

travelbulletin

January 29 2021 | ISSUE NO 3,165 | travelbulletin.co.uk

Giving agents the edge

AGENT INSIGHT

Ben and Toni Rood, Not Just Travel, on why now is a good time to book a holiday

FAR EAST

From Japan to Thailand, bucket list trips to look forward to

THEME PARKS & ATTRACTIONS

Action-packed breaks for the whole family

HOTELS, RESORTS & SPAS

Top accommodation and spa options

CRUISING

Start planning your client's river or ocean cruise, today!



travelbulletin



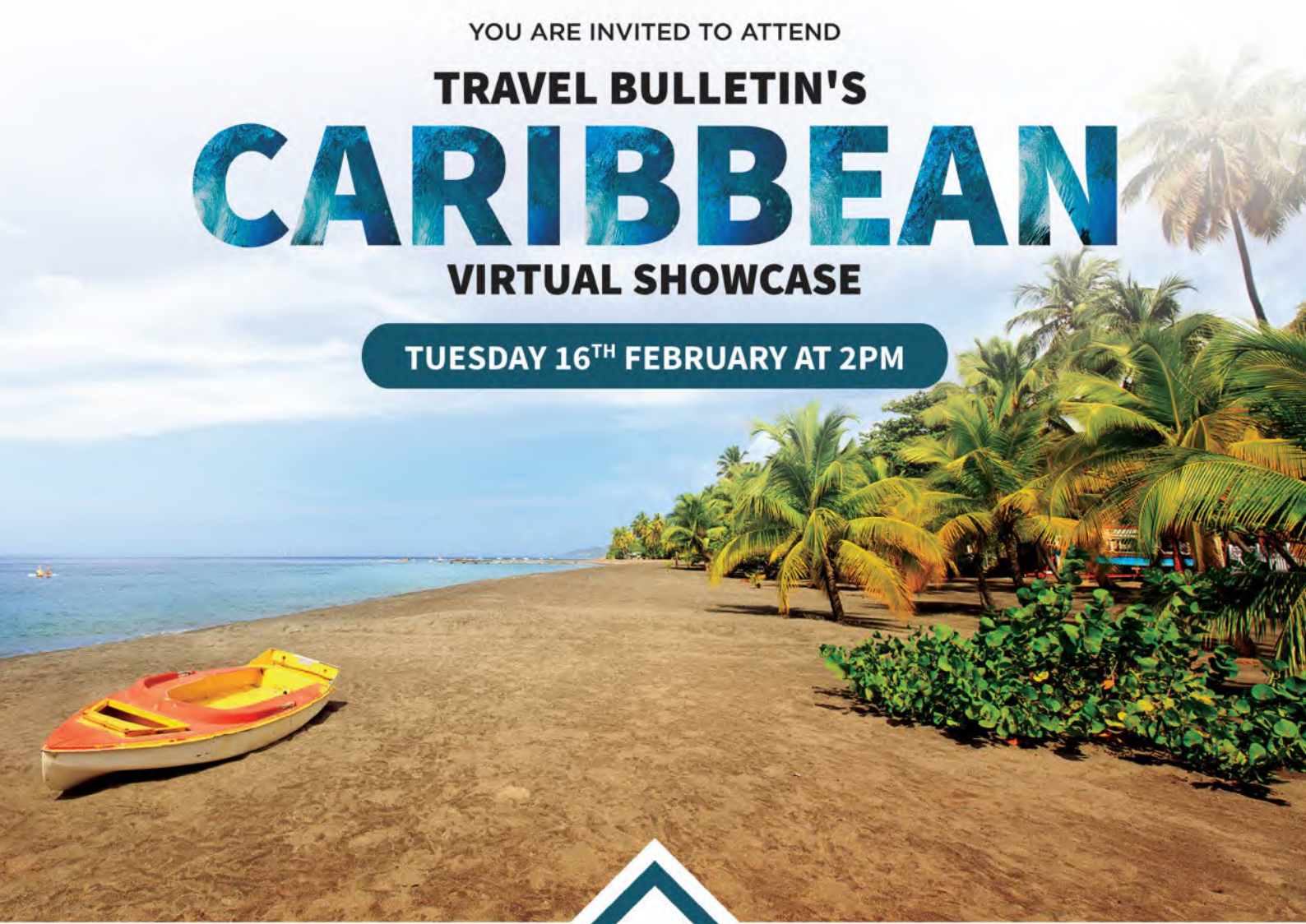
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TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY AT 2PM



Join Travel Bulletin and our leading supplier partners for your chance to catch up on the latest news and top selling tips through a combination of presentations & Q&A sessions. You will also have the chance to win some amazing prizes.

TIMINGS

2pm

Welcome From Your Travel Bulletin Host

2:05pm

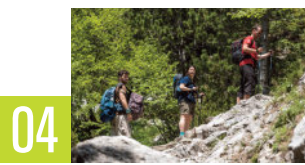
Sponsors Presentations

3pm

Prize give away

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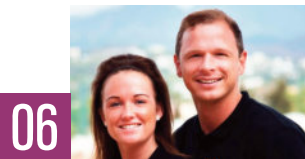
THIS WEEK



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NEWS

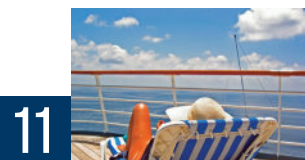
Industry updates to help agents sell more great holidays.



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AGENT INSIGHT

Ben and Toni Rood, Not Just Travel, on why now is the best time to start booking client holidays.



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CRUISING

All the latest news and developments.



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FAR EAST

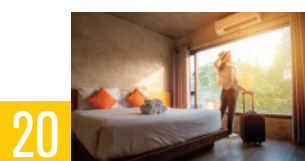
Destinations, hotels and tours to inspire your clients.



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THEME PARKS & ATTRACTIONS

Holidays for thrill seekers.



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HOTELS, RESORTS & SPAS

Ultimate accommodation options from all over the globe.

COME WHAT MAY...

As the COVID-19 vaccine encourages holidaymakers to book their breaks for 2021, new research has shown that a fifth of Brits are preparing for a May getaway, should it be possible.



In optimistic news, Holiday Extras finds that UK travellers are hoping to getaway as soon as May.

ACCORDING TO research by Holiday Extras, almost one in five holidaymakers (17%) are planning on going on holiday in May, with a further 13% hoping to get away a month later in June.

Surveying 36,000 respondents, the data follows the latest travel survey by the travel brand that showed between 45% and 50% of respondents were either waiting for lockdown to end; waiting to receive the vaccine; or, waiting for their favourite destination to re-open before taking a decision as to when they would go away.

In the same poll, which asked people who'd flown from a UK airport in the last two years what they were most looking forward to once lockdown ends, more

people said they were looking forward to a holiday (43%) than anything else - even a hug (22%), dining out (20%) or going to the cinema (12%).

That people are looking forward to a holiday should come as no surprise - locked in during a dreary, grey January, most people are counting down the days to summer on a beach. 78% of people who flew in 2019 or 2020 confirmed they're planning to fly this year.

Seamus McCauley, head of communications at Holiday Extras, said, "We've been asking people since the start of the Covid crisis when they plan to fly again, and at this point we've surveyed more than 15,000 UK holidaymakers. Last year, a consistent 85% told us they'd be going away in the

coming year. In our latest survey that slipped a little bit to 78%, but that's still four-fifths of the 2019 travel market raring to go on holiday - so the demand is clearly there as soon as the holidays and flights are available to book.

As to what people are most looking forward to - no surprises that in the depths of winter lockdown, everyone is most looking ahead to a week or two at the beach. We're expecting this summer to sell out as soon as there's clarity from the government on when people can go - perhaps even earlier should the clarity come sooner so if you know when you're going, book ahead.

For full details on the survey, visit www.holidayextras.com



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G Adventures offers eight new 'local' European trips

G ADVENTURES has added eight new trips for UK travellers, in destinations such as Madeira, Cyprus, Northern Greece, Eastern Iceland and Slovenia, with departures beginning May, 2021.

The new tours aim to challenge the stereotypes that comes with travelling around much-loved destinations, while shining a light on more remote, local experiences and culinary offerings.

Some highlights of the new trips include wooded valley trails in Slovenia's Julian Alps; farm-to-table meals at a homestay in east Iceland; hikes to castles and historic ruins in Cyprus; and, traversing two of Mount Olympus' highest peaks in northern Greece.

One example of an



The new European tours will add a new dimension to familiar destinations.

itinerary on offer is the six-day hiking trip in Madeira. From walks along the famous 'levada' trails, to tumbling waterfalls in the remote northern region, or hiking through the jagged mountain staircase, high above the cloudline to Pico do Arieiro, one of the island's tallest peaks – each day of the tour

offers a different terrain for hikers to explore. Travellers can also enjoy a walk on the glass skywalk or try their hand at traditional toboggan rides down the streets to Funchal. Prices start from £577 per person, if booked before January 31.

www.gadventures.com

Audley Travel extends flexibility promise until March

AUDLEY TRAVEL has extended its flexible cancellation promise, for trips booked by the end of March 31, 2021, to provide confidence to clients who want to travel again.

Clients can rearrange their trip (dates or destination) without any amendment fee, up to 45 days before their due date to travel. Travel dates can be moved until December 31, 2022. Audley is also offering a full refund, in case FDCO advice impacts the trip and a client is not able to postpone their trip to a future date.

Extra flexibility is also available on some long haul and short haul destinations, such as Croatia, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Scotland, Iceland, Scandinavia, Jordan, Egypt and Morocco, where they can cancel their trip up to 14 days before departure and still receive a full refund, if they book their holidays by March 31, 2021 and travel by November 30, 2021.

For a full list of destinations included in the promise, visit www.audleytravel.com

Experience Lisbon with Jet2's flight and holiday offerings

JET2.COM AND Jet2holidays has announced new flights and holidays to Lisbon from September, with services operating from Manchester and Birmingham Airport.

Two weekly flights to Lisbon from Manchester and Birmingham Airport is currently on sale.

Those planning for a getaway in late-summer or autumn, between September 3 and October 29, can avail the Monday and Friday services from Manchester Airport, while those planning to travel between September 30 to October 28, can avail the Thursday and Sunday services from Birmingham Airport.



For winter 2021/22, Thursday and Sunday services will be available between November 4, 2021 to March 24, 2022, from Manchester Airport; and from Birmingham Airport, Monday and Friday services will be available from November 1, 2021 to March, 2022.

www.jet2.com



Visit Dominican Republic's Lago Enriquillo this year

BRITISH AIRWAYS is offering a trip to Dominican Republic, where travellers can visit Lago Enriquillo, the Caribbean's largest (at 350 square km) and lowest (43 metres below sea level) lake.

Named after Enriquillo, the first Taino chief who revolted against Spanish colonialists, the saltwater lake and the Isla Cabritos, which sits in the middle of this water body, is home to a large number of American crocodiles, flamingos and giant iguanas.

Prices start at £669 per person for seven nights in an all-inclusive accommodation, including return flights. www.godominicanrepublic.com

'The World's Masterpiece': AIUla unveils its first brand campaign

ALULA HAS launched its first ever destination brand campaign, 'The World's Masterpiece', across broadcast channels and digital media.

The campaign, developed by the Royal Commission for AlUla, (RCU), includes a 90-minute film directed by cinematographer Bruno Aveillan and a suite of digital assets.

AlUla is the first of the Saudi Vision 2030 projects that has opened to tourism; following the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's launch of visitor visas in 2019. It will be targeting discerning travellers through this campaign, who are seeking authentic travel experiences. Travellers will



AlUla's campaign targets discerning travellers seeking authentic experiences.

have opportunities to visit the main heritage sites of Hegra, Jabal Ikmah and Dadan, while adventure enthusiasts can take a tour of the Ashar Valley in a desert buggy, or go zip lining through the canyons. For families, there will be farm visits, located close to Hegra.

The hero film features a

young Saudi woman reflecting on her time in AlUla and visiting some well known sites, including UNESCO World Heritage Site Hegra, Dadan, Jabal Ikmah, AlUla Old Town and Jabal AlFil (Elephant Rock).

The film can be watched at: <https://youtu.be/Nl0Q-2ypZhg>

Walk the walk with Exodus Travels

EXODUS TRAVELS has launched guided walking and cycling holidays in the UK, following a surge in demand by travellers looking for exploration on their doorstep.

Offering a new perspective of the ancient Celtic kingdom of Cornwall, Exodus' five-day centre-based walking holiday combines coastal walking with must-see points of interest. Coastal walking along the county's north and south coasts takes in the beaches of Polzeath and Daymer Bay, the cliffs at Stepper Point and more.

The 'Walking in Cornwall' holiday is priced from £999 per person.

www.exodus.co.uk

New brochure out now!



SAVE 15% on air-inclusive holidays to destinations outside Europe and the UK



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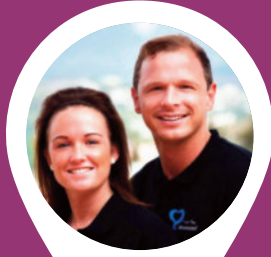


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AGENT INSIGHT

BEN & TONI ROD NOT JUST TRAVEL

IN THE past few weeks, we have seen vaccines rolling out across the UK, bringing optimism, hope and consumer confidence back to the economy. The Government have announced their intention that the whole UK will have had their first vaccination by September, an incredible effort by everyone involved and a cause for celebration. The last year has been tough for the travel industry but there is now light ahead.

In fact, at Not Just Travel we have seen strong sales, with people booking ahead for the autumn of 2021, through into new year 2022 and now even as far as 2023 – everyone's starting to think about that dream trip they want to take – or the big family get together they have been missing.

We have seen a huge spike in people booking to visit Lapland in 2021/22. It's a dream bucket list family trip for so many people and with options like snow safari, a private meet and greet with Santa Claus himself, husky rides and the Northern Lights, it's a really popular choice. We have been with Not Just Travel for nearly six years and we have seen our biggest commission month this month (Jan 2021) because of Lapland bookings – our biggest booking was for £23k.

Obviously, a lot of people were faced with not being able to go on holiday to Lapland this year, but a large percentage of the people that booked with us, simply rebooked from 2020 to 2021. It goes to show just how popular it is as a destination, and just how much families are looking forward to going and creating some really magical memories together. It's a great feeling to be able to give families something fantastic to look forward to.

Other popular destinations recently have been Santorini, Las Vegas, The Maldives and Thailand, with customers making full use of £0 and low deposits, low monthly payments and so many other great deals.



ROYAL AIR Maroc has confirmed that, from February 11, 2021, its UK services will resume. This means the four-times weekly service from London Gatwick to Marrakech, the three-times weekly service from London Gatwick to Agadir, and the bi-weekly service from Manchester to Agadir will all resume service, joining the operation's already running three-times weekly service from London Heathrow to Casablanca.

Heathrow Express expands fleet

HEATHROW EXPRESS has launched its first new fleet since 1998, consisting of 12 newly refurbished Class 387 trains with modern interiors and Heathrow purple exteriors.

The new fleet has been upcycled from GWR, upgrading the train's interiors to maximise guest comfort, including the introduction of USB plugs alongside every plug socket to make the journey even easier for international passengers.

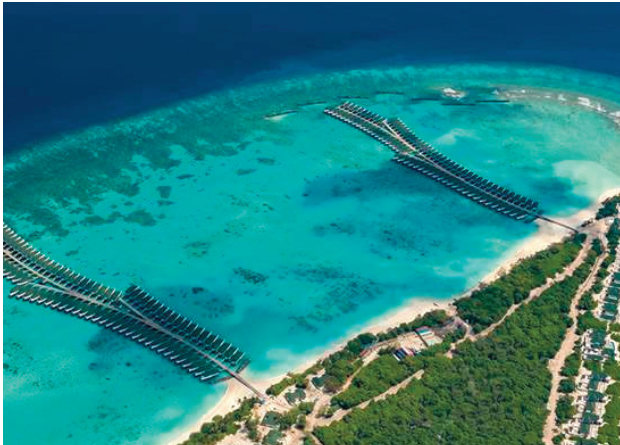
With extra space for wheelchair users, twice the number of toilets and a continuous gangway along the length of the train, the new fleet puts guest comfort at the forefront of its operation. Business First passengers can enjoy worktables and extra legroom.

The fleet was introduced on December 29, 2020, and gives Heathrow passengers an unrivalled 15-minute journey which now offers plenty of space, luggage storage and fast on-board 4G-enabled Wi-Fi that works throughout Heathrow.



Every carriage boasts improved and more frequent TV screens showing live flight and rail connection updates, news highlights and Heathrow deals.

www.heathrowexpress.com



IF ONLY... is offering one lucky travel agent the opportunity to experience a stay at Siyam World in the Maldives. To be in with a chance of winning, agents have to make as many bookings as possible for Siyam World with If Only... from now until March 31, 2021, with a minimum three night stay and return flights. At the end of this campaign period, the top travel agent Booker will receive a four-night, all inclusive stay in a Water Villa at Siyam World. www.ifonly.co/agent-incentive

AGENT TRAINING

SELL PERU like a pro with the Peru Agent training programme. In addition to the destination content, agents can access the interactive Supplier Directory and resources, such as videos, photo presentations and brochures. Agents can join the Peru Specialist community by visiting www.peruagent.com/login and downloading the Sales Companion App.



AGENT INCENTIVES

- **TITAN TRAVEL** has launched a two-month incentive campaign, exclusive for agents. To help kickstart the #YearoftheHoliday, Titan has launched a brand-new incentive campaign for the first two months of the year. All agents who confirm a new Titan booking before February 28, 2021, will receive a £20 Lifestyle voucher. All vouchers must be claimed by completing the online form by the end of the calendar month the booking was made. www.titantravel.co.uk
- **WENDY WU** has launched an agent exclusive mini-magazine, showcasing the brand's current incentives. These include a £20 Love2shop voucher with an agent's first booking with the company this year, followed by a £30, £40 and £50 voucher for each booking following. The brand is also offering weekly prize draws every week through February 22, 2021, giving agents the chance to win a host of prizes, including JustEat gift cards, afternoon tea and vouchers towards social media boosts. www.wendywu.co.uk



travelbulletin WEBINARS

Register now to attend the

Travel Bulletin Family Holiday Virtual Showcase

on 22nd February and train with Ras Al Khaimah, Malta Tourist Office, Aldemar Resorts and the Seychelles Tourist Office.

CLICK HERE to reserve your space.

Go for Gold with Pure Luxury and win a fam trip

GOLD MEDAL has expanded its luxury European offerings, collating the best of its Simply Luxury offerings under a new Luxury Europe brand.

The range is on sale now, with a number of introductory offers. All properties in the Luxury Europe range are five-star or higher; all accommodations are available in a package with flights.

To celebrate the launch, an incentive campaign in collaboration with Ikos Resorts is now available, giving agents the chance to win a place on a fam trip to one of the group's properties once leisure travel resumes. Six places on the trip will be split between the top seller of Ikos Resorts booked with Pure Luxury before February 28, 2021, and five agents who download, complete



Ikos Dassia is one of the five-star properties in the Luxury Europe brand.

and submit an application form on the brand's website explaining why they deserve a place on the trip. All agents hoping to enter must complete the Ikos Resorts training modules.

Kerry Gallagher, Gold Medal's marketing director, said: "We're delighted to be retaining the best elements of the Simply Luxury offering under the Pure Luxury brand

and look forward to working with our agent partners to help them sell this product."

To find the competition application form, visit:
www.pureluxuryholidays.co.uk

To complete the mandatory Ikos Resorts training modules, visit
www.saniandikosgroup-travelexpert.com

Finnair launches one-way fare structure for European flights

FINNAIR HAS launched a new one-way European fare structure, giving customers more choice and flexibility when booking flights with the airline.

The airline is now offering one-way fares on all of Finnair's short-haul European and domestic routes.

The new single fares from London Heathrow include routes to Helsinki, Finland from £71, Tallinn, Estonia (via Helsinki) from £127 and Rovaniemi from £127. One way flights are also available for all of Finnair's Manchester departures, with fares from £84 to Helsinki, £96 to Tallinn and £131 to Rovaniemi.



Finnair's chief commercial officer, Ole Orvær, explained: "We want to offer our customers more choice and flexibility and removing the complexity of return fare rules makes buying simpler and more transparent. Now the best fare levels will be available for all customers regardless of the length of stay in the destination."

For more on the new one-way offerings across Europe, visit
www.finnair.com

Explore Antigua with new app and tourist map

ANTIGUA AND Barbuda Tourism Authority has endorsed Hashtag Communications' new interactive tourist map and app.

Labelled 'Explore Antigua', the app seeks to marry technology with ease of discovery, featuring hotels, restaurants and bars, as well as popular tourist attractions. The app also features a Google-integrated map for GPS navigation.

The app is free to download in Google Play and Apple iOS stores, and will be an integrated feature at all ports of entry, leading hotels,

restaurants and bars, car rental facilities and other locations, giving visitors the opportunity to access the app through a QR code scan or visiting the relevant app stores.

CEO of Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin James, added: "The COVID-19 pandemic called for our tourism sector stakeholders to quickly adapt their business, and make the most of digital technology in order to safely communicate their messages to travellers."

www.visitantiguabarbuda.com



Club Med recruits head of sales for UK & Scandinavia

CLUB MED has appointed Clarisse Chapolard as the new head of sales across the operator's UK and Scandinavia operations.

Chapolard began the role January 4, 2021, leading the Trade and MICE teams in the UK and Scandinavia and developing the area to drive indirect sales for the premium all-inclusive brand.

Chapolard commented: "I am delighted to start a new chapter and role within the Club Med business, having developed my understanding of the sector over the past four years."

www.clubmed.co.uk

SUDOKU

Win a £50 M&S voucher in the **travelbulletin** Su Doku prize puzzle A

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 11th. Solution and new puzzle will appear in our next issue.

The winner for 15th January is Stuart Pritchard from Traveleads, Southampton.

January 15th Solution: A=7 B=5 C=4 D=8

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



WHERE AM I?

Known for its lemurs, this is the second-largest island nation in the world. It is a biodiversity hotspot and more than 90% of its wildlife can only be found here. The government is aiming to develop the country as an eco-tourism destination.

CROSSWORD

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

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

Across

- 1 International cruise company (8)
- 6 Country with a flag of horizontal stripes, red, yellow and red (5)
- 8 The Isle of Man is found in this sea (5)
- 9 Washington DC memorial built to honour the 16th US president (7)
- 10 Colin, who recently cleared his first hurdle in Dancing on Ice (7)
- 12 Currency of Sweden (5)
- 13 Otherwise known as Myanmar (5)
- 14 She performed the national anthem at President Biden's inauguration (4,4)

Down

- 1 A cruise line and a coffee shop chain (5)
- 2 Hotel brand, Jurys ____ (3)
- 3 A bridge in this town was made famous by the song, Sur le Pont (7)
- 4 Capital of Menorca (5)
- 5 Mythological monster of Crete, part man and part bull (8)
- 7 Capital of Paraguay (8)
- 9 Milan's famous opera house (2,5)
- 10 Humorous character found in a pack of playing cards (5)
- 11 West African country (5)
- 13 Morecambe based TV detective drama, The ____ (3)

Mystery Word: CHINA Where am I? - Madagascar

Solution:
 Across: 1 CARNIVAL, 6 SPAIN 8 IRISH, 9 LINCOLN, 10 JACKSON, 12 KRONA, 13 BURMA, 14 LADY GAGA.
 Down: 1 COSTA, 2 INN, 3 AVIGNON, 4 MAHON, 5 MINOTAUR, 7 ASUNCION, 9 LA SCALA, 10 JOKER, 11 GHANA, 13 BAY.

Industry insight by...



PATA[®]
Pacific Asia Travel Association
UK & IRELAND CHAPTER

Chairman of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) UK & Ireland, Chris Crampton, shares his hopes that we are finally in the endgame with the COVID-19 pandemic, which dominated our lives in 2020.

THE ROLLING out of (now three) vaccination programmes sees a positive shift in the course of the pandemic. Whilst still a difficult time, we can all start to feel more confident about the future.

There is considerable pent up demand for holidays and there will unquestionably be reticence concerning travel from many, but to a fair extent this doesn't matter – it isn't a question of whether travel and tourism will be better than five years ago, it's that it will be an awful lot better than 2020. As the vaccination program rolls out across the UK, we are already seeing consumer confidence rise as tour operators report a spike in bookings, particularly in the over 50's market, for 2021-22. It isn't necessarily a matter of confidence returning when we are through this, it is that confidence is beginning to return now it's clear we are getting through this. Frustrating as it might be that there isn't going to be a sudden relaxation of restrictions, rather a phased approach, every step closer towards allowing travel should still be celebrated,



even if it doesn't provide a silver bullet to the full resumption of tourism just yet.

Within the region itself we are seeing positive developments. Airlines have

begun the process of reinstating routes, operators promoting long lead travel and hotels and attractions are Covid secure and ready to safely welcome guests. Some countries in the Far

East are in the early stages of reopening their borders for tourism which is encouraging, for example Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Maldives albeit with varying levels of entry restrictions (visas, quarantine periods). Other countries including Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan are experimenting with country-to-country travel bubbles to jumpstart aviation, tourism, and business travel.

With increasing certainty will come conviction to travel and with some really exciting developments in the Far East for 2021, and beyond, from new hotel and attraction openings, global events, a return to cultural festivals and a greater focus on sustainability, we can all agree there is good reason to feel more positive.

PATA continues to support its members and agents and provide up-to-date factual information. Our calendar of events is ongoing (virtually) and we've added new training and networking events.

Read our full list of what's new in the region at www.pata.org.uk

**Whilst still a difficult time,
we can all start to feel more
confident about the future**



CALYPSO CALLING

Holland America Line's 2021-2022 Caribbean islands cruise offers trips to eastern, western, and southern Caribbean ports, and some parts of the Panama Canal.

HOLLAND AMERICA Line has launched its 2021-2022 Caribbean islands cruise itinerary, which will take guests to different parts of the Caribbean on six premium mid-sized ships, namely: Eurodam, Nieuw Amsterdam, Nieuw Statendam, Volendam, Rotterdam and Zaandam.

The itineraries, scheduled between October 2021 and April 2022, feature three- to 14-day trips to the eastern, western and southern regions of the Caribbean, including sailings that spend a day discovering the Panama Canal.

Agents who make a booking by February 28, 2021, can redeem the 'View & Verandah' offer for their clients, which includes stateroom upgrades, free beverages, one-night speciality dining and 10% off shore excursions.



Rotterdam is a new Pinnacle-class ship by Holland America Line.

All of the itineraries include a calling at Half Moon Cay, a destination which features some of the finest beaches in the Caribbean, a natural 700-acre lagoon, two-story villas and private cabanas, as well as delicious dining venues such as Lobster Shack, and a variety of fun-filled shore excursions.

The four-day sailing aboard the Rotterdam departs on November 3, 2021 and calls at Half Moon

Cay and Key West Florida. The three-day sailing departs on November 7, 2021, and calls at Half Moon Cay.

Many of the cruises can be extended into Collectors' Voyages to create the ultimate Caribbean exploration, with more economical fares for 13 to 21 days, with non-repeating, back-to-back itineraries, for an island-hopping journey.

www.hollandamerica.com.

Katarina Line launches 'E-Bike Cycle & Cruise Tours' for 2021

TRAVELLERS SEEKING healthier, more active holidays, and a return to "the great outdoors" can choose from Croatian cruiseline, Katarina Line's two new Cycle and Cruise tours, which are specifically designed for e-bikes.

The seven-night roundtrip tours combine a cruise along the coastal waters of the dazzling Adriatic Sea, with daily guided e-bike tours of the Croatian islands, featuring picturesque small towns, scenic rural roads and forests, and some of the most beautiful parks in Croatia. Participants can bring their own bikes, or rent an e-bike for the tour.

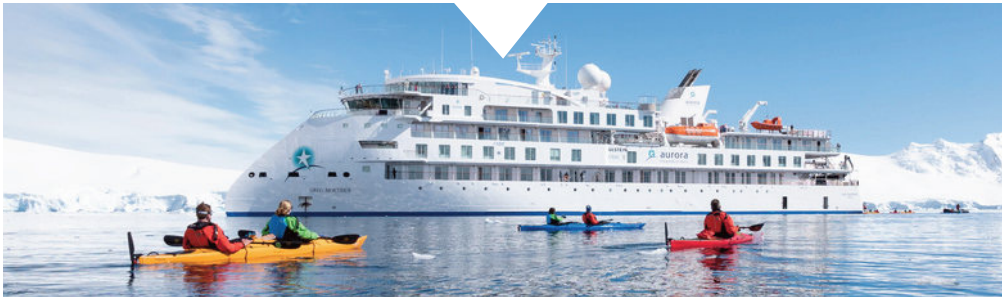
The Cycle and Cruise tour out of Split includes cycling the coastal roads of the island of Brač and enjoying panoramic views of the Pelješac peninsula and the nearby island of Korčula; while the e-bike tour out of Opatija includes cycling on the island of Cres, and a visit to Predosćica, as well as visiting the ancient town of Beli.

Prices start at \$759 per person, based on double sharing. Additional taxes and fees may apply.

www.katarina-line.com

ALL ABOARD AURORA

Aurora Expeditions invites agents and their clients to pre-register for a chance to reserve a place on any of the 26 2022/23 voyages with the company's biggest ever Arctic season.



AURORA EXPEDITIONS has opened pre-registration for its 2022/23 season, with 26 expeditions across its two purpose-built ships, Greg Mortimer and Sylvia Earle.

Spirit of Antarctica

A 12-day exploration across the Drake Passage, with a range of adventure options including polar camping and zodiac-cruising. The Greg Mortimer will set sail for the route on November 7 and November 17, 2022, while the Sylvia Earle will depart on November 19, November 29 and December 9, 2022.

Across the Antarctic Circle

An isolated 12- or 13-day venture through icebergs, narrow channels through ice-clad mountains, followed by encounters with whales and lively penguin colonies. The Greg Mortimer will begin the 13-day route on December 16, 2022 and the 12-day route February 1, 2023, with the Sylvia Earle departing for the 13-day route on January 7, 2023.

Antarctic Explorer

This 11- or 12-day voyage across the Antarctic Peninsula blends wildlife exploration with sightseeing across the ice-covered land and icebergs. Guests will fly at least one way across the Drake Passage. The Greg Mortimer will depart for the route on January 15, January 23, February 11, and February 19, 2023, with the Sylvia Earle undertaking the route on January 18, January 26, February 14, February 22 and March 3, 2023.

South Georgia and Antarctic Odyssey

This voyage blends the Antarctic Peninsula with the wildlife haven of South Georgia. The Greg Mortimer will run the 19-day route on October 21, 2022, and the 21-day route on December 27, 2022 and March 10, 2023. The Sylvia Earle departs on the 21-day route on December 19, 2022.

Pre-registering for the season means that clients are granted first access to Aurora's early bird promotions.

www.auroraexpeditions.co.uk

Regent Seven Seas Cruises announces suite upgrades

REGENT SEVEN Seas Cruises has launched the new 'Upgrade Your Horizon' offering, allowing guests to book 2-category Suite Upgrades, up to a Penthouse suite, on all cruises booked between now and February 28, 2021.

Customers upgrading to a Concierge Suite can enjoy a free one-night, pre-cruise hotel stay, or upgrade to a luxury Penthouse Suite and enjoy additional perks and amenities, including a butler.

Guests booking Deluxe Window Suites can reserve trips with 10% reduced deposits (excluding Grand Voyages and World Cruises).

Jason Montague, president and CEO, Regent Seven Seas Cruises, explained: "Following an unprecedented year, we didn't want to limit travel options for our guests, which is why we decided to make Upgrade Your Horizon our most



generous suite upgrade. Our guests can now enjoy with heightened in-suite service-levels thanks to a free 2-Category Suite Upgrade in the destination of their choice."

To explore the limited time offer, visit www.rssc.com



Victory Cruise Lines to launch Ocean Victory in July 2021

VICTORY CRUISE Lines will launch the newly-built Ocean Victory this July, combining respect for the environment with guest comfort.

Ocean Victory will launch cruises across the scenery of Alaska and British Columbia, exploring the wildlife, cultural heritage and Gold Rush history of the region.

The Ocean Victory will offer three itineraries: the 14-day 'Alaska Insider' from Vancouver to Sitka, where guests take part in Zodiac expeditions from £5,295 per person, the 15-day 'Alaska Insider Plus' from Sitka to Vancouver, with two extra days exploring the Tracy Arm and Edicott glaciers from £5,895 per person, and the 12-day 'Hidden Coast' from Vancouver to Seattle, exploring the cities and coves and coastline connecting them.

www.lightblue.travel.co.uk

ALL AT SEA WITH MSC

MSC Cruises' latest promotion offers a myriad of deals on sailings to the heart of the Med, the Norwegian Fjords and the beloved Caribbean.



MSC CRUISES has launched its Wave promotion, which will see a Premium Drinks Package included on all bookings made on the 'Fantastica Experience'. The promotion is available for all bookings made until midnight on April 30, 2021, and includes all summer 2021 and winter 2021/2022 itineraries.

This wave season, MSC Cruises has got families covered, with children under the age of 17 able to cruise free on MSC Magnifica on all 'Bella Experience' bookings, or parents can let kids in on all the fun of the 'Fantastica Experience' from £10 per night on a range of selected sailings. With Saturday departures from Southampton and all food and drink included.

Offering a wide range of itineraries, holidaymakers can sail to some of the Mediterranean's most sought after cities, including Barcelona and the Canary islands, explore classic Caribbean destinations in

Jamaica or Mexico, or for added exclusivity, visit MSC Cruises' private island in the Bahamas, Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve.

With prices for a West Med cruise starting from £549 per person, sailing on MSC Fantasia, a Northern Europe cruise starting from £599, sailing on MSC Magnifica, and a Caribbean cruise sailing on MSC Armonia starting from £589 per person, including all food, a premium drinks package and service charge, there are plenty of opportunities for agents to offer their clients some good deals.

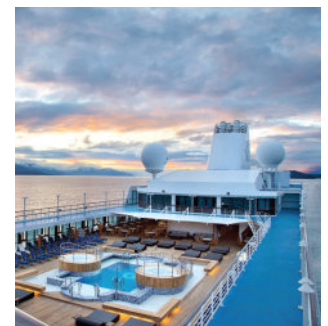
MSC Cruises' Stress Free Cruising programme also offers guests flexible booking conditions, allowing them to change their sailing up to 15 days prior to departure, while also being guaranteed a high level of health and safety, due to rigorous onboard protocol.

www.msccruises.co.uk

'Around The World in 180 Days' with Oceania Cruises

OCEANIA CRUISES has unveiled its 2023 'Around The World in 180 Days' voyage, now on sale.

Departing San Francisco on January 15, 2023, world travellers sailing on this voyage aboard the 684-guest Insignia will experience 96 destinations in 33 countries across four continents. Guests will have myriad in-depth and immersive experiences with multi-day stays in 20 ports of call from South America to Africa, Asia and Alaska as well as Antarctica first-hand with three full days cruising in Admiralty Bay, Paradise Bay and Half Moon Island.



In a special offer that runs until June 30, 2021, the 180-day cruise starts at £38,059 per person based on an Inside Stateroom, while a Veranda Stateroom starts at £51,549 per person. Penthouse Suites start at £74,019. The fare includes return business class flights to San Francisco, transfers, a one-night hotel stay before the cruise, and \$6,400 onboard credit.

www.oceaniacruises.com



CLIA unveils 'Generation Innovation'

CRUISE LINES International Association (CLIA) UK & Ireland, has announced that its Wave 2021 campaign will be called 'Generation Innovation'.

The campaign will promote a range of initiatives and activities being rolled out across the industry and by individual cruise lines, as the sector takes its next steps towards a return to service. CLIA will use the hashtag #GenerationInnovation on its social media channels to promote the campaign. Its regular 'Cruise Podcast' will feature guests from across the industry with innovation expertise.

For more information go to www.cruising.org and to join the conversation use #GenerationInnovation.

PLAIN SAILING WITH PRINCESS

Princess Cruises has launched its 'Dream with Us' sale campaign, meaning that your clients can now cruise at discount prices, and upgrade to added value fares.



PRINCESS CRUISES has launched a new sale, with fares starting from £499 per person for a seven-night cruise and a deposit of £50 per person.

Named 'Dream with Us', the campaign runs until March 1, 2021 and will see reduced fares applied to over 950 cruises across 2021 and 2022.

Guests can take a seven-night cruise during the October half term for £499 per person, with a Spain & France voyage on the Regal Princess, sailing roundtrip from Southampton. Calling at La Rochelle, Bilbao, La Coruna, Guernsey (St Peter Port), departing October 23, 2021.

The sale also includes a four-night Netherlands and Channel Islands sampler

cruise on Regal Princess for £299 per person, sailing roundtrip from Southampton, calling at Rotterdam and Guernsey (St. Peter Port), with departure on October 30, 2021.

Over 100 ex-UK roundtrip voyages are featured, including the 3,660-guest Sky Princess.

Guests can choose to upgrade to the all-inclusive added value fare 'Princess Plus' on all cruises for an extra £35 per person, per day. Princess Cruises is also taking all bookings through its 'Book with Confidence' policy. Under this policy, for bookings made by March 2, 2021, guests can cancel up to 30 days prior to sailing for voyages departing through October 31 2021, and receive cancellation fees back as a Future Cruise Credit.

www.princess.com

Wine on the water with AmaWaterways

AMAWATERWAYS HAS announced the return of several popular wine hosts, as well as new surprises for its 2021 season.

AmaWaterways will welcome aboard notable wine experts, certified sommeliers, and vineyard owners as hosts. New to the list of hosts for the autumn 2021 season is England's leading wine producer Chapel Down.

The hosts bring hand-selected wines on board to serve during special meals, tastings or seminars, all included in the cruise. Guests can join Chapel Down on November 13-20, 2021 for a 'Melodies of the Danube, Celebration of Wine' cruise. Guests will enjoy tastings and presentations from Chapel Down's wine expert as they cruise from



Budapest, Hungary to Vilshofen, Germany, passing through Austria's wine producing Wachau Valley. Marking AmaWaterways' first entrance in the Burgundy region of France, the 'Essence of Burgundy & Provence' itinerary showcases traditional French wine and cuisine in one river cruise.

www.AmaWaterways.co.uk



Hebridean buys MV Lord of the Glens

HEBRIDEAN PRINCESS owner HP Shipping Ltd, has announced the purchase of MV Lord of the Glens, from the Magna Carta Steamship Company Ltd. Lord of the Glens has the look of a luxury yacht and was designed with the Royal Yacht Britannia in mind.

The four-deck vessel has 27 passenger cabins and sails the intricate waters of Scotland's Caledonian Canal with its many locks, as well as the sheltered waters and lochs around Scotland's west coast. It will be chartered to Hebridean Island Cruises Ltd, with operations and reservations for the vessel transferring to Hebridean Island Cruises' HQ in Skipton, North Yorkshire.

www.hebridean.co.uk



EASTERN PROMISE

Newmarket Holidays' Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam itinerary, with a Singapore extension, offers a glimpse into the diverse culture of the south east.

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS' 18-day trip to Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, with an optional Singapore extension, takes guests through the markets of Bangkok, the beautiful war memorials of Kanchanaburi, the rice fields of Vietnam, and the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda of Cambodia.

Thailand

The first three days will be spent exploring Thailand, enjoying local cuisine and traditional Thai dance performances. Guests will get to visit the Rattanakosin Island on the bank of the River Kwai, and the Grand Palace as well as the adjoining Wat Phra Kaew temple.

Cambodia

While in Cambodia, guests will visit Wat Ek Phnom, a pre-Angkor Wat Temple located on the banks of the Sandker river, and the Angkor Thom city.

Vietnam

A trip to the Mekong Delta greets visitors with colourful orchards, lush forests and traditional rice fields, criss-crossed by a network of small tributaries. A two-day stay in Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City will allow visitors to visit the Cu Chi tunnel complex, a national memorial of



Angkor Thom, the last capital of the Khmer empire.

the Vietnam War; the grand General Post Office, the Reunification Hall, the Xa Loi Pagoda, and the War Remnants Museum.

Agents booking through Newmarket Holidays can save 15% for their clients on air-inclusive holidays to destinations outside Europe and the UK if they use the promo code OFFER15 and book holidays by January 31.

Prices start at £2,938 per person, based on January, 2022 departures. Price includes bed-and-breakfast accommodation at a series of four-star hotels, lunches and dinners, return flights and coach and boat travel and transfers, as well as the services of a tour manager.

www.newmarketholidays.co.uk

Sunrises and summits in Bali

EXPERIENCE BALI'S diverse identity on a 10-day adventure with Exodus Travels 'Sunrises and Summits in Bali' holiday.

Travellers will take to the jungle-clad hills and coffee plantations on bitesize treks and bike rides. There will also be plenty of opportunities to discover hidden waterfalls, dine in secret caves, explore ancient temples, experience a Buddhist blessing ceremony, and wellness during yoga sessions.



A highlight of the trip is a trek to the summit of an active volcano for breakfast at sunrise, and the chance to take part in an open-air cooking class and learn about Bali's coffee in the mountains.

Prices for a May 16, 2021 departure date start from £1,799 for a twin room.

www.exodus.co.uk

FULL STEAM AHEAD

See Japan at bullet train speed on Wendy Wu's newest rail itinerary which will traverse the three major islands of Kyushu, Honshu and Hokkaido.



WENDY WU has added more departure dates to some of its fully inclusive Japan tours, including the company's newest itinerary Japan by Rail.

The Japan by Rail itinerary is an all-encompassing journey through Japan, travelling mainly by bullet train and taking in the highlights of all three main islands: Kyushu, Honshu and Hokkaido. While on the trip, travellers will have many opportunities to experience ancient traditions that Japan is famous for.

One highlight of the tour is the chance to explore Shirakawago, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its unusual architectural style. This quaint, rural village is nestled in the Japanese Alps, and has preserved most of its traditional way of life, with its gassho-zukuri – houses built with triangular thatched roofs and with an attic suited for raising silkworms.

While on the tour, guests will also have the opportunity to learn how to make sushi, with a hands-on lesson, before sitting down with their instructing chef to enjoy Japan's most famous cuisine.

The 21-day 'Japan by Rail' tour is priced from £8,290 per person, based on an October 25, 2021, departure date.

Wendy Wu has also launched an incentive for agents — receive £20 for a first booking; £30 for a second booking; £40 for a third booking; and £50 for a fourth booking with the operator.

Plus, each booking enters a Weekly Prize Draw to win a host of prizes; agents will also be entered into a Grand Prize Draw to win a fam trip in 2022.

Winners are announced every Monday on the Wendy Wu Tours Agent Facebook page.

www.wendywutours.co.uk

Explore 'Your World' with Classic Collection

IN ITS new 'Your World' brochure, Classic Collection has widened its selection of luxury worldwide holidays and private escorted tours with the addition, along with other countries, of Thailand, Malaysia and a sea trek of the Indonesian islands.

Classic's nine-day 'Highlights of Thailand' tour has been specifically created to give a different experience of northern and central Thailand, with very few operators offering the same route. Prices start from £2,650 per person including flights. The operator's 'Explore Malaysia and Borneo' tour over 12 days, has prices from £2,690 per person. An eight-day Indonesia Sea Cruise, aboard a



traditional South Asia sailing ship, starts from £2,349 per person. The same ship is also available for private hire for party sizes up to 12 adults and two children.

Brochures are now downloadable at www.classic-collection.co.uk



LUX* Tea Horse Road: a trail along an ancient trade route

DEEP IN the mountainous northwest region of Yunnan, LUX* Tea Horse Road China has launched three additional retreats – LUX* Peach Valley, LUX* Sangushui and LUX* Daju Village. LUX* Peach Valley is a 17-room luxury boutique hotel tucked amongst rolling hills and peach orchards, LUX* Daju Village is a contemporary six-room boutique hotel surrounded by farmland, and LUX* Sangushui is a 15-room boutique hotel situated in a village. Guests who choose to partake in a two to 14 night tour programme will be accompanied by knowledgeable local guides who have a deep understanding of the age-old trade routes, traditions in Naxi and Tibetan cultures, and the rich geography of the mountain range. www.luxresorts.com

WELLNESS DONE WELL

Luxury boutique residence, The Sarojin, has launched its new 'Sarojin Cares Wellness' package, designed to give guests an unforgettable wellness retreat.



THE SAROJIN, sitting on Thailand's west coast, hopes to give guests a wellness experience which blends volunteering, mindfulness and experiences. The resort's new 'Sarojin Cares Wellness' package offers those looking for a wellness retreat a fulfilling and diverse experience.

The experience begins with a 90-minute yoga and meditation class in the resort's tropical gardens or poolside, with Vinyasa yoga followed by restorative meditation. Guests can then indulge in a 60-minute Thai or Aroma massage followed by a healthy Spa Cuisine lunch offering detox smoothies and health-focused dishes. The Sarojin's Pathways Spa, set among a backdrop of coconut groves, greenery and the Andaman Sea, gives visitors the ideal environment for a mindful experience throughout their stay.

The package also includes a visit to the Phang Nga Elephant Park, a family-run eco-park dedicated to providing the highest of quality care to rescued Asian elephants. The

Elephant Mahout experience included in the visit teaches guests to hand-feed, bathe and tend to the park's elephants. The experience offers an insightful look into local animal welfare and helps the park remain well funded and resourced to continue their work.

Towards the end of their stay, guests can join a 'Sarojin Cares' volunteer day, often involving a trip to the Mangrove Forest Planting Project in Baan Nam Kem, established by local fisherman after the 2004 tsunami, where visitors can plant new trees and help restore the local mangrove ecosystem.

With complementary mountain bikes, sailing catamarans, sail boats, sea kayaks and windsurfing boards and garden tours throughout the local area, the resort offers a range of experiences to make sure guests make the most of their Sarojin retreat.

The 'Sarojin Cares Wellness' package starts from approximately £1,640 for two adults sharing a Garden Residence for seven nights. www.sarojin.com

The best of Vietnam with Hayes & Jarvis

A 'CLASSIC Vietnam Tour' with Hayes & Jarvis gives travellers the best the country has to offer.

Beginning in Hanoi, the capital city, guests tour the city's Old Quarter or enjoy dinner with a local family. Exploring Halong Bay on day two offers excursions to Sung Sot Caves or leisurely swimming in the bay. A Tai Chi session the following morning offers a much-needed break before the boat returns to Hanoi for a tour of the Old Quarter- guests will then stay in Hanoi or take the overnight train to Hue. Day five offers a visit to an active monastery and the Imperial Citadel; the tour then travels on to Tu Doc Royal Tomb, and south to Hoi An, which guests can explore at their leisure before travelling to Ho Chi Minh City to visit the Central Post Office and Notre Dame Cathedral. The last day takes guests through the city's tunnel system and for a farewell lunch to draw the tour to a close.



The tour, including accommodation, international and domestic flights and guides, starts at £1,899 per person.

www.hayesandjarvis.co.uk



Tourism Authority of Thailand kicks off a green 2021

WITH THAILAND'S low case numbers and vaccine rollout scheduled for May, the Tourism Authority of Thailand has revealed its plans for 2021 and beyond.

TAT is focused on a green return to travel this year, with the aim of minimising overcrowding nationwide and ensuring sustainability is kept at the forefront of tourism.

Responsible tourism will be key to its 2021 strategy, promoting 'off the beaten track areas of Trat, Trang, Khanom, Nakhon Si Thammarat and Phattalung and low-carbon destinations such as Krabi and Koh Mak, all of which focus on community-based accommodation and experiences.

www.tourismthailand.org

THEME PARKS & ATTRACTIONS



EXPERIENCE IT ALL

Europa Park's 'Experience It All Package Summer Season 2021' offers a fun-filled three-day break, with 15 European themed areas and nine Nordic themed areas available for guests.

EUROPA-PARK IS offering the 'Experience It All Package Summer Season 2021' with 15 European themed areas at Europa-Park and nine Nordic themed areas in the new Indoor Water World Rulantica.

The three-day package will include two overnight stays and breakfast buffet in one of the four-star hotels, entrance to all sauna and pool areas of the Europa-Park hotels, as well as the gym, two days admission to Europa-Park per person and one day admission to Rulantica waterpark, per person.

Prices for a Double Room at the four-star Themed Hotel 'El Andaluz' & 'Castillo Alcazar' costs 361.50 EUR (£319.8) per person. Prices are valid until May 31, 2021.

Attractions can be booked via the VirtualLine app in keeping with COVID-19 restrictions, so that visitors can use a virtual queue for



Some of the park attractions can be booked on the Virtual Line app.

booking tickets to selected attractions.

As an added bonus for agents, Rulantica, the new indoor water world at Europa Park, is providing travel agents, travel agency staff, as well as travel agency trainees and travel agency owners, a special admission price of €35.50 (£31.02) for a Rulantica day ticket, after completing the travel agent form.

Rulantica admission can be booked in conjunction with an overnight stay at one of the four star superior hotels 'KRØNASÅR' or 'COLOSSEO' between Monday and Friday. Companions will be required to pay the regular admission fee. This offer is valid between March 14 to March 18, 2021.

www.europapark.de/en

New offerings from Efteling: 'Nest!' and Bäckerei Krümel

EFTELING, THE fairytale themed park in the south of Holland will open a themed artisanal bakery this winter, to complement Max & Moritz, and a new all-inclusive play forest called Nest! for children of all abilities.

Located in the Ruigrijk area of the park, close to other family rides and attractions, 'Nest!' will have themes that mirror the various Efteling roller coasters, so that young visitors will have a chance to taste some of the bigger attractions, which they are currently too small to ride.

The path that runs through and around the play forest will be accessible for guests in wheelchairs and there will be various play possibilities for children with disabilities.

A new catering location and bakery, called Bäckerei Krümel, will also open its doors right opposite the new family roller coaster, Max & Moritz. The bakery will provide tray bakes, flat breads and pizzas, combined with roasted coffees and fresh juices. It will be designed in the theme of the family roller coaster.

Agents can virtually visit the theme park at onride.efteling.com

READY, SET, NINTENDO!

The world's first theme park based on Nintendo characters is set to open soon at Universal Studios Japan, giving guests an immersive, unique experience in the world of Super Mario.



UNIVERSAL STUDIOS Japan's first-of-its-kind Super Nintendo World is set to open to guests later this year.

The land will feature two rides upon opening: "Mario Kart: Koopa's Challenge", which blends augmented reality headsets with physical sets to take guests on a life-sized race with Mario and Princess Peach, and "Yoshi's Adventure", where guests will board Yoshi-shaped vehicles to follow Captain Toad around the new land.

As well as its rides, the area strives to give each guest a unique experience with the Power-Up Band which allows guests to interact with various set pieces around Super Nintendo World, collecting virtual coins and connecting to a smartphone app to bring the video game experience to life.

The land will also host dining and shopping options, including Kinopio's Cafe and the 1Up Factory Shop, where guests can purchase Nintendo merchandise, food and beverages.

Nintendo's Shigeru Miyamoto confirmed

that Super Nintendo World is set to open in both American Universal theme parks (Orlando and Hollywood). Dates for these expansions have not yet been confirmed.

As well as the soon-to-open Super Nintendo World, Universal Studios Japan is home to lands based on popular film franchises including the Wizarding World of Harry Potter and Jurassic Park, and attractions based on Despicable Me, Sesame Street and Shrek.

Adult day tickets to Universal Studios Japan start from approximately £55. On-resort hotels are available, including The Singolari Hotel & Skyspa from £63 per night, The Park Front Hotel from £88 per night and Hotel Keihan from £150 per night.

Super Nintendo World was set for a grand opening on February 4, 2021, but due to the re-introduction of COVID-19 restrictions across Japan, the opening has been delayed, with a new date to be confirmed.

www.usj.co.jp

ICON Park's record-breaking plans for 2021

ICON PARK, nestled on International Drive in Orlando, is set for expansion throughout 2021.

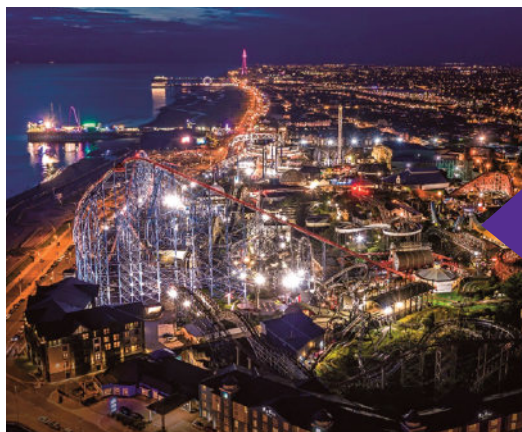
The park will open two record-breaking attractions; the world's tallest slingshot and Drop Tower attractions.

The ICON Park Slingshot will become the world's tallest slingshot ride, at 300 feet, when it opens this summer, launching guests at speeds of up to 100 miles per hour. The new Drop Tower attraction will also be the world's tallest of its kind, with a 430 feet freefall at over 75 miles per hour.



ICON Park CEO, Chris Jaskiewicz, explained: "2021 is set to be a big year for ICON Park. Our team has been extremely busy growing our portfolio of attractions, restaurants, bars, shops and more."

For more on ICON Park's expansion plans, visit www.iconparkorlando.com



Happy Birthday Blackpool: 2021 at Pleasure Beach

CELEBRATING ITS 125th anniversary this year, Blackpool Pleasure Beach hopes to celebrate 2021 showcasing the attractions and events that have made it a family favourite for 125 years.

The resort's attractions include Nickelodeon Land, the Big One and Big Dipper rollercoasters, and the first ever ghost train, which opened in 1930.

The resort will host a Faulty Towers Dining Experience from April 30 to November 12, a Gatsby Dinner Show from December 3 to December 18 and its pantomime, Aladdin, from November 24 to December 24.

www.blackpoolpleasurebeach.com

HOTELS, RESORTS & SPAS



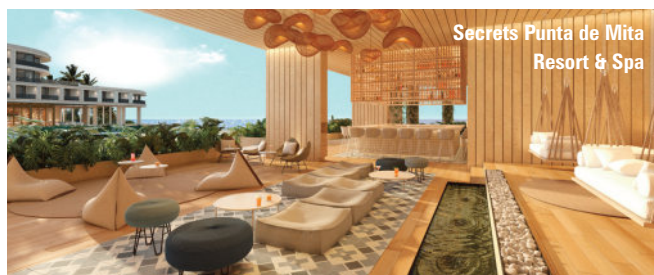
UNDER THE MEXICAN SUN

AMResorts is expanding its Mexican footprint this year, with the unveiling of Secrets Punta de Mita Resorts & Spa, and Dreams Punta de Mita Resort & Spa in Riviera Nayarit.

AMRESORTS IS set to open a pair of new properties this year in Punta de Mita, Riviera Nayarit, with something to suit both families and couples looking to soak in the Mexican sun.

For couples

Secrets Punta de Mita Resort & Spa will be an adults-only resort, combining pampering and pleasure. Guests can choose from romantic oceanfront suites, coupled with gourmet dining, live entertainment, and the 'Unlimited-Luxury' service. This service offers unlimited premium wines and spirits, pool and beach wait service, a range of daytime activities, live nightly entertainment, and more.



For families

Dreams Punta de Mita Resort & Spa will offer luxury for both couples and families. The Explorer's Club for Kids, with Red Cross certified staff, and Core Zone Teens Club provides supervised day and evening activities. While parents can enjoy a rejuvenating treatment at the spa, indulge in a romantic dinner, or take some "me" time, sipping on a cocktail of choice poolside. Families will also

get to enjoy the many amenities of the Unlimited-Luxury service. These amenities include limitless access to gourmet à la carte dining options without reservations, unlimited spirits and natural fruit juices, pool and beach wait service, access to themed parties, and oceanfront bars.

Both resorts are located in Punta de Mita, just 45 minutes away from the city's International Airport.

www.amresorts.com

RCD Hotels introduces free onsite COVID-19 testing

RCD HOTELS has introduced onsite COVID-19 testing options for UK guests who now have to provide a negative COVID-19 test result prior to boarding international flights back to the UK.

All existing and new U.K. reservations of three or more nights at its five all-inclusive Hard Rock Hotels in Mexico and the Caribbean, UNICO 20° 87° Riviera Maya and Nobu Hotel Los Cabos will receive two complimentary antigen tests per room. Additional antigen tests can be purchased for \$50 USD, or for guests who would prefer to provide a negative PCR test, this is also available onsite for a discounted price of \$99 USD. These onsite tests are available for all holidays booked by February 28, 2021 and checking out between January 26 and December 31, 2021 – or until the government mandate is lifted.

PCR and antigen tests provided are in line with the UK Government sensitivity and specificity guidelines. The hotel concierge team will assist guests onsite with scheduling their tests.

www.rcdhotels.com

GLAMOUR & GLITZ AT THE RITZ

Marriott International has announced that it will be bringing the Ritz-Carlton brand to Zermatt, Switzerland.



MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL has announced it has signed an agreement with Mario Julen to bring The Ritz-Carlton brand to Zermatt, Switzerland, debuting the first Ritz-Carlton ski resort in Europe.

Expected to open in 2026, the 69-guest room property will bring the brand’s legendary service and elegant design to the world-famous Swiss resort destination. Once open, the property will serve as the second Ritz-Carlton hotel in Switzerland, joining The Ritz-Carlton Hotel de la Paix, Geneva.

The property will offer unobstructed views of the Matterhorn from both guestrooms and dining establishments. Design plans are slated to feature two restaurants and two bars, an outdoor terrace for alfresco dining, and a private dining room for intimate gatherings.

An array of recreational activities such as ‘ski-in ski-out’ access to the slopes, a tranquil spa with a gym and both indoor and outdoor swimming pools are part of the vision for guests to enjoy. The resort is also expected to offer meeting and event facilities.

“This is an emotional project for me as I have worked passionately for many years to bring it to life. It is not only a declaration of love to my hometown of Zermatt, but also to the luxury hotel business and its ability to inspire travel. As the first major, international brand in Zermatt, my wish is that this project will bring a new level of hospitality to the Swiss Alps,” said Mario Julen.

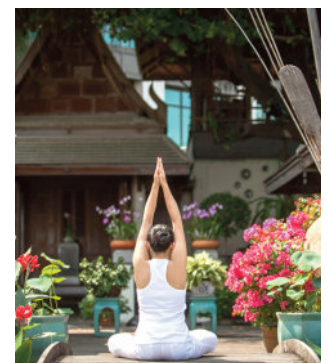
For more details on the opening, visit www.ritzcarlton.com

Be well at The Peninsula Bangkok

BANGKOK’S URBAN oasis, The Peninsula Bangkok, has launched a reimagined spa, wellness, healthy dining and activity offering called The Peninsula Mental & Physical Wellbeing programme.

To celebrate this new lifestyle programme, which is available for all guests, the hotel has created a personalised two-night package: ‘Active Body and Healthy Mind’, at THB 28,000 (approximately £683 per person), available to book now.

The new programme and package have been created to cater to an increasing number of guests seeking dedicated and in-depth holistic wellbeing stays to re-charge after a long-haul flight and to relax and rejuvenate their mind and body at the beginning of their holiday. The holistic approach is based on four elements: a healthy dining choice, an exercise programme, sleep and mindfulness.



The ‘Active Body and Healthy Mind’ package will be available throughout 2021.

www.peninsula.com/bangkok



Make a splash at the Calabash, Grenada

FOR THOSE wanting to plan a luxury-focused Caribbean getaway, Inspiring Travel Company is offering a seven-night stay at Calabash, Grenada from £3,699 per person.

The price is based on two adults sharing a Junior Suite including daily breakfast, return economy class flight from London Gatwick and private transfers.

The deal means that guests can save up to £545 per person, and enjoy complimentary suite upgrade and US\$250 resort credit.

Valid for travel completed between March 7, 2021 to April, 2, 2021.
www.inspiringtravelcompany.co.uk

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Accor is showcasing its new worldwide properties set to open this year, from a bustling new build in central London to the brand's first property in Moldova.



WITH OVER 5,000 properties already in its portfolio, Accor continues to expand, debuting several new properties this year.

BERD's Chisinau MGallery Hotel Collection, Moldova

Accor's first venture into Moldova offers 33 luxury rooms and suites, a Mezzo restaurant and a lounge and spa, giving citygoers a taste of rest and recreation. Rates start from £77 per night.

Fairmont Carton House, Ireland

This Fairmont-managed property is set half an hour from Dublin, in Maynooth, County Kildare. Featuring 169 bedrooms and suites across a 1,100 acre estate, the hotel will stand out as a leading golf and spa resort in Ireland, with an 18-hole championship golf course designed by Colin Montgomerie and Mark O'Meara. The

property is set to open in late April 2021. Rooms at the Carton House start at €180 per night.

Swissôtel Kursaal Bern, Switzerland

Boasting panoramic views of the Alps, five minutes away from Bern's Old Town, the Swissôtel hosts 171 newly renovated rooms, two Vitality suites, a 24-hour gym and a Mediterranean Giardino restaurant. Rooms start at £141 per night.

Mondrian Shoreditch, London

The opening will be Mondrian's sixth hotel once it opens in Q2 2021. The 120-room property will showcase several of the brand's signature food and beverage brands, including a dining experience by Dani García, the first of its kind in London. Rates to be confirmed.

all.accor.com

SoCo Hotel group expands with Saint Lucia property

OPENING MAY 1, 2021, the SoCo House, Saint Lucia, is the brand's second property, playing a key part in SoCo's mission to expand across the Caribbean, increasing its room capacity from 24 to 100.

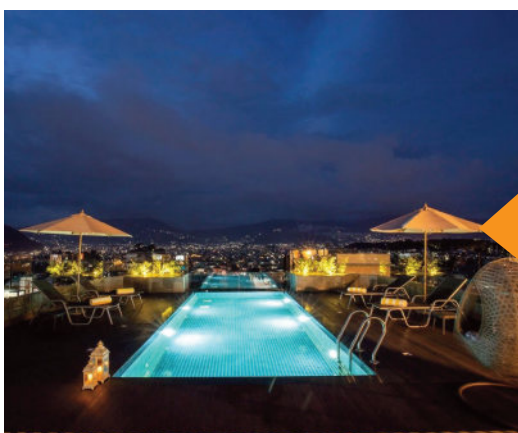
Following in the footsteps of its Bajan sister property, The SoCo House takes a modern approach to laid back, adults-only getaways. Set on a peninsula in Rodney Bay, the hotel is well situated for access to Saint Lucia's beaches, tourist attractions, excursions and nightlife.

76 rooms across four categories all offer a king size bed, 50" flat screen with cable TV, mini bar, tea and coffee amenities, hair dryers, ironing facilities and WiFi.



A seven-night, all-inclusive break at SoCo House starts from €999 per person, based on two adults sharing a SoCo Deluxe room, along with return economy flights with British Airways from London, departing in June 2021.

For more on the new property's offerings, visit www.thesocohotel.com



Wyndham Hotels & Resorts showcases the new in Nepal

WYNDHAM HOTELS & Resorts has expanded with the newly-built Ramada Encore by Wyndham Kathmandu-Thamel.

The 90-room property is situated within Kathmandu's commercial centre, with the Everest base camp, the Garden of Dreams and many of the local area's popular spots on the property's doorstep.

Regional director, Eurasia, Nikhil Sharma, said: "We are thrilled to be expanding Wyndham's portfolio in this new destination. Nepal is a beautiful country with huge potential and we are pleased to be making our footprint as part of our strategy to further expand."

www.wyndhamhotels.com

Seal a sale with Sandals

SANDALS RESORTS has launched 'The Sandals Sale', meaning that customers can save more on extended stays of 10-14 nights.

Savings include up to 45% off accommodation, plus an extra discount of up to £700 off per booking with the Sandals and Beaches Resorts' Booking Bonus, applicable on selected rooms, resorts and departure dates.

Running until February 28, 2021, holidaymakers can take advantage of deals to Sandals and Beaches Resorts, with savings on holidays for 2021, 2022 and 2023. Those booking extended stays of 10-13 nights can benefit from up to £600 off and those booking 14-nights and upwards can save up to £700 on select room categories. For a limited time, guests can also benefit from an additional £100 off all new bookings of seven nights or more, with the promo code EXTRA100. The promo code is valid on bookings to any Sandals or



Beaches resort made by midnight on February 2, 2021. The Sandals Sale includes departures to Caribbean islands including Jamaica, Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, The Bahamas and Turks & Caicos. Departures are available from London, Manchester and Scotland to selected islands.

www.sellingsandals.co.uk

Hyatt to open in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM IS set to welcome the first Hyatt property in Sweden, with the group currently carrying out extensive refurbishments to the existing Hotell Reisen.

When completed, the hotel will join 'The Unbound Collection' as a Hyatt branded hotel in early 2021. Located on Stockholm's waterfront in the heart of the Old Town, the hotel building dates back to the 17th century when it was a coffee house run by a Dutchman.

The hotel's location means that guests are steps away from Stockholm's landmark attractions, and also have easy access to ferries, making the Hyatt the perfect base for excursions to the stunning islands surrounding Stockholm.

Rates per night will start from £93, based on two people sharing, inclusive of breakfast.

www.hyatt.com

What's the spiciest thing you've ever eaten?



Jeanette Ratcliffe

Publisher
jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk
 Chicken biryani topped with 'Suicide' curry sauce at the legendary Plaza in Manchester!



Bill Coad

Account Manager
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 A scotch bonnet chilli.



Mariam Ahmad

Assistant Editor - News
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 Salsa that had Carolina Reaper in it. RIP.



Sarah Terry

Account Manager
sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk
 Green chilli sauce on the late night taco stand in Mexico!



Simon Eddolls

Sales Director
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 Insanity sauce was a lively one... after effects are never nice!



Hannah Carter

Events Coordinator
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 A hot sauce I can't remember the name of!



Tim Podger

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 Thai somtam with chillis.



Ashweenee Beerjeraz

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 Piment Confit.



Matt Gill

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 Habanero chilli on its own.

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ST. PETER'S POOL



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