PM
Hot Dinner

8:30PM
Supplier
Presentations

9:10PM
Product Quiz and
Prizes

9:30PM
Event Ends



FEATURING



To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by **Thursday 29th March 2024** to: events@travelbulletin.co.uk or Telephone: **020 7973 0136**

THESE EVENTS ARE BY INVITATION ONLY

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