

travelbulletin

December 03 2021 | ISSUE NO 4,187 | travelbulletin.co.uk

Giving agents the edge

AGENT BULLETIN

A host of training opportunities and incentives for agents.

MELIÁ EVENT PIX MIX

All the photos and fun from Meliá Hotels' luxury agent event, in collaboration with Travel Bulletin.

SPAIN AND ITS ISLANDS

Year-round fun in the sun in these classic holiday spots.

CENTRAL EUROPE

River cruises, wine tours, city exploration, and more!

PACIFIC ISLANDS

Picture-perfect holidays to get your clients excited about





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BOARD

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
travelbulletin
Going beyond the edge

DISCOVER THE BEST OF ITALY WEBINAR COMPETITION

If you missed the **Discover The Best of Italy Webinar...**

Don't worry you still have time until the 7th December 4pm to catch up and enter this short competition for your chance to win one of two fantastic **luxury hampers packed with Italian goodies!** delivered to your door in time for Christmas.

Watch the on-demand version now, for the most up to date news and hidden gems of Italy from the Italian National Tourist Board Office

Click here to enter the competition and good luck!

[www.travelbulletin.co.uk/
discover-the-best-of-italy-webinar-24th-november-video](http://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/discover-the-best-of-italy-webinar-24th-november-video)



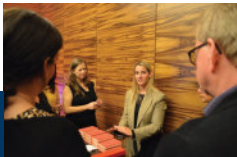
THIS WEEK



04

NEWS

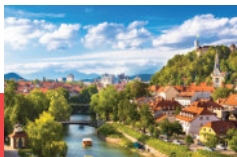
Learn the latest developments from the travel industry.



08

MELIÁ EVENT PIX MIX

Catch up on all the action from the Meliá Luxury Event, in association with *Travel Bulletin*.



10

PUZZLE BULLETIN

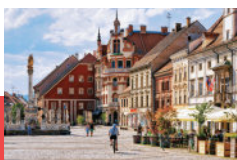
Your chance to win a £20 M&S voucher by completing our Sudoku.



11

SPAIN & ITS ISLANDS

Siesta-filled days in the sun to action-packed walking tours: a range of holidays to choose from.



15

CENTRAL EUROPE

European breaks with a difference.



18

PACIFIC ISLANDS

Luxury hotel stays in Fiji and Tahiti to cruises through the Solomon Islands.

MARKET MADNESS

More than a fifth of Holiday Extras' survey respondents have planned an overseas trip to explore unusual Christmas markets.



Due to local lockdowns, holidaymakers are choosing more unusual destinations to visit.

HOLIDAY EXTRAS' latest festive-focused survey has revealed that over 21% of respondents intend to visit an overseas Christmas market on their next festive holiday.

With festive escapes off the cards in 2020, travel specialist Holiday Extras polled its social media audience of over 250,000 people to find out just how many were craving the sights and sounds of traditional markets in 2021.

More than a fifth (21% in total) said they have an overseas Christmas market trip planned – after last year's winter lockdowns, British holidaymakers are evidently planning to make an early start on making up for the

time lost in 2020. With some of the biggest Christmas markets already closed due to local lockdowns, Holiday Extras is seeing the biggest growth in bookings this season in cities that travellers might not traditionally associate with Christmas market break destinations. The top five booking options emerging include Denmark, Bulgaria, Romania, Estonia, and Croatia.

Seamus McCauley at Holiday Extras, commented: "There aren't many things that put you in the Christmas spirit more than the sights and sounds of a Christmas market - something none of us have been able to experience since 2019 – so it's no surprise that the allure

of mulled wine, carol singers, and spellbinding atmosphere of these trips is attracting so many.

"With most European markets starting around the last weekend of November, we're expecting that Bruges, Brussels and Paris will be popular choices as usual – but we're also delighted to see some more unusual choices rocketing in popularity. With both Austria and Munich temporarily off the cards, at least until later in December, some Baltic, Eastern European and Scandinavian Christmas markets are going to be enjoying a very merry Christmas."

www.holidayextras.com

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Classic Collection Holidays highlights reinvigorated Turkey programme for 2022



The brochure features 76 pages of Turkey-based holidays and hotels.

CLASSIC COLLECTION Holidays has launched a new Turkey brochure, which introduces a reinvigorated programme for 2022 with no fewer than 19 new properties, a new destination, Cappadocia, and a renewed focus on a variety of holidays that Turkey has to offer.

The brochure highlights twin-centre holidays, gulet cruising, boutique luxury hotels, and stand-out, family-

friendly, five-star, all-inclusive properties.

Twin-centred holidays on offer include three nights at Hagia Sofia Mansion, Istanbul and three nights at Hotel Argos, Cappadocia, which starts from £1,339 per person, including international return flights, domestic flights, private transfers and accommodation on a bed-and-breakfast basis.

'Marmaris and the Greek

Islands', a seven-night gulet cruise, is available from £809 per person, including return flights, private transfers and accommodation with full-board.

City breaks to Istanbul start from £906 per person, based on three nights bed-and-breakfast at Six Senses Kocatas Mansions.

Classic's Turkey brochure is currently downloadable at www.classic-collection.co.uk.

Just Go! Holidays partners with A-ROSA for 2022

JUST GO! Holidays has partnered with A-ROSA River Cruises for 2022 to launch collaborative itineraries on the Douro, Rhone, Danube and Seine.

The move enables the operator to grow its premium product range and widen its river cruise portfolio to provide new experiences for customers to enjoy. Depending on the destination, each cruise will be packaged with either coach travel from the UK to the ship or flights from a range of regional airports.

Just Go! Holidays has also created an

itinerary on the Douro that combines a seven-night cruise with two nights in Porto. The 'Portugal's Douro River & A Taste of Porto' holiday is ideal for agents to promote to customers who want to explore this vibrant city a little further as two nights are spent at the four-star NH Jardim Hotel in Porto after the cruise. Available by air on June 1 and 20, July 20, or September 14 and 28, 2022, the itinerary is priced from £2,059 per person.

www.justgoholidays.com/agents

MOVERS and SHAKERS



THE JG Travel Group has created a new role to support the retail trade. Chris Agbaosi has been appointed as partnership administrator and will provide administration support for travel agents on a day-to-day basis.



PRINCESS CRUISES has appointed Nikki Dos Santos as a new sales manager for its agent-facing team. Nikki will manage a portfolio of trade accounts, leading the strategic commercial and marketing direction of her agent partners for mutual growth.



LEGER SHEARINGS Group has appointed Louise Heatley as group product delivery manager. Louise

will head up the product and operations areas, taking responsibility for leading the product teams and developing and implementing product strategy.



NORWEGIAN CRUISE Line has appointed Gary Anslow as senior sales director for UK and Ireland. Anslow will

have the responsibility of expanding NCL's market share in the region, growing and retaining existing accounts, whilst acquiring new ones.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

Air Transat and WestJet sign code-sharing deal

AIR TRANSAT and WestJet will kickstart a codeshare from early 2022, allowing both airlines' customers to book transatlantic travel involving both carriers on a single ticket with through-checked bags.

The cooperation will bring more choice to consumers by enabling more transatlantic codeshare connections than before.

WestJet's code will be placed on Air Transat flights to select cities in Europe, and likewise Air Transat's code will be placed on select WestJet flights in North America.

www.airtransat.com / www.westjet.com

Image Credit: National Holidays



See Justin Bieber live in 2023 with National Holidays

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS has launched packages for Justin Bieber’s concert at the Birmingham Resorts World Arena.

A two-day coach break is now available for agents to book, which start from £199 per person.

Departing on February 22, 2023, the price includes return coach travel from selected pick up points in the North East, North West and Yorkshire, one night’s accommodation, a ticket to the concert with coach transfers between the hotel and concert venue, plus a visit to Stratford-upon-Avon. www.nationalholidays.com

Around the world with Gold Medal’s new brochure

GOLD MEDAL'S new ‘Worldwide’ brochure has launched, encompassing nearly 300 hotels and itineraries around the world.

For the first time, airlines, hotels, touring partners, car hire, cruise lines, excursions and more have been brought together into a single 232-page brochure.

Alongside established favourites, the brochure reveals 25 new hotels, 27 new day tours and attractions, 16 new touring and self-drive options, and eight new cruise itineraries – along with Central and South America

destinations for the first time, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica and Peru.

Commenting on the brochure, Gold Medal’s marketing director, Kerry Gallagher, said: “As we approach the peak period, it’s going to be critical for agents to be fully prepared and supported so they can capture every possible enquiry and convert them into bookings. We’re delighted to be contributing to that with this new brochure...”

[Download the brochure here](#)

Sail Croatia’s 2022 cruises are now available to book

SAIL CROATIA'S full programme of 2022 cruises is now on sale.

A total of 450 small ship sailings are available, spanning 16 itineraries. The cruises will sail from April to October, departing via Split or Dubrovnik. Destinations include Hvar, Korcula and Zadar, as well as lesser-

known islands such as Vis, Lastovo and Mljet.

For those looking to take a more active holiday, ‘Cycle cruises’ are available for travellers looking to explore Croatia on two wheels.

The sailings are for cyclists of mixed abilities, and include the opportunity to ride across Hvar, Mljet National Park and

Krka National Park.

Guests can hire a bike or bring their own, with electric bikes available. A cycle guide will be on hand at all times. Three ship grades and four itineraries are on offer, from £639 per person.

For all cruising options, visit www.sail-croatia.com



Sail Croatia offers small ship sailings across the nation.

Image Credit: Sail Croatia

Princess Cruises announces longest-ever World Cruise from Australia

PRINCESS CRUISES has announced its 2023/24 Australia and New Zealand schedule, with cruises going on sale from December 1, 2021– including the longest-ever world cruise from Australia.



Image Credit: Princess Cruises

Four MedallionClass ships – Majestic Princess, Royal Princess, Grand Princess and Coral Princess – will sail to 117 destinations in 43 countries across Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific, Southeast Asia, Europe and South America.

Programme highlights include departures from six Australia and New Zealand homeports including Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth (Fremantle), Adelaide, and Auckland.

Select cruises grant access to 14 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia, the Greater Blue Mountains and the Tasmanian Wilderness.

Guests booking the 110-night world cruise by April 30, 2022 will receive approximately £533 in onboard credit.

www.princess.com



AGENT INSIGHT

SANDRA MURRAY
NORMANTON, YORKSHIRE

I JUST came back from a lovely week in Lanzarote with Jet2holidays. I stayed on the outskirts of Costa Teguse at the Hotel Beatriz Spa- the staff were brilliant and helpful, and one major perk of the location of the hotel was that we could walk into Costa Teguse in about 15-20 minutes.

The area was totally flat, and for that reason and others, I have to say, if you are with anyone in a wheelchair this hotel is absolutely superb with its facilities for wheelchair users. They even have a pool that is totally accessible to those who are disabled. The pool is deep enough for the partner or carer to lift the wheelchair into the water, so that no one is left out of enjoying the lovely facilities!

You all know what an animal lover I am, and as usual, I took a supply of cat pouches and bics. You will not believe this- but I didn't see a single cat! I was thinking that this might be because of all the black lava, so I had to research Costa Teguse to see if there were any animal rescues around and there was one at Playa Blanca called 'Protectora de Animales y Plantas SARA' [info@sara-lanzarote.eu]. I managed to get a nice gentleman in reception to ring them and tell them I had put a bag of cat food for them behind reception if they wanted to call for it and I got a lovely email from them thanking me. So, if you are going and want to take something to help the animals, I am sure that they will be very pleased! I could hear all the dogs barking in the background as well.

Jet2 was great, although I do have one grumble about the length of the walk from the airport, which took quite long. This was a bit difficult for me, due to my bad back. Other than that, as always, there was a great Jet2 team on board both outbound and on my return.

Stay safe and calm everyone!

For all questions or comments, email Sandy directly at s.murray922@btinternet.com



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

ANTIGUA AND Barbuda has confirmed a relaxation of travel protocols for fully-vaccinated arrivals to the island group, which has now taken effect. Those who have been fully vaccinated will have the option of taking the more accessible rapid antigen test (three or fewer days before arrival) in order to visit the twin-island nation.

www.visitantiguabarbuda.com

Tis the season in 'Christmas City'

GOTHENBURG HAS gone all-in for Christmas this year with plenty of offerings to get visitors in the festive spirit.

The city is home to Sweden's biggest Christmas market at Liseberg, as well as the nation's largest Christmas amusement park. The market, which kicked off on November 19 and will close on December 30, 2021, is expected to draw approximately 500,000 visitors. Guests can meet Santa Claus, visit Rabbit Land or stock up on gifts at the hundreds of Christmas market stalls.

Until December 19, 2021, guests can visit a 360-degree movie experience at Bältesspännarparken, with a circular cinema offering a 4D experience showing the city's history. Entry is free, with the film lasting 12 minutes.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

The city is welcoming a packed programme of Christmas activities this year.

Guests can take to the seasonal seas with the 'The Christmas Songs from the Moat' aboard 'Paddan' boats. A choir will spread the cheer with traditional Christmas songs, as visitors sail from Kungssportsbron to Stora Nygatan, Lejontrappan and Kämpebron.

Discover all the city's Christmas offerings at www.goteborg.com.



Image Credit: Discover Dominica Authority

AGENTS JOINED the Discover Dominica Authority, Secret Bay, Fort Young Hotel & Dive Resort and Cabrits Resort & Spa Kempinski for the nation's first UK fam trip since the start of the pandemic. Travel trade professionals spent six nights on the island to sample the accommodations and experiences Dominica has to offer.

AGENT INCENTIVES

- **BOOK A** Canadian adventure with Audley Travel by December 31, 2021 to be eligible for an incentive of £50 in John Lewis vouchers. The incentive celebrates the operator's partnership with Destination Canada, which brought with it a whole host of assets and activities for agents to take part in. Access the operator's agent hub at www.audleytravel.com/agents



- **BODYHOLIDAY AND** Rendezvous, SunSwept Resorts' St Lucian properties, have increased agent commission to 13% per booking when reserving directly. The increased commission follows on from the launch of SunSwept Resorts' pre-arrival personalisation tool, which allows agents to personalise their guests' experience before arrival on-resort. www.sunsweptresorts.com
- **AGENTS BOOKING** any of Wendy Wu Tours' new European tours, spanning Scotland, Italy, Greece and Portugal, will earn a £40 Love2shop voucher. Alternatively, bookings to any of the operator's other destination options will include an incentive of £20 in Love2shop vouchers for the booking agent. www.wendywutours.co.uk
- **MAKE A** booking for a one-bedroom suite or higher category room for travel up to October 31, 2022 and earn free nights at The Asimina Suites Hotel, Paphos, Cyprus. Booking one stay will earn agents three free nights, booking two will earn them five nights, and booking a third will earn them seven nights. Valid bookings must be made between August 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022, and agents are required to send their booking references, dates, arrival dates and their names to sales@uk-cbh.com to arrange the complimentary stays.

AGENT TRAINING

JOINING FORCES with Celebrity Cruises, If Only has unveiled its 'Luxury at Sea' campaign. Along with exclusive savings and offers, the luxury operator and cruise line are encouraging agents to learn more about the cruise line's offerings. If Only has collated an array of marketing materials to engage agents and their customers – including social media offers, videos and an exclusive trade landing page. www.ifonly.net/Celebrity-Cruises



JOIN PATA for a new Sri Lanka Roadshow event on December 7, 2021 from 9am to 11am. Guest suppliers include Teardrop Hotels, Amari Sri Lanka, Classic Sri Lanka, Santani, Sri Lanka Collection, Water Garden - Sigiraya, Aarunya Nature Resort & Spa and Uga. From 3pm on the same day, 'The Aussie Takeover' will take place, with Tourism Australia, Queensland, WA and NSW providing updates on all plans. www.pata.org.uk/pata-events/

ANTOR IS commemorating its 70th anniversary with a series of regional roadshows followed by a virtual round-up, and *Travel Bulletin* is delighted to be acting as Media Sponsor. In Manchester on December 6, 2021, and in Glasgow on December 7, 2021, the body will be joined by Austria, Bahamas, Finland, France, Korea, Ras Al Khaimah, Samoa, Taiwan and Tunisia. A virtual follow-up will take place on December 9, 2021 with Finland, Israel, Korea, Samoa and Taiwan presenting. www.antor.com

travelbulletin EVENTS

Register for our

2022 Showcases

including
Spain & the Canary Islands,
Luxury Holidays, LGBT+ Holidays,
and Weddings &
Honeymoon Showcases.

For all showcases, visit
www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events/agents

MELIÁ HOTELS INTERNATIONAL

in association with

travelbulletin
Giving agents the edge

NOVEMBER 18 saw Meliá Hotels International host around 30 agents at ME London to discuss the group's luxury brands as well as the Meliá Pro booking platform. Guests were given a tour of ME London, including the famous rooftop bar, and the evening concluded with fine dining in-house at STK Steakhouse. *Travel Bulletin* captured the exciting evening on camera.





SUDOKU

Win a £20 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, December 16th. Solution and new puzzle will appear in the December 17th issue.

The winner for 19th November is Laurie Mathieson from Cruise.co.uk

November 19th Solution: A=4 B=2 C=9 D=3

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



WHERE AM I?

This capital is one of Europe's smallest with a population less than 3 million, and is well known for its campus culture and expansive green spaces. Visitors can river cruise or mountain hike in this diverse destination.

CROSSWORD

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



Across

- 1 Cruise company with HQ in Geneva (3)
- 3 Host city of the recent COP26 conference (7)
- 7 Capital of 21 Across (7)
- 8 Rhodes international airport code (3)
- 9 Liverpool's iconic main railway station is located on this street (4)
- 11 Capital of Latvia (4)
- 14 A stretch of beach that juts out into the sea (4)
- 15 London park currently hosting a winter wonderland (4)
- 17 Month of the year, in short (3)
- 18 County town of Somerset (7)
- 20 Popular Florida destination sometimes known as The Theme Park Capital of the World (7)
- 21 The Steam Packet Company operate ferries to this island, initially (3)

Down

- 1 Richard, journalist and TV presenter, recently seen on I'm A Celebrity (7)
- 2 Corfu international airport code (3)
- 3 Flag carrier of Bahrain ___ Air (4)
- 4 State capital of Texas (6)
- 5 Country with a flag of horizontal stripes of black, red and gold (7)
- 6 TV Doctor, currently in a state of flux (3)
- 10 Cold wind blowing from southern France (7)
- 12 Hanoi is the capital (7)
- 13 Hotels and resort company founded by Conrad (6)
- 16 Currency of 5 Down (4)
- 17 Chairman who wrote The Little Red Book (3)
- 19 Leading tourism group whose logo is a smile (3)

Where am I: Ljubljana, Slovenia

Mystery Word: MALTA

Down: 1 MADELEY, 2 CFU, 3 GULF, 4 AUSTIN, 5 GERMANY, 6 WHO, 10 MISTRAL, 12 VIETNAM, 13 HILTON, 16 EURO, 17 MAO, 19 TUI.
Across: 1 MSC, 3 GLASGOW, 7 DOUGLAS, 8 RHO, 9 LIME, 11 RIGA, 14 SPT, 15 HYDE, 17 MAR, 18 TAUNTON, 20 ORLANDO, 21 IOM.

SPAIN AND ITS ISLANDS



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

WALK THIS WAY

Explore Andalucía and its offerings on foot with Exodus Travels' holiday to the autonomous region.

EXODUS TRAVELS is offering its 'Walking in Andalucía' trip for those who want to experience the beauty of the region and its historical significance.

On this tour, guests will walk through the Sierra de Grazalema, Andalucía's National Park, explore the Caños Santos Monastery

and visit the white village of Setenil. The Caminito del Rey walk will take visitors to El Chorro Gorge and in Seville, the birthplace of flamenco, they will see the incredible Giralda and Alcazar palaces.

Exodus Travels' eight-day walking trip, 'Walking in Andalucía', is priced from

£1,599 per person. The price includes flights, accommodation with breakfast daily, four lunches, six dinners, the Caminito del Rey walk and transfers for group flights. There are multiple departure dates in 2022.

www.exodus.co.uk



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

Guests will be able to see the Alcazar Palace while on the tour.

Club Med to open new resort in Marbella

CLUB MED is planning to return to Spain after 20 years, with the opening of Club Med Magna Marbella.

The property, which will be nestled at the foot of the Sierra Blanca Mountains, will open its doors to guests in spring 2022.

Conveniently located near Spain's south coast, Magna Marbella is just a 20-minute walk from both sandy Mediterranean beaches and Marbella's city centre.

The resort boasts 14 hectares of lush garden, five swimming pools including a family water park and adult-only Zen Zone, two restaurants, Suenos and the Tierra Gourmet Lounge, and three bars for guests to try local food and drinks.

The resort will also offer Club Med's children's clubs for all ages, where kids will be able to enjoy Andalusian-inspired art and culture activities. The Family Fun Zone will feature water games, a playground, mini-golf, and a zipline with the resort itself offering a wide array of activities, including golf, archery, tennis, and more.

www.clubmed.co.uk

SEASONAL SUN ON THE COSTA DEL SOL

Costa del Sol's proximity to the Mediterranean makes for the perfect Christmas getaway in the sun.

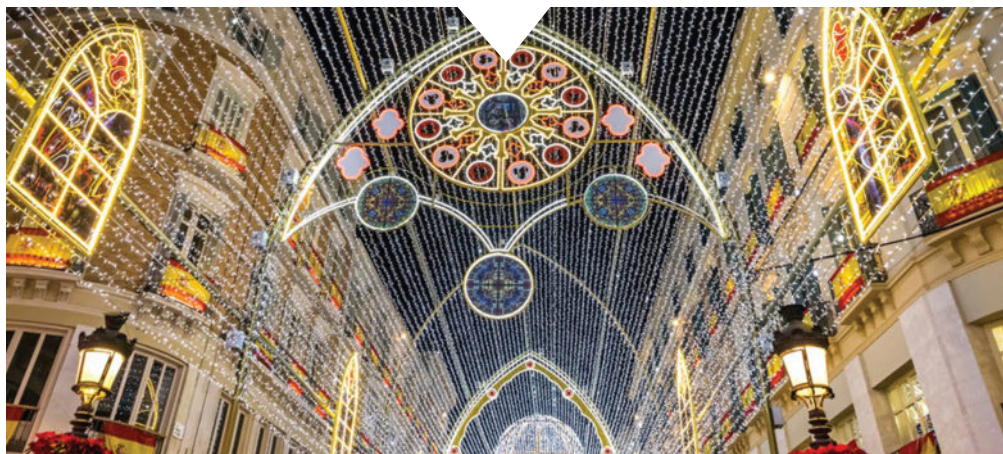


Image Credit: Black Diamond

COSTA DEL SOL is the ideal destination for families to enjoy a range of activities, from visiting Christmas markets and nativity scenes, to tasting Spanish Christmas foods and soaking in festive light installations- all with a backdrop of Mediterranean sun.

Once dusk sets in during the Christmas season, the streets of the Costa del Sol are illuminated with Christmas lights. This year's theme is 'The Forest of Christmas', with 22 arches running the length of the Calle Larios street throughout the season.

The Muelle Uno shopping centre, located at the seaside port in Malaga, is where visitors can start their Christmas shopping from festive-themed stalls. In addition to Muelle Uno, Costa del Sol also hosts Christmas markets in the city center. For those wanting to explore further, other cities in the region such as Marbella,

Fuengirola, Torremolinos, Mijas and Ronda also have shopping areas with artisan products and Spanish gastronomic specialities to savour.

The region is spruced up with festive activities for children to enjoy- including carousels, ice skating rinks, trampolines, theatre performances and more.

Costa del Sol, specifically Antequera, plays a vital role in seasonal Spanish gastronomy scene. Throughout the period, local delicacies can be tasted throughout the city with some hotels offering special menus, including sweet treats.

Meliá Hotel Costa del Sol is offering a master suite from £945, for a family of four, bed-and-breakfast, based on a December 10, 2021 departure date.

www.visitcostadelsol.com

Palladium Hotel Group unveils new Ibiza TRS property

THE ADULTS-only, five-star TRS Ibiza Hotel is scheduled to open in spring 2022.

Located close to San Antonio, alongside Cala Gració and Cala Gracioneta, Palladium Hotel Group's latest expansion, the TRS Ibiza Hotel, will offer a luxurious, adults-only Mediterranean experience when it opens its doors for guests next year.

The contemporary resort will offer TRS' 'Infinite Indulgence' package – an enhanced all-inclusive service with premium brands and a butler service among other amenities.

Room types include swim-ups, with access to a private pool from a terrace, Junior Suite Terraces with Jacuzzis and private terraces, and Rooftop Cala Gracie with a rooftop terrace and Jacuzzi.

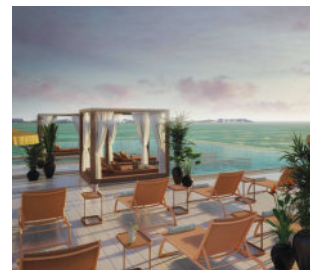


Image Credit: Palladium Hotel Group

Jet2Holidays offers a seven-night stay at the hotel, priced from £1,292 per person, including return flights from London Stansted, coach transfers and two checked in bags, based on a May 31, 2022 departure, with two adults sharing.

www.palladiumhotelgroup.com



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

Explore an underwater world at L'Oceanogràfic

L'OCEANOGRÀFIC, AN oceanarium situated on the Turia river bed to the southeast of Valencia's city center, is all set to host the 'Nature On Light' show.

Aptly named 'Aquatic', the Oceanogràfic will be filled with over 300 LED lights, with twenty projectors and two tunnels complimented by an underwater-themed soundtrack that aims to fully immerse visitors in the world of marine fantasy.

The marine version of the show will be open up until January 16, 2022 and allows visitors to explore the vast world of marine biology.

www.oceanografic.org/en/

Image Credit: Adria Stock



Tour and taste your way through Extremadura

EXTREMADURA GOURMET is an initiative in which public institutions, local producers and tourism companies collaborate to promote the iconic gastronomy of Extremadura to tourists who are interested in gastronomy.

This cooperation has led to the creation of three sustainable gastronomy routes that offer dozens of experiences, such as guided tours, tastings, and master classes tasting local delicacies.

The tours are led by local experts that will explain everything needed to know whilst guests enjoy the gastronomy of Extremadura.

www.turismoextremadura.com/en

KICK BACK WITH COOK'S CLUB

In the heart of lively S'Arenal, Mallorca, the sophisticated escape of Cook's Club Palma Beach awaits.

Image Credit: Cook's Club



COOK'S CLUB Palma Beach offers an ideal and indulgent break from the active life of S'Arenal, Mallorca – the beating heart of the Balearics.

Situated a short distance away from the white sand bay of Playa de Palma, visitors can soak in the sun and sand of the Mallorcan coastline, the lively buzz of the nearby S'Arenal, and kick back in the indulgent luxury that Cook's Club is known for.

The resort's 318 rooms have been recently refurbished, blending industrial and modern sophistication. All offer a pool or city view, as well as free Wi-Fi throughout.

Three room categories are available, offering a variety of amenities and room sizes.

On-property, guests can enjoy tipples and cocktails at the Captain Cook bar – with a

large adjoining pool. The bar blends laid-back DJ beats with cocktails and drinks.

Cantina serves a range of international cuisines prepared fresh at live cooking stations. Diners will have a choice of pizza, pasta, curries, creative salads and Spanish tapas.

A well-equipped gym can guarantee a wellness-fuelled break, with watersports and bicycle rental also on offer.

From the resort, guests can join walking tours of the nearby Sierra de Tramuntana or discover the Mallorcan surfer scene at Playa de Palma in C'an Pastilla.

One-night stays at Cook's Club Palma Beach start from £95.

www.cooksclub.com

Take 'The Grand Tour' to capture Catalonia

THE CATALAN Tourist Board has collated an over-2,000km route that encompasses all the region's highlights and hidden gems across five sections.

Guests can experience all the territory has to offer at a leisurely pace, avoiding the crowds while ticking off the authentic highlights.

The first leg plots from Barcelona to Tarragona, the second on to Lleida, the third on to Seu d'Urgell, the fourth to Figueres, ending with a return journey to Barcelona.

Each section can be tailor-made with different highlights depending on route and method of travel chosen.

Highlights include Delta de l'Ebre, the Pyrenees, Val d'Aran, the volcanic area of La Garrotxa Natural Park and Montseny, among more.



Image Credit: Catalan Tourist Board

Scenic routes will showcase the art, history, gastronomy, landscapes, people and traditions of the unique territory, which sits between the Mediterranean and the Pyrenees.

www.grandtour.catalunya.com

SLOW TRAVEL

Camino Inglés is embracing the demand for leisurely travel with a new option that allows travellers to take it easy while taking in 'the English Way'.



LETTING GUESTS trace the paths of the British and Irish pilgrims of the Middle Ages, the Camino Inglés offers an authentically historic experience.

The destination has launched a new 'SLOW' option, which can take up to nine days to complete, and gives travellers the chance to connect deeper with the historic journey.

Manuel Mirás, president of the Association of Councils on the Camino Inglés, said: "The 'SLOW' Camino Inglés is an opportunity to get under the skin of the towns and villages you pass through as a 'peregrino' on your way to the city of Santiago..."

The 'SLOW' option has two starting points. Guests can traverse from Ferrol to Santiago

de Compostela, on a nine-day route, calling at Neda, Pontedeume, Miño, Betanzos, Presedo, Bruma, Poulo, and Sigüeiro. Alternatively, the five-day route from A Coruña to Santiago de Compostela calls at Sergude, Bruma, Poulo, and Sigüeiro.

On both routes, adventurers will cross paths and bridges dating back to the original pilgrimages, soaking in scenery, sites and monuments that are off-the-beaten-track and hard to miss with other routes and itineraries.

The suggested route for the 'SLOW' travel option can be found at www.caminoingles.gal/en/

Valencia proud: city set to host 2026 Gay Games

VALENCIA HAS beaten competition from Munich and Guadalajara to earn its place as the host city of 2026's Gay Games.

The city will use the event to celebrate its diverse and inclusive nature.

Approximately 15,000 athletes will compete in 30 different sports, with up to 100,000 visitors expected to spectate the event.

From May to June 2026, LGBTQ+ athletes will compete in sailing, rowing, kayaking, basketball, beach volleyball, hockey, football, softball, and rugby. Novelty events include e-sports and Quidditch.

The city was selected thanks to its existing sports infrastructure, accessibility, commitment to sustainability, and inclusive nature that ensures all visitors have access to a range of diversity in attractions and experiences.



Valencia Bid City explained: "Valencia is a city that is at the height of an international event such as the Gay Games."

www.gaygames.org/
www.visitvalencia.com

Swap the Costa del Sol for the Sierra de las Nieves

BEYOND THE beaches of the Costa del Sol, the Sierra de las Nieves National Park, an almost 50,000 acre UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, serves up scenic beauty and a sun-soaked sense of adventure.

The park is home to a host of flora and wildlife that isn't found anywhere else in the world – and is also the only place on the Costa del Sol which welcomes a snowy winter. Hiking enthusiasts can trek amongst the landscapes by foot while adventurers can hire mountain bikes and take to the trails, which are suited for all abilities.

www.andalucia.org



CENTRAL EUROPE



SMOOTH SAILING

CroisiEurope has introduced its new 'Prague, Dresden & The Castles of Bohemia' cruise for the 2022 season.

CROISIEUROPE HAS introduced a new 'Prague, Dresden & The Castles of Bohemia' cruise along the Elbe and Vltava rivers, which will operate from March to November 2022.

This seven-day cruise, which takes place aboard a paddlewheel ship, will sail a round-trip from Prague, and features calls in Stechovice, Slapy and Melnik.

Highlights of the cruise include the Golden City of Prague; the castles of Bohemia – Konopiste Castle, a former hunting lodge of the Habsburgs; the Renaissance-style Nelahozeves Castle with its private artwork collection; a visit to the birthplace of the

famous Czech composer Antonin Dvorak to learn more about his life and works including the New World Symphony; and a full day in Dresden – also known as 'the Florence of the Elbe'.

If booked before December 31, 2021, guests can receive a 15% early booking discount with cruise prices from £1,336 per person for the cruise with all meals and drinks, entertainment, port fees and repatriation insurance. Prices thereafter start from £1,572 per person.

www.croisieurope.co.uk

See the splendors of Budapest with Saga Holidays

TRAVELLERS CAN combine a stay in Hungary's capital, Budapest, with a cruise along the Danube, with Saga Holidays 'From Budapest to Belgrade' holiday.

A two-night stay at the four-star Hilton Garden Inn Budapest Hotel means that guests are strategically located in downtown Budapest, half-a-mile away from St Stephen's Basilica and just over a mile away from the Hungarian State Opera House and Hungarian Parliament building.

Your clients will have a choice of included excursions: a city tour that will reveal UNESCO-listed Buda Castle and the Hungarian Parliament buildings, or an included culinary-themed walking tour to the First Strudel House and Central Market Hall.

The trip will end with embarkation on the Spirit of the Danube for a six-night cruise visiting Vukovar and Donji Milanovac before heading through the Iron Gates gorge to Golubac and Belgrade.

Prices for this eight-night holiday start from £1,649 per person, based on a May 23, 2022 departure from London Heathrow airport.

www.travel.saga.co.uk



Image Credit: Adagio Stock



Plan a Prague escape with NH Hotels

NH HOTEL Group has opened its second hotel in the Czech capital, Prague, under its premium NH Collection brand, the NH Collection Prague Carlo IV.

The hotel, which has 152 elegant rooms and suites, is located just 10 minutes away from the city centre.

In addition, the hotel has several conference and event rooms, a fitness studio, a spa area with sauna and steam baths and a pool.

Overnight prices start at 100 for two people staying in a superior room category.

www.nh-collection.com

TREASURES OF BERLIN

Just Go! Holidays has unveiled an in-depth exploration of some must-see sights and attractions awaiting in Berlin.

IDEAL FOR customers looking for an in-depth introduction to the German capital, or those who want to explore the authentic experiences behind the popular city-break destination, Just Go! Holidays has launched its latest itinerary: 'Treasures of Berlin'.

The tour's base is the Park Inn Alexanderplatz – the tallest hotel in the city. During their stay, guests will be able to soak in unique and expansive views from the hotel's top-floor terrace.

During their adventures away from the hotel, a whole host of historical highlights await.

A guided tour of Berlin Cathedral will trace back the capital's religious history, while the Charlottenburg Palace highlights the treasured history of the German crown.

The tour also includes a stop at Sanssouci Palace, with an audio guide helping visitors

lap up the luxury of Prussian King Friedrich the Great's former summer retreat.

With a call at Cecilienhof, where Allied powers met after WWII, the tour honours the city's recent history.

It's not just history that Berlin showcases – a visit to the Schloss Britz will allow guests to take a look at the nation's biodiversity at the Botanic Gardens – home to over 20,000 plant species.

Guests will explore the heritage of Berlin by foot and by boat, with the tour including a river cruise through the city centre.

The seven-day itinerary is available by air from £999 per person, based on two sharing. Regional return flights are available, with a choice of services from Bristol, Gatwick, Luton, Heathrow or Manchester.

www.justgoholidays.com/agents

Riviera Travel takes to the rivers of Europe in 2023

RIVIERA TRAVEL has published its 2023 European programme earlier than ever this year, offering a price match with 2022 to entice guests to look ahead and book.

299 cruises are available across 14 itineraries, with the 2023 season spanning from March to November. Six sailings are designed exclusively for solo travellers.

The itineraries cover the rivers of France, Germany, Portugal, Hungary and the Netherlands.

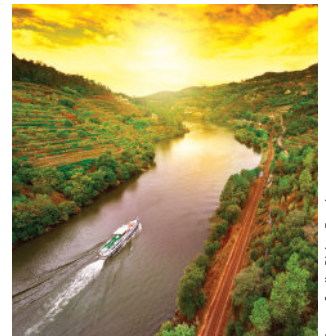


Image Credit: Riviera Travel

Voyages include 'Douro, Porto and Salamanca', an eight-day sailing with eight guided tours and visits from £1,569 per person, and 'The Blue Danube River Cruise: Vienna, Budapest and Salzburg', comprising eight days of sailing with seven tours across Vienna, Salzburg, Linz, Dürnstein, Budapest and Bratislava, from £1,519 per person.

All prices include return flights (with regional departures available), Eurostar travel on select itineraries, full-board dining, and selected visits.

www.rivieratravel.co.uk



Image Credit: Just Go! Holidays

PINING FOR POLAND

Poland is all set to welcome travellers back, with a range of offerings to suit all types of tourists.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

FROM THE pristine Baltic coastline, white sandy beaches, enchanting UNESCO-protected forests and the titanic Tatra mountains to a wealth of cities packed with history, green spaces and rich cultural heritage, Poland is a year-round destination that offers an array of experiences and unbeatable value compared with its European counterparts.

Indulge in Krakow, Poland's cultural capital
 Krakow is emerging as one of Europe's premier city break destinations. The city has a World Heritage pedigree, with the iconic Old Town, Wawel Castle and Kazimierz district all finding their way onto the list. The city is home to more than 100 festivals and world-renowned cultural events taking place here annually. Visitors can also find a quarter of Poland's entire collection of museum artefacts in the city. Krakow hosts a total of 26 restaurants holding a Michelin distinction.

Cultural city Warsaw

Warsaw is home to over 90 parks and green spaces that cover 25% of the city. Guests can escape the hustle and bustle of the city's UNESCO Old Town and enjoy views from one of Europe's largest roof gardens. The promenade of the Vistula River comes alive as temperatures rise, with the left side abuzz with events, bars, foodie treats and river jetties, while the right side is a Natura 2000 area and a breeding ground for many endangered bird species.

Glorious Gdansk

Gdansk encapsulates what Poland is all about. Visitors can wander through colourful pastel buildings, buzzing bars, underground restaurants and the iconic Neptune Fountain. The waterfront provides a gentle calm to the city lined with pubs, bars and restaurants.

www.polandtravel.com

Charming castles and varied vineyards with Scenic's new cruises

TAKING IN four countries along the Rhine and Moselle rivers, Scenic's 'Charming Castles & Vineyards of the Rhine & Moselle' river cruise will sail from Mainz to Basel and call at Koblenz, Bernkastel, Cochem, Rudesheim, Rastatt and Breisach.

Lined with castles at every turn, there is endless beauty to be discovered around each meander of the river – from natural vistas to picture-perfect villages and lush green vineyards. Guests will enjoy unforgettable experiences, including a guided tour of the iconic Reichsburg Castle, wine tasting in Bernkastel and the Alsace region, a visit to medieval Chateau du Haut-Koenigsbourg and a hiking tour in Rudesheim, which includes a cable car ride that glides over the vines for stunning views.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

With departures from April through to September, prices for the eight-day river cruise start from £2,495 per person (based on a April 22, 2023 departure).

www.scenic.co.uk

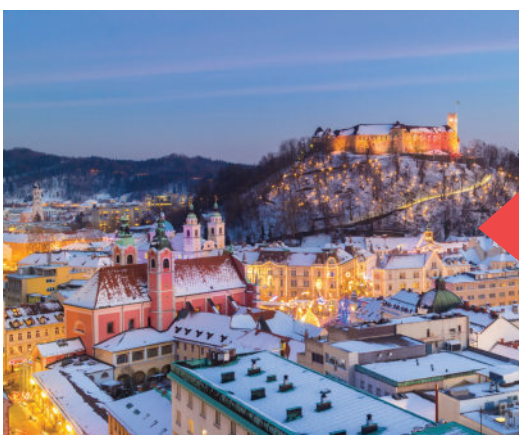


Image Credit: Adobe Stock

Experience Christmas on the sunny side of the Alps

CHRISTMAS IN Slovenia offers travellers something out of the ordinary. For people looking to get into the festive spirit, Slovenia's Christmas markets are a must-visit. From the vibrant Christmas markets of Ljubljana to the festivities of Lake Bled, visitors are treated to a holiday with the best of Slovenian culture.

Those interested can visit the giant Postojna Caves, where guests will go on a five-kilometre train ride through 16 biblical scenes and musical performances, with 150 performers taking part in the spectacle.

www.slovenia.info

PACIFIC ISLANDS



Image Credit: Africa Stock

SECRETS OF MELANESIA

Sail into a world few ever experience on Heritage Expedition's cruise through Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

HERITAGE EXPEDITION'S 17-day voyage, 'Discover the Secrets of Melanesia', takes in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Solomon Islands.

The cruise begins in the bustling PNG port town of Madang, with its colourful

markets, traditional artists and world-class diving, before moving on to the rarely visited Manus Island, known for its wealth of endemic species, lush forests and seldom-explored waters.

During the journey, travellers will spend time with local communities, learning about unique cultures in remote outposts; delving into the history of the islands during WWII; swimming and snorkelling in waters abounding with marine biodiversity, and keeping an eye out for different species of birds, mammals and reptiles.

17 days, embarking from Madang, Papua New Guinea, and disembarking in Port Vila, Vanuatu, starts from approximately £7,061 per person sharing a triple cabin, and £7,509 for a twin cabin. Both cabin categories come with a private bathroom. This is based on a October 24, 2022 departure date. www.heritage-expeditions.com



Image Credit: Heritage Expeditions

FAST facts

How many islands are there?
There are around 25,000 islands, with a combined population of about 2.3 million people.

Peaceful waters
The name 'Pacific' means peaceful and comes from the fact that early explorer, Magellan, found its climate more gentle than other oceans.

Tourism hotspots
The five most visited Pacific Islands are Fiji, French Polynesia, Cook Islands, Samoa, and Papua New Guinea.

Ancient wisdom
It is thought that the first settlers in Polynesia landed in 1500BC, having made a long journey from southeast Asia.

Coral conservation
The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef in the world, stretching for more than 1,429 miles in the Pacific Ocean.

PACIFIC PARADISE

Cox & Kings' 'Cook Islands Discovery' holiday will allow guests to travel to a total of three tropical islands within the archipelago.

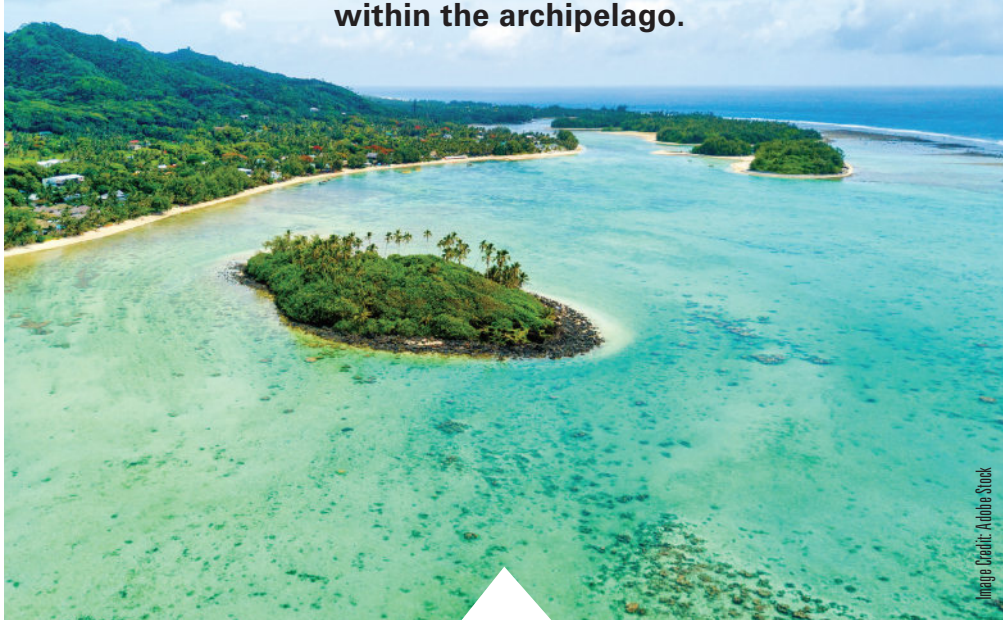


Image Credit: Adobe Stock

COX & KINGS is offering a 13-day, 12-night tour to the Cook Islands, with an itinerary combining a healthy mix of tourist-favourite attractions along with an immersive Polynesian cultural experience.

The tour covers stays on three different islands, starting with exploration of the rugged interiors of Rarotonga, followed by the turquoise waters of Aitutaki and finally, immersing in the cultural experience of Atiu.

The package includes a one-night stay at the Manuia Beach Resort, complete with its own private beach overlooking the sunset. Visitors can join a 4x4 tour to the interior of the island, basking in the history and the rich culture ending the day with a cultural show followed by an underground oven – an 'Umu' feast.

Visitors are then flown to the island toll of

Aitutaki, where they will stay at the Pacific Resort Aitutaki for five nights. The idyllic thatched beachfront bungalow acts as a resting pad after activities like cruising to Aitutaki lagoon, snorkelling and visiting the uninhabited One Foot island.

Finally, guests will visit Atiu island for a stay at the Atiu Villas for three nights. The understated property is tropical in nature with accessible beach walks. The itinerary will include a small group tour of the island, captained by a bird specialist with an opportunity to view the flora and fauna of the rainforest in detail.

Packages for the holiday starts from £3,495, with four and five-star accommodation and all transfers being from Rarotonga.

www.coxandkings.co.uk

Experience Fiji & Samoa with Audley Travel

AUDLEY TRAVEL is taking holidaymakers to the Pacific Islands, on its 'Fiji and Samoa Tour' 18-day holiday.

Holiday highlights in Fiji include snorkelling in the pristine waters of the Mamanuca Islands, where guests will be able to partake in other beach activities before visiting a local village. Travellers will also have the chance to experience a traditional Fijian Kava ceremony, which consists of a village priest offering the islands' traditional drink, Kava, to a host of guests who are sitting in a circle.

While in Samoa, holiday highlights include exploring the rugged interior and waterfalls of Upolu, and visiting the Bahai Temple, one of only eight in the world.

Guests will also be able to take a day trip to Savai'i, Samoa's largest island, and walk to the top of an old volcanic crater.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

Prices for the holiday are from £5,135 per person, with flexible date choices.

www.audleytravel.com



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

Eco-museum Fare Nature opens in Tahiti

THE FARE Natura Opunohu Bay, Moorea, is set up to showcase Polynesian culture and biodiversity, with findings based on biology, geology, anthropology and ecology.

The goal of the eco-museum is to educate tourists about Polynesia's natural environment, derived from science and culture, in order to "understand, preserve and transmit".

The museum hosts several permanent and temporary exhibitions for visitors to enjoy. The museum is open from Sunday to Wednesday, and is priced at £15 per person.

www.tahititourisme.uk

Image Credit: Adobe Stock



Say 'I do' at the Sheraton Samoa Beach Resort

SHERATON SAMOA Beach Resort is offering a wedding package for couples looking to celebrate their destination wedding in a far-flung island paradise.

Guests can host their wedding ceremony along the white sandy beaches of the Upolu Island or amongst the hotel's lush tropical gardens. The wedding reception can be held at the main event venue, the Conference Fale, or poolside for a relaxed island vibe.

Prices for the All Inclusive Wedding Package start from approximately £10,979.

www.marriott.co.uk/hotels/event-planning/wedding-planning

ROYAL CARIBBEAN GOES TRANSPACIFIC

Radiance of the Seas will sail a 16-night Transpacific cruise from Honolulu to Sydney from October 2022.

TAKING IN the highlights of the Pacific Islands, with all the on-board enhancements cruisers expect from Royal Caribbean cruises, the '16 Night Transpacific Cruise' is set to sail aboard Radiance of the Seas from October 4, 2022.

Departing from Oahu (Honolulu) at 10pm on the itinerary's first day, the voyage encourages guests to enjoy a pre-land stay to get the authentic Hawaiian experience. Snorkel Hanauma Bay or hike the Diamond Head volcano to take in the island's natural wonders. Waikiki is a popular surf spot, with calm waters ideal for beginners and seasoned experts.

The picture-perfect landscapes of the Pacific Islands make for an ideal backdrop to four days' sailing before the ship arrives in Papeete, Tahiti. The volcanic island is a go-to spot for tropical adventure, with a bustling urban center, black-sand beach and dramatic waterfalls for guests to explore during the two-day call.

After two days in Tahiti, Radiance of the

Seas sails onwards to Moorea, an island paradise with a host of opportunities for cruisers to get up-close and personal with a diverse marine life that calls the island home.

Day 13 includes a stop on the International Date Line, where guests are encouraged to explore the ship's live entertainment or various bars.

Three final days of cruising brings the voyage to an end in Sydney, where guests will be free to enjoy a post-cruise land stay.

The 16-night cruise offers four room categories. Interior rooms start from £1,286 per person (including US\$50 onboard credit), outside view rooms from £1,465 per person (with US\$50 onboard credit), Balcony rooms from £2,093 per person (with US\$100 onboard credit) and Suites from £6,685 per person (with US\$200 onboard credit).

www.royalcaribbean.com

Image Credit: Royal Caribbean International



Fiji reopening: the island celebrates guests' return

THE ISLAND paradise of Fiji has opened to international travel once again, with all 333 islands ready and waiting for guests to freely explore.

The nation's Minister for Tourism, Faiyaz Koya, commented: "It's been almost two years since we welcomed international visitors. In those two years, we've struggled, adapted and prepared. Our national airline, our hotels and our tour providers are ready to safely welcome the world back."



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

Guests are required to show proof of vaccination and a negative PCR test taken less than 72 hours prior to arrival.

Tourism Fiji's CEO, Brent Hill, added: "We are ecstatic that Fiji will open its borders to international visitors before the end of the year. This is the moment we have been planning for nearly two years now and I can assure the world that Fiji is safe and ready to welcome you back."

Land and air travel packages will launch shortly, with Fiji Airways resuming flights soon.

www.fiji.travel



COAST INTO THE CAPITAL

London City Airport has welcomed a packed winter schedule with three new routes, driving the industry's recovery this season.

REFLECTING GROWTH in consumer confidence and demand, London City Airport has welcomed three new European routes along with a selection of expanded and resumed services.

The airport estimated 145,000 passengers flew from London City Airport in October – up 21% from September; this growth is expected to continue as demand and choice rises.

October 31, 2021 marked the return of BA CityFlyer's services to Prague, with

three weekly rotations. The return of the Prague services means that 13 of the regional airline's 15 routes that ran in 2019 have returned. The city-centric airline is also commencing three weekly flights to Salzburg from December 12, 2021 and two flights a day to Chambéry from December 19, 2021. Both services hope to account for an extended ski season in 2021/22.

BA CityFlyer is also expanding its Glasgow service with 10 extra weekly

rotations, Edinburgh with seven extra, Berlin with six extra, and Amsterdam and Florence with two extra.

The airport's chief commercial officer, Richard Hill, commented: "We are delighted with the strong performance through October. We've long maintained that business traffic would return and the demand during October has given us real confidence heading into 2022."

November welcomed several route resummptions, including SWISS' five-weekly rotations on Zurich, Luxair's three-weekly Luxembourg flights, KLM's additional rotation to Amsterdam and Lufthansa's 11 additional services to Frankfurt.

TUI resumes Riviera Nayarit services

MEXICAN HOTSPOT Riviera Nayarit has welcomed the resumption of its TUI services from the United Kingdom – with departures restarting from Manchester and London Gatwick.

The airline confirmed the service was restarting for the first time since Covid-19 forced a service suspension in early 2020, and has since run its first flight to Puerto Vallarta International Airport from Manchester.

TUI will continue to operate the weekly Manchester to Puerto Vallarta flights year-round, along with the London Gatwick departures which resumed on November 25, 2021.

Marc Murphy, managing director of the destination's Visitors and Conventions Bureau, commented: "We are absolutely delighted to have the Manchester service back already. It is great to get these strategic direct routes back in time for the winter season."

"We are eagerly awaiting British visitors for the remainder of the year and over the Christmas period."



Finnair boosts capacity from UK to Finland

FINNAIR IS set to add extra flights from the UK and Ireland to meet the rise in demand.

The capacity boost has seen more services on its Heathrow to Helsinki route from November 27, and additional frequencies from Manchester and Dublin to Helsinki as of December 3.

Customers can now benefit from seven additional flights between Heathrow and Helsinki from December 17 to January 2, 2022, as Finnair increases flights over the festive period.

The airline has also introduced a weekend service, departing Helsinki for Heathrow every Saturday evening and returning to the Finnish capital on Sunday morning.

www.finnair.com

Eastern Airways to launch Gatwick to Newquay air link

EASTERN AIRWAYS will be launching a direct service between London Gatwick and Cornwall Newquay Airport.

The route will launch on December 15 and will initially operate daily before increasing to twice-daily from mid-January.

In offering London Gatwick as the London airport option, a significant number of onward connecting services have opened up.

www.eaternairways.com



RYANAIR'S 2022 summer schedule from Teesside Airport is now on sale.

The airline will be running a twice-weekly service on Tuesdays and Saturdays to Majorca from March 29 to October 29, with Faro, Portugal, also running every Wednesday and Saturday between March 30 and October 29.

Flights to the Greek island of Corfu will depart on Fridays from June.

The summer flights also join Ryanair's year-round service from Teesside to Alicante, departing every Monday and Friday.

www.teessideinternational.com

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?



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