

Travelbulletin

Giving agents the edge

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Ibiza is calling – and we're here to help you answer. This year from 01 Jan - 28 Feb, every time you log a booking with First Mate Loot you'll be entered to win a free 7-night Mediterranean sailing in a gorgeous Sea Terrace cabin + \$300 in free drinks to celebrate! The more voyages you sell and log with First Mate Loot, the more chances you'll have to win an epic Ibiza adventure of your own.

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Travelbulletin

Giving agents the edge

River & Ocean Cruising

Wave hello to 2025: new ships, new ports, new itineraries *and* new opportunities to earn!

MORE IN...

News

The turn of the year brings plenty of headlines Pg. 4

Australasia & Pacific Islands

Another world, just a layover away Pg. 23



PATA UK & Ireland's chairman predicts that agents are primed for success in 2025 (Pg. 14)

Stan's dread. Heath slow. John Len no!

Arrivederci airports!

There's no airport chaos on a hassle-free coach holiday! Who needs the runway runaround when we take the wheel?

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pp

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THIS
WEEK

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**NEWS**

2025 has gotten off to a jam-packed start across the industry!

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**AUSTRALASIA & PACIFIC**

Make the most out of any journey to the other side of the world with these top picks.

HOLIDAY JOY COMES IN THREES

easyJet has conducted the Great British Holiday Audit to see how Brits are travelling in 2025.

NOT ONCE, nor twice, but three times per year Brits are expected to pack their suitcases and switch on their out of offices, according to new extensive research conducted by easyJet.

The new report, entitled the 'Great British Holiday Audit', surveyed 2,000 British holidaymakers about their travel plans for the upcoming year, with 82% stating that their number one priority was to explore somewhere new and 96% saying holidays are now an essential spend in their annual budget.

Montenegro, Cape Verde and Slovenia emerged as some of the top alternative destination picks for Brits this year, with 63% also stating they would rather swap a European break for an adventure further afield, such as to Egypt, Tunisia or Türkiye.

In terms of what Brits will get up to abroad, the most popular holiday booking is for the classic beach break (61%), while just under half of the nation (47%) will opt for at least one city break this year. One non-negotiable,

however, seems to be the desire to witness some of the Earth's natural phenomena, such as the Midnight Sun in Norway during the summer and the Northern Lights for those who missed out on witnessing them from the comfort of their own home last year.

A couple of new trends are on the horizon for the British market, with experts pointing towards the rise in 'low-cost luxe' where travellers will be swapping their three-star all-inclusive Spanish resorts with five-star options in Türkiye or North Africa as travellers will be spending similar amounts of money by holidaying with a little more opulence.

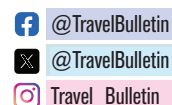
Another trend set to make an impact is the rise of 'country-ticking' thanks to apps such as 'been' gaining popularity where travellers can show off the destinations they have visited. In a bid to score bragging rights with friends and family, over half (53%) of Gen Z and Millennials will always choose to visit a new country for this reason, as opposed to the 17% of Boomers.

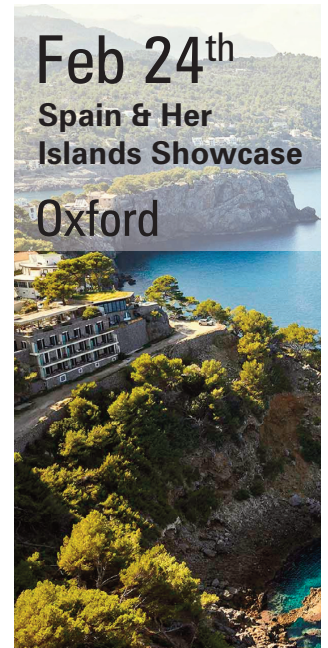
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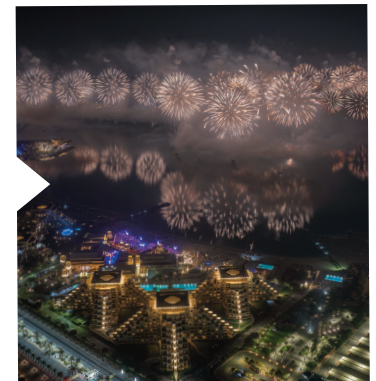
Ras Al Khaimah marks record-breaking year

RAS AL Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA) has reported its strongest-ever year after the destination welcomed 1.28 million overnight arrivals in 2024.

Raki Phillips, CEO of RAKTDA, commented, "Looking ahead, our vision extends beyond attracting more visitors; we aim to position Ras Al Khaimah as a

destination of the future. With significant investments, world-class events, and groundbreaking developments on the horizon, 2025 is set to be another remarkable year."

The successful year marks a key milestone in the Emirate's strategic vision to attract over 3.5 million annual visitors by 2030. www.visitrasalkhaimah.com



Qatar Airways announces F1 fan packages

QATAR AIRWAYS is celebrating the 75th anniversary of Formula 1 at full speed: fan packages are on offer for the upcoming season with up to 20% off when confirmed by February 12th, 2025.

Fan packages across four categories (Main Grandstand,

North Grandstand, T16 Grandstand, and General Admission Lusail Hill) are available to book now.

2024 saw over 150,000 fans attend the Qatar Grand Prix, where they saw Max Verstappen race to victory. www.qatarairways.com

Last chance for discounted Canadian flights with Air Transat

IT IS the last week to take advantage of Air Transat's 'Big Flight Sale' where travellers from the UK and Ireland can enjoy discounted flights to Montreal and Toronto when booked before January 31st, 2025.

Fares are available from £355 per person for a return ticket. The sale is valid on bookings made for departures between January 8th and October 31st, 2025.

The services included in the sale are the London Gatwick routes to Toronto and Montreal with prices leading in from £355 and £399 respectively; Glasgow to Toronto from £469; Manchester to Toronto from £419; and Dublin to Toronto from €389.

Air Transat's winter schedule operates until April 30th, 2025, with the summer schedule running from May 1st until October 31st, 2025.

www.airtransat.com

INGHAMS
CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

SAVE UP TO £300PP ON A LAST MINUTE SKI HOLIDAY

The ski season is just getting started and there's plenty of time to holiday in the mountains. Choose from over 80 resorts in 8 different countries.



CHAMPOLUC, ITALY FROM £878PP

Based on 2 sharing at the Hotel de Champoluc. Departing from Birmingham on 9th February 2025 on a half board basis.

MAYRHOFEN, AUSTRIA FROM £999PP

Based on 2 sharing at the Foersterhaus zum Kramwirt. Departing from London Gatwick on 8th February 2025 on a half board basis.



LIFT PASS OFFERS

Buy one lift pass, get one half price, on selected resorts in France

Buy one get one free on Grindelwald ski lift passes

Save £300pp on holidays to Whistler when you add a 6+ day lift pass

*T&Cs apply. Visit [inghams.co.uk/ski](https://www.inghams.co.uk/ski) for further information.

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Explore more possibilities

Thank you all for your support in 2024 and happy new year!

I have enjoyed meeting some of you last year during the Travel Bulletin Families virtual and Nottingham roadshow and I look forward to connecting with more of you this year!

It is a busy month for us with the Destinations show in London, so feel free to stop by and catch up with our team.

Let me know how we can help with your trade needs.

Gabriela Milkova
gabriela-ruseva.milkova@visitmalta.com



SINCE UNVEILING its 'Live Your Travel Story' peaks campaign on Boxing Day, Newmarket Holidays has already reported a 30% increase in long-haul escorted tours. Japan remains the operator's most popular long-haul destination, with India earning four spots in the top 10 selling itineraries. www.newmarketholidays.co.uk

ABTA pledges peaks support

ALONGSIDE 2025's Destinations to Watch report, ABTA has launched a confidence-inspiring campaign running throughout peaks. Travel with Confidence was initially unveiled in November, and is now in full flow with social media advertising, radio ads, and outreach throughout January and February. Graeme Buck, the association's director of communications, said the campaign "is designed with our members and their

customers at the heart – offering holiday inspiration and the incentive to book with an ABTA member."

Alongside Travel with Confidence, ABTA has also released its Destinations to Watch after the annual report returned with its first post-pandemic iteration last year. Belize, Hokkaido, Quebec and Malawi are amongst the spots making the cut for 2025.

www.abta.com

Uniworld gears up for booking boom

UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE River Cruises' signature India itinerary played a starring role in the first two episodes of Channel 5's Susan Calman's Cruise of a Lifetime over the New Year. 'India's Golden Triangle and the Sacred Ganges' and a luxury land tour of New Delhi, Agra and Jaipur starred in the first two episodes, spotlighting the *Ganges Voyager II*.

UK & Europe managing director, Chris Townson, said the cruise line is well aware "how powerful TV exposure like this can be," and said he "hope[s] that our travel agent partners take the opportunity to watch it on catch up as we think there's no better way to understand what our incredible itinerary has to offer." www.uniworld.com



Glasgow wins a Radisson-shaped Prize

OPENING IN 2026 on the doorstep of the SEC and OVO Hydro, Glasgow is set to welcome its first ever Prize by Radisson property. 164 keys will be on offer, joining the neighbouring Radisson RED Glasgow.

www.radissonhotels.com

AGENT INCENTIVES

- **YOU CAN** sell your way to the States this peaks: Brand USA has partnered with Aer Lingus, American Airlines and British Airways for the 10th iteration of its annual mega-fam, which will take place from May 11th to 19th, 2025. Any agents logging their bookings with Aer Lingus, American Airlines and British Airways between January 1st and February 28th, 2025, and completing the MegaFam Airlines Badge on the Brand USA Discovery platform will be in with a chance of winning. www.usadiscoveryprogram.com
- **JUST YOU** is celebrating a quarter of a century of operations this year: until March 1st, 2025, the solo operator is giving away £15,000 worth of prizes: bookings will be automatically entered, with Travelsphere bookings also qualifying. www.justyou.co.uk
- **AE EXPEDITIONS'** Coolcation Challenge peaks promotion sees eight places on Arctic and Antarctic fam trips given away along with vouchers worth up to £75. The top-selling agent will earn the ultimate prize of a cabin for two aboard the brand's new ship, *The Douglas Mawson*, on its inaugural voyage. Any Arctic bookings automatically qualify for a £75 Amazon voucher, with Antarctic bookings earning a £50 Amazon voucher. The campaign runs until February 28th, 2025. www.aexpeditions.co.uk/coolcation-challenge/
- **EACH AND** every Solmar Villas booking confirmed by February 28th, 2025 earns entries into a prize draw, where five winners will earn places on the provider's first-ever fam trip; details are currently under wraps but multiple properties will be explored. www.solmarvillas.com

AGENT BULLETIN



THE JAMAICA Tourist Board hosted the top UK bookers registered for the Jamaica Rewards programme in-destination last month. Among the all-expenses-paid attendees were TUI's Krystal Simon & Melanie Booth, Blue Bay's David Coulter, and Virgin Atlantic Holidays' Zoe Knight. The lucky winners were joined by the Jamaica Tourist Board's Torrance Lewis and Sean-Pierre Webster, staying at the recently-opened Princess Grand Jamaica.

Travelbulletin COMPETITION

Win a £100 John Lewis voucher courtesy of Royal Resort Nasu!

Find out more at
www.travelbulletin.co.uk/royal-resort-nasu-competition

AGENT TRAINING

- **CELESTYAL CRUISES'** new trade portal, Celestyal Compass, has launched with a new training platform: Celestyal Campus. The training platform's modules span life aboard the cruise line's ships; key itinerary and port information; and advice on how to maximise your Celestyal sales. Completing modules will increase your star rating, offering a wider range of exclusive benefits. www.celestyalcompass.com
- **PRIMED FOR** peaks? If not, you still have time to catch up on Riviera Explorer, where the Primed for Peaks module is ready to fill you in on all things turn-of-year and help you maximise your sales with the tour operator and river cruise line. Vicky Billing, head of trade and partnerships, said the new module "will ensure [agents] are primed and ready to take full advantage of this key selling period." www.rivexplorer.com
- **VISIT CENTRAL** Florida's new Tourism Institute platform blends classic e-learning opportunities with sales and marketing tools purpose-built for agents. Two multi-modal chapters showcase the region's attractions, accommodations and experiences as well as exclusive insights from top-selling agents. Completing the training course earns agents certified Central Florida Insider status and access to the Sales Companion, a resource to maintain their expertise, find resources and assets to market, and confirm bookings. www.centralfloridatourisminstitute.com
- **PRINCESS CRUISES** relaunched its OneSource platform at the tail end of last year; with wave season now in full tide, the training library, which covers the POLAR and Plane Sailing booking systems and features exclusive sales content, is even more critical to helping you secure those sales. www.onesourcecruises.com

Santa's Lapland opens 2026 sales with free kids' spots

THOUGHT CHRISTMAS talk was over? Not for Santa's Lapland, which has opened sales and kicked off the countdown for Christmas 2026, with free kids' places on select departures in 2025 and 2026. 2026 breaks lead in from £2,838 per person. www.santaslapland.com



SOLMAR VILLAS is putting a strong foot forward into 2025, with a 20% increase in its portfolio and trade sales already up 35% against 2024. Over 500 new properties have joined the Solmar portfolio for 2025; 2,500 are now available to book overall. Solmar Villas' CEO, Julie Blake, said, "We are thrilled to be expanding our collection so significantly for 2025... early signs are great, with trade sales up 35% year-on-year." www.solmarvillas.com

2024 sets new all-time visitation record for Brazil

FOREIGN ARRIVAL numbers of over 6.6 million in 2024 represent Brazil's best-ever return on international visitation, up 12.6% on 2023.

December alone saw 690,236 foreign arrivals, marking the third-best December since records began in 1995.

Marcelo Freixo, president of Embratur (the Brazilian Tourist Board), vowed that the "significant growth that we had in 2023 and 2024 will continue in the coming years, and Brazilian

tourism is beginning to turn an important page from being a potential to becoming a reality, a leading segment of the economy in the generation of jobs and income, attracting international revenue, and a model of economic development that can be an ally of the environment."

Freixo's ambitious plans comprise the destination's National Tourism Plan 2024-2027. www.visitbrasil.com

MOVERS & SHAKERS



MICHELLE MITTENS, formerly of First Class Holidays, has joined Exsus Travel as a worldwide travel expert.



STAR CLIPPERS has

appointed Emma Daines as sales executive, tasked with growing the tall-ship line's business with high street agents.



RICHARD FORDE has emerged from his career break as sales director for Involved Holidays.

Yiamas! Jet2's record Greece programme

2025 REPRESENTS Jet2.com and Jet2holidays' record programme of flights and package options to Greece.

Poros, Aegina and Leros have joined the established destination range, while new routes from Bournemouth (Corfu, Crete, Rhodes, and Zante), Bristol (Kalamata) and London Luton (Crete, Rhodes and Zante) boost the air connectivity for the coming year. Around three million seats are on sale overall.

Agents can currently save £100 per person across the entire Jet2holidays portfolio as part of its 'One Step Beyond' peaks promotion. www.jet2.com



Not Just Travel breaks million milestone

SCEPTICISM THAT peaks might not meet the hype was evidently misplaced: Not Just Travel's 650+ members surpassed £1 million in daily revenue on both January 7th and 8th. Long-haul leads the way, with just three of the top-selling 10 suppliers short-haul.

SUDOKU

WIN A £20 M&S VOUCHER IN THE *Travelbulletin* 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, February 6th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

January 10th Solution: A=3 B=4 C=5 D=8

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



WHERE AM I?

HOME TO two World Heritage areas located side-by-side, the diverse ecosystem of this Australian region keeps tourists coming back again and again.

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

1		2		3			4		5	
				6						
										7
8				9		10				
11			12					13		
		14								
15						16				

- Across
- 1 Rent A Car company, sounds ideal for those watching what they spend (6)
- 4 Actress who recently picked up a Golden Globe, ____ Moore (4)
- 6 This is said to broaden the mind (6)
- 8 Currency of Japan (3)
- 9 East African capital city (7)
- 11 Montgomery is the state capital (7)
- 13 Part of the weekend, in short (3)
- 14 Tiny oil-rich sultanate on the island of Borneo (6)
- 15 US state, known for being the Birthplace of Aviation and The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame (4)
- 16 Turkey's cosmopolitan capital city (6)
- Down
- 1 The movie, A Complete Unknown, is the story of this musician (3,5)
- 2 English county, popular for holidays (5)
- 3 Tallinn is the capital (7)
- 4 Kent ferry port (5)
- 5 Melbourne international airport code (3)
- 7 One of Cunard's Queens (8)
- 10 European language (7)
- 12 American singer/songwriter ____ Mars (5)
- 13 Capital of Bulgaria (5)
- 14 Bahrain international airport code (3)

CROSSWORD

Across: 1 BUDGET, 4 DEMI, 6 TRAVEL, 8 YEN, 9 NAIROBI, 11 ALABAMA, 13 SAT, 14 BRUNEI, 15 OHIO, 16 ANKARA.
Down: 1 BOB DYLAN, 2 DEVON, 3 ESTONIA, 4 DOVER, 5 MEL, 7 VICTORIA, 10 ITALIAN, 12 BRUNO, 13 SOFIA, 14 BAH.
Mystery Word: BATH

Winter Blues

MADE OF CARIBBEAN

HURRY
SALE ENDS
04 FEB '25



SAVE AN EXTRA £125 OFF

Your clients' next all-inclusive holiday

At Sandals adults-only resorts guests can wash away their winter blues by basking in the simple Caribbean pleasures that make it our home. We're in the business of bringing people closer to what matters the most. So let's make that happen during the Winter Blues Sale.



Top Trading Tips



SAVE an extra **£125** off with promo code **SAVE125** when you book by 4th Feb '25¹



Receive **FREE** UK airport lounge passes for 2025 departures²



Take advantage of lower prices on Sandals Saint Vincent for travel until 2nd Nov '25



Travel in style with flight upgrades with our trusted airline partners



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Sandals UPSELL & ENTER

Booking Incentive

Make a Club or Butler booking for a chance to **WIN £150!**

WEEKLY
PRIZE
DRAW

For more information and to book with Unique Caribbean Holidays Ltd. (UCLH)

Call **0808 164 3459** Visit sandals.co.uk/agents

¹ Save £125 per booking when you quote SAVE125 between 07 January 2025 – 04 February 2025. Valid on new bookings only with a minimum stay of 7 nights. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other promo code at the time of booking. ² Free No! Lounge passes applicable to bookings made between 07 January – 04 February 2025 with a minimum stay of 7 nights for travel through to December 2025. ³ Incentive valid for new bookings to any Sandals or Beaches Resort, made between 26 December 2024 – 04 February 2025 through Unique Caribbean Holidays Ltd. The "Upsell & Enter" prize draw is to win one of five (5) £150 vouchers. Minimum stay: 7 nights. Prize draw entries are counted as follows: One (1) entry for every Club/Concierge booking, two (2) entries for every Butler booking. The Winner(s) will be randomly selected from the entries (bookings) made during each qualifying period. ⁴ Available when travelling outside of 71 days, with the exception of select suites at Sandals & Beaches and select dates at Beaches. Further terms and conditions apply.

Riviera confirms new concierge service upgrades

AFTER "VALUABLE feedback" from its agent partners, Riviera Travel is hoping to plug gaps in its Travel Concierge offering, opening the model up to long-haul bookings and requests.



Vicky Billing, head of trade & partnerships, announced the changes, saying the Riviera team "recognised some gaps, particularly when it came to regional flight bookings," and hopes the changes "will significantly benefit the agents we work with."

The concierge service promises both agents and clients on-hand support and expert advice on all things long-haul, effective as of January 13th, 2025. A wider choice of flights, upgrades and airports will be accessible along with unlimited pre- and post-tour stays.

Vicky noted, "We've worked diligently to implement these improvements in time for peaks, making bookings easier than ever. Ensuring our hardworking agents have the simplest booking process possible is a top priority." www.rivieratravel.co.uk



DUSIT INTERNATIONAL has signed hotel management agreements with IDC Prime to manage two new hotels in Northern Mindanao in the Philippines under Dusit's Princess brand – Dusit Princess Moena and Dusit Princess Firenze. The two properties, offering 184 keys and 180 keys respectively, are penned to open in late 2029. www.dusit.com

25 for '25: G Adventures bolsters Active collection

G ADVENTURES is encouraging travellers to keep fit all-year round with the launch of 25 new Active adventures for 2025.

The new tours will explore lesser-known regions in Japan, South Africa, Pakistan, the Balkans, Morocco, the Galapagos and Peru, with a strong focus on local communities and giving back. Prices lead in from £979 per person for the nine-day 'Active Morocco: Rif Mountains' itinerary.

Yves Marceau, VP of product for G Adventures, said, "We've hand-picked destinations with the intention of looking beyond the usual trails and are bringing travellers to lesser-visited regions and villages, via incredible hiking routes, kayak trips and biking excursions, helping to support local communities who haven't been able to benefit from tourism in the past." www.gadventures.com

Trees for the trade courtesy of Travelsphere

BOTH TRAVELSPHERE and Just You brands have collaborated with Planeterra and Reforest to plant a tree in restoration projects in Guatemala and Morocco for every new trade booking made.

Tom Morgan, Travelsphere and Just You's trade sales director, noted that "The concept of changing lives through travel... [is] inherent in our DNA and runs through everything we do. By linking this project with our trade partners, we're showing that every part of the travel sector can play an important role in supporting sustainability and local communities." Agents will receive an email at the end of peaks detailing the impact of their tree on the community and environment where it was planted.



St. Kitts joins Virtuoso

ST. KITTS Tourism Authority has been accepted into luxury travel group Virtuoso, courtesy of its commitment to providing unparalleled bespoke travel experiences with a focus on eco-friendly immersion. www.visitst Kitts.com

*This January, **Aer Lingus** Long haul tickets added for extra 'Peaks' lift off!*



January Spinning, Sponsored by **Aer Lingus** 



Chris Crampton,
chairman of PATA UK &
Ireland, opens the 2025
calendar with the
association's 2025 PATA
Patterns report

“

...2025 travel trends bring an exciting mix of opportunities for agents.”

PACIFIC ASIA is poised for a great year ahead, as 2025 travel trends bring an exciting mix of opportunities for agents. From new immersive wildlife

INDUSTRY *insight by...*



experiences and cultural explorations to eco-friendly accommodations, travellers are embracing sustainability like never before.

Amazing Agents

Travel agents remain vital, navigating complex itineraries, sustainability concerns, and niche travel experiences. Their expertise ensures seamless, tailored journeys, making them indispensable in 2025. PATA underscores its commitment to travel agents with a packed calendar of events in 2025 to enhance their knowledge and support their efforts.

Away from the Crowds

Secondary destinations are growing in popularity as travellers seek personalised, crowd-free experiences. Tourism boards are promoting these areas to help reduce over-tourism and encourage tourism dispersal.

The Real Deal

Travellers are opting for more immersive, hyper-local experiences, moving away from generic, mass-market tours for more authentic experiences that focus on community.

The Sky is the Limit

Expanded connectivity and restored capacity are reducing flight costs, making travel to the region more accessible.

Wildlife Awaits

Demand for wildlife-centric holidays is booming. Pacific Asia offers experiences like spotting Malayan Tigers in Malaysia, caring for elephants in Thailand, snorkeling with dugongs in Vietnam, or observing pandas in China.

Sustainability Seekers

Sustainable travel is increasingly prioritised, with travellers seeking eco-conscious options to reduce their carbon footprint.

Rooms with Roots

Hotels are embracing local culture and identity, offering unique designs that support communities and provide authentic experiences.

Set-Jetting

Film- and TV-inspired travel is surging, with Pacific Asia becoming a sought-after destination for fans of screen locations.

Sporty Stays

Sports tourism continues to grow, driven by interest in major events across the region.

As we step into this promising year, the region's rich diversity promises unforgettable journeys that cater to every traveller, creating new opportunities for discovery and connection. Exciting times are ahead!

www.pata.org.uk

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BANFF NATIONAL PARK, CANADA

The World Within Reach

AGENT INCENTIVES

We have exciting incentives running from January to March including FAM trips, weekend city breaks, fantastic prizes and more! Simply make a booking with Avalon Waterways between 1 January - 31 March to be in with a chance of winning. No need to email us we'll contact the winners directly.

Save
up to
£900
per couple
on tours

Why Choose Cosmos and Globus?

Exceptional Value: Book with confidence knowing you're getting the best price, including savings of up to £900 per couple.

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Diverse Destinations: Explore iconic landmarks like the Canadian Rockies, America's National Parks, and the shrines of Japan.

Expert Tour Directors: Our knowledgeable Tour Directors provide insider knowledge and create a fun and engaging atmosphere.

Flight Inclusive Tours from just £999 per person: A selection of our best-selling Cosmos holidays are available with flights from five UK airports for added convenience.

Peace of Mind: Our commitment to customer service excellence ensures a smooth and enjoyable travel experience.

Trusted Trade Partner: We value our trade partners and offer dedicated support, including offers, incentives, marketing collateral, training and more.

Secure your clients' spot with a deposit of just £150 per person. Whether they're looking for a historic tour or an action-packed adventure, Cosmos and Globus have the perfect tour for them.

Contact us today to learn more and start planning your clients' dream holiday.

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ABTA
ABTA No. V3031



Book and deposit any tour by 31 March 2025 to save up to £900 per couple on the land portion of the tour. Selected tours available with round-trip economy flights from LHR, MAN, BHX, EDI or NCL on select 2025 and 2026 dates, subject to airline availability. Limited to new bookings for UK-originated travellers and economy-class air tickets. Does not apply to instant purchase air or groups of 8 passengers or more. Promotional discounts do not carry forward on voluntarily changed air bookings; other promotions at the time of change may be available. Once ticketed, air reservations are subject to change/cancellation penalties of between £35 per ticket and 100% of ticket value. Flight schedules, routings and air carriers are at the discretion of Globus family of brands. No cash alternative. Alternate schedules may be available at an additional cost. Additional restrictions may apply. For full T&Cs, please visit <https://www.cosmos.co.uk/terms>. All the package holidays are covered by a scheme of financial protection; all flight-inclusive holidays are protected by ATOL. Good Housekeeping Reader Recommended survey of Cosmos escorted tours customer experience, 150 Good Housekeeping readers, 2023.





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FERRARI WORLD™ YAS ISLAND, ABU DHABI

AMA-ZING WAVE OFFERS

AmaWaterways has revealed a host of enticing offers for the 2025 wave season.



SAILING HEAD-FIRST into the new year with an enticing range of offers, AmaWaterways is offering free flights, savings, single supplement waivers and two-for-one deals as part of its 2025 wave campaign.

The luxury river cruise company has expanded its European cruise promotions, enabling agents to book free

flights for their clients as well as take advantage of discounts up to £1,000 per person. Guests can choose from over 1,000 cruises, whether they wish to explore the lower Danube aboard the *AmaMagna* or immerse themselves in classical music-themed journeys.

Moreover, the offer includes carefully selected European sailings which combines savings of up to £750 per person, complimentary upgrades, and €50 per person in onboard credit.

AmaWaterways remains committed to solo cruisers, offering waived single supplements and discounts on selected sailings, with savings reaching up to £1,268 for those travelling alone.

Later this year, AmaWaterways will make history as the first major river cruise line to navigate Colombia's Magdalena River. To celebrate this milestone achievement, the cruise line is offering £1,150 in savings per couple for bookings made for this bucket-list voyage, as well as itineraries sailing along both the Nile and the Mekong. For those sailors wishing to travel along the famous Southeast Asian river, the line's 15-night Mekong cruise and land packages are now available as part of a two-for-one promotion.

All offers are valid for bookings made by the end of March.

www.AmaWaterways.co.uk

Magic on the Mekong

AQUA EXPEDITIONS is offering sailors once-in-a-lifetime itineraries through Vietnam and Cambodia aboard the 205-foot *Aqua Mekong* vessel.

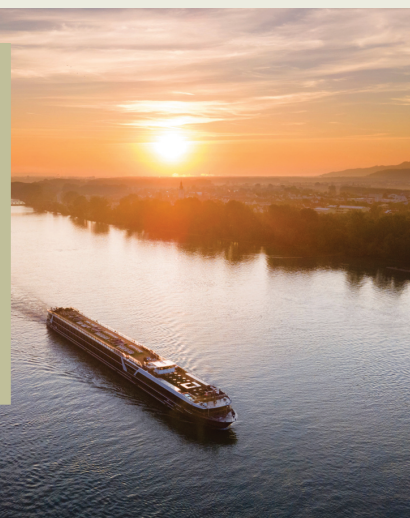
Leading in from £3,246 per person for a three-night sailing, guests can take in one of the world's most diverse regions by enjoying personalised twice-daily excursions alongside a team of expedition consultants. Guests can embrace the sounds of traditional folk songs from the bankside before visiting one of the largest Mahayana Buddhist temples in the region and walking through meandering plantations.

www.aquaexpeditions.com

Sail the world's rivers for less

APT & TRAVELMARVEL'S Worldwide New Year Sale is offering up to 40% off select river cruises across Europe and Asia, as well as 30% off small ship cruises. On land, Small Group Journeys could see discounts of up to £500 per person and fully-escorted tours include savings of up to £600. The promotion will run until February 28th, 2025.

www.aptouring.co.uk





Jules Verne reveals European brochure

JULES VERNE has officially launched its European Collection brochure featuring over 60 tours to best showcase the operator's array of adventures.

Boasting a spot in Jules Verne's top picks is the five-night 'Timeless Venice from the Water' river cruise aboard the *MS Michelangelo* where guests will traverse through Venice's watery topography on a series of guided tours and independent exploration. Prices lead in from £1,655 per person.

www.vjv.com



Last chance for a free cabin upgrade

IT IS the last week to take advantage of Riviera Travel's peaks campaign featuring a free upgrade offer for select October 2025 departures when booked before January 31st, 2025.

The free upgrades cover middle to upper deck cabins on itineraries including the 'Cologne, the Rhine Gorge & Medieval Germany' and the 'Rhine Cruise to Switzerland' sailings.

www.rivieratravel.co.uk

Tauck celebrates centennial

KICKING OFF its 100th anniversary celebrations, Tauck has launched a special promotion for UK travellers who wish to see the sights of Europe by land, sea and waterways.

The 'Tauck Off With Tauck' promotion allows travellers to enjoy free return air fares and door-to-door transfers across its European collection. The offer applies to all bookings made across land journeys, river and small-ship ocean cruises when booked before February 28th, 2025, for departures between March 1st and October 31st, 2025, excluding September.

Tom Dumbrell, national sales manager for UK & Ireland, said, "Take Off With Tauck is just one more way we're making it easier for our UK guests to enhance their lives through travel [...] by offering complimentary airfare and door-to-door airport transfers, we enhance our European land tours and cruises with unparalleled



convenience and incredible value."

One of the itineraries included within the promotion is the new 14-day 'Romantic Capitals: Paris to Prague' sailing leading in from £7,840 per person for a departure between May and July and October 2025. www.tauck.co.uk

The ultimate cruise for ancient Egypt enthusiasts

AS EXTENDED holidays continue to play an integral role in shaping the year of travel ahead, Discover Egypt is offering the 'Ultimate Nile' cruise where guests will explore this bucket-list destination for 14 days.

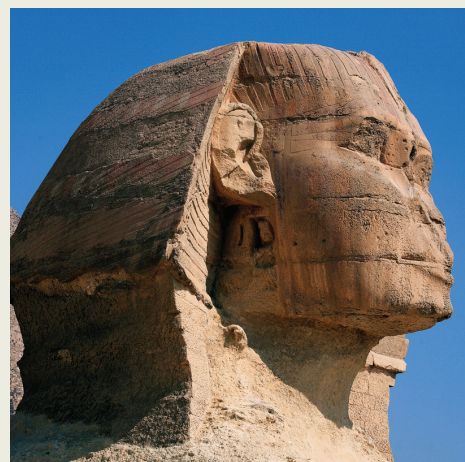
Sailing the length of the legendary river from Cairo to Aswan aboard the *MS Tulip*, guests will visit some of the country's most renowned classical and ancient sites, including the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx, the Beni Hassan Tombs and

Ashmunein, Tel El Amarna, Abydos and Denderah Temples, the Valley of the Kings, Luxor, Edfu and Kom Ombo Temples, and Aswan High Dam.

Prices for the cruise lead in from £4,395 per person for a departure on September 5th, 2025. The price includes flights from London Heathrow or Manchester to Cairo, transfers, full-board services aboard the 14-night cruise and excursions hosted by an Egyptologist.

2025 marks an exciting year for the country as the Grand Egyptian Museum is officially open in Cairo after more than a decade of delays. The museum boasts the world's largest collection of ancient Egyptian artefacts, showcasing more than 100,000 objects to visitors, including priceless treasures from Tutankhamun's tomb.

www.discoveregypt.co.uk



Ever wondered what a river cruise is like with the *very best?*

Choose from **over 60 cruises** with the UK's leading river cruise line



3-night river cruises from £999^{pp}

7-night river cruises from £1,699^{pp}

10+night river cruises from £2,649^{pp}

For more information and to book:

01283 901098 | rivieratravel.co.uk/agents

Riviera Travel booking conditions apply. See website for full details. *2025 river cruises include an unlimited quantity of drinks at lunch and from 6pm to midnight while on board (selected drinks available), for 2026 river cruises, the free all-inclusive drinks includes unlimited quantity of drinks from 10am to midnight while on board (selected drinks available).

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Expert Riviera Cruise Director and Concierge looking after you throughout

Book and claim your
£30 voucher!



Forever Curious

OCEAN CRUISING

INTO THE WILDERNESS

Cunard has unveiled its programme of Alaskan adventures for 2026.



CUNARD IS heading to the Great Wilderness during 2026: *Queen Elizabeth* will set sail on roundtrip voyages from Seattle, offering travellers the chance to experience one of the world's most pristine locations.

Between April and September 2026, the ship will embark on 23 itineraries ranging from seven to 12 nights, taking guests into a world steeped with cultural history and mountainous glaciers.

While sailing through the pristine waters, sailors will have the opportunity to stop and explore the landscape at each port, including stopping over in the cities of Ketchikan, famed for its vibrant totem poles; Juneau where gold mines

put the city on the map; and Haines, a prime destination for kayaking through the icy waters. Guests will also witness the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Glacier Bay National Park and the Hubbard Glacier.

Cunard president, Katie McAlister, described Alaska as "a truly unique destination, and we're delighted to return with our 2026 programme. These voyages promise to create unforgettable memories, and we can't wait to welcome our guests on board *Queen Elizabeth*."

For guests looking to spend a longer time at sea, Cunard offers extended voyages of up to 42 nights which take in

both the quiet landscapes of Alaska with the lively tropical beauty of the Caribbean. The cruise line's 2026 programme features 31 unique destinations and guests still claim up to triple onboard credit when booked before February 17th, 2025. www.cunard.com

More thrills and chills with cruise.co.uk's packages

ONLINE SPECIALIST cruise.co.uk has expanded its exclusive 'Florida Thrill & Caribbean Chill' cruise and stay package, now offering a total of 47 departure dates between January 2025 to March 2027, with prices leading in from £1,699 per person.

Available across a series of cruise lines, the itinerary includes a pre-cruise five-night stay on site or near Universal Orlando Resort; tickets to either Universal Orlando Resort or Disney's Magic Kingdom, a seven-night Caribbean cruise, and a post-cruise two-night stay at Miami Beach Hotel. www.cruise.co.uk

Free onboard spend with Havila

SELECT BOOKINGS with Havila Voyages will earn up to £280 in onboard spending when booked before March 10th, 2025. The 11-night Round Voyage is eligible for the full £280 onboard credit, while the five-night Kirkenes to Bergen sailing will earn £140 in spending. www.havilavoyages.com



Viking sets sail on 10 new ocean voyages

HEAD TO the Med, bask in Britain and explore the striking beauty of Northern Europe with Viking's new ocean itineraries for 2026 and 2027.

Ranging from eight to 22 days, the new cruises will feature 12 additional ports that will make their Viking debut: Fowey, England; Bordeaux, France; Limerick, Ireland; Riga, Latvia; Klaipeda, Lithuania; Londonderry, Northern Ireland; Haugesund, Norway; Palma de Mallorca and Bilbao, Spain; Fort William and Tobermory, Scotland; and Karlskrona, Sweden.

Some examples of the new programme are the eight-day 'Amalfi Coast, Africa & Iberia' voyage sailing through the southern Mediterranean between Rome and Barcelona from £2,595; the 12-day 'Iberia, France & England' itinerary sailing between Lisbon and London leading in from £4,795;

and the eight-day 'Nordic Wonders' voyage sailing between Oslo and Bergen from £3,795.

Torstein Hagen, chairman and CEO of Viking, said, "As our award-winning fleet of small ocean ships continues to grow, we are pleased to introduce new voyages that have been thoughtfully planned for curious travellers."

Viking currently offers more than 100 itineraries across all five of the world's oceans. www.vikingcruises.co.uk



Setting a new standard at sea

UNFORGETTABLE CROATIA

hopes to set a new standard in small-ship cruising with its new series of adult-only sailings in the Yacht Cruise Collection.

Available on six sailings between June and September 2025, the itineraries will depart from Split, Dubrovnik and Zadar on the 16-cabin vessel *Alfa Mario*; prices lead in at £3,095 per person. During the sailings guests can enjoy premium excursions, a private cinema room, onboard saunas and more. www.unforgettablecroatia.co.uk



Refer a sailor for £120 in free drinks

VIRGIN VOYAGES has launched a 'Refer a Sailor' offer to its regular cruisers where they can earn themselves and their sail mate £120 worth of free drinks aboard. Sailors will need to share a unique link through their Virgin Voyages account with a friend who has never sailed with the cruise line before and once they book, both parties can enjoy a free bar tab.

www.virginvoyages.com



Wedding fever hits the high seas

MORE COUPLES have tied the knot at sea than ever before according to P&O Cruises: the cruise line saw a 12% increase in weddings and vow renewal ceremonies aboard its ships throughout 2024.

Carnival UK and P&O Cruises president, Paul Ludlow, said, "We are seeing a notable

trend of more millennial couples choosing to tie the knot at sea, given that they can combine a uniquely idyllic wedding day and dream honeymoon in one."

P&O Cruises offers wedding packages across all vessels leading in from £3,420. www.pocruises.com



Just Go! strives to win over cruise sceptics

JUST GO! Holidays has partnered with Ambassador Cruise Line to offer a new overnight taster cruise break to win over sceptics.

Starting from £129 per person, the taster break blends return coach travel to Bristol and back from Falmouth and an overnight cruise aboard *Ambition*. The second day of the break includes a day trip to the port town of Falmouth.

The short break is scheduled for departure on May 30th, 2025. www.justgoholidays.com



A voyage of discovery awaits UK agents

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC-Lindblad Expeditions has launched its UK-first 64-page brochure featuring must-know information regarding the ins and outs of expedition cruising, as well as information around the cruise line's core destinations of the Galápagos, Antarctica, Alaska, Baja California, Iceland, Central America and the Mediterranean.

www.expeditions.co.uk

See the world for less with HX's 25% off wave campaign

THIS WAVE season, travellers can take advantage of up to 25% savings across a selection of HX's all-inclusive voyages throughout 2025-2027.

Running until March 31st, 2025, the expedition cruise line's 'See The World' campaign covers sailings to bucket-list destinations including Antarctica, the Galápagos Islands, Greenland and the Arctic.

Some of the itineraries included in the sale are the new 17-day 'Grand Greenland: Mythical Lands of the North' sailing where guests will venture into one of the world's most remote locations with visits to Nuuk, Thule and Kane Basin from £8,587; and the nine-day 'Galápagos – In Darwin's Footsteps' voyage where guests will encounter the unique wildlife of the volcanic islands including giant tortoises, marine iguanas and frigatebirds from

£5,124.

Guests who book an Expedition Suite can also enjoy exclusive benefits including private dining areas, a complimentary mini-bar, walk-in wardrobes, lounge areas, laundry services and more.

www.travelhx.com



Around the world in 188 days

AZAMARA CRUISES is taking destination immersion to the next level as the small-ship cruise line has revealed in 2027 *Azamara Quest* will embark on a 188 day odyssey around the world – the operator's longest voyage to date.

Spanning five continents, 37 countries and 103 unique destinations, this once-in-a-lifetime journey will depart from San Francisco on January 7th, 2027, before heading to Hawaii, Polynesia, New Zealand, Tasmania, and the southern coast of

Australia. The ship will then head to Bali before beginning a two-month exploration of Asia with stops in Thailand, Vietnam, China, Japan and more. The vessel will then cross the Pacific and take guests to Alaska before circumnavigating North America to Newfoundland. Finally, the ship will complete her quest by sailing across the Atlantic to Northern Europe, visiting Iceland, Germany, Latvia, Estonia, Sweden and more before concluding her journey on July 12th, 2027 in Denmark.

Guests who book the full 2027 World Cruise will receive complimentary offerings valued at over US\$40,000 per stateroom, including US\$8,500 onboard credit, 15 exclusive events, airfare credit, US\$500 luggage shipping reimbursement, unlimited Wi-Fi and Premium Beverage Package upgrades.

www.azamara.com



AUSTRALASIA & PACIFIC ISLANDS

G'DAY, PRINCESS!

Princess Cruises is venturing down under in 2026, with a season of new sailings and bucket-list calls.



PRINCESS CRUISES is setting course for Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific in 2026: *Royal Princess*, *Crown Princess* and *Grand Princess* will sail 42 voyages down under (with 62 choices of departure) between October 2026 and August 2027.

Princess Cruises' chief commercial officer said the range "combin[es] iconic

experience," noting one of "the hottest trends in travel... exploring 'detour destinations' that really cater to travellers looking for authenticity and unique experiences beyond the typical tourist spots."

Amidst the programme is a brand-new 79-night Circle Pacific Adventure, covering 23,600 nautical miles and calling at 32 destinations across 13 countries, including Tahiti and Samoa, after departing from Sydney. Interior cabins start from £8,409 per person.

For those looking to exercise both their sea legs and land legs, three

cruisetours are on offer for the season, including two new options.

Tropical Highlights Cruisetour is one such choice, exploring the Great Barrier Reef and Paronella Park, and promising unmatched views of Mena Creek Falls.

The equally scenic Southern Australia Cruisetour blends a sailing with a visit to Melbourne, a journey along the 150-mile Great Ocean Road, and the clear waters of Kangaroo Island.

Information on the full Princess programme and booking platforms is available via the OneSource trade platform at www.onesourcecruises.com

Down under is up top for Intrepid

THE TAIL end of last year delivered impressive results for Intrepid Travel's range of Australian adventures: the destination staked its claim as the strongest-performing destination against 2023, up 88%. Sales suggested a sway towards shoulder season, with February, March and April emerging as the most popular months to travel this year.

Hazel McGuire, Intrepid Travel's UK and Ireland director, said the late-year performance "highlight[s] how people are continue to value travel and meaningful experiences."
www.intrepidtravel.co.uk

A Western Australia win for ANZCRO

AFTER ANZCRO UK teamed up with Tourism Western Australia and Qantas for the 'Win Your Way to WA' fam campaign, sales for the region are up 76%. Perth overtook Melbourne to become the second biggest Australian arrival point for international visitors.

The winner of the 'Win Your Way' fam competition was Jeannie Palmer from The Sussex Travel Company, who described the experience as "truly unforgettable."





Fiji celebrates record visitation numbers

BETWEEN January and October 2024, Tourism Fiji recorded 822,253 visitors to the island nation, marking a headline year with a 6.5% increase compared to 2023 and surpassing pre-pandemic figures. Within those numbers, UK travellers to Fiji were up 16% year-on-year. www.fiji.com.fj

From Oz to Middle Earth: Holland America announce 2026/27 programme

RUNNING FROM September 2026 to April 2027, Holland America Line is offering 26 itineraries as part of its Australia, New Zealand and Asia programmes.

Between January and March 2027, Holland America's *Noordam* vessel will set sail on a variety of 14-day itineraries between Auckland and Sydney with eight port stops allowing sailors to stretch their legs in stunning sceneries including Milford Sound and Fiordland National Park. Prices for these itineraries lead in from £2,669 per person.

Additionally, the *Noordam* ship will operate three Legendary Voyages: a 29-day and a 34-day Legendary South Pacific Crossing (Seattle to Sydney); and a 35-day Legendary Australia Circumnavigation sailing calling at ports on the western coast,



Perth, Hobart, Adelaide, Philip Island and Melbourne. Prices start from £4,819 per person.

www.hollandamerica.com

Image Credits: Left: Canva Pro, Right: Holland America Line



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Travel Dates: **1May25 – 31Mar26** Blackout dates: **20Dec – 7Jan**

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jucy.com

Samoan success: Q3 arrivals up 45% against 2023

THE SAMOA Tourism Authority's European office ended the year on a high note, with results for the second half of the year showing an increase of over 45% in European arrivals between July and September 2024 against the same period in 2023.

The island nation is not only reaping the benefits in terms of visitation, but visitation spend, too: Q3 spend of around £48 million was up over 6% against Q2.

A seven-villa resort, Moanalei Villas, is raising the bar in boutique luxury accommodation; the first three villas were completed at the tail end of 2024 with the resort fully operational by next year.

Apia also welcomed an accommodation boost with the Fugalei Motel, promising a stylish but affordable choice when it opens

next month.

The Survivor Beach Resort, the backdrop for the US TV show *Survivor*, is now open to the public.

27 cruise ships are scheduled to call in Samoa in 2025, which, along with those new arrivals, set strong foundations for the year ahead.

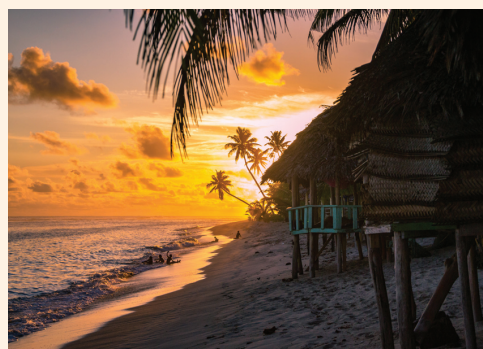
www.samoa.travel



A winged wildlife wishlist wonder

HERITAGE ADVENTURER will sail the Birding Down Under voyage on December 6th, 2025, giving passengers a glimpse of rare penguin breeding grounds, elephant seals and their pups and a whole host of other wildlife. Prices start from £11,695 per person.

www.heritage-expeditions.com/






BULA CAIRNS

FLY DIRECT FROM APRIL, 2025



CONTACT: EUROPE@FIJIAIRWAYS.COM

Motorin' along through Oz

ENJOY A motorhome holiday like no other as Prestige Travel is offering the 14-night Skyline to Shoreline: A Singapore & Queensland Adventure where guests will indulge in a harmonious blend of natural beauty with urban architecture.

Travellers will first spend three nights in Singapore exploring world-class attractions and tasting local delicacies before embarking on a 12-day motorhome adventure through Tropical North Queensland.

Adventurers will immerse into the wild landscapes of the region from lush rainforests to pristine beaches, as well as have the chance to take in the world-renowned Great Barrier Reef all at their own pace.

The 14-night itinerary leads in from

£2,998 per person for a departure on September 6th, 2025. The price include return flights via Singapore Airlines, three nights in the Rendezvous Hotel on a B&B basis, and the 12-day hire of an Apollo 2 Berth Motorhome for the Australian leg of the journey.
www.prestigettravel.co.uk



Fiji Airways increases access for UK visitors

UK TRAVELLERS can access Fiji easier than ever before as in December last year Fiji Airways further bolstered its flight connections with a new route from Dallas, Texas.

The new route, alongside a host of international connection hubs in Hong Kong, Tokyo, Singapore, Vancouver, San Francisco and Los Angeles means visitors from the UK can enjoy exploring and relaxing on the white beaches of tropical archipelago easier than ever. www.fijiairways.com

What is a trend/fad you wish you could bring back?

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The low-rise Juicy couture velvet tracksuits!



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CIRCULATION

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CELEBRATE AUSTRALIA

WEDNESDAY, **19TH FEBRUARY 2025**

SHRIGLEY HALL HOTEL & SPA , MACCLESFIELD

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to The Celebrate Australia Event. A fun filled evening dedicated to providing you with more information about Australia and their diverse range of destinations and tailor-made packages on offer to meet your customers' needs. Look forward to engaging presentations, professional networking, amazing entertainment and being in with the chance of winning some incredible prizes!

THIS EVENT IS BY INVITATION ONLY and will be booked on a first-come, first-served basis with limited space available.

Timings

Registration
6:00PM

Travel Bulletin Welcome
6:25PM

Client Presentation
6:30PM

Hot Dinner
7:30PM

Product Quiz & Free Prize Draw
9:15PM - 9:30PM



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

Travel bulletin

SHOWCASES

Luxury Showcase

Invites you to a

Agent networking evening

Monday
3rd
February
Weybridge

Tuesday
4th
February
Royal Tunbridge Wells

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to this informative and fun event, enabling you to learn more about the luxury holidays industry 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

Registration &
Drinks
5:45PM

Travel Bulletin
Welcome
6:10PM

Supplier
Presentations
6:15PM

Hot
Dinner
7:30PM

Supplier
Presentations
8:30PM

Product Quiz
and Prizes
9:10PM

Event
Ends
9:30PM



Features

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To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by Thursday 30th January 2025
to: events@travelbulletin.co.uk or Telephone: 020 7973 0136

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

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a red and white striped headscarf and red sunglasses, is shown in profile, looking out over a turquoise sea. She is wearing a white sleeveless top and a gold belt. The background is a clear blue sky and a sandy beach with some greenery in the distance.

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Ready to earn 5x more First Mate Loot to kick off 2025? Between 01 Jan to 28 Feb, you can earn £25 for every confirmed booking when you log it with First Mate Loot. That's 5x more than our typical offer! Simply book your Sailors on the award-winning, kid-free holiday of their dreams (any length, in any destination!), log it after, and double your rewards. Easy-peasy.



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