

# Travel bulletin

Giving agents the edge

## Family Holidays

Outdoor adventures and immersive experiences to  
bring the family together



### MORE IN...

#### News

All the latest from all corners of the industry. **Pg. 4**

#### USA

Stateside choices, from theme parks to natural havens. **Pg. 17**

#### North Africa

Ancient classics and culture galore. **Pg. 22**



#### In the Hot Seat

Emma Charlesworth from the Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority.

Travel **bulletin**  
SHOWCASES

INVITES YOU TO AN

# Australasia & Pacific Island

SHOWCASE

TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL MERCURE EXETER ROUGEMONT

Agents, come and join the Travel Bulletin team and leading suppliers at one of our fun and informative Showcases where you can improve your product knowledge of this beautiful part of the world. The evening will involve lively presentations, as well as amazing hot food, drinks, action packed entertainment and a free prize draw for many lucky winners!

#### TIMINGS

Registration  
6:00<sup>PM</sup>

Travel Bulletin  
Welcome  
6:25<sup>PM</sup>

Client  
Presentations  
6:30<sup>PM</sup>

Hot Dinner  
7:30<sup>PM</sup>

Client  
Presentations  
8:15<sup>PM</sup>

Product Quiz &  
Free Prize Draw  
9:15 - 9:30<sup>PM</sup>

To confirm your place at this amazing event,  
email the name, company and contact  
details by Wednesday 12th April  
to: [events@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:events@travelbulletin.co.uk)  
or Telephone: 020 7973 0136

HEADLINE SPONSOR

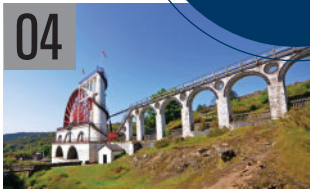


TOURISM AUSTRALIA



THESE EVENTS ARE BY INVITATION ONLY  
and will be booked on a first come first served basis with limited space available.

THIS WEEK



**NEWS**  
Stay in the loop with the latest happenings in the industry.



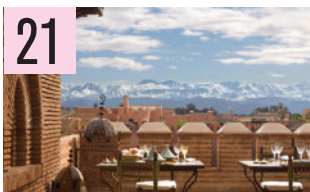
**FAMILY HOLIDAYS**  
Multi-generational holiday magic.



**IN THE HOT SEAT**  
Emma Charlesworth, Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority.



**USA**  
Everything to make a Stateside visit one to remember.



**NORTH AFRICA**  
Hotel openings, new tours and more across the region.



# ADVENTURE AWAITS

**As we wave goodbye to the pandemic and say hello to the wider world, Panache Cruises has released the five post-pandemic travel trends for 2023**

PANACHE CRUISES has uncovered the travel trends sweeping the industry.

Taking the top spot is the trend of bucket list holidays; as the world was confined to their houses, travellers' urges to break free and spread their wings has never been stronger. Cruise lines are seeing an increase in bookings to the US, Canada and Australia as holidaymakers are making the most out of their new-found freedom.

In the number two spot is expedition holidays, with Brits especially wanting to get out there and create new experiences. Antarctic cruises have become a popular choice with people wishing to tread the unbeaten track.

What is prevalent in all aspects of our daily lives is the increased focused put on caring for the environment, which follows the third trend to shape the industry moving forward. Sustainability is at the forefront of each sector, with cruise lines changing to greener fuels and more efficient vessels, and UK ports opening up for larger vessels to reduce

the quantity of ships in the waters.

As a result of the geopolitical landscape across eastern Europe, change in Baltic travel is the fourth trend in 2023, with cruises in particular docking in ports such as Tallinn, Estonia, and Riga, Latvia, as opposed to St. Petersburg. As a result, the tourism numbers in these countries are soaring, some even doubling in the last year.

Finally, the fifth trend set to impact the industry is the development of bigger cruise ships covering greater distances per day. Travellers are able to spend more time in each port and explore destinations within Scandinavia and the Mediterranean more easily than ever before.

Founder and managing director of Panache Cruises, James Cole, said: "Following the pandemic, we have seen a shift in the priorities of travellers across the wider travel sector as people move away from mass-market style holidays. After being cooped up inside for two years, people are looking for adventure further afield."

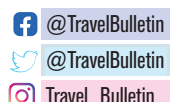


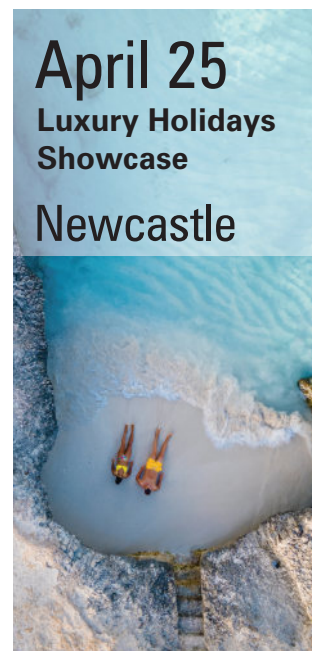
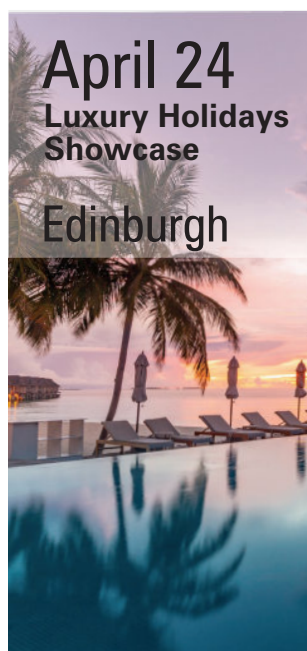
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## Wendy Wu unveils 2023 'Christmas Collection'

A SPECIALLY-CURATED selection of fully-inclusive tours departing this Christmas is the latest offering from Wendy Wu Tours.

The 15-day 'Christmas in India' option combines the Golden Triangle, a search for Bengal tigers at Ranthambore, a Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, and a visit to the Taj Mahal on Christmas Day, from £3,790 per person (departing on December 13, 2023).

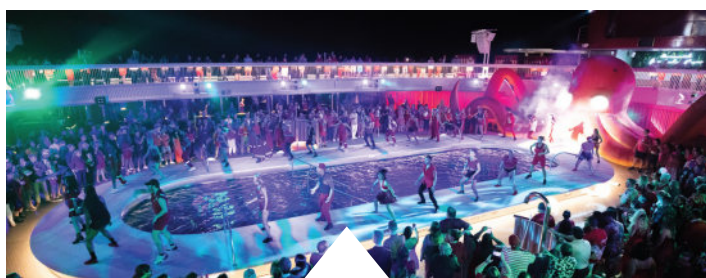
'In Pursuit of Pandas Christmas Special'



soaks up China's most iconic sights, from the cultural highlights of Beijing to the Terracotta Warriors and a Christmas Day visit to the Great Wall. Prices start from

£3,290 per person for the 11-day tour (departing on December 23, 2023).

Explore the full collection at [www.wendywutours.co.uk/christmas-collection](http://www.wendywutours.co.uk/christmas-collection)



### Virgin Voyages announces fleet-wide entertainment

VIRGIN VOYAGES is turning up the volume for 2023, highlighting never-before-seen entertainment ahead of Resilient Lady's summer debut.

The cruise line is continuing performances of *Duel Reality* (a modern, acrobatic adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*) and *UNTITLED*

*DANCESHOWPARTYTHING* (an upbeat music video-style show) aboard *Scarlet Lady* and *Valiant Lady*.

Additional performances this year will include *Persephone*, *Lola's Library* and *Miss Behave*. [www.virginvoyages.com](http://www.virginvoyages.com)

### Accor signs MGallery Resort in the Philippines

ACCOR HAS continued its expansion across the Philippines with the signing of the five-star South Palms Resort Panglao Bohol - MGallery.

The locally-inspired resort sits on the island of Panglao, and is set to introduce the emerging destination's unique heritage and community values when it opens in 2024.

South Palms Resort Panglao Bohol - MGallery is situated less than 10 minutes' drive from Bohol-Panglao International Airport, which opened in 2018 and hosts direct services from Manila and a number of other cities across the Philippines.

This signing adds to Accor's committed pipeline of 16 hotels scheduled to open in the next five years, and marks the second MGallery property in the Philippines.



Photo: lugano svizzera-turismo-michele-mergozz

## Green oases in the heart of Swiss cities.

Green spaces, shady trees and wildflower meadows all absorb pollutants, promote biodiversity and create space for relaxation. And places like this aren't just found in the countryside! In Swiss cities, bustling cosmopolitan life and idyllic natural experiences coexist side by side.

Get in touch with the Switzerland Tourism trade team to find out more on [MySwitzerland.com/trade](https://www.myswitzerland.com/trade) or [trade\\_uk@switzerland.com](mailto:trade_uk@switzerland.com).



**Switzerland.**

### YOUR TOOL TO SELL SWITZERLAND



Get inspired by our new sales guide with destination, transport and hotel information. Learn all about Swisstainable and why the Grand Train Tour is the best way to explore Switzerland.

The Alphon is available at [MySwitzerland.com/trade](https://www.myswitzerland.com/trade)

### SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL



Swisstainable is all about having one's finger on the pulse – and maximum relaxation in a natural setting:

- + Enjoy nature up close and at first hand
- + Experience the local culture in an authentic way
- + Consume regional products
- + Stay for longer and delve deeper

Find out more at [MySwitzerland.com/sustainability](https://www.myswitzerland.com/sustainability).

### LEARN



We have invested in an eLearning programme which is easy, interactive and a lot of fun. It consists of "core modules" and "specialisation modules" (e.g. Family, Lifestyle, Grand Tour of Switzerland, Swiss Travel System). The Switzerland Travel Academy offers helpful benefits to our valued members to increase your knowledge of Switzerland

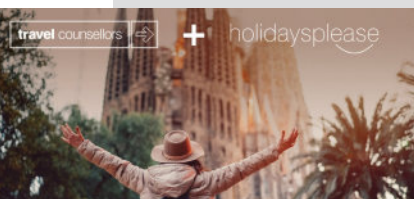
Join here: [MySwitzerland.com/trade](https://www.myswitzerland.com/trade)

To book, order brochures or talk anything Switzerland  
**CALL: 020 7420 4900**  
[sales@stc.co.uk](mailto:sales@stc.co.uk)  
[switzerlandtravelcentre.com](https://www.switzerlandtravelcentre.com)

## Travel Counsellors makes historic acquisition with Holidaysplease

MARKING THE first acquisition of its near-30-year history, Travel Counsellors has confirmed the procurement of Holidaysplease.

Birmingham-based Holidaysplease includes around 100 homeworking experts, 50



franchisees and 50 employees, sharing Travel Counsellors' people-led values and customer-first business approach.

Steve Byrne, CEO of Travel Counsellors, explained the acquisition: "We are delighted to have acquired such a highly-regarded and successful business, finding a company that is both culturally and strategically aligned to our people led values and focus on customer care.

"I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Holidaysplease community; we are extremely excited at what this combination will mean for both businesses, our communities of travel experts, and customers."

The acquisition comes hot on the heels of Travel Counsellors' record trading months in 2023, with over £200m generated in January and February.

[www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/](http://www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/)  
[www.holidaysplease.co.uk](http://www.holidaysplease.co.uk)

## MOVERS & SHAKERS



**NOLEEN PRITCHARD** has joined Riviera Travel in a new operations director role, overseeing operations including the contact centre for sales and customer experience and tour management.



**THE NEVIS** Tourism Authority has appointed Phéon Jones as the director of sales & marketing for all markets, including the UK.



**ITC GROUP** has restructured its trade team, introducing a trade partnership executive role, with Vicky McGlynn joining from her sales role at Inspiring Travel.



## Corendon Airlines launches summer 2024 flights

FOLLOWING ON from reports of a summer 2023 'sales spike', Corendon Airlines has announced the launch of its summer 2024 programme.

Direct flights from Antalya are on offer from six UK airports: Gatwick on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Sundays; Manchester on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays; Birmingham on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays; Newcastle and Bristol on Wednesdays and Saturdays; and Glasgow on Mondays and Fridays.

"We are launching our UK flights for summer 2024 much earlier than last year, as we are already seeing advanced demand, especially from golfers and other specialist group bookings to Antalya," explained the airline's commercial director, Mine Aslan.

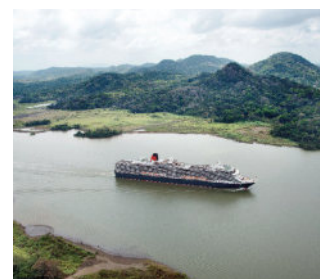
The summer 2024 programme is expected to be expanded in the coming weeks. [www.corendonairlines.com](http://www.corendonairlines.com)

## Agents 'Lunch & Learn' with the Harbour Club

THE HARBOUR Club, Saint Lucia, is offering agents the chance to take part in dedicated training sessions from its UK-based sales team to update their product knowledge. Highlighting current offers, discounts and incentives while providing key information about the product, the sessions are designed to ensure the agents are fully prepared and confident in selling the Harbour Club, as well as the wider island, to their clients.

The 30-minute online training sessions are perfect for small groups and can conveniently be scheduled to coincide with individual lunch breaks.

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



## Cunard to return to South America

CUNARD HAS confirmed its return to South America is pencilled for 2025, marking a five-year hiatus for the luxury cruise line.

The shores of Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and more await when Queen Victoria sails from Southampton in January 2025. [www.cunard.com](http://www.cunard.com)

## AGENT INCENTIVES

- **SUNSET HOLIDAYS** offers one Sunset Rewards point per pound in sales made, with 3,000 Sunset Rewards points earning £15 ONE4ALL vouchers, 6,000 points earning £40 vouchers, 12,000 earning £100 vouchers, and 25,000 earning £240 vouchers. [www.sunset.co.uk/rewards](http://www.sunset.co.uk/rewards)
- **TITAN TRAVEL'S** bumper March prize campaign offers £200 Ivy restaurant and £200 Lifestyle vouchers to lucky agents. Prizes are distributed regionally, with every booking counting as an entry to the draw. One £200 Ivy voucher and two £200 Lifestyle vouchers are distributed to three winners in Southeast England (including London and the Channel Islands); West England and Wales; and Central England, North of England, Isle of Man, and Northern Ireland. Every booking made by March 31, 2023 counts as an entry. Agents will earn a £15 Lifestyle voucher for every booking confirmed via Titan's online trade portal and £10 Lifestyle vouchers for offline bookings. Vouchers will be sent in April. [www.titantravel.co.uk](http://www.titantravel.co.uk)
- **CURAÇAO CONTINUES** to call until the end of March, with agents having the chance to win Amazon vouchers worth up to £50 when confirming bookings to Sandals Royal Curaçao by March 31, 2023. £25 Amazon vouchers are up for grabs for bookings, with £50 vouchers offered in Butler suites. [www.sandals.co.uk/tas](http://www.sandals.co.uk/tas)
- **RIVIERA TRAVEL'S** extended March incentive offers 128GB iPad Pros (worth £899) and £150 Amazon vouchers to the agent with the highest weekly booking value by March 31, 2023. [www.rivieratravel.co.uk](http://www.rivieratravel.co.uk)

# AGENT BULLETIN



**CUNARD VISITED** over 150 travel agents across 70 stores this month to deliver in-person news on the launch of its 2025 voyages. Tom Mahoney, director of UK sales, said: "We remain committed to supporting our agent community and working together to create unforgettable experiences."

*Travel* bulletin

## COMPETITION

**Win a seven-night Voyage North for two on full-board from Bergen to Kirkenes with Havila Voyages!**

Find out more at [www.travelbulletin.co.uk/havila-voyages-competition](http://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/havila-voyages-competition)



## AGENT TRAINING

- **COMPLETE THE** Tampa Bay Agent Academy to become a certified 'Tampa Bay Specialist'. The academy offers everything agents need to stay up-to-date on one of Florida's most diverse destination. Comprising of two modules, the programme hosts product updates and spotlights why Tampa Bay needs to be a part of any Floridian itinerary. [www.visittampabay.com/academy](http://www.visittampabay.com/academy)
- **STAR CLIPPERS** has teamed up with Latin Routes to deliver agent training events as part of its fourth 'Spotlight On...' campaign. Agents can take part in 'Costa Rica Coffee Catch-Ups' with bottomless brunches and in-depth training sessions on offer. Star Clippers will take to Cardiff (April 26, 7pm), Glasgow (June 7, 5pm), Edinburgh (June 8, 6:30pm), Newcastle (June 16, 5pm) and Leeds (June 15, 5pm). For those unable to attend, in-store catchups with Star Clippers' regional sales managers and a Latin Routes representative are available in Bristol/Bath (April 17), Worcestershire/West Midlands (April 18), Birmingham (April 19), Cumbria (April 25 and 26) and York (May 16 and 17). Email [agency.sales@starclippers.co.uk](mailto:agency.sales@starclippers.co.uk) to RSVP or request an in-store visit.
- **LEARN AND** earn with Sandos Smart Agents, the agent programme from Sandos Hotels & Resorts that offers online training, a new rewards system, in-depth information about the brand's hotels and resorts, the latest and best offers, and agent assistance. Agents can log bookings to earn free room stays while learning all about the various properties on offer. [www.sandossmartagents.com](http://www.sandossmartagents.com)
- **FORT MYERS**, the sunspoilt beach destination in Southwest Florida, offers a choice of webinars hosted by local partners, the latest news, and promotional assets. [www.island-findings.com](http://www.island-findings.com)



## AGENT INSIGHT

### SANDRA MURRAY

NORMANTON, YORKSHIRE

ANOTHER MIXED week!

Nice to hear Chris Redfern is still in the travel industry; he is really delighted to be working with an agent-friendly brand and hopefully building partnerships with everyone. I am sure he will be an asset to Premier Holidays. I also heard from David Castle, who now looks after Sandals & Beach Resorts (he used to be at Red Sea Holidays). I've told them both about the Yorkshire Ball – don't forget to put July 20 in your diaries!

I really think what is on TV gives people ideas, whether it be river cruising, summer sun, or skiing – it all helps.

When I had my shop I used to wear a different t-shirt every day from a country I had been to or special animals I had taken photos of (the orangutans in Borneo, gorillas in Uganda, etc.).

It was amazing how many people would come through the door and say "Where has she been today?" and I was surprised how many people would say "Oh I fancy there, let's have a look at some holidays!" I know it's more difficult to wear T-shirts if you are not an independent agent but you could always have 'fun' days where one member of staff would wear a T-shirt advertising another country and hand out holidays to that destination. Hope that gives some of you ideas – good luck!

On the North African feature, Egypt was always popular, either from a historical point of view, or diving! I got my PADI certificate in Sharm El Sheikh and people think it's more 'real' to do it there than in this country and want to book holidays so that they can learn to dive as well.

'Dreams come true for those who work while they dream.'



### Free tours and city extensions with Riviera Travel

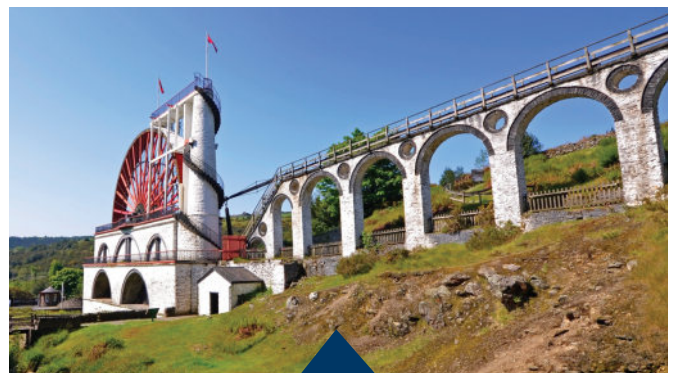
RIVIERA TRAVEL is offering guests a free tour or city break extension on river cruises to the Danube or Rhine departing in October 2023. Customers who book any upper deck cabin or deluxe or superior suites are entitled to a free three-night tour extension or independent city stay after sailing.

The offer applies to 14 of Riviera's departures across four of its Danube and Rhine itineraries, essentially giving guests a 10-night experience for the price of seven.

Guests travelling on the Danube cruise can join an escorted tour in either Budapest or Prague, and for those on the Rhine cruise, they can enjoy stays in either Basel or Cologne. [www.rivieratravel.co.uk](http://www.rivieratravel.co.uk)

### News Bites

- MANCHESTER AIRPORT is eyeing a strong summer as passenger numbers for February 2023 reached 93% of those reported in the same month of 2019.
- A BUMPER bonus commission of 15% is available on Northern European shore excursions in summer 2023 and winter 2023/24 from MSC Cruises.
- APT & TRAVELMARVEL is offering up to 50% off its 2023 European river itineraries when booking by April 30, 2023.



AFTER A record start to the year, JG Travel Group has tipped the Isle of Man as a top seller for 2023. Bookings to the island made in January and February have more than doubled in comparison to last year, leading the group to add more than 50% extra capacity to meet demand. For 2023, 32 departures are now available through Just Go! and, for the first time, National Holidays. [www.justgoholidays.com](http://www.justgoholidays.com)



SUDOKU

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

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

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

Closing date for entries is April 1. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

The winner for March 10 is Paula Izzard, Travel Counsellor.

March 10: A=4 B=2 C=9 D=3

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



WHERE AM I?

This North African city boasts French colonial architecture, a blend of Moorish style and European art deco, and is known for the classic Humphrey Bogart film set there.

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

1		2		3		4	5		6
						7			
8						9			
				10	11			12	
									13
	14			15		16			
17									
18		19				20			
21					22				

Across

- 1 Airline whose ads invite you to: Come and Say G'day (6)
- 4 Luxury train running from Pretoria to Cape Town (4)
- 8 Austin Butler recently won the Best Actor BAFTA for his role as this musical icon (5)
- 9 Family-friendly P&O cruise ship (5)
- 10 City known as the capital of the Costa del Sol (6)
- 14 US lake, sounds calm (6)
- 18 State capital of Oregon (5)
- 20 Comedians Jo and Russell share this surname (5)
- 21 One of the two airports serving Paris (4)
- 22 Capital of Rwanda (6)

Down

- 1 A city to soak up the French Canadian Culture (6)
- 2 Hotel chain, part of Accor (7)
- 3 Dispur is the capital of this Indian state (5)
- 5 Currency of Romania (3)
- 6 Netherlands town, probably best known for cheese (4)
- 7 The New York Stock Exchange is located on this street (4)
- 11 Airport code for Alderney, Channel Islands (3)
- 12 The Alhambra is this city's must-see tourist attraction (7)
- 13 Delhi international airport is also known by the name of a former prime minister Indira \_\_\_\_ (6)
- 15 Menaggio is a popular resort on this island (4)
- 16 City home of the tallest building in the world (5)
- 17 European capital city (4)
- 19 Liverpool John Lennon international airport code (3)

CROSSWORD

Mystery Word: ELBA  
 Down: 1 QUEBEC, 2 NOVOTEL, 3 ASSAM, 5 LEU, 6 EDAM, 7 WALL, 11 ACI, 12 GRANADA, 13 GANDHI, 15 COMO, 16 DUBAI, 17 OSLO, 19 LPL.  
 Across: 1 QANTAS, 4 BLUE, 8 ELVIS, 9 AZURA, 10 MALAGA, 14 PLACID, 18 SALEM, 20 BRAND, 21 ORLY, 22 KIGALI.

# AJMAN TOURISM ROADSHOW

FEATURING:



## Ajman Tourism Roadshow

March 1st in Manchester and March 2nd in London saw Ajman Tourism along with partners Emirates, Ajman Saray, Bahji Ajman Palace Hotel, Fairmont Ajman and The Oberoi Beach Resort, Al Zorah, train 100 agents over two evenings. Fantastic prizes including hotel stays, an all-expenses fam trip place and an amazing holiday for two including flights to Ajman were won by agents as well as a host of spot prizes!



### Silversea introduces direct Arctic flights

SILVERSEA CRUISES, the ultra-luxury and expedition cruise line, has introduced direct private charter flights for 28 of its Arctic and Greenland sailings in 2023/24.

Guests sailing aboard select Silver Endeavour, Silver Wind, and Silver Cloud voyages can benefit from seamless journeys from London, New York, Montreal, and Oslo. [www.silversea.com](http://www.silversea.com)



### 10% savings on scenic tours

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS has launched a campaign celebrating its scenery and nature tours, from the highlands of Scotland to the Costa Rican rainforests.

10% savings are available on more than 30 scenery- and nature-based tours until May 2, 2023. Close-to-home options include the five-day 'Scottish Highland Railways' tour with three rail trips from £708 per person (saving £177), with farflung discounts such as the ten-day 'Canada's Maple Leaf Trail' combining cities, countryside and Niagara Falls from £2,016 per person (saving £223).

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

### Jet2holidays tees off with dedicated Algarve golf packages

JET2HOLIDAYS HAS expanded its recently-launched golf packages to one of Europe's most sought-after golfing destinations, the Algarve in Portugal.

The new packages give independent agents the opportunity to offer golfers the holiday with included rounds of golf at a selection of hotels with on-site or nearby fairways.

Golf packages to the Algarve are available at Penina Hotel & Golf Resort, Dona Filipa Hotel, The Patio Suite Hotel, Pestana Vila Sol Premium Golf & Spa Resort, Hilton Vilamoura Golf & Spa and Monte Rei Golf and Country Club.

Jet2.com and Jet2holidays operate to Faro from all ten of their UK bases, with plenty of choice for local departures to the Algarve. [www.trade.jet2holidays.com](http://www.trade.jet2holidays.com)

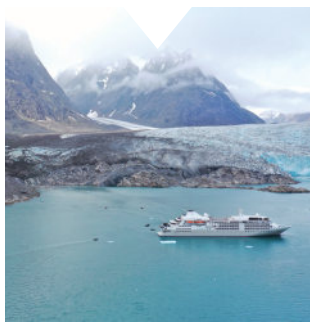


Image Credits: Left: Silversea Cruises, Middle: Newmarket Holidays



Headline Sponsor

# travelbulletin

SHOWCASES

Edinburgh - 24<sup>th</sup> April & Newcastle - 25<sup>th</sup> April

## Win a Luxury Getaway to Gran Canaria

### At Salobre Hotel Resort & Serenity \*\*\*\*\*

4 nights for 2, including half-board and car hire

T&Cs apply










**Cruise Showcase**

WE SAILED into Cheltenham for a Cruise Showcase on March 13. Alongside our headline sponsor Virgin Voyages and shipmates Venture Ashore, Oceania Cruises, Destination Canada, Riviera Travel and Havila Voyages, agents learned all about the worlds of ocean and river cruising.

Prizes up for grabs included a Bvlgari gift set, a Canadian cookbook, and a six-night, full-board cruise to see the Northern Lights!



Our summer of #TBSHOWCASES features Family Holidays Showcases on May 9 in Reading and May 10 in Stratford-upon-Avon, followed by Luxury Holidays Showcases in Cheshire on May 15 and Southport on May 16. To confirm your place or find out when we will be hosting our next event near you contact [events@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:events@travelbulletin.co.uk)

## KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

Regent strengthens family collection with a range of new adventures for 2023.



REGENT HAS doubled its collection of family adventures for 2023 to include experiences in the Azores, Borneo, Iceland, Finland, Jordan, the Norwegian Fjords, Slovenia and Sweden.

Some of Regent's new family trips for 2023 include canyoning, kayaking and coastering in the Azores; floating and boating in Finnish Lakeland; tombs, temples and sandboarding in Jordan;

rafting and ziplining in alpine Slovenia; and biking and hiking in the Norwegian fjords.

Regent head of product and marketing Andrea Godfrey said: "Regent has always been about taking travellers to some of Europe and Asia's most fascinating and lesser-explored places. We have dipped our toe into the water of family holidays in recent years, and now – in response to customer demand – we have expanded our programme to include a family option in almost all of our most popular destinations.

"The collection has been carefully put together by our destination experts, each of whom has a deep knowledge and passion for their 'patch', so agents can be assured their clients will be experiencing

the very best of what each place has to offer family adventurers. Many of the trips can be tailored to feature upgraded or self-catering accommodation options, and when agents pick up the phone to us, they know they will be getting the best advice."

Prices lead in at £5,860 for a family of four – two adults and two children – for the eight-day 'Azores Adventure' available from April to October. The price includes flights, seven nights' bed and breakfast at Azoris Royal Garden Hotel in a family suite, transfers, excursions and experiences. Agents can access assets including Regent's images and itineraries by logging on to the ITC's free online toolkit at [www.toolkit.itc-uk.com/](http://www.toolkit.itc-uk.com/).

### New Chiva-Som retreat to help families bond

ZULAL WELLNESS Resort by Chiva-Som has introduced a two-night 'Family Bonding Retreat', designed to encourage guests to reconnect through quality time spent together.

Under the guidance of child development and family specialist Joelle El Khoury, the two-night 'Family Bonding Retreat' encompasses daily age-appropriate activities and curated experiences as well as group activities that reinvigorate growth as a family unit.

The two-night 'Family Bonding Retreat' starts at £1,921 for two adults and two children up to the age of 16. [www.zulal.com](http://www.zulal.com)

### Efteling reveals more details of new ride

DUTCH THEME park Efteling has unveiled more details of its new attraction that is due to open next year. The area around Danse Macabre, the new haunted house-style ride to replace Spookslot, is starting to take shape with the creation of the Huyverwoud Forest, which will accommodate the attraction's waiting route, an experience-packed queue that will lead thrill seekers through the kruysgang, a grim graveyard and a creepy forest to the entrance of the ride Danse Macabre. [www.efteling.com](http://www.efteling.com)



# IN THE HOT SEAT WITH...

*Emma Charlesworth*

*Ras Al Khaimah Tourism  
Development Authority*



Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority's Emma Charlesworth, marketing manager for the UK & Ireland, on the Emirate's adventurous family experiences and more.

**What awaits families in Ras Al Khaimah and how do those experiences meet what UK families are looking for on holiday?**

Not only will you find world class family-orientated beach resorts, offering spacious and gently sloping white sand beaches, Ras Al Khaimah also offers incredible and unique experiences for families looking for something a little different to their usual holiday destinations.

Visit Jebel Jais, the highest peak in the UAE and take the family on the Jais Sledder, a popular mountain toboggan ride. Here you can also find the Jais Flight, the Guinness-certified world's longest zipline. Adventurous families can also book a day at Bear Grylls Explorers Camp and learn how to survive the mountainous wilderness. For a more relaxed and cultural experience, take a boat ride through the nature-soaked mangroves to the Suwaidi Pearl Farm. We also have a great range of stunning desert camps offering everything from Camel Rides to Desert Dune Buggies.

**What might surprise families adventuring to Ras Al Khaimah?**

In 2023, for the first time, families can take to the skies over the rolling terracotta

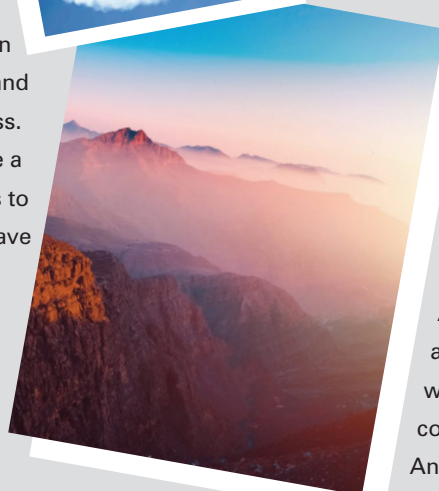
desert dunes onboard our new Hot Air Balloon rides with Action Flight. Enjoy a spectacular sunrise, taking in the Emirate's breath-taking natural landscape, all while spotting indigenous wildlife below. This once-in-a-lifetime experience is even followed by an incredible breakfast and bird of prey show.

**Last year's RAKation summer campaign spotlighted the adventurous and natural experiences on offer, what can we expect from 2023's campaigns?**

2023 is all about 'GETTING MORE' and this is what our new Summer Campaign will highlight. When you visit Ras Al Khaimah, you get more to experience and explore. From mountains to mangroves, deserts to destination resorts and beaches to bucket-list thrills!

**How can agents get involved with selling Ras Al Khaimah and highlighting the range of family experiences on offer?**

Agents can visit [www.RAKTDA.COM](http://www.RAKTDA.COM) and discover our agent-friendly brand website, offering great social media content and up to date destination news. And they shouldn't forget to log any new bookings they make on our booking rewards website at [www.rakrewards.com](http://www.rakrewards.com) to be in with a chance of winning their own five-night stay in Ras Al Khaimah!



# Tour puts spotlight on Vietnam

FAMILIES WORLDWIDE offers a small-group escorted holiday suitable for active families keen to explore Vietnam.

The Vietnam Family Adventure takes families on a journey to explore the country's waterways, rural villages, green countryside, temples, caves and longhouses.

Among the highlights include a longhouse homestay, cruising Halong Bay on a traditional junk and sleeping on an overnight train.

One day is spent in Cuc Phuong National Park, home to hundreds of reptiles, amphibians and mammals including clouded leopards and Asian black bears, and visiting the Endangered Primates Rescue Centre.

Families also get to learn about Vietnam's war history and experience village life.

Prices lead in at £995 per adult and £895 per child for the nine-night 'Vietnam Family Adventure' with Families Worldwide.

Children must be aged nine and over.

Flights are not included.

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



## Kids' activities galore at Marbella resort

PUENTE ROMANO Beach Resort in Marbella is looking forward to a busy summer season in its new kids' club.

La Casita Club has a programme of events including immersive escape rooms, treasure hunts, movie making, language lessons, a treehouse and cookery lessons.

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



## Emerald adds new family beach villas

THE EMERALD Collection has unveiled a recent makeover and expansion of Emerald Maldives Resort and Spa.

The expansion of the property brings the total number of Family Beach Villas to 20, with 10 of the existing beach villas upgraded into two-bedroom and two-bathroom accommodations – the most requested category by international guests since the resort opened in 2019. Tropical Sky offers seven nights' all-inclusive in a Family Beach Villa with pool from £15,800. The price includes direct flights and seaplane transfers.

[www.emerald-faarufushi.com](http://www.emerald-faarufushi.com)





## Dream Family Villa Holidays



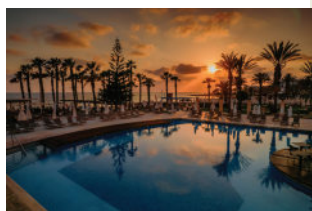


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Image Credits: Top Left: Shutterstock, Top Right: Puente Romano, Bottom: Emerald Collection



### Louis Hotels rethinks Family Collection

LOUIS HOTELS has reimagined the hotels in its Family Collection to ensure that it is catering for both adults and children.

New features include family zones, the Santelino Mini-Club or Family World Centre in selected hotels, kids' buffets, early meal times and specially designed family rooms. The Louis Ledra Beach in Paphos features four pools including a kids-only pool, a kids' club playground, sporting activities and family rooms and a wide range of food options.

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



### Parga Beach Resort adds new family villas

THE PARGA Beach Resort in Greece is introducing 23 new luxury suites with private balconies, terraces and private plunge pools that are designed to cater for the needs of families.

The new accommodation can accommodate a variety of group sizes including up to six adults and two children in the Maison Bliss Suite with Private Pool.

[www.pargabeachresort.gr](http://www.pargabeachresort.gr)

## Resort with Maldives first kids-only diner to open

A NEW family-friendly hotel group is set to open in the Maldives on April 1, featuring the first kids-only restaurant in the island nation.

The new 176-room Avani+ Fares Maldives Resort sits on the tropical island of Fares at the western edge of Baa Atoll, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and has been designed to welcome multigenerational family stays with two, three and four-bedroom beach pavilions, and two and three-bedroom over water villas, in addition to a variety of other accommodation options. The resort's AvaniKids and Teens' Club will feature a daily programme of outdoor activities such as water sports, while parents can relax on the beach, by the pool or at the spa. The resort has also introduced the first kids-only restaurant in the Maldives, Petit Bistro.

Alternatively, families can spend quality time together taking part in other activities including snorkelling, playing volleyball or



enjoying a barbecue on the beach, complete with marshmallow roasting.

The resort's opening offers include seven nights for a family of four staying in an Avani Two Bedroom Beach Studio from £7,923. [www.avanihotels.com](http://www.avanihotels.com)

## Danna Langkawi rolls out VIP kids offer

THE DANNA Langkawi Resort and Beach Villas in Malaysia has introduced a new children's package to give its mini guests an extra special luxury stay.

The Danna Jr. consists of a variety of welcome amenities for the resort's younger guests including a Danna kids sleeping tent with lanterns, colouring books, beach and soft toys, homemade sweet treats by The Danna's master Pâtissiers and access to the resort's kids' club activities.



The kids' club offers activities for four to 11-year-olds including supervised crafts such as sand art, sports activities, fish feeding sessions, interactive board games and Lego block building. There is also the opportunity for children to watch movies or enjoy some time on games consoles.

The beach resort is nestled in a tropical enclave with sandy beaches overlooking the Andaman Sea and features 125 oceanfront rooms and suites and 10 one and two-bedroom beach villas. The largest private pool villas on Langkawi. Each luxe private pool beachfront villa comes with its own private infinity pool, sun loungers, private spa treatment area, living room and dining lounge and Salvatore Ferragamo bath amenities

The Danna Jr. experience for an additional cost of £46 per room per stay.

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



# KEEP UP WITH THE CAPITAL REGION

The region, comprising Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia, is eyeing an exciting 2023.



AS TRAVEL Market Insights predict the Stateside Capital Region to exceed 2019's visitor numbers by 2024, the region is hosting a number of new additions to entice visitors back in 2023.

## Virginia

George Washington's home state will

### MoMA tour heads up new GetYourGuide collection

ONLINE BOOKING platform has launched Originals by GetYourGuide, a curated collection of exclusive experiences.

"This year, we are gearing up to unlock even more unforgettable experiences with the launch of Originals by GetYourGuide, where travellers will get a rare glimpse into unique spaces and moments," said Jean-Gabriel Duveau, VP of Brand at GetYourGuide.

Kicking off the collection of 2023 experiences is an exclusive tour of the Museum of Modern Art in New York (MoMA), where guests enjoy a guided tour of the museum one hour before regular opening hours with a professional art historian. [www.getyourguide.com](http://www.getyourguide.com)

welcome a number of new attractions this year. Cirque du Soleil will hold the US premiere of its new tour, ECHO, in Virginia this September 6. Embassy Suites by Hilton opened in the state earlier this year, with 157 suites offered.

## Maryland

The bayside state is set to host the largest Great Wolf Lodge, the indoor water park resort, on the western edge of Cecil County. Baltimore's boutique hotel scene will see the addition of Ulysses, an ultra-chic nod to the city's literary history. Artscape, America's largest free arts festival, will rock the cultural heart of Baltimore this

September, with works of over 140 artists, and immersive art experiences.

## Washington, DC

November 2022 saw a 203-room addition in the form of The Morrow Hotel Washington, DC Curio Collection by Hilton, with Paris-based MOB adding 144 keys later this year. The National Air and Space Museum recently opened following a multi-year renovation, with the National Museum of Women in the Arts reopening post-renovation this Autumn. A LEGO Discovery Center, akin to the popular Manchester attraction, will be the first-of-its-kind in America when it opens this summer.

## Vegas Strip to host Formula 1 this winter

LAS VEGAS is getting in gear to host the Formula 1 Grand Prix taking place on November 18. For the first time in more than 40 years, the night race will see drivers speed on a curated track around the iconic landmarks, hotels and casinos of the Strip. The newest addition to the Formula 1 calendar will comprise of three straights, two DRS zones and a total of 17 corners, and will see drivers reach speeds of 212mph around the 3.8-mile circuit. [www.f1lasvegasgp.com/](http://www.f1lasvegasgp.com/)





### Winter opening for largest hotel in USA

FONTAINEBLEAU LAS Vegas will open this winter, and with 3,700 rooms and 550,000 sq ft of convention space, it will be the largest hotel in the USA.

The hotel will boast world-class restaurants, shopping, pools and entertainment experiences. The 67-storey property will be the tallest hotel in Las Vegas. [www.fontainebleaulasvegas.com](http://www.fontainebleaulasvegas.com)

### New attractions to open across New York State

NEW YORK State has a number of new attractions opening this year.

Niagara Falls is adding a new \$46 million Welcome Centre that will tell the story of Niagara Falls and the surrounding community, highlighting its industrial and Indigenous history.

Meanwhile, in the city of Buffalo, the Albright-Knox Art Gallery will reopen May 25 as the Buffalo AKG Museum, following a \$200 million project that will add 50,000 sq ft of exhibition space which will feature a collection of more than 6,000 works of modern and contemporary art including Frida Kahlo, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock and



Andy Warhol.

In Manhattan, the new Museum of Broadway will give visitors the opportunity to travel through the timeline of Broadway from its birth to present day, featuring a series of interactive experiences, installations and video projections.

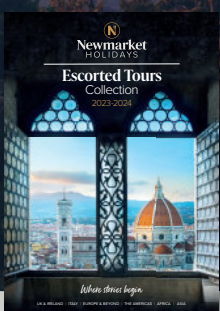
[www.iloveny.com](http://www.iloveny.com)

Image Credits: Left: Fontainebleau Las Vegas. Right: Niagara Falls Welcome Centre



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# Snoopy blasts off at Kennedy

A NEW immersive experience is launching at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Florida that will feature some world-famous and much-loved cartoon characters.

Snoopy, Charlie Brown and other Peanuts characters will be the stars of All Systems Are Go, an immersive experience featuring state-of-the-art puppetry, lights and sounds that opens this month.

Located in the Universe Theater, guests can join Snoopy and Woodstock as they're called by a Launch Director to assist with the next NASA mission – Artemis.

From training for the mission to testing the Orion spacecraft to visiting other planets, the new experience will take guests on a 20-minute adventure of history, education and imagination.

The show is performed live and will feature the Peanuts cartoon personalities appearing as 5ft-tall characters operated by puppeteers.

Agents can complete the UK agent training programme to earn complimentary entry passes to experience the space-age attraction for themselves.

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



## BA launches third weekly Vegas flight

BRITISH AIRWAYS is launching a new direct flight from London Gatwick to Vegas's Harry Reid International Airport on March 26, 2023.

The flight will operate three times a week until October 28, 2023. Prices lead in at £426.

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

Image Credits: Left: Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, Right: Pexels/Pixabay

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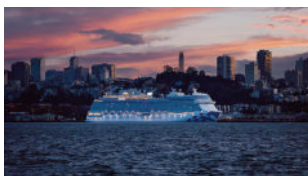
## Riviera hits the road with Deep South tour

RIVIERA TRAVEL has introduced a new Signature tour for 2023.

The 14-day 'Deep South USA Plus Texas' departs from Atlanta and visits Nashville, Memphis, Graceland, New Orleans, Houston, San Antonio, Fort Worth, and Dallas. Signature tours are for groups of a maximum 25 guests, and include up to three new and enhanced experiences.

Prices lead in at £3,399 per person.

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



## West Coast cruise and tour launches

CRUISE.CO.UK HAS launched a new 2023 date on its exclusive tailor-made cruise-and-stay package. The 14-night 'Escorted Yosemite National Park' combines a seven-night escorted tour with a seven-night California Coastal cruise on Discovery Princess.

The tour visits Las Vegas, Death Valley, Sequoia National Park, Yosemite National Park, San Francisco, Monterey, San Diego, Ensenada, and Los Angeles.

Prices lead in at £2,549 per person. [www.cruise.co.uk](http://www.cruise.co.uk)

## Orlando focuses on value for money experiences

VISIT ORLANDO is focusing on highlighting the ways to offer your clients value for money this year when visiting the state.

The tourist board offers complimentary holiday planning services to help visitors get bang for their buck, including tips on how to get the most out of their visits to theme parks including offers that are new for 2023, such as the Drury Plaza Hotel Orlando — Disney Springs Area which is offering guests complimentary hot breakfast, shuttle service to all four Walt Disney World Resort theme parks and evening snacks and beverages.

Purchasing tickets in advance before visiting is also a key part of advice as many attractions offer authorised discount tickets through Visit Orlando.

The tourist board has listed a choice of experiences to enjoy for less than \$30 and also places to visit for free such as Disney Springs, the open-air dining, shopping and



entertainment district at Walt Disney World, which offers free admission.

Deals from operators include seven nights in Orlando with Virgin Atlantic, starting at £2,220 for a family of four, and seven nights in Orlando staying in the Rosen Plaza Hotel through TUI for £738 per person. [www.VisitOrlando.com](http://www.VisitOrlando.com)

## 10% savings on New England tour

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS has launched a 10% saving on its 'New England in the Fall' escorted tour, with the discount on 2023 and 2024 holidays available until May 2.

The nine-day tour takes guests from New York to Boston, travelling through New England as the region comes alive with autumnal colours in September and October, when millions of trees turn red, purple and gold at the onset of autumn.



Highlights include Quechee Gorge and the Kancamagus Highway, regularly voted the best spot for viewing the magnificent fall foliage, and there are stops in fascinating towns including North Conway, in the heart of the scenic White Mountains, and the beautiful mountain village of Bethel, where guests join a guided drive in search of moose.

After Bethel, the journey follows the Maine coast to the seafarers' city of Portland, and then on to the historic fishing village of Kennebunkport, famous as a holiday retreat for the Bush family. The tour ends at the resort of Nantasket Beach in Boston, with the option of a guided tour along the iconic Freedom Trail.

Prices for the nine-day tour now start from £1,908pp, saving £211pp, with regional departures across the UK. [www.newmarketholidays.co.uk](http://www.newmarketholidays.co.uk)

# EGYPT ENCOMPASSED

Wild Frontiers' 15-day group tour traces the ancient history and heritage of Egypt.



WILD FRONTIERS pushes boundaries of ancient culture and once-in-a-lifetime experiences on 'Egypt Encompassed', a 15-day adventure through Cairo, Alexandria, Aswan, Abu Simbel, and Luxor.

Highlights of the tour include a visit to the Pyramids of Giza and the long-

awaited Grand Egyptian Museum, expected to open in late 2023 on the Giza Plateau.

As clients seek ethical and authentic experiences, tours of local farms and time spent with local communities along the Nile makes this unique adventure an ethical one.

Alexandria offers a glimpse into the ancient port city, home to royal jewels, Roman amphitheatres, and mysterious catacombs; a hidden gem of ancient Egyptian history.

The 15-day itinerary starts from £3,595 per person based on two

sharing (excluding international flights), with departures from October 2023 and November 2024. Price includes select meals (14 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 12 dinners), transport via minibuses, trains, felucca and tuk tuks, accommodation and entrance fees for sights. Deposits of £200 per person are required upon booking.

Wild Frontiers plants 10 trees per passenger on the trip, supports community projects through its Wild Frontiers Foundation, and contributes to renewable energy projects.  
[www.wildfrontierstravel.com](http://www.wildfrontierstravel.com)

## Nobu ventures into Africa

NOBU HOTEL Marrakech marks the lifestyle brand's first hotel venture in Africa. Situated in the heart of Marrakech's 'Golden Triangle', the hotel is moments away from the city's cultural centre.

The all-suite property is home to 71 keys, destination dining featuring the Nobu Restaurant and Bar, and a panoramic rooftop which hosts a guest pool, restaurant, and sushi bar.

Advance bookings (seven days or more in advance) include 15% off the Best Available rate and continental breakfast.

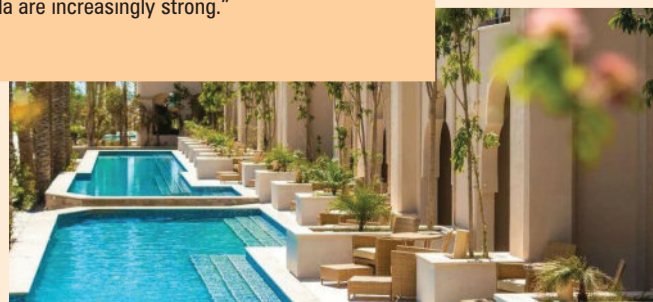
[www.marrakech.nobuhotels.com](http://www.marrakech.nobuhotels.com)

## Demand for Hurghada heats up

RED SEA Holidays has added thousands of seats to its summer Hurghada programme in response to an impressive rise in demand.

Managing director Andrew Grant explained: "Our all-inclusive holidays continue to offer outstanding value for money and with guaranteed sunshine year round, it's easy to see why bookings for Hurghada are increasingly strong."

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



## A place for thrills and relaxation

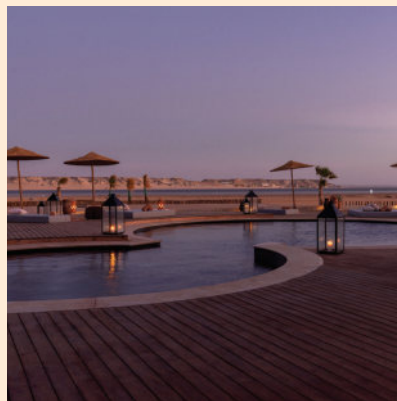
HABITAS, THE global eco-hospitality group, has opened its second property in Morocco: Caravan Dakhla, set on the shores of Dakhla lagoon.

Known as one of the world's top kitesurfing locations for its unique lagoon and consistent winds, Dakhla is renowned as a world-class destination for kiteboarders, windsurfers, surfers and other explorers looking to discover a place where nature takes centre stage.

A home to explorers and adventure seekers alike, highlights of Caravan Dakhla include 24 Moroccan guest rooms, a kitesurf school, a locally-inspired restaurant and bar, swimming pool, yoga and wellness centre, outdoor cinema, barrel sauna, cold plunge and Habitas' signature agora communal gathering spaces.

Beyond adventure, guests can experience Habitas' renowned programming focused on local culture and talents including Sahrawi tea ceremonies, local artist collaborations, live music and the brand's signature wellness programming.

Prices start from £130 per night. [www.ourhabita.com](http://www.ourhabita.com)



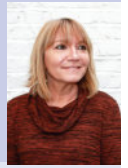
## Modernising Marrakech's La Sultana Oualidia

LA SULTANA Oualidia is being modernised further with its treehouse suite being enlarged, a new sauna being added to the spa, and a new cocktail menu being released in the coming months. For those wishing to be pampered, La Sultana Hotels offer a 'Sea and the City' package including a total of six nights at the beautiful hotels. Stay at La Sultana Marrakech, the gem in the city followed by La Sultana Oualidia, the gem by the ocean. Rates start from £2,280 for six nights at two properties. [www.lasultanahotels.com](http://www.lasultanahotels.com)

## What's your must-do Stateside city?

**Jeanette Ratcliffe**  
**Publisher**

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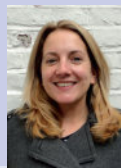
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