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Find out if our ever-popular showcases are heading to a city near you!



NEWS

Stay in the know with the latest developments.



AGENT BULLETIN

All the incentives and training opportunities you need to succeed!



CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean calls with our latest picks, openings and developments from the tropical haven.



RIVER & OCEAN CRUISING

It's a big'un as we collate some exciting developments in the world of Cruising!

'MATES BREAKS' MAKE WAY FOR FAMILY FAVOURITES

Gen Z appear to prefer multi-generational escapes to the classic 'Mates Breaks' as El Camino Bracelets reveals insightful booking trends.

A SURVEY conducted by travel brand El Camino Bracelets has revealed a turning tide on 'Mates Breaks', as younger generations appear to prefer multigenerational family holidays over breaks with friends or solo travel.

The findings also unveil interesting generational divide in regards to preferred travel style and destinations.

Over 1,500 Brits responded to the survey: 14% suggested they preferred to holiday with friends. 15% of Gen Z respondents would rather travel solo, but almost triple (41%) favour family forays.

Only 22% of the same demographic have mates breaks as their preferred holiday style.

An interesting revelation came as 19% of nearing-retirement or recent retiree travellers chose solo travel as their top priority, and over half (52%) picked travelling with just their partner. Fewer

than one in five prefer to travel with their wider family.

Different generations have different bucket-list destinations: Australia, to no surprise, remains top of the travel wishlist for Gen Z (22%), as opposed to Canada (11%) and (8%) for 45-54 year olds.

Japan featured in the top three destinations across all age groups.

For the seasoned traveller, Australia, New Zealand and Iceland topped the list of their preferred destinations that they've already visited.

El Camino Bracelets founder, Candace Kellough, explained the findings: "Our survey did throw up some surprising results. Older travellers are sharing that their yearning to travel and see new things doesn't just disappear, and I'm pleased to see the desire for solo and partner travel is so strong amongst recent retirees."

www.elcaminobracelets.com



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Showcase Calendar

Sign up to our showcases: www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events/agents









Riviera refreshes trade-friendly site

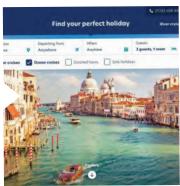
RIVIERA TRAVEL has relaunched its site, bolstering functionality for both consumers and trade partners.

The platform now allows all holiday information to be accessed via a single-link itinerary page, with pop-ups spotlighting hotel, ship, and daily excursion details.

Booking Riviera itineraries is made easier than ever, with pricing and availability

displayed earlier in the navigation journey.

Stuart Milan, channel director at Riviera Travel, said: "The past three years have seen a huge uplift in the number of agents interacting with our digital platforms. We're very excited to release this enhanced version of our website, with the online experience now made as easy as possible for all visitors." www.rivieratravel.co.uk





LA Tourism celebrates Virgin Atlantic service boost

LOS ANGELES Tourism brought the sunshine to Virgin Atlantic's offices last month to celebrate the airline's increased service from London Heathrow to LAX.

2019 service levels have been upped by 18%, with 21 weekly direct flights now on offer.

Francine Sheridan, Los Angeles
Tourism's regional VP, said: "Their
offering of more flights than in
2019 is great for the trade, with
more opportunities to get clients
to the City of Angels."
www.latourism.org /
www.virginatlantic.com

Jayride reaches July million milestone

TRANSFER PROVIDER Jayride surpassed its expected target of a one million passenger trip run rate in July, following it its biggest-ever month when 85,100 trips were booked.

Key markets have seen across-the-board upsurges, with the European summer surge being in full swing helping the provider to push the million-passenger trip target set in February.

The provider's managing director Rod Bishop celebrated the milestone: "Jayride is delivering on the anticipated European summer peak season. With this momentum we have passed the next milestone in our strategy to become a much larger and profitable company."

www.jayride.com

mage Credits: Top: Virgin Voyages, Bottom: Newmarket Holidays

One million Virgin Points up for grabs



VIRGIN VOYAGES has teamed up with Virgin Red for an exclusive incentive, offering the cruise line's agent partners (or 'First Mates') the chance to win a million Virgin Points.

The points can be redeemed on a number of prizes, from Big Apple breaks to concert tickets or Caribbean escapes.

By making any Mediterranean bookings between now and October 31st, 2023, agents will be automatically entered.

The winner will be announced on the week commencing November 6th, 2023.

www.firstmates.com

Newmarket reveals Tattoo tour for 2024

HELPING AGENTS to capitalise on the excitement of 2023's iteration, Newmarket Holidays has updated its exclusive Edinburgh Tattoo tours for 2024.

Richard Forde, the operator's head of Retail Sales, said: "Our newly updated 'Edinburgh Tattoo' four-day escorted tour has been revised with customer feedback in mind, now opting for a favourably located central Glasgow hotel that allows our customers more time to explore the city during an orientation tour and at their leisure.

"In addition, the option of an excursion on the third day means that customers can customise their itinerary to see more of the surrounding area."

The tour-only option starts from £620 per person, with £799 flight-inclusive packages also on offer. www.newmarketholidays.co.uk/agents-area



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KIERLAND COMMONS ARROWHEAD TOWNE CENTER CHANDLER FASHION CENTER

CALIFORNIA
SANTA MONICA PLACE BROADWAY PLAZA
LA CUMBRE PLAZA ARDEN FAIR

CONNECTICUT

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COLORADO

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NEW YORK

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OREGON

WASHINGTON SQUARE VALLEY RIVER CENTER

PENNSYLVANIA

FASHION DISTRICT PHILADELPHIA

WASHINGTON, DC

TYSONS CORNER CENTER

For more information on our tourism programs, visit MacerichTourism.com







Inghams Ski unveils new train route with Eurostar

ALL ABOARD for the 2023/24 ski season, as Inghams Ski has revealed a partnership with Eurostar that will see the operator offer train-and-ski packages to Val d'Isère, Tignes and Les Arcs.

With booking now open, the train service will run for eight



weekends from December 16th, 2023. Guaranteeing an extra day to enjoy the slopes with Saturday-Sunday packages, the train team-up also ensures a more sustainable ski escape.

Krissy Roe, senior sustainability manager at Hotelplan UK and Inghams Ski, said: "We are so excited to be able to offer our customers a new, more sustainable travel option after a frustrating few years of debate around the ski train. We are proud to be one of Eurostar's partners at the launch of this service and are committed to supporting them on this venture.

"We want to make it as easy and accessible as possible for our guests to enjoy experiencing train travel — travelling through the landscape, soaking it all in as they go."

www.inghams.co.uk/eurostar-

snow-train



THE UK has confirmed its place as Washington D.C.'s largest overseas market, with Destination DC revealing that 131,000 visitors explored the American capital in 2022. To sustain the impressive momentum, a new advertising campaign, 'There's Only One DC', has been unveiled ahead of an official launch in November. www.washington.org

Football Escapes return to Jumeirah this October

JUMEIRAH BEACH Hotel, located on Dubai's iconic coastline, has confirmed the return of the Football Escapes camp for this October half term.

The camp will welcome ex-pros Michael Owen and Gary Cahill, along with a team of UEFA-licensed coaches, for three camps over a three-week period, kicking off on October 16th, 23rd and 30th.

Taking place at the hotel's events arena,

against the backdrop of the Burj Al Arab Jumeirah, the camps guarantee children aged five to 15 an engaging and fun environment to develop their game.

Upon booking, Football Escapes' team of in-house consultants will reach out to enhance guest experience with personalised itineraries.

Prices for the camps start at £650 per child. www.footballescapes.com/destinations/dubai

Back of the net with EVA Air

THE TAIWANESE independent airline EVA Air is giving away a pair of tickets to every West Ham United home game.

Agents can be in with a chance of winning by following, liking and commenting on the airline's social media posts regarding its partnership with the Premier League team, which will go live on Facebook and Instagram two weeks before each fixture.

Sarah Wu, General Manager of EVA Air's London office says: "We are



excited to be able to offer this social media competition, which will help us increase engagement on our website and brand awareness of our flights and services among West Ham United's large fanbase."

www.evaair.com



Outrigger welcomes Hawaii resort

OUTRIGGER RESORTS & Hotels has celebrated the addition of the Kauai Beach Resort & Spa to its portfolio.

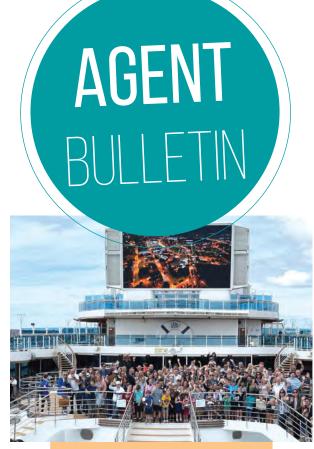
The resort, situated on the 'Garden Island' of Kauai, Hawaii is home to 350 guestrooms across 25 acres. www.outrigger.com

AGENT INCENTIVES

- THE LAS Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA) is offering agents the chance to win Xbox consoles and F1 video games in celebration of the Vegas Grand Prix, taking place this November. Five Xbox consoles with the F1 23 video game are up for grabs, with ten F1 23 game gift cards on offer to runners-up. Any Las Vegas bookings count for one entry into the draw, which will take place on September 26th, 2023. Agents who sign up to LVCVA's agent reward and education programme can earn double entries. www.taconnect.net/rewar
- . MAKE A Fiji booking with If Only for your chance to win a luxury holiday bundle worth £1,000. The bundle includes designer sunglasses, personalised luggage and Love2shop vouchers. The top Fiji booker with If Only by October 20th, 2023 will win. www.ifonly.net/agents/inc entives

ds/lvcva

- . ANY BOOKINGS for voyages featured in Fred.\Holidays' new 2024/25 Cruise & Stay brochure include a £25 voucher. Find out more about the brochure in our Ocean Cruising feature, from page 27. www.fredholidays.co.uk
- SANDALS RESORTS suitcases are up for grabs with any Autumn Sale bookings. Six cabin-sized branded suitcases are available, with six winners drawn at random. Register any Autumn Sales bookings with your local Sandals Resorts business development manager by October 3rd to be in with a chance of winning. Find out more about the Autumn Sale offerings in our Caribbean feature on page 16. www.sellingsandals.co.uk



TRAVEL COUNSELLORS hosted agents and their families for two Cruise Family Days last month. Over 300 agents were treated to fun-filled days aboard Regal Princess, which was docked in Liverpool, and Anthem of the Seas, in Southampton.



Five questions stand between you and a sevennight stay at the five-star **Bahia Principe in Mexico!**

Enter now at

www.travelbulletin.co.uk/ competitions

AGENT TRAINING

- COMPLETE FIVE training modules on the Cook Islands agent training course for your chance to win Love2shop vouchers worth up to £100. Two £100 vouchers and three £20 vouchers will be given away to select agents completing the course's five modules by October 31st, 2023. www.travelbulletin.co.uk/tra velgym/destination-training
- BECOME A certified Anguilla Expert with the Caribbean hotspot's training programme. Discover why Anguilla is 'beyond extraordinary', get sales tips and suggestions, download a certificate confirming your Expert Status and explore the latest news from the island haven. www.anguillaexpert.com

- WE HAVE liftoff on complimentary passes to the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex for all agents completing the UK trade training programme. You'll learn all about the attraction and discover everything you need to sell the space-age Floridian attraction. www.travelbulletin.co.uk/tra velgym/other-travel-training
- THE SAINT Lucia Tourism Authority training programme certifies agent partners with a downloadable certificate of achievement upon completion, an exclusive agent incentive programme offering fam trips, exclusive events and competitions, and the ability to learn on the go. www.saintluciaexpert.com
- TRAIN YOUR way to exclusive agent rates to experience Rocky Mountaineer for yourself! The bucket-list luxury liner through the Rockies and American Southwest has an exclusive trade portal and training programme, guaranteeing you'll have all the expertise needed to sell. www.travelbulletin.co.uk/tra velgym/other-travel-training



SARAH BOLTON

TRAVEL COUNSELLORS

YOU MAY find that very few guests will come to you asking for a river cruise, but it's always worth suggesting one. River cruises are perfect for a range of travel styles and can be switch-sold by throwing in a curveball to your suggestions.

Escorted touring: for guests who like to see several destinations in one trip, and have most things included with free time and a choice of excursions and dining. City breakers: river cruises go to some of the most popular European cities (Vienna, Budapest, Paris) and are a perfect way to see more than one, with the opportunity to extend with pre- or post-cruise stays. Independent travellers: river cruising is flexible - every time you moor up you can go ashore independently, including when the ships dock overnight. There are no rigid timetables (just the ship's schedule). Plus, with river ships being small (usually 100-190 guests, even on the larger ones!) there is a more relaxed atmosphere. Ocean cruisers: these cruises can only reach coastal areas, whereas river cruises are more in-depth and reach the heart and countryside of the places they go through, including land-locked ones, making it the perfect choice for guests wanting to explore a country more and immerse themselves in the local culture.

So how should you persuade them this is what they need? Show them the value. Quite often, the upfront price may be higher than what they may have considered but go through the inclusions.

Unlike ocean cruising, river ships sail during daylight hours, allowing time for scenic cruising as you watch the world go by along the banks. The perfect combination of relaxation on board and exploration ashore!



Arctic Express puts Finnair in Pole position

IN A bid to strengthen its Nordic connections, Finnair has launched a new 'Arctic Express' service connecting Helsinki, Rovaniemi and Tromsø. The service will operate twice per week from December 2nd, with the winter-seasonal route putting Finnair in pole position for flights to Lapland.

Antti Tolvanen, Finnair SVP Network & Revenue, said: "The Arctic nature and high-quality travel experiences appeal to travellers from various parts of the world, such as Asia and Central Europe. With this new connection, visitors to the Arctic region can conveniently combine both Lapland and northern Norway in one trip."

www.finnair.com

News Bites

- INTREPID TRAVEL has acquired the Daintree Ecolodge in Tropical North Queensland, marking a new chapter in the operator's expansion model.
- JET2CITYBREAKS HAS unveiled its biggest-ever programme for winter 2024/25, with more than 600,000 seats on sale to nine destinations.
- WALDORF ASTORIA has made its African debut with the addition of Cairo Heliopolis to its portfolio.



BACKROADS HAS introduced an exclusive collection of Women's Adventures to its programme, featuring 26 of its most popular Walking & Hiking itineraries across bucket-list destinations. The women-only tours include dynamic adventures across North America, Europe, South America and the Asia Pacific region, each featuring a dedicated trip Leader and flexible itineraries to suit everyone's needs. www.backroads.com

WIN A £20 M&S VOUCHER IN THE TOULENING SUDOKU PRIZE PUZZLE

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

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

Closing date for entries is September 21st. Solution and new puzzle will appear in the next issue.

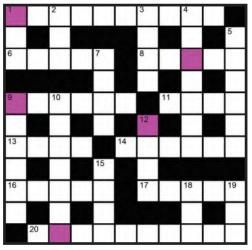
The winner for August 25th is Georgie Perez from Woods Travel Ltd.

August 25th Solution: A=2 B=4 C=3 D=9

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



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



Across

- Popular budget hotel brand (10)
- 6 Climbing aid, might be useful on an aptly named St Lucia peak (5)
- B Hotel and resorts company (5)
- 9 Harry Kane recently left Spurs to play in this German city (6)
- 11 Travel association for specialist operators, initially (4)
- 13 Could be wild feline, a car, or sports wear brand (4)
- 14 There is a Grand one in Arizona (6)
- 16 Country on the northern side of the Himalayas (5)
- 17 North African mountain range (5)
- 20 Actor Denzel, appearing in The Equalizer 3 at a cinema near you (10)

Down

- 1 Carrier with a main hub at Lisbon airport (3)
- 2 Canberra is the capital, initially (3)
- 3 Island known as The Gathering Place (4)
- 4 Defying ____ is the signature song from the musical Wicked (7)
- 5 One of the three main US Virgin islands (2,4)
- 7 Capital of the Côte d'Azur (4)
- 9 Mozambique's capital city (6)
- 10 Country home of the Etosha National Park (7)
- 2 Codeword for the sixteenth letter of the alphabet, sounds like a relative (4)
- 15 Landlocked US state (4)
- 18 Flag carrier of Poland (3)
- 19 Singapore Changi international airport code (3)

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easyJet holidays



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Top cruise call attractions revealed

12

CRUISE.CO.UK SURVEYED 900 of its customers to reveal the top 10 list of attractions accessible via the continent's coastal cities.

Tony Andrews, cruise.co.uk managing director, said:
"Cruise lines offer a wealth of iconic destinations and attractions to visit, so our



respondents were spoiled for choice when naming their favourites. A number of the world's most popular sites are accessible via ship, and it's also worth keeping in mind that plenty of lesser-known gems can also be visited too."

The top 10 list of top
European visitor attractions
was comprised of the
Colosseum (Rome), the
Dubrovnik Walls (Croatia), the
Acropolis (Athens), the
Sagrada Familia (Barcelona),
St. Peter's Basilica (Vatican
City), the Leaning Tower of
Pisa (Italy), the Trevi Fountain
(Rome), the Blue Lagoon
(Reykjavik), the Hagia Sophia
(Istanbul), and the Camp Nou
Stadium (Barcelona).

"Our survey also highlights the preferences and motivations of cruise passengers when it comes to booking shore excursions." www.cruise.co.uk



A NILE cruise for two and a £250 shopping voucher are up for grabs as Jules Verne celebrates its new Egypt brochure. The cruise prize will be awarded to an agent making an Egyptian booking by October 31st, 2023; agents can head to www.travelbulletin.co.uk/jules-verne-competition to be in with a chance of winning the bonus prize of a £250 shopping voucher. www.vjv.com

Classic Collection props up Portugal and Madeira product

CLASSIC COLLECTION'S new 116-page brochure collates the cream of the Portugal and Madeira crop, with 20 new properties and a showcase of the variety on offer in the two destinations.

86 properties are featured, 25 of which are in the boutique, heritage, pousadas or quintas category, with three all-inclusive options spanning the Algarve, Madeira and Porto Santo.

Alex Gavalda, the operator's director of Product and Commercial, explained: "Our new brochure reflects the destination's diversity and highlights a wide selection of all-inclusive resorts, apartments, and villas."

The new brochure is available to order via Tradegate.

www.classic-collection.co.uk

Leger Holidays teams up with British blockbuster

ESCORTED COACH tour specialist Leger Holidays has partnered with Pathé UK to launch a bespoke 'The Great Escaper' tour, visiting locations featured in the eagerly-awaited Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson film.

Leger Shearings Groups CEO Liam Race said: "I'm delighted to have been approached by Pathé UK to work on their upcoming film, The Great Escaper. Our battlefield tours continue to be extremely popular, and we're certain the film will inspire viewers to embark on their own journeys of discovery to the battlefields, which is why we've launched a bespoke tour which follows in Bernie's footsteps." www.leger.co.uk





End of summer savings from BA

BRITISH AIRWAYS and British
Airways Holidays are offering
savings on return flights to New
York from £333, Orlando from £373
and Chicago from £419. Package
options start from £139 per person
for Nice and Prague city breaks.

www.ba.com/sale

AER LINGUS has taken flight on a September sale, with long-haul fares on sale from £339 return and 30% off short-haul flights.

Discounted fares are on sale from the airline's newest transatlantic hub, Manchester, along with savings on its short-haul services from the UK and Ireland.

Fares to New York, Orlando and Barbados start from £339 return. Up to 30% savings apply to all services from Great Britain to the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

From November, Manchester Airport will host three weekly Aer Lingus services to Barbados, seeing in the winter schedule, with two additional American routes taking flight in spring 2024.

Savings are on offer until midnight on September 18th, 2023, for travel between October 1st, 2023 and March 13th, 2024. www.aerlingus.com



Cunard partners with pop-art phenomenon aboard Queen Elizabeth

THE ANCHOR has been raised on a new pop-art partnership with Mr. Brainwash aboard the luxury cruise line's Queen Flizabeth

Unveiling a new mural in the ship's Garden Lounge, the piece displays a patchwork of Cunard marketing posters from the 1920s blended with Mr. Brainwash's graffiti.

Katie McAlister, President of Cunard, said: "We are thrilled to have partnered with Mr. Brainwash for Queen Elizabeth's incredible new mural and it is a privilege to be associated with such an acclaimed and innovative artist. We always strive to provide guests with enriching and unique experiences on board and this one-of-a-kind masterpiece will certainly be enjoyed by our many art lovers."

www.cunard.com

easyJet holidays kicks off 'Big Orange Sale'

EASYJET HOLIDAYS is offering savings of up to £200 on package options, from winter city breaks to summer beach escapes.

Holidays through until October 2024 are on offer. £100 savings are applicable on holidays over £800, and £200 savings apply to bookings of £2,000 or more.

Savings are on offer until September 12th, 2023.

The sale comes hot on the heels of the package holiday operator's launch of a new service and package options to Fuerteventura



from its new Birmingham base, bringing its total programme from the Midlands airport to 29 routes for 2024, with 16 making their debut.

www.easyjet.com/en/holidays/trade-portal



Club Med shares 'L'Esprit Libre'

THE ALL-INCLUSIVE mainstay has kicked off its new global brand campaign, 'That's L'Esprit Libre'.

Focusing on the feel-good holiday factor, the campaign spotlights the luxury all-inclusive offering the brand has become known for.

Nicolas Bresch, managing director of Club Med UK, Ireland & Nordics, said: "The new campaign demonstrates the joy and freedom of a Club Med holiday and reminds people that we've got something for everyone with our unique all-inclusive offering across 70 resorts worldwide." www.clubmed.co.uk



Norse hits 'Go' on global Gatwick sale

NORSE ATLANTIC's global sale, running until September 12th, offers transatlantic fares from £239 return from London Gatwick.

Available on flights to New York, Miami, Orlando, Boston, Washington D.C., San Francisco, Los Angeles, Barbados, and Montego Bay, the discounted fares are valid for travel through March 2024.

www.flynorse.com



SUN, SANDALS AND SALES

Sandals and Beaches Resorts has launched its Autumn Sale, offering £150 savings on indulgent Caribbean holidays.



THE END of the summer season is nigh but agents can still book their clients the Caribbean adventure of their dreams as Sandals and Beaches Resorts has launched its Autumn Sale. Running until October 3rd, agents can save their clients up to £150 on luxury Caribbean holidays when booked through Unique

American Airlines expands programme for more fun in

JET OFF to the Caribbean this winter as American Airlines has announced a further expansion to its winter programme offering increased flights to the Bahamas, Barbados, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands.

Flying from Miami International, Dallas Fort Worth International and Charlotte Douglas International airports, the increased daily services will begin from January 8th until April 3rd, 2024.

The expanded service reinforces the airline's status as the largest service provider between the US and the Caribbean. www.aa.com

Caribbean Holidays Ltd. (UCHL).

Savings of up to £100 can be unlocked on seven- to nine-night holidays when quoting 'AUTUMN100', and £150 savings can be gained on stays of up to 10 nights or more using the code 'AUTUMN150'.

All 17 Sandals resorts and three Beaches resorts are included in the sale, with travel dates available until June 30th, 2026.

The wide time frame of travel dates allows travellers the flexibility to decide when they want to embark on their Caribbean escape, whether they want a last-minute winter sun break, or would

rather plan their dream holiday ahead of time.

Some of the offers featured in the sale include a seven-night stay for two people at Sandals Regency La Toc Golf Resort & Spa in St Lucia priced at £1,799 per person for a September 2023 departure, a 10-night stay at Sandals Grenada Resort & Spa priced at £2,965 per person based on a September 2024 departure, and a seven-night stay at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort & Spa in the Caribbean Honeymoon Premium Room for £2,079 per person for a September 2024 departure.

Caribbean's largest culinary festival returns

GRAB THOSE rum punches and get ready to celebrate as the Barbados Food and Rum Festival is readying its return for the 12th year. Under the theme 'Feed the Future', the Caribbean's largest culinary festival will run from October 19th-22nd, 2023, featuring the return of community pop-ups and a series of signature events, including the all-inclusive 'Rise and Rum: The Breakfast Beach Party' www.visitbarbados.org





Cayman's Kailani escape

THOSE LOOKING for a taste of luxury and tranquillity on their Caribbean adventure should look no further than the Kailani Cayman, a Curio Collection by Hilton Hotel. Slated to open in November 2023, just in time to chase away those winter blues, the property is comprised of 80 stylish guestrooms located between George Town and Seven Mile Beach. Guests can sign up for wellness programmes at the spa and enjoy a vast range of culinary options with produce sourced from the hotel's 60-acre farm. www.kailanigrandcayman.com



Nassau's Navigator service

MARGARITAVILLE BEACH Resort Nassau has launched a new Navigator Experience where guests can take advantage of an exclusive butler service when they stay in the One Particular Harbour residence, ensuring their stay is nothing short of perfect.

Guests are matched with their personal Navigator who will act as their point of contact for the duration of their holiday. www.margaritavilleresorts.com

Carnival calls!

MARK THE calendars, don the colours and get ready to party as the countdown to Jamaica's iconic Carnival is well underway. Following on from London's own taste of the festivities with Notting Hill Carnival once again proving a roaring success, Jamaica's historic extravaganza will take place the first week of April 2024, where visitors and locals alike will join together and celebrate Jamaica through song, dance and feel-good vibes.

The must-attend event is perfect for anyone wishing to learn more about Jamaican culture in a fully immersive fashion. All walks of life come together to honour the soul of the Caribbean, with the beats of reggae, soca and dancehall coursing through the streets and the electric energy making the Carnival and experience visitors will never forget.

It is not just the dancing and the music that makes this event one for the history books, but rather the celebration of culture that the party stands for. Indulge in the



mouth-watering cuisine of jerk chicken, fried plantain and refreshing cocktails while welcoming the local spirit that can be felt across the entire island.

Culinary capital of the Caribbean

EXPERIENCE THE gastronomic wonders of the Cayman Islands as the region boasts more than 200 restaurants and a high variety of mouth-watering local cuisines.

Hailed as the 'culinary capital of the Caribbean', travellers can tantalise their taste buds with a host of farm-to-table and fine dining experiences across Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman in a gastronomy explosion unlike anywhere else in the Caribbean.

The Brasserie offers a farm-to-table experience which combines fresh catch-ofthe-day produce with meals made entirely



form local produce. Cayman Cabana also shines the spotlight on local farmers, artisanal producers and fisherman, highlighting the abundance of produce the Cayman Islands offer. Each week, the restaurant holds a family-style Farm To Table Dinner to celebrate the local produce at the heart of the region.

For those looking for an authentically romantic dinner for two, Chellamella hosts atmospheric moonlit dinners in the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park for foodies to take a step back and enjoy a six-course meal under the stars.

VIVO honours the timeless tradition of serving food 'to soothe the soul', boasting a plentiful menu comprised of vegan and vegetarian options served with passion and energy for a dining experience focused on guest wellness.

www.visitcaymanislands.com

SEPTEMBER 08 2023 | travelbulletin.co.uk CARIBBEAN

Jamaica: beyond the beaches

THE JAMAICA Tourist Board has spotlighted its adventurous and natural experiences, encouraging guests to venture beyond the beaches.

Encourage your clients to swap their huaraches for hiking boots and head to the UNESCO World Heritage Blue and John Crown Mountains, which is home to over 800 species of plants with prime viewing spots to view the island's landscapes.

Cocktails make way for coffee with the Blue Mountains' choice of coffee estates, with the Jamaica Blue Mountain coffee tours providing an idyllic backdrop for guests' caffeine fixes.

The Caribbean and crocodiles go hand-inhand on Black River Safari Crocodile tours, where clients can head on board and spot crocodiles up to 14-feet long, along with the island's biodiverse wildlife from butterflies to bats.

Guests are sure to fall for the array of

flowing waterfalls, with the cool chill of river water making an ideal antidote to the Caribbean sun. Dunn's River Falls is a popular choice, with plenty of visitors heading to the summit. Konoko Falls and Turtle River falls are good nearby picks for guests looking to complete the trio in a single day.

www.visitjamaica.com





Cayman's magical mixology

GRAB A cocktail and join the celebration as
Cayman Cocktail Week is coming back this
October and ready to showcase the very best
recipes, skills and all-round good vibes the
Cayman Islands has to offer.

Given the islands' culinary prowess, skilled bartenders are flocking to the Cayman shores

to try out their skills and show island residents and travellers alike the magical world of mixology with a unique Caribbean flair.

Cayman Cocktail Week aims to inspire everyone to get involved and celebrate the islands' long craft cocktail scene.

www.caymancocktailweek.com



St. Lucia's romantic hillside hideaway

INSPIRING TRAVEL is offering love birds the trip of their dreams with an all-inclusive exclusive package to Anse Chastanet, St. Lucia, a idyllic 600-acre hideaway overlooking the island.

Valid for travel before October 31st, 2023, guests can enjoy the resort's romantic aura for sevennights with lead in prices beginning from £3,355 per person. The package includes return flights, airport transfers, luggage fees and seven-nights accommodation in a Standard Garden View room.

www.inspiringtravel.co.uk



Grenada's submerged sculpture showcase

THE GRENADA Tourism Authority has revealed 31 new sculptures at the island's iconic Underwater Sculpture Park. Jason deClaires Taylor, who originated the sculpture park in 2005, designed 25 of the additions.

The sculptures rest at the bottom of the island's surrounding sea, with snorkel and scuba diving and glass-bottom boat tours on offer. www.puregrenada.com





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Make a masterpiece in Antigua

ANTIGUA'S BOUTIQUE resort, The Great House, is offering guests the chance to create their masterpiece on an Art Retreat, taking place from November 12th to 19th.

The seven-night retreat will include three guided painting sessions alongside daily fitness classes and visits to English Harbour and St. John's.

Just Antigua offers sevennight, full-board stays at The Great House Antigua from £2,149 per person. www.justantigua.co.uk



Secret Bay debuts Clifftop accommodation

DOMINICA'S SIX-STAR, all-villa rainforest resort, Secret Bay, welcomed guests to its new Clifftop Multi-Villa estates. Situated atop the resort's 200foot cliff, with impressive views of the Caribbean Sea to boast, the estates offer access to three swimmable, secluded beaches, along with ultimate privacy and seclusion. Four further clifftop options are expected by the end of 2023. www.secretbay.dm

Group get-togethers and family fun in Aruba

DUTCH CARIBBEAN Aruba is an ideal pick for multi-generational escapes or large group get-togethers, with the Aruba Tourism Authority spotlighting the yearround destination's entourage experiences.

Making the most of British Airways' recent launch of twice-weekly flights from London Gatwick, Brits heading to the island have never had it easier.

Away from the popular beaches on the island is the all-inclusive destination of De Palm Island, a short boat trip from Aruba's

capital. Guaranteeing exclusive island access, the secluded destination offers action-packed excursions from Sea Truk underwater helmet walking to SNUBA - a cross between snorkelling and scuba diving.

SEPTEMBER 08 2023

As day turns into night, Aruba comes alive with nightlife, from late-night dining options to cabaret dinners, with the beloved Kukoo Kunuku inviting guests aboard a party bus to paint the town red. www.aruba.com



Sandy Lane savings from Caribtours

BOUTIQUE BARBADOS property Sandy Lanes is home to 113 luxurious rooms and suites, with the latter boasting a separate living room.

Offering versatile accommodation options to cater for a variety of guests and requests, Orchid Rooms and Two Bedroom Luxury Orchid Suites guarantee garden views, with Ocean Rooms, Luxury Ocean Rooms, Dolphin Suites and the two-bedroom Luxury Ocean Suite options offering dreamy ocean views.

For guests looking to splash out, Caribtours



can customise luxury options, with the two Penthouse Suites, four-bedroom Sandy Lane Suite or five-bedroom Villa guaranteeing a more luxury option.

Karen Boulton, the operator's Barbados specialist, reveals on the Caribtours site: "There's an unexpectedly relaxed and friendly atmosphere at Sandy Lane - A-list celebrities and first-time guests receive the same warm Bajan welcome, and star treatment comes as standard from Sandy Lane's wonderful staff. Caribtours guests staying at Sandy Lane benefit from a complimentary VIP arrival service at Barbados airport."

A seven-night package to Sandy Lane starts from £4,599 per person with Caribtours. The price includes breakfast, return flights, private transfers, and access to a UK airport lounge. www.caribtours.co.uk



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SAILING THE SCENIC ROUTE

The Scenic Group has launched a collection of new river cruises for 2024, featuring tours of Europe's most iconic waterways.

SIT BACK and take in the view as the Scenic Group has unveiled details of its brand new river cruises for 2024.

Kicking off the new programme is the eight-day Scenic 'Iconic Danube' itinerary, where guests will be transported through history along the Danube, taking in the crumbling castles and the historic sites of Germany,

Aqua Expeditions expands Amazon offering

AQUA EXPEDITIONS has announced the addition of four new seven-night sailings aboard the *Aqua Nerain* in February 2024 in light of the rising demand for travel to Peru and the awe-inspiring Amazon rainforest.

Guests will embark on an immersive journey along the Peruvian Amazon river, complete with expert guides who will offer guests up-close and personal encounters with exotic wildlife. The cruises will allow guests to experience personalised luxury while taking in one of the most breath-taking landscapes in the world. www.aquaexpeditions.com

sailing back in time as they enter into a 900-year-old Melk Abbey. Prices for the cruise begin at £2,499 per person based on an April 9th, 2024 departure.

The 10-day Scenic 'Danube in Depth' takes guests from Nuremberg to Budapest showcasing the best of the Danube. Guests will be treated to allinclusive luxury aboard the five-star Scenic Space-Ship where they can test their culinary skills and learn how to make traditional bites such as Slovak dumplings and Austrian Linzertorte while sampling the finest Viennese wines and German beers. Prices for the cruise begin at £3,795 per person based

on an October 11th, 2024 departure.

Departing on August 9th, 2024, the 11-day Emerald Cruises 'Rhine Castles & Moselle Vineyards' itinerary will take guests from Amsterdam to Basel, highlighting the mesmerising history and architecture of the region. Guests will sail through canals, visit UNESCO World Heritage-listed Kinderdijk Windmills, gaze upon Gothic hilltop fortresses and have a chance to hike the ruins of Landshut Castle in Germany. Prices for the cruise begin at £2,795 per person. All itineraries include return flights.

www.scenic.co.uk

Travel into the Heart of the River with AmaWaterways

AMAWATERWAYS HAS published its 2024 'Heart of the River' brochure, featuring a brand new Colombia programme complete with two seven-night itineraries sailing between Cartagena and Barranquilla. To celebrate, AmaWaterways is offering travel partners a free luxury cruise with every five 2024 bookings they make by December 31st, 2024.

www.amawaterways.co.uk





VIVA Cruises dives head-first into 2024

VIVA CRUISES has launched its 2024 programme, featuring the debut of the company's third ship, VIVA ENJOY, in September.

The 2024 programme features more than 280 cruises across the Rhine, Main, Danube, Moselle, Rhône and Seine, with *VIVA ENJOY*'s 12-night maiden voyage taking travellers from Frankfurt to Vienna.

Andrea Kruse, COO of VIVA
Cruises, said: "In addition to our
popular classics, we are offering
numerous new itineraries,
experiences and special
moments for 2024."

www.viva-cruises.com



Le Boat takes the Canadian plunge

TRAVELLERS CAN enjoy even more of Canada's stunning scenery as Le Boat has announced plans to expand into the Trent-Severn Waterway and Kawartha Lakes in central Ontario for 2024.

Holidaymakers will take the scenic canal through wildlife-rich ecosystems and have the opportunity to enhance their exploration with kayak and canoe excursions.

www.leboat.co.uk



European Waterways leaves guests in good spirits with exclusive excursions

NO MATTER the tipple of choice, whether guests prefer red, white or rosé, European Waterways is dedicated to making sure travellers experience the most exclusive wine excursions in the industry.

Guests can sip and cruise in luxury while they share the experience with like-minded individuals who are eager to learn about the history of winemaking and sampling the finest the region has to offer.

Derek Banks, managing director of European Waterways, said: "Wine and the company of fellow passengers are integral parts of the luxury hotel barge cruising experience. Whether serious connoisseurs, or just curious about wines, our guests are always sure to stay in 'good spirits' throughout the six-night, all-inclusive cruise."

'A Fine Wine Romance' itinerary is available aboard multiple barges, taking guests through some of the most idyllic waterways in the French countryside, with complimentary visits to the wineries and vineyards scattered throughout the landscape and chances to sample the finest local delicacies, both in term of wine and cuisine.

www.europeanwaterways.com

Reinventing riverside luxury

MARKING ITS European debut, *Riverside Ravel* set sail for the first time last month on the Rhône river, showcasing the wonders of southern France.

Aiming to set new standards in the luxury river cruise market, *Riverside Ravel* boasts all-suite accommodation, most complete with French balconies and a marble fireplace, bringing European luxury straight to the water. As part of the itinerary, guests will be taken to some of the most renowned vineyards in the region in exclusive



excursions, completing the luxurious offering.

The luxury doesn't stop at the summer vineyards, as Riverside Luxury Cruises hosts numerous festive itineraries across the Christmas and New Year periods, offering guests the chance to celebrate the holiday season with a luxurious flair.

Cruising into Christmas, guests can choose between sailings ranging from three- to 12-nights and visit some of Germany and Austria's most enchanting festive markets, including Linz and Salzburg.

Eight festive itineraries are available, including the eight-day 'A Taste of Christmas' from November 26th until December 3rd, 2023, priced at £3,391 per person, and the five-day 'Christmas Spirit Along the Danube' priced at £1,476 per person with multiple departures available throughout December 2023.

www.riverside.com

SEPTEMBER 08 2023 | travelbulletin.co.uk RIVER CRUISING

All-new nicko as ship and itineraries debut for 2024

RIVER CRUISE line nicko cruises is making waves next year with a new river cruise brochure, specifically designed for the UK market.

Collecting choices on seven rivers (Danube, Rhine and Moselle, Rhone, Soane, Seine and Douro) across 24 itineraries, the brochure features the cruise line's debut of *Bellejour* and a new 'Charms of the Danube' option. The new itinerary spans nine days, with four included guided tours as Bellejour traverses the Danube, sailing roundtrip from Passau and calling at Linz and Budapest, among others, en route. Prices start from £1,895 per person.

Light Blue Travel's commercial director Michelle Daniels said: "Following fast on the heels of the launch of the handy nicko cruises reference tool, 'Selling Guide' for UK agents, comes the 2024 expanded nicko cruises brochure produced specifically for the UK market.

"Light Blue Travel's River Cruise Academy training programme will be expanded very shortly to include an extensive nicko cruises training programme and in-depth European rivers module, as well as other trade initiatives in the pipeline for the remainder of this year, including several FAM trips and a Vasco Da Gama ship visit in Portsmouth."

Cruises are fully commissionable, with tailor-made no-fly options also on offer. www.nicko-cruises.co.uk



American Queen Voyages helps you earn and learn

WITH A £10 Love2shop voucher up for grabs simply by registering, American Queen Voyages guarantees agents get all the expertise they need to sell the cruise line. Upon completion of the course, agents will earn another £20 Love2shop voucher, with another £50 voucher should they make a booking by September 30th, 2023.

Renowned for its stateside steamboat

river sailings, the fleet consists of *American Queen, American Countess, American Empress*, and a 186-guest expedition ship, *Ocean Victory*.

Earlier this summer, the cruise line published its first trade-dedicated brochure, with four new itineraries. Find out more at www.aqvoyages.com.uk / www.rivercruiseacademy.com



25

A cruise classic from EXPLORE!

'CLASSIC EGYPT with Nile', EXPLORE!'s voyage on the Egyptian river, lives up to its name with must-do Egyptian experiences blended with a three-night cruise aboard Princess Sara II M.

Before heading aboard, guests have two full days in Cairo, followed by an overnight train to Aswan, boarding on day five.

From there, the ship navigates the Nile, visiting the Kom Ombo Temple on day six, continuing the cruise on day seven towards Luxor, where the three-day cruise calls to a close.

Days nine and 10 feature visits to the West Bank and Valley of the Kings as the trip calls to a close in Luxor.

The cruise starts from £1,550 inclusive of select meals, the cruise, transport and accommodation.

www.explore.co.uk



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OCEAN CRUISING

WINTER ON THE WAVES

MSC Cruises has opened sales for its Winter 2024/25 season, with over 150 sailings on offer.



MSC CRUISES is making waves with its Winter 2024/25 schedule, which sees returning favourites and new burgeoning hotspots.

The Big Apple is central to the schedule, with itineraries spanning seven

Culinary cruise favourites revealed

LUXURY SPECIALIST Panache Cruises has explored the busiest cruise ports, revealing which has the most prestigious Michelin-star restaurants and might make the best bet for foodies.

Barcelona tops the list; over 2.3 million passengers travelled through the port last year and 76 Michelin-star dining outlets awaited them on shore.

Genoa & Savona came in second,
welcoming more than 1.5 million cruise
guests last year and boasting 20
Michelin-star offerings.

www.panachecruises.com

to 11 nights, bookended with city preand post-cruise stays before guests sail to the Caribbean, including Nassau and the cruise line's private island, Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve. The programme includes a seven-night 'Caribbean & Antilles' voyage aboard MSC Meraviglia, roundtrip from New York, calling at Port Canaveral in Orlando before heading to Nassau and Ocean Cay. Lead-in fares start from £569 per person, inclusive of port taxes and gratuities.

MSC's latest flagship, MSC *Euribia*, will debut in the Middle East during Winter

2024/25, exploring Abu Dhabi, the island of Sir Bani Yas, Doha, and Manama. Voyages in the seasonal programme include the aptly-named 'Emirates', a seven-night roundtrip from Dubai, calling in Bahrain and Doha en route. Prices start from £679 per person, with four departure dates between November 2024 and March 2025.

Details on the South America, Southern America and Far East programmes are expected to sail in soon.

www.msccruises.co.uk

Princess set for silver screen stardom

REGAL PRINCESS is the star of a new Channel 5 programme: 'The Cruise: Fun Loving Brits at Sea'. Premiering last month, the 20-episode show celebrates all thing cruise, with Princess Cruises very much the star of the show. Voyages aboard Regal Princess start from £399 per person, based on a December 2023 'Western Caribbean with Mexico' departure.

www.princess.com





Silversea raises the luxury bar

SILVERSEA'S FIRST Nova-class ship, *Silver Nova*, has set sail on its maiden voyage from Venice. The ship is spending the rest of the season in the Mediterranean, before heading to the Caribbean and South America in November.

Next month, the ship will sail from Lisbon to New York on a 33-day itinerary. Prices door-to-door start from £14,300 per person.

Silver Nova's sister ship, Silver Ray, is penned for launch in summer 2024. www.silversea.com



CroisiEurope combines best of Med and Italian coast

TWO BRAND new and exclusive coastal itineraries will join
CroisiEurope's programme this winter, as *La Belle de l'Adriatique* sails 'The Best of the
Mediterranean' (from £2,395 per person) and 'La Dolce Vita Along
The Italian Coastline' (from £1,995 per person) this December.

Both itineraries span seven nights sailing the highlights of their respective coastlines. www.croisieurope.co.uk

Riviera reaches new heights with tall-ship programme

TAKING TO the seas from April to September 2025, Riviera Travel's new tallship ocean cruise programme sees the operator expand its destination offering with coastal Greece, Turkey, Croatia, Spain and Malta options.

Six brand-new options join the programme for 2025, the longest of which, the 17-night 'Voyage across the Mediterranean' lives up to its name with a pre-cruise stay in Malaga and post-cruise stay in Athens bookending a 15-night *Star Clipper* voyage. En route, guests will head to shore for guided tours of Malaga, Mijas, Almeria, Cartagena, Dalt Vila, Palma, Ciutadella, Cagliari, Valletta, Mdina, Syracruse, Pylos, Nestor's Palace and Epidauru, and visit Monemvasia and either Cape Sounion or the Acropolis. Prices start from £4,599 per person for the sevennight option.

Other new additions include 'A



Mediterranean Odyssey', 'An Aegean Odyssey', and 'Ephesus and Greek Islands' voyages varying in duration, price and destination.

www.rivieratravel.co.uk

Fred.\Holidays sails a trendy wave with new brochure and £25 incentive

FRED.\HOLIDAYS HAS launched a new 2024/25 Cruise & Stay brochure, collating a variety of its cruise line partners with destination-rich itineraries.

Rising to the changing tide of consumer trends, the brochure has been tailor-made to meet the increasing demand for immersive, destination-centric itineraries.



Of the 22 hand-crafted itineraries, highlights include an 18-day 'Singapore, Thailand & Vietnam' voyage. This trip, blending a cruise from Singapore to Hong Kong aboard *Celebrity Solstice* with a three-night Singapore stay, ticks off the highlights of iconic Asian cities and diverse surrounding areas. Prices start from £3,279 per person, including return flights from the UK, private overseas transfers, three nights in a four-star Singapore hotel, entry to the Gardens by the Bay, and the 12-night, full-board cruise.

In celebration of the launch, agents can earn £25 per booking on all itineraries in the new brochure when booking at any point this year. Vouchers will be automatically sent to agents.

Print copies of the brochure are available by emailing info@fredholidays.co.uk.
www.fredholidays.co.uk



TIMINGS

2pm Webinar Welcome from your Travel Bulletin Host • 2.05pm Presentations • 2.40pm Competition Announcement • 2.55pm Webinar Ends











Regent reveals new Norway northbound sailing option

REGENT HOLIDAYS has welcomed a new addition in Norway for 2023/24: Havila Voyages' Winter Northbound cruise.

With the operator spotlighting it as the best way to experience the Norwegian Fjords in a sustainable way, each of the Havila ships feature the world's-largest battery on a passenger ship, guaranteeing up to four hours of emission-free fjord cruising.

In between enjoying spacious cabins and meals comprised of locally-sourced ingredients, guests can seek the Aurora Borealis, visit charming Norwegian cities, and

The 'Havila Voyages Northbound Cruise' option from Regent Holidays



starts from £2,175 per person, based on two sharing with one night's bedand-breakfast accommodation at Thon Hotel Orion in Bergen, six nights full-board aboard the ship and a final night at Snowhotel Kirkenes with breakfast and dinner. Return international flights, transfers and select excursions are also included. www.regent-holidays.co.uk



Explora I makes waves on maiden voyage

SOUTHAMPTON WELCOMED Explora I for the inaugural call of the ship's maiden nine-night home shore journey. The ship sailed on from Southampton to South Queensferry (Edinburgh), Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Invergordon, Portree, Greencastle, Liverpool and Greenock.

Voyages aboard the ship start from £2,500 per guest based on a January 2024 departure of the six-night 'The Magical Realism of Miami, Santa Marta and Cartagena' voyage. www.explorajourneys.com

What song is the soundtrack to your life?

Jeanette Ratcliffe **Publisher**

jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk What a Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong



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