

Travel bulletin

Giving agents the edge

Africa

The oldest inhabited continent on Earth has a whole host of new experiences and returning favourites

MORE IN...

Short & City Breaks

Staycations or bucket-list city escapes? We've got you covered!

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Greece & Cyprus

Mainland marvels and island favourites across Greece & Cyprus.

Pg. 23



An Agent Insight on selling Greece & Cyprus, from a trusted Travel Counsellor! (Pg. 8)



AUTUMN RIVER CRUISES

Tourist crowds start to fade from the towns and cities, leaving a quieter and more authentic feel to the destination.



THE BLUE DANUBE - VIENNA, BUDAPEST & SALZBURG
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September and October 2024



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Riviera Travel terms and conditions apply. Prices correct at time of print. For more information visit our website.
†Unlimited quantity of drinks at lunch and from 6pm to midnight while on board (selected drinks available.)

THIS WEEK



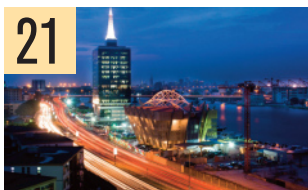
NEWS
All the latest updates, developments and need-to-knows from across the sector.



ROADSHOW RECAP
See what we have been up to at our Showcases and Roadshows!



SHORT & CITY BREAKS
Our top picks for the staycations and cities Brits love.



AFRICA
New openings, fresh tours and bolstered choices await in the Mother Continent.



GREECE & CYPRUS
The hottest picks for the ultimate British summer destination.



SWIFT TRAVEL THIS SUMMER

Many Brits are set to follow their favourite artists around the globe this year as Confused.com has revealed that one in 10 people are planning on travelling abroad to attend a concert.

IT IS always an exciting prospect when your favourite performer is heading on the road and embarking on a world tour, and fans never want to miss out on the action. Currently, there is no greater demand to see an artist perform in-person than Taylor Swift as she heads into the second half of the highly-anticipated European leg of The Eras Tour.

Research conducted by Confused.com has found that one in 10 people attending the Eras Tour will be doing so abroad, with thousands of Brits scheduled to head to some of Europe's most popular cities for a chance to experience the musical powerhouse for themselves.

An estimated 4.3 million tickets have already been sold for the global phenomenon, and the tour's economic impact cannot be understated. Swift has just concluded her first batch of London performances, ahead of her return to Wembley Stadium in August, and already the

UK capital has received a £300 million boost to the economy through tourist spending. According to a poll conducted by Visit London, 54% of people stated they would happily travel to the capital for a music event, drawing more international interest than New York, LA and Paris.

It is not just the UK that is heralding the success of the record-breaking tour, but the likes of the US, Australia and Singapore have also witnessed economic boosts worth millions of dollars generated through tourism.

It is no question that The Eras Tour is a major driver for global travel, with fans chasing attainable tickets wherever they may appear, but Swift is not the only phenomenon that is driving special interest tourism. Beyoncé also caused a tourism tsunami during her Renaissance World Tour last year, while Las Vegas witnessed a huge economic boost over the past year due to both the Superbowl and Formula One Grand Prix.

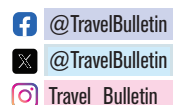


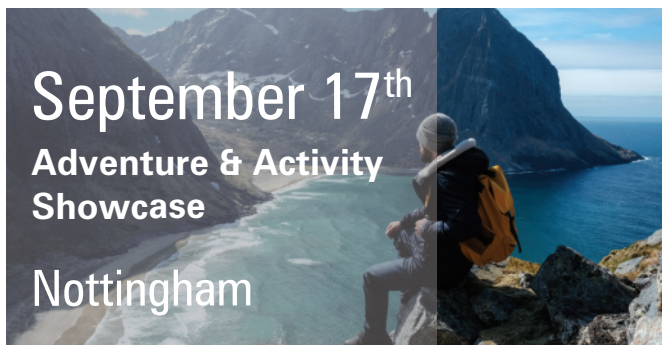
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Club Med unveils improved agent site

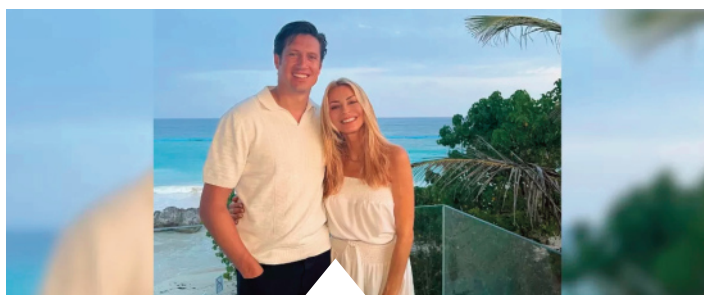
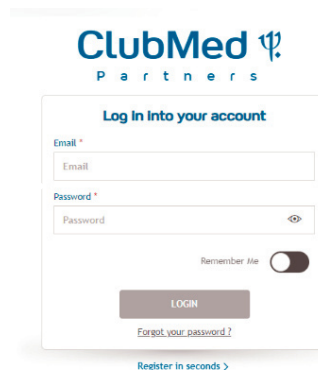
CLUB MED has revamped its trade portal "to build upon our relationship with travel agents by delivering a more advanced system and smoother user experience," according to managing director for the UK Nicolas Bresch.

The new CMTA platform strives to offer greater commercial information and booking details, and promises more than

50% improved application performance, simplifying the booking process, offering quicker price estimations and a smoother approach to proposals and quotes. Mobile performance is also boosted to help agents access bookings on-the-go.

A new consumer site is also expected to launch shortly.

www.clubmed.co.uk



Destinology reveals new celebrity ambassadors

LUXURY TAILOR-MADE operator Destinology has announced *Strictly Come Dancing* presenter Tess Daly and her husband, broadcaster Vernon Kay, as its new celebrity ambassadors.

A celebratory offer is now available, with seven nights at

Eden Roc at Cap Cana, Punta Cana (where the couple recently stayed) starting from £2,827 per person in a Luxury Pool Junior Suite with a complimentary upgrade to half-board and return BA flights from London Gatwick.

www.destinology.co.uk

Advantage leisure sales near £2 billion for 2022/23

THE ADVANTAGE Travel Partnership has announced its financial results for 2022/23, reporting £7.6 billion turnover from UK members. £5.7 billion of the Partnership's turnover came from business travel sales, with the remaining £1.9 billion from leisure sales.

The strong results have been largely attributed to the Partnership's post-Covid transformation and emphasis on footprint expansion.

CEO Julia Lo Bue-Said took the opportunity to emphasise, "Our membership community is the very lifeblood of Advantage, and we truly value the loyalty that our members show us. It's the relationships that we have across our group that drives us as a business to remain at the forefront of innovation and service delivery." www.advantagemembers.com

Attraction World partners with Intrepid day tour arm

ATTRACTION WORLD Group (AWG)'s partnership with Intrepid Urban Adventures will see the latter's portfolio of tours integrated into AWG's booking platform.

Enabling seamless access to tours in more than 20 cities globally, agents can access vast options of culinary tours in the world's most iconic food markets and cultural explorations of its most historic districts. Tours are largely centred around local businesses and

communities, continuing Intrepid's holistically sustainable approach.

Martyn Sansom, head of global experiences, said: "This opportunity opens up lots of new destinations which will help service the needs of our partners."

Retail director Kelly Hayre added: "Agents have noted an increasing demand for authentic local experiences, which is precisely what Intrepid Urban Adventures offers."



Hubby unveils travel eSIM to UK market

AMSTERDAM-BASED TRAVEL SIM provider Hubby eSim has launched in the UK, confirming an integration with OTA On the Beach.

Designed with tour operators and agents' needs in mind, the SIM can be offered to clients as part of travel packages, guaranteeing an uninterrupted connection on their travels.

Hubby eSIM is easily and quickly integrated, offering a tailored solution with no up-front investment for agents or operators. www.hubbyesim.com



Riviera to waive single supplements on select sailings this year

SOLO TRAVELLERS can experience more of Europe's most renowned waterways as Riviera is offering 10% off cabins with no single supplements on select departures this year.

The operator will offer the additional cabins to solo travellers at no extra cost for select departures between July and October 2024.

Will Sarson, head of product cruising and long haul at Riviera Travel, said, "Our yacht cruises take guests on a journey through stunning destinations in the intimate, luxurious atmosphere that only small ships can provide. By removing the single supplement on selected dates on some of our most popular 2024 itineraries, we are ensuring more people can experience the wonderful ports of call on offer."

www.rivieratravel.co.uk

The UK takes the lead in Euros travelling ranks

THERE IS already cause for celebration as the Euros kicked off earlier this month: the UK is the leading country for football fans travelling to host cities on matchdays this summer.

OTA Opodo has revealed a booking spike of 39% for travel to Germany between June 14th and July 14th, 2024 (the dates of the tournament) against the same period in 2023.

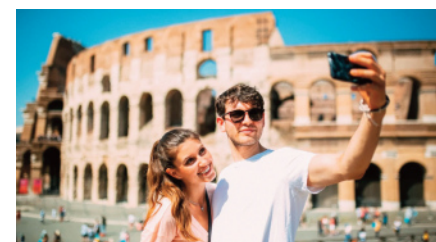
UK guests represent 17% of bookings to cities where matches are taking place, with UK bookings up 203% against last year.

38% of guests booked through Opodo for travel to host cities (Gelsenkirchen, Frankfurt



and Cologne) are from the UK.

Most guests (39%) are staying between three and four days, with 25% staying two days.



Leaving it late: Contiki report booking trends

THE SOCIAL travel brand has revealed booking trends from May, when there was a 34% increase in bookings for June. The trend appears to prove young travellers are looking for last-minute bargains and, rising 11% year-on-year, the trend looks to be continuing. The most popular destinations booked in May include Türkiye (16%), Croatia (11%) and Greece (9%).

www.contiki.com

Frankenstein, Dracula, Wolfman, oh my!

UNIVERSAL ORLANDO Resort has confirmed details about Dark Universe, a land coming to the new Epic Universe theme park opening next year. Guests can expect the classic Universal Monsters to come to life in four attractions and three restaurants.

www.universalorlando.com



MSC CRUISES has slashed the price of its premium drinks package by up to £130 and is offering cabin upgrades on selected sailings when booking before September 30th, 2024. VP of international sales Antonio Paradiso said the offer represents "irresistible discounts on Winter 2024/25 sailings, providing customers a huge choice of destinations." www.msbook.com

iHola! Spain tops summer travel list

NEW BOOKING data from Your Co-op Travel has revealed that five of the top 10 most-booked destinations so far this year are in Spain: Tenerife, the Costa Blanca and Lanzarote comprised the top three. Majorca and the Costa del Sol made it into the top 10.

Brand and marketing manager Katie Blunt said: "With its glorious beaches, welcoming local communities, and tasty food, it's not surprising to see Brits heading to Spain for

their holidays this year, with Tenerife taking the crown for 2024 bookings.

"Whether you're a young family or a couple looking to switch off from the hustle and bustle of daily life, Spain couldn't be a better place to relax and recharge. The country typically averages over 300 days of sunshine per year, which makes it ideal for escaping one of our wettest summers on record."

www.cooptravel.co.uk

MOVERS & SHAKERS



ALEX GAVALDA has joined Travel

Counsellors in a newly-created role as commercial director.



NORSE ATLANTIC'S new head of sales, joining

from July 1st, is Andrew Fish.



KAREN CAMERON has been named

Ambassador Cruise Line's new deputy head of trade.

Havila extends Geirangerfjord season

CEO BENT Martini announced the extension to Havila Voyages' 2025 Geirangerfjord season this month, saying the move will "offer our guests even more opportunities to visit the Geirangerfjord in the most unique way possible."

The season will now include sailings throughout April and May.

Martini also noted: "We are the only company meeting the Norwegian government's requirements for zero emission sailings in our UNESCO world heritage fjords and promise an emission-free and silent journey into the Geirangerfjord even in spring." www.havilavoyages.com



Westin lines up Vietnam debut

WESTIN RESORT & Spa Cam Ranh recently opened, marking the Westin label's debut in Vietnam with a 207-key resort on the nation's south-central coast. A 24/7 fitness room, four dining and bar options and the signature Heavenly Spa by Westin™ await. www.westin.com

AGENT INCENTIVES

- **AE EXPEDITIONS' BIG Polar Giveaway** offers agents the chance to win a voyage of their own (with a plus one) when booking by July 31st, 2024. Bookings earn agents five points per passenger: the agent with the most points wins. Bookings also earn you a reward selected randomly from a prize pool. Email booking references, name and address to competitions.uk@auroraexpeditions.co.uk to enter.
- **ATTRACTION WORLD'S 'Great Lates Payback'** incentive sees 24 agents earn back the value of their bookings. All bookings made for departures before October 31st, 2024 made by the end of July will be entered into a prize draw to decide the 24 winners. www.attractionworld.com
- **ACROSS THE Citalia, Sovereign Luxury Travel and American Holidays brands**, agents earn £10 with every booking, plus the chance to win a choice of prizes after collecting three 'stamps' (one stamp per booking). Bookings made by August 31st, 2024 qualify. www.travelopia.com
- **AMBASSADOR CRUISE Line's incentive** offers Love2shop vouchers worth up to £40 on select winter sailing bookings made before July 10th, 2024. £20 vouchers are included on departures from Newcastle, Dundee and London Tilbury between October 1st, 2024 and March 25th, 2025 and £40 vouchers on winter sailings to the Canaries in the same period. www.ambassadorcruiseline.com
- **A-ROSA RIVER Cruises** is inviting agents to test their keepie-uppie skills and compete on the EU-ROSA 2024 league table, the winner of which will win either a team night out or pizza party (both worth £200). www.arosa-cruises.co.uk



CUNARD, CARNIVAL Cruise Line, Holland America Line, P&O Cruises, Princess Cruises and Seabourn joined together to celebrate the opening of a new Fred. Olsen Travel concept store in Hampshire. It marks Fred. Olsen Travel's first multi-brand concept store showcasing a number of brands under the same roof, with each brand offering dedicated POS materials and brochures in-branch.

Win one of five amazing prizes, including a four-night stay at the five-star Royal Apollonia Limassol with Louis Hotels!

Find out more at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/louis-hotels-competition



AGENT TRAINING

DESTINATION TRAINING

- **THE 15 islands of the Cooks** lie halfway between New Zealand and Hawaii in the South Pacific. Scattered like fragrant frangipani petals floating across 2.2 million square kilometres of a seductive, sensual ocean. Learn how easy each island is to reach and what is in store for you clients when visiting these idyllic Polynesian islands. www.onlinetraveltraining.com/free-courses/providers/CooksIslands
- **ALULA IS** a 'new' and must see destination. A region of outstanding natural and cultural significance in North-West Saudi Arabia, AIUla is an untold story, a land preserved by time. Take the training course to discover four significant heritage sites including the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hegra, and find out the exciting plans in store for AIUla's future. www.alulaspecialist.com

OPERATOR TRAINING

- **NOT ONLY** will you expand your knowledge and ultimately your commission-earning power with Newmarket Holidays, but you will get the chance to earn a 15% discount, a place on a fam trip, and your own Newmarket Achievement Award certificate. www.training.newmarketholidays.co.uk
- **JOIN THE Rocky Mountaineer** team to learn more about their awe-inspiring rail journeys through the Rockies and American Southwest. Become a certified Rocky Mountaineer expert and gain access to discounted agent rates to head aboard yourself. communities.rockymountaineer.com/agent

ATTRACTION TRAINING

- **EARN TICKETS** of your own and certified expert status with the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex agent training programme. www.travelbulletin.co.uk/kennedy-space-center-travelgym



AGENT INSIGHT

MARIA DEMOSTHENOUS

PAPHOS, CYPRUS

UNITED BY history, culture, religion and tradition, Greece and Cyprus are two in the same; an extension of each other.

As a Greek-Cypriot myself, living in Cyprus, I'm a blend of both destinations and naturally know what to recommend to travellers to showcase my heritage. When anyone asks me for a Greece or Cyprus trip, I'll do my best to make sure it's a journey of discovery from start to finish.

Whatever the season, there are loads of possibilities to explore the authentic Greece or Cyprus. The sun and sea, have always been great elements when visiting these parts of the Med, but unless you craft an itinerary to include in the mix culture, history, nature and tradition, customers may not be able to have that 'life-changing experience.'

The National Tourism Boards of both destinations have focused heavily on bringing across the messages of 'Discover Greece' and 'Cyprus: a Fusion of Experiences'. These should not be overlooked and when you explore them in depth you'll certainly understand why.

Hospitality, or, as we Greeks call it, 'Filotimo,' is like breathing to Greeks – showing kindness and generosity without expecting anything in return. This is Greek and Cypriot nature, and what every visitor should seek to experience.

Among the countless possibilities, both destinations are perfect for nature lovers, active & sports enthusiasts, weddings & honeymoons, agrotourism, wellness retreats, religious pilgrims, history buffs, gastronomy tours, maritime & diving, or just mapping out the perfect road trip adventure.

From my experience, for any carefully planned trip to Greece or Cyprus, one thing is certain: your customers will definitely want to visit again, and again, to continue their journey of discovery.



Newmarket expands Adriatic offering

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS has expanded its Adriatic portfolio with the addition of two new tours. The eight-day 'Croatian Island Hopping' itinerary is priced from £1,688 per person, and will take guests on an adventure around the cluster of Croatian islands, complete with walking tours, wine tastings and a cruise into the heart of Mijet National Park.

The eight-day 'Adriatic Coast – Dubrovnik, Neum & Mostar' will take guests on an authentic journey along the coast, crossing from Croatia to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Prices for that itinerary lead in from £1,143 per person. www.newmarketholidays.co.uk

News Bites

- SCENIC LUXURY Cruises & Tours has unveiled its 2026 Worldwide Discoveries Collection, featuring over 163 itineraries to 50 countries.
- NOTINTHEGUIDEBOOKS HAS welcomed several new Norwegian experiences to its Arctic Collection.
- SARDINIAN PLACES has added three new luxury properties to its summer collection.



HX AND Air Greenland have announced a strategic partnership agreement with the aim of enhancing travel experiences for guests. From 2025, HX will fly travellers directly to the Greenland capital of Nuuk, with the debut of three new 'Grand Greenland' itineraries. Travellers will also have the option to enjoy pre- and post-cruise programmes. www.travelhx.com

Travel Bulletin

SHOWCASES

Invites you to a

MEDITERRANEAN SHOWCASE

Agent networking evening

MONDAY 10TH JUNE LIVERPOOL



Mediterranean Roadshow

THE FIRST night of our Mediterranean Roadshow brought us to Liverpool, where we were joined by Ibiza Tourism, Expedia TAAP, Sandos Hotels & Resorts, Aldemar Resorts, Avra Imperial Hotel, Visit Benidorm, Anex Tour, Grecotel Hotels & Resorts, Cyprus Tourism, the Catalan Tourist Board, and Mangia's.

Prizes include free stays, champers, and gift vouchers, with some very happy agents made!





ON JUNE 11th, we returned to Northern Ireland for the first time in five years!

We were joined by Ibiza Tourism, Aldemar Resorts, PortAventura World, Sandos Hotels & Resorts, Visit Malta and Domes Resorts, plus some of Northern Ireland's finest travel agents!

Our supplier partners gave our guests a warm welcome, with prizes including free stays, goodie bags and crates of beer featured in our famed prize bingo!



Our next Roadshow will see us bring a sense of Adventure & Activity on the road to Manchester and Nottingham on September 16th and 17th: don't miss out on all the thrills of regular [#TBShowcases](https://www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events/agents) dialled up to 11!

www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events/agents

Midlands Travel Trade Club Presents ... **MTTC**
Midlands Summer Ball 2024
 Thursday 13th June 2024 at the beautiful Hogarths Hotel, Solihull.
 The evening will consist of pre-dinner drinks, a 3-course dinner with wine and live entertainment plus DJ.
 Dress code: Black Tie Pre-dinner drinks 18.00-19.45 Carriages 01.00

Sponsored by:
BELLEAIR HOLIDAYS **easyJet** holidays **jta** Holidays
Emirates **OCEAN** Florida **Travel Bulletin**

Please contact
Wendy @ mttevents@outlook.com
 for all bookings and enquiries.



Midlands Travel Trade Club Summer Ball

THE MTTC Summer Ball saw *Travel Bulletin* joined by the Midlands' finest and other sponsors BelleAir Holidays, easyJet Holidays, JTA Holidays, Emirates and Ocean Florida.





**An exciting project,
already underway.**

**Increased capacity, modern
infrastructure and the creation
of the world's steepest cable
car, opening in stages from
December 2024.**





The Schilthorn has always been a personal highlight, as it is the best location for viewing the infamous Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau side by side and sampling the stunning backdrop of lakes and valleys below. A visit to the revolving restaurant for a delicious lunch or brunch is an absolute must, as is the Bond World exhibition with the chance to pose for photos among the collection of memorabilia.

Tommy Walters - Product Manager



The Schilthorn Cableway is not just a cable car to a mountain summit but a compact, high-performance network of cable ways and funiculars covering one of the most authentic mountain regions in Europe.

At the centre lies the stunning mountain village of Mürren, an enchanting picture postcard village where flower-adorned sun-kissed chalets scatter the landscape and the distant sound of cowbells from the grazing cattle in the pastures above make it feel like something from a fairytale.

Whether you enjoy the views and the highly recommended Schilthorn brunch at the Schilthorn summit, relax with the family at the Allmendhubel, take a walk down to Gimmelwald or simply take a picnic and hike the many footpaths available. Wander through mountain meadows, past gushing mountain streams all with the backdrop of one of the most impressive panorama's Switzerland has to offer.

Our staff highly recommend staying in Mürren for a few nights and the Schilthorn Cableway have this covered too. The Hotel Alpenruh and Hotel Blumental, both traditional style hotels in keeping with the village history, could not be better located to enjoy the highlights stunning location.



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Switzerland Travel Centre presents the Schilthorn Cableway.

The 2,970m Schilthorn became famous as a location for the 1969 James Bond film "On Her Majesty's Secret Service". The revolving restaurant at the summit, which rotates around its own axis once every 45 minutes, owes its current name Piz Gloria to the film production. Visitors can follow in James Bond's footsteps in the both interactive Spy World exhibition and the Walk of Fame and at the same time marvel at the 360-degree panoramic views of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and more than 200 other peaks.

Invites you to a **CITY BREAKS SHOWCASE**
Agent networking evening
Monday **17th JUNE** Cardiff



City Breaks Showcase
OUR CITY Breaks Showcase on June 17th saw us head to Cardiff with Visit Tampa Bay, RateHawk, Jetset, Tunisia, Virgin Atlantic, Delta, Fred. Holidays and Riviera Travel!
Our esteemed supplier guests were joined by a brilliant attendance of Wales' finest agents, some of whom left with vouchers worth almost £200 and branded goodies in our ever-popular prize giveaway!



Feeling the #TBSHOWCASES FOMO? We are bringing a taste of luxury to Exeter and Bristol on September 23rd and 24th, respectively, with our Luxury Holidays Roadshow! To confirm your place or find out when we will be hosting our next event near you contact events@travelbulletin.co.uk

WESTIN CLASS

Westin's Times Square property is where convenience and indulgence meet on the doorstep of the Big Apple's finest.



IF THERE were ever a haven from the 24-hour hustle-and-bustle of the Crossroads of the World, the Westin New York at Times Square might just be it.

The cosmopolitan jewel in the Westin Hotels & Resorts – a Marriott International brand – portfolio sits on the doorstep of Broadway, Central Park and

countless other Big Apple classics. 873 rooms (many boasting impressive views of the surrounding skyline, the Hudson River or cityscape below) across eight categories make the property a versatile and convenient option for a city stay.

Rooms lead in at £259 per night, with categories spanning from Traditional Double rooms to Grand Deluxe Corner King suites catering for a variety of city-breakers' tastes and budgets.

Current offers include a guaranteed upgrade to the next available room category and free self-parking (at an offsite parking garage) for standard vehicles/SUVs until July 31st, 2024.

Families, until September 2nd, 2024, can upgrade to a second adjacent room (when booking a Premium Deluxe or Grand Deluxe room) for 50% off, under the same rate plan. Children aged 12 and under get free breakfast at the hotel's Foundry Kitchen restaurant.

Marriott's Travel Agents hub enables access to online commission monitoring and services across the entire Marriott portfolio, offers details on the Preferred Travel Agency and Hotel Excellence! training programmes, plus exclusive FAM rates at thousands of the brand's hotel across the globe.

www.travelagents.marriott.com

Go City makes Eastern European debut

MOMENTUM HAS not slowed after Go City added seven Merlin attractions to its London pass and teamed up with DoSomethingDifferent.com to sell its entire portfolio through the trade in recent months. The brand has now made its Eastern Europe debut with the launch of its all-inclusive Prague pass.

The Go City All-Inclusive Prague Pass grants city dwellers access to a range of the city's most popular attractions, including Prague Castle and the Pilsner Urquell Experience among others.

Passes start from £50 for adults and £29 for children. www.gocity.com

Package Pal primed for city escapes

JETSET'S PACKAGE Pal system collates the core essentials of a package break, plus optional ancillaries if required. Recent enhancements mean Eurostar options can be held and converted. Amsterdam breaks, with two nights at the four-star Olympic Hotel in a Superior double room and flights from Bristol departing on September 2nd, 2024, lead in at £307 per person. www.jetsetflights.co.uk (price correct as of June 17th, 2024)





Join the Railway Children in new tour

GUEST CAN join two members of the original cast of *The Railway Children* as part of Just Go! Holidays' new and exclusive short break. 'The Railway Children's Green Dragon Steam Train & York' two-day coach break leads in from £169 per person departing on September 29th, 2024, and takes guests aboard the Victorian *Green Dragon* locomotive which starred in the film, with a visit to the Edwardian-style Oakworth Station.

www.justgoholidays.com/agents



Jet2 readies for largest ever Iceland offering

JET2.COM AND Jet2CityBreaks has launched its largest-ever Iceland programme for the winter 2025/2026 season, boasting more than 170 outbound flights equating to 34,000 seats on sale. Departures will take off from all 12 of Jet2.com's UK airport bases, including Liverpool John Lennon and an exclusive route from Bournemouth.

www.jet2.com

Inspiring expands European portfolio

INSPIRING TRAVEL has introduced nine new European cities to its city break portfolio in honour of its 50th anniversary of providing luxury tailor-made experiences.

The new city additions include Amsterdam, Berlin, Budapest, Milan, Munich, Porto, Prague, Verona and Vienna. Travellers have the option to enjoy the world-renowned Christmas markets, enjoy pre- and post-cruise stay options, and indulge in brand-new itineraries unique to Inspiring.

The new itineraries include the European Golden Triangle which includes Budapest, Prague and Vienna; a twin-centre break to Porto and the Douro Valley, and a tri-centre option of Venice, Verona and Lake Garda.

One of the itineraries, the seven-night 'Highlights of Porto & the Douro Valley' includes an indulgent food tour in Porto, wine tastings and a boat tour in Douro, and visits to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed



Braga and Guimaraes. Guests will also stay in three of Portugal's most luxurious hotels – the Masion Albar Hotels Le Monumental Palace, the Six Senses Douro Valley, and the Yeatman. Prices for the package lead in from £8,369 per person, including return flights and accommodation.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of ITC Travel Group, encompassing Inspiring Travel, Regent, Rainbow and Spectate. www.inspiringtravel.co.uk

Shearings bolsters tour collections with 24 new additions

ESCORTED COACH tour specialist Shearings has released 24 brand-new tours ahead of its brochure launch at the end of the month.

The new batch of tours include itineraries in the UK Breaks, Self-Drive Experiences, EU Holidays and Solo Traveller collections.

Seven new UK tours have been added which include a five- or eight-day itinerary along the Scottish South West Coast before travelling across to Northern Ireland for a day trip exploring Belfast.

For those eager to escape the UK's



notorious February weather, a 28-day 'Winter Sun on the Costa Brava' is now available through the operator, priced from £1,949 per person.

As part of Shearings' European portfolio, 11 new tours have been added to destinations including Spain, France, Switzerland, Portugal, Croatia and the Republic of Ireland.

Four new Solo Traveller UK tours have been introduced: two in Scotland featuring stops at Loch Ness and Inverness, one in the Lake District and one in Devon. There is also an additional solo tour in Europe – the 'Italian and French Riviera's Drinks-Inclusive for Solo Travellers' itinerary.

Shearings' Europe and UK bumper brochures will be sent out to agents by the end of June.

www.shearings.com

Jetset



Coming 4th July



And this is just part 1...



Discover your customers next wish-list holiday

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on best-sellers

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Head of Trade Sales

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UNSUNG & UNCROWDED

Jules Verne's 'Worldwide Collection' for 2025/26 features iconic regions reimagined and shines the spotlight and unsung and uncrowded areas of the continent.



JULES VERNE has looked ahead to 2025/26 with its 'Worldwide Collection' brochure, featuring over 75 "extraordinary adventures and pioneering journeys" according to managing director Debbie O'Neill, including a suite of African escapades uncovering a continent of untapped adventures and

off-the-beaten-track charm.

Continuing, Debbie elaborated on the operator's thought process behind the new brochure, saying it was "informed by booking trends, guest feedback, and a desire to meet the demand for new, inspiring, and memorable adventures, every tour has been carefully curated with customer experience at its heart."

wilderness and a visit to the country's only coastal conservancy in Saadani, the tour showcases the largely unsung and uncrowded region from £4,145 per person, with departures in June, July, September and October 2025.

Iconic as ever

'The Original Nile by Royal Steamer' 14-night tour, accompanied by an Egyptologist, centres around an exclusive charter of the *SS Misr* along the ancient river and the historic sights that line its banks and remain as iconic as ever. Prices lead in at £7,195 per person. www.vjv.com

Culture vultures fuel Virtuoso cruise boom

VIRTUOSO HAS unveiled survey findings that suggest the cruise bubble is far from bursting, with West Africa noted as a notable region in demand with cruisers seeking immersive cultural experience.

60% of Virtuoso agents surveyed have seen an increase in first-time cruises, and 59% have seen a notable demographic shift towards millennials and Gen Z booking.

Amidst classic cruising destinations like the Caribbean and Alaska, West Africa was noted as rising the ranks as a curveball destination for culture cravers heading out to sea.

www.virtuoso.com

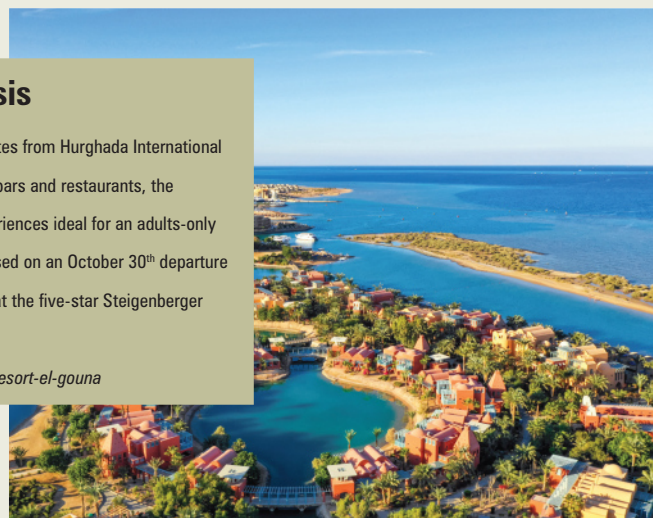
Unsung and uncrowded

One tour making its way into Jules Verne's top ranks uncovers 'Tanzania's Secret South' on a 10-night itinerary. Through explorations of Nyerere National Park's largely untamed

El Gouna: a Red Sea oasis

ORASCOM'S El Gouna development, 30 minutes from Hurghada International Airport, guarantees year-round sun, over 100 bars and restaurants, the region's largest cable park and a suite of experiences ideal for an adults-only stay. Packages lead in at £890 per person, based on an October 30th departure from Gatwick, seven nights' accommodation at the five-star Steigenberger Golf Resort and private transfers.

www.elgouna.com/hotels/steigenberger-golf-resort-el-gouna





Wendy Wu launches Cruise & Tour holidays

WENDY WU is embracing the best of both worlds with its brand-new Cruise & Tour holiday collection, featuring tours in China, Japan, India, Southeast Asia and Africa for 2024, 2025 and 2026.

An example of one of the tours on offer is the 22-day 'Journey through Southern Africa' adventure from £8,040 per person. Guests will save £600 per person if booked before July 17th, 2024.

www.wendywutours.co.uk



Etihad and Egyptair strengthen partnership

ETIHAD AIRWAYS and Egyptair have strengthened their partnership by signing an agreement to enhance commercial and operational ties together, providing travellers with a wider choice of services and increased value for money. The codeshare agreement allows customers of both airlines enhanced connectivity between Egypt and the UAE and beyond.

www.etihad.com

The smaller the better with Tauck's new offering

GUIDED TRAVEL expert Tauck is riding the wave of its small group success and is introducing its new 'Smaller Group' tours and departures for 2025 which will average just 15 guests per departure.

Marked for its official launch on Tauck's 100th anniversary next year, the programme will feature 12 itineraries across 124 departures in North America, Europe and Africa.

Dan Mahar, CEO of Tauck, noted the "incredible growth" in the company's Small Group departures over the last few years: "Our market research has zeroed in on an optimal group size of 12-20 among those interested in smaller groups, so our average group size of 15 travellers is right in the centre of that sweet spot."

2025 will see the addition of three African safaris, where all departures will be part of



the Smaller Group programme, offering an intimate experience for all. Itineraries include the 10-day 'Great Migration: Tanzania & Kenya' from £13,590 per person; the 11-day 'Namibia: Epic Safari' from £10,790 per person; and the 12-day 'Wildlife Odyssey: South Africa, Botswana & Zimbabwe' from £11,990 per person.

www.tauck.co.uk

Audley streamlines safari sales with dedicated guide

TAILOR-MADE tour operator Audley Travel has launched its first 'Agents Guide to Audley Safaris', a dedicated programme aiming to provide expertise and insights into Audley's bespoke wildlife experiences.

The 32-page guide, available in both print and digital formats, will be mailed out to 2,500 agent partners

Spanning from Madagascar to Tanzania, to luxury boutique properties and intimate lodges, the guide strives to highlight all of

Audley's safari offerings into one digestible format, making it a seamless tool for agents to use in order to sell their client's their dream Big Five bucket-list experience of a lifetime.

Greg Thurston, trade sales manager for Audley Travel, said the guide was "born out of the desire to share a deeper level of our specialists' expertise and passion with agents. The new safari guide aims to be a comprehensive profile of how to pan a tailor-made trip of a lifetime for clients and make their safari dream a reality."

Audley will continue to shine the spotlight on its safari offering as research has found that 16% of premium travellers have taken a wildlife or safari trip over the past five years, and another 20% plan to do so within the next two.

www.audleytravel.com



ZEUS MAKES WAVES

Zeus International Hotels & Resorts has unveiled new waterpark attractions at two of its Grecian resorts for families to make a splash this summer.



DIVE INTO summer as two of Zeus International Hotels & Resorts' properties have opened new waterparks for the season and are offering special family packages including complimentary welcome gifts and use of the waterpark and Kids Club facilities.

Wyndham Grand Crete Mirabello Bay and Ajul Luxury Hotel & Spa Resort in Halkidiki offer families a fun-filled

holiday complete with thrills and spills and nature-driven adventures around every corner. Families staying within the resorts this summer will be among the first to enjoy the new waterpark facilities. High speed slides, a dedicated kid's splash zone, water tunnels, a tranquil pool and more await families with the promise of boundless entertainment.

Families who book into a four-night stay at either Ajul Hotel or Wyndham Grand Mirabello by October 31st, 2024, as part of the family package will receive a complimentary welcome gift for the children as well as complimentary use of the waterpark and Kids Club access.

Both resorts also offer other nature-

driven activities for those with an appetite for adventure. At Ajul Hotel, guests can try their hand in the Adventure Park, complete with climbing walls, rope courses, archery and lazy hammocks. Over at Wyndham Grand Mirabello, guests will have the chance to test out their creative side with guided pottery workshops, horse riding through the mountains, and a Bioaroma DIY workshop for all skin care needs. After the adventuring is complete, families can sit back and relax by the pools before tucking into the array of gastronomic delights served in both resorts.

www.wyndhamgrandmirabello.com

www.ajulresort.com

Going solo in Corfu

SOLOS HOLIDAYS is offering single travellers an authentic Grecian experience of a lifetime with like-minded people this summer.

Guests can choose between seven or 14 nights for the 'Corfu Solos Exclusive' package, featuring optional excursions to explore the quaint island, as well as a stay in the family-run Aronda House located in Dassai, return flights and transfers and experienced tour guides.

Prices for the package lead in from £1,085 per person, with departure dates from July to September, 2024.

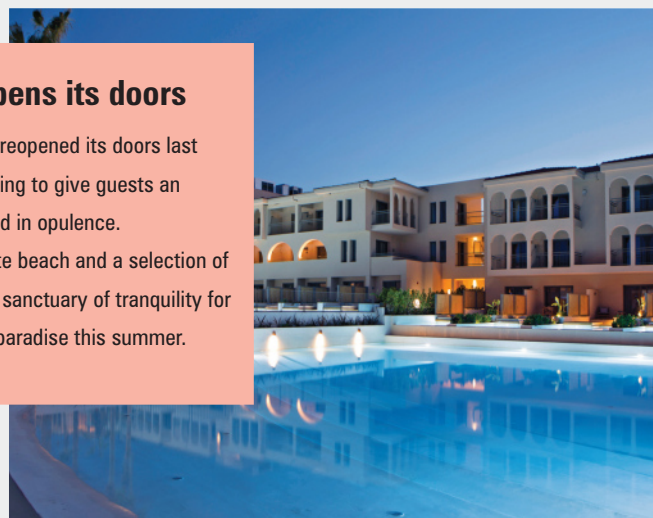
www.solosholidays.co.uk

Halkidiki sanctuary reopens its doors

FIVE-STAR property Cora Hotel & Spa reopened its doors last month in the heart of Halkidiki, promising to give guests an extravagant holiday experience dripped in opulence.

Boasting 181 luxury rooms, a private beach and a selection of unique restaurants, the resort offers a sanctuary of tranquility for those travellers wishing to escape to paradise this summer.

www.coraresort.com



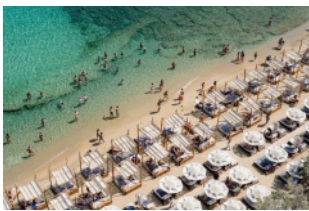


Etihad enhances seasonal programme

ETIHAD AIRWAYS has boosted its summer network schedule with new additional seasonal services to Antalya, Nice and Santorini, as well as returned routes to Malaga and Mykonos from June 2024.

The Mykonos service will take to the skies every Monday and Friday throughout the summer season, with the Santorini service taking to the skies every Tuesday and Saturday from Abu Dhabi.

www.etihad.com



Get the party started at SantAnna

GUESTS ARE in for an unforgettable summer as Mykonos' premier lifestyle beach club, SantAnna Mykonos, has opened its doors for the season. Promising world-class entertainment and a culinary journey for the ages, the beach club offers an unparalleled Mediterranean experience that oozes style and inclusivity.

www.santannamykonos.com

Namos introduces three luxury villas

NAMMOS HOTEL Mykonos & Villas has unveiled its curated collection of three private villas – Diplomatic Villa, Infinity Villa and Psarou Villa.

The largest of the three villas, Diplomatic sleeps up to 18 guests, complete with nine bedrooms and a wide array of indoor and outdoor entertainment spaces. Boasting picturesque views of Psarou Bay, the villa offers an ideal choice for family and friends looking for a truly indulgent stay.

Nestled in the heart of Psarou Beach, the Infinity Villa proves a vibrant option for guests, sleeping up to 10 people and offering a private infinity pool – the villa's crowning jewel.

For those looking for a more minimalistic design, Psarou Villa blends traditional aesthetics with modernity. Boasting four bedrooms which can sleep up to eight guests and providing untouched views of the Psarou Bay, the villa offers guests a



tranquil stay away from the crowds.

Located near Nammos Beach, Restaurant and Village, guests have access to one of the island's most sought-after destinations right on their doorstep. Prices for villas at Nammos lead in from €8,000 per night. www.nammoshotels.com

Family foundation: Kivotos unites luxury with a homage to home

THE GREEK islands have become a renowned hot spot for summer travel, boasting clear waters and idyllic temperatures, but for travellers who wish to step away from the bustling tourist areas in Santorini and Mykonos, homegrown speciality brand Kivotos Hotels & Villas may be the perfect choice.

Kivotos Santorini and Kivotos Mykonos redefine luxury by providing a boutique experience away from the crowds.

Kivotos Mykonos is located 15 minutes



away from the cobblestones of Mykonos Town and offers 40 individually styled rooms and villas which promote the familiar charm of a much-loved home. The hotel's private dining experience Nero Nero offers a bespoke selection of local produce served on the beach front.

Kivotos Santorini, perched above the Aegean Sea at the highest point of the Santorini caldera, reimagines the island's traditional aesthetic. Guests will step into the 10 luxurious suites and villa options on offer, each housing a modern interior as well as a 180 degree panoramic view of the Santorini coast, proving a perfect spot to watch the golden sunsets.

Prices for Kivotos Mykonos lead in from £355 per night, and prices for Kivotos Santorini lead in from £592 per night. www.kivotoshotels.com

Mar-Bella kicks off countdown to Corfu collection addition

THE FAMILY-OWNED Mar-Bella Collection brand has set a course for summer 2025 and the opening of its newest property – Avali.

Mar-Bella Collection's fourth property, which fittingly borrows its name from the local dialect for 'a small bay,' sits on the beachfront of Corfu's south-west coast. 76 rooms and suites have been meticulously rebuilt and refurbished from the former property in its location.

Owner Vassilis Dracopoulos has described the property as "a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence in hospitality as we diversify our offering to cater to the modern traveller."

Positioned to cater for 'free-spirited' young families, solo travellers and groups of friends in search of barefoot luxury, Avali will adopt a

calming and naturally-inspired colour palette reflecting its coastal surroundings. Its sustainable credentials, which have been put at the forefront of its marketing, are more than skin-deep, with state-of-the-art energy-efficient materials used and native plant species collated in partnership with a horticulturist to reflect and embed the island's ecosystem in its design.

www.marbella.gr

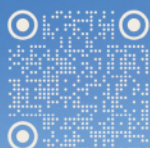


Iberostar island haven earns an extra star

THE IBEROSTAR Selection Creta Marine has been elevated from four stars to five after an extensive refurbishment, and has celebrated with a bespoke on-resort menu from 2019 MasterChef winner Irini Tzortzoglou. Rooms lead in at £102 per night. www.iberostar.com



Image Credits: Left: Mar-Bella Collection. Right: Iberostar Hotels & Resorts



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Ella Resorts' adults-only Rhodes refuge

AMIDST ELLA Resorts' portfolio of 'eco-chic' properties across the Mediterranean – with six beachfront options across Corfu and Rhodes and further properties in the pipeline – sits the Elissa Adults-Only Lifestyle Beach Resort.

The property blends an instilled sense of classic Rhodian architecture with a more contemporary feel across the 332 luxurious rooms from deluxe suites to water bungalows.

On-property, four restaurants and three bars, boasting serious gastronomic credentials from a suite of Michelin-starred chefs, await; local delicacies and Med-inspired options at Fanes or Kavos' 'catch-of-the-day' menu, curated by Alexandros

Tsiotinis, are highlighted as unmissables.

New for 2024, guests in open-plan suites and water bungalows have complimentary day access to convertible cars to explore the island both at leisure and in style.

Summer stays lead in at £165 per night.

www.ellaresorts.com/our-resorts/elissa-resort/



Solmar soul: 2025 programme on sale now

SOLMAR VILLAS' 2025 programme launch features over 1,500 villas across the globe, with a whole host of options across Greece and Cyprus and their surrounding islands.

Villa Ay Kyriaki, in Polis, Cyprus, caters for up to six guests and offers week-long school holiday stays from £1,051 based on an August 27th, 2025 arrival. The top three Solmar sellers by July 2nd, 2024 earn vouchers worth up to £250. www.solmarvillas.com

Who do you think England will play in the Euros Final?

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Monday

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Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to our Japan Showcase! This is a fun filled evening dedicated to providing you with more knowledge about this beautiful part of the world. Look forward to engaging professional networking groups, hot meal and drinks, enjoying the entertainment and being in with a chance to win some truly incredible prizes in our free prize draw!

Timings

Registration & Drinks 5:45PM	Travel Bulletin Welcome 6:10PM	Supplier Presentations 6:15PM	Hot Dinner 7:30PM	Supplier Presentations 8:30PM	Product Quiz and Prizes 9:10PM	Event Ends 9:30PM
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Features:



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To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by Thursday 4th July 2024 to: events@travelbulletin.co.uk or Telephone: 020 7973 0136

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

Star AWARDS 2024

travel bulletin

Voting in the Travel Bulletin Star Awards has been extended to Friday 28th June so if you've still not had your say, pick your favourites now!

Cast your votes and every submission will be placed into a free prize draw to win one of 3 incredible prizes sponsored by

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All Star Awards winners will be announced at our prestigious gala dinner at the Hilton London Bankside on Thursday 24th October.

**To book your tickets call Jeanette on T: +44 20 7973 0136
or email jeanette@travelbulletin.co.uk**