

Travel **bulletin**

Giving agents the edge

Short & City Breaks

Destinations on your doorstep and bucket-list city experiences

MORE IN...

Winter Sun

There is no better antidote to the winter blues than a sun-seeking escape **Pg. 13**

Far East

Demand remains strong for a region that seems a world away **Pg. 19**



This Travel Counsellor might have found the perfect family city break destination **(Pg. 10)**



Make Their Holidays Extra Special With Our August Offer

70% off their second Sailor — plus a free balcony upgrade!

Those stunning porthole sights just got upgraded to private balcony (and iconic red hammock) nights! We're adding a spectacular splash to your Sailors' holiday by offering 70% off a second Sailor and free balcony upgrades through most 2026 sailings. As always, while they enjoy even more luxurious sailing, you'll earn 16% on their voyage fare and 10% on all pre-voyage bookables.

LEARN MORE AT [FIRSTMATES.COM](https://firstmates.com)



**Brilliant
For You**



NEWS
The latest and greatest from across the sector.



AGENT BULLETIN
An abundance of training opportunities and incentives at your fingertips!



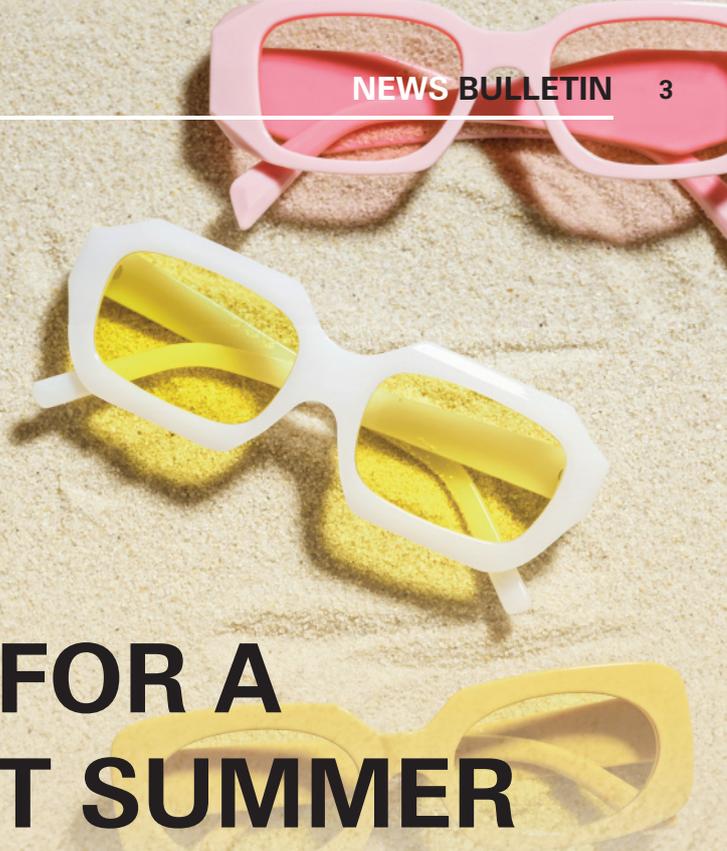
AGENT INSIGHT
TC Jo Wilson shares her thoughts on Singapore's blossoming attraction to families.



WINTER SUN
Spend the festive season under the sun.



FAR EAST
Expanded itineraries, unique accommodations and more await.



RECIPE FOR A PERFECT SUMMER

Travel Counsellors unveils the top trends and insights into what makes a perfect summer holiday.

WITH THE summer season firmly underway, UK technology platform Travel Counsellors has released the top trends and insights into the factors that make the perfect summer holiday.

Conducting a survey with 2,000 respondents, Travel Counsellors has found a series of key trends in destination choices, travel influences and motivations that inspire British holidaymakers when it comes to organising their ideal summer getaway.

According to the survey, stress-free travel is the most important factor with 46% of respondents agreeing.

To coincide with that, 39% of respondents stated they book their holidays through a travel advisor for that extra layer of support if things were to go awry, as well as wanting trusted expert advice (49%) and to save time (46%).

Natural wonders and scenery (43%), guaranteed sunshine (42%), restaurant and bar variety (41%) and an abundance of

family time (37%) round out the top five factors.

In terms of destination, the USA remains the top choice, followed by Italy, Spain and Greece. Reflecting a similar trend to last year, beach holidays remain as the favourite choice for getaways with over half (53%) of respondents stating their ideal summer holiday would be spent on the shore. City breaks (41%), all-inclusive trips (33%), lakes and mountain holidays (23%) and cruises (17) complete the top five favourites.

TC's data also revealed that media plays a significant role in shaping travel decisions, with 41% of Brits stating they selected holiday destinations based on TV/film inspiration or engaging with it on social media.

Steve Byrne, CEO of Travel Counsellors, commented: "These trends highlight the continued rude health of the travel sector, which continues to thrive as people prioritise meaningful and enriching travel experiences."



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24th Sept
Luxury Holidays Showcase
Bristol



8th Oct
Family Holidays Showcase
Salisbury



14th Oct
Airline Showcase
Bristol



7th Oct
Family Holidays Showcase
Woking



Riviera's happy Harrods Christmas

RIVIERA TRAVEL is giving away a luxury Harrods hamper worth £130 as part of its Christmas promotion.

The offer is available for customers who make a superior suite or upper deck cabin booking between August 1st and October 31st, 2024 on select festive market river cruises.

Will Sarson, product director at Riviera,

said as Christmas is a time for giving, the promotion "will ensure guests get into the holiday spirit" while enjoying Riviera's "unique way to celebrate this special time of year."

The hamper will include a signature Harrods Claret, luxury shortbread, tea, truffles and jam.

www.rivieratravel.com



Marriott elevates all-inclusive offering in Cancun

MARRIOTT HOTELS is 'redefining all-inclusive vacations' with the grand opening of its latest property: Marriott Cancun, An All-Inclusive Resort.

To celebrate the opening, the property is offering an exclusive 20% discount on all

bookings made by August 30th, 2024 for travel until January 11th, 2025. In addition to the savings offer, guests will be treated to US\$50 in resort credit which is valid for spa treatments at the beach cabana.

www.marriotthotels.com

Posarelli Villas offers deals for last-minute Italian getaways

POSARELLI VILLAS is offering a 20% discount for luxury villa rentals in Tuscany for bookings made within 15 days of arrival, offering the perfect opportunity for a last-minute Italian escape.

Alongside this, Vueling is offering flights from London to Florence this year from £53 in August and £34 in September.

Tuscan villas with availability includes the seven-bed Villa Simone housed in a renovated medieval tower from £496 per night with the discount; Casale Santa Francesca which accommodates 18 guests in Val d'Orcia from £216 per night with discount; and the three-bed Casa la Fonte which dates back to the 1800s from £135 per night with the discount.

www.posarellivillas.co.uk

Holland America launches 2026 European programme

HOLLAND AMERICA Line has launched its 2026 European programme which will see four ships take guests to 35 countries across the Mediterranean, Northern Europe and the Atlantic Ocean.

The 2,666-guest *Nieuw Statendam* and the 2,668-guest *Rotterdam* will be positioned in Northern Europe, offering 10 roundtrip UK sailings between April and October 2026 to destinations including the Canary Islands, the

British Isle, the Baltics, the Arctic Circle, Norwegian Fjords and Scandinavia.

The 1,964-guest *Oosterdam* will offer seven- and 14-day itineraries in the Mediterranean from Lisbon, Athens, Barcelona, Rome and Venice, while the 1,964-guest *Zuiderdam* will sail roundtrip from Boston on the 17-, 18- and 35-day 'Voyage of the Viking: Solar Eclipse'.

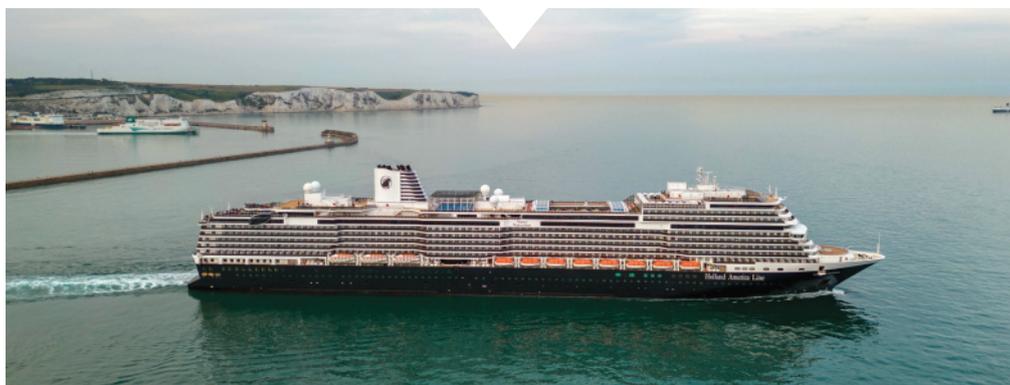
www.hollandamerica.com



One year on for EXPLORA I

TO CELEBRATE the first anniversary of *EXPLORA I*'s maiden voyage, Explora Journeys is offering guests a Journey Experience Credit of €365 per suite for reservations made before August 31st, 2024, across all sailings departing after August 23rd, 2024.

www.explorajourneys.com



Radisson makes Residence debut in Cairo

RADISSON HOTEL Group has announced the opening of Radisson Residences, Cairo Heliopolis in the heart of Egypt's capital.

The addition marks the first Radisson Residence property in Cairo, and promises guests an ideal getaway to uncover the wonders of Ancient Egypt.

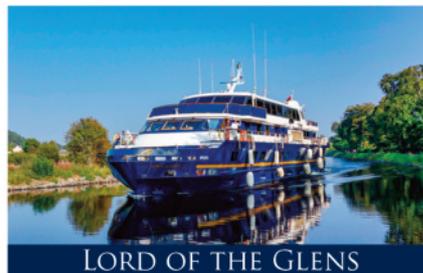
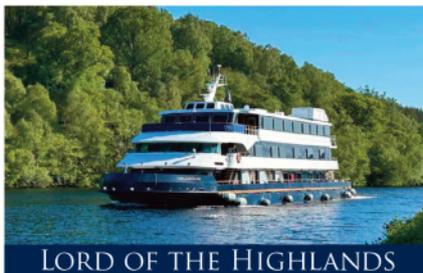
The property features 163

apartments, including one- two and three-bedroom options suitable for all traveller types: from happy couples to family getaways. Each apartment features a fully furnished kitchenette and a separate living area. For an added touch, 60 apartments are equipped with balconies, with 20 offering a pool view.

Yasser Bahaa, general manager at Radisson Residences, Cairo Heliopolis, said, "We are excited to welcome guests to experience our unparalleled service, exquisite dining, and the rich cultural tapestry of Cairo, all from the comfort of our modern, elegant residences."

www.radissonhotels.com

PIONEERS OF SMALL SHIP CRUISING



HEBRIDEAN ISLAND CRUISES

Hebridean Island Cruises, the luxury Scottish cruise operator, has launched a new training platform hosted by OTT (Online Travel Training).
For your chance to win a cruise for two on any Hebridean vessel, scan the QR code and complete the training course by the 30th September 2024.



Jet2holidays announces £1.2 million apprenticeship funding

JET2HOLIDAYS HAS announced its 'Appoint an Apprentice' scheme will be rolled out for a second year to aid independent agents in developing their workforces and promises to be bigger and better than its previous iteration.

Last year, the operator



provided almost £650,000 in apprenticeship funding to support travel agents in developing the next generation of talent in their stores. Following the overwhelmingly positive response, Jet2holidays will commit to a levy spend of over £1.2 million in 2024/2025.

Alan Cross, director of Travel Agent Relationships at Jet2holidays, said: "Since launching our Appoint an Apprentice scheme, we have been truly amazed by the response from our independent travel agency partners and the feedback we have had from them has been fantastic. As part of our commitment to investing directly into our independent travel agency partners to help them grow their business, we are making the scheme even bigger and better this year, with over double the amount of funding available."

www.trade.jet2holidays.com



CARNIVAL CRUISES has revealed details for its adults-only beach club 'portal' at the Celebration Key private island which is penned to open in July 2025. The Pearl Cove Beach Club will offer guests a dedicated private beach and an 11,000 square-foot private infinity pool complete with a sun-shelf, water loungers and a swim-up bar. www.carnival.com

Fred. Holidays and Pandaw release dedicated brochure

PANDAW, IN partnership with Fred. Holidays, has launched its first dedicated UK brochure since before the pandemic, complete with an Agent Selling Guide to aid agents in selling the Pandaw product.

The 36-page 'The Mighty Rivers of Southeast Asia & India' brochure features 12 off-the-beaten-track itineraries through Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and India, accompanied by world-class photography

and QR codes which offer a more interactive experience for both agents and customers.

Laura Wilson, Fred. Holidays' head of business development, said: "The UK is an incredibly important market for Pandaw and this new brochure clearly demonstrates our commitment to investing in and supporting our travel agent partners."

The digital brochure is available online. www.fredholidays.co.uk

APT welcomes Caledonian Sky return

THE *MS Caledonian Sky* will be returning to APT's fleet in 2025 for a new series of Small Ship Cruise itineraries ready to set sail between April and October next year.

The all-suite vessel will sail from the Canary Islands to Istanbul, exploring the gems of Portugal, Italy, Spain and Greece – all brand-new destinations for the cruise line.

To celebrate the return, APT is offering introductory savings of up to £1,600 per person which is available on all new *Caledonian Sky* Small Ship Cruise bookings made before September 30th, 2024.

www.aptouring.co.uk



Enjoy a free night at The Buccaneer

ST. CROIX resort, The Buccaneer is offering guests a fourth night free on every booking made by August 31st, 2024. Guests can spend an extra day enjoying the island's laid-back luxury when they travel before December 20th, 2024.

www.thebuccaneer.com

AGENT INCENTIVES

- **NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS'** 'Going for Gold' giveaways this month include shopping vouchers and safari holidays for agents booking throughout August. Agents can discover each week's theme on the Nic Newmarket Facebook page. Entries are automatic after booking a qualifying tour. 21 golden tickets have been hidden in copies of the operator's summer escorted tours brochure, which is due on agents' doorsteps throughout the month; those golden tickets can be exchanged for prizes. www.newmarketholidays.co.uk
- **ANY AGENTS** who confirm bookings with Audley Travel throughout August and September will be entered into a competition to win a £10,000 voucher for a tailor-made trip of their own. Three runners-up will also be chosen and will be given the chance to join Audley's next long-haul Experience Trip to a destination to be confirmed. www.audleytravel.com
- **ANZCRO HAS** partnered with Tourism WA and Qantas to invite two groups of UK agents to Western Australia this November. Agents must make a booking before September 30th, 2024 (with a minimum two-night stay in Western Australia) with ANZCRO to be in with a chance. www.anzcro.co.uk/win
- **INSIDEASIA IS** doubling commission on bookings worth up to £24,999 made before August 31st, 2024. www.insidetravelgroup.com/get-double-commission/
- **ANY AGENTS** who log St. Kitts bookings via St. Kitts Rewards by August 15th, 2024 could see an invite for a November FAM to the Caribbean island arrive in their inbox. www.stkittsrewards.com

AGENT BULLETIN



LOS ANGELES Tourism brought the sunshine (and ice cream!) to danata Travel Group HQ with a 'Get To Know LA Day' activation, providing the latest marketing materials to help agents sell Los Angeles.

AGENT TRAINING

- **BUILD YOUR** Virgin Voyage knowledge with Seacademy, the cruise line's online e-learning platform to sell and sail the Virgin way. The platform guarantees inside intel, a blended journey of education, marketing materials, and getting aboard the ships so you can get the first-hand experience you need in order to share Virgin Voyages with your Sailors. www.travelbulletin.co.uk/virgin-in-voyage-travelgym
- **LEARN HOW** easy each of the 15 Cook Islands are to reach and what is in store for your clients when visiting these idyllic Polynesian islands. www.onlinetraveltraining.com/free-courses/providers/CookIslands

Travelbulletin COMPETITION

Win a fam trip place on easyJet Holidays' maiden Nile river cruise departure!

www.travelbulletin.co.uk/easyjet-holidays-competition



A suite of advisor tools including an expanded advisor site, learning platform and marketing assets.



CONFIDANT LEARNING

Inclusive Collection online educational platform and webinars



CONFIDANT RATES

Inclusive Collection discounted travel advisor rates



Become an Inclusive Collection Confidant.

<https://confidant.hyattinclusivecollection.com/en/>



Türkiye's finest on show with new collaborative guide

CLASSIC COLLECTION has partnered with Türkiye's SunExpress airline to craft a new digital brochure, pairing 12 of the operator's most-popular Turkish properties with direct flights from a choice of 11 UK airports.

Dual packages with Classic



Collection itineraries and SunExpress flights feature low deposits from £59 per person, with bookings including 20kg free hold luggage per person.

Si Morris-Green, Classic Collection's B2B director, said the partnership has already "proved highly beneficial to airline, operator and our trade partners.

"With the launch of our new digital guide, we are going even further to enable our agent partners to offer their clients the holiday to Türkiye that they want from their local airport at very competitive price points."

Agents making Türkiye bookings during August will earn entries into a prize draw, with two runner-up prizes of return flights for two and the first-place prize offering a seven-night stay at Swandor Kerner Hotel.

The new guide is accessible via www.classiccollectionagents.co.uk



SPECTATE WILL host former Haas F1 team principal, Guenther Steiner, at its Abu Dhabi Grand Prix pre-race event. Taking place on the final day of the Grand Prix, December 9th, 2024, Spectate guests will enjoy a pre-race brunch, with a career talk, open Q&A and photo session with Steiner. Four-day packages start from £2,895 per person. www.spectatetravel.co.uk

Solo success awaits with new Just You partnership

JUST YOU'S partnership with Incredible Journeys will enable guests to extend tours with Incredible Journeys experiences.

Tom Morgan, Just You's sales director, said Incredible Journeys' "extensive expertise in bespoke holiday planning and global travel networks will give agents the option and flexibility to enhance and expand Just You tours with additional bespoke holiday elements through carefully curated

itineraries."

Agents are now able to blend Just You's touring dedicated solo itineraries in group settings with Incredible Journey's tailor-made experiences guaranteeing the best airlines, transport, accommodation and excursions in the most in-demand destinations – all in one single package.

www.justyou.co.uk/

www.goldmedal.co.uk/incredible-journeys

Etihad takes Warner Bros World sky high

ETIHAD AIRWAYS has taken flight on the first-ever Warner Bros. World-branded aircraft, with the airline kicking off guests' theme park experiences in-flight and in an exclusive themed lounge at Zayed Airport.

Celebrating the multi-billion-pound Warner Bros. World Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, the partnership marks the theme park's most extensive collaboration to date and spans the branded Boeing 787-10 Dreamliner, an immersive airport lounge, and Kids Packs across the network for guests aged up to 10 featuring a branded soft blanket, backpacks, capes and activity kits.

www.etihad.com/ / www.wbworldabudhabi.com



Advantage confirms 2025 conference host

The Advantage Travel Partnership has announced the host destination for its 2025 flagship conference: Malta.

Malta last hosted the travel calendar staple in 2012, and will welcome the Partnership from May 13th to 16th, 2025.

SUDOKU

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

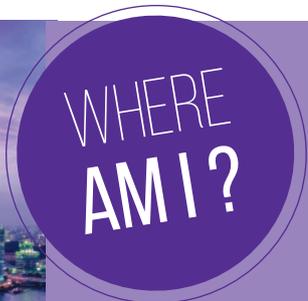
Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 3 x 3 squares contains the digits 1-9. Once you have completed the puzzle, simply identify the numbers that relate to the letters, A, B, C and D then e-mail the solution, with your name, company name, and full postal address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

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

Closing date for entries is Thursday, August 22nd. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

July 26th Solution: A=7 B=5 C=6 D=8

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



BOASTING THE second-largest motorbike ownership in the world and a renowned love for coffee, this city draws the largest amount of tourists to Vietnam every year.

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

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

Across

- 1 Cruise ship ____ Princess, sounds imposing (5)
- 3 Could be a form of transport or a tool (5)
- 6 Western Canadian province (7)
- 7 First name of one of the team captains on TV's, Would I Lie to You? (3)
- 8 Brittany Ferries operate from Portsmouth to this French city (2,5)
- 11 Country home of the safari destination of Etosha National Park (7)
- 13 Exeter international airport code (3)
- 14 Capital of Saxony and one of the most visited cities in Germany (7)
- 15 Morocco's capital city (5)
- 16 River which forms most of the border between Devon and Cornwall (5)

Down

- 1 BBC sports presenter recently named as their highest earner for the seventh year (4,7)
- 2 California home of Disneyland Resort (7)
- 3 Capital of Western Australia (5)
- 4 Acapulco international airport code (3)
- 5 Iconic Paris landmark proudly displaying five Olympic rings (6,5)
- 9 Edinburgh international airport code (3)
- 10 Hanoi is the capital (7)
- 12 Port city in Northwestern France, home to the Oceanopolis aquarium (5)
- 14 Dublin international airport code (3)

CROSSWORD

Across: 1 GRAND, 3 PLANE, 6 ALBERTA, 7 LEE, 8 LE HAVRE, 11 NAMIPIA, 13 EXT, 14 DRESDEN, 15 RABAT, 16 TAMAR. Down: 1 GARY LINEKER, 2 ANAHEIM, 3 PERTH, 4 ACA, 5 EIFFEL TOWER, 9 EDI, 10 VIETNAM, 12 BREST, 14 DUB. Mystery Word: PALMA



AGENT INSIGHT

JOANNE WILSON

TRAVEL COUNSELLORS

ONE OF my most recent enquiries gave me a brilliant brief, seeking winter sun, city sights and good for families. Diving into it I emerged with Singapore - a city-state known for its futuristic skyline and lush green spaces.

With an array of attractions catering to every age and interest, I listed lots of reasons to go, but I think I had them at the idea of island hopping. Visiting Singapore's offshore islands is a delightful way to spend the day. You can hop aboard a ferry from Changi Point on the east coast to Pulau Ubin and be transported back to 1960s Singapore thanks to the last traditional remaining Kampung villages and the Chek Jawa wetland reserve with its cycle trails and footpaths.

What's more, Sentosa Island is a hub of endless fun and adventure. From the exhilarating Luge rides to splash-tastic fun at The Palawan – including Hydrodash, Hyperdrive, and Splash Tribe. Make sure they don't miss the chance to soar over the island on a zipwire, relax on sandy beaches, or take a scenic ride on the cable car.

I ensured they knew about the Future World exhibition at the ArtScience Museum, and Canopy Park at Jewel Changi, which is so much more than transit hub. The Canopy Park, located at the topmost level, features walking trails, foggy bowls, and Sky Nets – all set amidst lush greenery.

That said, sometimes it's the little things that mean a lot on a family trip. My customers eyes lit up at the thought of an ice cream sandwich from a street vendor, an evening bicycle ride around Marina Bay, or a splash around in the Gardens by the Bay Children's Garden.

The city's safe and clean environment, coupled with its efficient public transport system, makes navigating through these experiences seamless and really enjoyable, especially for families. I can't wait to hear more about it on their return.



Omega Breaks adds eclipse tours to Luxor for 2027

OMEGA BREAKS has released two new tours to witness the 'longest eclipse of the century' in Egypt for 2027. The eclipse will take place on August 2nd, 2027 in Luxor, and guests will be joined by BBC's Sky at Night TV presenter and astronomer Pete Lawrence.

Two tours are now on sale: the eight-day option to Luxor only priced from £3,499 per person for a July 29th, 2027 departure, and the 11-day itinerary which combines Luxor with Cairo from £4,499 per person for a July 26th, 2027 departure.

www.omegabreaks.com/agents

News Bites

- SEAFARER CRUISES adds three new seven-night itineraries for summer 2025 with mix-and-match options from Malta to Sicily.
- ST. CROIX's The Buccaneer resort is offering guests a fourth night for free on bookings made by August 31st, 2024.
- SWAN HELLENIC'S new 'Explore Further' offer includes up to £650 in flight credit per person on new balcony stateroom bookings for select 2025 voyages.



MSC CRUISES has revealed details surrounding the latest attractions and experiences that await guests in The Harbour: a brand-new outdoor space on *MSC World America* designed for kids and families to spend quality time together. The new space will feature The Harbour Aquapark, rock-climbing walls and high-trail rope courses, the Jaw Drop slide and the Cliffhanger over-water swing. www.msccruises.co.uk

The Nile calls on new easyJet river cruise options

EASYJET HOLIDAYS has introduced new seven-night Nile cruise packages setting sail from November 2024.

The Nile packages feature sailings from Luxor to Aswan via Edfu and Kom Ombo, with a jam-packed week-long itinerary showcasing the ancient wonders of the Valley of the Kings, the High Dam, the temple of Queen Hatshepsut and the Colossi of Memnon.

The new packages offer a range of accommodation vessels, as well as a range of hotels for those who wish to stay on land.

Paul Bixby, chief commercial officer at easyJet Holidays, said, "Our new Nile cruises make the grandeur of ancient Egypt more accessible than ever with a range of options to choose from, including the Iberotel Crown Empress and the Jaz Crown Jubilee."

www.easyjet.com



Destination Canada strives to move the dial

DESTINATION CANADA'S new 2025-2027 market strategy strives to "move the dial" in global markets, with the UK "a key part of that transformational growth," according to Rachel McQueen, UK managing director. While the destination hopes to enhance its autumn and winter programming, it revealed specific intent to increase UK visitor dispersal in the summer, growing yields during peak periods and increasing revenue in non-peak periods.

www.destinationcanada.com



Retired women lead the solo trend

OVER 80% of guests booking Newmarket Holidays' 'Exclusively Solo' group tours are women, with almost half aged between 65 and 74. Reflecting on over a year's worth of booking data, Newmarket Holidays' trend analysis puts retired women as the solo travel trailblazers.

Among these bookings, Italy has emerged as the most popular destination for solo escapes; long-haul interest is largely concentrated on India's Golden Triangle and Kenyan safaris.

www.newmarketholidays.co.uk



Oceania streamlines trade marketing solutions

OCEANIA INSIDER Connect offers agents two marketing solutions: white-label marketing pages showcasing the cruise line's itineraries, experiences, destinations and ships, and co-brandable websites with real-time pricing and availability to garner leads directly to agents.

Along with the pre-designed content, the platform also harnesses the power of AI to suggest social media posts and client emails, plus a feature which creates dynamic QR codes linking back to agents' websites.

The platform is now live and accessible to agents.

www.oceaniacruises.com

Clients continue to leave it late

CV VILLAS has reported a 37% increase in bookings since April for travel this year.

Pete Brudenell, CV Villas' managing director, explained, "Events such as the General Election, the Euros and Olympics have all contributed to some consumer's putting their holiday plans on pause, whilst they take stock of where to go."

www.cvvillas.com



Finnair doubles winter Helsinki capacity

FINNAIR WILL add two extra daily flights to its Heathrow to Helsinki route from October 2024, giving travellers more options to travel to the Nordics, Baltics and Asia this winter season.

The additional flights mark a 50% increase in the airline's capacity between the English and Finnish capitals as the new route now operates up to six times per day.

www.finnair.com

Boundless leisure at TRS Turquesa Hotel



Now you can indulge your most sophisticated desires in TRS Turquesa Hotel. Personalised services, Zentropia Palladium Spa & Wellness, international a la carte restaurants, butler, incredible pools and Chic Cabaret & Restaurant wait for you on your luxury vacation in the Caribbean, in a safe and protected environment full of nature and tranquility, **for adults only**.

With **Infinite Indulgence®**, it's all included.

For more information, visit [PALLADIUMHOTELGROUP.COM](https://www.palladiumhotelgroup.com) or contact your favourite travel agent.

TRS
TURQUESA
HOTEL

COSTA MUJERES, CANCUN (MEXICO), PUNTA CANA, CAP CANA (THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC), RIVIERA MAYA (MEXICO) and IBIZA (SPAIN).

TRADE THE COLD FOR CANARIES

Sovereign Luxury Travel is offering a Canary Islands getaway this winter in the newly refurbished Jardin Tecina.

ESCAPE TO the Canaries this winter season to soak up the sun with luxury operator Sovereign Luxury Travel.

“We are already seeing strong demand from guests for winter sun breaks and the Canary Islands with Tenerife in particular proving the most popular with significant interest in terms of bookings and enquiries,” said Sovereign’s head of sales Simon

Garrido. “Looking ahead to this winter season, Jardin Tecina on the quieter island of La Gomera is currently closed for refurbishment and will re-open in early December. However, we are already taking forward bookings and expect it to be a popular choice for guests.”

La Gomera offers guests an island oasis in the Canaries, a quaint spot to escape the cold months and back in the winter sun by the Atlantic Ocean. Jardin Tecina promises its guests an idyllic experience perfect for both couples wanting a romantic getaway and families wishing for a different spin on their festive holidays.

Currently the resort is undergoing

refurbishment but is scheduled to re-open to welcome the winter sun from December 6th, 2024. Guests will be able to enjoy an action-packed Kids’ Club, a vast choice of on-site sports including tennis and water polo, and the chance to hit the green on the hotel’s own golf course. Dining experiences can be had through the 11 bars and restaurants, including the option for a candlelit dinner in a natural cave.

Sovereign is offering a seven-night stay at Jardin Tecina from £995 per person based on a bed and breakfast basis. The price includes return flights from London Gatwick for a December 17th 2024 departure.

www.sovereign.com

Spend winter in the Red Sea

DEMAND CONTINUES to rise for holidays to the Red Sea, and easyJet Holidays has launched a new route from Birmingham to Hurghada, Egypt which will take to the skies from November 2024. The route will operate once per week with fares leading in from £113 each way. Bookings to the resort town of El Gouna with easyJet Holidays have increased by 511% between October 2023 and March 2024 compared to the same period last year. The town is located 30 minutes away from Hurghada airport, offering a wide range of activities and attractions. www.easyjet.com

Additional spends for winter sun getaways

P&O CRUISES is encouraging travellers to bask in the winter sun with up to £860 in onboard spending up for grabs for selected Canary Islands and Caribbean fly-cruise holidays between October 3rd, 2024, and March 22nd, 2025.

The offer is applicable on new select price fly-cruises booked before September 2nd, 2024. In addition, deposits are reduced to 10% until the same day. www.shinerewardsclub.com/



Experience the Caribbean's best

SEADREAM YACHT Club has unveiled its Spring 2027 voyage programme featuring a collection of the 'Best of the Best' Caribbean cruises. Both of SeaDream's twin yachts – each carrying 100 guests – will sail the Caribbean from January to April 2027 with 28 new itineraries for guests to choose from. Most voyages will be a round trip from San Juan, Puerto Rico or St. Thomas, with port stops in Anguilla, the French West Indies, Barbados and more. www.seadream.com



Holland America takes to the Caribbean

SAIL THE blue waters of the Caribbean this winter season with Holland America Line as the cruise line is offering 27 sailings departing between November and December 2024. Voyage options include 10- and 25-day itineraries across the Caribbean, Mexican Riviera and the Panama Canal onboard Holland America's six ships operating within the region. www.hollandamerica.com

Christmas carols to reggae rhymes

SPEND CHRISTMAS on the white shores of Jamaica this holiday season and experience an unforgettable alternative to the traditional UK festive period.

Travellers are encouraged to trade turkey for jerk chicken, snowflakes for sunrays and Christmas carols for reggae rhymes this year with a range of offers available. Spend the holidays under the Jamaica sun with visits to the Blue Mountains, relaxing on the beaches, and even partake in a bobsled ride to make the most out of the festive period.

Travellers can stay seven-nights at the all-inclusive Riu Ocho Rios from £1,708 per person, with a £722 discount when booking as a family of four. Return flights departing from London Gatwick on December 19th, 2024 are included with TUI.

Christmas can also be spent in the in the Grand Palladium Lady Hamilton Resort &



Spa from £1,536 per person with a saving of £462 discount when booking a family of four. Return flights are available with TUI from London Gatwick for a December 19th, 2024 departure.

www.visitjamaica.com

Jet2's largest winter sun programme to date

IT IS a jam-packed winter in the Canaries for Jet2.com and Jet2holidays as the operator has added even more capacity to the destination for the 2024/2025 winter season.

More than 25,000 seats have been added across five UK airports in response to the continued demand for holidays to the islands to escape the brisk UK winter weather. The extra seats have been added for February and March 2025 departures to Tenerife, Lanzarote and Gran Canaria from Birmingham, Bristol, East Midlands, Manchester and Newcastle International airports.

Jet2.com's winter 2024/2025 schedule is the largest winter sun programme to the

Canary Islands the operator has ever offered, with more than 2.25 million seats on sale representing a 15% capacity increase from recent years. The programme offers over 225 weekly departures to the Canaries from the UK during the key winter periods, ensuring customers have a wealth of options available to enjoy the Canarian sunshine.

Steve Heapy, CEO of Jet2.com and Jet2holidays, said the operator knows how much "holidaymakers love these islands as a means of escaping for some winter sun, and we are delighted to be once again stepping in to meet the strong demand." www.jet2.com



Four weeks for the price of three

JUST GO! Holidays' winter sun range features a four weeks for the price of three offer, applicable on breaks to Sri Lanka, Cyprus and Malta.

Sri Lanka is a new addition for winter 2024, and marks the first venture into long-haul options for the operator. 11-, 15-, 22-, and 29-night all-inclusive options are on offer between October 2024 and May 2025. Based at the Tangerine Beach Hotel, Kaltura, the 29-night option (including the free week offer) starts from £2,499 per person including return flights, transfers and four excursions.

Closer to home, Paphos has returned to the winter sun programme. 15-, 22- and 29-day options based at the Paphos Gardens Holiday Resort are on offer between November 2024 and March 2025. Applying the four weeks for the price of three offer, 29-day stays start

from £1,599 per person including all-inclusive accommodation, return flights, transfers and four excursions.

A month in Malta is on offer from £1,799 per person based on a January 2025 departure, covering all-inclusive accommodation at the Preluna Hotel, return flights, four excursions and transfers.

www.justgoholidays.com/agents



Long Beach, short stay

A WEEK in Mauritius might be the dream antidote to the winter blues; Sunlife offers seven nights in a Junior suite on half-board at Long Beach, flights from London Gatwick and transfers from £4,179 per person when booking this month.

www.yoursunlife.com

The Malta hotel fit for Hollywood A-Listers

MALTA'S INIALA Harbour House hosted stars of the upcoming blockbuster *Gladiator II* during filming, and is now extending the invite to guests to experience the same indulgence and storied history on offer.

After the trailer for Ridley Scott's sequel to the iconic film dropped last month, all eyes are on Malta (even if some viewers believe they are looking at ancient Rome). The island stood in for Rome during filming, which began in June 2023, starring Paul Mescal and Pedro Pascal.

Located in Valletta, the heart of the film's production, the luxury Iniala Harbour House promises guests will feel like the star of their own indulgent production, and an equally historical one. The hotel spans four historic townhouses and ancient vaults which date back to the 17th century, with just 23 rooms and suites on offer.

Room rates start from £341 per night on a bed-and-breakfast basis. www.inialamalta.com



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- Coming in 2024: The Rooftop bar on the 27th floor for breathtaking panoramas

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FROM SCREEN TO CITY

Oxfordshire has had a starring role on the screen for almost a century, and Experience Oxfordshire is now inviting guests behind-the-scenes.



Oxford Official Walking Tours has responded to set-jetting demand with a new tour spotlighting the city's iconic history of film and television.

The 'Oxford On Screen' tour celebrates Oxford's storied history on

our screens, from its starring role in 102 episodes of Inspector Morse, Lewis and Endeavour to its inclusion in Saltburn and the Harry Potter series.

Hayley Beer-Gamage, the CEO of Experience Oxfordshire (the DMO behind Oxford Official Walking Tours), said, "We have long recognised screen tourism as a driver for choosing a leisure tourism destination, but this desire to "be where it happened" has grown exponentially in the Instagram age.

"Expedia Group has stated that more than half of international travellers revealed to them that TV shows and

films inspire their travel plans.

According to the British Film Institute (BFI), inbound tourists spent an estimated £892.6 million on film-related screen tourism in the UK in 2019."

The tours now operate twice weekly on Thursdays and Sundays at 11:30 am, lasting approximately two hours. Adult spots cost £35, with a reduced concession price for seniors aged 65+ and students (£30).

'Oxford On Screen' joins other popular walking options including the 'Oxford University & City Walking Tour'.

www.oxfordofficialwalkingtours.org

See the city through the eyes of a local

WHAT BETTER way to immerse your guests in the local life of their destinations than with ToursByLocals' locally-guided excursions?

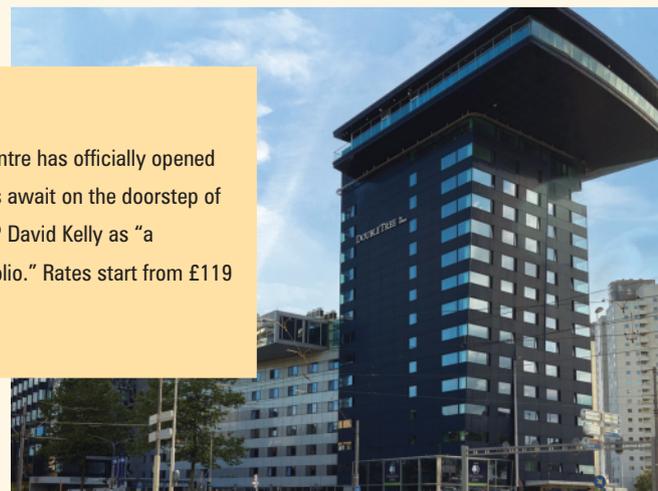
The tour marketplace's new site features a dedicated section for agent sign-ups, streamlining trade access to its personalised experiences in over 174 countries across the world.

Part of a wider refresh, the new site puts the local guides behind ToursByLocals experiences at the heart of the brand. The trade upgrades aim to connect with agents searching for tailor-made private tours for clients.

www.toursbylocals.com

A DoubleTree first

DOUBLETREE BY Hilton Rotterdam Centre has officially opened after an extensive rebrand. 265 rooms await on the doorstep of the Dutch city, described by senior VP David Kelly as "a fantastic addition to our diverse portfolio." Rates start from £119 per night. www.hilton.com





City break demand hits a two-year high

NEW DATA from AllClear Travel Insurance has revealed that a record percentage of Brits (83%) intend on heading abroad this summer, up from 78% last year.

City breaks earned 30% of the share of holiday styles that Brits are begging for this summer, up from 17% in 2022 and 23% in 2023 to bring the holiday style to a record high.

Walking holidays have almost doubled in demand against 2022 from 6% to 15%.

www.allcleartravel.co.uk



The Cotswolds call

FOXHILL MANOR is the first all-inclusive five-star retreat in the Cotswolds, set on the 500-acre Farncombe Estate. The property offers a 'Full Fox' experience which covers all three daily meals plus a full-stocked pantry ready to be raided at any hour of the day.

The 'Full Fox' experience leads in at £895 per person.

www.foxhillmanor.com

Marriott's summer in the city

MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL is expanding its footprint in a host of key city break spots this summer, including the launch of the Tribute Portfolio on the doorstep of Manchester Piccadilly.

A 90-second walk from the station brings guests to The Reach at Piccadilly, Manchester, a Tribute Portfolio Hotel, whose 11 stories overlook the Rochdale Canal. 215 guestrooms span those 11 stories, all of which draw inspiration from their surroundings with nostalgic nautical interiors and greenery throughout. A waterfront restaurant, Lock 84, offers all-day dining with speciality small

plates and sustainably-sourced dishes.

www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/mantr-the-reach-at-piccadilly-manchester-a-tribute-portfolio-hotel/overview/

Heading over the channel, Autograph Collection has unveiled The College Hotel Amsterdam, Autograph Collection's multi-million-pound renovation, embedding the building's rich historical charm (as a former boy's school) with a calming colour palette and urban finishes.

www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/amsc-the-college-hotel-amsterdam-autograph-collection/overview/



Porto primed for city break success

JET.2COM'S INAUGURAL service to Porto took flight from Manchester Airport last month, marking the first-ever Jet2.com flight to the Portuguese city after the service was brought forward from the initially-slated summer 2025 launch.

Flights and city break packages are on offer from the airline's Manchester hub until November 17th, 2024.

The service returns from Manchester and launches from Birmingham Airport in

summer 2025.

Steve Heapy, Jet2.com and Jet2holidays' CEO said, "Feedback from customers and independent travel agents has been telling us that flights and city breaks to Porto are very much in demand, and we know that this is a highly sought-after destination that customers want to experience."

Alongside flights and package options, Discover More packages blend flights, accommodation and excursions, including wine tour of the Douro Valley where guests can enjoy the vineyards and sit back and relax on a leisurely Rabelo boat cruise in Pinhão.

Prices for the Discover More options lead in from £589 per person for three nights at the four-star Porto Royal Bridges with the Douro Valley Wine Tour included.

www.jet2.com / www.jet2holidays.com



TEMPTING THAI TRIO

Avani Hotels & Resorts shines the spotlight on Southern Thailand.



AVANI HOTELS & Resorts is inviting guests of all backgrounds to relax in the beauty of Southern Thailand at three of its beachfront resorts: Avani+ Mai Khao Phuket, Avani+ Koh Lanta Krabi Resort, and Avani+ Khoa Lak Resort.

Offering a hideaway in Thailand's Phuket province, Avani+ Mai Khao Resort provides 70 private suites

leading in from £89 per night based on two adults sharing. With a focus on rejuvenation and relaxation, the resort's amenities include a swimming pool with a swim-up bar, jacuzzis, a fitness centre and six authentic dining establishments.

Guests can overlook the Andaman Sea at the Avani+ Koh Lanta Krabi resort and take in the stunning nightly sunset views. Each of the rooms and private pool villas put comfort first, offering king-sized beds, private balconies and floor-to-ceiling windows looking out to sea. Guests are encouraged to make the most of the Thai coast to go snorkelling or scuba diving among the reefs, or take a boat to

the nearby Maya Bay on Phi Phi Island. Prices lead in from £71 per night.

Completing the trio, Avani+ Khao Lak Resort is nestled among the pristine beaches of Khao Lak, Phang Nga, where guests can spend their time lounging in the pools or in the clear waters of the Andaman Sea. Those looking for a luxurious pampering can enjoy over 60 treatments in the spa, while guests looking for a thrill can embark on kayak expeditions through mangroves and lush rainforests before exploring the Similan Islands. Prices for the resort lead in from £56 per night. www.avanihotels.com

Southeast Asia fuels DTH Travel's record-breaking sales

DTH TRAVEL has reported its sales have already exceeded last year's total, with its best-selling destinations, Thailand and the Philippines, having already recouped 90% of their sales for 2023.

The destination growth doesn't stop there: Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia and Sri Lanka have already exceeded last year's figures. These stats prove the strength of Southeast Asia's return as a key player in the region's travel landscape.

Along with its rebranding and repositioning last year, DTH Travel attributes its sales growth to the demand for tailor-made, authentic experiences. www.dth.travel

Cosmos and Globus offers huge Asia discounts

SAVE UP to £900 per couple with Cosmos and Globus' Asian offer for 2025 escorted tours, guaranteeing once-in-a-lifetime moments across a range of destinations including Japan, Cambodia, Thailand and South Korea. The operator's new 10-day 'Discover South Korea' tour features a roundtrip journey from Seoul and includes stops Gyeongju and Busan from £3,232 including accommodation and domestic flights. www.globusjourneys.co.uk



Thailand Travel Mart Plus: uniting a market

THAILAND'S LEADING B2B travel industry show – Thailand Travel Mart Plus – took place from June 5th to 7th at the beautiful JW Marriott Khao Lak in Phang Nga. 435 buyers with 430 sellers attended from around the world, with the show expected to generate around 3 billion Thai baht in revenue.

Chiravadee Khunsub, executive director for Europe at the Tourism Authority of Thailand spoke with Tim Podger at *Travel Bulletin*, "We are very happy that from late October British Airways will be flying London Gatwick to Bangkok three days a week through to the end of March 2025. The Tourism Authority Authority Of Thailand is supporting British Airways with a joint marketing campaign.

"We hope that this will help the



possibility of the schedule being extended beyond the end of March to return to a year round service with additional flights too."

For January to April 2024 visitor arrivals from the UK were 368,564 which

is 98% of pre pandemic levels in 2019.

The target for 2024 is one million UK visitor arrivals which would be a 0.7% increase from 2019.

www.tatnews.org



From the show floor to a mangrove safari

DELEGATES WERE hosted by Little Amazon Takuapa on a mangrove safari, through mangroves and 150-year-old banyan trees with guide Khun Suree from Absolutely Fantastic Holidays. The Tourism Authority Of Thailand offers an incentive to help hotels and operators to go green with the Sustainable Tourism Acceleration Scheme. Those who qualify - such as the Little Amazon Takuapa - get a 20% discount to attend the TAT stand at the World Travel Market.

JW Marriott plays hosts

JW MARRIOTT played host to delegates at TTM+. The JW brand affirmed its commitment to sustainability, aligning with the event's goals. The brand avoids using plastic plates, cutlery, or cups, and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) encourages participants to bring their own tumblers. Waste management is a priority, with the National Convention Center (NCC), the organizer hired by TAT, weighing all

trash daily and planning for recycling. Food and coffee break leftovers are donated to local schools.

The JW Khao Lak has family pools, family restaurants, kids play areas, adult only pools and adult only restaurants. The beach front was exquisite, complete with a beach bar, free surf boards and boogie boards. The staff, from receptionists to gardeners, helped guarantee a special experience for delegates.



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CENTRALRETAIL

Meliá expands Thai presence

MELIÁ HOTELS International is expanding its presence in Southeast Asia with the addition of two new properties in Thailand: Meliá Pattaya City and Paradisus Jomtien Resort.

The new hotels will bring the total number of hotels under the Meliá umbrella in the country up to six, including the first appearance of the Paradisus brand in Asia. Meliá is continuing to expand its presence across five major tourism hot spots: Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Koh Samui, Phuket and Pattaya.

Meliá Pattaya City will welcome guests from December this year following the full renovation of the three-star 234-room Grand Sole Pattaya in order to bring the property in line with Meliá's ethos and charm.

The debut of Paradisus Jomtien Resort is scheduled for 2028 at an oceanfront location boasting 698 keys. The property promises to sport a more dynamic and sustainable façade with the incorporation of vertical greenery climbing the exterior. The hotel will offer plunge pools in 44 rooms, as well as multiple restaurants, a gym and spa. www.melia.com



G Adventures heads back to Tibet

G ADVENTURES is expanding its Asian presence with its 'Classic' trips collection for 2025 by heading back to Tibet for the first time since before the pandemic, as well as expanding itinerary options in both China and South Korea as demand continues to grow. Travellers can embark on the 12-day 'Essential Tibet' tour from £2,299 per person, or choose to explore ancient traditions in the 16-day 'Korea and Japan Encompassed' itinerary from £4,599 per person. www.gadventures.com

What are your three hand luggage essentials?

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