

travelbulletin

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EVENT BULLETIN

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IN THE HOT SEAT

Our new interview feature, this week with Gordon McCreadie from If Only...

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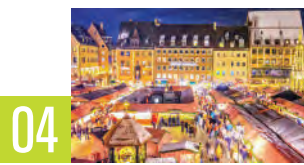


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THIS WEEK



04

NEWS

Industry updates and an Agent Insight column on wellness from Nick at Travel Designers



12

EVENT BULLETIN

Weddings & honeymoons showcase fun and networking in Liverpool and Glasgow



14

IN THE HOT SEAT

We debut our new interview spot with Gordon from If Only...



15

USA

From Las Vegas to Alaska, there's something for everyone



19

ESCORTED TOURS

Perennial favourites and emerging destinations



23

HOTELS, RESORTS & SPAS

Blissed-out accommodation options for relaxing holidays

SPAIN STILL REIGNS

Classic Collection Holidays has found that Spain remains a solid favourite for British tourists.



Spain is set to be the most popular destination once again this year.

BOOKINGS MADE by partner agents of luxury operator Classic Collection Holidays, have revealed that Spain looks set to be the most popular destination again. Other hot spots across Greece could enjoy a bumper year, with bookings of holidays showing significant year-on-year growth.

While Spain and Greece are the first and second most popular destinations respectively, destinations across Italy are proving popular this year, with the operator seeing an increased demand for holidays to destinations across the country, such as the Amalfi Coast and the lakes.

Research also shows a dramatic increase in bookings

of holidays to the Portuguese island of Madeira. Nicknamed the 'floating garden of the Atlantic', January bookings suggest Madeira could have its best year ever, in terms of the number of British holidaymakers heading to its shores.

Hotly tipped to become a major hot spot amongst British holidaymakers for several years, Croatia completes the top five list of the most popular destinations this year.

Research also reveals that Egypt is set to become a favourite once again this year, with destinations such as Sharm El Sheikh, Hurghada and Marsa Alam, all proving popular among sun-seeking British holidaymakers.

Booking data revealed the destination as an emerging destination for 2020, following the announcement from the FCO in October last year, which saw it lift its restrictions on flights between the UK and the Egyptian resort.

Turkey is named one as another emerging destination, following a troubled few years, along with Malta, Austria and Montenegro.

Long-haul destinations are proving to be popular. Since launching its long-haul programme in January, Classic Collection Holidays has seen strong early demand for its new product, with Sri Lanka and Mauritius named its most popular far-away destinations for 2020.

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Join the festivities with Jet2's Christmas market programme

JET2.COM AND Jet2CityBreaks have announced their programme of Christmas market flights and trips, which are now on sale.

With European Christmas markets continuing to enjoy immense popularity, the company has introduced a mini-series of flights and city breaks to a festive assortment of winter wonderlands from November until before Christmas, including a new destination – Strasbourg.

The Strasbourg Christmas market is the oldest in France, and from November, the whole town transforms into a winter wonderland with its charming streets and squares.

The leisure airline and operator has introduced a series of two-night trips for the 2020 programme, suitable for a quick Christmas getaway.

Jet2 will operate more than 100 services to eight



Jet2 will operate scheduled flights and city breaks to several Christmas markets.

Christmas market destinations – Berlin, Budapest, Cologne, Krakow, Nuremberg, Copenhagen, Strasbourg and Vienna – between November and Christmas, from seven UK bases.

With multiple weekly

flights on sale to destinations such as Amsterdam, Budapest, Barcelona, Prague and Krakow, customers have choice and flexibility over how long they spend visiting Christmas markets in Europe.

Go to www.jet2.com or www.jet2CityBreaks.com

Vietnam opens its first overseas tourism office in the UK

THE VIETNAM National Administration of Tourism (VNAT) launched its first international office, in London, during a ceremony at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

More than 250 dignitaries attended the evening hosted by Le Quang Tung, deputy minister of The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Kate White, director of Asia Pacific at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. Among the honoured guests was the Vietnam Ambassador to the UK, the chairman of the Vietnam Tourism Advisory Board, tour operators and media.

The Vietnam Tourism Board has



chosen London as the location for its first overseas representative office in a move to bring the country's tourism assets even closer to UK travellers, assist with trip inspiration and encourage more UK travellers to visit.

More than 315,000 British visitors visited Vietnam in 2019, up nearly 6% from the previous year.

www.vietnam.travel/home

MSC Cruises updates itinerary in wake of COVID-19

MSC CRUISES has updated the itinerary of MSC Bellissima for her forthcoming 28-night Grand Voyage sailing from the Gulf to Asia on March 21.

The updated itinerary of the Grand Voyage, from March 21 to April 18, will see the cancellation of the port visits to Shenzhen, mainland China; Hong Kong; and Keelung, Taiwan, and the addition of Laem Chabang and Bangkok, Thailand; Phu My and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; as well as an extra day in

Kobe, Japan. In addition, the ship will now also call Sir Bani Yas Island, UAE, instead of Khor Fakkan, UAE.

MSC Bellissima's 28-night Grand Voyage to Asia will commence on March 21 in Dubai, UAE.

To protect the health and safety of its guests and crew globally, MSC Cruises began on January 24 a series of precautionary actions across its fleet with respect to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) which originated in China. www.msccruises.co.uk



Easter treats at Corinthia Hotels

WITH THE prospect of warmer days ahead, the Corinthia Hotel offers a family break to sunny Lisbon.

While the sights of Lisbon are an obvious reason to choose to stay with Corinthia, the hotel gives children special treatment, with in-room treats and entertainment at breakfast. The package also includes daily buffet breakfast, a special buffet dinner if staying on Easter Saturday, April 11, and a complimentary stay for one child.

'A Family Easter' costs from £198, per room, per night. The stay is valid from April 5-17. For more information, visit corinthia.com/lisbon

HOTEL bites

Somabay, the Red Sea Riviera hotspot, has announced that the newest addition to the Cascades family, The Lodge by Cascades, has officially opened its doors.



Island Developers and Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts announced a partnership introducing the Banyan Tree's first property in The Bahamas.



Manhattan is getting set to welcome a newcomer to the Big Apple's hotel scene this April with the opening of NH Collection New York Madison Avenue, the first NH Collection property in the United States.



Radisson Hotel Group has announced the signing of its first Radisson-branded hotel in South Africa, the Radisson Safari Hotel Hoedspruit.



"NOW'S THE TIME TO LOVE NEW SOUTH WALES"

FOLLOWING THE effects of the recent bushfires and drought, Destination New South Wales has launched a new marketing campaign encouraging visitors to show their love to the Australian state to aid recovery efforts. 'Now's The Time To Love New South Wales' was inspired by the outpouring of global support and community-driven recovery initiatives in response to the recent bushfires. *Go to www.visitnsw.com for more destination information.*

A 'whale' of a time with Fred. Olsen

FRED. OLSEN Cruise Lines has confirmed a nine-cruise whale-watching programme as part of its first official year in partnership with marine conservation charity ORCA.

The cruises will enable ORCA to collect vital data on the number and species of whales and dolphins sighted

and identify marine wildlife hotspots, feeding directly into the charity's 'Cruise Conservationist Programme' and its conservation work.

ORCA volunteers will be on board for all nine sailings, who will feed into Fred. Olsen's onboard enrichment programme with

wildlife watching opportunities, lectures, workshops and a host of other activities, including trips on Fred. Olsen's rigid inflatable boats.

A feature of ORCA cruise programme includes: the Black Watch's 16-night W2018 'A Voyage to Remote Spitsbergen' cruise, departing from Liverpool on June 25. Prices start from £2,599 per person.

Additionally, there is the Boudicca's 16-night D2021 'Fjords & Icebergs of Remote Greenland' cruise, departing from Dover on August 11. Prices start from £2,199 per person. www.fredolsencruises.com/ agents

Guests can learn more about the marine wildlife on their travels.

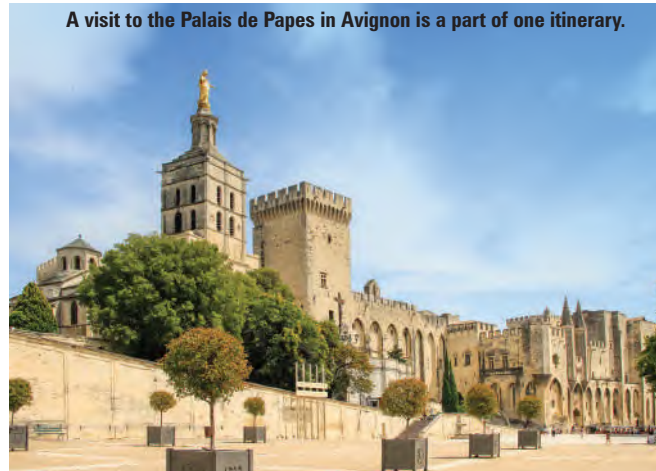


Savings for solo travellers with Emerald Waterways

EMERALD WATERWAYS is supporting solo travellers, waiving the single supplement on six sailings in Europe, so travellers will only pay their portion of the twin-share price, yet enjoy single occupancy, saving up to £2,670 per person.

An example of a no single supplement itinerary includes, the eight-day 'Sensations of Lyon & Provence' river cruise, with departures from April-October along the Rhône from £2,245 per person.

This itinerary through quintessential France includes a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Palais des Papes in Avignon, a guided bike tour to Glun and visit to Hospices de Beaune. Another Rhône itinerary included is the eight-day 'Flavours of Burgundy & Provence' river



cruise on July-August, with departures from £2,845 per person, based on a August 8 departure date.

This foodie itinerary begins and ends in Lyon, and includes highlights such as include truffle, cheese and wine tastings through quaint French towns and villages and iconic cities rich with history.

This no single supplement offer is strictly limited to five cabins per sailing.

All prices include relevant discounts, return flights, or rail on selected itineraries, transfers, all tipping and gratuities, all on board meals and selected drinks, excursions and experiences. www.emeraldwaterways.co.uk

Win a uniquely Kiwi experience with Tourism New Zealand

AS TOURISM New Zealand unveils the 'Good Morning World' campaign, one lucky travel agent and a friend can win a trip to the southwestern Pacific Ocean nation with flights from Air New Zealand.

The winner will receive flights from Air New Zealand and a choice of 10 activities featured in Tourism New Zealand's 'Good Morning World' campaign.

To enter, agents need to watch two short videos and answer a few simple questions and they could be on their way to New Zealand, along with a friend. The promotion runs until March 6.

Jo Copestake, Air New Zealand's general manager for the UK and Europe, noted: "We look forward to welcoming the winner and



their friend on our flight to New Zealand. They will be greeted on board by our friendly crew and will have a chance to see for themselves the uniquely Kiwi experience we offer all our customers." www.traveltrade.newzealand.com/en-gb/campaign/win-a-trip/

Alton Towers marks 40 years of thrills with a celebration

ALTON TOWERS Resort announced it is launching an exciting 'Season of Celebration' for 2020 to mark 40 years of unforgettable shared adventures, exhilarating thrills and happy memories.



Beginning on March 21, Alton Towers will roll out their programme of events to celebrate the power of experiencing thrilling adventures, spending time with friends and family, and making memories together. Alton Towers has released an exclusive animation showcasing the evolution of the theme park; from coasters to themed lands and accommodation.

For those who'd rather model their own theme park map including classic rides, current attractions or even a look to the future, a new interactive 'Model Your Map' game on the Alton Towers website allows fans to plan, view and share their Alton Towers Map.

More information about the 'Season of Celebration' can be found at www.altontowers.com/40-years

Newmarket launches online video hub for agents

FOLLOWING INCREASED demand for multimedia content from travel agents, Newmarket Holidays has launched a bespoke video hub. Accessed through Newmarket's travel agent website, the hub will support agents by providing easy access to best-selling tour videos.

When launching the hub, Richard Forde, Newmarket's head of trade sales, said: "Agents can share videos of our best-selling tours on their social channels, which will act as a useful marketing tool and help grow their sales." www.newmarketholidays.co.uk/agents-login

Cheers to commission with wine-on-the-water tours

SAILSTERLING HAS launched wine-and-catamaran tours around Sicily's Aeolian Islands, with commissionable rates for the travel trade.

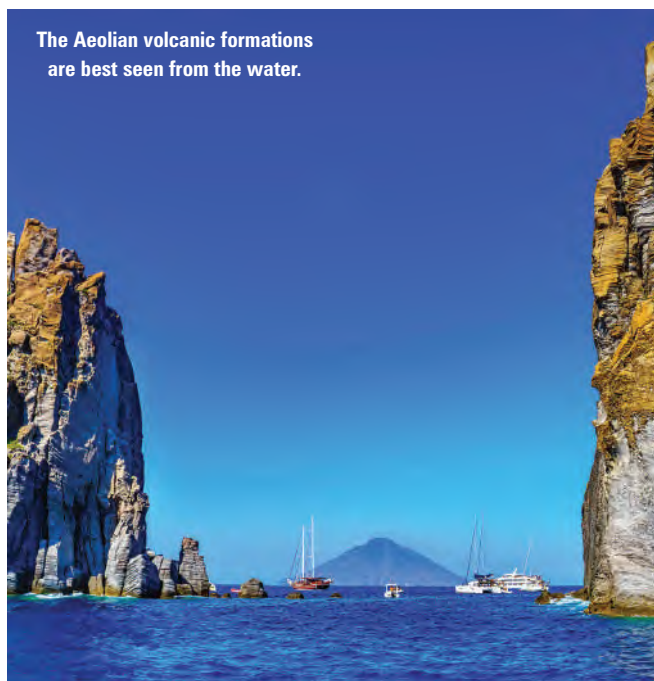
With the first departure scheduled for August 29 from Capo d'Orlando Marina on the North Sicilian coast, and running for five consecutive weeks, guests will set sail in a flotilla of five state-of-the-art catamarans.

Each vessel comes with a local chef, professional skipper and host on board.

On a seven-day itinerary, guests will take in the volcanic islands of Vulcano and Stromboli, the UNESCO World Heritage island of Salina and the islands of Lipari and Panarea.

All-inclusive prices start from £3,885 per person and are commissionable to the UK travel trade at 10%.

The itinerary has been crafted by SailSterling's



The Aeolian volcanic formations are best seen from the water.

founders, through their knowledge and visits to the area. It features guided tours and private dinners, with plenty of free time to explore the Aeolian Islands.

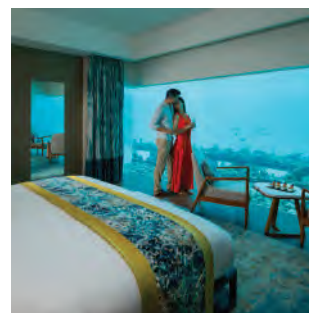
The tour features two private vineyard visits at the Tasca d'Almerita in

Salina and the Tenuta di Castellaro in Lipari. Guests will learn about the influence of the wind, volcanic ash and the sea on the creation of these sustainable wines. www.sailsterling.com/wineandcatamaranclub

The life aquatic with extreme luxury villas in the Maldives

AQUA VILLAS at Pullman Maldives Maamutaa, part of the Accor group, has officially opened its doors to high-end travellers.

The two-bedroom villas cover 1,216 square feet and one of them is submerged beneath the turquoise waters, allowing guests to see the marine life from the master bedroom. The second bedroom has ocean views.



Each villa has an open-air bathroom and a private infinity pool, which faces east, making it perfect for sunrise swimming.

They are located a short stroll from Sol Rising, the resort's sunrise bar, where breakfast and fresh juices are served.

The resort is accessible by 55-minute domestic flight from Velana International Airport in Malé, followed by a 15-minute speedboat ride from Kooddoo Airport.

Prices start at \$6,500 per night based on two people sharing. For bookings of five nights or more, valid until December 31, guests will receive a complimentary transfer valued at \$360 per person. www.pullmanmaldivesmaamutaa.com

Cayman Island trip extensions from US and Canada

NEW FLIGHT routes from Toronto and New York will make it easy for agents to book clients on North American holidays with a sunny extension to the Cayman Islands.

Sunwing has launched seasonal flights between Toronto and Grand Cayman which operate every Sunday between now and May 3. For more information, go to www.sunwing.ca

For later in the year, Delta Airlines will add a seasonal flight between New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport and Grand

Cayman's newly renovated Owen Roberts International Airport. The flights, which will take off between the airports on Saturdays, will run from June 13 until August 20. For more information, go to www.delta.com

"Each new flight introduced to Grand Cayman provides visitors with more options to explore our beautiful destination while creating additional tourism and business opportunities among our valued airline partners," said Rosa Harris, director of tourism.



Sneak peek at Gardaland LEGO attraction

LEGOLAND WATER Park Gardaland will be open to visitors on May 29 but in the meantime, the Italian attraction let some budding young builders have an early preview of the site.

As well as a range of exciting slides for all ages, dinghies and the Pirate Bay pool, one of the main drawcards for the junior travellers was the opportunity to get creative. The Build A Boat attraction allows kids to let their imaginations run riot as they make sailing ships, dinghies, tenders, barges, canoes and motorboats.

For more information about the attraction, go to www.gardaland.it



AGENT INSIGHT

Nick Harding
Travel Designers

BEING A travel agent in the digital age has opened up a whole new sales channel and one that is sometimes overlooked – the spa holiday, the digital detox. With more and more pressures – family life, work life – would you like a digital detox? How about a few days away from it all to re-charge your batteries, maybe with a partner or a group of close friends? If the answer is yes, you can be sure you have clients who want to do the same, so why not take the time to promote these amazing holidays?

People often think of spa holidays as long haul and expensive – and they can be – but there is a lot to offer much closer to home. For example, Hoseasons offers quite a few breaks, including the Windmill Retreat and Spa near Glastonbury and The Finlake Holiday Resort, South Devon. Check out their website, you will be surprised at the amazing value.

Also closer to home, you will find a raft of hotels on offer in Europe, such as the Anassa and Almyra Hotels in Cyprus, The Cascade Wellness Resort in Portugal, The Grand Hotel, Lake Como. The list is endless.

But do be careful – different spas offer very different types of treatments, from Ayurvedic to medical treatments – so its up to you to ask the clients the right questions, and then do the research. It is not as difficult as it sounds. Most resorts spa menus are online and, if in doubt, call or email the spa manager. They will be happy to help.

So challenge yourself and see if you can open up a new market in your agency, by simply asking the right questions...



TURKEY OPENS UP... The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced its decision to grant tourist visa exemptions to UK citizens. Additionally, citizens of Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and Poland will be able to visit Turkey without a tourist visa. The exemption applies to touristic travels to Turkey for every 90 days within a 180-day period. This comes into force on March 2.

LATA relaunches its flagship event as LATA Expo for 2020

THE LATIN American Travel Association has relaunched its flagship event as LATA Expo. It will be taking place from June 8-10 in London. Formerly known as Experience Latin America (ELA), the rebranded event will be held at Magazine London, a new event space on the capital's Greenwich Peninsula.

The inaugural LATA Expo is projected to have a 15-17% increase in the number of exhibitors compared to ELA last year. A new addition to the programme will be a Ministerial Summit, which will take place on June 10 and focus on marketing Latin American destinations to UK travellers, understanding UK consumers, and providing valuable industry insights to the travel trade. There will also be LATA events held in Amsterdam on June 15 and Paris on June 17.

For more information about the relaunched event, go to www.lata.travel



Lively scenes from last year's ELA event, which has now been relaunched for 2020 as LATA Expo.

AGENT INCENTIVES

- TO CELEBRATE its 30th year of service, Canadian rail-tour company Rocky Mountaineer has teamed up with Air Canada and launched an incentive for 2020 bookings made between now and March 31. Travel agents can win a chance to celebrate Rocky Mountaineer's 30th birthday in Canada and travel on the daylight luxury tourist train for two days in GoldLeaf service. The prize includes economy flights with Air Canada, station and hotel transfers, two lunches and two breakfasts per person while on board and one-night hotel in Kamloops. To win, the agents need to book any Rocky Mountaineer rail journey or package with accompanying return flights to Canada with Air Canada or Air Canada Rouge before March 31 (both crossings over the Atlantic must be on Air Canada operated flights). They will also have to complete TRACKS agent training and Air Canada training. Once the booking has been confirmed, agents should send the booking details, including booking reference and airline locator, to competition@rockymountaineer.com. For more information, visit www.rockymountaineer.com

AGENT TRAINING

ADVANTAGE TRAVEL Partnership has revealed 'Empowering Independence' as the theme for its 2020 conference, to be held in Madeira, Portugal from May 15-18 at Funchal's five-star hotel, Savoy Palace. This year's theme of 'Empowering Independence' will feature lively debates, engaging speakers, networking and TEDx-style sessions. It also explores how the environment, talent-gap, digital revolution and socio-political unrest are reshaping lives and travel businesses. The conference is expected to attract more than 450 delegates. There will be discussions on the rise in popularity of the independent retailer and privately-owned businesses, as well as the power of collaboration. www.advantageconference.co.uk/madeira-2020/



GOLD MEDAL is treating its top-selling agents with prizes for booking packages. Matt Greenwood, key account manager at the operator, presented Yvonne Montgomery from Aspen Travel with a luxury weekend away in the UK, courtesy of Tourism New Zealand and Air New Zealand. She booked a New Zealand holiday with Gold Medal in November.

Welcoming the launch of easyJet services Edinburgh-Gibraltar
31st March 2020



Calling all agents to join us at our
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Wining and dining with CroisiEurope

CROISIEUROPE HAS announced details of its 2021 'Beaujolais Nouveau and Burgundy' cruise which has been designed specifically with wine lovers in mind.

On this four-night cruise round trip from Lyon, guests will enjoy the Burgundy city of Beaune, the ruins of Cluny Abbey and, of course, the Beaujolais Route.

Travellers will spend an evening in Beaujeu with a gastronomic meal and torch-lit stroll at midnight to greet the annual release of Beaujolais Nouveau.

Wine lovers aboard the ship will like the Beaujolais Route, with the chance to see the famous vineyards, passing through charming winegrowing villages before reaching Romanèche-Thorins for a visit to the "Hameau Dubœuf", a unique museum in Europe featuring a collection of rare objects



The region of Beaujolais is known for its extensive vineyards.

from more than 2000 years of winegrowing history. They will learn about the current wine-making and vinegrowing processes when visiting the wine storehouse where the wines are left to age in oak barrels. In the midst of the Beaujolais vineyards, they'll discover the skills of the winemakers through exhibitions,

automated puppet theatres and 3D films.

The cruise, onboard the MS Camargue, departs Lyon on November 14, 2021. Cruise only prices are from £836 per person for the four-night cruise with all meals and drinks onboard, excursions, port fees and repatriation insurance. www.croisieurope.co.uk

Global reveals details of its 2020 conference

THE GLOBAL Travel Group has announced early details of its 2020 conference, which will be held in Dubai at the new Caesars Bluewaters Hotel from May 7-11.

More than 200 members and supplier partners will have the opportunity to meet, network and learn. The programme is being finalised and will build on the success of previous conferences featuring inspiring presentations, panels, Q&A sessions and speed

dating. Each element is included in response to feedback from agents to ensure they have insights into current industry discussions.

Global Travel Group commercial director, Cherie Richards, commented: "Places are already booking up fast so we would encourage any members who are interested in attending to register soon."

For more information, go to www.globaltravelgroup.com

Shearings Holidays adds UK darts break

SHEARINGS HOLIDAYS has boosted its range of sporting breaks with the launch of two new 'Icons of Darts' coach breaks that offer the chance to see legendary darts stars, Phil 'The Power' Taylor and Raymond van Barneveld reignite the game's greatest rivalry. The pair, who recently retired from playing in professional ranking tournaments, will treat fans to a trip down memory lane.



A sample tour is the 'Icons of Darts' break to Scarborough, from £179 per person. The tour is a four-day coach break to Scarborough, departing on May 8 from North West and North Wales pick up points. Price includes return coach travel, three night's accommodation, a ticket to the Icons of Darts at Scarborough Spa, free time to enjoy Scarborough and a visit to York. The price is based on two sharing. www.shearings.com



AMResorts expands in the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN HOTELIER AMResorts has debuted two new beach resorts in the region – the luxury adults-only Secrets St Martin Resort and Spa and family-friendly Dreams Macao Beach Punta Cana.

The new resort is set on the French side of St. Martin. Its 258 all-inclusive rooms and swim-up suites all feature outdoor spaces overlooking the beach, infinity pool or unspoilt hillsides.

AMResort's other soon-to-open new addition is the sole property on Dominican Republic's Macao Beach. www.amresorts.com

SUDOKU

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

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

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

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

Closing date for entries is Thursday, March 5th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

The winner for February 14th is Deborah Phillips, Newell's Travel Ltd in Liskeard.

February 14th Solution: A=8 B=6 C=7 D=3

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



WHERE AM I?

A magnificent, 15th century citadel set high in the mountains, more than 7,000 feet above sea level. In the Quechua language, its name means "Old Peak" or "Old Mountain."

CROSSWORD

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

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

Across

- Provider of tailor-made holidays to the USA and Caribbean (6)
- Capital of Samoa (4)
- The leu is the currency of this country (7)
- The WW2 Pacific War Museum is located on this Micronesian island (4)
- River forming a boundary between Devon and Cornwall (5)
- Cooker often found in country kitchens (3)
- Constellation named after a hunter in Greek mythology (5)
- Canal connecting the Med with the Red Sea (4)
- The Graceland home of Elvis is found here (7)
- TV and radio presenter, Jonathan (4)
- Glacial lake on the border between Switzerland and Italy (6)

Down

- Harrison, appearing in The Call of the Wild, at a cinema near you (4)
- Avignon, Provence airport code (3)
- Capital of Cambodia (5,4)
- P&O cruise ship exclusively for adults (6)
- Long haul carrier (6)
- This volcanic island in the Indian Ocean is a popular holiday destination (9)
- Capital of Bahrain (6)
- Ferry company with HQ in Saint Peter Port (6)
- Scandinavian capital city (4)
- Airport code for 8 Down (3)

Mystery Word: ANDORRA Where am I? - Machu Picchu, Peru

Solution
 Across: 1. FUNWAY, 3. APIA, 7. ROMANIA, 9. GUAM, 11. TAMAR, 13. AGA, 14. ORION, 15. SUEZ, 17. MEMPHIS, 19. ROSS, 20. LUGANO.
 Down: 1. FORD, 2. AVN, 4. PHNOM PENH, 5. AURORA, 6. QANTAS, 8. MAURITIUS, 10. MANAMA, 12. CONDR, 16. OSLO, 18. MRU.



WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS SHOWCASES

TRAVEL BULLETIN welcomed agents to the Weddings and Honeymoons showcases in Liverpool and Glasgow. The event saw attendees learning about the diverse range of accommodation options available for wedding and honeymoon packages, as well as enjoying plenty of networking opportunities. To round off the fun, some lucky agents won return tickets, gift vouchers, goody bags and all-inclusive stays to Mexico!





In the hot seat with...

Gordon McCreadie

Product and distribution director, If Only...



In our new interview feature, Gordon McCreadie, product and distribution director, If Only... talks exclusively to *Travel Bulletin* about exciting plans to engage with agents throughout 2020 – and surviving and thriving in an ever-changing world.

WE MET Gordon McCreadie at the If Only... head office in Glasgow to chat about agent engagement and how the 18-year-old luxury travel company, which works exclusively through the trade, continues to thrive.

Agent incentives

As a company that does not offer direct-to-consumer online booking, McCreadie does not underestimate the importance of engaging with and incentivising agents. The My Loyalty card rewards agents for every booking they make with money and concessions for holidays.

"The uptake in agents claiming their rewards has doubled, it's a nice problem to have," he said.

McCreadie told us about the "fam-a-day" incentive where 60 agents will gain places on fam trips "to the four corners of the world".

Additionally, there are holidays to be won to destinations such as Australia and Aruba, and electrical goods up for grabs.

The power of social media

Facebook has proven to be If Only...s most effective form of social media

engagement. McCreadie said that the dedicated Facebook page for agents lets them share videos and download marketing material into which they can add their own logos. Social media can also help make agents aware of deals, such as those on under-subscribed flights.

Selling If Only... holidays

McCreadie said that agents should communicate to their customers that one of the biggest benefits of booking through If Only... is the expertise of the staff.

The customer service team is divided by region and the people with whom the agents interact have all visited the destinations.

"We provide an individual touch," he said. "Individuals are often mentioned by name on Facebook when we

get online feedback."

Awareness of market demands is important for agents when they are selling If Only... holidays, McCreadie said. For example, more customers seek experiences, such as "living like a local ... and taking the path less travelled" as well as enjoying luxury accommodation.

"Customers want to do more than just fly and flop," he said. He cited the US where many customers are interested in visiting the national parks instead of just having four nights in Las

Vegas or a week in Orlando.

Challenges and opportunities

"I've been doing this for 35 years and there's always something – this year, it's been the coronavirus, bushfires in Australia, rain

the US, Brexit..." McCreadie said, while adding that the travel industry has the ability to adapt. "There's no point dwelling on it, we just need to find new ways to engage customers."

Giving the example of a drop in bookings to Asia because of coronavirus fears, he said "other destinations are available – Borneo, Malaysia, Vietnam".

The increased international routes from regional airports provides another opportunity for agents to sell luxury holidays across the world, he told *Travel Bulletin*.

Dream holiday

We asked McCreadie if he could take any of the company's holidays, which one would it be. He quickly responded with "Australia".

"I have always wanted to go to Australia ... I've even got to the point where the flights were booked, but it never happened," he said. "I am embarrassed to have never been to Australia!"

He ended on a serious note, saying that after the bushfires, the best way to support Australia is to experience its destinations.

“ Customers want to do more than fly and flop – they want to take the path less travelled ”



USA

MEGAFAM MADNESS

With boundless American charm to discover across seven itineraries, Brand USA's MegaFam means that you could be one of the lucky 100 agents jetting off to the Land of Opportunity.

BRAND USA, in partnership with American Airlines and British Airways, reveals the details of the seven itineraries for its UK & Ireland MegaFam. Taking place from April 29 to May 7, the multi-destination, familiarisation trip will see 100 travel agents from the UK and Ireland simultaneously travel on seven itineraries across the USA, experiencing a diverse range of destinations and products.

Some destinations included on the itineraries include cities like Las Vegas, Chicago, Seattle and even Puerto Rico, which is a territory of the U.S.

After travelling on one of the seven itineraries, the agents will come together for the MegaFam finale in



Universal Orlando Resort, Florida. There, the agents will share their experiences with one another, with the goal of enabling all attendees to better sell the destinations upon their return to the UK and Ireland.

To be eligible for a place on the Brand USA MegaFam, travel agents in the UK and Ireland must

book travellers on American Airlines and British Airways flights to the United States during the entry period from now until March 15.

In addition, they must visit Brand USA's official agent training site, www.USADiscoveryProgram.co.uk, and complete the mandatory MegaFam Airlines 2020 badge.

Highways and byways in Alaska

FOR BIKING buffs, or travellers who just enjoy a good road trip, Hayes & Jarvis is offering a nine-night, 'Alaskan Summer Motorcycle Tour' to tickle their fancy.

The round-trip will start in Anchorage, driving along scenic roads, such as the Denali and Richardson Highways, with the possibility of animal sightings, such as moose, bison, eagle and bears.

The trip passes over the Thompson Pass onto the Glenn Highway and visits Paxson, Valdez and the magnificent Matanuska Glacier, an active glacier which advances at one foot per day.

The 'Alaskan Summer Motorcycle Tour' is priced from £4,599 per person, including international return flights from London to Anchorage, accommodation and motorcycle hire.

Hayes & Jarvis is offering commission for agents on all bookings made through them. www.hayesandjarvis.co.uk/holidays/usa/tours/alaskan-summer-motor

MUSIC TO YOUR EARS

Journey through America's musical heartland on Newmarket's 'Elvis Presley's Memphis, New Orleans & Nashville' tour.



FROM THE birthplace of jazz and the cradle of rock 'n' roll, to the undisputed capital of country music, Newmarket's tour is a music lover's dream.

The holiday is brimming with highlights, and infused with the sights and sounds of the South.

Beginning in Georgia, guests will travel through the world of WC Handy, Robert Johnson, Fats Domino, Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, Dolly Parton and – of course – the undisputed 'King of Rock 'n' Roll', Elvis Presley. Travellers will stay in New Orleans, the laid-back Big Easy. See Tupelo, The King's birthplace, and Memphis, where he made his home. And, finally, travellers will head to the guitar-pickin', banjo-playing songwriters' city, Nashville,

Tennessee.

Some of the main highlights include two nights in Memphis, staying in the guest house at Graceland; Beale Street in Memphis, the "home of the blues"; and a stay in Montgomery, the resting place of country legend Hank Williams, to name a few.

The price for this trip is from £1,499 and includes seven nights' room-only accommodation at a series of hotels in Montgomery, New Orleans, Memphis and Nashville, plus one night on the aircraft.

The tour includes coach travel and transfers throughout, and will be fully escorted by an experienced tour manager.

www.newmarketholidays.co.uk

A facelift for Viceroy Santa Monica

NEARLY 20 years since opening its doors, Viceroy Santa Monica, the luxury hotel brand's debut location, has announced the start of a sweeping \$21 million renovation complete with a design overhaul.

The remodel will usher in a new era for the Santa Monica hotel which has been a mainstay since it debuted two decades ago. The hotel renovation will pay homage to its past, while injecting a renewed energy into the hotel's prime location, just steps from Santa Monica's pristine coastline.



In the first phase, guests can expect completely revamped public common areas marked by an entirely new arrival experience, lobby, restaurant, outdoor patio and breathtaking open air indoor-outdoor wraparound bar and adjacent lounge.

The sister property of the Viceroy Santa Monica, the Le Meridien Delfina, is located fairly close to the hotel and clients can use their amenities as well.

As a bonus, guests will get a 15% discount at their food and beverage outlets.

www.viceroyhotelsandresorts.com



Canyons and Native lands with Exodus

EXODUS TRAVEL is offering a tour from Las Vegas to the Grand Canyon, visiting some of the most popular national parks and Native American lands that Southwestern USA offers.

Guests travel along the Grand Staircase taking in the towering red sandstone cliffs of Zion National Park and the supernatural hoodoos of Bryce Canyon National Park.

From here, there will be a two-night stop at the Grand Canyon. Travellers will then make their way towards the spiritual heart of the Navajo Nation – Monument Valley – where a Navajo guide will offer a 4x4 journey into the backcountry to learn how the landscape shaped Native American myths. The eight-day trip is from £1,342, excluding flights. www.exodus.co.uk

Funway's female focus with a suffragette itinerary

THIS YEAR, the US celebrates the centennial of the 19th amendment, granting women the right to vote. To mark the occasion, Funway Holidays has put together some special packages to Washington DC, since this is where the main events of the women's suffrage took place.

Across 2020 and 2021, numerous museums and institutes in Washington D.C. are celebrating the 100th anniversary. For example, the National Museum of American History is offering two free exhibits. This includes 'American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith' and 'All work, No Pay: A History Of Women's Invisible Labour'.

Another example is the



Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, which includes free, hour-long tours of the museum, allowing guests to learn about the origins of the suffrage and the rights movements.

A US package with Funway is a four-night trip to

Washington D.C., staying at the Hyatt House Herndon.

This trip is priced from £1,106 per person, including return flights from Heathrow with United Airlines. Travel is based on two adults sharing, departing June 12.

www.funway4agents.co.uk

Gastronomy and the great outdoors in Arizona

FOR CLIENTS who enjoy good food and adventure, agents may be interested in choosing Tucson, Arizona as their next destination. The city was designated as the USA's first UNESCO 'City of Gastronomy' in 2016 and is known for its outstanding food. Those who love the outdoors can hike through the Sabino Canyon, explore three miles of passageways and caves at Colossal Cave Mountain Park or horse ride and rock climb at White Stallion Ranch. Accommodation options in Tucson include Hotel McCoy – a modern art hotel, and Posada by Joshua Tree House – a five-suite inn located within 38 acres of forest, perfect for nature-lovers. www.visitarizona.com

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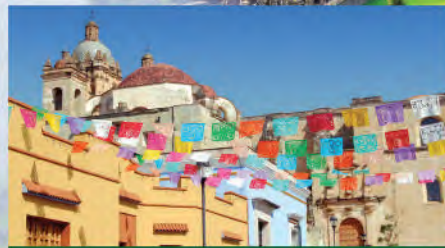
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ESCORTED TRIPS



CULINARY CRUISES

Guests can learn truffle farming from a local farmer, enjoy refined winemaking and more with Scenic's guided gastronomy tours.

SCENIC LUXURY Cruises and Tours is focused on providing an escorted service with culinary-led itineraries as it launches two new cruises sailing in France from April 2021.

For those new to cruise, the brand has introduced a five-day mini-cruise along the Danube. Sailing between Vienna and Budapest, the new itinerary will allow guests to sample one of Europe's most iconic rivers.

The 11-day 'Tastes of Southern France' sailing takes guests on a round trip from the gastronomic capital, Lyon, taking in the famous wine-growing region of Beaujolais, Avignon and Viviers. Apart from the onboard cooking lessons, tastings and presentations, other highlights of the itinerary include: learning the tricks and techniques of truffle farming on a guided tour with a local farmer before enjoying a tasting of their delicious produce; visiting the restaurant of acclaimed chef, Georges

Blanc, for a cooking demonstration; tasting the premium wines and tour the Château Meursault wine estate; attending an exclusive interactive workshop at the Valrhona Cite du Chocolate museum.

Prices start from £3,745 per person based on a April 27, 2021 departure.

Scenic's 11-day 'Flavours of Bordeaux' sails through the Médoc region landscapes while guests enjoy refined winemaking. The itinerary sails round-trip from Bordeaux taking in the region's most spectacular sites and flavours from sampling local delicacies at a local truffle farm to visiting a Lillet wine producer.

Guests will learn about the traditional craftsmanship of barrel making with a local cooper; attend a blind wine tasting; attend a local tasting of cheese, bread charcuterie and cocktails at the estate of Château de La Rivière; experience a tasting of fresh oysters with champagne and dinner of seafood,

sourced from Arcachon Bay.

Prices for the Flavours of Bordeaux river cruise start from £3,745 per person based on a April 20, 2021 departure.

The five-day mini-cruise, 'Tastes of Imperial Europe' is suitable for those looking to enjoy Europe's medieval towns, Baroque palaces and fairy-tale castles while enjoying life onboard Scenic's five-star Scenic Space Ship, which features a personal butler service.

It starts in Vienna and travels through Bratislava towards Budapest. Prices start from £1,635 per person based on a 25 April 2021 departure.

All prices include return flights, transfers, gratuities, wining and dining experiences, a personal on-board butler, a selection of exclusive Scenic Enrich experiences and daily Scenic Freechoice excursions, in which guests can choose from to tailor their trip for a personal experience.

www.scenic.co.uk

LIVE LIKE A NOMAD



ASIA SPECIALISTS TransIndus is offering a 13-day Kyrgyzstan 'Art of the Nomads' tour, devised and led by Central Asia expert Joan Pollock to coincide with one of the country's cultural events, the Shyrdak Festival of Felt Art.

The tour allows guests to experience the sublime landscapes and nomadic culture of the country. The route covers the most rugged, mountainous stretch of the old Silk Road between China and Uzbekistan.

It departs on June 18 and includes all accommodation, internal travel, sightseeing, breakfast, dinner and some lunches. Priced from £1,995 per person and single supplement costs £299.

Joan Pollock started her career as a nurse, but began working as a guide on trips to Asia in the 1970s, accompanying some of the first organised tours into China and the Soviet Union. Over three decades of travel in many countries since, she has formed longstanding connections with certain communities, notably the inhabitants of the remote Himalayan valley of Spiti.

If a client is keen to explore Kyrgyzstan, agents can share the options in neighbouring

Uzbekistan as well.

The operator is offering a 11-day 'Uzbekistan Discovery' small group tour, escorted by an English-speaking tour leader who will be available 24/7.

Uzbekistan's cultural legacy spans more than three millennia. Guests can marvel at the emerald, lapis blue and wax-yellow patterns adorning Samarkand's Registan Square – one of the great wonders of the Islamic world. They can shop hand-woven kilims, silk scarves and camel-wool shawls in the bazaars of Bukhara and gaze at the desert sunsets as they cross the Oxus Delta.

The tour has four departure dates in 2020: March 21, October 10 and 31 and November 14. In 2021, it departs on March 20, April 3 and 17. The maximum group size is 16. Guests can choose to explore alone at their own pace or laze back at the hotel in case they don't want to join the day's planned excursions or activities. It includes full board meals, arrival and departure transfers, and internal travel by road. Pricing starts from £1,995 per person. Single supplement is £95.

www.transindus.co.uk

A&K encourages clients to visit Australia

ABERCROMBIE & Kent has pledged \$100,000 AUD for relief efforts in Australia, with the donations from the global network of offices and its philanthropic arm, Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy (AKP).

Its Australia-based staff are being encouraged to use volunteer Community Service days to provide support where possible.

Agents can encourage clients to travel to Australia, as a huge section of the country has not been impacted and most tourism businesses are still open.



All international airports are operating as normal and Tourism Australia's travel alerts page provides updates on popular international destinations. (www.australia.com/en/travel-alerts.html)

A&K offers 'Australia & New Zealand: The Lands Down Under' escorted tour from £14,995 per person.

The 18-day itinerary departs on March 2 and 23, September 21, October 5 and 26, November 2 and December 17.



Discover Liguria's majestic palaces with Kirker

KIRKER HOLIDAYS has added a range of new escorted cultural tours to its 2020 programme, including Liguria, a beautiful coastal region in Italy, stretching between Monaco and Tuscany. 'Liguria & The Cinque Terre' introduces the region and its main city Genoa, a great maritime centre ruled by powerful Doges for 500 years. Guests will explore the rugged coastline and go to the area known as le Cinque Terre – the five villages. Departing on September 14, the seven-night tour starts from £2,996 per person. It includes return flights to Genoa with British Airways, seven nights' accommodation with breakfast, four dinners at the hotel, two lunches, Portofino, all entrance fees and gratuities, and the services of the Kirker tour lecturer. www.kirkerholidays.com/

Vietnam clinches top spot for small group escorted tours

DEMAND FOR small group escorted touring is on the rise, with bookings up 10% as customers seek adventures around the world with like-minded companions, but with the security of having a trusted local guide with them, according to Kuoni's Worldwide Travel Report.

Rising demand for group escorted tours is driving growth for Vietnam. After years of declining numbers, Vietnam is back in vogue and tops the list of Kuoni's group touring destinations for the first time, knocking India off the top spot.

In Vietnam and Thailand, the operator saw a shift towards people opting to pack more into a two-week duration so they see more of the country and get to grips with culture, with three or more destinations included in one itinerary. An example in Vietnam being Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh and a beach stay.

Other destinations benefitting from demand for group tours include South



Africa, Kenya, Namibia and Japan. South Korea tours have seen a 94% uplift in sales, a knock-on effect given rising overall demand for Japan.

The 11-night 'Highlights Of Vietnam' is an introductory tour that covers the main highlights of north, central and south Vietnam. Guests will get to see all of Vietnam's main highlights, with an overnight cruise in enchanting Halong

Bay and a full-day cruise on the Mekong Delta, as well as city tours. They will have plenty of opportunities to soak up the local culture by visiting villages, spending time with local families and exploring the capital, Hanoi with a leisurely cyclo tour.

For more information, go to www.kuoni.co.uk/vietnam/tours/highlights-of-vietnam

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HILLY COUNTRYSIDE, HI-TECH CITIES

RIVIERA TRAVEL is offering a range of fully inclusive escorted tours from across the world, crafted for various types of travellers such as solo, culture vultures, nature seekers or food lovers.

There are a series of additional experiences as part of 'Personalise Your Holiday', split into three categories: before you go; while you're there; and extend your stay.

New for 2020 is South Korea, a 13-day tour where guests will explore historic landmarks, green landscapes and learn about ancient traditions from the locals. Selected departure dates are available in September and October.

Starting the tour in Seoul, the nation's capital, guests can discover the ancient palaces and the contemporary culture in a city of more than 10 million people. Travellers will have the opportunity to visit the DMZ, also known as the Korean Demilitarized Zone, which cuts through the middle of the Korean peninsula, dividing North and South Korea. Even though it's been highly guarded for more than 65 years, the DMZ boasts an unspoiled ecosystem. Leaving the bright lights of Seoul, guests will journey east through the mountainous province of Gangwon- Do.

They will enjoy striking views of the Geumgangsan and discover the waterfalls and deep gorges before heading to the 3.8-mile long Hwanseongul Cave, one of the largest in Asia. Accessed by a seven-minute monorail ride and a swing bridge guests can explore the 500 million old limestone cave. After a full day of tours, travellers will get the chance to taste a traditional Korean dinner, a speciality of the Andong region. It starts from £2,849 per person and includes return flights and transfers, eleven nights accommodation in four-star hotels, daily breakfast, three lunches, two dinners, excursions, a journey on the KTX speed train and access to a Riviera expert tour manager. Imperial cities of Morocco offers travellers the chance to explore Marrakech, Rabat Fez and Meknes, all UNESCO World Heritage sites. Selected departures available from February to November. Perched on the edge of the Sahara Desert and framed by the Atlas Mountains, Marrakech is an ancient trading hub bursting with energy.

Guests can visit the Jardin Majorelle, and see the impressive



display of bamboo, bougainvillea and cacti, formerly owned by Yves Saint-Laurent. In Casablanca, a local guide will show guests around the Hassan II Mosque, with its minaret soaring up to 690 feet. Heading north along the coast to Rabat, guests will discover narrow streets and blue houses of the 12th-century walled medina.

The tour starts from £899 per person and includes return flights and transfers, seven nights four star accommodation, daily breakfast, seven dinners, a programme of daily tours and visits and access to an expert tour manager.

www.rivieratravel.co.uk



Deep dive into Italy with Inghams' 2020 tours

INGHAMS HAS introduced eight new escorted tours in Italy for summer 2020. A sample itinerary 'Neapolitan Splendours' takes guests to Neapolitan Riviera's popular sights from the picturesque towns along the Amalfi Coast and the glamour of Capri to the ancient streets of Pompeii. The tour takes in a maximum of 26 people. Guests will spend eight days exploring the stunning coastline of the Neapolitan Riviera; stay in a central four star hotel that's a short walk from Piazza Tasso, Sorrento's main square; and visit the historic site of Pompeii and journey up Mount Vesuvius. The tour departs on September 11 and is priced from £2,618, based on two adults, half-board basis with flights from Stansted. www.inghams.co.uk



HOTELS, RESORTS & SPAS

MORE TO EXPLORE

Preferred Hotels & Resorts introduces a retreat in Mexico and their first properties in Finland and Brunei, as the brand adds 24 new members to its portfolio.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT from Preferred Hotels & Resorts of its latest 24 member expansion represents the brand's commitment to partnering with luxury hotels across the globe.

Highlights of the new additions include:

Klaus K Hotel in Helsinki, Finland: Located in Helsinki's historic city centre, the 171-room hotel takes its design cues from the Finnish national epic, the Kalevala and the country's mythological creation story that the world

emerged from seven eggs. The egg shape is characterised throughout the hotel, in the check-in desk and in one of the Sky Suites, which boast egg-shaped beds.

The Empire Brunei in Brunei Darussalam: Set on 445 coastal acres on the South China Sea amidst tropical rainforests, The Empire Brunei – rich in Malay culture and warm Bruneian hospitality – boasts 522 rooms, seven international restaurants, and five swimming pools. The 16 secluded villas feature

gardens, living areas, and balconies with ocean views. Experiences include stand-up paddle boarding at the Grand Lagoon, a deluxe spa, a three-screen cinema showing and almost two miles of private beaches.

Live Aqua Urban Resort San Miguel de Allende in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico: Situated in the cultural heart of San Miguel de Allende, one of Mexico's most vibrant destinations and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the 153-room resort has quickly garnered favour since its launch in November 2018. Foodies can take advantage of five distinct culinary venues, including Zibu, which offers a unique Mex-Thai menu, and the Spice Market, which creates Southeast Asian-inspired dishes.

www.PreferredHotels.com.

FAST facts

Amsterdam is the most popular European city for hotel investment followed by Paris then London.

Edinburgh is the top regional UK city for hotel investment followed by Cambridge, Oxford, Manchester and Bath.

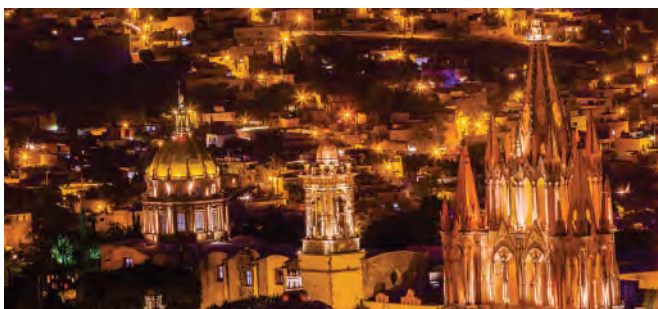
The global wellness industry is worth \$4.5 trillion (£3.5 trillion).

The top five wellness markets are the US, China, Australia, the UK and Germany.

The average spend on an overseas wellness break is £1,187 and £473 at home.

There were more than 149,000 spas facilities worldwide in 2017.

** Figures from Deloitte and the Global Wellness Institute*



Radisson adds Rostov-on-Don to Russian collection

THE RADISSON Hotel Group will open its latest offering in Russia later this year.

The Radisson Hotel Gorizont Rostov-on-Don will have 173 rooms and suites with a Scandinavian inspired design, an all-day restaurant and lobby lounge bar, as well as a gym, a conference hall and various meeting rooms.

This is to be the first Radisson-branded hotel but the second opening for the Radisson Hotel Group in the city, with the Radisson Blu that opened in 2017 on the river front.

Radisson is an upscale hotel brand that offers Scandinavian-style hospitality and enables guests to focus on a work/life balance and find more harmony in their travel experience.

Rostov-on-Don is the

tenth largest city in Russia with 1.2 million inhabitants.

The hotel, located in the north-west area, will be part of a development complex, including Gorizont Mall – the largest shopping mall in Rostov-On-Don that showcases more than 350 shops and a multiplex cinema

centre that can be accessed directly from the hotel.

The signing, that is due to open in late 2020, brings Radisson Hotel Group's Russian portfolio to a total of 39 hotels and 10,000-plus rooms in operation or under development.

www.radissonhotelgroup.com.



Children go free on Caribbean getaway

ELITE ISLAND Resorts is offering free stays for up to two children aged 11 and under at three of its leading, all-inclusive Caribbean resorts year-round.

Families booking stays at St James's Club & Villas Antigua, The Verandah Resort & Spa Antigua and St James's Club Morgan Bay St Lucia can take advantage of the exclusive offer. All food, drinks, activities, non motorised water sports, taxes and gratuities for the applicable children will be free for the stay.

A seven-night stay at the Verandah Resort & Spa departing on September 14 starts at £3,496. This includes an all inclusive stay in hillside suites and return flights from Gatwick. www.jtatravel.co.uk.

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Best Western to open European first Sadie hotel in the UK

BEST WESTERN GB is launching Europe's first Sadie hotel in Luton.

Opening this summer, the £6 million boutique hotel looks set to become a prominent feature in the town centre.

The former sixties office building is gearing up to open as a modern, upscale hotel, with bespoke design features throughout and a nod to the proud history of the town in public areas.

With excellent shopping and transport links within a short walking distance, it is also good for those wanting to visit Bedfordshire or London, or the perfect place to check in to before heading off on holiday from Luton Airport.

The Sadie brand is about refurbishing properties to create new unique hotels. Similar to Aiden by Best Western, Sadie hotels allow designers to include the personality of the city and local culture in the renovation.

This hotel will take the group's portfolio to more than 280 hotels in Britain. www.bestwestern.co.uk.



Five-star hotels on first class island breaks with Jet2

FOR CLIENTS looking to discover the White Isle at its finest, the Ibiza Gran Hotel is the perfect location for exploring the old town and a range of local activities.

This hotel offers a range of suites where guests can enjoy picturesque views of Ibiza as they relax by the outdoor pool or instead take a trip to the spa, for a range of treatments.

For those wanting to explore the town, the hotel is perfectly located in the centre and just 100m from the nearest shops, bars and restaurants.

Jet2holidays is offering a stay at the five-star Ibiza Gran Hotel, seven nights bed and breakfast departing from Manchester on May 4 for £1,119 per person based on



two sharing.

In Paphos, Cyprus, the tour operator, is offering the luxurious Almyra, which combines eight acres of landscaped gardens with a seafront location and views.

Perfect for the whole family, the Almyra has a variety of children clubs available and a secluded spa area complete with its own

infinity pool for adults.

The Jet2holidays deal in the five-star Almyra, with seven nights bed and breakfast departs from Manchester on June 30.

The price is £829 per person based on two sharing and includes a 22kg baggage allowance and return transfers. www.jet2holidays.com.

Accor's launch in Leicester

MORE THAN 250 guests from across Europe have celebrated the opening of new hotels Novotel Leicester and Adagio.

The Novotel Leicester has 154 rooms and is located within walking distance of the city in the newly regenerated Waterfront area. Nine B, the restaurant-bar, serves local and international cuisine.

The Aparthotel Adagio Leicester is also based close to the centre with 98 apartments. Both properties are a short distance from East Midlands and Birmingham Airport.

Accor has named this Leicester development one of Europe's flagship dual sites and one of Europe's flagship Novotels. www.travelpros.accor.com

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Get into spring with Maritim

MARITIM HAS a variety of spring-themed hotel packages to get travellers exploring the great German outdoors.

Maritim Hotel Würzburg is situated near to the River Main where visitors can enjoy a river cruise, a romantic city stroll, or visit one of the many wineries. The Terrace Restaurant has an incomparable view of the river, and serves buffet style food all day long. There's also a swimming pool, sauna, steam room and fitness centre, and reduced rates at the nearby golf course. Prices start at €346, £291, per person for a double room, and €400, £336, per person for a single room. The package is available from April 10 to 13 and June 29 to 1.

Maritim Titisee Hotel Titisee-Neustad, is located on the shores of Lake Titisee in the Black Forest, ideal for travellers who enjoy hiking and boat trips.

For four nights stay, prices start from €333, £280, per person for a double room. The package is available from the May 30 to June 2, June 9 or 12, June 20 to 23, September 30 to October 3 and November 1 to 4

www.maritim.com/en/hotels/germany.



NORTH ISLAND, a Luxury Collection Resort in the Seychelles is participating in the Marriott Bonvoy loyalty programme. Located 30 kilometres from the mainland and accessible by helicopter or boat, the resort has a Robinson Crusoe aesthetic that has been applied through its interiors. The nightly award rate for redemption at this exclusive 11 villa private island, will be priced at 365,000 points per night for a bed and breakfast rate and will include complimentary use of an island buggy. As part of Marriott International, members can redeem their points for a stay and enjoy exclusive benefits.



The Turkish resort on the Turquoise Coast

THE HILTON Dalaman is surrounded by the Dalaman River, Aegean Sea and Mediterranean Sea. The luxury resort is easily accessible from Dalaman International Airport, a short walk from Sarieme village and close by to historical and natural attractions such as Caunos and Blue Lagoon. The hotel offers water sports, four tennis courts, archery, squash, yoga, pilates, basketball plus cycling and more. Rooms start from £139 per night on the Ultra-All Inclusive board basis.

www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/turkey +90 252 444 19 81.

What do you always forget to take on holiday?



Jeanette Ratcliffe

Publisher
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A sun hat.



Matt Gill

Senior Account Manager
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Factor 3 tanning oil.



Ashweenee Beerjeraz

Events Assistant
ashweenee.beerjeraz@travelbulletin.co.uk
I never forget, I pack two weeks before!



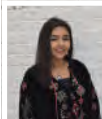
Georgia Lewis

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My hairbrush. Every. Single. Time.



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Neck pillow thingy!



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Passport – very true story.



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agent networking evening

Tuesday 24th March

LEONARDO ROYAL SOUTHAMPTON GRAND HARBOUR

Travel Bulletin is excited to announce our latest Cruise Showcase, a fun and informative agent networking event focused on leading cruise suppliers. Agents, you will have the opportunity to learn about a variety of cruise lines and their ships, extraordinary onboard entertainment and accommodation options available in this increasingly popular sector. You will enjoy delicious food and drink, great entertainment and a fabulous free prize draw with a number of fantastic prizes to be won.

FEATURING



Registration: 18:00 hours

**Networking & Presentations:
18:20 hours**

**Dinner, Entertainment & Prizes:
20:30 hours**

Carriages: 21:45 hours

#TBSHOWCASES

To confirm your places at this amazing event, email the names of up to 5 staff members by
Friday 20th March to events@travelbulletin.co.uk or telephone:

020 7834 6661

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