

# Travelbulletin

Giving agents the edge



**Merry Christmas**

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Prep for peaks with festive incentives galore... Pg. 7

### Canada

The land of the maple leaf awaits! Pg. 15



Who better to ring in the New Year than Julia Lo Bue-Said, CEO of the Advantage Travel Partnership?! (pg. 11)





# Newmarket HOLIDAYS

## Lapland 2024 now on sale

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ASSOCIATION OF TOURING  
AND TRAVEL AGENTS





THIS  
WEEK

04

**NEWS**

The latest news and updates heating up the sector as we move towards 2024.

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The  
**Advantage**  
Travel Partnership®

**BULLETIN BRIEFING**

Julia Lo Bue-Said, CEO, suggests the Partnership sees no indication of the travel bubble bursting.

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**CANADA**

Enjoy the latest offerings from the Great White North.

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**EXPLORATION & ADVENTURE**

Clients' sense of adventure needs look no further than our picks.

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**INDIAN OCEAN**

Chase away the winter blues with a full roster of product news from the Indian Ocean's island havens.

# ON THE HORIZON

**Elegant Resorts has unveiled its annual Luxury Travel Trends Report, outlining the key emerging trends set to take the luxury travel market by storm next year.**

LEADING LUXURY operator Elegant Resorts has launched its annual travel trends report: 'Luxury Horizons: Unveiling 2024's Travel Trends', in conjunction with Kerzner International and Globetrender, showcasing the top trends that are set to shape the market moving into next year.

With the medical spa market projected to reach US\$49 billion by 2030 due to the increased interest in wellness holidays, resorts and retreats are investing more into a wide range of treatments, programmes and therapies to keep up with the demand. Longevity escapes are continuously on the rise and are set to maintain that trajectory next year.

Multi-generational holidays have been on the rise for a few years now, but research by Elegant Resorts has found that it's not just the different activities that a destination offers that is causing the rise in this trend, but instead clients' desire to find destinations primed to make multi-generational memories.

The cruise market shows no signs of slowing down as the boom continues to ricochet into next year. The emerging trend within cruising is the influx of travellers wanting to extend their experience by organising pre- and post-cruise itineraries to delve deeper into their destinations.

Gen Z's influence in the travel industry can't be diminished, and that power is set to remain strong over the next year. Elegant Resorts continues to receive more requests for resorts that have appeared on well-known social media channels or more frequently in algorithmic searches.

Lisa Fitzell, managing director at Elegant Resorts, said: "The luxury traveller is discerning and has a thirst for new adventures. After the last few years, our clients want to make their holidays more meaningful, make the most of their time with their loved ones, look after themselves and be healthy for longer, ensure every trip matters, enriches their souls, and creates long lasting memories."

Travelbulletin

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## A trade first for Classic Collection as agent-bookable site launches

YOU CAN now access live options and pricing across the Classic Collection portfolio through the operator's first bookable website for trade partners.

The new platform has been developed over the last 18 months, with trade trials taking place over recent weeks.



Celebrating the launch, director of agency & sales Si Morris-Green said: "News of our new bookable site has been well received by agents. The new functionality will save time for both agent partners and our contact centre sales team."

"For the first time agents booking with Classic Collection will be able to get an instant list of holiday options with live prices from our extensive portfolio of properties and destinations. The complexity of some of our holiday itineraries and tours means that not all our product is web bookable yet, but nevertheless we believe that this is a major breakthrough for our agent partners."

"We expect many agents to take advantage of our new site, particularly those booking more straightforward single centre holidays."

[www.classic-collection.co.uk](http://www.classic-collection.co.uk)



**SET YOUR Showcase sights to 2024... our full events calendar for next year is here! We couldn't have imagined a better reception to 2023's Showcase events, averaging 40+ agents at each event and bringing a host of brilliant trade suppliers along for the ride. The full 2024 calendar can be found at [www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events-calendar](http://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events-calendar)**

## SkyAlps takes flight on new London to Bolzano winter route

THIS MONTH will see the launch of SkyAlps' service from London Stansted to Bolzano, in South Tyrol.

As the ski season approaches, the new route is good news for guests heading off-piste: set to take flight twice a week (Wednesdays and Sundays), flights have been released for the entire season, running until April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Previously requiring two-hour transfers from Milan, Venice, Innsbruck or Verona airports, the route will ease access to one of Europe's most dramatic ski regions.

Seat prices start at £160 each way, with many of the region's best resorts on the doorstep of Bolzano Airport.

[www.skyalps.com](http://www.skyalps.com)

## Olympic Holidays puts Greek marvels on the map

TWO NEW Greek gems will join the Olympic portfolio in 2024, along with a new collection of island-hopping experiences.

Milos, the original discovery site of the Venus de Milo statue, will join the portfolio, with a seven-night stay starting from £1,439 per person. Olympus also joins the offerings with seven-night stays from £968 per person.

Michael Vinales, Olympic Holidays' managing director, brought the New Year hype: "2024 is the year to embrace the allure of the island of Milos and the majesty of the Olympus Riviera – two new gems that will be added to the Olympic Holidays portfolio." [www.olympicholidays.com](http://www.olympicholidays.com)



## Anguilla: more accessible than ever

A NEW three-times-weekly service from Anguilla Air Services makes the island retreat more accessible than ever, with 50-minute inter-island options from Antigua.

American Airlines will also join the fray in 2024 with a twice-daily service.



## Grand Train Tour of Switzerland

Discover all sights and landmarks Switzerland has to offer from the comfort of the train.  
The Grand Train Tour of Switzerland merges the most beautiful panoramic lines into one unique route.

Switzerland Travel Centre offer you many varied round trips of this iconic tour in both summer and winter and not only for train lovers. The journeys take you along spectacular panoramic routes, to our most popular holiday resorts and through four language and cultural regions. Over around 1,280 km, which couldn't be more varied, you can explore Switzerland easily and comfortably on our modern panorama trains.



### BEST OF WINTER



Be captivated by breathtaking winter scenery and journey through beautiful landscapes where the winter sun shines bright and snowy peaks sparkle like magic. Travel through Switzerland in two iconic panoramic trains with stays in famous winter resorts.

- + 4 unique regions
- + Scenic rides on the Glacier and Bernina Express
- + Top sights including Matterhorn, Rhine Gorge and Landwasser Viaduct
- + Ski up to 3 different mountain regions including Jungfrau and Zermatt

### HISTORIC TOUR



On this special edition of the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland, you'll enjoy Swiss hospitality at select Swiss Historic Hotels, each with its own unique story to tell. As you travel in the historic Belle Époque carriage of the GoldenPass Line, you will immerse yourself in another time.

- + Chur - the oldest city in Switzerland
- + Montreux Riviera and Chillon Castle
- + Ride in the nostalgic Belle Époque carriage of the GoldenPass Line
- + Lucerne Old Town on Lake Lucerne
- + Historic ambience in the Swiss Historic Hotels

### BROCHURE 2024



Unforgettable Experiences from Cities to Lakes to Mountain Peaks. Our full colour Switzerland 2024 brochure is available to be mailed to your travel agency or downloaded from our website.

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- + Lakes and Mountains
- + City and Cultural Breaks
- + Mountain Excursions
- + Cycling & Hiking Holidays
- + Winter Holidays

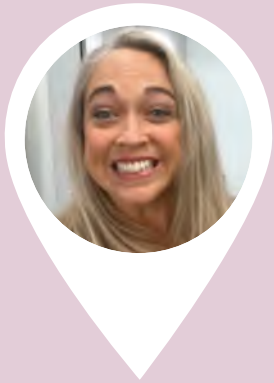
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# AGENT INSIGHT

## NIKKI METCALFE

### FLIGHT CENTRE

WITH EXPLORATION travel on the rise for Brits in 2024, safaris are a holiday agents should swot up on. There's no one-size-fits-all approach to selling safaris, as we're seeing it appeal to groups of friends and multi-generational families. You should try and understand how the geography of Africa and the varied offering of safari tour operators (such as all-inclusive lodges, cultural experiences, or stripped-back self-drive tours) might be suited to different travellers.

While not necessarily a cheap product to sell, you can tailor-make a holiday to fit most budgets and the local cost of living is more affordable. National Parks, where spotting wildlife isn't guaranteed, are generally cheaper than private game lodges where access to the entire conservancy is granted. Managing clients' expectations is a key skill; self-drive tours are cheaper than all-inclusive packages with unusual experiences. Plus, ethical safaris which operate in the interests of the local wildlife and population, sell for higher prices.

Awareness of malaria risk zones throughout Africa is vital when selling safari to families, since children and the immunocompromised may be at more risk of illness. Agents might recommend malaria-free zones such as the Eastern Cape and the Madikwe Game Reserve and must ensure they know where and when malaria is most prevalent.

No longer just a once-in-a-lifetime trip, we see repeat customers looking for new safari experiences. Don't assume a client hasn't been on a safari before. If they have, talk to them about where they went, what they liked, and what they want to do differently next time. Maybe they've seen the Big 5 and now want to specialise in East African birdlife.

For any agent, education is key, so keeping up-to-date with the product and ensuring regular touchpoints with partners means agents are best prepared to help customers book their safaris.



## Jet2.com and Jet2holidays fly high with further summer expansion

ANOTHER MAJOR expansion is on the cards for Jet2.com and Jet2holidays as the operator has put more flights and holiday options on sale for the late summer season 2024.

The additional services will run to 24 sunshine favourites, including mainland Spain, the Canaries, the Balearics, Portugal, Turkey, Croatia, and Greece across eight regional UK airports. The expansion has allowed almost 70,000 extra seats to be added for travel between late September and early November 2024 as demand for later summer holidays in the sunshine continues to grow.

[www.jet2holidays.com/www.jet.com](http://www.jet2holidays.com/www.jet.com)

## News Bites

- SINGAPORE AIRLINES and Philippine Airlines signed a codeshare agreement, allowing for enhanced flight options between both the Philippines and Singapore, along with a host of domestic and international destinations.
- Vietnam Airlines has confirmed a daily non-stop flight schedule from London Heathrow this winter.
- DUSIT INTERNATIONAL has signed on to manage four properties in India, all slated to open in mid-2026.



VIKING CRUISES is expanding its Southeast Asian fleet with the addition of the new *Viking Tonle* vessel. Designed to sail the Mekong River, the ship will join its sister, *Viking Saigon*, as part of the 15-day 'Magnificent Mekong' itinerary from October 2025. Due to strong demand for Mekong cruises, Viking has added more sailings for 2025 and has opened bookings for the entire 2026 schedule.

## AGENT INCENTIVES

- **INSPIRING TRAVEL** is giving away luxury winter hampers from The White Company each week this month, with bookings confirmed by December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 entered into a random prize draw. Email [agentrewards@itc-uk.com](mailto:agentrewards@itc-uk.com) with your name, agency name and confirmed booking reference to be in with a chance of winning. [www.itc-uk.com](http://www.itc-uk.com)
- **FESTIVE FLORIDA** bookings could land you in the theme park capital yourself: Gold Medal is celebrating its new 'Florida Parks & Beaches' brochure by giving you the chance to win a multi-centre adventure. The trip includes return flights for two, five nights at the Universal Orlando Resort Hotel with 3-Park Explorer tickets, two nights at a Florida beach hotel, Alamo car hire for seven nights, Kennedy Space Center admission and tickets to The Wheel at ICON Park. To be in with a chance of winning, make any Florida package bookings with Gold Medal by Christmas Eve and forward references to [win@goldmedal.co.uk](mailto:win@goldmedal.co.uk) with the subject line 'Take me to Florida'. [www.goldmedal.co.uk](http://www.goldmedal.co.uk)
- **CHRISTMAS WINE** is covered by Fred.\ Holidays, with a case of premium wine included with every Pandaw river cruise booking confirmed by December 20<sup>th</sup>. [www.fredholidays.co.uk](http://www.fredholidays.co.uk)
- **CANADA CALLS** to all agents booking with Prestige Travel. Agents making Prestige bookings before January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 will be automatically entered into a prize draw to win a place on a fam trip to Alberta in March 2024. Canadian Prestige bookings earn double entries. [www.prestigettravel.co.uk](http://www.prestigettravel.co.uk)

# AGENT BULLETIN



**AUDLEY TRAVEL** hosted its first fam trip, bringing 'A-List' sellers (those who have achieved 'Elite' status on the operator's newly-launched rewards platform) to Canada. The lucky agents spent three nights in Vancouver, a night in Whistler, and four nights in the Klahoose Wilderness Lodge on Doubtful Sound.

Travelbulletin

## COMPETITION

**Win two free return flights to Barcelona with Vueling, courtesy of the Catalonia-Catalan Tourist Board!**

**Find out more at**  
[www.travelbulletin.co.uk/competitions](http://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/competitions)

## AGENT TRAINING

### DESTINATION TRAINING

- **THE 15 islands of the Cooks** are home to a host of oceanic treasures: missed them on the road at *#TBSHOWCASES* or looking for a refresher? Take the destination's trade training programme to learn how accessible the islands are and how to sell the unique island marvels.
- **ONE YEAR** on from its historic hosting of the FIFA World Cup, Qatar continues to welcome guests for a packed event schedule and high-end accommodation offering: find what awaits and be in with a chance of joining a 2024 fam trip by completing the Qatar Specialist Programme.

[www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travelgym/destination-training](http://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travelgym/destination-training)

### TOUR OPERATOR TRAINING

- **BOLSTER YOUR Newmarket** product knowledge and earning power, all the while unlocking the chance to win a place on a fam trip with the operator and 15% off trips of your own?! Complete the Newmarket Holidays Travel Agent Training programme.

[www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travelgym/tour-operator-training](http://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travelgym/tour-operator-training)

### ACCOMMODATION TRAINING

- **EARN A free stay** for yourself at the Miraggio Thermal Spa Resort when completing the accommodation's B2B training course. You'll learn all about the resort's latest news and offers along the way.
- **ALDEMAR RESORTS'** Sunny Time platform helps you reward yourself as you sell the Aldemar portfolio. You can earn your own free stays to either of the two five-star luxury resort hotels in Crete and Olympia.

[www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travelgym/hotel-resort-training](http://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travelgym/hotel-resort-training)





## Holland America's 2025/26 South America and Antarctica cruises now on sale

BOOKINGS HAVE opened for Holland America Line's 2025-2026 South America and Antarctica season, featuring eight sailings across three itineraries ranging from 14 to 22 days from November 2025 until March 2026.

The 14-day 'South America Passage' cruise leads in at £2,539 per person for the 'Have it All' package, the 17-day 'Panama Canal and Inca Discovery' from £3,269 per person and the 22-day 'South America and Antarctica' from £4,769 per person. [www.hollandamerica.com](http://www.hollandamerica.com)

## Radisson welcomes Net Zero Nights for COP28

AS PART of its mission to achieve net zero by 2050, Radisson Hotel Group has introduced a new initiative wherein, during the COP28 climate conference, every guest night across its entire UAE portfolio of 16 hotels will be net zero.

The Net Zero Nights initiative will take place over the pivotal 13 days of the COP28 conference and will see Radisson purchase Renewable Energy Certificates to

neutralise the electric emissions, while non-electric emissions will be addressed through Certified Carbon Credits.

Under the company-wide mantra of 'Think People, Planet and Community', Radisson will continue to lead the way in driving positive changes within the hotel industry and the travel sector as a whole.

[www.radissonhotels.com](http://www.radissonhotels.com)

## Feel like royalty on JG Travel Group's new coach break

DON YOUR crowns and tiaras as JG Travel Group is celebrating the last season of the widely



popular Netflix show *The Crown* with a new coach break that offers a behind-the-scenes look into the history of Belvoir castle as well as a special greeting on arrival from the Duchess of Rutland, Emma Manners.

Prices for the two-day break start from £199 per person. [www.justgoholidays.com](http://www.justgoholidays.com)

Image Credits: Left: Holland America Line, Right: JG Travel Group

## Coming soon! New for 2024 Book Villa Package Holidays

Get ready for an exciting villa holiday experience! Our brand-new website will soon offer hassle-free bookings for luxurious villas, flights, car rentals, and thrilling attractions – all in one convenient package.

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## SUDOKU

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

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

**competition@travelbulletin.co.uk**

Closing date for entries is Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. Solution and new puzzle will appear in the next issue.

**The winner for November 23<sup>rd</sup> is Michele Grinton, Hays Travel.**

**November 23<sup>rd</sup> Solution: A=5 B=4 C=6 D=9**

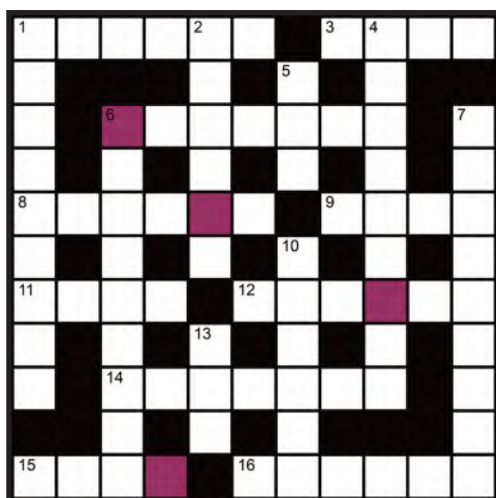
A	8			7				
	4		3	1	2	9		
	7			8			2	6
B		4				3	8	2
	9	3		5		2		7
C	1		8	4				3
	2		5			1		9
				9	5	6	7	8
D						8		1



WHERE  
AM I?

The sunshine capital city of Alberta favours the larger things in life, being home to the world's tallest indoor roller coaster and one of the world's largest malls where visitors can shop, surf and play pirates all under one roof!

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



## Across

- 1 Condor operate ferries to this island (6)
- 3 Sounds like a reverberating call sign (4)
- 6 Takes you up the snowy slopes (3-4)
- 8 The largest island in Hong Kong (6)
- 9 Muscat is the capital (4)
- 11 Salt water lake on Jordan's border, \_\_\_ Sea (4)
- 12 Perugia is the capital of this Italian region (6)
- 14 Hotel chain, part of Wyndhams (4,3)
- 15 Irish city and county (4)
- 16 Marco Polo airport serves this popular city-break destination (6)

## Down

- 1 TV presenter, probably best known for his flat caps and appearing on The Repair Shop (3,6)
- 2 National airline of the UAE (6)
- 4 Start with an animal to find a boat with twin hulls (9)
- 5 Brazil city, in short (3)
- 6 Spanish city and high street bank (9)
- 7 Island home of the Timanfaya National Park (9)
- 10 Sports official, usually in cricket (6)
- 13 East Sussex historic cinque port, sounds like a type of whisky (3)

CROSSWORD

Mystery Word: SARK WHERE AM I?: EDMONTON  
Across: 1 JERSEY, 3 ECHO, 6 SKI-LIFT, 8 LANTAU, 9 OMAN, 11 DEAD, 12 UMBRIA, 14 DAYS INN, 15 CORK, 16 VENICE.  
Down: 1 JAY BLADES, 2 ETIHAD, 4 CATAMARAN, 5 RIO, 6 SANTANDER, 7 LANZAROTE, 10 UMPIRE, 13 RYE.



## Summer expansion from Corendon Airlines

BOLSTERED SERVICES will take flight from London Gatwick and Manchester airports next summer, with Corendon Airlines adding a new Crete route (twice weekly) and an Antalya programme from London Stansted.

[www.corendonairlines.com](http://www.corendonairlines.com)



Where to see the *Northern Lights* in the UK

1. Isle of Lewis
2. Isle of Harris
3. Trotternish Peninsula
4. Uist
5. Barra
6. Dava Moor
7. Glenlivet Estate
8. Cairngorm Mountain
9. Glen Tanar Visitor Centre
10. Clatteringshaws Visitor Centre
11. Kinnaird Visitor Centre
12. Harbottle
13. Stonehaugh
14. Cawfields
15. Grizedale Forest
16. Tan Hill Inn
17. Howes National Park Visitor Centre
18. Buckhorn National
19. Rathlin Island
20. Ballintroy
21. Whitepark Bay Beach
22. Dunluce
23. Rathlin Island
24. Ballintroy
25. Whitepark Bay Beach
26. Dunluce
27. Rathlin Island
28. Ballintroy
29. Whitepark Bay Beach
30. Dunluce

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS has unveiled a free guide to help you spot the Northern Lights from the UK! The phenomenon returns this year, with almost 30 locations in prime position to make great viewing spots. While the operator emphasises that a tour is the best way to guarantee a higher chance to catch the Aurora Borealis, staycations timed with the natural light show might make a good option this winter.

[www.newmarketholidays.co.uk](http://www.newmarketholidays.co.uk)

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travel bulletin





# INDUSTRY *insight by...*



**Travel titan Julia Lo Bue-Said leads us into 2024, reminding agents that, despite “not seeing any indication” that the travel bubble might burst, “we cannot be complacent.”**

**Julia Lo Bue-Said, CEO of the Advantage Travel Partnership, reflects on a year of record member growth and recruitment and rests assured on high expectations for 2024.**

"THE SENTIMENT this year, without question, has been a mixture. From a trading point of view, it's been buoyant: we have been really pleased to see our members have a really strong trading performance right across the different sectors we operate in. That is really showing the industry at it's best and showing how resilient travel really is.

"For the whole industry, there are still challenges that we have had to work through, from flight changes and cancellations to baggage delays and

strikes.

"But everything that agents have been able to control, from local markets to trading, has been so positive and they are in a really strong position. We are really passionate about making sure that we are part of the solution to some of those macro-impacts.

"We work really closely with our airline partners and have relationships with a range of government departments, all in service of making sure our members can operate in an environment that is without burden and ensuring stakeholders are cognisant of the bigger challenges our agents are having to face.

"Among those challenges, we provide our members with a range of different services and products. We are with them, engaging with them, and helping them manage their business: trying to take away as much of that pressure as

possible.

"Our job is to help guide business owners, give them the opportunity to help them offload their challenges, and be the guiding counsel to help our members and steer them in the right direction."

Many agents have found themselves as benefactors of travel's '*relationship renaissance*', and are proud to put their name above their shops as a face of the trade and a point of contact for clients. Julia emphasised that this leaves the trade in good stead moving forward.

"For most agents, that's one thing they're very passionate about and one of the main things they are in business for. Whether that is in their local market or digitally, their brand and what they stand for is exceptionally important – that comes down to human connection."

So with travel already in good stead to ride the wave, what does 2024 have in store?

"For the time being, from a trading point of view, momentum has started strong and we're seeing great traction for 2024.

"We are not seeing any indication that that is going to stop, however – like in any aspect of travel – we cannot be complacent."

“

**Momentum has started strong and we're seeing great traction for 2024...**



## Riviera Travel's new programme: "an opportunity to indulge"

WILL SARSON recently headed up his first river cruise launch as Riviera Travel's new head of product.

With the 2025 European river cruising programme on sale now, along with 32 themed departures, Will gave us a river rundown on what the programme offers guests new



and returning.

"Our new themed cruises bring new, unique twists on our classic itineraries. It gives our customers an opportunity to indulge some of their favourite pastimes and interests, while enjoying all the usual five-star service you would expect from a Riviera river cruise.

"We have seen various comments from customers in letters to us, by way of our Tour Managers and Cruise Directors and on social media that they would like us to offer some slightly more specialised itineraries.

"Off the back of that we conducted some research of over 2,000 customers and prospective customers to help us hone exactly what we have offered. This new range of cruises is very much a collaborative effort.

"Our customers tell us that they trust us to deliver great holiday experiences, regardless of the style of holiday."

[www.rivieratravel.co.uk](http://www.rivieratravel.co.uk)



**CHRISTMAS FESTIVIES** will return to Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex next month, with holiday décor, a nighttime projection show and more seeing in the season from December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The interstellar Starflake's Holiday Voyage projection mapping show will return nightly, along with a new Rocket Tree Trail and more. The attraction's trade training programme gives you the chance to earn free admission of your own. [www.kennedyspacecenter.com](http://www.kennedyspacecenter.com)

## Virgin Australia boosts Uluru connectivity with maiden services

THE AIRLINE'S return to Uluru will see bolstered connectivity with Melbourne and Brisbane from June 2024.

Melbourne to Uluru will see four weekly connections to the iconic destination from June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Taking to the skies on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Brisbane service will operate three times weekly (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays).

All services dovetail with the Singapore Airlines schedule from London, guaranteeing almost seamless connections to Uluru.

Mohamed Rafi Mar, Singapore Airlines' general manager UK & Ireland said: "The reinstated Melbourne and Brisbane services to Uluru with Virgin Australia dovetail perfectly into our schedule... there has never been a better time to visit this iconic destination." [www.virginaustralia.com](http://www.virginaustralia.com)

## Jumeirah Hotels & Resorts unveils festive escape room

THE FESTIVE immersion knows no bounds at Jumeirah Mina A'Salam, with the 'Save Christmas Escape Room' inviting guests to join Albie the Elf in a "festive escapade".

The experience is on offer until January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and will see youngsters and parents alike solve puzzles and answer riddles to uncover the seasonal secrets behind Santa's kidnapping.

'Save Christmas' is free for guests at the Jumeirah Mina A'Salam, Jumeirah Al Qasr and Jumeirah Dar Al Masyaf, or £10 for external guests.

[www.dubai.escapegameover.ae/rooms/save\\_christmas](http://www.dubai.escapegameover.ae/rooms/save_christmas)



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SITE-SEEING!



## Jules Verne's new site with trade promise

AHEAD OF substantial upgrades to agent support, the new Jules Verne site features new elements and clearer availability.

Jules Verne has promised the site precedes a host of substantial upgrades to support agents making bookings in Q1 2024.



# Award-winning, **kid-free cruises** from Virgin.



WARMER WANDERLUST

**20% OFF** | **FREE**  
+ **DRINKS**  
UP TO  
**USD \$600**  
SAILINGS THROUGH 2024

BOOK BY 13 DEC

As sweater weather marks the coming of winter, give your Sailors swimsuits, and sunnies to look forward to as they sail into incredible destinations on a new summer holiday at sea.

When it comes to dining, nightlife, and brilliant service, Always Included Luxuries on our exclusively adult ships have created a new wave of cruising. Besides winning the Travel Bulletin Star Award for the Star Ocean Cruise Company, we also won the Star Cruise Line Sales Team Award — which means we're Brilliant for You, too. First Mates earn a 16% commission on the voyage fare (no NCFs), and 10% for each pre-voyage bookable — elevating the industry standard so that our Sailors and First Mates can book, sell, and sail with confidence.

LEARN MORE ON [FIRSTMATES.COM](https://firstmates.com)  
FOR PACKAGES, VISIT [TRADE-VOYAGESTORE.COM](https://trade-voyagestore.com)

Star travel bulletin  
**AWARDS**  
WINNER 2023



**Brilliant  
For You**





## Etihad announces sizzling summer schedule

ETIHAD AIRWAYS has unveiled its summer 2024 schedule which underlines the airline's ambitious growth plans.

The revamped schedule highlights new additions to Etihad's flight roster, including a non-stop service to Nice, France, and direct services to Mykonos and Santorini.

Antonoaldo Neves, Etihad Airways chief executive officer, said: "Our exciting summer schedule reinforces our commitment to growth, giving our customers the destinations, frequencies and timings for European and Asian destinations which suit them." [www.etihad.com](http://www.etihad.com)

## MSC Cruises develops Ocean Cay Marine Reserve to enhance guest experience

IN LINE with its long-term vision to create a positive impact both for local communities and to the environment, MSC Cruises has announced a new infrastructure development programme for Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve in the Bahamas.

Enhancements will be made to the island with additional amenities for cruise guests who visit the destination, new amenities and accommodation for

staff as well as technical improvements and environmental infrastructure.

Guest facilities will also be enhanced with the introduction of excursion centres to support water sport activities and island tours, as well as a sea dive and snorkel centre and additional food and beverage outlets and facilities.

[www.msccruises.co.uk](http://www.msccruises.co.uk)

## Uniworld president to join guests aboard newest ship

UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE River Cruises has announced its 'President's Cruise' for 2024,



hosted by the cruise line's president and CEO Ellen Bettridge. The sailing will depart on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 aboard S.S. *Victoria* on the 'Castles Along the Rhine' voyage. Prices start from £5,699. [www.uniworld.com](http://www.uniworld.com)

Image Credits: Left: Etihad Airways, Right: Uniworld

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## Book a rail tour to Canada

Your customers can experience the incredible landscapes of Canada on the iconic Rocky Mountaineer. They'll also travel through British Columbia and into Alberta, Vancouver, and Jasper. They really will get more from a tour - including international flights, VIP transfers, meals, excursions and the services of an expert tour manager.



### Canadian Rockies Grand Circle

15 days from ~~£5,895~~ £5,495

International flights, 5 meals and 7 excursions and visits including...

- City tours of Vancouver and Victoria
- Tours of Jasper National Park and Banff
- Columbia Icefield Glacier Adventure

Price based on 27 May 2024 departure. Other dates available.

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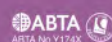
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# BONJOUR, QUÉBEC!

Joie de vivre awaits in Canada's historic province.



FLY DRIVES enable a wealth of maple leaf freedom in Canada, with Trailfinders' collection of breaks including the 'Bonjour Quebec' offering.

Lead-in prices start at £2,999 per person with economy class flights and £4,799 per person with business class options. The itinerary includes direct

flights, 11 days' fully-inclusive car hire, accommodation in three- to five-star hotels, a Saguenay Fjord Sunset kayak tour and Tadoussac whale watch cruise, free use of canoes, kayaks and pedal boats at Hôtel Sacacomie, and five meals.

Alongside the inclusive experiences, the lively city of Montréal's gastronomic wonders await to be uncovered, with the old quarter best discovered from the ground on a guided walking tour or above with the panoramic views of the Mount Royal Park.

Mont-Tremblant National Park offers a wealth of activities, from walking trails to watersports and family fun.

Onwards to Saint-Alexis-des-Monts, the three-star Hôtel Sacomie brings traditional vibes with a timber decor overlooking Lake Sacacomie.

A scenic drive brings guests to Lac Saint-Jean, home to the historic resort and living museum of Val-Jalbert.

Following the Saguenay River Saguenay and Tadoussac, a hefty dose of scenery awaits, with La Malbaie beginning the home stretch with biking and hiking trails.

The tour draws to a close in Québec City's fortified old quarter and stylish streets.

[www.trailfinders.com](http://www.trailfinders.com)

## Walking on sunshine

CANADA'S SUNSHINE coast awaits on Exodus Adventure Travels' new 'Walking Canada's Sunshine Coast' itinerary.

Stretching along the southwest corner of British Columbia, the coast is home to destinations best explored by foot, with panoramic views showcasing the best of this under-the-radar corner of Canada.

Optional rail trips aboard Rocky Mountaineer or stays at the Klahoose Wilderness Resort help you upsell and guarantee guests the adventure of a lifetime.

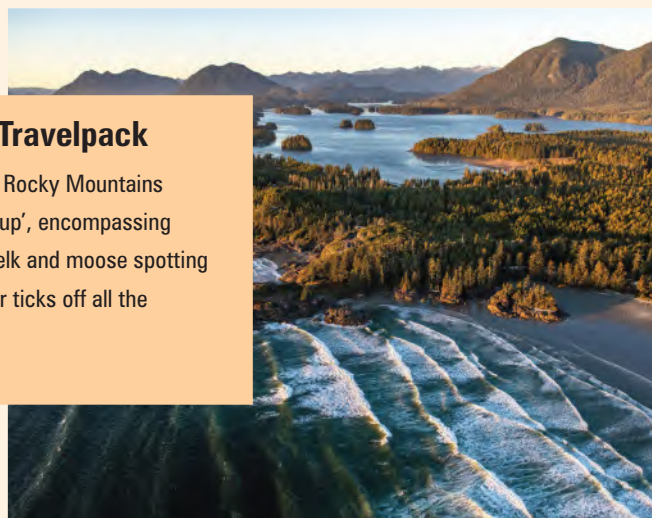
Prices for the nine-day core itinerary start from £2,589 per person.

[www.exodus.co.uk](http://www.exodus.co.uk)

## A Rocky Roundup from Travelpack

THE UNRIVALLED landscapes of the Rocky Mountains await on Travelpack's 'Rocky Roundup', encompassing British Columbia and Alberta. From elk and moose spotting to an Inside Passage cruise, this tour ticks off all the highlights and more.

[www.agents.travelpack.co.uk](http://www.agents.travelpack.co.uk)







### Nobu makes its Canadian debut

NOBU HOTELS is set to make its Canadian debut with the 45-story Nobu Hotel Toronto set to open for summer 2024.

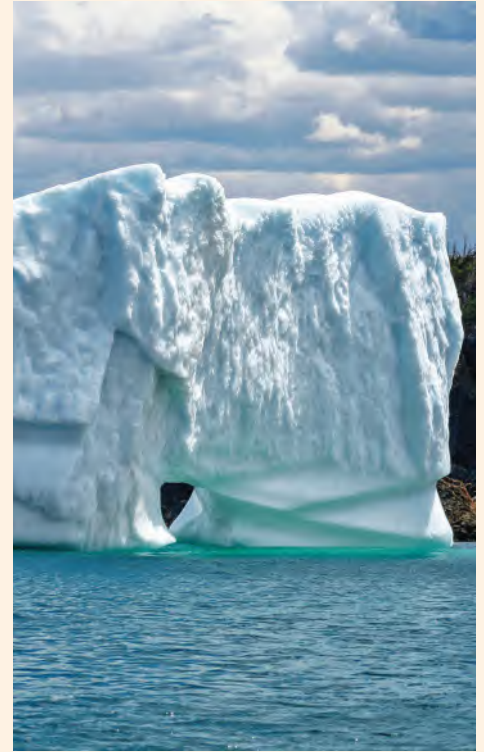
Located in the heart of Toronto's Entertainment District, the two dramatic towers will offer panoramic views of Lake Ontario and the city skyline.  
[www.nobuhotels.com](http://www.nobuhotels.com)

## Explore eastern Canada with ease

BRITISH HOLIDAYMAKERS will now be able to enjoy the joys of eastern Canada easier than ever before as WestJet has announced a new direct service between Newfoundland and Labrador to London Gatwick which will take to the skies from May 2024.

The Canadian airline will fly from London into St. John's, the capital of Newfoundland and Labrador, thrice weekly until October 25th, 2024. One-way fares for the journey begin from CAD\$393 (approx. £232).

Increasing accessibility to the province will allow UK travellers to explore a more out-of-reach part of the great Canadian landscape where they can experience one of the best spots on Earth to witness icebergs; walk the Atlantic coast on the Skerwink Trail or climb the second-highest



peak in Newfoundland, Gros Mounre; or explore the historic Cape Bonvista Lighthouse.

[www.westjet.com](http://www.westjet.com)

Image Credits: Left: Adobe Stock, Right: Atlantic Canada

# CANADA'S ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

9 days from **£3,899PP**

Departures from May to September 2024 and 2025

### Your tour includes:

- ✓ SilverLeaf service on board the Rocky Mountaineer plus hand-picked three-star superior accommodation
- 🍴 4 meals: 2 breakfasts & 2 lunches
- 🏛 Programme of daily tours & visits, plus free time
- ✈ Return flights & transfers
- 👤 Expert Riviera Tour Manager

**Calgary • Banff • Rocky Mountaineer train • Vancouver**

For more information and to book:

Call: **01283 901 098** Visit: [rivieratravel.co.uk/agents](http://rivieratravel.co.uk/agents)

Subject to availability and correct at time of print. Additional entrance costs may apply. Riviera Travel booking terms and conditions apply. ABTA V4744 ATOL 3430 protected. Images used in conjunction with Riviera Travel.





# Fall for Canada's most scenic marvels

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS' 'Fall Colours of New England and Canada' explores North America's marvels, from the iconic Niagara Falls, to the Maple Leaf Trail from Toronto to Québec City, via Ottawa and Montréal.

Beyond the exploration of Canada's picturesque Eastern Townships, guests will enjoy a seven-night cruise aboard Holland America Line's *Zuiderdam*, calling at Maine, Charlottetown and Québec City for guided excursions.

New England and New Hampshire brings guests back across the border for more scenic discovery.

The operator's long haul destination manager, Richard Harrington, predicts the itinerary will go down well with the trade: "With this unique combination and past success with land and cruise combinations, we think this new package will be a big hit

with agents."

Prices for the multi-centre adventure start from £3,749 per person, with return flights, five nights' hotel accommodation and seven nights' full-board cruise accommodation, transfers and excursions. Departure dates are available in September and October 2024 and 2025. Last-minute Black Friday bookings, made by December 4<sup>th</sup>, include savings of up to 15%.

[www.newmarketholidays.co.uk/holidays/north-america/new-england-canada-fall-colours-cruise](http://www.newmarketholidays.co.uk/holidays/north-america/new-england-canada-fall-colours-cruise)



## Quebec calls as over 100 trails await in Tremblant

WITH SLOPES for all abilities from seasoned skiers to first-time après-ski anticipators, Tremblant is an adventurous launchpad to the ski life. The upcoming winter season brings new RFID tech for seamless lift access and availability on the Ikon Pass for unlimited access to 17 North America ski resorts.

Ski Independence offers a seven-night stay at Ermitage du Lac in Tremblant this winter from £1,379 per person, including bed-and-breakfast accommodation, Air Canada flights from Heathrow, free ski carriage, and private return transfers.

[www.tremblant.ca](http://www.tremblant.ca) / [www.ski-i.com](http://www.ski-i.com)



## Icelandair unveils new Nova Scotia service

SERVICES TO Halifax will restart after a certain pandemic forced the airline to halt the service, bolstering connectivity to the natural marvel of Nova Scotia.

Three flights a week will take to the skies from May 31<sup>st</sup> until mid-October 2024.

Icelandair also confirmed a fleet expansion with three Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft joining the airline's roster in 2024, contributing to a minimum of 10% seat expansions and 800 different connections in the year. [www.icelandair.com](http://www.icelandair.com)



## The Rockies by Rail with £450+ savings

CANADIAN AFFAIR is bringing guests full-steam ahead to the popular mountain towns of Banff and Jasper, along with an iconic journey aboard Rocky Mountaineer midway through the nine-day itinerary.

Savings of up to £472 per person are on offer until December 4<sup>th</sup>, with the itinerary starting from £2,280 per person. [www.canadianaffair.com](http://www.canadianaffair.com)





### Calgary's definitively Canadian launchpad

AFTER FIRST welcoming guests in October, Alt Hotel Calgary University District is making waves as an authentically Calgary accommodation option.

On the doorstep of the Trans-Canada Highway, leading towards Banff and the Rockies, the hotel is a launchpad for a definitive Canadian experience. Room rates start at £92 per night based on two adults sharing. [www.germainhotels.com/en/travel-agents/](http://www.germainhotels.com/en/travel-agents/) [www.germainhotels.com/en/alt-hotel/calgary-university-district](http://www.germainhotels.com/en/alt-hotel/calgary-university-district)



### Yukon welcomes first cultural UNESCO site

CANADA'S NORTHWESTERN Yukon Territory has welcomed its second UNESCO World Heritage site, the Tr'ondëk-Klondike.

Marking the first cultural World Heritage site in the region, the area tells the story of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation's experience during the rise of the Klondike Gold Rush in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and sits as one of the Yukon Territory's most impressive landscapes.

## Tauck team-up ticks off top train trip

TAUCK'S PARTNERSHIP with Rocky Mountaineer continues to gather steam, with two new North American itineraries calling all stations to adventure.

Of the two itineraries, one showcases Western Canada in all its glory: aptly-named 'The Best of Western Canada & Rocky Mountaineer', guests enjoy stays at four Fairmont properties, including the iconic Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, along with a two-day rail journey to Vancouver in a premier Gold Leaf carriage.

Prices for the new 10-day Rocky Mountaineer team-up itinerary start from £8,790 per person.

'The Best of Western Canada & Rocky Mountaineer' extends Tauck's partnership with the bucket-list rail operator, with the existing 'Vancouver & the Rockies with Rocky Mountaineer' featuring a number of excursions in the western Canadian city. Aboriginal art is under the spotlight with a



document-led tour of the Bill Reid Gallery, and a picture-perfect scenic drive awaits from Jasper to Lake Louise.

The existing nine-day option starts from £7,380 per person. [www.tauck.co.uk](http://www.tauck.co.uk)

## Moxy makes its mark in Canada

HALIFAX'S TRENDY downtown is soon to be joined by an equally trendy property, with Marriott Bonvoy debuting the first Moxy property in Canada in the Nova Scotian capital this month.

Part of Marriott Bonvoy's 30-strong portfolio of brands, Moxy is a collection of playful properties, with communal social spaces and stylish design, ideal for the young traveller.

The latest property, the Moxy Halifax, will

offer a choice of 160 rooms in the vogue downtown of Nova Scotia's capital when it opens this month. Intrepid guests are invited to make memories over handcrafted drinks, small plates and vibrant music, with 'unexpected activations' teased on arrival to make their stay a memorable one.

Prices lead in at £177 per night, based on a May 2024 stay.

Moxy Halifax will be joined by a Moxy Banff next month, the product of a CAD\$30 million Moxy makeover of Banff's first commercial motel, The Voyager Inn, first built in 1964. The second Canadian Moxy will offer a similarly chic experience, with a social courtyard home to a fully-restored 1966 VW food truck offering an all-day menu. Prices lead in at £162 per night, with the property opening its doors on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

[www.moxy-hotels.marriott.com](http://www.moxy-hotels.marriott.com)







# Discover Canada with WestJet.

As a WestJet guest, your client's Canadian experience begins the moment they step on board and are greeted with warm smiles and caring service. We've perfected every detail to make their flight as comfortable as possible onboard our 787 Dreamliner which features private pods and lie-flat seating in the Business cabin, and on-demand dining and entertainment in all cabin classes. With daily direct flights from London-Heathrow to Calgary, Canada, your clients are an hour's drive from the pristine natural landscapes of the Canadian Rockies.

Explore our flight schedule at [westjet.com](https://westjet.com).

**WESTJET** 

Schedule subject to change.



# EXPLORATION & ADVENTURE

## TRACING THE SILK ROAD

Adventurers can follow in the footsteps of iconic explorers on Wild Frontiers' 48-day adventure.



FROM MARCO Polo to countless traders throughout the centuries, the pan-Asia Silk Road is a path well travelled.

Wild Frontiers is standing on the shoulders of the adventurers that came before with a 48-day itinerary exploring the route, which spans from Xi'an to Istanbul, covering around 12,000km and six countries en route.

On one of the operator's biggest trip to date, intrepid travellers will tick off bucket list sights, from Xi'an's Terracotta Army to Istanbul's Blue Mosque, but also uncover hidden gems and some of

the route's varied terrain from mountains and deserts to grasslands en route.

Guests can rest assured they are travelling for good, with ten trees planted per passenger on 'The Great Silk Road Adventure', with contributions made to renewable energy projects and Wild Frontiers Foundation's local community initiatives.

Wild Frontiers' 48-day adventure of a lifetime starts from £14,545 per person. The price includes the 48-day itinerary, all meals, transport, accommodation, an

expert team and entrance fees to visitor attractions. International flights are not included. 10% deposits are required upon booking.

[www.wildfrontierstravel.com](http://www.wildfrontierstravel.com)

### Icelandair unveils adventurous Brits' bucket lists

ICELAND'S FLAGSHIP airline conducted a study to find the ultimate adventure bucket list for British travellers earlier this year.

It found that 54% of Brits would push the boat out with a boat trip on an adventurous itinerary, almost going hand-in-hand with 36% suggesting they'd find wonder in whale watching.

Hiking (31%) and camping (36%) unsurprisingly followed suite, with four-wheel driving (21%) and scuba diving (19%) perhaps inspiring some curveball suggestions to add some adventure to your clients' itineraries.

### Combine sun and snow in California

THE GOLDEN State may shine brightest in the summer, but a West Coast winter escape allows guests to hit both waves and slopes, with Original Travel's 'Ski and Surf California' blending a beachside stay on the Pacific Coast for surfing and whale watching with a ski break in Mammoth Lakes.

Prices start from £3,295 per person. [www.originaltravel.co.uk](http://www.originaltravel.co.uk)





## Adventure and comfort go hand-in-hand with The Geluxe Collection

G ADVENTURES' new Geluxe Collection features 28 trips with upgraded accommodation, dining, and community and cultural excursions.

Designed to showcase that community & adventure and comfort aren't mutually exclusive, all trips blend physical activity with unique accommodation, indulgent dining opportunities and once-in-a-lifetime excursions.

The collection includes 'Japan: Kyoto, Tokyo & the Michinoku Coastal Trail', an exploration of the bucket-list nation that is almost tailor-made for adventure seekers.

Blending the nation's ancient and modern traditions with hikes, kayaking excursions and more, the itinerary traces Japan's history and culture with the spirit of adventure.

Prices for the 11-day adventure start from £5,999 per person based on a July 2024

departure date.

Yves Marceau, the operator's VP of product, kicked off the excitement for the new collection: "These trips have been carefully curated for people who enjoy adventure with a softer landing, yet still appreciate meaningful interactions with local people as part of their travel experience."

[www.gadventures.com/geluxe](http://www.gadventures.com/geluxe)

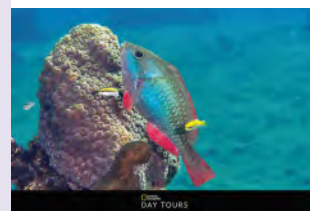


## Four Seasons' Serengeti festive fun

FOUR SEASONS is bringing the festive fun this year with a comprehensive programme of seasonal activities taking place from December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 all the way to New Year's Day.

Featuring a magical dinner under the stars, learning all about the Maasai's

understanding of the stars and a festive celebration with a traditional twist at every meal, there's plenty to get excited for this Christmas. The Four Seasons Safari Lodge Serengeti is bookable through [www.abercrombiekent.co.uk](http://www.abercrombiekent.co.uk). [www.fourseasons.com/serengeti/](http://www.fourseasons.com/serengeti/)



## Head for onshore adventures with Azamara

AZAMARA IS encouraging guests to head offboard for adventures during their cruises on a new collection of National Geographic Day Tours. With a whole host of adventures on offer across nine tours in the programme, highlights include 'Cozumel's Coral Reef Ecosystem', an excursion guided by a marine biologist where guests snorkel to the depths of Cozumel, Mexico and take in the colourful coral and plant seeds in the Mangrove tidal pools.

[www.azamara.com](http://www.azamara.com)



## HF Holidays spotlights walking wave

HF HOLIDAYS is one step ahead, collating the top walking trends for 2024. Challenge holidays, such as the operator's 'Scafell Pike Challenge' (from £475 per person) come up trumps. Rail adventures are gathering steam, followed by laid-back cool-cationing, creative breaks to exercise the artistic bone, and culinary walking holidays all making strides in 2024. [www.hfholidays.co.uk](http://www.hfholidays.co.uk)





2024 set to be a year of exploration

AMERICAN EXPRESS Travel has revealed its annual Trending Destinations list, with some surprising results from the survey of bookings and recommendations. The Adelaide Hills emerged as a top pick down under, a perhaps unconventional pick, followed by Bodrum (as an alternative to Istanbul for those looking for a path less travelled). Porto Cervo, on Sardinia, brings the Amalfi Coast vibes without the footfall. St. Kitts & Nevis and Niseko in Japan followed shortly after in the top trends list.



Alula’s festive adventure

ALULA MOMENTS has confirmed details on the return of Winter at Tantora, the region’s longest-running culture festival. The fifth edition will run from December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, inviting guests to explore all the Emirate has to offer across a slate of immersive experiences and live performances. [www.experiencealula.com/en/alula-moments/winter-at-tantora](http://www.experiencealula.com/en/alula-moments/winter-at-tantora)

Ramblers pushes horizons with Ramble Worldwide rebrand

TWO WALKING holiday mainstays, Ramblers Walking Holidays and Adagio, have come together under one umbrella: Ramble Worldwide.

Reflecting the depth of breadth of walking itineraries, from three days in the Lake District to 25-day adventures down under, the new brand offers over 300 itineraries across six continents.

Managing director of the unified brand, Kevin O'Regan, said: "Our new name 'Ramble Worldwide' highlights the exciting journey that we are taking to discover new horizons and share our passion for discovering the beauty of the world on foot."

The new programme also integrates a 'Discover' collection, featuring 'A Classic Greek Journey'. This adventure traces the footsteps of ancient Greece as guests ramble through the realm of myths,



including Olympia, Nauplia, the Parthenon, Delphi and Sparta. With return flights to Athens; airport and centre transfers; en-suite, three-star accommodation; dinners; and guide services included, the itinerary starts from £2,190 per person. [www.rambleworldwide.co.uk](http://www.rambleworldwide.co.uk)

Sunvil: the thrills of the Fjords

ITS SUNVIL, spill and thrill with the operator’s cruises aboard *MV Quest* in Norway.

The 'Arctic Fjords, Northern Lights and Huskies Expedition' just about ticks off all those 'adventure calls...' moments in Norway.

Blending an overnight stay in Tromsø, known as 'the aurora capital of Norway', with the five-night *MV Quest* cruise, the most envelope-pushing of adventurers can make

the most of the thrills on land and at sea. Husky sledding, a trip aboard the Arctic Train, and a navigation of the dramatic landscapes of the fjords, to name a few of the 'pinch-me' moments on the trip, will be sure to scratch guests' adventurous itch. Beyond the adventure, guests will trace centuries of history on their trip as they experience excursions that help them develop an understanding of Norway's history, from the indigenous Sami people to the nation's Viking past.

Available between February 2<sup>nd</sup> and March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the six-night trip starts from £3,561 per person (based on two sharing), with return flights from London Gatwick, bed-and-breakfast accommodation in Tromsø, five nights' full-board accommodation aboard *MV Quest* in an ocean-facing cabin, transfers, and activities. [www.sunvil.co.uk](http://www.sunvil.co.uk)



Image Credits: Top Left: American Express Travel, Top Right: Ramble Worldwide, Bottom Left: Alula Moments, Bottom Right: Sunvil



# SEASONAL SUN

The Indian Ocean calls this Christmas! Aitken Spence's portfolio awaits for guests in search of a season of sun.



AS THE nights get colder, guests might be looking further afield this Christmas: Aitken Spence's portfolio of Indian Ocean properties offer the perfect antidote to those winter blues.

Heritage Aarah is bringing a 'Festive Revelry' theme to festivities this year, with festive activities, champagne and cocktails guaranteed

on Christmas Eve plus a Christmas Champagne Brunch on the special day. It's not all booze and shmooze, though: kids are more than catered for with kids' activities and Christmas Day party.

A beach villa at Heritage Aarah this month starts from approximately £1,100 per villa, per night.

Heritage Tea Factory brings experiences to warm the heart this Christmas: from lunch at the Kenmare Restaurant to a 'Mystic Mountain Christmas Feast', Christmas Day itself is sure to be one to indulge and unwind. Prices start from £129 per

night for a Superior King Room this December.

Rounding out a trio of Heritage festivities in the Heritage Kandamala, with a choice of three dining experiences lined up for Christmas Eve, with an international lunch buffet, kids' fun camp, and gala dinner with live entertainment until the early hours of Christmas Day, when guests awake to a trio of dining options, be it in a candle-lit Cave or star-lit Sun Deck or a dinner-and-dine with the resort's chef. Superior rooms at the Heritage Kandamala start from £128 per night. [www.heritagehotels.com](http://www.heritagehotels.com)

## Save 20% on a Sri Lankan escape

INSPIRING TRAVEL is offering up to 20% off stays at the Anantara Peace Haven Tangalle Resort, on the southern coast of the Indian Ocean, in Sri Lanka.

Bookable until February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the savings mean seven-night family stays start from £5,495 (based on two adults and a child sharing a Premier Beach Access Room) next Easter. The lead-in price includes half-board accommodation (with the 20% discount), flights, transfers, and luggage.

[www.inspiringtravel.co.uk](http://www.inspiringtravel.co.uk)

## Fari Island festivities

FESTIVITIES GALORE are anticipated at the Ritz-Carlton Maldives, in the Fari Islands. Kicking off on December 22nd, the programme features an evening of light (culminating in the Christmas Tree's turning on), a Christmas Eve cocktail reception, a Dim Sum brunch on the day itself, and a New Year's barbecue brunch of dreams. [www.ritzcarlton.com/maldives](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/maldives)







## The best way to sea Indonesia

SEATREK SAILING Adventures has released two new nine-day, family-friendly cruises, sailing roundtrip from Indonesia's Komodo National Park next summer, during which guests will enjoy both sea- and land-based safaris, uncovering the rich biodiversity on display. Stubborn Mule Travel offers the cruise from £5,885 per person on a full-board basis, including all onboard activities, return international flights and domestic flights to the national park. [www.stubbornmuletravel.com](http://www.stubbornmuletravel.com)



## See in the New Year in paradise

FESTIVITIES ON Fares Island are like no other.

Avani+ Fares Maldives Resort is inviting guests to explore exactly what awaits. The resort's upcoming seasonal programme includes a Bioluminescence New Year's Eve Gala Dinner, after-dark snorkelling and New Year's Day dives. [www.avanihotels.com/en/fares-maldives](http://www.avanihotels.com/en/fares-maldives)

## Putting the finger on the Pulse

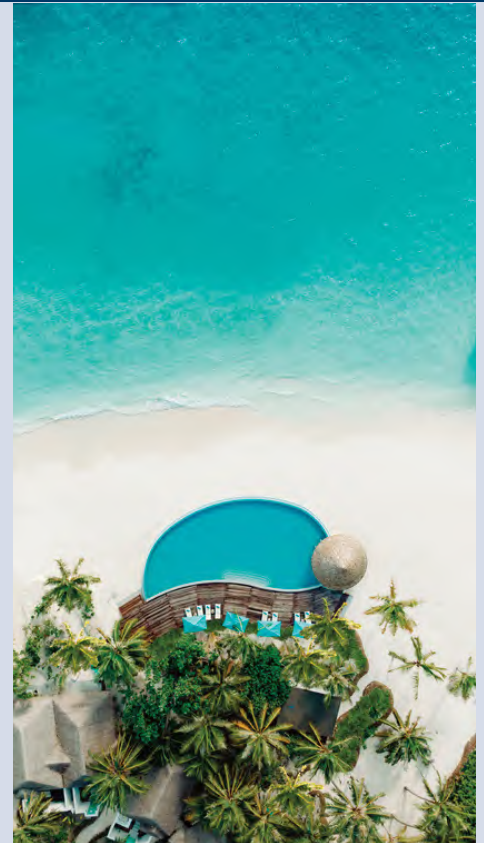
PULSE HOTELS & Resorts have positioned themselves as the Maldives' envelope-pusher with four properties since 2017 modernising the Maldivian model.

COO Althaf Mohamed Ali sat down at World Travel Market to dissect the Pulse approach and emphasise the brand's trade support.

"Right from the outset in 2017, we've always looked at the kinds of differences that we can make in terms of changing, challenging the stereotype."

Ali shared Pulse Hotels' venture into the ultra-luxury space with The Nautilus in 2019. Recognizing the need for personal freedom for ultra-high-net-worth travelers, Ali said: "We are going to give you a product where you check in, and you will be first thing we completely eliminate the sense of time. Every service at The Nautilus is timeless."

Discussing the latest addition to the Pulse Hotels portfolio, Nova, catering to the



younger, more millennial traveler, the COO explained: "What we realized was the most important thing is that sense of being, getting away from high-stress environments."

[www.pulseresorts.com](http://www.pulseresorts.com)

## Sri Lanka sets high hopes

HARIN FERNANDO, the Minister of Tourism and Lands of Sri Lanka, spoke to *Travel Bulletin* about Sri Lanka's new tourism rebrand campaign: 'You'll come back for more', promising tourists that they will leave a piece of themselves in the destination that will keep drawing them back, and set high hopes to reach four million visitors annually by 2023.

"We have a few initiatives in place, one is a 21-day trail, 300 km long and the whole idea behind it was that you don't have to do the 21 days at once. You'll

have four days out on the trail, staying in the mountains on an ancient mountain route that the Kings used to take, so it has a lot of significance.

"There's lots of history, lots of things that people can find, but what we wanted was, let's say British and European tourists stay for a minimum of 10 to 14 days, they'll do four days for this, and then holiday in other places in Sri Lanka, so when they go back to the cold weather and are sitting at their computers, all they'll think about is going back."

"Next year, we're looking at a visitor target of 2.5 million. For 2030, our final goal is to get up to four million. We've got new branded hotels coming, like Radisson Blu and Hilton, so all in all it looks good."





# RIU Plaza arrives in the **United Kingdom**

**Come and visit our new four-star hotel  
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The Riu Plaza London Victoria Hotel has a superb location, just a few minutes' walk from Victoria Station in Westminster. Our guests will be able to visit the most popular sights and make the most of the hotel's great locations and many other tourist attractions.



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PLAZA





Featuring



## Indian Ocean Roadshow

WE KICKED off our final roadshow of the year in Norwich last month, bringing along Heritance Aarah, Meliá Zanzibar, Ponant, Finolhu Maldives, Travepack and Inspiring Travel for an Indian Ocean Showcase!

In Cambridge, Sun Siyam Resorts, Seychelles Tourism, and Vakkaru Maldives joined in the fun for another night of networking and the fan-favourite prize bingo!

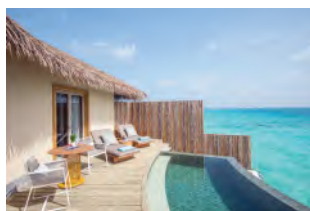






Thank you so much for joining us at our [#TBShowcases](https://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events) in 2023! Our schedule for 2024 is now live at [www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events](https://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events), so head there to book your spaces or email [events@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:events@travelbulletin.co.uk) to find out when we'll be near you!





## InterContinental's Indian Ocean haven

### INTERCONTINENTAL MALDIVES

Maamunagau has left no stone unturned this festive season: with fun-filled activities this month. Gingerbread house-making, culinary classes, and cruises aboard the Jolly Roger pirate ship guarantee festive fun for all the family, with seasonal film screenings sure to bring the family together in festive style.

Rates start from £758 per night in a Water Pool Villa, including breakfast, based on a couple sharing.

[www.maldives.intercontinental.com](http://www.maldives.intercontinental.com)



## Private beach wonder in Mozambique

CLIENTS IN search of isolated indulgence? White Pearl Resorts' new private beach villa offers all of that and more. With panoramic views over Ponta Mamoli's lagoon, the new villa offers a 'home from home' vibe and exclusive use of living spaces and five Oceanview suites. Stays start from £653 per person, per night on an all-inclusive basis.

[www.whitepearlresorts.com](http://www.whitepearlresorts.com)

## From the Seychelles to South Africa

SILVERSEA'S 2025/26 presale of the 'Myths of Treasures' collection includes a voyage from Mahe to Cape Town, ticking off several gems of the Indian Ocean en route.

A 16-day sailing, guests board in Mahe, the largest of the Seychelles' 115 islands: 20% of which is home to the marvel of the Morne Seychellois Natural Park.

Followed by a day in La Digue, *Silver Muse* sails on to Antisiranana in Madagascar, with one of the world's largest natural bays.

Another day at sea brings the cruise to Port Louis in Mauritius, where guests have two days to explore the volcanic island.

The natural marvels don't end there: the cruise also ticks off Reunion Island, Tolagnaro in Madagascar, before arriving in South Africa for calls in Durban, Port Elizabeth, and Cape Town.



The voyage departs on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026, arriving in Cape Town on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Door-to-door fares start from £9,900 per guest, with port-to-port options from £7,450. [www.silversea.com](http://www.silversea.com)

## Diving haven diaries reopening

WHILE CLIENTS are busy gearing up for the festive season and you all begin to prepare for peaks, firm Maldives favourite OBLU NATURE Helengeli by SENTIDO will reopen its doors.

Upon reopening, the property will debut a new vibrant look with water villas, beach villas enhanced with private pools, and a new speciality restaurant.

A choice of 153 villas and suites across eight categories await, with newly added Water Villas with Pool and Water Suite with Pool categories doubling down the indulgence.

Salil Panigrahi, managing director of the wider Atmosphere Core brand, built the excitement towards the properties reopening: "We are delighted to unveil our beloved island resort with elevated new features and a comprehensive Island Plan™ designed to give guests the renowned OBLU experience.

"This nature-oriented retreat brings the Sentido touch to the Maldives. And, the two brands have come together seamlessly, curating a memorable island experience."

[www.coloursofoblublu.com](http://www.coloursofoblublu.com)





# Sun Siyam on the silver screen

FRESH OFF its appearance as a honeymoon destination in the recent series of *Married at First Sight*, Sun Siyam Iru Veli Maldives has jumped beyond the silver screen, welcoming guests in search of a premium, all-inclusive haven in the Indian Ocean.

Guaranteeing indulgence to tick that box, each of the resort's 125 suites boast a private pool.

If that weren't enough, the resort is well-versed in the idea that the way to a guest's heart is their stomach. Six bars and restaurants, with the opportunity to enjoy a floating breakfast in their private pool, will ensure guests are left well-fed in style. The premium all-inclusive 'dine-around' option opens up the choice, with the silver screen couple themselves indulging in a private sunset beach dinner.

Splashes await to be made with a host of activities, including a fully-equipped

recreation centre and the use of kayaks, stand-up paddleboards and jetskis on offer.

Breaks are available in May 2024 from £747 per night, based on two adults sharing an Ocean Suite with Pool. The price covers all-inclusive accommodation, as well as the dine-around offering, spa credit or three dives for certified divers, three excursions, jet ski credit and a daily-stocked minibar.

[www.sunsiyam.com/sun-siyam-iru-veli](http://www.sunsiyam.com/sun-siyam-iru-veli)



## Last-minute Sri Lanka space from CV Villas

GUESTS IN search of escape from British winter this festive season? CV Villas is offering last-minute availability at two Sri Lanka properties: the ideal Indian Ocean antidote to winter blues.

Elephant House, home to a pool, poolside pavilion and in-villa chef, has occupancy until December 22<sup>nd</sup>, starting from £394 per night.

Allamanda, set in 20 acres of views of the Sri Lankan countryside, has December availability from £463 per person. [www.cvvillas.com](http://www.cvvillas.com)



## Audley goes mad for Madagascar

FAMILY ADVENTURES await in Madagascar, with Audley Travel's itineraries perfectly suited for families taking a walk on the wild side. The 12-day, aptly-titled 'Madagascar family adventure' blends stays in the Ifotaka Community Forest, Manafiafy, and Antananarivo to search for lemurs, explore the spiny forest and break by the beach. Prices start from £7,900 per person.

[www.audleytravel.com](http://www.audleytravel.com)



## Sell the destination wedding of dreams

THE MALDIVES' newest luxury destination has lifted the veil on three new wedding packages, promising the destination wedding of guests' dreams catering to a range of budgets and styles.

Dubbed 'Vows on the Beach', 'Vows under the Trees', and 'Vows in the Ocean',

prices for Amari Raaya Maldives' new options start from approximately £717, with barefoot beach, natural island and ocean setting packages on offer.

Wedding planners and on-island caterers are available to make the day a special one. [www.amari.com/raaya-maldives/weddings](http://www.amari.com/raaya-maldives/weddings)



# Kids welcome at Kuramathi Maldives

A NEW programme offers all a kid could ask for at Kuramathi Maldives.

The family-friendly resort has introduced the new programme, which runs daily from 8:30am to 6:30pm, guaranteeing kids are never bored and parents never too busy keeping an eye on them!

All adventures are designed to engage, entertain, and educate. The weekly programme comprises a Junior Master Chef tournament and mini Olympic Games on Mondays, before Tuesday sails in ‘Sea Creatures & Wonder of the Ocean’ theme. Wednesday showcases the surrounding island through a leaf painting class and coconut decoration, before Thursday brings beachside fun with a beach and sports day. The weekend kicks off in



high-seas fashion with Pirate-themed activities, Saturday lives up to its reputation as a ‘Super Fun Day’ with music, fun and Zumba, before the week draws to a close with a dose of Maldivian history, learning all about the island group’s history and heritage. [www.kuramathi.com](http://www.kuramathi.com)



# Link Travel and Tours celebrates 12 years of trading with new extended travel brochure

CELEBRATING THE operator’s 12<sup>th</sup> year of trading, Links Travel and Tours has launched a brand new brochure, focusing this edition on expanded travel opportunities in Indian Ocean havens across Sri Lanka and the Maldives, alongside a host of worldwide destinations. Helen Li, CEO of Links Travel and Tours, said: “I am thrilled to present what I believe is our most exciting brochure to date. We’ve gone above and beyond to craft experiences that cater to the diverse interests of our travellers.” [www.linkstravelandtours.co.uk](http://www.linkstravelandtours.co.uk)

## What is your favourite family Christmas tradition?

**Jeanette Ratcliffe**  
Publisher  
[jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk)  
Our family Christmas quiz as we are all so competitive!



**Simon Eddolls**  
Sales Director  
[simon.eddolls@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:simon.eddolls@travelbulletin.co.uk)  
Drinks with friends/neighbors 11:30-1:30 Christmas morning.



**Sarah Terry**  
Senior Account Manager  
[sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk)



**Tim Podger**  
Account Manager - Far East  
[tim.podger@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:tim.podger@travelbulletin.co.uk)  
Opening stockings on parent’s bed.



**Matthew Hayhoe**  
Acting Editor  
[matthew.hayhoe@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:matthew.hayhoe@travelbulletin.co.uk)  
Eating breakfast before a single present is opened and seeing the anticipation in my family’s eyes.



**Melissa Paddock**  
Events Coordinator  
[melissa.paddock@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:melissa.paddock@travelbulletin.co.uk)  
Putting on Christmas jumpers and sitting around the tree having my mom’s homemade hot chocolate and watching each other open gifts!



**Holly Brown**  
Events Coordinator  
[holly.brown@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:holly.brown@travelbulletin.co.uk)  
Homemade sausage rolls after Christmas dinner that everyone’s too full to eat.



**Leah Kelly**  
Acting Deputy Editor  
[leah.kelly@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:leah.kelly@travelbulletin.co.uk)  
When the games come out after a few too many bucks fizz!



### EVENTS

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### CIRCULATION

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## Travelbulletin SHOWCASES

Invites you to a

# SPAIN & HER ISLANDS SHOWCASE

Agent Networking Evening

**TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY - SHEFFIELD**

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to our Spain & Her Islands Showcase! This is a fun filled evening dedicated to providing you with more knowledge this beautiful part of the world. Look forward to engaging professional networking groups, hot meal and drinks, enjoying the entertainment and being in with a chance to win some truly incredible prizes in our free prize draw!

### TIMINGS :

5:45PM

Registration

6:10PM

Travel Bulletin  
Welcome

6:15PM

Client  
Presentations

7:30PM

Hot Dinner

8:15PM

Client  
Presentations

9:15 - 9.45PM

Product Quiz &  
Free Prize Draw



To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by  
**Thursday 25th January** to: [events@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:events@travelbulletin.co.uk) or Telephone: **020 7973 0136**

**THESE EVENTS ARE BY INVITATION ONLY**

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





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