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March 6 2020 | ISSUE NO 2,144 | travelbulletin.co.uk

Giving agents the edge



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Giving agents the edge

BULLETIN BRIEFING

Antor's Tracey Poggio on travel industry trends for 2020

AGENT BULLETIN

Motivated agents can win great prizes for brilliant bookings

RAIL HOLIDAYS

Stay on track with great sustainable travel ideas

WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS

Make your clients' big day memorable and romantic

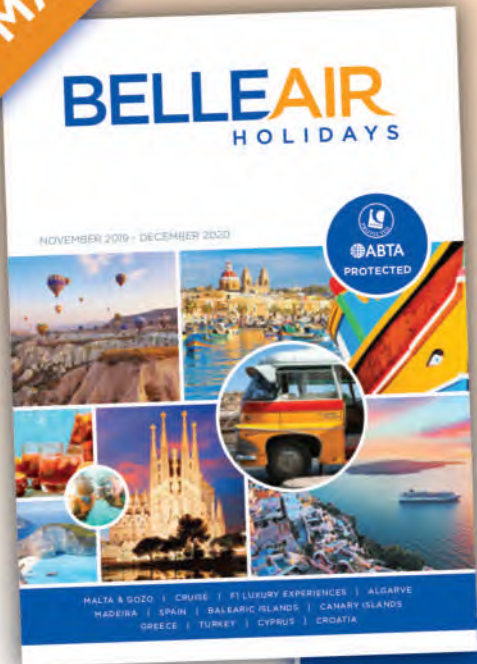


SOLO TRAVEL

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Great incentives and training opportunities for motivated agents

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			2	6	9

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One is fun with tailor-made trips for adventurous travellers



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Sustainable travel with the focus on tracks rather than air



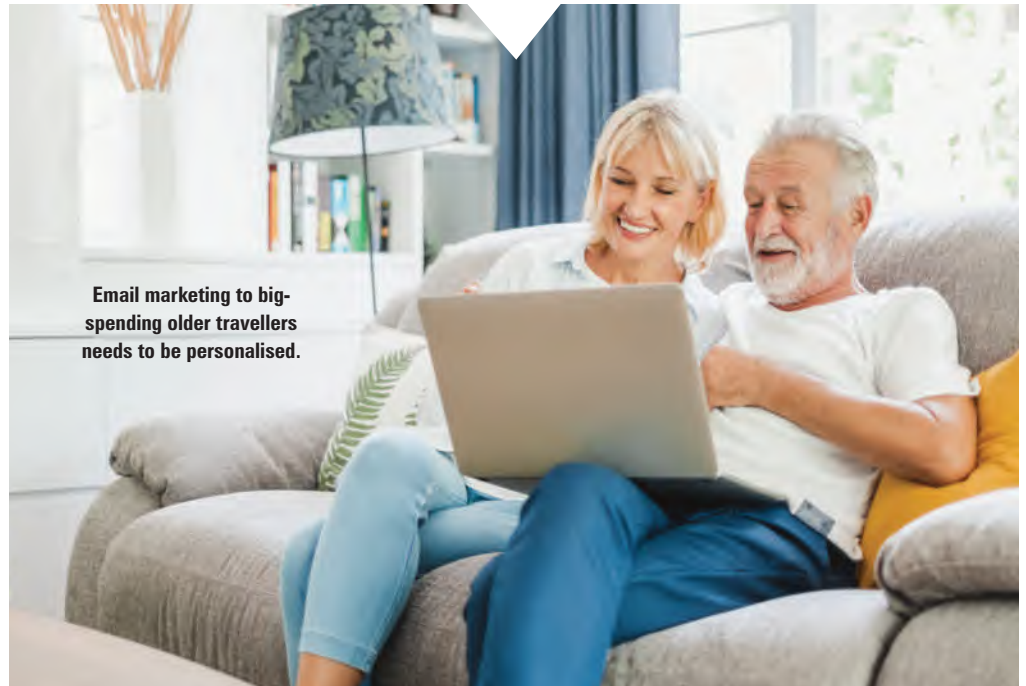
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WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS

Ultimate romantic escapes

SILVER SPENDERS

AITO released its Travel Insights 2020 report and it has plenty of positive news for agents selling to the buoyant demographic of travellers aged 50 to 70.



Email marketing to big-spending older travellers needs to be personalised.

AITO'S TRAVEL Insights 2020 report focuses on the "time, money and freedom" of travellers aged 50 to 70.

These were the three factors cited by Roy Barker from SPIKE, which produced the report based on a survey of 26,406 people from the databases of 39 specialist travel companies. He told the report launch event that there are 17.3 million people in the UK aged 50 to 70, and this group made up 80% of survey respondents.

The good news for agents is that 90% of this age group consider holidays "an essential part of their lifestyle", many are empty nesters who are not restricted by where or when they travel, 60% value the

expertise and specialism of travel professionals, 90% will rebook with travel professionals if they have a good experience and 96% make recommendations to other people.

The presentation touched on marketing to 50-70-year-olds and while 80% regularly use social media, particularly Facebook, 88% said they prefer to be kept informed by email. The role of printed products is still important to this demographic with 67% using guidebooks when they travel. While researching travel online is popular, brochures are important too.

Personalisation is important to the silver travellers market, making it essential for travel

companies to tailor email messages, which is where using data effectively is important. Barker said that personalised emails should reflect what trips they've taken and reinforce the good customer service they've received, with pre- and post-trip emails equally important.

Tom Dunn from Wild Dog Design, which helped with the report, reiterated Barker's comments, saying that in terms of customer engagement for this age group, "social media is not the panacea" and personalised emails, phonecalls, good websites and brochures are all important "to sell the dream". *For more on silver travellers, turn to page 5 and page 14.*

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Challenges and opportunities for Brexit Britain

KURT JANSON, director of the Tourism Alliance, gave a presentation on the latest impacts of Brexit at the Antor Annual Review. He said the full impact of the UK leaving the EU remains unclear until a deal is negotiated.

In regard to immigration policy and issues, such as tourist visas for UK citizens visiting the EU and vice versa, Jason said "everything is on the table". It will, however, be "business as usual" for tourism between the UK and Ireland as the Common Travel Area agreement remains in place.

For British tourists visiting the EU, Janson said travel will become "more complex", with travellers requiring international driving permits, pet passports required for anyone who wants to travel to Europe with their



Turkish tourism is expected to be a winner in the wake of Brexit.

domestic animals, and health insurance as an added cost once UK citizens can no longer use the European Health Insurance Card.

However, the good news is that there are agreements in place which mean aviation should remain unaffected and flights will not be grounded. For ferry and road passengers, there could be delays at ports and in the

Channel tunnel.

Janson said that for agents selling holidays to non-EU destinations, Brexit could represent an opportunity. Turkey is benefiting from Brexit with the pound sterling strong against the Turkish lira. Egypt and Tunisia, which are experiencing a renaissance after some difficult years, are also expected to benefit.

AITO report highlights top long-haul destinations

THE AITO Travel Insights 2020 report lists the top 10 most popular long-haul destinations, based on a survey of 26,406 customers, predominantly aged 50 to 70. They are: North America, South America, Australasia, South-East Asia, Japan, India, Central America, Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and Sri Lanka.

In regard to the coronavirus in South-East Asia, the report says contingencies are in place to tackle the spread of the virus, but an overall drop in tourism in the region is expected.



According to the report, North America's appeal lies in its diverse landscapes and cultures, as well as gastronomy and shopping. In South America, Machu Picchu remains popular, as well as eco-tourism in Costa Rica, Colombian wildlife, Chile's Patagonia and the cities of Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro. Nicaragua is tipped to grow in coming years.

With the older demographic favouring long-haul travel for longer holidays, this is seen as more sustainable than taking multiple short breaks by plane.

Business travel buyers boosted by ABTA

NEW RESEARCH finds over four in five managers say that membership of ABTA is very important or important when they select a travel agent for their business travel needs.

According to the research, managers at companies with an annual turnover of £50-99.99 million especially value ABTA membership, with 92% stating that membership was very important or important when choosing a travel professional for booking business trips.

Managers at larger companies also

particularly value ABTA membership, with 86% of managers at a turnover of £100-499 million, and above £500 million, saying it is very important or important to them.

ABTA is hosting a seminar on Business Travel Risk Management on April 22 in central London, offering insights into the emerging threats in business travel and how organisations can mitigate these risks.

For more information about the seminar, email events@abta.co.uk or visit www.abta.com/events



Tours... James Bond-inspired Scottish tours...

RABBIE'S HAS launched a private tours itinerary for 007 fans. The two-day tours will launch in April with highlights for James Bond aficionados, including a visit to a collection of memorabilia that features the BMW used in *Tomorrow Never Dies*, scenic drives through locations and naval bases used in *The Spy Who Loved Me*, and a trip to the headquarters of MI6, as seen in the *The World Is Not Enough*. The itinerary also includes lunch at Miss Moneyppenny's Diner and a whisky distillery tour. Until the end of March, agents can offer the tour for £465 per person in a mini-coach for up to 16 guests. *Call 0131 226 3133 or email explore@rabbies.com*

Silver travel trends in the spotlight with Antor

AT ANTOR'S Annual Review presentation, Gill Haynes, partnership director, Silver Travel Advisor, outlined the main trends driving the over-50s market, based on the group's research.

She opened her session by clarifying that not all over-50s feel middle-aged, people in their 60s are often in the "golden bubble" of affluence, time and energy, and while those in their 70s and 80s may be slowing down, they are still open to a range of travel experiences.

The study found that 57% of over-50s considered themselves to be more adventurous than when they were in their 30s and they have a "thirst for new experiences." City breaks remain the most popular trip at 47% but cultural tours, at 34%, are on the rise.



Multi-generational holidays are growing in popularity.

Multi-generational holidays are popular, with beach breaks the most common at 22% and of those who have been on such trip, 74% would do so again.

Solo travel is a growing trend but Haynes made it clear that this did not necessarily mean travelling as a singleton, with a lot of

older travellers in relationships, especially women, taking breaks without their partners.

For many older travellers, accessibility is important and agents should be aware of issues such as ease of access at airports.

For more about Antor's Annual Review, turn to Bulletin Briefing on page 14.

Inside info for agents from online travel survey

A STUDY by Amadeus on the online travel needs for the UK market found that 27% of travellers think that booking online takes longer than it did two years ago.

Additionally, 30% of survey respondents abandoned an online booking because of hidden fees and charges.

In terms of trends among British holidaymakers unearthed by the study, it found that 45% of travellers would choose less convenient timings if it meant their holiday was more environmentally friendly. In

a further boost for sustainable tourism, 63% said they would be keen to learn about destinations with a low environmental impact.

Despite the rise of online influencers, such as bloggers and social media stars, 48% said they tend to make their destination decisions based on advice from friends and family.

Personalisation remains important – a major advantage of using an agent – and more than half the respondents said they would share more personal details if they received more personalised options.

Lulu to bring classic hits to Studley Castle in September

POP, ROCK and soul star Lulu will be performing hits at Studley Castle on September 18.

With a career spanning more than 50 years, she will be bringing such classics as her 1967 number one, To Sir With Love, the 1969 soul stormer Oh Me Oh My (I'm A Fool For You Baby) and the 1974 Bond theme 'The Man With The Golden Gun' to the stage at the Warner Leisure Hotels property.

Lulu is also well known for her more recent musical collaborations with David Bowie and the smash hit, Relight My Fire, which she performed with Take That.



A three-night weekend Star Break stay to see Lulu perform live at Studley Castle, which is part of the company's Star Break series of musical weekend getaways, starts from £409 per person.

This price is based on two adults sharing a Standard Room when arriving on September 18, including the Simply Dine package. *To make a booking or receive more information, go to www.BourneLeisureSales.co.uk or call 0330 1009 776.*



Go it alone in Turkey with Friendship Travel

SINGLES HOLIDAYS specialist Friendship Travel is offering holidays to Turkey. This includes a week of guided walks on the Lycian Way, based in Hisaronu. Departure dates are April 27 and May 4 with prices from £635. That includes flights from Gatwick, transfers, seven nights' accommodation, breakfasts, four dinners and three picnic lunches. The routes involve up to five hours of hiking, taking in the 'ghost village' of Kayakoy, wildflower meadows at the foot of Babadag mountain and a route from Butterfly Valley nature reserve to the coastal village of Kabak. www.friendshiptravel.com



AIR CANADA BOOSTS JETSET'S NEW DIGS

JETSET HAS moved to a new London office, which is double the size of the old premises and offers new spaces which will be particularly useful for agent training. The new training rooms, meeting areas and staff areas reflect the company's growth, with the Maple Leaf Lounge, sponsored by Air Canada a particular favourite with staff and visitors.

John Bond, Jetset's chairman, explained that the principal reason for the move was to support the significant growth that Jetset had seen over 2018 and 2019. He said this growth is clearly continuing in 2020.

"Package Pal sales were up 35% this January over 2019 and even products perhaps not previously associated with Jetset such as Ground Only, which are covered by our ABTA bond, are growing at a fantastic rate," he said. "JETS continue to be developed to help automate vast swathes of the business and in January we achieved JETS usage of 83%. This is amazing but the Jetset model is built around service and that can only be delivered by people who work in teams sharing knowledge, experience and values – [our new office in] Southgate provides an opportunity for this now and in the future."

Ireland and Wales in a celtic collaboration

TOURISM AUTHORITIES in six counties across Ireland and Wales, with the support of the European Regional Development Fund through the Ireland Wales Cooperation Programme are promoting Celtic Routes.



This is a selection of 78 curated travel experiences which allow visitors to experience culture, heritage and natural landscapes of both countries.

The routes are designed to tie in with travel trends, including preventing overtourism by promoting trips away from capital cities, slow travel where tourists take the time to enjoy destinations at a relaxed pace, and the increased desire among many travellers to get back to nature.

To seek out these inspiring itineraries, go to

www.celticroutes.info

Hotfoot it to cold climes with Wildfoot Travel

WILDFOOT TRAVEL is offering intrepid explorers the chance to visit Southern Greenland, taking in remote parts of the country which are otherwise unreachable.

Starting from Iceland, travellers will fly to Southern Greenland where they'll board a polar vessel and experience fjords, icy blue waters, lush valleys, winding coastlines and mountainous landscapes.

Onboard, guests can enjoy two lavish dining areas, four bars for a laid-back evening drink, a spa and fitness centre, ocean-view sauna, a panorama lounge, walkaround deck, library and a lecture theatre. There are seven categories of stylish cabins and suites to choose from, ranging from solo panorama cabins to exclusive suites with private balconies and luxurious fittings.



Greenland offers cool delights for adventurous travellers.

The 'Greenland Adventure' trip is priced from £6,100 per person, including eight nights' full board accommodation, transfers, excursions,

and expert lectures.

Agents can make commission when booking a trip through the company. www.wildfoottravel.com

Take the easy route on Explore's e-bike trips

FOR CLIENTS who are worried about uphill climbs and sore legs, but still enjoy a scenic bike ride, Explore is offering e-bike cycling trips that are not so punishing.

From circumnavigating Mount Etna to cycling through vineyards in the Douro Valley, biking buffs have a range of options with Explore's e-bike trips.

One example is 'Cycle Sicily'. This adventure takes travellers through Syracuse, the largest Ancient Greek settlement outside of mainland Greece, with its mix of Greek ruins and Baroque architecture. Guests will bike around Mount Etna for a 360-degree view of the iconic volcano, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with the option to ascend it.

Prices for the eight-day moderate grade trip start from £1,304 per person, including

From vineyards to mountains, Explore's cycling itineraries offer many excursions.



flights, accommodation with breakfast, a bike and an Explore leader. E-bikes are available from £155 per person.

Another trip with Explore is 'Cycling Portugal', an eight-day trip which goes from Porto to Lisbon, priced from £1,386 per person.

Biking buffs will discover the cultural highlights of

central Portugal, cycling past vineyards in the Douro Valley, discover the town of Aveiro and cruise along the coast to the seaside town of Foz de Arelho. Visit the picturesque medieval town of Obidos and discover Lisbon on foot.

E-bikes are available from £155 per person. www.explore.co.uk

Arena River Cruises joins CLIA

ARENA RIVER Cruises, formerly named The River Cruise Line, has joined CLIA as the company looks to develop and build relationships with travel agents across the UK and Ireland.

The river cruise specialist was renamed and rebranded to Arena River Cruises earlier this month, bringing it in line with the rest of parent company Arena Travel's portfolio. Accompanying the rebranding is the launch of a new website linked to the wider portfolio of Arena Travel brands, which is designed to

offer a more streamlined experience, with improved search and booking functionality, as well as more content and a live chat.

Steve Goodenough, Arena River Cruises managing director, added: "The membership provides an excellent opportunity for us to develop our network of agents across the UK and Ireland and we're very keen to hear from independent and like-minded agents who are interested in expanding further into the river cruising market."

www.arenarivercruises.com

Funway boosts New York options with fly-drive itineraries

NEW FOR 2020, USA specialist, Funway Holidays has increased its New York offering with four twin-center, fly-drive itineraries.

Commenting on the product boost, Malcolm Davies, product destination manager for Funway Holidays, said: "We have seen recent demand by clients wishing to see a bit more outside of New York City and have a contrast of countryside to the cityscape. They would be ideal for someone with five to seven days to spend in the area and doesn't want to spend the whole of their time in the city, but equally don't have to travel too far and with an easy return to the airport."



An example of a US trip on offer from Funway is the three-night 'New York & Long Island Fly-Drive holiday'.

Prices for this itinerary start from £699 per person, including car hire, all accommodation and return flights from the UK. Travel is based on two adults sharing. www.funway4agents.co.uk



Vines and views with Tui

TUI RIVER Cruises offers a seven-night 'The Moselle Valley - Vines & Views' cruise on TUI Maya from £883 per person.

This cruise sets sail throughout Germany, from Frankfurt, and visits Koblenz; Bernkastel-Kues; Trier; Piesport; Traben-Trarbach; Cochem; Boppard; and, Oberwesel.

This is based on two adults sharing a deck 1 superior cabin on a full board plus basis. The cruise departs on March 29 flying from Heathrow airport. Price includes return flights, transfers, £120 excursion credit, tips and service charges. www.tui.co.uk/river-cruises



HIT THE SACK IN THE SKY

AIR NEW Zealand has unveiled a lie-flat prototype sleep product for economy class travellers. The Economy Skynest is the result of three years of Air New Zealand research and development, with the input of more than 200 customers at its Hangar 22 innovation centre in Auckland. The Skynest will provide six full length, lie-flat sleep pods for long-haul flights. www.airnewzealand.co.uk

That festive feeling with Just You

JUST YOU has launched its 'Festive Collection' with a host of new holidays, from Italy to Germany and Malta to Jordan.

To celebrate the festive brochure, Just You is offering airport transfer for guests, with a premium private car, which will be included on all flight-inclusive festive tours.

For those who want a Christmas getaway in Italy, Just You is offering the 'A Christmas in Medieval Italy' trip from £1,499. Guests will explore the renaissance city of Ferrara, appreciating the mosaics of Ravenna and having Christmas lunch in Italy's culinary capital Bologna, making this tour



one for foodies as well as history lovers.

Active travellers will appreciate the new six-day tour, 'Walking in Malta' at Christmas, with prices starting at £1,399. Boasting a mild December climate, rural walks through the Girgenti

Valley can be enjoyed, as well as scenic rambles from the Dingli cliffs to the Blue Grotto. Discover the Maltese countryside, towns and ancient cities by foot and create memories with your fellow walkers.

www.justyou.co.uk

MOVERS and SHAKERS

ITC Travel Group has announced that Chris Redfern has joined its agency sales team to head sales covering the North of England.



Cruise industry veteran Karl Muhlberger has been appointed as Crystal's chief operating officer. Karl brings more than 25 years of hospitality experience to Crystal's growing portfolio.



Advantage Travel Partnership has promoted Kerri Thorpe to senior partnership manager. Kerri was previously a commercial account manager.



Radisson Hotel Group has appointed Tom Flanagan Karttunen as area senior vice president for the UK, Ireland and Western Europe.





IF ONLY... business development managers shared news and product info with homeworkers at a coffee-and-cake event. From left to right: Jugal Kantelia (Platinum Travel Lounge), Sarah Chapman (Designer Travel), Joanne Woodhall (Designer Travel), Beccy Miller (Independent Travel Experts), Jen Mallett (Hays Travel PTC), Jo Goddard (Hays travel PTC), Sharon Keaveney (Designer Travel), Emma Frearson (Midcounties PTA).

AGENT INCENTIVES

- AGENTS CAN be in with a chance of winning a trip on Great Rail Journey's Majestic Rhine Cruise by taking part in a competition. Agents need to secure a booking on any of the operator's cruise offerings departing in 2020 or 2021 and e-mail the booking reference to agencysales@greatrail.com. The competition closes on March 31. The lucky winner will enjoy a cabin for two on the Majestic Rhine Cruise, departing on October 20 for seven nights. The cruise will include standard class rail; meals with beer, wine and soft drinks with dinners; a cabin for seven nights on MS Amadeus Silver 111; excursions; a fully escorted tour by a tour manager from St Pancras. *For more information, go to www.facebook.com/groups/832540480139599/*
- AGENTS CAN win from a range of 21 prizes with Cruise & Maritime Voyages (CMV) bookings, including the star prize – an Apple Watch Series 3. Other prizes are five personalised Chilly's bottles; five meal and wine for two at Prezzo; five Eden Mill St Andrews' gin boxes and five £20 Amazon vouchers. The cruise operator is running an incentive campaign to celebrate the launch of its summer 2021 season, including Amy Johnson's maiden voyage. As many as 166 cruises are announced for summer 2021. The competition runs until March 31. To enter the draw, agents should register their booking made for a 2021 CMV cruise by sending an email to competitions@cruiseandmaritime.com, including their name, ABTA number and the CMV booking reference for the live booking. Twenty-one lucky winners will be selected at random after the closing date by one of the CMV's trade teams. The results will be announced on its trade Facebook group page.
- AGENTS CAN win a luxury chocolate hamper when they make an Easter holiday booking with any of Bourne Leisure's three brands (Butlin's, Warner Leisure and Haven) as part of the 'Easter Hamper Giveaway'. Agents who make and register an Easter booking before March 22 will automatically be entered into the weekly draw to win. Easter bookings are valid for guest arrivals between April 3 and 17 and agents must register each booking by logging them at www.bourneleisuresales.co.uk. All weekly winners will be chosen at random via a prize draw and will be contacted directly.

AGENT TRAINING

SLOVENIA TOURISM Board is conducting the Slovenian Incoming Workshop (SIW) 2020 in Portorož from May 14-16. It is the flagship B2B tourism event in Slovenia which offers time-efficient meetings with renowned Slovenian tourism providers.

SIW is a good opportunity to establish and strengthen business partnerships between tour operators, agents and representatives of Slovenian tourism industry.

Agents will get to meet more than 250 Slovenian providers in one place.
www.slovenia.info/en/business/travel-trade/siw-2020



travelbulletin COMPETITIONS!

NEW: Five-night stay for two at the new Grand Palladium Sicilia Resort & Spa

Win a trip to the Indian Ocean island of Rodrigues

A seven-night all-inclusive stay at the Bahia Principe Grand Aquamarine, Dominican Republic

FOR ALL COMPETITIONS ON THE SITE VISIT travelbulletin.co.uk/competitions

All in for the Andalucian coastline with Scenic



Scenic takes guests to Mgarr in Malta, which is primarily a port for fishing.

SCENIC LUXURY Cruises & Tours has released an Andalucía coastline cruise itinerary on board the Scenic Eclipse for 2022.

The 'discovery yacht' navigates the Maltese archipelago via Sicily and it explores fascinating sites starting in Valletta to Lisbon in an 11-day cruise. Priced from

£5,795 per person, the cruise departs from June 7-18, 2022.

Guests will sail across five countries, traversing a mix of Andalusian cultures – Tangiers, the gateway to Africa, Malta, Spain and Portugal. They can enjoy the smallest of Spain's Balearic Islands, suitable for watersports and kayaking.

They will also visit Mgarr, a small town in Malta that is primarily a port for fishing boats and private yachts due to its size. While here, guests will be able to see the incredible stonemason history through the tall, carved churches.

www.scenic.co.uk/tours/andaluca-coastline

FLIGHT bites

Atlantic Airways, the Faroese national carrier, has announced that it will be launching a new direct flight from Gatwick to Vágar Airport, in the Faroe Islands, from June 23.



Nouvelair is launching its first ever scheduled flights from the UK in May. It will be flying direct from Manchester and Gatwick to Tunisia's Enfidha airport.



Specialist Balkan Holidays will launch a new flight from Stansted to Burgas, Bulgaria during the high season, July 20 to September 7.



G Adventures launches 'Project 100' tourism initiative

COMMUNITY TOURISM pioneer G Adventures, together with its non-profit partner, Planeterra, are announcing the first five tours in its 'Project 100' initiative, which is a commitment to have 100 projects built into G Adventures tours by the end of 2020.

Bruce Poon Tip, founder of G Adventures, said: "All G Adventures and Planeterra projects are selected according to the biggest benefit to the community resulting from traveller numbers. Particularly where women, youth and Indigenous people have been

disadvantaged by a lack of access to education, jobs and income opportunities."

One example is the 'Borneo-East Sabah' trip. On the remote island of Libaran, travellers will learn about the local Libaran people, observe how souvenirs and other items like traditional fishing nets are made, and have the chance to try local snacks.

The eight-day trip, travelling from Kota Kinabalu, with return visits to Libaran Island, is priced from £899 per person.

www.gadventures.co.uk



Inghams offers deals worth skiing for

SET IN an open bowl at 1800m, the village of St Christoph in Austria offers high, snow-sure slopes and access to the Alberg ski area, making it a perfect choice for a late season ski break.

Inghams is offering a seven-night ski holiday on a catered basis at the four-diamond Chalet Hotel St Christoph from £599 per person, based on two sharing. The price represents a saving of £400 per person and includes return flights from Gatwick to Innsbruck and resort transfers. The package is valid for travel departing on March 21.

To book, call 01483 938 047 or to see more deals, visit www.ingham.co.uk

SUDOKU

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

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 3 x 3 squares contains the digits 1-9.

Once you have completed the puzzle, simply identify the numbers that relate to the letters, A, B, C and D then e-mail the solution, with your name, company name, and full postal address plus phone and ABTA number if applicable to:

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

Closing date for entries is Thursday, March 12th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

The winner for February 21st is Jim Anderson, Holidaymakers in Aberdeenshire.

February 21st Solution: A=8 B=6 C=9 D=4

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



WHERE AM I?

This place is known in the local language as 'Basantapur Darbar Kshetra'. Several buildings collapsed here in an earthquake in 2015 but it is still popular with tourists keen to see the architecture and haggle for souvenirs such as copies of the Kama Sutra!

CROSSWORD

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

1		2			3		4		5
							6		
7				8					
9		10		11		12			
			13					14	
				15					16
17									
				18					

Across

- 1. Hotel brand, part of Accor (7)
- 6. Country, initially (3)
- 7. State capital of New Jersey (7)
- 9. Carrier initially, whose trademark is a cedar tree logo (3)
- 11. West African landlocked country (5)
- 13. Rent A Car company (5)
- 14. Little ___ a character from Uncle Tom's Cabin (3)
- 15. Italian town close to Venice (7)
- 17. Douglas is the capital, initially (3)
- 18. This preserved Roman city, is a popular tourist attraction (7)

Down

- 1. Billie Eilish song for the upcoming Bond movie (2,4,2,3)
- 2. Cinema chain (3)
- 3. London Luton international airport code (3)
- 4. Scenic Swiss city and Lake (7)
- 5. Actor who plays Anne Reid's husband in the BBC drama, Last Tango in Halifax (5,6)
- 8. Nuku'alofa is the capital (5)
- 10. Sometimes known as the Yellowhammer state (7)
- 12. Shakespeare's theatre on the Thames (5)
- 15. Flag carrier of Portugal (3)
- 16. Jukkasjarvi in Sweden, is the location for a famous hotel made of this (3)

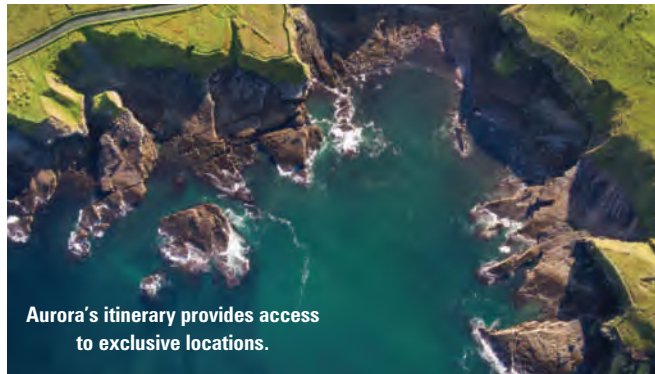
Solution: Across: 1. NOVOTEL, 6. USA, 7. TRENTON, 9. MEA, 11. NIGER, 13. ALAMO, 14. EVA, 15. TREVISIO, 17. IOM, 18. POMPII. Down: 1. NO TIME TO DIE, 2. VUE, 3. LTN, 4. LUCERNE, 5. DAVID JACOBI, 8. TONGA, 10. ALABAMA, 12. GLOBE, 15. TAP, 16. ICE. Mystery Word: LATVIA Where am I? - Durbar Square, Kathmandu, Nepal

Soaring cliffs and medieval ruins with Aurora Expeditions

AURORA EXPEDITIONS has announced its first ever voyage to Ireland on board their new ship, Greg Mortimer.

Sailing from Dublin in May, the 13-day itinerary features some of the country's scenic coastal highlights, including Donegal, Clare Island, Connemara National Park and The Skelligs.

Perched on the edge of the Atlantic, Ireland's west coast is characterised by soaring cliffs, dramatic peninsulas with medieval ruins and castles steeped in history. The scenery will be revealed during expert-led wildlife walks, nature hikes and coastal kayaking tours. Daily trips by zodiac will showcase breeding seabirds such as puffins,



Aurora's itinerary provides access to exclusive locations.

fulmars, guillemots, storm petrels and shearwaters.

From the ship, passengers might catch sight of dolphins, whales, orca and porpoise. There will be an opportunity to tuck into a west coast meal of locally produced and foraged food from Connemara, and to enjoy an authentic 'trad session'

of folk music played by local musicians and the Irish expedition team.

'The Ireland's West Coast Voyage' is from May 19-31, 2021, and is priced from £6,975 per person, twin share.

The voyage departs from Dublin and ends in the charming port town of Cobh. www.auroraexpeditions.co.uk

Journey Latin America releases Experiences brochure

SPECIALIST TOUR operator Journey Latin America have launched their 'Specialist's Guide to Latin America 2020' brochure.

Celebrating 40 years of dedicated travel to Latin America, Journey Latin America has honed in on the top immersive experiences in Central and South America, Cuba and Antarctica, culminating in over 100 new ideas.



Stuart Whittington, head of product, comments: "Our customers continue to seek out new opportunities and authentic experiences that take them beyond their usual boundaries: from savouring sizzling street food, to working alongside scientists protecting the endangered blue macaw to learning how to tango." To order or download 'The Specialist's Guide to Latin America' visit www.journeylatinamerica.co.uk

Intrepid launches female focused trips

INTREPID TRAVEL has launched two new women's-only expeditions to Pakistan and Israel and The Palestinian Territories to coincide with International Women's Day.

'Israel and The Palestinian Territories: Women's Expedition' is an eight-day trip to Israel and Palestinian territories with local female leaders and guides from Israeli, Palestinian and Bedouin backgrounds. This trip will immerse guests in the different cultures of the region, as they meet Palestinian peace activists, break bread with

Bedouin women and learn about Israeli women working to secure the right to pray at the Western Wall.

'Pakistan: Women's Expedition' is a 15-day trip to Pakistan's remote northern mountains, joining a local female leader for a journey to the Hunza and Yasim valleys. Guests will get to see the communities and landscapes of the region and meet the local women working on empowerment projects, such as cooking schools, carpet weaving and cafes.

www.intrepidtravel.com



Get 'bearied' into Hayes & Jarvis' new trips

TO CELEBRATE International Polar Bear Day, which was held on February 27, Hayes & Jarvis has compiled a list of some of the world's favourite polar bears according to Instagram posts and matched them with the perfect trip to see the furry favourite in its native environment.

An example of a trip is the six-night 'Ultimate Arctic Summer Adventure – Belugas and Polar Bears' in Canada. This includes a cruise of Hudson Bay and its river estuaries to spot polar bears swimming and enjoying the summer surroundings. There is also the opportunity to see beluga whales, nesting or migrating bird species, Arctic hares, Arctic foxes and seals.

Priced from £4,199 per person, this includes flights from London, accommodation, a local guide, transfers, entrance fees, round-trip flights between Winnipeg and Churchill and meals as specified online.

www.hayesandjarvis.co.uk



Awesome Agents deserve systems to help them do **Awesome** things...

(More JETS Awesomeness coming soon!)

Industry insight by...



Tracey Poggio, chairman of Antor, gives an overview of the organisations' Annual Review event, which outlined major trends for 2020 and updated participants on Brexit.

THIS YEAR'S Antor Annual Review took place on February 26 at JCDecaux's London offices.

More than 60 representatives from over 32 Antor member destinations gathered to hear a wrap-up of the previous year and learn more about the latest travel insights and tourism trends from industry experts.

Dale Keller, chief executive of the Board of Airline Representatives, opened the event with the views and predictions of the airline industry for the year ahead.

Although some challenges due to global and regional issues including Brexit and the coronavirus are expected, the airline industry is showing a positive outlook for the next year including taking a large step forward to more sustainable aviation.

An ambitious new industry carbon commitment was introduced on February 4 called "Net-Zero Roadmap". This aims to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The event continued with

a panel discussion on 2020 trends and predictions by Cat Jordan, communications director of Travelzoo; Josh Peckham, senior director of media solutions, Kayak; Kelly Cookes, leisure director of Advantage Travel Partnership; and Samantha Mandel-Dallal, head of financial planning, analysis and marketplaces for Secret Escapes.

When it comes to 2020 travel predictions,

.....

2020 travel predictions include adventure and foodie trips taking the lead

.....

adventure and foodie escapes are leading the way, according to the panel, with more and more travellers opting for package deals focusing on a mix of cultural and foodie scenes of destinations.

Agents need to be aware that technology will continue to affect bookings, with one-third of travellers

using mobile apps to book their holidays, according to research.

Unsurprisingly, Instagrammable destinations will remain at the top of the list for many travellers, with events and TV influencing people's tourism choices. Japan with the upcoming Olympics and South Africa, due to the most recent series of *Love Island* are examples of influential events and TV programmes when it comes

market, Gill Haynes, partnership director of Silver Travel Advisor, discussed 2019 industry findings and upcoming travel trends for the over-50s.

Similar to the younger generations, many silver travellers are seeking adventurous holidays, with a rising number becoming more and more tech- and social-media savvy.

Last but not least, Kurt Janson, director of the Tourism Alliance, wrapped up the event by discussing what the tourism industry can expect post-Brexit.

Although it is still unclear what the exact impact will be overall, travel to the EU will become slightly more complex with new travel insurance and driving license regulations adding to the to-do list for people travelling from the UK into Europe, and the government's plan to end the use of EU national identity cards set to affect inbound travel.

On a more positive note, the UK's aviation agreement, coach services, and non-EU travel will most likely remain unaffected.

to making bookings.

There has also been an increase in lead times, with many travellers planning long-haul holidays well in advance. Additionally, last-minute impulse buys, due to unmissable social media offers, are growing in popularity.

Not forgetting about the important silver travellers'

SOLO TRAVELLERS



ME TIME IN MALLORCA

THE BALEARIC island of Mallorca is a good choice for women looking for some 'me time'. The island has many options for solo travellers, whether it is sunbathing on the beach or going on a walking trail.

It is home to extensive walking trails open to visitors all year round. In spring, visitors can take part in the Mallorca Walking Event which will be hosted between April 2-5. For four days, hundreds of people walk on trails that enjoy beautiful landscape and climate. Three different routes, ranging from 7.5 miles to 18.5 miles, lead through multiple locations in the Calvià district.

One of the most recognised trails ideal for solo travellers is the Dry Stone Route. It spans across 56 miles and

leads from Port d'Andratx, in the south-west of Mallorca, all the way to Port de Pollença in the north-west. In 2020, three new mountain huts (in Calvià, Planícia and Escorca) will be developed on the route, thanks to the income generated from the Sustainable Tourism Tax.

To know more, go to www.mallorcawalkingevent.com

In addition to the new and existing hiking refuges, there are accommodation options perfectly suited for solo travellers. Hotel Som Dona in Porto Cristo, located on the east coast of the islands, is a women-only space for female guests who are looking to disconnect from the stress of daily life. It offers personalised care tailored to their needs. Prices starts from £55 for a

double room for single use.

Beach lovers will be spoiled for choice as there are around 300 beaches on the island, from white sandy beaches with turquoise waters to those with rocks and pebbles with crystal clear waters.

For art and culture lovers, a visit to the Cathedral of Santa Maria of Palma, popularly known as "La Seu" is a must. It is a gothic cathedral from the 14th to the 16th centuries with later additions from different styles. Solo travellers can explore a weekly market as well. Every day in the morning, throughout the year, each village or town in Mallorca has its traditional market day.

For more information on what to see and do in the Balearic Island, visit www.illesbalears.travel and www.infomallorca.net.

A SOLO COLLECTION



A house boat in Kerala backwaters.

SEEING AN increasing demand for solo travel last year, Newmarket Holidays has launched their 'Exclusively for Solo Travellers' collection.

The tours in the collection are designed to connect solo travellers with like-minded folk, helping them share the joys of discovery, exploring and holiday relaxation with others, while giving them the space to explore at their own pace.

Accommodation for tours in this collection is typically in twin/double rooms for solo use.

The company has added more single rooms, and twin rooms for single occupancy, to their standard escorted tours, highlighting their commitment to solo travellers.

Tours with solo rooms available include long-standing customer favourites such as Scottish Highland Railways, priced from £665 per person.

Guests will experience some of the beautiful scenery as they enjoy the

brehtaking train journey from Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh. The dramatic 42 miles of the famous West Highland line from Fort William to Mallaig, and a nostalgic trip on the steam-hauled Strathspey Railway complete an unforgettably scenic few days exploring one of Scotland's most beautiful regions by train.

The trip includes four nights' dinner, bed and Scottish breakfast accommodation at the Carrbridge Hotel, Carrbridge; a welcome drink on your first evening; return flights to Scotland; coach travel and transfers throughout; and the services of a friendly, experienced tour manager.

If your clients are looking for a longer sojourn, the 18-day 'Kerala & India's Beautiful South' is a good choice. Starting from £2,899 per person, the itinerary explores the idyllic land of ancient ports, backwaters and forest uplands dotted with temples and tea plantations.

www.newmarketholidays.co.uk/solo-travel

A tranquil trip into the heart of Ireland

SHEARINGS HOLIDAYS has a new 'Heart of Ireland' tour that is designed exclusively for solo travellers.

Featured within the operator's new 'Solo Travel' programme, the tour takes clients into Ireland's hidden heartland. They will discover rural Ireland with its rolling, green fields, traditional charm and quieter pace of life as they explore the River Shannon, stately homes and distilleries.

Departing on June 15 and September 7, this five-day coach tour stays at the Bloomfield House Hotel near Mullingar. Highlights include: a visit to Athlone with a cruise along the River Shannon; a trip to Belvedere House and Gardens; a tour and tasting at the Kilbeggan Distillery boasting 250 years of history plus time in Mullingar to explore.



Priced from £464 per person, the tour includes four night's half board accommodation, three included excursion and all coach travel from North West and West Midlands pick up points. No single supplements apply.

www.shearingsagencies.com



Discover Bulgaria with Regent sans single supplement

REGENT HOLIDAYS have removed the single supplement from a number of their small group tours, including their 'Landscapes & Traditions of Bulgaria' itinerary. A maximum group of 16 single travellers will get to uncover the country's beautiful natural landmarks and historical sights, all in the company of like-minded people.

Throughout the eight-day trip, there will be a chance to roam around Sofia's historical centre as well as sites such as "Devil's Throat" cave, Ruzenski Lom National Park and Asen Fortress.

The tour departs on September 12 and is priced from £1,285 per person. The price is based on one or two people sharing on mostly full board basis, including all accommodation, entrance fees and excursions as specified, transfers and return flights from London to Sofia.

www.regent-holidays.co.uk

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SOLO WOMEN TRAVEL ON THE RISE

A survey found 78% of people taking singles holidays are now aged 50 or over. At the same time, solo travellers are becoming increasingly adventurous with the fastest growing destinations in 2019 were Egypt, Peru, Japan, Lebanon and Georgia.

SINGLES HOLIDAYS bookings are growing by 10% every year – with 68% of solo travellers now female, according to a new survey by Single Holidays. The figures are based on an analysis that examined more than 53,000 singles holidays taken in 2019.

Despite a slowdown across the travel industry in 2019, including the failure of Thomas Cook last September, the singles sector is booming. Bookings were up 10.5% in 2019 and are expected to grow by a further 11% in 2020.

The survey covered a range of trips including beach holidays, cruises, group adventures, escorted tours, spa and wellness retreats and activity holidays. Italy was the most popular destination followed by Vietnam, Egypt, India and Greece.

On average, 68% of travellers were female and 32% male. This compares to 63% female and 37% male in 2017. The average cost of the holidays taken in 2019 was £1,487 (excluding spending money) compared to £1,374 in 2017, an increase of 8.2%.

The survey found that 78% of people taking singles holidays are now aged 50 or over. In 2017 the figure was 70%. At the same time, solo travellers are becoming increasingly adventurous. The fastest growing destinations in 2019 were Egypt, Peru, Japan, Lebanon and Georgia.

Cathy Winston, editor of 101 Singles Holidays, says: “The figures reflect a growing trend in society. More people are living alone and choosing to travel alone, even when they are in committed relationships.

“But all the growth is being powered by women. Increasingly, women have the spending power and feel empowered to travel by themselves. This is particularly true of women aged 50 and above who may be single, widowed or divorced. They don’t need a man to accompany them on holiday – they will do it anyway, whether that’s learning to scuba dive in Thailand or joining an Arctic cruise to experience the Midnight Sun.

“Today’s singles holidays are not for lonely hearts seeking love or hook-ups. They are aimed at solo travellers looking for the thrill of discovery and adventure, whether



that’s alone or with a group of like-minded people.

“The population is getting older, but people in their 50s no longer feel old. In fact, it’s a time for exploration, adventure and new horizons. For many women, their children have left home or become independent, there’s money in the bank and – in some cases – marriages have ended.”

According to the Office of National Statistics, the number of people living alone has increased by 20% over the last 20 years, from 6.8 million in 1999 to 8.2 million in 2019.

Most popular destinations for singles holidays in 2019 are Italy, Vietnam, Egypt, India and Greece.

Fastest growing destinations for singles holidays in 2019 are Egypt, Peru, Japan, Lebanon and Georgia.



Go solo with TUI River Cruises

ABI DEVANEY, general manager of TUI River Cruises reveals her top tips for agents to pass on to clients who are taking solo river cruise holidays.

- Book early: All of our cabins are on the outside of the ship with either a window or French balcony and we have three dedicated solo cabins per ship. Each ship has one standard single and two French balcony cabins for solo cruisers.
- There will be plenty of activities exclusively for solo travellers, hosted by the cruise director or activity host. Relax and enjoy yourself – travelling alone for the first time can be daunting but you’ll be met by our friendly crew who will instantly make you feel at ease. www.tui.co.uk/river-cruises/

Give single supplements the slip with Kirker's escorted tours

SOLO TRAVELLERS can enjoy escorted cultural tours sans paying through the nose with Kirker Holidays as the operator is offering no single supplement places on two of its escorted cultural tours in 2020.

New for 2020, 'The Gardens of Wicklow' is a four-night tour priced at £1,765 with no single supplement. The past two or three decades have seen a new crop of bold and beautiful gardens maturing within the romantic landscape of south-east Ireland, and this four-night tour presents an opportunity to meet the plantsmen and women at the heart of this horticultural revolution.

The tour departing on July 6 includes British Airways flights (Heathrow), four nights' accommodation with breakfast at the four-star Brooklodge Hotel, four lunches and four dinners, all entrance fees and gratuities, and the services of the Kirker tour lecturer, Kirsty Fergusson.

Another tour is 'Lucca & The Lucchese Hills', a four-night holiday exploring the

artistic treasures of the Tuscan town. Lucca is a popular destination for day visitors and a four-night stay provides ample time to enjoy its charms, such as



Powerscourt Estate, Ireland.

the gourmet shops which line Il Fillungo, as well as an opportunity to explore the beautiful hills which surround the city itself. Departing on November 3, the price is £1,328 per person with no single supplement, including British Airways flights (Heathrow), four nights' accommodation with breakfast at the four-star San Luca Palace, three dinners, a ticket for a recital of arias from popular Italian operas, all entrance fees and gratuities, and the services of the Kirker tour lecturer, Charlie Hall.

Charlie Hall has known Italy intimately since 1965 when his father set up the John Hall Venice course for gap year students who wish to learn the many aspects of Venetian and Italian culture. He now runs the programme with his father and spends almost half of the year working in Italy. Charlie has now led many Italian tours for Kirker, to destinations including Rome, Florence and Venice. www.kirkerholidays.com



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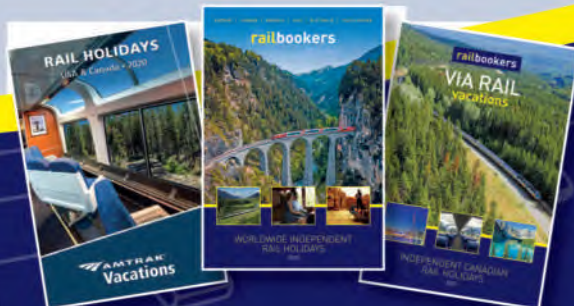
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RAIL HOLIDAYS

RAIL-Y GOOD DEALS

Savings, celebrations and competitions with Great Rail Journeys as they inspire agents and travellers to hop aboard.

GREAT RAIL Journeys has announced the extension of its worldwide offerings with new 2021 destinations to inspire holidaymakers.

To celebrate, they are offering two-for-one London flight upgrades on selected 2021 departures to some of its highly popular tours. The offer allows customers to upgrade their inbound and outbound flights from £350 per person when booking on or before May 31.

Also, they have an early booking offer, providing travellers a saving of up to £200 per person when they book on or before May 31.

Here is a round-up of what's on offer:

- Majestic Africa and the Train on the Bridge 2021 – 11 days

from £6,995 per person.

Here, guests can sample South Africa's world-class wines, catch a glimpse of wildlife and wake up to views across Kruger National Park, with a stay in the Kruger Shalati: The Train on the Bridge. The tour continues through to Zambia, where visitors can enjoy a sunset cruise along the Zambezi River.

- Tigers and Leopards of India and Sri Lanka 2021 – 17 days from £2,995 per person.

This is a 17-day tour that takes in the Taj Mahal, Ranthambore National Park to spot the Bengal tiger, Lion's Rock Fortress in Sigiriya and Yala National Park.

- The Essence of South

America – 16 days from £4,195 per person.

Travellers here will explore three countries: Peru, Argentina, and Brazil. Guests will see the Inca remains of Machu Picchu, the Iguazu Falls, and Rio.

Competition: Great Rail Journeys' has launched a travel agent competition offering one lucky winner a trip on its Majestic Rhine Cruise. Agents need to secure a booking on any of their cruise offerings departing in 2020 or 2021 and e-mail the booking reference to agencysales@greatrail.com. The competition closes on March 31.

For more details, visit www.facebook.com/groups/832540480139599.

Amsterdam gets closer to London

EUROSTAR WILL begin a high-speed rail service from Amsterdam to London, starting on April 30.

This will cut the journey time between the two cities as previously passengers had to change at Brussels on the return leg to St Pancras. The direct journey is expected to take 4hrs 10mins.

There are currently three outbound services a day from the UK to the Netherlands. The direct inbound journey from Amsterdam to London will start with two services, with the aim of increasing to a third, and then a fourth. Bookings have opened with fares costing from £35 each way. The rail operator will also start a direct service to Rotterdam starting on May 18.

www.eurostar.com/ 08432 186186.

BUCKET LIST RAIL TRIPS

Railbookers is offering once-in-a-lifetime immersion trips filled with must-do experiences.



RAILBOOKERS HAS released its Premier Collection of impressive rail holiday itineraries.

It's comprised of 12 of the brand's most popular itineraries that take in extraordinary destinations, accommodations, excursions, and activities with unrivalled access.

In Switzerland, travellers can experience three new packages that feature the Bernina and Glacier Express train journeys, iconic hotel stays at Pilatus Kulm, located at the top of Mount Pilatus, the Riffelalp Resort (Europe's highest luxury hotel that's only accessible by taking the Gornergrat Cog Railway), and the five-star Waldhaus Sils in St. Moritz.

The 'Madrid and Andalusian Explorer' showcases first class rail travel between the cities of Madrid, Seville, Cordoba, and Granada. Travellers will also enjoy city tours,

a Flamenco show with tapas, entrance to the Alcazar in Cordoba, and stay overnight within the Alhambra Palace in Granada.

Italy features a stay at the five-star Il Sogno di Giulietta (Romeo and Juliet hotel), a cooking class, a day trip to Cinque Terre, a private tour of Bologna, breakfast at the Vatican, and a private, guided tour of the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica before it opens to the public.

'Gems of Northern India' offers a sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal and an all-inclusive overnight stay at the tranquil 350-year-old Ramanthra Fort, which offers 360-degree views of rural Rajasthan. In addition, this trip is packed with sightseeing tours, a cooking class, a journey in Executive Class onboard the Gatimaan Express train, and much more. www.railbookers.co.uk.

Conscious train travel with Sunvil

SUNVIL LAUNCHES new itineraries to Greece by train as a flight-free, slower way of travelling for the conscious holidaymaker.

A seven-night stay in Corfu becomes a nine-night holiday (with two nights en route to Corfu).

Sunvil organises the multi-country train journeys and tailors each trip so passengers can stay for additional nights en route to explore further, and choose their accommodation on Corfu – staying in hotels and apartments with Sunvil or a villa with GIC The Villa Collection, part of the Sunvil family.



The trip costs from £1,099 per person based on two sharing.

Sivota by train follows initially the same journey from London – travelling via Eurostar to Paris, taking a train from Paris to Milan for an overnight stay and then getting the train from Milan to Bari. From Bari, take the overnight ferry to Igoumenitsa before being transferred to the Sioutis Hotel Apartments.

Sivota is brimming with natural beauty, located in the mountainous region of Epirus.

This trip costs from £1,099 per person based on two sharing. www.sunvil.co.uk/02087584758.



New night train service from Brussels to Vienna

THE AUSTRIAN Railway OEBB has unveiled its new Nightjet from Brussels to Vienna and Innsbruck in Tirol twice a week.

The service will run on Mondays and Thursdays from Brussels and Sundays and Wednesdays from Vienna / Innsbruck.

Passengers will leave Brussels at 18:04 and arrive in Vienna at 08:27 or in Innsbruck at 09:14 the following day.

Travellers from the UK can take the Eurostar to Brussels Midi and change there.

OEBB is intending to expand its network of overnight trains and will be introducing new night trains "suitable to the needs of tomorrow".

www.nightjet.com/en.



WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS

IT'S A NICE DAY FOR A GREEN WEDDING

With increasing interest in sustainable living, Jenny Lane, our agent columnist from Blue Eye Travel, suggests some pointers for planning the perfect eco-conscious destination wedding.



MORE AND more couples are choosing a destination wedding, but coupled with an increase in people looking for

more environmentally friendly options, how can you help clients make more informed decisions when booking their destination wedding with you?

Firstly, it's important to start with the flights as you can now suggest airlines that produce less CO₂ and contribute to carbon offsetting.

Another option to suggest to clients is that they choose local, in-house suppliers to reduce wastage and emissions given out by vehicles transporting supplies to the venue. This is especially applicable to flowers – clients can be encouraged to use in season and local flowers rather than importing flowers into the venue.

When it comes to food, there are charities who are taking leftover food from large events, such as weddings, so you or your client can check if there are any nearby.

If you are working with clients to narrow down hotel options for their wedding

venue, and more sustainable options are an area they are keen on, there are many you can suggest. The Iberostar Cozumel has been awarded Green Globe certification, meaning that they have been certified by a standard with 300 indicators covering energy management, water and land use.

For the eco-conscious couple, a wedding website will save on stationery costs and keep all your clients' guests updates with itineraries and what to do in the local areas. It can also be used during and after the wedding to upload photos of your couple's big day!

Honeymoon hideaway

FUNWAY HOLIDAYS are celebrating the opening of two honeymoon-friendly resorts.

Scheduled for a 2022 date, AMResorts is opening two new luxury, all-inclusive resorts in the Dominican Republic, including: Secrets Playa Esmeralda Punta Cana and Dreams Playa Esmeralda Punta Cana.

Both resorts are located in secluded Miches, in the north east coast of the Dominican Republic, which is approximately a 80-minute drive from Punta Cana. This is a new area for clients to choose, and is an especially good choice for those looking for a hideaway-feel honeymoon.

Each property will have 750 rooms and suites, with 250 rooms at each resort exclusively for Preferred Club guests.

The resorts will be part of a \$400 million complex that will feature a convention center, a theatre for live performances, and retail and dining venues. www.funway4holidays.co.uk

JUST SAY I DO

Good things come in pairs, and Cyplon's 'Weddings & Renewal of Vows' brochure is testament to this, offering stunning options in sea-swept Cyprus and Greece to sell your clients.

CYPLON HOLIDAYS has unveiled its dedicated 'Weddings & Renewal of Vows Brochure' showcasing its selection of new and much-loved resorts with a host of wedding venues in Cyprus and Greece

Highlights of the brochure include stunning outdoor venues in Santorini, such as the Santorini Gem and Le Ciel, a greater choice of beach wedding venues in Cyprus and Skiathos, and more hotels in the Greek islands of Rhodes and Crete.

In Cyprus, the five-star luxury Columbia Beach Resort has been added, as well as picturesque Cypriot venues, including the Vasilias Nikoklis Inn, surrounded by verdant landscapes and charming backdrops.

Wedding packages start from £389 for the operator's basic package, and include a single-tier wedding cake, large bridal bouquet and groom's buttonhole, as well as a UK and overseas wedding coordinator. Silver and gold wedding packages are available from £719 and £1,365 respectively. If clients want more personalisation, agents can help in creating tailor-made wedding packages if there is a desire to design a bespoke wedding occasion, with the ability to request a venue not featured within the brochure.

Tass Anastasi, director of sales and marketing, stated: "Our destination 'Weddings & Renewal of Vows' brochure showcases the very best luxury resorts, picturesque venues and idyllic beaches to celebrate a couple's special occasion. Our experienced weddings teams in the UK and in resort ensure that every



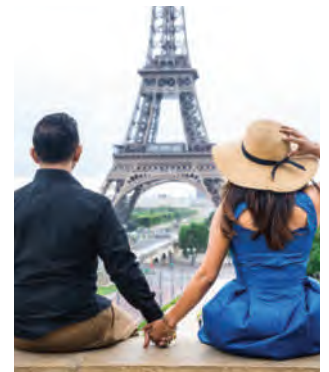
couple is given a personalised and exceptional service, supported by a wealth of knowledge and guidance on legal documentation and the finer details, to create an intimate and serene wedding in Cyprus or Greece."

Download or order your copy at www.cyplon.co.uk/bulk-order-brochures

The City of Love

SIMPLY LUXURY by Travel 2 has introduced the Hôtel de Berri, a Luxury Collection Hotel in Paris for city-dwelling honeymooners.

The hotel is close to many of the famous sites, including Champs Elysées and Arc de Triomphe, making it the ideal spot for guests to experience the romance of Paris.



This stylish hotel has been designed to showcase pieces of Parisian art and references to fashion designers including Elsa Schiaparelli and Coco Chanel.

Le Schiap restaurant, within the hotel, serves delicious authentic Mediterranean cuisine and Le Bizazz bar is the perfect place for newlyweds to end their day after exploring the sites of Paris.

The trip consists of a three-night stay at the five-star Hotel de Barri on a bed-and-breakfast basis. Prices for this trip are from £849 per person, with return flights from Gatwick. This includes return private transfers and complimentary UK lounge passes.

www.travel2.com



Take your rock to the Rockies

FOR THOSE who have popped the question, Canadian Affair is offering the perfect honeymoon getaways for adventure-seeking couples.

Canadian Affair's 'Rockies & Alaska Cruise Extravaganza Holiday' is a combination of two thrilling adventures. Guests will journey through the Rockies before stepping aboard a cruise from Vancouver to Alaska.

Prices start from £2,673 per person, and this includes 10 nights' hotel accommodation, two days' Rocky Mountaineer daylight service in SilverLeaf Service, seven nights' full board on an Alaska cruise in an Inside Cabin, transfers from Calgary to Banff and Lake Louise, and return international flights from the UK.

www.canadianaffair.com

A destination wedding Hvar, Hvar away...

PART OF the VIBE by Jet2holidays collection, The Hotel Amfora Grand Beach Resort in Hvar, Croatia, is set within perfectly manicured gardens and offers a beautiful setting for any couple looking to host a spectacular wedding reception.

From cascading pools, which are illuminated at night, to the 'Bonj les Bains' private beach club, the hotel oozes romance.

The banqueting team at the resort is thoroughly versed in wedding management and will make sure that your client's big day is all smooth sailing.

The resort, where medieval cobbled streets meet contemporary hangouts, is situated in a quiet bay. At just 800m away



from Hvar town, it is within easy access to bars, clubs and restaurants.

Known for its deep history and abundance of sightseeing opportunities, Hvar is guaranteed to keep any newlyweds or wedding parties entertained.

A sample package with

Jet2holidays is seven nights, bed-and-breakfast at the four-star Hotel Amfora Beach Resort. Departing on May 9, the price is £719 per person based on two sharing and includes a 22kg baggage allowance and return transfers.

www.jet2holidays.com

Relish the romance in Mauritius

FOR HONEYMOONERS, Gold Medal is offering a seven-night beachside escape to Mauritius.

The Outrigger Mauritius boasts a breathtaking beachfront location alongside the turquoise lagoons of the Indian Ocean.

While at the resort, newlyweds can unwind at one of the four swimming pools, relax with a treatment at the Navasana Spa, or explore Bel Ombre's nature reserve. Fitness-focused guests can make the most of water sports, the fitness centre and tennis courts.

Seven nights on a full-board basis is priced from £1,249 per person. Return flights are with Emirates from Stansted.

www.goldmedal.co.uk

'Your Wedding Concierge' is ready for agent use

FOR AGENTS who want to offer services to clients who are planning their wedding, 'Your Wedding Concierge' can be utilised for a straight-forward process.

Agents will be able to help plan their client's wedding through the service. 'Your Wedding Concierge' is unique in the wedding market as it provides an integrated all-in-one service, from wedding planning, hen and stag parties through to wedding websites, supplier and venue research – meaning that clients don't have to manage multiple suppliers, but have a single reliable point of contact instead.

The site creator, Jenny Lane (see page 25), will work in conjunction with agents to ensure a seamless integrated service. The wedding booking, and any travel options, will fall under agents and clients pay a percentage of their wedding budget for the site's services directly to Your Wedding Concierge. As a bonus, agents can win Love2shop vouchers for referrals.

For more information, email contact@yourweddingconcierge.co.uk

Instagram: [@your.wedding.concierge](https://www.instagram.com/your.wedding.concierge)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/your.wedding.concierge



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A MATCH MADE IN GREECE

AITO SPECIALIST Planet Weddings has added new wedding venues in Greece for 2020, including Paphos, Cyprus, Crete, Rhodes and Santorini.

The new venue in Cyprus is Ktima Alassos, which is nestled on the outskirts of Paphos towards Coral Bay, is set in its own grounds. The venue offers superb sea views and a choice of weddings including civil ceremonies, Anglican ceremonies, same-sex celebrations and renewal of vows.

Planet Weddings can help agents organise the ceremony, the reception, the transportation, the flowers, the cake,

the photographer and videographer with a dedicated Planet Weddings wedding coordinator.

In Santorini, which continues to be the most popular destination wedding aisle in Greece, Planet Weddings has introduced Venetsanos, a winery located above the port of Athinios overlooking the caldera. This was the first winery on Santorini and was built in 1947. It continues to produce wine, but now offers a beautiful wedding venue that is positioned on the upper terrace, a space overlooking the caldera with an open air reception-dining area.

www.planetweddings.co.uk

Island escape

SET AMID 18 hectares of lush tropical flora and fauna on the Gaafu Alifu Atoll, Pullman Maldives Maamutaa Resort has recently opened its doors as the first Pullman property in the Maldives.

This all-inclusive resort is surrounded by vegetation, a natural lake, golden beaches and lagoons, making it an ideal destination for weddings or honeymoons.

At the resort, the Panorama Lawn is a secluded point at the top of the island which looks out onto the azure waters – the ideal place to get married or renew marriage vows.

There are two dining pavilions, Romeo and Juliet, where couples can have special private evenings and indulge in delicious food and cocktails.

The entire resort is designed with a wellbeing approach that is based on four pillars: 'Sleep, Sport, Food and Spa'. The resort's overwater spa has eight treatment rooms with a spa menu including massage therapies, body treatments and signature facials.

Prices are from £935 based on two people sharing. Rates include an all inclusive meal plan.

www.pullmanmaldivesmaamutaa.com



Where would you take a solo trip?



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SHOWCASES

Invites you to attend a

CARIBBEAN SHOWCASE

An agent networking evening

MONDAY 6TH APRIL

Bristol Marriott City Centre

Agents, come and join us at this informative, fun events and learn more about the accommodation and flight options available to this amazing part of the world. Soak up the Caribbean ambiance and discover the diverse range of activities, wedding and honeymoon and tailor-made packages on offer to meet your customers' needs.

This evening will involve a combination of networking and presentations, delicious authentic food and drinks, exciting entertainment along with a free prize draw with a number of fabulous prizes to be won.

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Registration: **18:00 hours**

Networking & Presentations: **18:20 hours**

Hot Dinner, Entertainment & Prizes: **20:30 hours**

Carriages: **21:45 hours**

To confirm your places at one of these amazing events,
email the names of up to 5 staff members
by **Friday 27th March** to
events@travelbulletin.co.uk or telephone:

020 7834 6661

for more information.

This event is by invitation only and will be booked on a first come first served basis.



Win a cruise for 2 on MS River Discovery II

Every booking you make between 1 March-31 May 2020 will automatically be entered into the prize draw

PLUS

£25 lifestyle voucher for Titan River Cruise bookings

£10 lifestyle voucher for all other bookings

For every booking in March-May you can claim a voucher!



NEW river cruise 2021 brochure out now!

For more details visit www.titanagents.co.uk

Terms and conditions apply. All bookings made from 1 March-31 May 2020 will be automatically entered and the winner will be picked at random and notified by Friday 5 June 2020. Winner must be a UK travel agent plus one companion. Prize will need to be taken in 2021. No cash alternatives and no refunds. To claim email agentincentives@titantravel.co.uk within seven days of confirming the booking. Agents responsible for their own tax implications.



perfect moments shared

New for 2021



BRAND NEW SHIP

Five-star MS Lord Tennyson

Launching in April 2021, our latest Swiss-built boutique river cruise ship will benefit from all of the excellent amenities and attention to detail that guests have come to expect from Riviera Travel. With 88 beautifully appointed cabins and suites, all benefitting from river views, the ship is perfectly sized for creating a relaxed yet convivial atmosphere on board.

Lord Tennyson and his celebrated collection of poems inspired the name for the newest addition to Riviera Travel's literary inspired fleet.

RIVIERA PLUS



We are delighted to introduce *Riviera Plus*. Customers in all deluxe and superior suites and all upper-deck cabins will benefit from a wealth of unique, new benefits including:

Smart handset with maps, translator, currency converter, unlimited calls, text messages and internet usage, on-board or ashore



L'Occitane en Provence toiletries for that extra touch of luxury



Bottle of chilled Prosecco on arrival



Platter of fresh seasonal fruits during the cruise



An aperitif each evening, with our compliments



Evolving On-board Dining

We will be expanding our menus to help our guests experience the true taste of the destinations they are cruising through. Each evening, our on-board chefs will offer a choice of 'Local Flavours' options that are inspired by the cuisine and techniques of the area. From traditional heart Hungarian soups, to sumptuous French cassoulets, to indulgent Dutch pastries, our guests will be able to connect to their destination through food & drink.



BRAND NEW ITINERARY

Amsterdam, Cologne and the Best of Holland & Flanders

Following feedback from our customers who have enjoyed cruising around Holland and Belgium in the springtime with us, we have introduced a brand new 7-night itinerary enabling guests to visit these wonderful destinations throughout the season.

With visits to iconic cities like Cologne and Amsterdam as well as quaint towns such as Ghent and Antwerp, there is fabulous blend of scenery, history, arts and gastronomy to savour.



Call 01283 744370 to book or visit www.rivieratravel.co.uk/agents

Early booking offer

To celebrate our biggest ever river cruise launch, we're offering **£200 per person** off any cabin when you book a 2021 European river cruise of 8 days or more.

Offer ends 30 April 2020

Save
£200 pp
with our early
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offer*



Meet the team

Our head office is located in Burton-on-trent where there is a dedicated reservations team available to take your call Monday to Friday 9 - 7pm and Saturday and Sunday 10 - 4pm.



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