# travelbulletin

February 25 2022 | ISSUE NO 4,192 | travelbulletin.co.uk

Giving agents the edge

#### **AGENT BULLETIN**

The latest incentives from Riviera Travel, Meliá Hotels, and more.

#### IN THE HOT SEAT

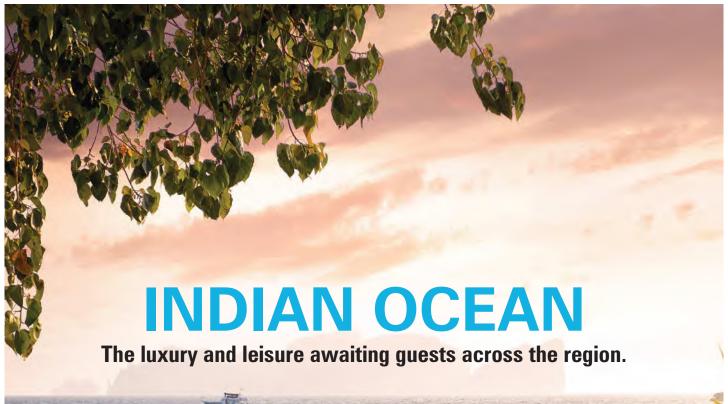
EL AL Airlines' Oranit Beithalahmy talks about the airline's strategy for 2022.

#### **ESCORTED TOURS**

Enjoy far-flung locations with the inclusion of expert knowledge.

#### **UK & IRELAND**

From Northern Ireland to Jersey, all the splendors of a holiday close to home.







Invites you to a

# SPAIN & HER ISLANDS SHOWCASE

Agent Networking Evening

Thursday 3rd March

#### **CROWNE PLAZA READING**

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

#### **HEADLINE SPONSOR**



#### FEATURING













#### TIMINGS

Registration

6:00 PM

Hot Dinner

7:30 PM

Travel Bulletin Welcome

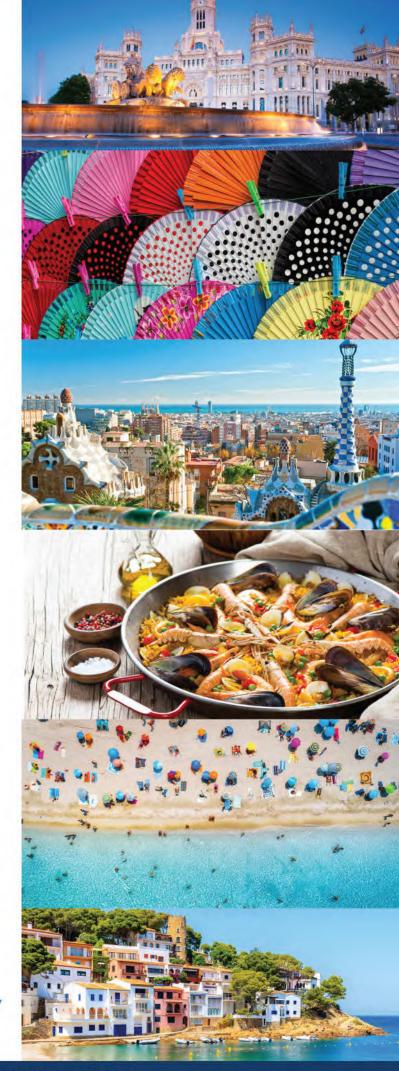
6:25 PM

Client Presentations 8:15 PM Client Presentations 6:30 PM

Product Quiz & Free Prize Draw 9:15 - 9.30 PM

To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by Wednesday 23rd February to: events@travelbulletin.co.uk or

Telephone: 020 7973 0136



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## **THIS WEEK**



**NEWS** 

The latest industry updates to keep agents ahead of the curve.



**AGENT INSIGHT** 

David Gambier, managing director of Great Experience Travel Group, on the trade's state of play.



AGENT BULLETIN Latin Routes' £25 Love2shop incentive and more!



**ESCORTED TOURS**Guided adventures to spark client interest



**UK & IRELAND**Holidays closer to home.



INDIAN OCEAN
Why Sri Lanka is a hotspot for 2022.

# RETURN TO THE SEAS

cruise.co.uk polled over 1,200 of its customers, finding that many who have sailed on a cruise last year have already booked a cruise holiday for 2022.



95% of cruise passengers felt that their wellbeing was protected by measures onboard.

ALMOST THREE-QUARTERS (73%) of guests who sailed on a cruise last year have already booked at least one 2022 cruise, highlighting the significance of repeat bookings for cruise holidays.

Of those, almost half (49%) will be back onboard within the next six months, and a total of 13% will be onboard within three months.

The figures were announced by cruise specialist cruise.co.uk, which polled over 1,200 of its customers. The numbers are particularly significant given that most holiday bookings are made at the start of the year.

The survey also revealed that almost 95% of passengers who had a cruise holiday in 2021 felt their health and wellbeing was protected by the measures onboard.

Over 60% said the measures were 'very important' or 'quite important' as part of their decision to sail again.

61% of bookings made in early 2022 depart from the UK on domestic or overseas sailings, compared to 50% for the same period two years ago.

Last year, with overseas travel restricted, cruise.co.uk booked 65% of its customers on British roundtrip voyages.

Tony Andrews, cruise.co.uk's deputy managing director, said: "We are very encouraged by these figures, which clearly demonstrate the majority of cruise passengers are keen to get back on the water.

"Cruise lines really have gone above and beyond to make certain guests still enjoy all the trappings of a break onboard, while ensuring onboard health and wellbeing measures offer the assurances people are looking for. The success of last year's round Britain season means we are seeing demand from both seasoned cruisers as well as guests who sailed for the first time.

"As testing restrictions are increasingly lifted, we're confident holidaymakers will continue to choose cruise."

www.cruise.co.uk

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#### **City Experiences launches Venture Ashore**

CITY EXPERIENCES announced the launch of Venture Ashore, delivering curated experiences for cruise travellers led by professional guides in hundreds of ports worldwide.

Venture Ashore cruising excursions offers departures from over 500 ports of call worldwide, featuring over 5,000 individual tours.

Venture Ashore will continue to operate a UK division with a team based at the former cruisingexcursions.com's HQ in Cannock, Staffordshire. The UK team, headed up by Simonne Fairbanks, includes head of trade sales Kirsty Bachelor and business development manager Liz Ryan, who are charged with delivering the trade communication programme – growing trade sales of the



popular commissionable cruise excursions, developing existing and new trade relationships and conducting agent training when required.

Venture Ashore offers a wide range of tour offerings to satisfy a variety of groups, interests and budgets.
Parties of 12 or more can take advantage of a dedicated groups service,

with a team of personal specialists to support a seamless experience from start to finish for a tailor-made itinerary. Venture Ashore also offers extensive private tours and features small group tours, varying by destination and demand, accommodating up to 25 people or as few as six.

www.ventureashore.com

# HOTEL bites

CHOICE HOTELS EMEA has continued its strategic agreement with CPI Hotels, as they opened their fourteenth Choice hotel – the Clarion Congress Hotel Bratislava in Slovakia.



OUTRIGGER KHAO Lak Beach Resort in southern Thailand, located on Bang Sak beach, has opened its doors. To mark the opening, Outrigger has announced a special value-added opening rate for guests.



ACCOR IS planning to open new properties this year and beyond, in locations such as London, Doha, and Moscow. Several Accor brands have sought out new destinations such as Pangkalan Bun in Indonesia; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Casco Viejo in Panama City.



#### **Ambassador Cruise Lines offers exclusive trade visits**

AMBASSADOR CRUISE Lines has opened registrations for its exclusive trade partner ship visit programme.

Ambassador is the first British cruise line to launch in the UK in over a decade. Sailing from London Tilbury, the no-fly itineraries provide a premium-value, authentic cruise experience, predominantly aimed at the 50-plus traveller.

There are a total of 10 dates available to choose from.

This free programme of trade partner ship

visits gives agents and trade partners alike the chance to sample the Ambassador experience on board the cruise line's first ship, Ambience at the home port of London Tilbury.

There will be time to explore the ship and all the on-board facilities, before sampling a five-course lunch in the Buckingham Restaurant.

Visit www.ambassadorcruiseline.com/travelpartners/login to register for a trade visit



#### Barbados drops curfew in new protocols update

AS BARBADOS continues to reopen, a new directive from the government announced the discontinuation of the 12:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. curfew, effective now.

The new directive highlighted other updates, including: no restriction of beach activity and parks; hiking will also be allowed in no greater groups of 30 individuals; pleasure craft and private boats, chartered for private cruises will move to 100% of authorised number of passengers; and, proof of vaccination or testing will be required prior to boarding. www.barbadostravelprotocols.com

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#### Virgin Voyages celebrates grand opening of Terminal V

VIRGIN VOYAGES celebrated the grand opening of Terminal V at PortMiami, ringing in the occasion with a mermaid-studded soirée.

Sir Richard Branson was joined by Miami-Dade
County Mayor Daniella
Levine Cava and Virgin
Voyages' CEO Tom McAlpin.
The opening of Virgin
Voyages' own cruise
terminal represents a major
milestone in the brand's
history and the first time
Scarlet Lady sailed from her
new home.

Terminal V, a three-storey building on the northwestern corner of Port Miami, offers unobstructed skyline views of Biscayne Bay, downtown and Edgewater.

Sailors who have booked suite accommodations will gain access to Terminal V's



Sir Richard Branson celebrated the opening of the terminal.

VIP entrance, expedited security screening and an exclusive pre-boarding lounge.

Scarlet Lady will call Terminal V her home yearround while Valiant Lady will join in the winter of 2022. Both ships will sail on a mix of multi-night itineraries to some destinations in the Caribbean, each with a stop at Virgin Voyages' signature Beach Club in Bimini.

www.virginvoyages.com

# Tourism Australia launches 'Don't Go Small. Go Australia'

TOURISM AUSTRALIA has launched a new campaign to encourage travellers to book their next big holiday to Australia, as borders have reopened to fully vaccinated travellers.

'Don't Go Small. Go Australia' is a £21 million campaign being rolled out into major markets, including the UK. The campaign was launched on February 14, 2022, with tactical placements in landmark sites, including London's Piccadilly Circus.

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Dan Tehan, said Tourism Australia had been prepared to ramp up its international marketing efforts once the border re-opening was announced.

"The world has been waiting two years to get Down Under for a holiday and our latest ad campaign will remind them of what they've been missing," Mr Tehan said.



To convert interest into bookings, Tourism Australia has published up-to-date travel information on the tourism board's website.

www.australia.com

#### Tigets launches limited-time package in Amsterdam

TIQETS HAS launched a new Amsterdam experience to the Dutch capital this spring.

The package gives priority access to the Tulip Gardens during peak bloom, followed by a six-course, floral inspired dinner at the Michelin-starred restaurant Bolenius. The limited time package is available on Thursdays from April 21 to May 19, 2022 and can be booked for £125 per person.

The Keukenhof Gardens, also known as the Gardens of Europe, is where more than seven million flower bulbs come to life each spring.

The 79 acres include tulips, hyacinths, orchids, roses, lilies and many more flower species.

Opened in 2010, Bolenius is a modern restaurant offering locally sourced Dutch cuisine. It is the only restaurant in Amsterdam with a red Michelin star and green star.

This one-off Amsterdam experience includes entry to Keukenhof and a six-course tasting menu at Bolenius restaurant, including a drinks package.

www.tiqets.com



#### Star Clippers offers 20% off Costa Rica sailings

STAR CLIPPERS is offering 20% off selected Costa Rica sailings in December 2022 and January 2023.

Costa Rica will play host to the 166-capacity Star Clipper throughout the winter sailing season.

The offer is valid until April 30, 2022 and is applicable on three selected dates – December 10, 2022, December 17, 2022 and January 7, 2023. All other dates will offer a 10% discount. Cruise-only prices start from £1,251 per person, based on a seven-night sailing, with a 20% discount applied. <a href="https://www.starclippers.co.uk">www.starclippers.co.uk</a>



HI EVERYONE – by way of introduction for my first Travel Bulletin contribution, my name is David Gambier, and I am the owner of Great Experience Travel in Witney in Oxfordshire. We're a traditional High Street travel agency that does everything - from coach holidays to Skegness to luxury holidays across the globe. Between myself, and my team of Mandy. Sally and Sarah, we have nearly 90 years' experience in the travel industry. There's not much that we haven't been through, but as with yourselves, nothing prepared us for the last two years. However, having plumbed the depths of near despair, I am starting to see a light at the end of the Covid tunnel. We haven't cracked open the bubbly yet to mark travel getting back to 'normal' again, but I don't think that it will be too long before we can indulge in a little celebration.

We are starting to see a real pick-up in enquiries from our regular clientele, but also from new clients who have previously booked everything for themselves, but now want the reassurance of booking with a travel agent who they can rely on to provide them with expert advice and assistance.

It's clear from our conversations with clients that, having been starved of travel opportunities for 24 months, they are looking to splash out on a really memorable holiday this year, so we are getting bookings for luxury holidays of all types, both in this country and further afield.

What's even more encouraging is that we're keeping our head above water but still without destinations such as New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, Southern Africa etc that, pre-Covid, were the mainstavs of our business.

For the first time after two dreadful years, I am looking ahead into 2022 with real hope. When you run your own business, you have to be the eternal optimist. Although I don't go as far as Delboy's 'this time next year, we could be millionaires', I can see that within a few months, I may be able to start paying myself a salary again, and that is a step in the right direction.



#### **Princess Cruises' summer** season to Mexico and more

MARKING A brand first, Princess Cruises has confirmed a summer season to Mexico, Hawaii and the California Coast, sailing throughout the season in 2022.

The programme hosts cruises sailing from June 25, 2022 aboard the 2,760-guest Sapphire Princess.

16 different voyages will sail throughout the season, with roundtrip itineraries from the Port of Los Angeles. The cruises span from four to 16 nights in length.

Itineraries include 'Mexican Riviera with La Paz', a sevennight voyage ticking off Cabo San Lucas, La Paz and Ensenada, with fares from £629 per person.

'Baja Peninsula & Sea of Cortez' sails for 10 nights, with overnight stays in Cabo San Lucas and calls in La Paz, Loreto and Puerto Vallarta, from £589 per person.



'Classic California Coast' features an overnight stay in San Francisco and calls in San Diego and Ensenada, from £639 per person.

Other options include the 15- and 16-night 'Hawaiian Islands' and the five-night 'West Coast Getaway with San Diego'.

www.princess.com

mage Credit: Princess Cruise:

FEBRUARY 25 2022 | travelbulletin.co.uk AGENT BULLETIN

#### **AGENT INCENTIVES**

- RIVIERA TRAVEL has extended its agent booking incentive until March 31, 2022. Agents can redeem a £50 lifestyle voucher on all individual river cruise and yacht bookings made for departure dates throughout 2022. A total of 14 river cruises are available to book between March and November, covering the rivers of France, Germany, Portugal, Hungary and the Netherlands. Tom Morgan, head of agency sales UK & Ireland at Riviera Travel, said: "We're pleased to extend this incentive and further demonstrate our commitment to our travel agent partners. We've had great feedback from the trade in response." Booking confirmations and a preferred email can be sent to agencysales@rivieratravel.co.uk to redeem the voucher.
- LATIN ROUTES is offering the trade a £25 Love2shop voucher for all bookings made by the end of March 2022 for escorted group options. www.latinroutes.co.uk/groups
- BOOK ANY Jersey package holiday flying from Humberside or Teesside with Airways Holidays to earn a Love2shop voucher. Vouchers must be claimed within four weeks of the booking date, and can be withdrawn at any time. The incentive is valid until February 28, 2022.
   www.airwaysholidays.com/information/agent-incentives
- MELIÁ PRO allows agents to choose flexible payment options and earn instant commissions on Meliá bookings. Agents are guaranteed the lowest price and instant availability on a 24/7 booking platform with immediate confirmations. www2.melia.com/meliapro

#### **AGENT TRAINING**

AS FLORIDA makes it way back onto Brits' bucket lists this year, and so much happening in Tampa Bay, stay ahead of the curve with the Visit Tampa Bay Travel Agent Academy. Two modules cover the latest product updates and details to give agents all they need to know. Upon completion, agents have the chance to win one-of-two £50 shopping vouchers and a certificate.

www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travelgym/destination-training



PRINCESS CRUISES' dedicated agent platform hosts a world of information for agents, simplifying the booking process and showcasing all Princess Cruises has to offer. The key features of the platform comprise academy training, with new 10-15 minute modules, the POLAR ONLINE booking system, a webchat for any queries, and events, competitions, and incentives for agents. www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travelgym/cruise-line-training



Discover Fort Myers' islands, beaches and neighborhoods with the official trade hub for UK and Irish travel. Island-Findings offers agent tools and training to sell the destination and the chance to win along the way.



IN THE HOT SEAT FEBRUARY 25 2022 | travelbulletin.co.uk

# In the hot seat with...

Oranit Beithalahmy

EL AL Airlines



As Israel once again welcomes tourists, Oranit Beithalahmy, regional manager at EL AL Airlines, talks to *Travel Bulletin* about the airline's strategy as we move into 2022, as well as renewed efforts to engage with the UK travel trade.

#### The UK market

8

The UK market is one of three largest markets for EL AL thanks to the support and trust of our loyal Jewish community, expats, Christian groups, leisure travellers, increasing premium and business travellers, and our travel trade partners.

Pre-pandemic, we operated a combined 30 weekly flights and even more during the Jewish Holidays from London Heathrow, Luton, and Manchester airports.

In the past two challenging years, EL AL didn't stop the service and continued to fly our passengers from London to Tel Aviv.

With the recent reopening to all vaccinated tourists, and as the global travel situation stabilises, improves, and increases in demand, we aim to gradually return to full schedule of operation to accommodate our passengers travel needs.

#### Trade engagement

The UK travel trade play a key role for EL AL.

The UK travel trade is helping us convey the importance of the market to their clients who are looking to travel to Israel. They are our partners and voices in promoting and selling to their customers who are not yet familiar or may not otherwise choose EL AL.

With the constant changes of Israel's entry restrictions and policies in place, the travel trade's personal services, guidance and expertise became more vital travel trade more than ever.

Our sales team will be working with them closely to inform and equip them with the latest developments, products, and knowledge about EL AL for them to sell us effectively.

For the collective, we will be much more present in the field to reconnect and rebuild the connections. We plan to do webinars, roadshows, networking, trade events, FAM trips and offer incentives. For individual agency partners, we will have a strategic and customised arrangement and agreement.

#### 2022 strategy

EL AL has gone through huge changes and organisational restructuring in the last two years, including a new owner.

The main goal this year is to recover from the ongoing impact of the pandemic on the company and on the travel and airline industry.

By committing and offering an improved, comfortable and safe flying environment, and booking protection and peace of mind for passengers, we are hopeful and determined to return to pre-Covid operations in the UK and in Europe.

The UK branch is dedicated to be more effective with the help of better and more efficient products, technology, platforms, cross functional teams and a strong commercial team to assist our travel trade.

www.elal.com

This year, we are deeply committed to strengthening our relationship with the UK travel trade...

for us and for the passengers in general.

This year, we are deeply committed to strengthening our relationship with the UK We are also looking into creating a suitable platform as an accessible resource of information and updates relevant to the trade.

#### 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, March 10. Solution and new puzzle will appear in the next issue.

The winner for February 11 is Themis Charalambides from Cyplon Worldwide Travel.

February 11 Solution: A=9 B=6 C=7 D=1

| Α |   |   | 8 |   |   |   | 1 |   | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 9 |   | 6 |   | 4 | 7 | 8 |   |
|   | 6 | 7 |   |   | 1 |   |   |   | 9 |
| В |   |   |   | 7 | 6 |   |   | 1 | 8 |
|   |   | 6 | 7 |   |   |   | 3 | 2 |   |
| C | 2 | 1 |   |   | 3 | 8 |   |   |   |
|   | 9 |   |   |   | 8 |   | Г | 7 | 2 |
|   |   | 2 | 1 | 3 |   | 5 | Г | 9 |   |
| D | 7 |   | 6 |   |   |   | 5 |   |   |



# CROSSWORD

#### Fill in the crossword to reveal the mystery location highlighted by the green squares.

#### Across

- Fred Olsen's flag ship (7)
- Form of transport (3)
- Premiership football club known as The Gunners (7)
- Carrier initially, with hub at Narita international airport (3)
- Capital of French Polynesia (7)
- Accor hotel brand (7)
- 11 First name of Blue member, now competing in E4's The Real Dirty Dancing (3)
- Best selling single of John Lennon's solo career (7)
- 14 Leeds Bradford airport code (3)
- Capital of 13 Down (7)

#### Down

- Surname of Diversity founder Ashley, sounds like a musical instrument (5)
- Hobart is the capital of this state, initially (3)
- America's national symbol (4,5)
- Flows through Paris (5)
- Popular Algarve holiday destination (9)
- The Annapurna mountain range runs through country (5)
- Located in Jordan, it's one of the new seven wonders of the world (5)
- Capital of South Korea (5)
- 10 Netherlands city known for its iconic pottery (5)
- Red Funnel operate to this destination, initially (3)

**Mystery Word: BANJUL** 

Down: 1 BANJO, 2 TAS, 3 BALD EAGLE, 4 SEINE, 5 ALBUFEIRA, 6 NEPAL, 8 PETRA, 9 SEOUL, 10 DELFT, 13 IOW.





Europe | Asia | Africa | Middle East | Americas | Australasia | Antarctica | The Arctic Circle



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# **WALKING AND WINE**

# Take a gastronomic journey through Portugal on Exodus Travels' escorted holiday.

TRAVELLERS ON Exodus Travels' 'Portugal: Walking & Wine with Madalena Patacho' tour will discover the country's winemaking history from grape to bottle on this gastronomic journey led by guide Madalena Patacho.

Beginning and ending in Porto, the tour explores the Bastro and Douro wine regions with leisurely walks through winelands and olive groves, including visits to vineyards, wine caves and farms. There will be plenty of

tasting opportunities along the way.

Naturalist by day and passionate oenophile and culinary aficionado by night, Madalena grew up in the cultural and historic area of Belém close to Lisbon.

Eight days is priced from £1,899 per person, excluding international flights.

Departure dates for this tour are October 15, 2022, and April 8, 2023.

www.exodus.co.uk



Travellers will visit the heart of the wine region in Douro, Portugal.

## All in for Italy with Newmarket Holidays

ITALY IS proving to be back in demand once again, as Newmarket Holidays reports a gradual rise in Italy bookings for 2022, with the destination earning the spot as most searched on its website since mid-January.



Of its 17-strong Italian collection of tours and resort-stay holidays, 'Venice, Verona, and Lake Garda' has garnered the most bookings. Part of the demand for Italy tours among customers and travel agents is believed to be down to the convenient option of 14 regional airports, five of which are dedicated to Newmarket Holidays charters.

The eight-day 'Venice, Verona, and Lake Garda' holiday is priced from £845, based on an April 27, 2022 departure date, flying from London Gatwick.

www.newmarketholidays.co.uk

nage Credit: Adobe Stock

# DISCOVER THE **WORLD**

Fred. Holidays' new 'Discover' programme collates bespoke itineraries with a £50 incentive for each booking.



GUESTS CAN venture further afield and 'Discover the World' with Fred, Holidays' new product range, with tailor-made holiday packages centred around once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

Fred. Discover, which launched this month, offers the trade the chance to expand with farreaching product range and earn a £50 voucher for every 'Discover' booking made by the end of March 2022.

The 2022-2023 brochure is available to order through the company's trade portal. Comprised of 48 itineraries, the options span 52 countries across the world.

Options in the brochure start from £1,339 per person for an 11-day adventure through Italy, the Greek Islands and Croatia.

#### Other highlights include:

#### Alaska, the Ultimate Train Journey & the **Calgary Stampede**

This package combines a few days at the

Calgary Stampede, including a two day 'Thrill Package', a journey through the Rockies aboard Rocky Mountaineer, a stay in Vancouver and a seven-night Alaska cruise aboard MS Koningsdam, from £4,699 per person.

#### Florence, Rome & Rivieras

Venture closer to home with stays in Florence and Rome, a VIP wine-making experience at a Tuscan winery, a private sightseeing tour of Rome on a golf car and a seven-night cruise from Rome to Barcelona aboard Riviera. The 13-day package starts from £3,629 per person.

#### Gems of Indonesia & South China with Bali Stay

This highlight blends a 23-day tour with stays in five-star resorts in Ubuid and Nusa Dua, an all-inclusive cruise from Bali to Hong Kong and two nights in a five-star Hong Kong hotel, with prices starting from £7,699 per person.

www.fredholidays.co.uk

#### **Riviera Travel does** more in the Middle **East in 2023**

A FULL Africa and Middle East programme for 2023 is the latest offering from Riviera Travel.

14 itineraries span 101 departure dates, with dedicated options for solo travellers along with group options.

The programme runs from January to November 2023, with options including:

A 16-day South Africa tour, with a full-day safari in Kruger National Park, a guided visit of the Zulu War battlefields of Isandlwana and Roke's Drift, exploration of the Cape of Good Hope, and a scenic drive through Eswatini. 19 departures are available from £2,199 per person, with six dedicated solo dates from £3,399 per person.

An 11-day 'Wonders of the Nile' cruise, sailing from Cairo to Luxor with a four-day optional extension for onward to travel to Aswan, the



Valley of the Kings. The cruise includes calls at the Pyramids of Giza, the Golden Mask of Tutankhamun and the Egyptian Museum from £3,199 per person.

www.rivieratravel.co.uk



#### Rabbie's expands with European series

COACH TOUR operator Rabbie's has unveiled a series of new European tours. 20 new tours, spanning six or 13 days in duration, tick off the continent's cuisine, history and culture.

Available tours feature a six-day 'Spain & the Treasures of Andalucía' from Madrid to Lisbon, visiting Toledo, Córdoba, Granda, Ronda, Seville and Tavira en route. The comprehensive tour starts from approximately £990 per person.

www.rabbies.com





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() Gem Walker



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( Newmarket Amy









For bookings, brochures, personalised posters & more, visit www.newmarketholidays.co.uk/agents-login or call us on 0330 160 7999 or send an email to travelagents@newmarketholidays.co.uk

ESCORTED TOURING FEBRUARY 25 2022 | travelbulletin.co.uk



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#### **Peruse Peru & Galapagos – take the Latin Route**

LATIN ROUTES will host a once-in-a-lifetime 14-day exploration of the highlights of Peru and the Galapagos Islands.

Starting in Lima, guests will be escorted to Machu Picchu, the Sacred Valley and Cusco, along with the Ecuadorian capital Quito followed by a two-night stay in the Galapagos, visiting Isabela and Santa Cruz islands. Those interested in nature will have the chance to experience wildlife encounters with Galapagos doves and tortoises.

Prices start from £4,699 per person, departing in June and October 2022.

www.latinroutes.co.uk

# ALL IN FOR AMALFI

Tick off all the highlights of the Amalfi Coast, from Sorrento to Pompeii, with Titan Travel's 'Sorrento and the Amalfi Coast' escorted touring option.

TITAN TRAVEL comprises the highlights of its respective destinations on the 'Sorrento and the Amalfi Coast' touring option.

Titan's VIP door-to-door service collects guests for their outward journey, arriving in Naples to check in to their base, just outside Sorrento. Cascading the hillside overlooking the Bay of Naples and Mount Vesuvius, Sorrento is a classic Italian hotspot and gateway to the Amalfi Coast.

Day two brings exploration of Sorrento's classic town center, taking in the cobbled streets and indulging in the local favourite limoncello and gelato vendors.

The tour will also cover Pompeii, the Amalfi Coast, Positano and Capri.

Private airport transfers await on day eight, with a Titan vehicle returning guests home.

Titan Travel offers this eight-day all-encompassing

touring option from £1,499 per person, based on an October 2022 departure.

The listed price includes four excursions and visits, seven nights in a hotel, international flights, 14 meals including breakfast and dinner, audio-guided tours on excursions, the services of a Titan tour manager and Titan's VIP door-to-door transfer service.

www.titantravel.co.uk

# Ffestiniog Travel does Wales by rail

WELSH-BASED RAIL tour specialist Ffestiniog Travel has collated three escorted touring options to discover Wales.

'Wales – Steam, Castles & Slate' comprises a walking tour of Chester, visits to four historic castles among other excursions on a 10-day journey from Chester. The tour starts from £1,990 per person departing on May 11, 2022, with nine nights' hotel accommodation and selected meals.

'Wales: From North to South' includes exploration of Welsh heritage sites, three castles and an Aqueduct cruise from £2,185 per person, including 12 nights' hotel accommodation and excursions.

'Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railways – Behind the Scenes' includes a five-day access-allareas tour of the railways and workshops from £840 per person.



Credit Ffestinion Trave

General manager Maria Cook explained: "We wanted to showcase our Wales and combine our rail expertise, connections and knowledge to show travellers and tourists what Wales can offer."

www.ffestiniogtravel.com





# **DOUBLE UP**

Leger Holidays has doubled its UK touring programme, with 20 additional holidays added for 2022.

LEGER HOLIDAYS has added a further 20 new UK tours to its 2022 programme.

Seven of the new holidays include accommodation at the adult-only Warner Hotels, all with indulgent leisure facilities.

The new range of UK breaks covers all interests and budgets.

For flower and garden enthusiasts, 'Tatton Park and Beautiful Chatsworth, Chester and the Spectacular Gardens of the North' and 'Uncover North Devon, Clovelly and RHS Rosemoor' are new to the collection.

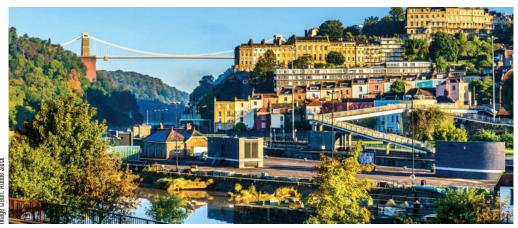
Those looking for a culture and heritage fix can enjoy 'Spectacular Culzean Castle and Castle Kennedy Gardens' or 'Royal Windsor and Capital London' tours, both of which include visits to iconic attractions bursting with British history.

New rail experiences have been added, including 'Maritime Bristol and the Dean Forest Railway' and 'Red Rose County and the East Lancashire Railway'.

For seaside lovers, there are new tours to popular coastal resorts, including' Discover Salisbury, Stonehenge and the Dorset Coast' and 'Highlights of Bournemouth and the Diamond Isle of Wight'.

One example of a holiday on offer is the five-day 'Discover the Lake District by Rail' priced from £499 per person.

www.leger.co.uk



# Celebrate iconic paddle steamers with Just Go! Holidays

JUST G0! Holidays has launched a new three-day break, which includes the chance to celebrate the Paddle Steamer Waverley's 75th anniversary.

Customers can step aboard and experience the sights and sounds of the vessel, all while taking in the beauty of West Scotland's waterways.

The vessel will travel along the Firth of Clyde, gliding past Kilgreggan, Rothesay, Dunoon and Blairmore. It will then continue to the picturesque Loch Goil before enjoying time in Arrochar, a village located at the head of Loch Long.

This trip includes a visit to the Falkirk Wheel, a rotating boat lift built for the Millennium. A 50-minute boat trip is included.

This three-day tour departs on June 15, 2022 and is priced from £229 per person. It includes return coach travel from selected pick-up points in the Midlands and Yorkshire, two nights' accommodation with breakfast, one dinner, the Paddle Steamer Waverley cruise and the Falkirk Wheel boat trip.

www.justgoholidays.com/agents

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UK & IRELAND FEBRUARY 25 2022 | travelbulletin.co.uk



#### **Countryside fun at the Coppa Club**

COPPA CLUB'S Streatley-on-Thames' location features The Swan at Streatley – a countryside getaway set in the Berkshire village of Streatley.

The 47-bedroom property has been newly refurbished and offers rooms opening onto the garden lawn and overlooking the river. The grounds also include the property's own private island.

Guests can access the property via car, boat or helicopter and have access to a selection of events, onsite paddle boarding, exercise classes, high-spec meeting and events spaces and a hotel gym.

The Swan At Streatley offers a Small Double Room from £80 per night. Medium Double Rooms are available from £100 per night.

www.theswanatstreatley.com

# Jersey spotlights its many attractions to domestic travellers

WITH FLIGHT times of under an hour and a recent title of the sunniest place in the British Isles in 2021, Jersey is the ideal escape for sunshine and holidays this year.

This year, the island will see a greater choice of accommodation options, Michelin-starred dining and a plethora of cultural experiences.

In addition, Blue Islands has confirmed two new routes for

2022, directly connecting Dublin and Norwich with Jersey.

Cosmos is offering its 'Jersey Island Discovery' getaway, a

six-day tour that costs from £779 per person.

Travellers will stay at the centrally located Pomme d'Or
Hotel, with included sightseeing and excursions. The price

includes daily breakfast and one dinner.

The holiday is available from May to September 2022.

www.jersey.com / www.cosmos.co.uk



# Get out more in Life





nage Credit: Visit Jersey



## Explore the British Isles & Ireland in 2022 with us!

We have a fantastic collection of great value getaways across a range of spectacular destinations in the British Isles.

Your customers can makeup for lost time and treat themselves to a wonderful Just Go! Holiday this year!

www.justgoholidays.com/agents

FEBRUARY 25 2022 | travelbulletin.co.uk UK & IRELAND



IN HONOUR of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year, Le Boat is offering up to 15% off self-drive boating holidays

The operator has a fleet of large self-drive cruisers, allowing entire families to stay on board and explore their chosen region.

on the River Thames in 2022.

While on a boating holiday on the River Thames, holidaymakers can explore the western section of the river, where moorings are easy to find and the distance between locks is greater than at the river's eastern end.

Le Boat has based at Benson in South Oxfordshire and Chertsey in Surrey, meaning boaters can opt for a one-way trip, or choose to start and end their holiday at the same location. A seven-night self-catered stay on the River Thames starting and finishing at Le Boat's base at Benson, on board the Capri (sleeping up to three), over the Platinum Jubilee bank holiday weekend from May 30, 2022, is priced from £1,449.

Le Boat will operate on the River Thames from April 1 to October 31.

www.leboat.co.uk

## Blackpool is back with dazzling 2022 guide

AGENTS LOOKING to book their clients on a fun-filled holiday near home need look no further than Blackpool's 2022 Destination Guide.

The programme of events, shows and attractions for this year looks to build on the staycation boom of 2021.

The guide showcases a new family attraction, the return of major events, including the two-



mage Credit: Adobe

day Air Show, a range of shows and entertainment, and a twomonth extension of the annual Illuminations season.

www.visitblackpool.com/guide



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stay@finolhu.mv www.finolhu.com www.seaside-collection.com







# **SOAK IN SUN SIYAM**

SUN SIYAM Resorts has five four-star premium and five-star resorts across the Maldives, offering affordable luxury for clients looking for the best of both worlds.

The group's recent openings include the five-star Sun Siyam Iru Veli, which opened in 2019. Surrounded by its own lagoon on the island of Aluvifushi, the resort is tailored for laid-back luxury comprising 125 suites, each

nage Credit; Sun Sivam Resorts

The UK is the number one market for all Sun Siyam

with private pool on prime beach front and over water.

The newest resort in the group is Siyam World, having opened on October 28, 2021. The resort is a natural 54-hectare island with more than four kilometres of white sandy beach and six kilometres of house reef.

Designed for couples, families and larger groups, the island boasts 21 accommodation categories ranging from 89 to 3,000 square metres, including Pool Beach Villas, expansive Beach Suites and Beach Residences to the playful Over-Water Villas complete with inviting water slides. The resort includes the Indian Ocean's biggest floating water park, Siyam Water World.

Sivam World has also launched The Beach House Collection, an enclave of 24 one- to six-bedroom Residences, with a host of VIP privileges, including a complimentary dive or 50-minute spa treatment at Veyo Spa; a wellness gift on arrival; anytime in-villa breakfasts; daily VIP amenities; and, 24-hour private butler service.

Gold Medal offers seven nights at Siyam World in a Beach Suite with Pool on an allinclusive basis, including flights and seaplane transfers, from £3,789 per adult and £799 per child, based on a family of four sharing. Prices are valid for departures from August 1 to August 31, 2022.

www.goldmedal.co.uk

#### See the Seychelles with Bamboo Travel

BAMB00 TRAVEL'S 'Luxury Seychelles' holiday is the perfect honeymoon getaway for newlyweds.

The holiday features two of the best hotels the islands have to offer: The Four Seasons on Mahe, which provides first class accommodation on a first-class beach, and Denis Island, where guests can experience the delights of a private island resort.

The inter-island flights are undertaken by light aircraft helicopter rides are available at a supplement.



All Bamboo Travel holidays include flights, bed-and-breakfast accommodation (plus additional meals depending on the trip), all transportation, sightseeing/entrance fees, and a guide (on certain itineraries).

The 14-day holiday is priced from £6,995, based on two people sharing a room.

www.bambootravel.co.uk

INDIAN OCEAN FEBRUARY 25 2022 | travelbulletin.co.uk

# **TO THE STARS**

Beach bubbles at Finolhu enhance the hotel's 'Dream Eclipse Experience' offering an intimate nighttime experience, secluded from the main resort.



FINOLHU HAS enhanced its 'Dream Eclipse Experience' even further with upgraded 'Beach Bubbles', making the experience all the more romantic.

20

The upgrades features three connected 'bubble' rooms, with separate spaces for the bedroom, living room, and bathroom.

The upgraded 'Bubble' sits along the sandbank from the 'Crab Shack', away from the main premises of the resort, guaranteeing unparalleled seclusion. The new setup includes an outdoor bathtub on the private beach.

Finolhu's 'Dream Eclipse Experience' begins with a romantic dinner at sunset, served by a personal 'Bubble Butler' who greets guests at the start of the evening and is available on call until check-out.

After the indulgent dinner with a selection of fine wine, guests can continue the evening by gazing at the moon through a telescope,

and spend the evening under the stars in the private 'Bubble'. The lucky 'bubble' guests will wake up with breakfast at the water's edge, before a greeting and return escort from the private butler.

The one-night-only experience is available as an addition to bookings of three nights or more to Finolhu.

Alongside the 'Beach Bubbles', Finolhu hosts 125 beachfront and over-water villa options, with more than half offering private pools, and for restaurants.

The resort is popular among honeymooners but is home to a kids' club and a choice of family-friendly activities and entertainment.

Lagoon Villas at Finolhu start from approximately £303 per night.

www.finolhu.com

## 'Dive & Seek' the depths of the Maldives

THE STANDARD is celebrating International Women's Day on March 8, 2022 by partnering with Saudi Arabian master scuba diver, Nouf Alosaimi, for a 'Dive & Seek' package. Alosaimi holds the Saudi record for deepest technical dive, and will be joining The Standard between March 7 and 11, 2022 for a week of programming.

Guests looking to dive and explore can take part in a number of events – the programme opens with 'The Standard Talks: Meet Nouf Alosaimi at the Todis Bar', along with two other 'Standard Talks' throughout the week.

A dedicated International Woman's Day dive will invite guests to see the biodiverse surroundings, with up to 220 species on show. March 9 and 10, 2022 will offer guided dives, with the week closing out with a Coral Planting activity.



e Credit: The Standard

Six days and five nights at The Standard during the 'Dive & Seek' programme starts from approximately £2,387.50 per person.

www.standardhotels.com



#### Maldives Tourism celebrates the Golden Jubilee in 2022

THROUGHOUT 2022, the Maldives will be commemorating the 50th anniversary of tourism to the Indian Ocean haven.

The first tourist resort in the Maldives, Kurumba, was opened 50 years ago, with no jetty, meaning guests had to wade through the surf around the resort.

Since welcoming tourists in 1972, the Maldives has welcomed 200 resorts across 26 natural atolls, with 10 openings last year alone and 12 more to join the offerings in 2022 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee.

www.visitmaldives.com

FEBRUARY 25 2022 | travelbulletin.co.uk INDIAN OCEAN 21



#### **Big Five and Beach Bliss with Exsus Travel**

EXSUS TRAVEL is offering a memorable twin-centre holiday, combining the adventure of South Africa's wildlife, with wining and dining options with Mauritius.

Guests explore Cape Town, Winelands and Sabi Sands, before leaving the South African thrill behind for the leisurely pace of the Mauritius, spending five nights at the five-star Oberoi Mauritius.

The 13-night package starts from £5,975 per person, with flights, accommodation and private transfers included.

www.exsus.com

# FROM HERE TO PHUKET

## Meliá Hotels & Resorts has opened its newest property, spanning Phuket's longest stretch of sand at Phuket Mai Khao.

MELIÁ PHUKET Mai Khao, the latest addition to Meliá Hotels & Resorts' portfolio, opened its doors to guests on December 1, 2021.

The 30-suite and 70-villa-strong resort sits on eight acres of Phuket's northwestern coastline on the Andaman Sea, a 15-minute drive from Phuket International Airport.

The one-bedroom suites blend indooroutdoor living, with all accommodation choices hosting outdoor bathtubs, and openair showers and terraces.

15 Wellness Villas include open-air Vitamin C showers, ultrasonic essential oil diffusers, GermGuardian air purifiers, Tempur-Pedic pillows, aromatic salts for the outdoor bathtubs, a fitness ball and yoga mats. Those staying in the wellness-fuelled options are

also entitled to a daily 60-minute massage.

Along with cosy accommodation choices, a diverse four-outlet dining plan guarantees taste to suit all guests. The Gaia Beach Club celebrates Meliá's Spanish origins with Mediterranean and fusion cuisine and a creative cocktail selection. SASA specialises in international and Thai cuisine, along with freshly-made breakfast options. The Elyxr Café hosts a spacious lounge area and a selection of books, with the swim-up Pool Bar completing the quartet.

A seven-night sandbox package starts from approximately £854 per person, with daily breakfast, one-way airport transfers and 20% off food and beverages.

www.melia.com



# Aitken Spence's eight reasons to visit Sri Lanka in 2022

AITKEN SPENCE'S managing director Susith Kayawickrama has spotlighted his top eight reasons to visit Sri Lanka in 2022.

Ayurverda, the nation's traditional medicine – Heritance Ayurverda offers a host of treatments inspired by the remedy.



mage Credit: Aitken Spence Hotel

Recuperation – Heritance Ahungulla provides an ideal backdrop to recharge.

Sri Lanka's expansive wildlife – Heritance Kandalama offers safari tours and impressive surroundings.

The work of renowned Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa – Heritance Ayurverda, Kandalama and Ahungalla guarantee unique settings and stays.

High Tea – Heritance Tea Factory offers a dedicated High Tea tour.

Sri Lankan cuisine – Heritance Negombo's local-inspired menu offering a taste of the nation.

Water sports – Sri Lanka offers surfing, canoeing, and a host of other options.

Beaches – Turyaa Kalutara's beachside sanctuary offers the ultimate beach holiday.

www.aitkenspencehotels.com

Credit: Melía Hotels & Resorts

MARRIOTT BONVOY has spotlighted properties that tick off every must-do on travellers' bucket lists. The brand's Maldivian portfolio, including JW Marriott Maldives Resort & Spa, W Maldives, and The Westin Maldives Miriandhoo Resort, all embody the one-island-one-resort concept to the fullest. Seaside solitude is also guaranteed in JW Marriott Maldives Resort & Spa's Duplex Beach Pool Villas and The Westin Maldives Miriandhoo Resort's Two-Bedroom Beach Villas. Guests can explore a whole new world at W Maldives' expansive house reef and heart-shaped luxury playground. Gastronomical choices are sure to suit residents' tastes, with JW Marriott Maldives Resort & Spa priding itself on its collection of 1,200 labels and private beach dinner experiences. www.marriott.com





#### Do it 'All or Nothing' with Hilton in 2022

HILTON SEYCHELLES Labriz Resort & Spa is inviting its guests to do it 'All or Nothing' in 2022, spotlighting its indulgent luxury.

As the sole resort on Silhouette Island, the resort's surroundings are made up by hiking trails and bike paths, inviting visitors to explore by foot or two wheels during their stay.

Families will a choice of activities to bring them together, from a family day on the beach to kids enjoying the Labriz's Island Academy programme with tailored and active experiences. A choice of room categories are available, with options including chic villas ideal for family stays at the resort.

Fine dining is on the agenda, too, with children's menus available at all onresort restaurants and in-villa dining options.

Guests can kick back and relax with the hospitality Hilton is celebrated for, with a choice of treatments and therapies at the resort's spa. Treatments are curated with locally-sourced products, with scrubs, wraps, and facial therapies on the menu. www.hilton.com

### Which band/artist would play at your dream wedding?



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Tim Podger Account Manager - Far East tim.podger@travelbulletin.co.uk Maroon 5 - for the wife!



Ashweenee Beerjeraz **Events Operation Manager** ashweenee.beerjeraz@travelbulletin.co.uk Bruno Mars.



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#### TRAVEL AGENT EXPERIENCE OFFER

Distinct within the naturally blissful surroundings of Maldives and Sri Lanka, Sun Siyam Resorts are indulgent havens. Our seasoned team brings a warm approach to hospitality, tempting your unceasing return.

Explore the unique ambiances of Sun Siyam hospitality between 15th May 2022 and 30th September 2022, with our special rates for Travel Agents for indulgent experiences.



#### Sun Siyam Iru Fushi, Maldives

Welcome to your 5 star home in the heart of Noonu Atoll, where tropical greenery meets sun-filled vistas in an unforgettable setting. With 14 bars and restaurants, an award-winning spa, and a myriad of exciting experiences, every day is a unique take at Sun Siyam's crown jewel.

#### Travel Agent Rate

- USD 367 per villa per night on Full Board basis for 2 adults
- · Stay in Deluxe Beach Villa or Water Villa
- Seaplane return transfer at USD 420 per adult, USD 267 per child

#### Added Benefits

- 25% discount on beverages
- · 2 complimentary excursions (scheduled and combined)
- · 25% discount on spa treatments
- Up to 2 children below 14.99 years can stay for free with 2 paying adults on same meal plan

#### Upgrades

- · Full Board to All Inclusive, USD 105 per person per night
- Upgrade to Horizon Water Villa, USD 58 per room per night



#### Sun Siyam Olhuveli, Maldives

A swift 45 minute speedboat ride takes you from your plane to the blissful edge of South Male' Atoll. Begin an adventurous journey exploring our three islands or sink into heavenly relaxation, celebrating this time together, making memories to last a lifetime.

#### Travel Agent Rate

- USD 315 per villa per night on Full Board basis for 2 adults
- · Stay in Grand Beach Villa or Grand Water Villa
- · Speedboat return transfer at USD 205 per adult, USD 105 per child
- · One way speedboat transfer free for the Travel Agent

#### Added Benefits

- · 25% discount on beverages
- · 2 complimentary excursions (scheduled and combined)
- 25% discount on spa treatments
- Up to 2 children below 14.99 years can stay for free with 2 paying adults on same meal plan and return speedboat transfers are free

#### Upgrades

- · Full Board to All Inclusive, USD 53 per person per night
- . Upgrade to Grand Beach Villa with Pool, USD 105 per room per night
- Upgrade to Grand Water Villa with Pool, USD 130 per room per night

Reservation request and vouchers must specify Booking Code: TA\_SP

# GPEN FOR LAPINESS

# Fiji is Open!

Fijii is ready to welcome back visitors with open arms to its 333 islands, white sand beaches and year-round tropical warmth.

Once visitors arrive, they can holiday safely and enjoy the best of Fiji knowing that when sticking to Care Fiji Committed businesses, everyone they interact with will be fully vaccinated.

The perfect destination if looking for a romantic getaway, an adventure-packed escape, or for those just want to lie on the beach and drink a coconut, you'll find it in Fiji - and Fiji can't wait to have you back. Fiji is Open for Happiness.