

travelbulletin

February 12 2021 | ISSUE NO 3,166 | travelbulletin.co.uk

Giving agents the edge

AGENT INSIGHT

Marie Rowe, Travel Counsellors, on turning difficult times into opportunity

ITALY

Learn more about new tours, attractions and hotels to entice your clients with

SINGLE TRAVELLERS

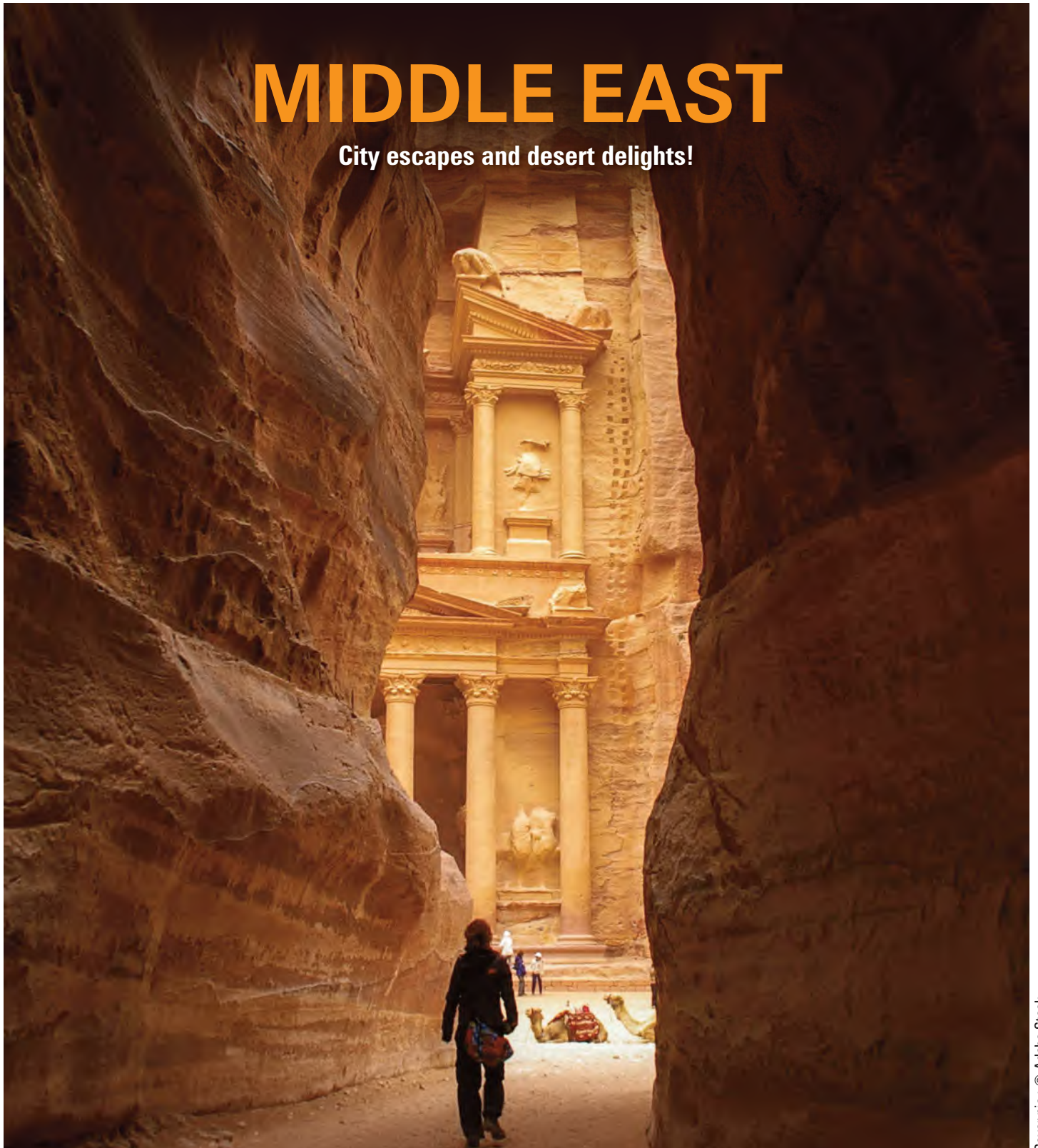
Holidays for those who dare to go it alone!

SCANDINAVIA

From Iceland to Denmark, more on what this region has to offer

MIDDLE EAST

City escapes and desert delights!



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 VIRTUAL TRAINING

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TRAVEL BULLETIN'S TRAINING WEBINAR

OUR LATEST IN A SERIES OF VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

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Receive updates and learn top selling tips from leading industry suppliers during their short but informative presentations, then connect with them during a live Q&A session to try and win some amazing prizes!

TIMINGS

2pm

Webinar Welcome From
Your Travel Bulletin Host

2:05pm – 2:35pm

Supplier
Presentations

2:35pm

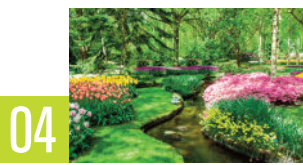
Live Q & A Session
and Prizes

3:00pm

Webinar
Ends

FOR FREE REGISTRATION CLICK HERE

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AGENT INSIGHT

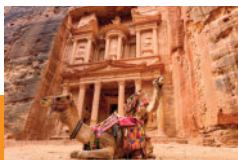
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SAFETY FIRST

A new consumer insight report by All Clear Travel Insurance has found that a holiday industry bounce-back is on the cards, as British travellers will focus on quality and safety over price.



The resurgence of interest in planning holidays is most present amongst older people.

ACCORDING TO a new consumer insight report by AllClear Travel Insurance, the industry will bounce back in 2021 – although the new focus on safety and quality has replaced the once-popular focus on bargains and cheap deals.

Last year, after the first lockdown, two-thirds of Britons surveyed wanted an overseas holiday in the summer, and safety emerged as the top priority for holidaymakers, rather than price. In fact, more than half of UK adults (55%) said they would feel comfortable going on holiday again.

The resurgence of interest in planning holidays was strongest amongst older people, and was

consistently popular across all UK regions – an early indication that the travel sector could find its feet quicker than has been reported in the news.

The study suggested, last autumn, when UK restrictions began to tighten, the percentage of people looking to book a short haul break doubled from 24% in July, to 51% in November, while those who were longing for long haul breaks tripled, from 10% in July, to 30% in November.

Chris Rolland, CEO of AllClear Insurance, said: "There's no doubt that the travel industry has taken a severe multi-billion pound knock, but for 2021, UK consumers are intending to

travel and their focus is now more on safety and quality rather than a hunt for a bargain break."

"We are passionate about enabling people to obtain specialist travel insurance whatever their pre-existing medical conditions or age - and we will be leading the charge to make travel safe again this year, so people can have those dream holidays as soon as the COVID-19 threat subsides. COVID-19 has been an assault on people's most basic freedom, the freedom to travel, and we expect to see an emphatic holiday boom this summer as the vaccine helps us to turn the tide on this terrible pandemic," he added.

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Titan Travel reveals 2021/22 river cruise brochure

TITAN TRAVEL has launched its new river cruise brochure for 2021/22, which features some new cruises on Europe's iconic waterways, alongside popular returning Titan favourites.

Titan has also introduced a £49 per person Flexi Deposit for all bookings made before March 1, 2021. The deposit allows clients to amend or postpone their booking up to 75 days prior to departure at no extra cost.

Titan's Protection Promise offers some new and existing health and safety measures as well as financial guarantees for both agents and clients. In addition, each agent will receive a £20 Lifestyle voucher for every new Titan holiday they book, until February 28.

The 'Dutch Waterways' and



The 'Dutch Waterways' tour will interest avid plant enthusiasts.

the Beauty of Keukenhof' river cruise offers seven nights aboard MS Serenade 1 on a full board basis, including four excursions. Prices start at £1,499 per person, based on a April 2, 2022, departure date.

'Floriade and the Delights of the Dutch Waterways' is the river cruise of choice for horticulture enthusiasts. The

tour includes seven nights on-board MS River Discovery II on a full board basis, and four excursions. Prices start at £1,499 per person, based on a April 13, 2022, departure date.

Agents can order a trade friendly brochure for their clients online at www.titanagents.co.uk/trade/forms/trade-brochure-request

In the lap of luxury with Sandals' Caribbean sale

AGENTS LOOKING to book their clients on a Caribbean break can do so with the Sandals Sale, which is offering up to 45% off accommodation and savings on Sandals' top room categories, including Signature Love Nest Butler Suites.

An extra discount of up to £700 off per booking is also available with the Sandals and Beaches Resorts' popular Booking Bonus, applicable on selected room categories, resorts and departure dates. To qualify for the Sandals Sale savings, bookings must be made before midnight on February 28, 2021,

for a minimum of seven nights.

Seven nights at Sandals Halcyon Beach, St Lucia in a Grand Luxe Club Level Walkout Room with Patio Tranquility Soaking Tub starts at £2,999 per person. The price includes luxury all-inclusive accommodation, Club Sandals concierge service, return Club World flights with British Airways from London Gatwick Airport and resort transfers. The price is valid for travel on select dates between September 1 to October 21, 2021.

www.sellingsandals.co.uk

Scenic unveils new Australia and New Zealand itineraries

SCENIC HAS released two new luxury itineraries, the 10-day 'Gems of South Australia' tour and the 15-day 'New Zealand Panorama' tour, with the launch of its 2021/22 Australia and New Zealand escorted tours.

The 'Gems of South Australia' escorted tour includes a river cruise on Adelaide's Torrens River, a port tasting from the year of the cruiser's birth and a vineyard tour of the Jacob's Creek Winery. Prices start at £3,095 per person, for October 16, 2021 departures.

The 'New Zealand Panorama' escorted tour starts in Auckland, and includes some of the finest natural wonders on a journey south to Queenstown, such as Rotorua's geothermal pools, Lake Tekapo and Milford Sound. Prices start at £4,745 per person, for departures on October 7, 2021.



To celebrate the 35th anniversary of its land tours in Australia, Scenic is also offering savings of up to £1,000 per person across all Australia and New Zealand itineraries, when booked by February 28, 2021.

www.scenic.co.uk



Contiki launches new range of UK short breaks for 2021

CONTIKI HAS launched a series of new short breaks in the UK for 2021, with dates ranging from four to six days, available throughout the summer season from April to July, 2021.

The five-night 'Highlands Hiking' tour packs in daily guided hikes through the Cairngorms, Glencoe and Loch Lomond, with overnight stays in Edinburgh and Glasgow, as well as a boat cruise on Loch Ness and two dinners. Add ons include whisky tasting and a storytelling session in Edinburgh, or dinner and music at a local pub in Glasgow. Prices start at £999 per person. www.contiki.com/agents

Grease the wheels at MarBella Elix

THE MARBELLA Collection has announced MarBella Elix as a unique and unexplored cycling destination, following the hotel's newly awarded 'Bike Friendly' certification. The new property, opening on April 30, 2021, is situated amongst lush greenery, surrounded by olive groves and a variety of biking landscapes, from coastal through to mountainous trails.

The 'Bike Friendly' label certifies and assures guests that a set of internationally established criteria are being met for bikers of all abilities, making it a real pleasure to pedal around the mountains, verdant forests and bright beaches with ease. The hotel offers secure bike parking and storage along with tool



MarBella Elix now holds a 'Bike Friendly' certification.

kit availability for all cyclists. Those without bikes of their own can still enjoy the trails with local bike rentals.

Following a long ride, guests can soothe their muscles in the sauna, relax with a massage or lounge by the pool sipping on a sundowner. Working in collaboration with local cycling tour operators, the

hotel is offering digital and printed bike routes for both solo and group riders, taking them through a combination of picturesque villages and vast countryside. Family rooms start from £180 per night, per room on a half board basis.

www.bikehotels.travel/en/bike-hotels/marbella-elix/

Expedia TAAP offers more agent benefits for 2021

EXPEDIA PARTNER Solutions, (EPS), has announced an extension to its package rates for all Expedia TAAP partners, guaranteeing the retention of their 2020 tier: Platinum, Gold, or Silver, until the end of 2021.

The initiative is designed to support the travel agent community that has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

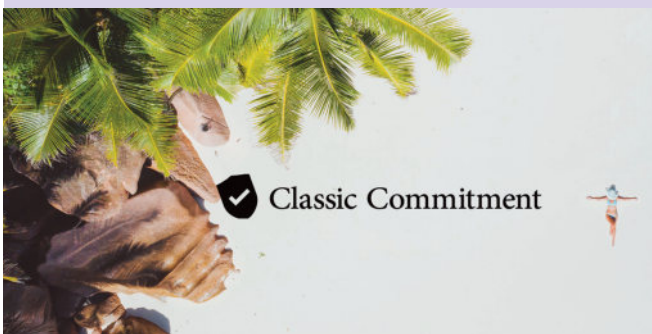
Expedia TAAP package rates had previously only been available to Silver tier and above. Now, more TAAP partners will be able to offer travellers an average discount of 20% on accommodation when booked alongside a transport component. www.expedia.co.uk

Classic Collection's Commitment to secure consumer confidence

CLASSIC COLLECTION Holidays is launching 'The Classic Commitment', following the present uncertainties, complexities and restrictions surrounding international travel.

This new initiative guarantees that customers will not lose out should their holidays not be able to go ahead as planned, or if they change their holiday plans.

The operator promises a 100% cancellation guarantee, comprising full cash refunds if, for any reason, the customers' holiday cannot be provided, and no amendment fee charges will be made on any changes to holiday plans.



Classic is offering a £100 voucher for a limited time to thank customers who amend a booking, rather than cancel.

'The Classic Commitment' is available on selected current live bookings.

For more information, visit www.classic-collection.co.uk

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TRAVEL INDUSTRY COLLEAGUES



Have your working conditions changed?

If you have been furloughed, made redundant or are now permanently working from home due to the current pandemic, don't miss out on reading **Travel Bulletin magazine!**

Update your subscription now to start receiving your print copy at home and your digital version via your personal email address.



AGENT INSIGHT

MARIE ROWE TRAVEL COUNSELLORS

I HAVE lost count of how many times I've heard the proverbial phrase 'When life gives you lemons, make lemonade'. It has been commonly used since the pandemic turned everything a little 'sour'.

In the spirit of positivity, this is the perfect expression for articulating the process of turning adversity into advantage.

In our case, the figurative lemon has been slightly more devastating than a bitter aftertaste, but the mindset required to turn our misfortune into something positive is the same.

"When life gives you a global pandemic to navigate (the lemon), build your reputation for future success (the lemonade)."

Until now, travel agents have been optional. Now we have industry guru's speaking words of wisdom in our favour. Demand is about to hit an all-time high and we have a unique opportunity to shine.

Here's my recipe for making the perfect metaphorical lemonade (building your reputation for future success).

One Part Visibility: Don't fall off the face of the Earth just because you're not busy with bookings. Stay visible, maintain your social media presence and client communications and don't disappear.

One Part Credibility: Tell everyone you meet how you've helped your clients and the value you've demonstrated during these times. Ask for testimonials to help showcase the quality of your service and passion for customer care without having to brag about it yourself.

One Part Availability: Make sure people know you're available. Don't put your out of office email reply on to say that you're infrequently checking mails because you're busy home-schooling (even if you are). Make your customers feel like they're your priority.

One Part Exclusivity: Stand out by doing something different. Define your niche and offer something special that isn't the same as every other Travel Agent is doing. Be you!



'PURE PATAGONIA' is Latin Routes' 17-day tour across both Argentine and Chilean Patagonia. Guests explore Patagonia across mountains, lakes, fjords, and glaciers. Highlights include the lake district of Bariloche, Puerto Varar, and Torre del Paine National Park. The tour starts from £3,799, including internal transport, accommodation, some meals and a guide. www.latinroutes.com

New on the Nile: Viking Cruises' latest ship

VIKING CRUISES has announced the latest addition to its Egypt fleet with the Viking Aton, an under-construction river vessel set to debut in September 2022. The ship is purpose-built to navigate the Nile, inspired by Viking's Longship fleet.

The Viking Aton, named after the Egyptian sun god, will join its identical sister ship, Viking Osiris, and the Viking Ra.

Viking's chairman, Torstein Hagen, said, "Egypt remains a top destination for many of our guests... the addition of Viking Aton is a reflection of our continued investment in Egypt; we look forward to introducing the country's cultural treasures to even more Viking guests in the future."



The ship will serve 82 guests across 42 staterooms when it launches this September.

The 41-stateroom ship will serve the 'Pharaohs & Pyramids' itinerary. From £4,665 per person, the voyage begins with three nights in Cairo, where guests can explore the Great Pyramids before flying to Luxor to visit the Temple of Luxor and Karnak. Boarding a Viking river ship for an eight-day voyage along the Nile, Viking offers privileged access to the tombs of Nefertari and Tutankhamun, and excursions to the Temple of Khnum and Dendera Temple Complex. The journey ends with a flight back to Cairo for a final night in the capital.

www.vikingcruises.co.uk



MALTA TOURISM Authority has launched a competition for travel agents, where as many as 10 agents will win a chance to be on the first Malta Academy FAM trip to the Maltese Islands between April 7 to April 11, 2021. To participate, travel agents will need to complete a Malta Academy Entry Course by February 19, 2021. Malta Tourism Authority UK office will choose winners at random. www.malta-training.com/competition

AGENT INCENTIVES

- **ALONG WITH** a weekly prize draw, all bookings made with Wendy Wu for the month of February will go into a Grand Prize Draw to win a fam trip in 2022. A winner will be announced in March, for bookings made in February. To learn more, visit the Wendy Wu Agent Friends Facebook page.
- **THE UTAH** Office of Tourism has launched The Visit Utah "Walker Tracker" step challenge as a way for agents to learn more about the state of Utah, and earn some prizes along the way. Furthermore, all agents who complete the challenge will be entered into a draw to win a place on a dedicated fam trip to the state later in 2021, once travel can be undertaken safely. Agents can register at: <https://utah.walkertracker.com/>



AGENT TRAINING

VISIT CENTRAL Florida, Polk County, is inviting agents to sign up to its newly launched "Visit Central Florida Travel Specialist Academy". Once completed, agents will receive a Visit Central Florida Specialist Certificate, exclusive discounts and upgraded benefits within the destination and will also be entered into a draw to win one of 100 £10 Amazon vouchers. <https://visitcentralflorida.org/travel-professionals/>

BECOME AN Italy specialist today, with the all new Italy Online Training course. Agents must complete four short modules to have a chance of winning several prizes, including a trip for two, with flights, accommodation and transfers to an Italian art city, a tablet and Italian Hampers. www.travelbulletin.co.uk/travelgym



travelbulletin WEBINARS

Register now to attend the

Travel Bulletin Family Holiday Virtual Showcase

on 22nd February and train with Ras Al Khaimah, Malta Tourist Office, Aldemar Resorts and the Seychelles Tourist Office.

CLICK HERE to reserve your space.

Gems on our doorstep with Wilderness England

NEW TOUR operator, Wilderness England, is set to launch this month, offering a number of adventure holidays across the nation's National Parks and remote wilderness.

The operator joins its sister companies, Wilderness Scotland and Wilderness Ireland. As many look for secluded and close-to-home breaks in the uncertain travel climate, Wilderness England hopes to show guests the great outdoors on their doorstep with a diverse programme of guided or self-guided group trips, self-drive breaks and private holidays.

The initial programme will include 17 getaways across the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales, Peak District, Cotswolds, Northumberland, and more of the country's most remote corners.



The programme will offer a number of self-sufficient wilderness holidays.

Accommodation is hand-picked, from wild camping to small hotels and inns with first-rate service and local food.

Managing director, Paul Easto, commented, "Wilderness Scotland has been gradually introducing itineraries that crossed into England... their popularity gave us the confidence to

launch a full range under Wilderness England. The growing trend towards the Staycation, combined with uncertainty of overseas travel, saw a 26% increase year-on-year in our bookings for private UK travel."

Wilderness England is offering a 10% commission on all agent bookings. www.wildernessengland.com

MSC Cruises goes green with new eco-friendly ships

2021 WILL see two new MSC ships join the cruise line's fleet; both the MSC Virtuosa and MSC Seashore will be equipped with cutting-edge eco-friendly technology, minimising the environmental footprint of the new ships.

The ships will achieve a 98% reduction of sulphur oxide emissions and 90% reduction in nitrogen oxide by utilising modern cleaning and reduction systems to reduce the ships' carbon footprints.

MSC Cruises' executive chairman, Pierfrancesco Vago, said, "Our long-term goal

is to achieve a zero-impact cruise operation and this is the journey we are on today. As we work with our partners to identify new technologies that will bring us closer to this goal with each new ship, we continue to equip our ships with the latest, most effective technologies."

Looking ahead, MSC will debut World Europa, the company's first liquefied-natural-gas-powered vessel, in 2022.

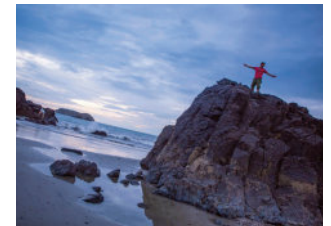
For more information, visit www.msccruises.co.uk

G-Adventures launch bite-sized tour range, Mini Adventures

G-ADVENTURES, the adventure travel and tour operator, has launched a new type of tour; bite-sized worldwide itineraries dubbed 'Mini Adventures'.

The new tours vary from two to four days in length. This manageable schedule means most offerings revolve around a single destination, making it easier for clients to experience a fulfilling adventure at a G-Adventures destination, despite the relatively small time frame on offer.

Encapsulating all the highlights of their destinations, the tours focus on brief yet fulfilling local experiences around the world. Mini Adventures can be booked as an extension of another G-Adventures multi-day tour or as a standalone break.



All tours are led by G-Adventures representatives or 'CEOs' – Chief Experience Officers, and adhere to the Travel with Confidence policy, including a reduced maximum group size of 12, private transportation and double or single accommodation with ensuite bathrooms.

www.gadventures.com



Celestyal Cruises launches weekly flash sale series

GREEK ISLANDS and Eastern Mediterranean cruise specialist, Celestyal Cruises, has launched a new series of flash sales. The offers will be released weekly, every Thursday at midnight until March 26, 2021.

Deals offered in the series so far include seven-night cruises from £539 per person for double stateroom occupancy and selected three-night sailings from £269 per person. All cruises include the 'All-Inclusive Experience' with unlimited classic drinks, locally-inspired cuisine, entertainment, select shore excursions and gratuities.

To view the seven-day exclusive offers, visit www.celestyal.com/uk/

SUDOKU

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

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

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

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

Closing date for entries is Thursday, 25th February. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

The winner for 29th January is Marion Owen from Marion Owen Travel.

29th January Solution: A=6 B=2 C=7 D=3

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



WHERE AM I?

This city was known as Philadelphia in Greek and Roman periods. It was originally built on seven hills but now stretches across 19 hills. The eastern part of the city is known for its ancient historic sites and the western side is more modern.

CROSSWORD

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

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

Across

- 1 Hotel and Resorts company (5)
- 3 Award winning cellist, Sheku Kanneh-_____ (5)
- 5 Country bordering Nicaragua and Panama (5,4)
- 8 This ancient Italian city is a major tourist attraction (7)
- 11 The largest planet in our solar system (7)
- 13 English county with a white rose emblem (9)
- 15 A lovable animated sheep (5)
- 16 First name of former England and Man U striker, now Manager of Derby County (5)

Down

- 1 Geordie actress Jill whose surname sounds like an old coin (9)
- 2 Alicante-Elche airport code (3)
- 3 Florida city with a trendy Art Deco district (5)
- 4 Takes you to the top of the slopes (3,4)
- 6 Sports presenter _____ Barker (3)
- 7 Carrier with hubs at Orly and Charles de Gaulle (3,6)
- 9 Alcudia is a popular resort on this island (7)
- 10 Promise to pay (3)
- 11 Actor David, forever known as Del Boy (5)
- 12 Palm Beach international airport code (3)
- 14 Oliver Cromwell once lived in this Cambridgeshire city (3)

Mystery Word: MAUI Where am I? - Amman, Jordan

Solution:
 Across: 1 HYATT, 3 MASON, 5 COSTA RICA, 8 POMPEII, 11 JUPITER, 13 YORKSHIRE, 15 SHAUN, 16 WAYNE.
 Down: 1 HALPENNY, 2 ALC, 3 MIAMI, 4 SKI LIFT, 6 SUE, 7 AIR FRANCE, 9 MAJORCA, 10 IOU, 11 JASON, 12 PBI, 14 ELY.

Industry insight by...



Steve Witt and Paul Harrison, co-founders of Not Just Travel, on why now is the time to start 'dating' your customers.

LOVE IS in the air! Valentine's Day is just round the corner and romance is very much on everyone's minds. But what can businesses, especially travel businesses, learn from dating and taking some good old-fashioned lessons in love? Well, firstly dating is all about building the strong foundations of a relationship. If you don't put in the groundwork, why would your customers be interested or come back to

...Remember that the secret to good business is good relationships

you? So, this Valentine's Day here's our top tips to how to 'date' your customers, increase love around your company and create long-term relationships.

Be honest and kind

Start with the basics. You wouldn't go out with someone who was really pushy would you? In the same way, customers won't buy from you without first

having some kind of interaction with you. Being honest and authentic is hugely important in business now, and customers love to know who they are buying from and what they stand for. Use your interactions with potential customers to show them why you are 'The One' for them.

Don't ghost your customers

In dating, 'Ghosting' refers to someone who speaks to you and suddenly drops you, never to be heard from again – they vanish like a ghost. In business, if you only interact with your customers and audience when you have something to sell, or only when you want something, they will soon look elsewhere.

Take it from a first date to saying 'I do'

Most importantly, remember that the secret to good business is good relationships. If you consistently prove your worth and build a good relationship based on trust, kindness, and showing you are an expert, then customers are more likely to come back to you time and time again.





LIVE RAK PLAY

Ras Al Khaimah's 'Live Rak Play' programme offers the ideal workation in the Emirates, with a range of long stay offers that can be extended from one to 12 months, until December 30, 2021.

RAS AL Khaimah's 'Live RAK Play' programme is offering working professionals the chance to call the Emirate home, with a range of long-stay offers across numerous hotels, with seamless connectivity and discounts on dining, laundry and car rental.

Weaving Ras Al Khaimah's new and exciting destination experiences into their daily routine, visitors can enjoy working in unique locations, such as 1484 by Puro, the UAE's highest restaurant, located atop the Jebel Jais mountains, or attend a Zoom or Microsoft Team call while sinking their feet in the warm sands at the beach.

The 'Live RAK Play' programme provides lucrative hotel rates, complimentary airport transfers, car rental deals and enticing offers across Tower Links Golf Club. Also



The long-stay offers can be extended from one month to 12 months.

included is the Al Hamra Golf Club, outdoor experiences with Adventurati and Adventure Sports and safaris with Bedouin Oasis.

Guests can enjoy the Jebel Jais Flight, the longest zipline in the world, a trip back in time at the Suwaidi Pearl Farm, or biking and hiking around Wadi (valley) Showka, off-roading in the desert and exploring the diverse dining scene within the Emirate.

In addition, guests will

receive two complimentary tickets to either Jais Adventure Peak or Suwaidi Pearl Farm, as well as the newly launched Bear Grylls Explorers Camp, for a half day-mountain excursion. The stays can be extended from one to 12 months, until December 30, 2021.

Some of the participating hotels include Waldorf Astoria Ras Al Khaimah, DoubleTree by Hilton Ras Al Khaimah and Bedouin Oasis, among others. www.visitrasalkhaimah.com/

Land of God: A trip to Israel and Palestine with Intrepid Travel

CLIENTS CAN gain a varied perspective on Israel and the Palestinian Territories with Intrepid's eight-day tour. The holiday takes visitors through the history of modern Israel, with wide-ranging Jewish, Muslim and Christian influences.

Tourists can stroll through the Old City's ramparts in Jerusalem, visit Jesus' biblical birthplace and walk the graffitied separation wall in Bethlehem, or go for a float in the Dead Sea. The tour includes visits to Jericho, Haifa and Tel Aviv, and allows travellers to have a home-cooked meal of chicken maqloubeh with the Palestinians, followed by an oud performance by a local musician.

Some must-visit spots include the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where Jesus is believed to have been crucified and buried, and from where he resurrected, and the Church of the Annunciation, where Mary is said to have received the news of the immaculate conception. Prices start at £1,820 per person, on a double sharing basis, based on June 19, 2021 departures. www.intrepidtravel.com

DISCOVER OMAN

Hayes & Jarvis' eight-day adventure through Oman shows guests a diverse coastal world of desert dunes to cityscapes, and mountainous panoramas to pure white beaches.



FROM MUSCAT to the Wahiba Sands, Hayes & Jarvis' eight-day 'Discover Oman' itinerary spotlights the country's diverse landscapes, history and culture.

Oman, a coastal country in the south-east of the Arabian Peninsula, is the oldest state in the Arab world, with history spanning over two thousand years – a history guests can explore with Hayes & Jarvis' eight-day adventure.

The tour begins with three days in the capital city of Muscat, where the tour calls the five-star Sheraton Oman Hotel or the luxury Chedi Muscat home (depending on the choice of standard or deluxe tour). A leisurely introduction to Muscat's offerings is followed by two jam-packed days, including tours of landmarks including the Royal Opera House and the Grand Mosque. The Old Town showcases the Al Alam Palace, Oman's official ceremonial palace, and Muttrah Souk, a traditional market.

After breakfast on day four, a 4x4 takes guests to Ras al Hadd, via Wadi Arbaeen, a

valley hosting freshwater pools, before arriving in Ras al Jinz, visiting the local turtle reserve where the tour camps overnight.

The second leg of the 4x4 journey takes off in the morning, bringing guests to Sur for a short visit, and onto Wahiba Sands, the original homeland of the Bedouins, for a dune tour and an overnight desert camp.

A morning visit to Jabrin Castle precedes a walking tour of Nizwa Souk, on the grounds of Nizwa Fort. The tour continues on, giving guests the chance to climb the Jabal Akhdar Mountain before a night at Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort or Alila Jabal Akhdar.

The last two days are spent in Al Jabal al Akhdar at visitors' leisure before a final transfer back to Muscat Airport for the return journey home.

The tour, including flights, transfers, accommodation and entrance fees to landmarks, starts from £1,999 per person based on the Standard offering. www.hayesandjarvis.co.uk

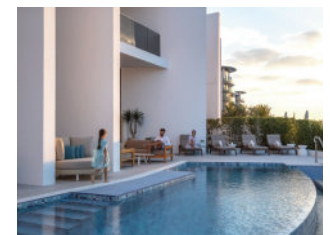
Save up to 20% with Jumeirah Group's 'Jumeirah Escapes' promotion

JUMEIRAH HOTELS and Resorts, the worldwide resort brand, has launched its latest promotion, 'Jumeirah Escapes'.

The promotion, eligible for stays throughout Europe, Middle East and Asia, will offer guests a number of offers for stays throughout 2021.

Stays of three nights and longer can save up to 20% with the 'Escapes' promotion. Bookings made as part of the promotion also include complimentary daily breakfast, 15% savings on spa treatments, food and beverages at selected hotels and resorts, an early check in from 12pm and late check out from 3pm.

Jumeirah One members can save an extra 5% on bookings and are entitled to a complimentary room upgrade where available.



Jumeirah's current promotion is set to run throughout February, applying to bookings made before February 28, 2021, for stays departing before December 18, 2021.

For full details on the promotion, visit www.jumeirah.com/escapes

Abu Dhabi's new off-road driving project

THE ABU Dhabi Department of Culture and Tourism has launched 'The Off-Road Driving in Abu Dhabi Project', composed of six off-road driving route maps spanning Abu Dhabi, Al Dhafrah and Al Ain.

Each route offers a variety of sightseeing opportunities, including wildlife sightings and unique desert dunes and oases.

Desert adventurers can embark on camping and safari experiences in their own vehicles, following the safely mapped routes.

The routes, created under the initiative, have all been curated with a focus on different levels of driving experience, from beginner to advanced. www.visitabudhabi.ae



MAKING WAVES

Luxury operator If Only... has teamed up with Dubai resort Atlantis The Palm to relaunch the 'Making Waves' promotional campaign, showcasing new offers and marketing materials.



LUXURY TOUR operator If Only... has once again teamed up with Atlantis The Palm, Dubai, to relaunch the campaign for 2021 – hosting an entirely new range of exciting offers and inspiring marketing materials to help agents sell the resort to customers looking to make a splash in 2021.

Targeting couples, families, thrill-seekers, and luxury break lovers, the 'Atlantis The Palm, Dubai - Making Waves' campaign will continue to showcase the resort's range of amenities and attractions, including complimentary access to the Lost Chambers Aquarium and Aquaventure Waterpark for all resort guests, to entertainment at the Wavehouse, Dubai and WHITE Beach.

The 1,548-room property also offers a number of bucket-list experiences, including a diving experience with sharks, rays and 65,000 marine creatures at the on-site aquarium, a sea lion interaction and an underwater dining experience at the Ossiano restaurant.

For those looking for a more relaxed break, the Shiqui spa offers a number of bespoke and signature wellness-based treatments.

If Only...'s marketing manager, Annika Rieley, explained, "Atlantis The Palm, Dubai, is an incredible option for both families and couples, and we're delighted to be working alongside this iconic property once again in 2021. At If Only..., we're all about supporting our valued travel agent partners, so there's a major focus on providing useful marketing materials throughout the campaign which agents can use to inspire their customers to visit. We're providing agents with all of the tools they need to promote Atlantis The Palm, Dubai with confidence, and secure those all-important bookings."

The campaign offers a number of exclusive offers for the resort, as well as social media and interactive content to share with clients.

To read more, visit www.ifonly.net

2021: Showcasing all Israel has to offer

HOPING TO re-open borders to international travel by spring this year, Israel is finding its way onto plenty of Brits' travel bucket lists.

From historical Jerusalem to coastal Tel Aviv, the country's must-visit list spans historical havens and a modern metropolis. Jerusalem, the ancient capital, serves as a perfect contrast to modern Tel Aviv, offering a wealth of historical significance; from the site of the crucifixion, to the Tower of David, all of which draw visitors who are excited to experience a city frozen in time. Tel Aviv, the cosmopolitan hub of Israel, boasts a popular nightlife, culture and a culinary scene – lined with beaches, the boardwalks throughout the city showcase these diverse offerings.



Those keen to connect with nature and escape from bustling cities can explore the great outdoors and take to the Negev Desert, 90 minutes south of Jerusalem, whilst Eilat, by the Red Sea, is a tourist hub for outdoor excursions. The country boasts 9,000km of marked trails for hiking, bike rides or jeep journeys.

www.goisrael.com



Travel through time in Egypt and Jordan

DISCOVER EGYPT is offering a 15-night holiday in Egypt and Jordan; a diverse adventure ranging from a Cairo city break to the depths of the Dead Sea.

Along the way, guests spend three nights in Cairo at the five-star Le Meridien Pyramids (including a full-day excursion to the Pyramids, Giza and Sakkara), seven nights full board on a classic Nile Cruise, including 10 guided excursions, and five nights in Jordan. The tour showcases both Egypt and Jordan's historical and more modern highlights.

The trip starts at £3,185 per person, including return flights from Egypt and Jordan, a number of excursions, seven nights full board and accommodation throughout the trip. www.discoveregypt.co.uk

ITALY



SUN, SAND AND SICILY

Newmarket Holidays' eight-day itinerary through Italy explores Palermo, Agrigento & the Aeolian Islands, while passing through the sandy beaches and cobbled streets of Cefalu.

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS' eight-day tour 'Sicily - Palermo, Agrigento & the Aeolian Islands' takes clients through the sandy beaches and cobbled streets of Cefalu, the ancient ruins of Palermo, the heritage sites of Agrigento, as well as the volcanic Aeolian Isles.

A day-long tour of Palermo explores several of the city's monuments, including the Cattedrale, the Royal Palazzo dei Normanni, the Archaeological Museum, Monreale's great Benedictine monastery and Norman cathedral, and the four historic quarters, known as the Quattro Canti.

Agrigento's famous UNESCO Heritage site, the Valley of Temples, has some of the finest and best preserved Ancient Greek relics, such as



Lipari is the largest of the Aeolian islands.

the temples of Hera Lacinia, Concordia, Heracles, Zeus and Hephaestus.

In Lipari, guests can spend their time either exploring the Lipari Town, wandering through the colourful streets beneath the 1,000 year old castle or taking a dip in the pristine waters. Cycling enthusiasts can also hire bicycles for the trip.

An optional excursion to Madonie Mountains, on day seven, offers the chance to explore the natural reserve,

which is populated with wildcats and wolves and more than 2,500 different plant species. Clients can also enjoy traditional Sicilian delicacies at the hill-top restaurant, Castelbuono.

Prices start at £1,015 per person, based on a October 5, 2021 departure from London Stansted. Agents who book before February 28, 2021, can save 10% with the code OFFER10.

www.newmarketholidays.co.uk

In the lap of nature: A week-long stay at Botania Resort & Spa, Ischia

CITALIA IS offering seven-night bed-and-breakfast stay at Botania Resort & Spa, which allows guests to experience the Mediterranean lifestyle.

Located on the Green Island of Ischia, Botania Resort and Spa offers relaxation in a serene, adults-only setting. Guests will be staying in Mediterranean-style, white-washed villas, with access to the outdoor swimming pool that's fed by a natural spring, to ensure a warm dip.

Guests keen on physical and mental wellbeing can take a little time for themselves by practicing yoga in the natural setting of the Botania Relais & Spa's park. Those interested can also sign up for weekly sessions of Hatha Yoga, or spend their evenings at the resort's Greek amphitheatre, which showcases complimentary musical performances.

The offer includes return flights from London Gatwick, complimentary private transfers, and complimentary hydrofoil transfers, based on a May 15, 2021, departure date. Prices start from £1,049 per person.

www.citalia.com

SIGHTS, SMELLS AND TASTES OF ITALY

Immerse yourself in all things Italy with Inghams' tours, taking travellers from coast to city, with plenty of opportunities to enjoy food and wine along the way.



INGHAMS' CUSTOMERS will once again be able to explore Italy's outdoors, indulging in food and drink, art, culture, natural landscapes and historic cities.

Explore Italy's great outdoors

From the Italian lakes to the breath-taking mountains, immersing in Italy's natural beauty can do wonders for anyone's wellbeing. The famed Dolomites are a walker's paradise in the spring and summer months, and Italy's stunning lake destinations offer visitors outdoor activities and relaxation in a range of scenic settings. Guests can stay at the five-star, The Dolomites Hotel Medil in Canzei, for seven nights, half-board. Prices start at £824 per person, flying on June 16, 2021, from London Gatwick.

Taste Italy's finest food and drink

Italy is known for both its regional and local specialities, and this passion for food is

showcased everywhere guests go. Food lovers would be best suited for Inghams' 'Flavours of Sicily Self-Drive Tour', starting from £948 per person, for a October 15, 2021, departure date from London Gatwick. The price covers seven nights, bed-and-breakfast.

Clear the mind on Italy's sunny coasts

Italy's brightly coloured coasts and extensive choice of beaches make it an ideal place to unwind and explore. With many views, azure waters boasting ideal water sports conditions, and a host of beaches, Inghams' customers have the choice of coastal destinations in Sardinia, Tuscany, Calabria, the Adriatic Coast, the Neapolitan Riviera and more. A seven-night stay at the four-star Resort & SPA Le Dune in Cannigione starts from £976 per person, flying on June 3, 2021 from London Gatwick.

For all trips, visit: www.inghams.co.uk

Rest and recreation at Borgo di Colleoli

THE BORGHO di Colleoli Resort is a holiday estate offering more than 50 beautiful apartments, located in the heart of Tuscany.

This typical Tuscan hamlet, with its individually furnished apartments, is situated amidst the Tuscan hillsides, on the doorstep of Florence, Pisa, Siena and Lucca and 35 minutes from Pisa airport.

The resort is just a few kilometres away from the beaches of Forte dei Marmi, Pietrasanta, Viareggio, Cecina and the stunning surroundings of Bolgheri and Castagneto Carducci.

The borgo is the perfect venue for tasting the local wine, exploring the region's rich history, or discovering the masters of Tuscan Mannerism and art.



In the villa, at the heart of the Borgo, sits a wine bar which also serves food throughout the day. Guests on the resort can also enjoy exclusive access to two swimming pools.

www.borgocolleoli.com



Loving lakes with Leger

LEGER HOLIDAYS' 'The Beauty of Lake Como & Lake Maggiore' trip combines the scenery of two of Italy's stunning lakes, along with the culture of Milan and an Alpine experience. Travellers will see the opulent resort of Stresa on Lake Maggiore, and join a boat trip passing the Borromean Islands. There will also be the opportunity to cruise the waters of Lake Como, as well as visit the resort of St. Moritz, with the chance to board the Bernina Region Railway for a journey filled with breathtaking scenery. The tour includes six- or eight-night hotel stays with breakfast; four or six evening meals; and, three or five lunches. The holiday package for seven days starts from £699 per person. www.leger.co.uk

ROAD, SEA AND SKY

Take to the Tuscan countryside and Lake Como in an Italian Ferrari, classic seaplane or by foot through expansive gardens with sister properties Villa La Massa and Villa d'Este.



A ROAD trip between the two properties of Villa La Massa and Villa d'Este, in any one of Villa La Massa's fleet of red Italian Ferraris, is an ideal bucket list break for adventurous travellers hoping to push the boundaries whilst staying close to home this year.

Deep in the Tuscan countryside, 15 minutes from Florence, sits Villa La Massa, a sixteenth-century Medici estate boasting riverside dining, an elegant bar and spa facilities. Villa La Massa's sister property, resting on Lake Como, is the luxury five-star, 10-hectare Villa d'Este, which is home to 152 rooms, a golf course, and a number of health and wellness facilities.

The journey between the two properties takes guests on a four-hour scenic adventure from Tuscany to Lake Como, through the picturesque Chianti region, and the surrounding rolling mountains and vineyards.

For those looking to tick off another must see experience during their stay at the Lake Como resort, Villa d'Este hosts the oldest seaplane school in Europe, and Italy's oldest

seaplane training facility. Guests at the resort can take to the seas and the skies with scenic airplane tours of the lake and surrounding regions with the Aero Club Como.

For those looking to take a break from the breathtaking adventures of the central Italian coast, Villa La Massa is home to the Iris Garden, a luxury expansive garden paved with picturesque paths, showcasing the region's natural offerings across 25 acres of gardens. Earning a place on the Grandi Giardini Italiani, guests can enjoy exclusive access to private properties, from secret villas to expansive gardens across Tuscany.

The accommodation also offers special access to some of Florence's lesser known art galleries.

Rooms at the Villa d'Este start from £840 per room, per night, while rates at the sister property, Villa La Massa, start at £448 per room per night.

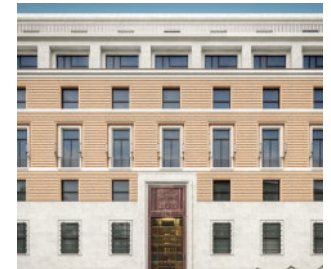
www.villalamassa.com/en and
www.villadeste.com/en

Rosewood Hotels & Resorts says "Ciao" to Rome

ROSEWOOD HOTELS & Resort, the luxury lifestyle specialist, will re-open following a refurbishment as Rosewood Rome in 2023.

The refurbishment of the property is being undertaken by investment management firm Antirion SGR.

Overlooking the Via Veneto, the 157-room property will host 44 luxury suites in the heart of Italy's capital. The property will blend classic Italian architecture with modern decor to create a luxury interior for the historic building.



Chief executive officer of Rosewood Hotel Group, Sonia Cheng, commented, "Over the last several years, we have been searching for the right opportunities to evolve our European footprint and bring the Rosewood brand to new corners of the continent. Rome has long been at the top of the list of priority destinations in which to set the Rosewood flag, and we're thrilled to be working with our partners at Antirion SGR on this project."

www.rosewoodhotels.com/rome



Enjoy May half term in Bouganville with Elegant Resorts

ELEGANT RESORTS is offering seven nights in a Deluxe Family Bungalow on a half-board basis at the traditional Forte Village resort in Bouganville.

The offering is ideal for families, with the bungalows offering seclusion on the doorstep of the Sardinian coast.

The current rate, £5,535 per family of four with a departure date in the May half term, includes a 15% discount and a complimentary stay for two children sharing with adults – meaning guests save up to £2,640 per family. The rate includes economy flights, private transfers and UK lounge passes.

www.elegantresorts.co.uk



SOLO ON THE SILK ROUTE

Titan Travel's 11-day solo tour, 'Uzbekistan – Jewel of the Silk Road', explores the historical ruins of an ancient trading hub on the Silk Route.

TITAN TRAVEL's 11-day solo tour, 'Uzbekistan – Jewel of the Silk Road,' takes tourists through the Chorsu Bazaar in Tashkent, the deserted ancient settlement of Tuprak Kala in Khiva, and the multi-coloured Abdul Aziz Khan Madrasah in Bukhara.

In addition, there will be the chance to enjoy local cuisines and live folk shows, and a traditional Bukharian cooking masterclass, which explores the multicultural roots of the regional cuisine.

A trip to Khiva allows guests to visit Chilpyk's the 'Tower of Silence,' which was used in Zoroastrian funerary rituals, as well as the ruins of the ancient palace city of Tuprak Kala. The next day will be reserved for the Itchan Kala, the walled city or the 'inner town', which houses



Titan Travel's tour includes a traditional Bukharian cooking masterclass.

the 18th-century Djuma Mosque, the Tosh-Hovli Palace, the Kuhna Ark fortress and the beautiful Pahlavan Mahmud Mausoleum.

Crossing over the Red Sand Desert, guests arrive in the old town of Bukhara, an ancient Silk Route trading hub, which is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Some highlights of the

guided tour include the 16th-century Kalyan Mosque, and the turquoise-domed Mir-i-Arab Madrasah. Tourists can also browse through the bazaars for souvenirs, or visit the many tea houses. Prices start from £2,649 per person, based on a October 25, 2022, departure.

www.titantravel.co.uk

Walk the North Highland way with Exodus Travels

EXODUS TRAVELS offers a seven-night 'Walk the North Highland Way' tour, allowing travellers to spend three nights in Scotland's northernmost town of Thurso, before walking west across the very top of the UK mainland.

The tour begins with a scenic railway journey from Edinburgh, enabling travellers to admire Scotland's stunning landscapes, before embarking on some exhilarating walks along the remote and wild North Atlantic Way. The walk allows guests to enjoy some magnificent views of the cliffs along Scotland's beaches.

In addition, the tour also includes a day trip to the Orkney Islands, with the possibilities of seeing puffin colonies, whisky tasting in the famous Wolfburn Distillery and a visit to John O'Groats. Priced at £1,499 per person, including seven nights' accommodation with breakfast, six days' guided walking, luggage transfers and transport and activities. Confirmed departure dates are available between April 10-17 and September 4-11, 2021.

www.exodus.co.uk/

GO IT ALONE

Shearings has launched its Solo Holiday collection, with trips to firm favourite destinations such as Wales, Italy and Croatia.



SHEARINGS HAS launched its 2021 'Solo Holidays for the Single Traveller Collection', with four tours offering zero single supplement and no room sharing.

All holidays include coach travel from a local joining point, hotel accommodation with breakfast and evening dinner, portage at the hotel and most excursions. All are commissionable to travel agents and can be secured with a £1 deposit until the extended date of March 31, 2021.

One example of a trip is 'The Coast and Highlands of North Wales'. Craggy mountains, deep valleys and crystal-clear lakes are typical of the countryside scenery of North Wales.

Your clients will enjoy excursions to well-known favourites, such as Llandudno and Penrhyn Castle; the Welsh Highlands and Ffestiniog Steam Railway; Portmeirion: a visit to the medieval city of Chester; and, an optional excursion to the Isle of Anglesey, plus a visit to the place made famous by having the longest name in Britain – Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch. Evening entertainment is included twice, with one evening including a performance by the Welsh Male Voice Choir. The six-day trip is priced from £459 per person.

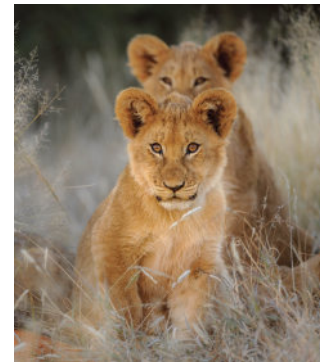
www.shearings.com

See South Africa with Saga

SAGA HOLIDAYS is offering its 'Wildlife and Landscapes of South Africa' holiday for solo travellers.

While on the trip, clients will join a small group of solo travellers on this fascinating discovery of South Africa. Look through 'God's Window' on South Africa's legendary Panorama Route, go game viewing in Kruger National Park, cruise Knysna's lagoon, hope to watch whales at Hermanus, take a tram tour through the Cape Winelands, and discover all that Cape Town has to offer.

For one passenger, the 15-night trip is priced from £3,599 per person, based on a September 21, 2021, departure date, flying from London Heathrow.



The price includes travel insurance, and additional cancellation rights. All holidays now booked with Saga can also benefit from flexible cancellation cover, should trips need be cancelled due to COVID-19.

For more information, visit www.saga.co.uk



Get more out of Morocco with Explore

YOUR OVER-50, active clients can enjoy a trip to Morocco, on Explore's 'Cycle Morocco – Atlas to the Sahara' itinerary.

The holiday will allow travellers to meet with like-minded tourists and cruise through sun-drenched landscapes.

Your clients will discover the kasbahs, tribal villages and the cool oases of the Draa Valley on two wheels, enabling them to see some of the most unique locations that the country has to offer. While in Morocco, there will be many excursion opportunities, such as cycling through the remote hamada desert of the Sahara and enjoying a High Atlas descent through the Berber heartland. www.explore.co.uk

WALKING IN THE SWISS ALPS

On Just You's walking holiday through Switzerland, your solo guests will discover the beauty of the Swiss Alps, by both foot and rail.



ON JUST You's solo traveller's walking holiday to Switzerland, guests can immerse themselves in the scenic beauty of Wengen village and its picturesque surroundings.

Travellers will have opportunities to explore the Alpine surroundings on foot, riding cogwheel trains and cable cars to soaring mountainous peaks. They will also discover the impressive Trümmelbach Falls – Europe's largest subterranean waterfalls.

There will be plenty of rest stops and leisure time to enjoy the local scenery, and most walks take place on paths and tracks, allowing solo travellers time to really take in their surroundings. Some paths will be slightly more strenuous and involve walking across slopes, tracks, hills, stiles and foot bridges.

Guests will also have the chance to explore the botanical alpine garden and enjoy a

guided walk along the Lauterbrunnen Valley, discover the Trümmelbach Falls, travel to the summit of Allmendhubel by a funicular railway, walk to Muerren in the company of a local mountain guide and admire the imposing north face of the Eiger.

Rounding off the holiday, there will be a tour of Bern, where travellers will stroll through the UNESCO-listed Old Town and browsing the shops, boutiques and galleries found in its covered arcades. Your guests can also climb the steps of the 100-metre-high cathedral tower for stunning views of the Old Town and the River Aare.

The seven-day trip is priced from £2,099 per person, based on a September 2021 departure date.

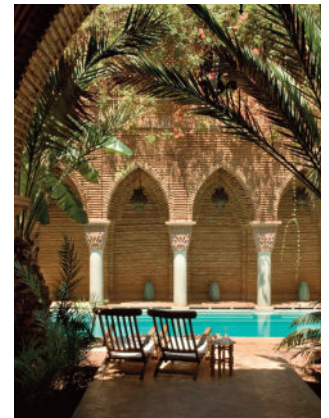
www.justyou.co.uk

Live like a king at La Sultana Marrakech

AN OASIS of calm, La Sultana Marrakech comprises five separate riads blended to create a home-away-from-home feeling in the city for guests looking to travel alone.

The hotel has 28 bedrooms and suites, a heated swimming pool, two restaurants and a spa with individual hammams, treatment rooms and lounges. The rooftop terrace has 360 degree views of Marrakech and the Atlas Mountains.

Solo travellers can discover the soul and traditions of the Berber community with a visit to the Atlas Mountains, star gazing under the Moroccan sky on the rooftop of the hotel, and visiting Yves Saint Laurent's private home: Villa Oasis.



In addition, guests can discover the city, which features the famous Jemaa El Fna Square, the Saadian Tombs and the Bahia Palace.

Prices start from £289 per night, per room.

www.lasultanahotels.com



Solo but never alone with Cox & Kings

COX & KINGS is offering your solo traveller clients the chance to explore the bio-diverse regions of both Costa Rica and Panama.

Small in size yet possessing varied individual eco-systems, Costa Rica and Panama offer a wide variety of natural wonders, including volcanoes, rainforest and cloud forest, lakes, lagoons and beaches. This tour visits the Panama Canal as well as a selection of Costa Rica's most renowned national parks, from the Caribbean coast to the Pacific coast.

The tour will consist of a group size, ranging from an average of 12 people with a maximum amount of 18.

The 14-day tour is priced from £3,095 per person. www.coxandkings.co.uk

A WEEK ON THE RHINE

Riviera Travel's Rhine cruise is an ideal eight-day single traveller adventure through Switzerland and Germany, showcasing the Rhine's idyllic and expansive Swiss and German locales.



RIVIERA TRAVEL'S 'Rhine Cruise to Switzerland' is an eight-day voyage through the heart of Western Europe, ideal for solo travellers looking for a continental adventure.

Guests begin by flying (or taking the Eurostar and TGV) to Basel before a transfer to their vessel, the MS Geoffrey Chaucer.

A morning coach journey takes guests to one of Switzerland's most historic cities, Lucerne, and continues to the Bernese Oberland for a mountain railway ascent.

An overnight voyage brings passengers to Breisach, the ancient town dominated by St. Stephan's Cathedral. Driving through the Black Forest mountains, one of Germany's most picturesque landscapes, passengers arrive in Titisee, a rural lake town.

The next day offers guests a morning in the former Alsatian city Strausbourg. The region, well known for its cafés and wines, will be free to enjoy until the late afternoon.

Arriving in Speyer, history dating back to the Celts and gothic architecture await guests

before they reboard in the evening.

The sixth day involves a walking tour of the hillsides and terraced vineyards of Rudesheim. Continuing through the Rhine Gorge with steep vineyards and rocky outcrops towering above the valley, the cruise arrives in the Roman city Koblenz; the city's medieval old town awaits.

Early risers can experience the ship departing Koblenz and a leisurely journey to Cologne, through Remangen's ruined bridge and Siebengeburge. Cologne showcases the largest Gothic structure in the world and the city's famed shopping district. A Captain's Dinner draws the final evening to a close.

Travellers are then transferred to Basel for their return journeys home.

The cruise starts at £2,209 per person, including return flights/Eurostar seven visits and tours, and transfers. The eight-day voyage charges no single supplement, and can be booked with a deposit of £250.

www.rivieratravel.com

Riding solo aboard the Eastern and Oriental Express

RAILBOOKERS, THE worldwide rail journey operator, offers an eight-day trip on the Eastern and Oriental Express, ideal for single travellers looking to explore the best of the Far East.

Flying from London to Bangkok on the first day, an evening in the city awaits. The Eastern and Oriental Express is ready for travellers the following morning.

The train arrives at the River Kwai Bridge Station for a river cruise on a local raft. Disembarking guests visit the Thailand Burma Railway Centre.

Travelling to Malaysia the following day, travellers arrive in Kuala Kangsar for a guided tour.

Passengers bid farewell to the Eastern and Oriental Express the following afternoon and enjoy a two-night stay in Singapore.

Railbookers offer optional tours during this two-day visit.



This tour includes return flights from London, all mentioned tours and hotel stays for one night in Bangkok and two nights in Singapore (both with breakfast) from £4,099 per person.

www.railbookers.co.uk



Don't pay to travel solo with Wendy Wu Tours

WENDY WU Tours has revealed a new offer to help single travellers explore the world for less – deducting the solo traveller surcharge.

The 17-day 'Japan Uncovered' tour includes savings of up to £1,790, letting guests take a century-spanning journey through Japan's culture from £6,290 per person. The 'Panoramic Peru' itinerary includes savings of £1,040, showcasing the mountainous landscapes of Peru for a 15-day adventure for £4,190 per person.

The offer, which applies to a number of 2021 and 2022 departures and can save guests up to £2,090, is valid until the end of February 2021.

www.wendywutours.com

SCANDINAVIA



FJORDS AND FAUNA

Hurtigruten has launched its Dover 2022/23 season, extending its existing programme to include nine new itineraries taking explorers to Norway to experience coastline and the Fjords.

EXPEDITION CRUISE company, Hurtigruten, has expanded its Dover departure offerings with nine new unique sailings to explore Norway all year-round on-board MS Maud.

Sailings will take place throughout the year, offering guests the chance to chase the Midnight Sun and witness nature's greatest light show – Aurora Borealis.

The 10- to 21-night itineraries will see guests travel onboard the refurbished MS Maud to destinations such as the world famous Norwegian Lofoten Islands, which are notable for their distinctive dramatic peaks, North Cape, one of the northernmost points in Europe, and the tranquil UNESCO designated Fjords Norway area for a premium and adventurous experience like no other.

Hurtigruten's showcase



Hurtigruten's Dover 2022-23 season will take place onboard MS Maud.

voyage for the 22/23 season is a journey along the Norwegian coast to the Svalbard Archipelago, the Norwegian Coast and Svalbard Autumn Cruise, which is home to the untouched arctic wilderness. The handpicked 22-day itinerary provides guests with an off the beaten track experience, visiting hidden treasures, such as the village of Husøya where the community on the island has a Nordic-Hawaiian vibe, the second-longest fjord in

Svalbard Isfjord and the South Spitsbergen National Park, a spectacular natural area that combines vegetation alongside rugged mountains.

With 11-days above the Arctic Circle, guests can expect to see the stunning Northern Lights in all its glory.

The 'Dover to the Norwegian Fjords' trip is priced from £2,347 per person.

www.hurtigruten.co.uk

Northern Lights and wonderful sights with Exsus Travel

EXSUS TRAVEL'S four-night trip to Iceland makes the perfect long weekend or mini-break destination for your clients.

Packing in famous landmarks and sights, from the Northern Lights to the Blue Lagoon, via gushing waterfalls and spouting geysers, the holiday will allow clients to experience Iceland's incredible natural wonders within a short period of time.



The trip will take your clients to Reykjavik and the natural wonders of the Golden Circle, staying at a range of hotels along the way, immersing travellers in both the capital and the heart of the countryside.

The four-night trip is priced from £2,850 per person, including flights, transfers, accommodation and activities.

www.exsus.com

TOURS AND TREKS

Dotted with humbling fjords, waterfalls, and scenic fishing villages, G Adventures' Eastern Iceland itinerary will take travellers to off-the-beaten-path regions.



G ADVENTURES' new holiday, 'Trekking Eastern Iceland', will take your clients to the lesser-visited eastern side of Iceland.

The six-day hiking adventure offers active travellers a slice of local living and the opportunity to explore some of the country's hidden gems on foot.

Staying in a local guesthouse in a small Icelandic fishing village, the group will enjoy farm to table meals and daily hikes taking travellers along the Vatnsskarð pass, across the rocky terrain of Stóruð, past the smoking lava fields of Leirhnjúkur and to the mighty Detifoss waterfall.

One particular highlight of the holiday is on

day six, where guests will start at Borgarfjörður harbour to view the puffins and sea birds nesting there, when in season. From here, they will hike up from the coast across green mountain screes to Brúnavík pass then down to Brúnavík inlet, where they will then walk across the black sand beach and take a break in this serene spot. The day ends with a hike over Hofstrandarskarð pass, and alongside the colourful Helgárgil canyon.

The six-day holiday is priced from £1,369 per person, based on a June 6, 2021, departure date.

www.gadventures.com

Audley Travel launches Scandinavia collection

AUDLEY TRAVEL is offering an expansion of its European programme, with trips to Norway, Denmark and Sweden now available to book.

Examples include a six-day 'Introduction to Norway' trip, starting from £2,240 per person (based on two sharing). A nine-day 'Active Scandinavia' itinerary costs from £4,490 per person (based on two sharing). A 13-day 'Highlights of Swedish Summer' itinerary costs from £4,840 per person (based on two sharing).



All include flights, transfers, accommodation on a bed-and-breakfast basis and excursions.

Alex Bentley, head of product for Audley Travel, says: "We pride ourselves on the connections we have with clients and the understanding we have developed over the last 25 years of their needs and expectations for their trips. As we celebrate our 25th anniversary we are delighted to be able to continue to respond to their demands and expand our portfolio with the launch of Scandinavia."

For more information, visit www.audleytravel.com



NH COLLECTION is set to open its doors in Denmark

ARKITEMA ARCHITECTS, together with Henning Larsen Architects, are behind the creation of a new five-star hotel on Copenhagen's waterfront in the area of Christianshavn.

The building, known as the Ørkenfortet (the Desert Fort), was originally built in 1962 as the headquarters for the engineering and ship-building company, Burmeister & Wain and will be run by NH Hotel Group under their five-star 'Collection' brand. It will be their first hotel in Denmark. The hotel is expected to open in the autumn of 2021 with 394 rooms.

www.nh-collection.com

Hyatt to launch three new hotels in Sweden

HYATT HOTELS Corporation has entered a franchise agreement with Story Hotels Holding AB to bring three hotels to Sweden under the JDV Hotel brand, helping to grow Hyatt's independent collection brand in Europe.

The three boutique hotels – Story Hotel Riddargatan and Story Hotel Signalfabriken in Stockholm, along with Story Hotel Studio Malmö, Sweden, will retain individual hotel names and identities. The three Story Hotels will be available for reservation through Hyatt's booking channels, and World of Hyatt members can also redeem points for stays starting April 15, 2021.

Story Hotel Riddargatan, Stockholm, is an 83-room property centrally located in the Östermalm area, with access to restaurants, cafés and bars as well as the high-end shopping district. Story Hotel Signalfabriken, Stockholm, will feature 83 guestrooms and a bar and restaurant with



access to Stockholm's city centre in less than 10 minutes. Story Hotel Studio, Malmö, will feature 95 guestrooms and is situated on the top floors of a high-rise building. With its waterside location at Universitetsholmen, and close proximity to Malmö's central station, guests can easily explore the city and nearby Copenhagen via a 35-minute train ride.

www.hyatt.com

Savour Sweden with Regent Holidays

REGENT HOLIDAYS is offering its new, 10-day 'Central Sweden Fly-Drive' holiday around highlights found in the heart of Sweden.

The tour includes visits to Stockholm and Uppsala, exploring the stunning nature on offer in Central Sweden, relaxing and recharging in beautiful Tällberg and visiting the largest viking burial ground in Sweden at Anunsshög.

Clients will be able to take in Sweden's diverse landscape, ranging from white sandy beaches in the south, to endless mountain ranges in the north. The holiday also includes plenty of city-focused excursions, with visits to universities, cathedrals and shopping centres.

The package starts from £1,525 per person.

www.regent-holidays.co.uk

What TV series do you keep coming back to?



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