

# travelbulletin

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Giving agents the edge

## BULLETIN BRIEFING

PATA UK & Ireland comments on the current situation in the region.

## PUZZLE BULLETIN

Complete our Su Doku for your chance to win a £20 M&S voucher!

## FAR EAST

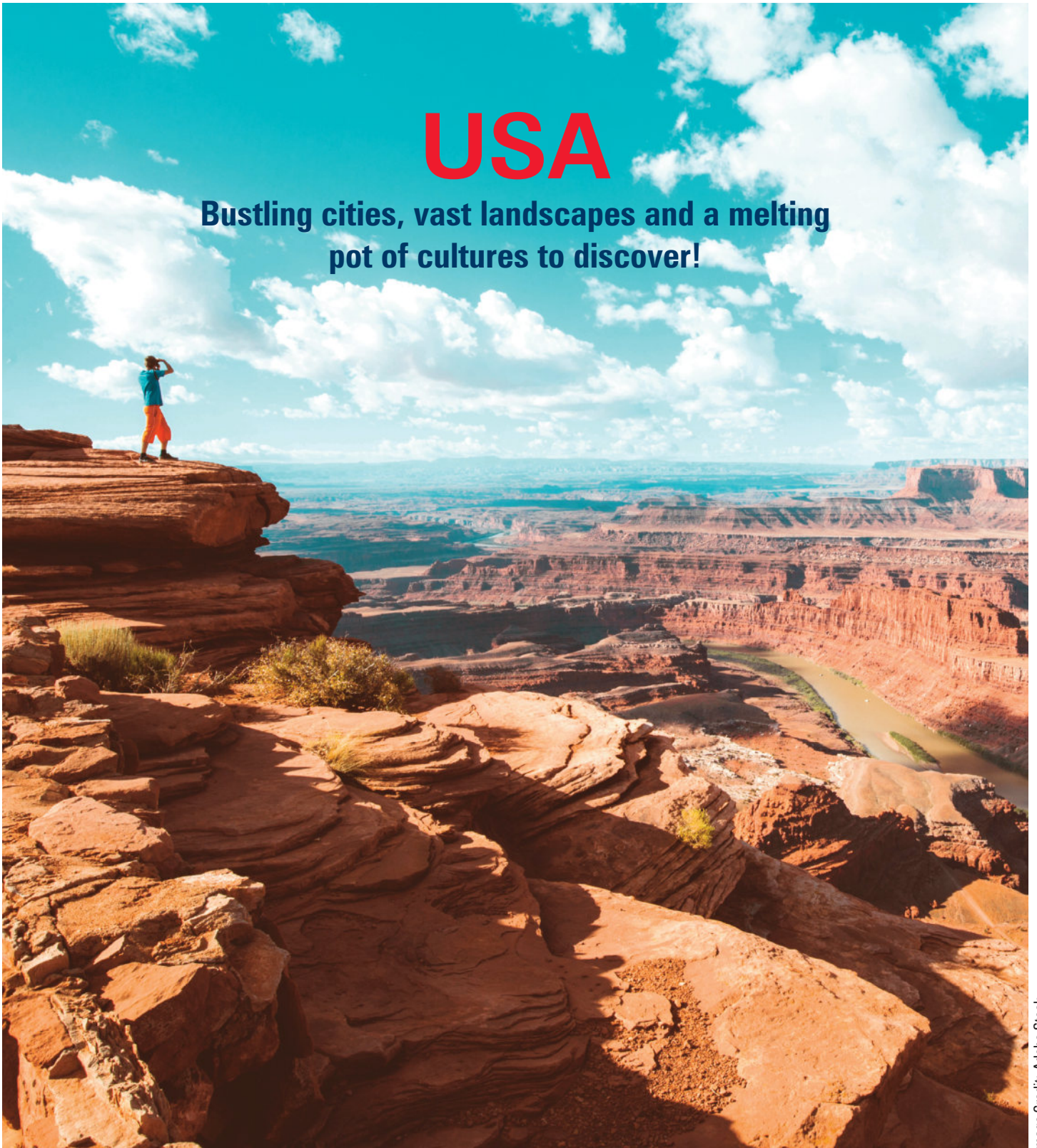
Hong Kong's new initiative, foodie fun with Thailand's The Sarojin, and more.

## ISRAEL

From the modern metropolitan of Tel Aviv to the historical Jerusalem.

# USA

Bustling cities, vast landscapes and a melting pot of cultures to discover!



# Spring into our 2022 river cruise collection

Still going  
strong after

**37**  
YEARS

est. 1984



From the colourful bulbfields of Amsterdam to the tranquillity of Monet's Garden there's lots to choose from when it comes to river cruises next spring. Here are a few of our favourites and with so much included, it's the perfect way to discover Europe.

**£200<sup>pp</sup>  
OFF**

Selected April  
departures

## **Amsterdam, Cologne and the Best of Holland & Flanders**

8 visits and tours including entry to the **Floriade Expo**, a magnificent exhibition only taking place once every 10 years and is described as 'the greenest day out' and truly a feast for the senses.

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## **The Seine, Paris & Normandy**

9 visits and tours included

March & April departures from £1,669

## **Bruges, Medieval Flanders, Amsterdam & the Dutch Bulbfields**

8 visits and tours included

Departures in April from £1,459

## **The Douro, Porto & Salamanca**

8 visits and tours included

March & April departures from £1,729

## **Experience more with so much included**

Return flights and transfers or Eurostar | Full board with exceptional dining | Inspiring guided tours and visits

To find out more or to make a booking

Call: **01283 245391**

Visit: **[rivieratravel.co.uk/agents](http://rivieratravel.co.uk/agents)**



Prices are per person based on two sharing a twin cabin and are subject to availability. Riviera Travel booking terms and conditions apply.



## THIS WEEK

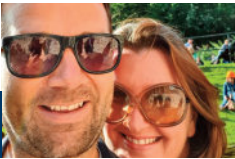
04



### NEWS

The latest from the travel industry, helping agents sell more holidays.

06



### AGENT INSIGHT

Travel Counsellors' Mark & Isobel McCardie on the holiday booking trends to look out for.

07



### AGENT BULLETIN

Win a luxury hamper, vouchers, and a five-night stay!

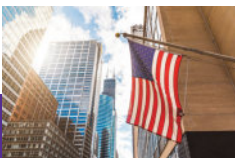
12



### FAR EAST

More on Japan's Pokemon Forest opening, Hong Kong's newest initiative, and more.

15



### USA

Visit California partners with Kevin Costner to release a roadtrip guide.

20



### ISRAEL

All the historical sites and new experiences available to travellers.

# ALL IN FOR INCLUSIVITY

New research from Expedia Group reveals the influence of inclusion and diversity on booking decisions in younger travellers.



Younger travellers are more likely to choose accommodation with inclusive policies.

EXPEDIA GROUP'S new research is showing that travellers, especially those under the age of 40, are placing high importance on ethical travel experiences.

Overall, nearly two-thirds of travellers (65%) say they are more willing to book accommodation that has policies focused on diversity and inclusion - 62% for UK respondents. This includes providers that are welcoming to the LGBTQIA+ community and people with disabilities.

However, according to the research, there is a significant generational gap when it comes to how much booking choices are influenced by whether or not accommodation has inclusive policies: 57% of respondents over the age of 40 say they are likely to book inclusive accommodation, while 77% of those under the age of 40 say that they are likely to do the same. This indicates that younger guests are more likely to make values-based decisions, which is an important consideration for travel businesses as the

under-40 demographic's patterns will only become more consequential as their purchasing power increases.

"Social injustices of last year put a spotlight on equity and inclusion, and the ongoing discourse changed people's ideas, behaviours, and expectations when it comes to travel," said Melissa Maher, senior vice president, Marketing & Industry Engagement, Expedia Group. "More than ever before, people are viewing travel as a reflection of their personal views."

"The data paints a clear picture that travellers are increasingly seeking out accommodation that has clear I&D policies and practices. Travel opens minds and drives better understanding between people from different cultures and identities, so it's no surprise that travellers want those same values reflected in the places they choose to stay, cruise, drive, and fly," continued Maher. "Businesses that demonstrate a genuine effort to be inclusive and welcoming to all travellers are going to come out on top."

travelbulletin

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## VisitBlackpool produces two new guides

VISITBLACKPOOL HAS published a second destination guide covering the autumn/winter season.

The 84-page guide spans the entire Illuminations season, which has been extended to four months this year, starting on September 3, 2021 and ending on January 3, 2022.

At the same time, an e-version of the Blackpool Events Guide has been produced, as the opening up of venues sees an increasing number of shows and entertainment being reinstated over the second half of the year.

The new printed destination guide is now freely available and features the most extensive programme of events that the destination has offered over the autumn/winter period.

The guide also features



The two guides come after heightened demand for holidays to Blackpool.

details of the annual Lightpool Festival, a free programme of events running over 16 nights from October 15-30, 2021.

In addition to the Illuminations remaining lit throughout November and December, there will be an indoor festive market, a Christmas village with skating rink, light projection shows, traditional

pantomimes, and for the first time outside London, the FriendsFestive exhibition.

Hundreds of other events can be found online in the new e-version of the Blackpool Events Guide, which includes a comprehensive collection of listings, spanning the period from August 2021 to March 2022.

[www.visitblackpool.com/guide](http://www.visitblackpool.com/guide)

## Virgin Voyages welcomes guests back on board

VIRGIN VOYAGES is welcoming guests back on board the brand's first Lady Ship, Scarlet Lady, as she heads on her maiden voyage.

Following the restart of international cruising in the UK, Scarlet Lady will be departing from Portsmouth and sailing the English Channel.

After her limited UK season, Scarlet Lady will head to her home port in Miami to sail Caribbean itineraries.

Scarlet Lady offers everything from

Michelin-starred chefs, a nightclub, a tattoo parlour and a 'Shake for Champagne' service.

Virgin Voyages will also welcome its second Lady Ship, Valiant Lady, to Portsmouth in 2022 on three new itineraries, including late-night and overnight stays in Málaga, Palma de Mallorca, the Canary Islands, Lisbon and Belgium. From there, she heads to Barcelona for a 2022 Med season.

For more, visit [www.virginvoyages.com](http://www.virginvoyages.com)

## Shearings adds extra capacity for holidays to Ireland

SHEARINGS HAS increased capacity on its Irish holiday programme to meet demand. Working in partnership with the Irish Tourist Board, Shearings has added hundreds of places on autumn and winter holidays, and also has some late availability for August departures. All holidays include air-conditioned coach transportation with reclining seats, ferry transfers to Ireland, hotel accommodation, Irish breakfast, dinner and excursions.

One example of an available break is 'Ireland's South-East – Waterford and Wexford', with availability in August, September

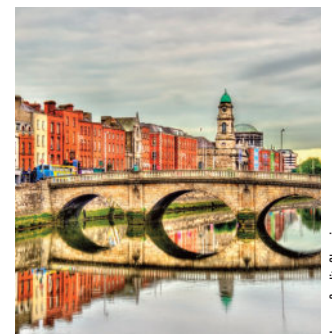


Image Credit: Shearings

and October. The six-day holiday sees travellers stay at the four-star Riverside Park Hotel in Enniscorthy, Co Wexford (with one night in Dublin). This holiday includes visits to Wexford, Kilkenny, and a trip into the Wicklow Mountains to Avoca, the town of 'Ballykissangel' fame, before a last night in Dublin. The tour is priced from £529 per person.

[www.shearings.com](http://www.shearings.com)



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

## Princess Cruises announces 2023 Alaska programme

PRINCESS CRUISES' 2023 Alaska cruises and cruisetours programme will go on sale August 18, 2021, the line has announced.

The programme includes the popular 'Voyage of the Glaciers' itinerary, 'North to Alaska' enrichment programme and a cruise combined with a land tour, with scenic rail travel and stays at Princess-owned wilderness lodges. The 2023 Alaska cruises and cruisetours season features six MedallionClass ships, including the line's newest vessel, Discovery Princess, returning to Alaska for a second season.

[www.princess.com](http://www.princess.com)

## See Southeast Asia with Emerald Cruises

SPANNING VIETNAM, Cambodia and the Mekong River, Emerald Cruises has unveiled 2022/23 Southeast Asia river cruises and is now taking bookings.

Along with the 2022/23 programme, Emerald has announced savings of up to £500 per person on any guest booking by September 30, 2021, with selected departures offering a further saving of £450 per person. Guests will also receive a Premium Drinks package while on board Emerald Harmony.

Guests paying the full balance of their cruise 12 months before departure can also save an extra 10% on selected balcony suites with the Super Earlybird offer.

The new schedule includes the 23-day 'Grand Tour of



Emerald Harmony will sail the 2022/23 Southeast Asia river programme.

Vietnam & Cambodia', from £4,795 per person based on an August 2, 2022 departure, 19-day 'Treasures and Temples of Vietnam & Cambodia' from £4,395 per person based on an August 12, 2022 departure, and 15-day 'Wonders of Vietnam, Cambodia & the Mekong' from £3,545 per person based on an August 24, 2022 departure.

All prices include return

economy class flights, transfers, tipping and gratuities, on-board meals, excursions, and local guides.

All new bookings include a complimentary deposit protection plan, valued at £100 per person, along with the reassurance of Emerald Cruises' flexible booking policy.

[www.emeraldcrucises.co.uk](http://www.emeraldcrucises.co.uk)

## Marella cruises to restart fly-cruises

MARELLA CRUISES will be the first British cruise line to restart fly-cruises when it sails from Corfu on September 3, 2021, whisking guests to Greek destinations including Santorini, Mykonos, Rhodes and Crete. Customers can save up to £900 per couple on seven-night fly cruises departing between September 3 and October 24, 2021.

### Iconic Islands – Under £1,000

Marella Cruises offers a seven-night cruise on Marella Discovery from £986 per person. This cruise departs from September 3 from Corfu

Town, and visits Thira, Santorini; Rhodes Town, Rhodes; Mykonos Town, Mykonos; Souda, Crete; and, Katakolon, Greece.

### Aegean Shores – Under £1,000

This seven-night cruise aboard Marella Discovery starts from £977 per person, departing from Corfu Town, Corfu and visits Heraklion, Crete; Thira, Santorini; Rhodes Town, Rhodes; Piraeus, Greece; and, Zakynthos Town, Zante.

[www.tui.co.uk](http://www.tui.co.uk)

## Brand Events seeks trade partners to promote first staycation package

BRAND EVENTS has launched a new experience to Cornwall this summer, and is looking to work with the trade to sell the four-day package to Brits looking for last-minute breaks in the UK.

The four-day festival break includes four nights' camping at Roscarrock Manor Farm overlooking Port Issac, entry to the two-day Travelling Feast food and music festival at the Cornwall Showground, and two days of exclusive experiences at Roscarrock Manor Farm campsite. There will be live performances at the two-day Travelling Feast festival alongside food and cooking demonstrations.



Ticket prices start from £400 per adult and £325 per child (under 16), with under-fives free and includes camping, entry to the two-day festival at the Cornwall Showground and VIP experiences at Roscarrock Manor Farm. Pre-erected tents that sleep two, four and six people cost £240, £440 and £600 respectively. Campervan passes cost £100 and £160 with an electric hook-up.

[www.BrandEvents.co.uk](http://www.BrandEvents.co.uk)



## Ocean Victory inaugurates 2022 season

VICTORY CRUISE Lines has revealed its expedition experience debut with the launch of Ocean Victory, currently planned for 2022.

Light Blue Travel will be offering 14-night packages from £5,295 per person for sailings from May to September 2022.

Ocean Victory will sail between Vancouver, B.C. and Sitka, Alaska and feature Baranof Island's eastern coast. The vessel sails through the less-travelled regions of Alaska's Inside Passage, led by a seasoned expedition team.

[www.lightbluetravel.co.uk](http://www.lightbluetravel.co.uk)



## AGENT INSIGHT

### MARK & ISOBEL MCCARDIE NOT JUST TRAVEL

THIS SUMMER weather really has got everyone thinking about their next big adventure. We're based in Scotland, where restrictions on travel are still a little different to England but that's not impacted on the enthusiasm for booking a holiday for now or in the future.

We've seen a huge number of staycations being booked, and if people want last minute trips abroad, we have been giving them all the advice they need to let them make the best choice for themselves and their families.

For customers looking at their overseas options, we've been emphasising the importance to book a package through ABTA bonded and ATOL protected agents like ourselves, as we have heard of people not being able to get their money back on villas and flights booked individually, especially now with the added complexities of the 'amber plus' situation.

Having that protection with our bookings and the knowledge to give them sound advice makes all of us agents invaluable to customers.

Given the complexities and shifting sands in rules and regulations, we decided to focus on more of what we could control. Short term this was domestic trips and 'lates' while still heavily pushing autumn/winter 2021/22.

If and when destinations go green/amber, we can advise our customers looking to get away the best options at that point in time. As we know, not all traffic lights are created equally!

One of the top destinations for our Scottish clients has been the north of England, with lodges in Northumberland being incredibly popular. There's lots of lovely options for breaks and everyone wants a hot tub with their lodge this year. These have been extremely popular with families.

Other popular destinations are the Highlands and Islands, with popular routes like the East Coast 500 – a circular route around the Highlands, being very busy, as people seek out parts of Scotland they haven't before – and boy, are they in for a treat!



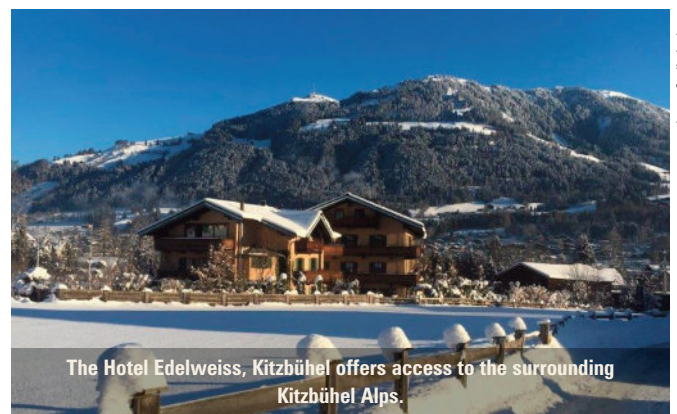
GRENADA HAS updated its travel protocols for fully-vaccinated travellers. Guests arriving at least 14 days after their second dose need only quarantine while awaiting on-island PCR test results, taken upon arrival. Children aged 13 years and younger also need only to quarantine for 48 hours. Unvaccinated children and adults aged 14 and over must quarantine for seven days. [www.puregrenada.com](http://www.puregrenada.com)

## Save £50 per person on Inghams' Austrian ski breaks

INGHAMS IS looking ahead to a busy winter, offering British guests the chance to save £50 per person on a selection of its Austrian ski hotels. The saving is valid on the Hotel Edelweiss (Kitzbühel), Foersterhaus (Mayrhofen), and Hotel Alpenblume (Obergurgl), and can be combined with Inghams' ski-hire offer.

Seven nights at the three-star Hotel Edelweiss Kitzbühel start from £979 per person (saving £50 per person). The hotel provides access to the Kitzbühel Alps and its ski runs via the Hahnenkamm Gondola, which runs 300 metres from the hotel.

To venture into the largest ski area in Austria, guests can enjoy seven nights at the Foersterhaus zum Kramerwirt from £829 per person (was £879 per person). The hotel is a short walk from Mayrhofen's nearby gondola stations and ski buses.



The Hotel Edelweiss, Kitzbühel offers access to the surrounding Kitzbühel Alps.

Ideal for families, seven nights at the Hotel Alpenblume, in Obergurgl, starts from £878 per person. The ski areas of Obergurgl and Hochburgl, in the upper Ötztal Valley, offer slopes for everyone, from seasoned skiers to newbies.

All packages include flights from London Gatwick and accommodation.

[www.inghams.co.uk](http://www.inghams.co.uk)



AS THE island of Phuket, Thailand, re-opened its doors to international arrivals again on July 1, under the Phuket Sandbox programme, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) welcomed back its first fam trip – the Phuket Pioneers. Joining the fam trip was Sheila Fleming, Destinology; Tony Carty, Destination2; Tracy Douglas, Premier Holidays; Toni Vallenduuk, Flight Centre; Allison Barnard, Travel Counsellors; and, Mark Mallinson, Gold Medal.

## AGENT INCENTIVES

- WENDY WU Tours is offering agents a £20 Love2Shop voucher for the first booking made with the company, a £30 Love2Shop voucher for the second booking made, and a £40 Love2Shop voucher for a third booking made. For more, visit [www.wendywutours.co.uk/agents/login.htm](http://www.wendywutours.co.uk/agents/login.htm)
- PRESTIGE HOLIDAYS has launched a booking incentive on all new holiday bookings to Croatia. Agents booking through the agent-friendly operator will earn a £20 Love2Shop voucher for every new booking made before August 31, 2021. Eligible bookings must include travel dates before October 31, 2021 for the incentive to be earned. [www.prestigeholidays.co.uk](http://www.prestigeholidays.co.uk)
- RCD HOTELS is launching a new agent incentive for the month of August, giving agents the chance to win a five-night stay. Agents can win 15 Vivant Rewards point, worth a five-night stay, at all Hard Rock All-Inclusive Hotels in Mexico and the Dominican Republic, Unico 20° 87° Hotel Riviera Maya, Nobu Hotel Chicago and Nobu Hotel Los Cabos. Agents will be entered into the prize draw each time they make and log a booking across the hotel portfolio in the month of August, so the more bookings they make, the more chance they have of winning. [www.mybookingrewards.com/program/Vivant-Rewards](http://www.mybookingrewards.com/program/Vivant-Rewards)
- IN AN effort to promote Mauritius' One&Only Le Saint Géran Resort, If Only and One&Only Resorts are offering agents the chance to win a luxury hamper. If Only will be promoting a selection of Facebook offers and informative blog content for the resort, which agents are encouraged to share on their own social media channels, to drive engagement and enquiries. The operator is offering one lucky agent the chance to win a luxury hamper from Fortum & Mason to tie in with the campaign. Agents must make as many bookings as possible with the resort by August 31, 2021, of a minimum of five nights' accommodation and return flights. At the end of the campaign, the agent who has booked the most number of room nights will win the luxury hamper. [www.ifonly.co/agent-incentive](http://www.ifonly.co/agent-incentive)

## AGENT TRAINING

THE ITALY ONLINE Training course provides agents with the knowledge and confidence to sell their clients unforgettable trips to the country. Modules will include information on must-visit attractions, history, arts, culture, architecture and gastronomy. Agents who complete four short modules will have a chance of winning a short break to an Italian arts city, an Italian hamper, and a tablet. [www.italyonlinetraining.co.uk](http://www.italyonlinetraining.co.uk)

AGENTS WHO become an Abu Dhabi Specialist this year have a chance to win a five-star holiday for two to Abu Dhabi in 2022. There will also be spot prizes along the way. The Abu Dhabi Specialist online learning programme is designed to provide agents with the knowledge and resources required to sell different types of holidays to the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. [www.abudhabispecialist.com](http://www.abudhabispecialist.com)



## travelbulletin COMPETITIONS

Win a three-night stay  
for two people  
on an all-inclusive basis  
at the  
Be Live Experience La Niña  
in Tenerife!

For all competitions visit  
<http://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/competitions>

# Industry insight by...



## Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) UK & Ireland comments on the current situation in the region and the importance of being 'travel ready'.

FARMING. THAT'S what we keep hearing from our industry partners in Asia. Unfortunately, it's what many of the wonderful guides, drivers and plethora of hospitality staff who used to work in travel now find themselves doing as a day job because borders remain closed and overly restrictive travel rules in place.

What is to become of the industry when travel finally does come back? It's so disheartening when I think of all the talented and skilled individuals the industry is losing as this stretches on.

As an organisation we are keeping our ears to the ground as much as possible and we talk to our partners in the region regularly. It's easy to forget how little support they've had in some Asian countries. The travel

community is really taking the full brunt of the pandemic and we've only just scratched the surface.

Like you, PATA members are desperate to get the industry moving, to boost local economies, employment and see our clients on trips of a lifetime again. Can we just flip a switch, or, turn it all back on like a tap? There are new challenges to selling holidays now and we have to ask ourselves, beyond the bureaucracy, "can we actually provide a fantastic holiday to the destination?" This is somewhat subjective but also ultimately down to what hotels, attractions, tours, guides, local cafes & restaurants are still standing after 18 months or more.

Will my clients feel welcome? Can we provide our experiences without

compromise? Will the accommodation be at a service level that's acceptable and still giving a sense of the destination? These are all important considerations for agents when booking holidays now which is why operator Experience Travel Group (ETG) has developed a new dedicated 'Travel Ready' hub, constantly monitoring the situation and destinations that are ready and open for tourism.

Agents selling Asia can benefit from the Travel Ready hub where they'll find 'State of Play' Vodcasts, destination cheat sheets and latest travel information. Agents can also sign up to the 'Raring to Go. Be the First to Know' email bulletin series to receive travel ready holidays and offers and advice on where best to plan those bigger trips of a lifetime.

It's important agents can sell holidays with confidence and we want to support the trade with this by doing all the background checks so agents have the latest information, and inspiration, to share with clients.

Thailand is set to be the first 'travel ready' destination on the hub. The Phuket Sandbox program has been a huge success in its first month with over 14,000 arrivals (and just 28 'imported' Covid cases) so other popular resorts such as Krabi and Phi Phi are preparing to start welcoming travellers from 15th August under the same model.

Travel Ready is just one great example of how PATA members are supporting one another and of course PATA continues to roll out its calendar of virtual training events plus our flagship event 'Taste of PATA' is back by demand as an in person get together on 15th September. Join us for delicious regional food & drink, improve your product knowledge and expand your contacts.

*Written by Matt Brazier, Asia Spokesperson for PATA UK & Ireland & head of marketing at Experience Travel Group.*

**It's important agents can sell holidays with confidence and we want to support the trade with this by doing all the background checks so agents have the latest information, and inspiration, to share with clients.**



SUDOKU

### Win a £20 M&S voucher in the **travelbulletin** Su Doku prize puzzle A

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

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

**competition@travelbulletin.co.uk**

Closing date for entries is Thursday, August 26. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

**The winner for July 30 is  
Carol Smith from Your Holiday Booking**

**July 30 Solution: A=1 B=5 C=8 D=7**

4		1		3		2		
			2		5	4	9	8
	5		7	9				3
<b>B</b>		1	6	4				3
	7		2				9	
<b>C</b>	5	3				1	6	8
	3				4	7		1
	1	6	5	8		9		
<b>D</b>			7		6		5	
								9



### WHERE AM I?

While part of a traditionally conservative country, this city is considered one of the more open places in a region undergoing significant reforms. It has a long history of fishing thanks to its proximity to the Red Sea and is part of the government's new drive to attract tourists.

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		
		16									
17											18

**Across**

- 1 Carrier with HQ and hub at Lisbon airport (3)
- 3 One of the smaller Canary Islands (2,5)
- 6 Antananarivo is the capital of this Indian Ocean island (10)
- 8 Flows through Florence (4)
- 9 Somerset city with an impressive Royal Crescent (4)
- 11 Currency used in 2 Down (4)
- 13 Planet, shares its name with a chocolate bar (4)
- 16 Actress appearing in Disney's Jungle Cruise movie (5,5)
- 17 Atlanta is the state capital (7)
- 18 BBC Breakfast presenter \_\_\_ Walker (3)

**Down**

- 1 After competing in four Olympics, his dive finally achieved gold in Tokyo (3,5)
- 2 Historic walled city in the Veneto region (5)
- 3 Swiss lake and town (6)
- 4 Currency of the Philippines (4)
- 5 Capital of Tibet (5)
- 7 Hotel and resorts company (8)
- 10 Lusaka is the capital (6)
- 12 Call sign, sounds romantic (5)
- 14 Superhero movie, The Suicide \_\_\_ (5)
- 15 A Blue one is awarded to clean, safe beaches (4)

Solution: Across: 1 TAP 3 LA PALMA, 6 MADAGASCAR, 8 ARNO, 9 BATH, 11 EURO, 13 MARS, 16 EMILY BLUNT, 17 GEORGIA, 18 DAN.  
 Down: 1 TOM DALEY, 2 PADUA, 3 LUGANO, 4 PESO, 5 LHASA, 7 SHERATON, 10 ZAMBIA, 12 ROMEO, 14 SQUAD, 15 FLAG.  
 Mystery Word: PANAMA Where am I? - Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

# Luxury Showcases

TRAVEL BULLETIN brought a pair of action packed evenings to the travel agents of Bristol and Leicester, for our Luxury Showcases. Journeying with luxury-focused destinations and operators, our fun evening saw some top learning and networking take place, and even the chance for agents to pick up some fantastic holiday prizes!





Want to get in on the #TBSHOWCASES action? We have events coming up in September in Liverpool, Oxford, Cambridge, York, Chester, Manchester and Birmingham. To confirm your place, contact [events@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:events@travelbulletin.co.uk)

# FAR EAST



## EASTERN PROMISE

**Regent Seven Seas is offering a three country cruise, with shore excursions including a visit to a Buddhist temple in Indonesia and a night safari adventure in Singapore.**

TAKING IN three vibrant countries over seventeen nights of festivities, guests can enjoy a Christmas and New Year to remember from the comfort of an all-inclusive cruise ship: Seven Seas Explorer.

This exclusive voyage will take guests from the heart of Singapore through the South China Sea and Indonesia before continuing their journey down the sunshine coast of Australia, taking in all the coastal beauties of the Pacific.

With up to 28 free shore excursions, guests can fully immerse themselves in each destination's culture, including a visit to a Buddhist temple.

Seven Seas Explorer offers up to 750 guests luxurious accommodation. Featuring over an acre of granite and an acre of marble, this ship is also home to art by Picasso and a vivid cobalt-blue glass



**A visit to Singapore's Chinatown is an included excursion on the trip.**

installation on the ceiling of the Compass Rose restaurant.

Guests will have a range of experiences to enjoy on board the ship, gaining insight from expert lecturers, preparing a variety of dishes taught by trained culinary masters, or soaking in the Infinity-Edge Plunge Pool.

Travel onboard the Seven

Seas Explorer with Regent Seven Seas Cruises for the 17-night 'Coastal beauties of the Pacific' voyage, which departs on December 12, 2022, is priced from £10,269 per person. This price is based on double occupancy of a Veranda Suite.

[www.rssc.com](http://www.rssc.com)

### **Pokémon Wonder forest opens in Japan**

POKÉMON WONDER, situated in a vast forest within Yomiuriland in Japan, has now opened its doors to visitors.

The theme park is located in a previously inaccessible area, and had remained untouched for 20 years before this 4,500-square meter Pokémon-themed forest was created to take fans on a green adventure.

Inspired by games like Pokémon Go and the new Pokémon Snap, the new forest takes inspiration from the concepts and creates an entire forest for fans to wander around, and take part in a scavenger hunt experience looking for different Pokémon species.

Prior to entering the forest, guests are greeted by the research team of Professor Kureso and Pikachu who give them an orientation briefing. Fans will be able to see more than 50 species of Pokémon, including favourites such as Oddish, Diglett and Rowlett.

The theme park is aimed at children and adults alike, and will run until April 3, 2022.

[www.japan.travel/en/uk/](http://www.japan.travel/en/uk/)

# CASTAWAY PARADISE

Covering eight acres of private coastline, Thailand's Hyatt Regency Koh Samui has opened its doors.



Image Credit: Hyatt Regency

HYATT REGENCY Koh Samui is now open, the first Hyatt hotel on Thailand's southern resort island.

A collaboration between three of Thailand's biggest hotel design names – Office of Bangkok Architecture, August Design and PLandscaping – the 140-room property occupies eight acres of private coastline on the far northeast corner of the paradise island.

The property, which is located in North Chaweng – less than 10 minutes from the island's international airport – bills itself as a "vacation gallery" due to its array of visual highlights.

The 140 guestrooms, which include 24 spacious suites and villas, feature private balconies and most offer stunning sea views.

Select rooms include access to Regency Club privileges, while there are also several beachfront pool villas available to guests.

The family-friendly resort features freeform pools – including a lap pool, plunge pool, family pool with a whirlpool and kids' pool with a slide, which cascade onto the beach. Over at Camp Hyatt, young guests can enjoy supervised play and activities, from arts and crafts to movie nights.

"The pandemic has been a challenging time for Koh Samui as it has been for the entire tourism industry in Thailand. That's why we are so delighted to debut with such a special resort," said Adrian Pulido, general manager, Hyatt Regency Koh Samui.

[www.hyattregency.com](http://www.hyattregency.com)

## New 'Sarojin Cares Gastronomy' package for food lovers

THE SAROJIN has launched its new 'Sarojin Cares Gastronomy' package, complete with a range of food-lover treats, from fresh produce at a local market to a range of fine dining and mouth-watering experiences.

Two guests can enjoy six nights in a Garden Residence from £1,977, between now and October 31, 2022, including all day à la carte breakfast with sparkling wine, a 'Street Food for Kids Cooking Class' in association with the Camillian Centre, and a 'Glimpses of Local Life' tour.

The 'Street Food for Kids' experience includes a visit to the local Camillian Centre which provides day care for children with physical disabilities. Guests will be able to combine an exciting street food tour of the local markets with a fun cooking class, alongside one of the resort's chefs.



Image Credit: The Sarojin

The team at The Sarojin has worked with the local rural and coastal communities for many years to create these sustainable experiences.

[www.sarojin.com](http://www.sarojin.com)



Image Credit: Bamboo Travel Hotels & Resorts

## Enjoy a luxury escape to Cambodia with Bamboo Travel

LOCATED IN the waters of the Koh Rong Archipelago, Song Saa, in Cambodia, is a pioneer of responsible luxury tourism in the region.

The 84-room resort offers an over-water restaurant and lounge with panoramic sea views, and the infinity edge swimming pool has a poolside cafe which serves Cambodian street food delicacies.

Three nights are spent on the island on the 11-day 'Luxury Escape to Cambodia' trip, starts from £3,795 per person.

All Bamboo Travel holidays include flights, bed-and-breakfast accommodation, transportation, sightseeing/entrance fees, and a guide.

[www.bambootravel.co.uk](http://www.bambootravel.co.uk)

# PLAN FOR JAPAN

As demand for travel to Japan heats up, InsideJapan is now offering further small group tour dates in 2022, with opportunities to experience the famed cherry blossom season.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

INSIDEJAPAN HAS released several new tour dates, including dates for a new tour, 'Walking the Nakasendo and Beyond'.

The new 11-night group tour winds from Tokyo to Japan's cultural capital of Kyoto, via the Nakasendo 'samurai route' and the Shinetsu Trail in late summer and early autumn 2022. The tour moves from Shinkansen to local train, bus and walking routes, encapsulating the 'slow travel' concept and Japanese rural life.

The 80km Shinetsu Trail is an old trading route along the Sekida mountains, straddling the borders of Nagano and Niigata, allowing walkers to enjoy some Shinrinyoku 'forest bathing' in barely touched beech forests. Guests will stay at traditional hot spring towns

and Japanese villages sampling local life and 'omotenashi' hospitality enroute.

Product manager at InsideJapanTours, Madeleine Bromige, said: "Hanami, or cherry blossom season, is a special time to be in Japan, but it's unpredictable and can come early or late; in 2021 it arrived two weeks earlier than expected. That's why Spring Elegance, and our other spring tours, are packed with cultural experiences including drinks with Geisha in Kyoto, gardens in Kanazawa and sake breweries in Takayama."

InsideJapan Tours' 11 night 'Walking the Nakasendo and Beyond' starts from £2,500 per person.

[www.insidejapantours.com](http://www.insidejapantours.com)

## Accor unveils its first resort in Jeju Island, Korea

MERCURE AMBASSADOR Jeju has opened, marking the first Accor Ambassador property on Jeju Island in Korea.

Surrounded by Gotjawal, Jeju's unique forest created on a lava region, Mercure Ambassador Jeju overlooks the beautiful Hallasan and Sanbongsan mountain views and features an 18-hole golf course.

The resort is home to 71 guestrooms with views of Jeju's surrounding nature. Leisure facilities include an infinity swimming pool, fitness centre, and outdoor driving ranges. The hotel offers a newly-built infinity pool, along with a pool bar and cabanas.

Located just 30 minutes away from Jeju International Airport, and 10 minutes by car to Jungmun Tourist Complex, the resort is easily accessible to various attraction sites for island exploration.



Image Credit: Accor

To celebrate the opening, the hotel offers a special room rate, starting from around £143, exclusive of 10% VAT. Free access to a swimming pool and fitness centre is included.

[www.allaccor.com](http://www.allaccor.com)

## HKTB debuts video collection of the city

HONG KONG Tourism Board (HKTB) has launched a collection of four ASMR videos, showcasing the far-flung corners of the city.

The videos have been shot in a hyper-focused lens, with ASMR audio capturing the day-to-day sounds of village and countryside life in Hong Kong. The first video of Peng Chau follows a woman as she discovers the former industrial island, now home to a small artist community.

The videos have been launched as part of the 'Great Outdoors Hong Kong' campaign, which also includes 13 itineraries and videos covering hiking, island hopping and water sport experiences.

[www.discoverhongkong.com](http://www.discoverhongkong.com)



Image Credit: Adobe Stock



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

# FULL STEAM AHEAD

**Visit USA rounds up three railway tours through the USA for those looking for both short- and longer-stay trips through the Land of Opportunity.**

TO CELEBRATE Rocky Mountaineer's new route, Visit USA rounds up three train journeys that travellers can book on their next visit to the United States.

## Rockies to Red Rocks

Rocky Mountaineer's 'Rockies to the Red Rocks' route is a two-day rail journey with an overnight stay in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, with breakfast served over views of the Gross Reservoir dam. This scenic route will launch with a preview season from August 15 to November 19, 2021, featuring a selection of tours, activities, and stays in Denver and Moab.

Prices start from £1,150 per person.

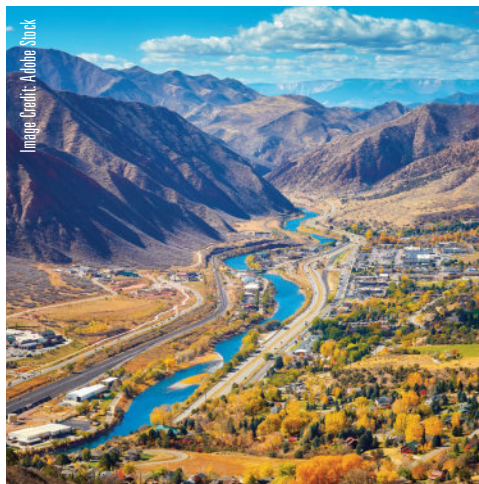
[www.rockymountaineer.com](http://www.rockymountaineer.com)

## Ride on Amtrak

Travelling at speeds up to 150 miles per hour, the Acela's full route spans from Boston through New York City and Philadelphia, before arriving in Washington D.C. Before departure, travellers can enjoy a visit to the Skywalk Observatory, where they can enjoy a 360-degree view of the Boston skyline and waterfront from 50 stories high, before embarking on their journey south to New York.

Tickets start from £26 per person.

[www.amtrak.com/tickets](http://www.amtrak.com/tickets)



The Rockies to Red Rocks tour will take in the stunning Glenwood Springs.

## Journey across the Cass Scenic Railroad

The 'Cass Scenic Railroad from Cass to Bald Knob' will take passengers on a journey that takes them 2,390 feet high into the Appalachian Mountains, with panoramas of forestry and mountain landscapes. The round-trip is approximately four and a half hours and lunch is included in the journey.

Ticket prices range from £44 to £59, depending on selected dates.  
[www.mountainrailwv.com](http://www.mountainrailwv.com)

## Visit California releases its California Road Trips guide

THE ALL-NEW 2021 California Road Trips guide, featuring nine drives from Southern California to the Shasta Cascade, is available on Visit California's website.

The 52-page, free guide, which was created in collaboration with Kevin Costner, includes an exclusive interview with the director and actor.

In the guide, Kevin Costner details his favourite California destinations and his love for the open road. Some of Costner's earliest memories involve road tripping around the state, as he sat looking out the window of the family Buick as they drove to see redwoods and sequoias.

Organised by geography, the publication showcases nine detailed itineraries: three originate in Southern California, three begin in the San Francisco Bay Area and three start in Sacramento. Each trip calls out hidden gems, scenic overlooks and great places to eat up and down the state.

The guide also includes tips on the perfect vehicles to match trip types.

The guide can be found here:  
[www.visitcalifornia.com](http://www.visitcalifornia.com)

# A FAMILY AFFAIR

American Affair offers a number of breaks across the States, ticking off classic family favourites.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

AMERICAN AFFAIR offers a wide range of breaks across the States, with options spanning leisurely romantic getaways to action-packed family adventures.

'The Classic West' and 'Sunshine Trails' packages encompass the highlights of California and Florida, respectively. Trips to Yosemite or Everglades, two of the nation's most expansive national parks, alongside a number of classic beaches, mean the trips combine exploration with laid-back leisure.

## The Classic West

Kicking off in Los Angeles, this 12-day fly-drive break packs in the excitement of Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego, along with the rural exploration of Yosemite National Park and a number of classic Californian beaches.

The 11-night, 12-day break starts from £1,023 per person, based on a May 3, 2022

departure date with British Airways from Heathrow. The package includes economy class return flights, motorhome hire, and one night's accommodation in Los Angeles.

Deposits are available from £204 per person.

## Sunshine Trails

This Florida itinerary ticks off the expansive Everglades National Park, and the picture-perfect pastel houses of Key West. Guests will soak up the serenity of the Sanibel Islands and the natural beauty Lake Buena Vista.

The 12-day break starts from £1,351 per person, based on four people (two adults and two children) sharing. The price includes economy class flights with British Airways from Heathrow on May 3, 2022, as well as one night accommodation at Orlando Airport and 11 days' motorhome hire suitable for a family of four.

[www.americanaffair.com](http://www.americanaffair.com)

## Sonoma Country welcomes back weddings

IN THE heart of Northern California wine country sits Sonoma County, an idyllically rural locale that proves a hit for weddings – so much so, that Sonoma County Tourism has launched a new 2021 Wedding Guide detailing the essential tips.

The guide recommends a number of ideal matrimonial locations, from chic vineyards to intimate coastlines and modern venues to timeless settings.

Harvest season is the most popular for a Sonoma ceremony, but the guide details year-round options – the longer days in the summer provide more chance for some ideal wedding snaps while a warm and rustic tone makes for an ideal winter ceremony.

Sonoma County Tourism Group's business development committee chair, Percy Brandon, explained:



Image Credit: Sonoma County Tourism

"The romance of Sonoma Wine County awaits your grand wedding for a few hundred or intimate occasion for a few."

Sonoma County is accessible via flights from Charles M. Schulz Airport.

[www.sonomacounty.com](http://www.sonomacounty.com)

Image Credit: Eastern State Penitentiary



## Philadelphia fills up on fear for 'Halloween Nights'

AS LEISURE travel to the US looks to be moving in the right direction, the city of Philadelphia is gearing up for haunted Halloween celebrations this autumn.

The Eastern State Penitentiary, a former prison dating back to 1829, is offering 'Halloween Nights'. Cellblocks and courtyards will be turned into immersive environments. 15 attractions on offer include two haunted houses, four immersive walkthrough experiences, two live performances and special effect and laser shows. Tickets start at \$34/£25 per person.

[www.halloweennights.org](http://www.halloweennights.org)



# DECK THE HALLS

Walt Disney World is gearing up for a magical festive season at the Florida resort.



Image Credit: Walt Disney World

FROM NOVEMBER 12, 2021, the Walt Disney World Resort will welcome a programme of celebration for the 2021 holiday season, as part of 'The World's Most Magical Celebration', commemorating the resort's 50th anniversary.

Upon entering the Magic Kingdom (the resort's signature theme park), guests will be greeted with holiday decor all the way along Main Street, U.S.A., and can line up in the evening for special holiday projections on Cinderella Castle. 'Disney Very Merriest After Hours', a new ticketed event, will take place; the four-hour spectacle will feature 'Minnie's Wonderful Christmastime Fireworks', starring characters throughout the park, holiday music and decor, and festive treats. The event will take place after regular park hours for a limited number of guests, guaranteeing lower wait times on more than 20 attractions.

Disney's Hollywood Studios, one of three

other theme parks on resort, will host festive projections on the Hollywood Holiday Tower (home to the 'Tower of Terror' attraction) which will see the tower transformed to a Muppets gingerbread masterpiece, a Toy Story toy hotel and snowy Arendelle, where Olaf will appear for a festive finale: 'For the First Time in Forever: A Frozen Sing-Along Celebration'.

At Disney's Animal Kingdom, The Tree of Life will become another 'Beacon of Magic' with a projection show during the festive season. Disney characters will set sail down the 'Discovery River' to the tune of joyful festive songs.

14 day tickets are currently available for the price of seven from £439 per person for adults and £419 per person for children, including a PhotoPass memory maker.

[www.disneyworld.go.com](http://www.disneyworld.go.com)

## The Langham, Boston reopens after two-year transformation

OPENING ITS doors at the end of June, The Langham, Boston, is once again welcoming guests after a two-year renovation.

The classic American hotel has fully renovated guest rooms and suites, a new grand ballroom, a destination bar and an Italian restaurant.

"We are thrilled to welcome guests back to The Langham after more than two years of restoration and reimagining of the space," said Michele Grosso, managing director of The Langham, Boston.

The lobby has been decorated in jewel tones with a fireplace, ample seating and a comfortable concierge and check-in area.

Newly redesigned guest rooms and suites feature marble-clad bathrooms and New England-inspired decor.



Image Credit: The Langham

The Fed bar includes an outdoor terrace and British cocktail pub menu with a new England twist, with Grana, the hotel's restaurant, offering an authentic Italian dining experience in the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's former grand hall.

[www.langhamhotels.com](http://www.langhamhotels.com)

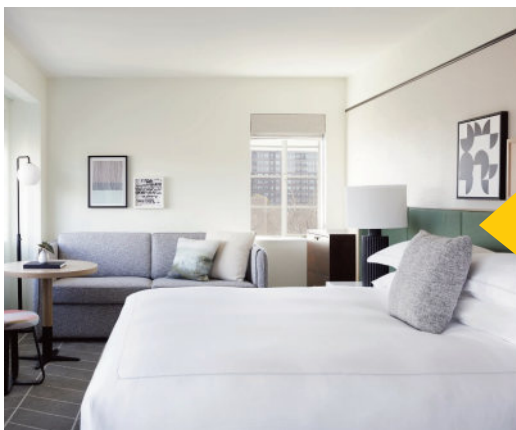


Image Credit: Kimpton Sylvan Hotel

## The newest sleeps in the state of Georgia

THE STATE of Georgia has recently welcomed a selection of new accommodation, ideal for an adventure in the American South.

A historic 1950s building has been transformed into a boutique 217-room hotel: the four-star Kimpton Sylvan Hotel, blending mid-century style with modern chic. Rooms start from £141 per night.

The 111-room Wylie Hotel opened in May, in the original 551 Ponce building dating back to the 1920s, offering a 'home-away-from-home' feel from £136 per night.

[www.exploregeorgia.org](http://www.exploregeorgia.org)

# PACIFIC DREAMING

Port of Seattle's nine-day, fly-drive itinerary highlights the region's charming coastal towns and expansive great outdoors.



Image Credit: Adobe stock

THE PORT of Seattle is offering a 'get-away-from-it-all' road trip, spotlighting the hidden gems of the Pacific Northwest, including its seaside villages, stunning beaches, acres of lavender, plus Olympic and Mt. Rainier National Parks.

Along the way, visitors will fall in love with the unique mix of great outdoors, small rural towns, fresh farm-to-table cuisine and Native American culture.

Take a trip back in time with a visit to the historic village-by-the-sea, Port Townsend, with its Victorian architecture, maritime heritage and boutique shops and galleries showcasing local artists.

Guests will get in touch with nature as they venture into Olympic National Park, home to temperate rain forests, natural hot springs, pristine mountain lakes and wild Pacific Coast beaches. The park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with nearly 95% of its land

designated wilderness.

Guests can take time out to visit Olympia, Washington's state capital, a trendy hub home to coffee roasters, brew pubs and farm-to-table restaurants.

There will also be opportunities to explore Tacoma, known for its car museum and bridge of glassworks, as well as the Museum of Glass.

Beyond the famous automobile history and bridge of glassworks, the city is full of hidden gems with amazing food, sights, shops and parks.

Travellers can see where fire meets ice at Mt. Rainier National Park, America's most notable volcano. Glacier-capped Mt. Rainier is known locally as 'The Mountain'. Within the park, visitors will find massive old-growth trees, alpine fields of wildflowers and many hiking opportunities across stunning landscapes.

[www.SeattleCruiseAlaska.co.uk](http://www.SeattleCruiseAlaska.co.uk)

## Visit Orlando spotlights offerings

ORLANDO HAS welcomed a number of new experiences, from prehistoric rollercoasters to flamingo-feeding experiences.

Flamingo Mingle at Discovery Cove is a new, exclusive early morning experience where guests can feed and learn about flamingos in an outdoor setting with Discovery Cove's expert aviculturists. The experience starts from £42 per person.

At LEGOLAND Florida Resort, the new Brickbeard's Watersports Stunt Show features a new LEGO pirate, music and stunts from wakeboarding to ski pyramids.

Aquatica Orlando opened Florida's first dueling waterslide, Riptide Race, on April 3. Guests race side-by-side at top speeds, navigating loops and accelerations through nearly 650 feet of slides.



Image Credit: Visit Orlando

Jurassic World VelociCoaster has arrived at Universal's Islands of Adventure. Florida's fastest and tallest launch coaster sends riders catapulting up to 70 mph and over 150 feet in the air with the prehistoric predators.

[www.VisitOrlando.com](http://www.VisitOrlando.com)

## Tuolumne County launches 'Trail Heads' programme

VISIT TUOLUMNE County has launched a new trail guide to help hikers, bikers and nature-lovers navigate hundreds of trails across the California region.

'Trail Heads' includes downloaded maps and a dedicated website with even more trail options.

Lisa Mayo, president and CEO of Visit Tuolumne County, commented: "Trail Heads brings in a stronger sense of community and inspires repeat visits, as there are so many beautiful trails to explore in Tuolumne County."

[www.visittuolumne.com](http://www.visittuolumne.com)

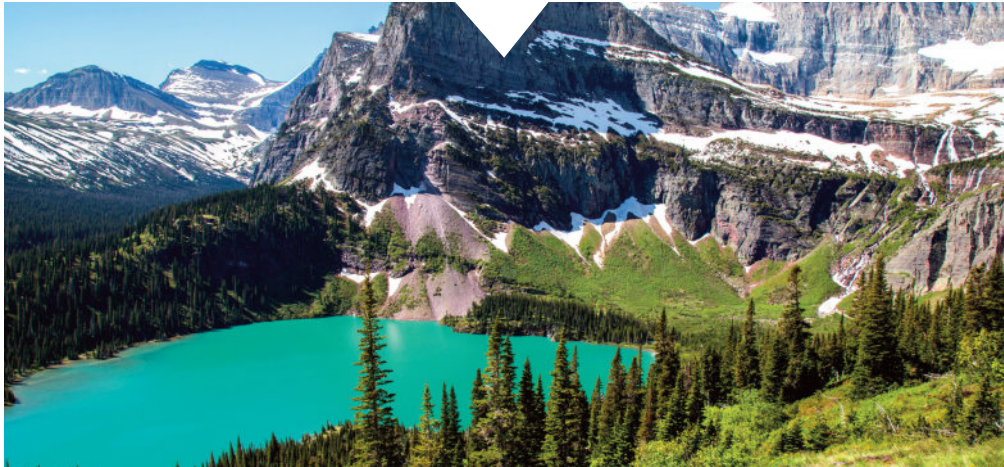


Image Credit: Visit Tuolumne County

# A SCENIC VIEW

**An ideal mix of nature and city, Scenic's new Canada, Alaska and United States 2022/23 itineraries take guests all the way from New York's Broadway to Yellowstone National Park.**

Image Credit: Adobe Stock



SCENIC HAS unveiled two new itineraries with the release of its Canada, Alaska and United States 2022/23 collection.

The 23-day 'America's National Parks and Rockies to the Red Rocks' land tour will take guests on a journey from Calgary to Denver, while the 32-day 'Majestic Rockies & the Colours of Eastern Canada' travels from Calgary to Boston, taking in lakes, mountains and cosmopolitan cities along the way.

To accompany the launch, Scenic is offering a guaranteed £1,000 per person saving, along with complimentary private door-to-door chauffeur-driven transfers, on new bookings made before August 31, 2021.

On the 23-day 'America's National Parks and Rockies to the Red Rocks' itinerary, guests will enjoy jeep riding through the gigantic rock structures in Monument Valley and a visit to Yellowstone National Park to admire its volcanic pigments. Travellers will join a member of the Blackfoot Tribe in Glacier National Park, their

ancestral home, for an insight into their unique culture. Prices for this tour start from £9,645 per person departing May 11, 2022.

The 23-day 'Majestic Rockies & the Colours of Eastern Canada' cruise-tour introduces guests to the Rocky Mountains on this journey to Alaska, Vancouver, Niagara Falls, Washington and Boston. Guests will be able to witness the thrill of a Broadway show while in New York City, and the holiday also includes a seven-day cruise through the Alaskan wilderness, taking in the charming capital of Juneau, Glacier Bay and Ketchikan. Prices for this 23-day cruise-tour start from £14,245 per person, departing April 28, 2022.

All new bookings are covered by Scenic's flexible booking policy, enabling guests to defer their travel to another date or itinerary up to 60 days prior to departure and include Scenic's Deposit Protection Plan.

[www.scenic.co.uk](http://www.scenic.co.uk)

## Outrigger Kona Resort & Spa to open in Hawaii

OUTRIGGER HOSPITALITY Group has announced its plans to acquire ownership of Sheraton Kona Resort & Spa at Keauhou Bay, a 509-room property in a prime oceanfront location on the Island of Hawaii.

The new resort will be rebranded as Outrigger Kona Resort & Spa.

The lush 22-acre resort is perched atop dramatic lava-rock cliffs and includes an oceanfront pool and waterslide, spa, wedding chapel, cultural centre, fitness centre, kids club, two restaurants and four indoor meeting venues – including a 10,000 square-foot convention centre: the largest on the Kona Coast. The waters surrounding the resort are home to one of the only places in the world where guests can regularly swim with manta rays.



Image Credit: Outrigger Resorts

Introductory rates at Outrigger Kona Resort and Spa start at up to 30% off and can be booked from now, for stays beginning in late August 2021.

For more information, visit [www.outrigger.com/kona](http://www.outrigger.com/kona)

Image Credit: Four Seasons



## Four Seasons arrives in Napa Valley

FOUR SEASONS Resort and Residences Napa Valley will open its doors in late summer 2021, offering an 85-room farmhouse retreat with a new spa.

The resort will be located just outside the more laid-back town of Calistoga, near downtown Napa.

The Resort features an 5.6-acre vineyard and winery, as well as a farm-to-table dining experience. The 'resort within a winery' concept provides guests with a grape-to-glass experience, with opportunities to get involved in the winemaking process, in addition to guided tastings and tours of the vineyard.

[www.fourseasons.com/napavalley](http://www.fourseasons.com/napavalley)

# ISRAEL



## ALL IN FOR ISRAEL

Discover the breadth of the Holy Land, on Exsus Travel's 'Highlights of Israel' holiday.

EXSUS TRAVEL is offering an action-packed, luxury five-night trip to Israel, where your clients can visit Tel Aviv, the Sea of Galilee and Jerusalem.

The holiday comes with private guided tours in each base to take in the region's rich history and many highlights. Travellers will discover how Tel Aviv was born from barren sand dunes, try tasty treats in its markets and marvel at its distinctive Bauhaus architecture.

Travellers will see where Jesus lived and preached around the Sea of Galilee, visit its beautiful waterfront churches and enjoy a boat trip. The tour will also visit Jerusalem's Old City and see its holy sites, including the Western Wall, the Dome of the Rock and the Via Dolorosa, and soak up the



Exsus Travel's holiday will visit some iconic sights of Israel.

views of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives.

There is also a day at leisure here to explore at guests' own pace, and maybe visit some of the museums or browse the markets.

Exsus Travel offers five

nights in Israel from £2,999 per person, including return economy flights from London Heathrow to Tel Aviv, private transfers, accommodation on a bed-and-breakfast basis and private guided tours.

[www.exsus.com](http://www.exsus.com)

### Six Senses Shahrut opens in Israel

LOCATED IN the lunar-like Arava Valley in the south of the Negev Desert, Six Senses Shahrut has opened its doors for the first time.

The hotel has a total of 60 suites and villas spread across the expansive desert landscape.

Excursions include immersive Kibbutz experiences, stargazing sessions, camel treks through the Negev desert or floating in the Dead Sea. There are also opportunities to explore further afield, to Masada and Petra.

The hotel offers its Six Senses GEM (Guest Experience Maker), who will meet guests on arrival and remain on hand throughout their stay to share insights into the region and local life.

The Six Senses Spa features six treatment rooms, a variety of wellness programmes, an Alchemy Bar, and a visiting practitioner who specialises in Chinese medicine, osteopathy, energy healing and more.

There are two pools, including a freshwater infinity pool, with desert views, and a bar serving refreshing juices.

[www.sixsenses.com](http://www.sixsenses.com)

# THE HOLY LAND

**Abercrombie & Kent's Israel choices venture the nation for everything, from the historic to the cosmopolitan, including ancient Bethlehem and metropolitan Tel-Aviv.**



Image Credit: Abercrombie &amp; Kent

WITH A wide range of trips across the nation, Abercrombie & Kent's Israeli offerings include diverse itineraries of sightseeing, historical highlights and luxurious escapes.

## Classic Israel

This eight-night break begins in the cosmopolitan Tel Aviv, before travelling onto historic highlights in Caesera, Haifa, Acre and Galilee. Religious sites include old Jerusalem, Nazareth and Bethlehem. Rural gems include Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee.

Starting from £4,710 per person, this break includes flights, accommodation, driver and transfers, and a guide.

## Jordan & Israel's Holy Lands

This seven-night itinerary explores Jordan's ancient cities, including Amman and Petra, before ticking off Israel's holy meccas such as Bethlehem and the age-old Jerusalem.

Guests can enjoy this comprehensive look at the past from £3,340 per person, including flights and accommodation.

## Highlights of Jerusalem

The operator's shortest break visits highlights of the Holy City, including the Dome at the Rock and the Wailing Wall.

With flights and accommodation, this three-night tour starts from £2,610 per person.

## Israel: Crossroads of History Escorted Tour

This escorted tour explores the religious lands, beyond the ancient walls of Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Guests have the chance to sail on the Sea of Galilee, catch a cable car to Masada and kick back in Tel Aviv.

This eight-night tour starts from £5,260 per person, including flights and accommodation.

[www.ambercrombiekent.co.uk](http://www.ambercrombiekent.co.uk)

## Discover Israel with Intrepid Travel

FOR A comprehensive exploration of Israel and Palestine, look no further than Intrepid Travel's Israel package options.

The eight-day 'Discover Israel & the Palestinian Territories' option offers an authentic trip to Palestine, including dinner with a local family, an underground venture to the dungeon, crypt and halls used by the Knights of St John over 700 years ago in Acre, and a historical look at the site of the siege at the end of the first Jewish-Roman war.

This option starts from £1,688 per person, with seven nights' accommodation, daily breakfast, transport and activities included.

For a more luxurious option, the seven-day 'Premium Israel & the Palestinian Territories' ticks off many of the same experiences and a stay in a palace in Bethlehem, dinner in a 120-year-old building, and a swim in the Dead Sea.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

This choice starts from £2,110 per person, with six nights' accommodation, breakfast, transport and most activities.

[www.intrepidtravel.com](http://www.intrepidtravel.com)



Image Credit: Little Emperors

## Little Emperors predicts Israel as the next holiday hotspot

PRIVATE MEMBERS luxury hotel club, and Israel's top UK agent, Little Emperors has predicted Israel as a leading destination for summer escapes this year.

Since Israel has been added to the UK's green list, Little Emperors has since seen 10% of its members making bookings.

Set to open on August 5, 2021, the eco-conscious Six Senses Shahrut will host 60 suites and villas for luxurious escapes this summer. Panoramic Pool Villas will start from £608 per night.

[www.littleemperors.com](http://www.littleemperors.com)

## Marriott offers more in Israel

MARRIOTT IS offering various packages on luxury escapes and beachfront breaks for holidaymakers waiting to get out and explore everything Israel has to offer.

**The Jaffa, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Tel Aviv:** The Jaffa, situated in the city's trendiest neighbourhood, minutes from the beach, is a restoration of a 19th century Neo-Renaissance building. It has 120 guest rooms and suites and an expansive penthouse spanning the entire top floor and rooftop, and also offers a variety of wellness activities. Prices start from £542 per room, per night.

**The Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya:** Set along Israel's largest marina, The Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya offers a serene waterfront backdrop. The centre of Tel Aviv is 15 minutes away, and visitors can visit the holy city of Jerusalem or the Dead Sea within an hour. Guests can enjoy the hotel's 12th-floor rooftop pool, a signature tahini martini at the hotel's rooftop bar or indulge in fine kosher dining at the Herbert Samuel. Prices start from £421 per room, per night.

**Sheraton Tel Aviv:** Sheraton Tel Aviv sits on a prime beachfront location, in the heart of the Herbert Samuel



A night view of Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv.

Boardwalk, overlooking the Mediterranean coastline. Guests will be within walking distance to the artists quarter and picturesque Jaffa. The hotel comes complete with three restaurants, and two swimming pools, including a dedicated children's pool. Beachside activities such as jet skiing, volleyball, surfing and miniature golf are a stone's throw away from the resort. The property offers a range of guestrooms and suites as per each family's needs, with many offering views of the Mediterranean Sea and its white sandy beaches. Prices start from £293 per room, per night.

[www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)

## What's one piece of advice you'd give your younger self?



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 Don't worry, be happy!



**Simon Eddolls**  
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 Don't end up like Bill.



**Hannah Carter**  
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 Don't compare yourself to your siblings, you're all different people.



**Tim Podger**  
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 Don't start smoking - took me 30 years to quit!



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 Don't stress - enjoy the journey!

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# The Porticoes of Bologna are the newest addition to the Unesco World Heritage Sites!

**A beauty  
to treasure.**

**#treasureitaly**

**ITALIA**

**italia.it**

A portico is a covered walkway with a roof often supported by columns. Bologna porticoes were first built in the 11th century and they are widespread in this Italian city. The porticoes of Bologna, almost 62 km long of which 40 km in the city centre, make the city of Bologna truly unique. Ever since 1100, when the growth of the University led to the need for new urban spaces, the porticoes have become private and public locations where people can socialise and trade, an open-air salon symbol of Bologna's hospitality.

# NORTH AMERICA

## TRAVEL SHOWCASE

MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER | LIVERPOOL

Agents, come and join us at this informative, fun event and learn more about the accommodation and flight options available to this amazing part of the world. Soak up the North American ambience and update yourselves on the diverse range of activities, multi-centre holidays, fly drives, city breaks and tailor-made packages on offer to meet your customers' needs.

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

### EVENT TIMINGS

**18:00 Hours:** Registration | **18:20 hours:** Networking & Presentations  
**20:30 hours:** Hot Dinner, Entertainment & Prizes | **21:45 hours:** Carriages

### SPONSORS



AIR CANADA



To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by  
**Monday 30th August 2021** to: [events@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:events@travelbulletin.co.uk) or **Telephone: 020 7973 0136**

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