The state of the s Giving agents the edge

Single Travellers Travellers

independent adventurers.

MORE IN...

Agent Bulletin

Your one-stop shop for incentives and training opportunities. Pg. 7

Middle East

A diverse region where a wealth of experiences await. Pg. 13

Latin America

Bucket-list marvels, natural wonders and curveball city break picks. Pg. 21



Martin Johnson, LATA LATA's new chairman on regional trends and trade opportunities. (Pg 10)



HARROGATE

SHEFFIELD

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to this informative and fun event. Enabling you to learn more about the diverse range of adventure and activity packages available to you and your clients. Discover the amazing landscapes of the world and the most exciting ways to explore them. You can look forward to delicious food and drinks, enjoyable entertainment and a fabulous free prize draw with a number of fantastic prizes to be won!



Timings

Registration

6:00PM

Client Presentations 8:15PM

Travel Bulletin Welcome

Presentations 6:25PM 6:30PM

Client

Product Quiz & Hot Dinner Free Prize Draw 9:15 - 9.30PM 7:30PM

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







Featuring















THIS

BOOM AVE ->

← BUST ST

NEWS

Stay in the loop as we bring you the latest happenings across the industry.



BULLETIN BRIEFING

Martin Johnson, chairman of LATA, shares how agents can benefit from the association's activities.



MIDDLE EAST

Discover serene paradises and authentic culture.



SINGLE TRAVELLERS

Destinations make the best companions of all with these solo travel highlights.



LATIN AMERICA

Enjoy the very best of the region with a selection of hotels, tours and experiences.

REVENGE-SPEND ENDS

Travel technology experts have shared insights into how sellers can meet the new needs set out by travellers after a study has confirmed revenge spending is waning.

AS THE pandemic restrictions become a thing of the past and the world is back to being anyone's oyster, the increased trend of 'revenge spending' is beginning to wane. Once borders opened, travellers were packing their bags and jetting off to every corner of the world they could. Everybody was infected by the travel bug, and the industry boomed.

However, a recent study by Bankrate in the US has discovered that affordability is now cutting into traveller choice and European sun-and-sea destinations have reported a slowing in bookings earlier in the season than anyone anticipated.

Travel technology industry experts have shared their insights into how sellers can best adapt their offerings to meet the changing, mostly cost-driven, traveller demands.

It is evident that the appetite for travel is still there, however customer needs are beginning to shift, and Alex Gisbert from Fastpayhotels discussed how sellers should "continue offering maximum amounts of relevant choices to travellers and do so through segmenting and harnessing data to better understand their needs."

In the post-pandemic world, discounts and special deals are a must for the cash-strapped traveller, as Janis Dzenis from WayAway said: "By maintaining an unwavering commitment to loyalty and providing discounts where feasible, travel suppliers and agencies can continue to attract customers while also weathering the shifting landscape of the travel industry."

Tailoring packages and itineraries to the customer is an impactful way to ensure repeat business, while offering low-price room rates is a major driving factor for the customers, and Alex Barros from BEONx further explains: "by offering personalised suggestions for add-ons or upgrades, travel suppliers can create a win-win situation for both themselves and their customers."



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Showcase Calendar

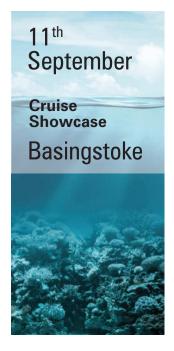
Sign up to our showcases: www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events/agents

5th September The Australia Takeover

Dorking







18th & 19th
September
Adventure & Activity
Showcase
Harrogate
& Sheffield



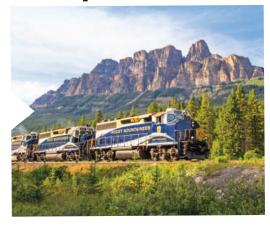
Rocky Mountaineer unveils 2024 promotion

ALL ABOARD with Rocky Mountaineer as the luxury rail operator has launched its first 2024 promotion, offering guests savings of \$1,000 per couple on any rail journey or package in 2024.

The promotion applies to both the US route as well as the three Canadian journeys, with the \$1,000 saving applicable in US or Canadian dollars.

Steve Harris, Rocky Mountaineer's director of sales, said: "Our travel agent and trade partners have been central to Rocky Mountaineer's successful 2023 season. We hope that our new promotion will give them every opportunity to secure lucrative early bookings for 2024."

The promotion is available for journeys booked before August 31st, 2023. www.rockymountaineer.com





Bahamas goes barmy for Barbie

TO CELEBRATE the highly anticipated release of the *Barbie* film earlier this month, Sandals Royal Bahamian Spa Resort and Offshore Island was spotlighted as Nassau's own Barbie World.

Guests will be spoilt for choice with an array of pastelpink accommodations, restaurants, drinks and decor.

The newly refurbished Island Village is equipped with Barbie Dreamhouse-style private pools and a Butler Elite service – perfect for those guests seeking a perfectly pink luxury experience.

www.sellingsandals.co.uk

Ski Beat tackles mountain sustainabilty with new alliance

SKI BEAT has taken a bold step towards helping combat climate change by entering into a three-year alliance with the pioneering environmental advocates 'Protect Our Winters' (POW).

Laura Hazell, Ski Beat's sales and marketing director, said: "We far too often hear about glaciers retreating, snow melting and low altitude resorts closing. We have a responsibility to our clients, to enable them to actively participate and embrace our climate change initiatives and to allow them, and future generations, to holiday in a more responsible way."

Ski Beat employees are currently undergoing an Intensive Carbon Literary Course to identify ways in which the organisation and travellers can improve their carbon footprints in the mountains. 10 VISITS in seven different ports will invite 300 agents onboard *Pursuit* and *Journey* to experience the product first-hand.

The ship visit programme kicked off this month in Greenock (July 20th), followed by Liverpool (July 22nd and 23rd), Leith (July 31st), Aberdeen (August 21st), Dublin (August 30th), Belfast (August 31st), and Southampton (September 8th), ahead of *Journey*'s sailing south for a Mediterranean summer season.

Stuart Pearce, head of Trade Sales UK & Ireland, explained: "We have had an incredible response from agents wanting to attend these visits, and are delighted to be welcoming so many onboard this summer."

The cruise line's trade support includes its new trade loyalty platform, regular incentives, and competitions.

www.azamara.com



PATA expands with seven new members

THE PACIFIC Asia Travel Association UK & Ireland has welcomed seven new members: Jumeirah Hotels & Resorts, Hobbiton Tours, Alila Kothaifaru, Cara Hotels & Marketing, Tolani Hotels, Heritance AARAH Maldives, and Vivi Journeys.

Chris Crampton, the association's chairman, welcomed the new members: "This exciting development reflects the continuous growth

and expansion of our organisation, highlighting our commitment to promoting and enhancing travel and tourism in the Pacific Asia region."

The new members will enjoy elevated exposure to PATA's UK agent network base, who can look forward to exclusive benefits, discounts, and the continued event schedule. www.pata.org.uk

Jet2.com and Jet2holidays enjoy busiest weekend ever

OVER 170,000 Customers travelled with Jet2.com and Jet2holidays over the July 22nd/23rd weekend, marking the airline and operator's busiest weekend ever.

More than 800 flights were operated over the weekend to more than 60 destinations in the Mediterranean and Canary Islands.

Steve Heapy, CEO of Jet2.com and Jet2holidays, said: "The start of the summer holidays



marks the beginning of the peak summer season, so this time of year is traditionally always a busy time for us. However, this demand combined with our continued growth means that this year we had a record-breaking weekend."

The summer season has seen 15.5 million seats on sale, a capacity increase of over 7% year-on-year. www.jet2.com / www.jet2holidays.com



Southern service bolsters Balkan

BALKAN HOLIDAYS has confirmed a new service from London Southend Airport for summer 2024.

The specialist tour operator has confirmed the service will take to the skies from June 17th to September 2nd 2024.

Chris Rand, marketing manager, said: "We are thrilled to be offering flights from London Southend Airport for summer 2024, giving people across Essex, London, East Anglia and beyond convenient access to our great value for money and high-quality holidays." www.balkanholidays.co.uk



RwandAir daily service set for the skies

RWANDAIR IS set to launch a direct daily service between London Heathrow and Kigali this winter.

The service will take to the skies from October 29th, 2023.

Yvonne Makolo, RwandAir CEO, said: "London is an incredibly important market for RwandAir, so we are incredibly excited to be adding direct daily flights from our home in Kigali to London Heathrow." www.rwandair.com



more

Europride is nearly upon us with the amazing Christina Aguilera the headline act. This 10-day festival of love and inclusivity will be held across the island and is guaranteed fun for everyone. With most events being free there is never a better time to visit.

The last month has been busy attending Travel Bulletin events in Dorking & Oxford whilst the next 30 days sees me visiting every Barrhead store in the country from the 24th of July onwards so keep an eye out for my purple Peugeot!

For more info contact

Peter Green, peter.green@visitmalta.com

malta-training.com



Advantage boss commemorates National Travel Agents Day

NATIONAL TRAVEL Agents Day kicked off on July 22nd and the Advantage Travel Partnership CEO, Julia Lo Bue-Said, commemorated the hard work travel agents showcased following the pandemic and praises the trade's reliability.

Julia said: "We're really looking forward to seeing the travel industry thrive.

"For potential disruption to have as minimal impact on travellers as possible we always advise booking with a travel agent. Many people across the UK choose to book their flights and accommodation independently, but by doing so, run the risk that if parts of the holiday are cancelled then they have to make alternative plans."

The Partnership has voiced its support for agents in the runup to the fourth-edition of the celebration, following a successful year which saw a growth of 25% in member numbers, and a recent survey which revealed that 96% of members are witnessing the number of new customers' rise.

Looking ahead to 2024, the recent survey also revealed that over recent weeks, around 17% of bookings with Advantage members have been for summer 2024 as consumers seek to get great early deals. www.advantagemembers.com









Intrepid gears up for a big celebration

INTREPID TRAVEL unveiled an enticing roster of exciting discounts, giveaways and events to celebrate its partners for National Travel Agent Day (NTAD).

Joanna Reeve, Intrepid's head of business development, said: "National Travel Agent Day was born during the pandemic to bring the industry together and celebrate all the work our agent partners do.

"While Intrepid founded National Travel Agent Day, it is not 'our' day. We loved seeing trade support and collaboration and businesses celebrating in whatever way they want."

Agents go big at brunch with Visit Malta

A SERIES of exclusive brunch events were held by Visit Malta across the UK to shine a light on the travel agents who make a huge difference to the industry. The brunches served as a tribute to the remarkable contributions made by agents on a daily basis in promoting Malta within the UK & Ireland market.

During the special events, held at the Sofitel Hotel, Gatwick North Terminal; Novotel London West, Hammersmith; Hyatt Place, London City East; and Village

Hotel, Walsall, agents had the chance to win a place on the special Malta Academy, which provides agents with invaluable experiences in-destination, allowing them to deepen their knowledge of the region and enhancing their ability to offer exceptional services to their customers.

Tolene van der Merwe, director for the UK & Ireland at Visit Malta, expressed her gratitude for agents and appreciation for their contributions to the industry: "We wanted to celebrate the incredible talents and unwavering dedication of travel agents in the UK. We recognise the vital role they play in connecting travellers with our enchanting destinations and ensuring unforgettable experiences."



www.visitmalta.com

AGENT INCENTIVES

- A-ROSA RIVER Cruises is offering agents a bolstered incentive of a £24 high street shopping voucher per passenger. The incentive applies to all new 2024 bookings across the cruise line's portfolio made by August 31st, 2023.
 www.arosa-cruises.co.uk
- AGENTS HAVE the chance to win a stay worth £6,000 with Avanti Florida Villas. Any trade partners making bookings with the brand between August and December this year will be entered into a prize draw to win the seven-night stay at the five-bedroom Bear's Den Estate at Reunion Resort, a 12-minute drive from the Walt Disney World Resort parks. The stay is valid for arrival on October 26th, 2024. www.avantifloridavillas.com
- ADVANTAGE HOLIDAYS & Cruise continues to offer agents a bonus incentive of £50 on all new bookings, in celebration of its partnership with SPL Villas, which gives the trade access to a 1,500-strong portfolio of villa accommodation options across 100 destinations in Europe and Florida.

 www.advantageholidaysagents.com
- AMAWATERWAYS IS offering its agents £100 in Love2shop vouchers for every booking made. There's no limit to the number of bookings agents can make to earn the incentive, and it can be used alongside the 'Sell 3, Sail Free' offer that rewards agents with a cruise of their own when they make three bookings by the end of the year. £50 vouchers are included with single occupancy bookings. The incentive is valid on any new 2023 sailing bookings when confirmed by September 30th, 2023. www.amawaterways.com

AGENT BULLETIN



EXSUS TRAVEL recognised leading trade partners at its annual agent awards. Head of trade sales, Mark Harris, revealed that agency sales make up 88% of the operator's business, up 85% from September 2022. Managing director Habib Rehman teased a cruise programme for 2024, shortly followed by a specialist villa offering.

COMPETITION

Win a fam trip place with Inghams Walking, plus 10 runner-up 'Full of Summer' goody bags up for grabs!

Find out more at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/competitions

AGENT TRAINING

- BECOME A Samoa Specialist with the destination's training course. Agents can access an interactive map of the islands, exclusive industry events, and online training. www.specialist.samoa.travel
- THE THAILAND Expert training hub is the trade's one-stop shop for all things Thailand. Agents can access training, competitions, industry offers, and agent resources including online brochures and an image gallery.

 www.thailandexpert.co.uk
- SWITZERLAND TRAVEL Academy comprises four core modules, covering all agents need to know about Switzerland and keeping them in the loop on all the latest events and experiences on offer. Specialised modules cover sectors and travel styles, from family holidays to outdoor activities. Modules take around 40 minutes to complete. www.uk.switzerlandtravelaca demv.ch
- NORWAY EXPERT collates everything agents need to know about selling the Scandinavian destination through an interactive elearning platform, featuring videos, images, and fun facts.
 www.business.visitnorway.c om/en/travel-trade/norwayexpert
- THE SPAIN Specialist programme offers agents a comprehensive look at all things Spain, with up-to-date information keeping agents in prime position to keep selling the ideal Spanish escapes.

 www.spainspecialistprogram e.com/en
- TRAIN YOUR way to a fam trip place with Newmarket Holidays' training platform. Agents can unlock 15% discounts for themselves and a plus-one, earn a Nic Newmarket Achievement Award certificate, and gain key insights to help boost sales.

 www.training.newmarketholidays.co.uk/

Al technology hits the high seas

Al IS setting sail as luxury and expedition cruise specialists Mundy Cruising and Mundy Adventures have predicated what the future of the industry will look like.

Mundy Cruising has reviewed developments within the industry, from the key innovations that are shaping the future, to the pioneering



designs for the next generation of ships. All is predicted to play a pivotal role in these developments, including finding the most efficient design, assisting with passenger services, utilising navigation technology to plot the most fuel-efficient courses, and reducing waste.

Edwina Lonsdale, managing director of Mundy Cruising, said: "There will be a slew of enhancements brought by Al across all aspects of luxury cruising, from ship design and build to efficiencies in itinerary planning and provisioning, to enhanced guest interaction.

"Al in the expedition sector is about the enhancement of the human connection, improving the experience and allowing guests to be delighted by authentic interactions, extraordinary surprises and exceptional destinations that take them out of their comfort zone."

www.mundycruising.co.uk



AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST festival, Vivid Sydney, has broken attendance records with this year's event, boasting a crowd of more than 3.28 million. The thriving festival, which took place from May 26th to June 17th, demonstrated a booming year for Vivid, and building on its recent success, the NSW Government has released its first arts, culture and creative industries policy, 'A New Look at Culture, which aims to grow the arts and culture sector in Greater Sydney and regional NSW.

Join Wendy Wu for a special anniversary cruise

TO CELEBRATE its 25th anniversary, Wendy Wu Tours will host a special edition of its 'Classic Mekong' itinerary, with plenty of VIP experiences including a bonus three-night river cruise with Wendy Wu herself.

A host of authentic experiences are available for guests to take part in, from cooking classes in Hoi An to a dining in the dark experience in a Saigon restaurant.

Excursions exclusive to this 17-day

anniversary tour include a three-night river cruise on the state-of-the-art Victoria Mekong ship with Wendy Wu, cocktails at Bitexco Tower's sky bar, a seaplane flight over the historic Halong Bay, dining with a local Vietnamese family, and much more.

Prices for the 17-day '25 Year Anniversary Class Mekong' tour begin at £4,940 per person for an exclusive departure on October 10th, 2023. www.wendywutours.co.uk

MSC Cruises unveils 25% discount offer

GET AHEAD on next year's summer plans as MSC Cruises has unveiled a special offer for guests to grab a 25% discount on select sailings across northern Europe, the Mediterranean and the Caribbean.

Guests have the chance to embark on some of the cruise line's most popular itineraries, as well as some exciting new options for summer 2024.

Antonio Paradiso, managing director for MSC Cruises UK & Ireland, said: "Whether it's through discounted Fly & Cruise packages or cruise packages that include drinks, this offer allows guests to save additional money and enhance their overall experience."

The promotion is valid until December 5th, 2023.





Hard Rock heads to the Algarve

HARD ROCK International has announced plans to develop a brand new Hard Rock Hotel in Algarve, Portugal. Construction on the new addition is set to begin in early 2024, with the development set to open for summer 2026. www.hardrock.com

WIN A £20 M&S VOUCHER IN THE TOUTHER IN SUDOKU PRIZE PUZZLE

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

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

Closing date for entries is August 10th. Solution and new puzzle will appear in the next issue.

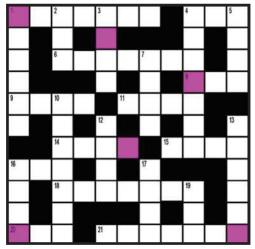
The winner for July 14th is Hilary Reed from Triangle Travel!

June 30th Solution: A=3 B=8 C=4 D=7

Α	2	1					9		5
	7	8				3	4		1
			5	7	2	1		3	
В						8	2		9
			9	2		5	8		
С	8		4	3					
		5		1	4	2	3		
	3		2	5				8	4
D	9		1					6	2



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



Across

- Fred. Olsen's flag ship (7)
- Cairns international airport code (3)
- South American country (7)
- Day of the week, in short (3)
- Tehran is the capital (4)
- Mischievous member of the Simpson cartoon family (4)
- The luxury train that operates between Adelaide and Darwin (4)
- Italian island in the Tyrrhenian Sea (4)
- 16 Airline initially, with HO in Beirut (3)
- 18 US state capital, sounds like an English explorer (7)
- 20 Frozen water (3)
- Windhoek is the capital (7)

Down

- This iconic doll comes to life at a cinema near vou (6)
- Currency of Romania (3)
- Journey involving a number of places (4)
- Ski holiday specialist, part of TUI (7)
- Cruise company, Hellenic (4)
- US state which hosts the annual Sundance Film Festival; (4)
- 10 Poplar coastal area of Portugal (7)
- Operator specialising in escorted holidays by train. Great Journeys (4)
- 13 Riga is the capital (6)
- Hawaiian island (4) 16
- Former name of Thailand (4) 17
- Airline centre of operations (3)

CROSSWORD

BULLETIN BRIEFING



INDUSTRY by...



Martin Johnson, who was confirmed as the new LATA chairman at last month's LATA Expo, on what the association's activities offer agents and pressing issues the travel industry must solve.

WHEN I set up Latin Routes with my business partner nearly 12 years ago, and later that year attended my first LATA event, I could only have dreamt of one day being able to call myself chair of such a fantastic organisation.

Latin America is without doubt the greatest continent on the planet and I've loved travelling there for over 15 years.

Nowhere offers higher mountains, richer culture, friendlier people and more diverse wildlife – all in one holiday.

Last month, we appointed Carmel Hendry, product manager at Explore Worldwide, to serve as vice-chair. Her extensive knowledge and skills will greatly benefit LATA, and I am excited to collaborate with her, the committee, and the management team as we embark on the next exciting stage of LATA's development.

Looking at challenges, one of the biggest our industry has ever seen is now upon us.

Evidence abundantly shows us that responsible and sustainable travel is now a fundamental requirement to ensure a long and prosperous future for travel.

I am absolutely committed to

66

There is an incredible opportunity to inspire UK travellers on how amazing Latin America is...

ensuring LATA is a vital part of that discussion and leads the way for its membership to achieve positive transformation in this area.

We have already rolled out the

LATA Sustainability Network, made up of members who have completed the Strategic Sustainability Training Programme, run in partnership with the Long Run – Preferred by Nature.

The network allows course graduates to meet quarterly to discuss their progress, challenges and provide peer to peer support with their sustainability journey.

I look forward to taking part in these discussions, seeing where the main challenges lie and how we can make positive changes across all travel businesses.

I want to put Latin America on the map as a leading destination for sustainable tourism.

There are opportunities for us to widen our tour operator membership and significantly develop our travel agent membership, capitalising on the great work started with our agent roadshows earlier this year.

There is an incredible opportunity to inspire UK travellers on how amazing Latin America is, and to continue sustainably growing the number of UK travellers to Latin America over the years ahead. Hear more from the world of Latin American travel with this issue's Latin America feature (from page 21).

Newmarket serves an ace with 2024 Wimbledon deals

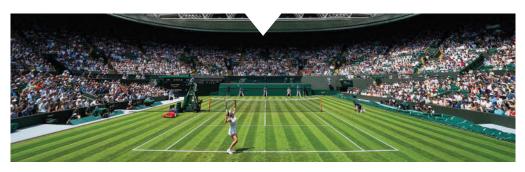
PICK THOSE rackets back up as Newmarket Holidays has launched exclusive Wimbledon packages for 2024.

The escorted tour specialist is offering 10% off its selection of two- and three-night short breaks for bookings made before August 15th, 2023. There are two tour types available; the first including a hotel on the outskirts of London with return transfers to the tournament, and the second including a hotel in Central London.

Richard Forde, Newmarket's head of retail sales, said: "Getting next year's breaks into play so soon after this year's enthralling finals weekend gives agents a wonderful opportunity to attract sports fans who want to experience the energy and excitement at one of the world's most famous sporting occasions."

Tour prices begin at £216 per person including the 10% discount.

www.newmarketholidays.co.uk



American Affair partners with Brand USA

AMERICAN AFFAIR has launched a partnership with Brand USA in order to grow its presence across the market, with a series of joint events and initiatives being planned for the upcoming year.

The first phase of the partnership will see a trade campaign designed to highlight the US' diversity and scope as an ideal holiday destination for any type of traveller, with a specific focus on the benefits of offering multi-state itineraries and journeys. The campaign will feature various agent training opportunities in all things US.

To celebrate the partnership, American Affair is offering a new incentive to its trade partners, allowing agents to earn up to £150 in Love2Shop vouchers for every American Affair booking they make.

Nick Talbot, head of marketing at American Affair, said: "Our collaboration holds immense promise and, with Brand USA's expertise and knowledge, we're confident we can collectively paint a compelling portrait of the USA that will attract more travel agents and their customers."

Live the sea-dream in the Caribbean's most secluded areas

SEADREAM YACHT Club has revealed details of its 2026 Caribbean season, promising to include excursions to some of the region's most secluded destinations.

For travellers wanting to avoid the crowds, the yacht club's two vessels, *SeaDream I* and *SeaDream II*, can reach the most intimate harbours, allowing guests to explore every nook and cranny.

SeaDream's 2026 Caribbean seven- to 11day voyages sail from January to April 2026, perfect to shake away those wintery vibes, and feature 33 unique itineraries visiting 39



destinations nestled in the region, including the British Virgin Islands, the Windward and Leeward Islands, Turks & Caicos and the Bahamas and Barbados. Prices for the cruises do not include flights.

www.seadream.com



Riviera unveils new Douro cruise and ship

RIVIERA TRAVEL has announced a new seven-night Douro river cruise for 2024, which will mark the maiden voyage of the cruise line's latest ship, the MS Porto Mirante.

Now on sale, the 'Highlights of the Douro Valley and Salamanca' will depart roundtrip from Porto and is priced at £2,049 per person including return flights.

The MS Porto Mirante can accommodate 118 guests across 59 cabins, and boasts a sun deck with a splash pool, an onboard fitness centre and an atrium bar. www.rivieratravel.co.uk



EasyJet swaps the northwest for the Nordics

THE AIRLINE is heading to Lapland with its inaugural service to Kittila which will take to the skies in November from Manchester.

Ali Gayward, easyJet's UK country manager, said: "As an entirely new destination in our network, this new connection means we are able to build on our offering from Manchester for those in search of winter breaks."

www.easyjet.com











Jetset Golf Day 2023

With Travelport as headline sponsor, golfers, sponsors and spa-goers all gathered on July 6th at the MacDonald Portal to tee off the annual Jetset Golf Day!

















MIDDLE EAST

WINTER WALKS

Ramblers Walking Holidays bolster Middle East programme with three new tours



RAMBLERS WALKING Holidays has added three new Middle East holidays to its portfolio for winter 2023/24.

The nine-night 'Exploring Egypt and the Nile' experience gives travellers the chance to explore Cairo, Aswan and Luxor with an expert guide, uncovering temples, bazaars, and Nubian culture. It

Jumeirah adds three hotels to portfolio

JUMEIRAH HOTELS and Resorts is opening one new property this year and two in 2024 across the Middle East.

The Jumeirah Makkah opens later this year with 1,033 guestrooms and 88 villas and residences. The hotel will also host five dining venues.

Opening in 2024, Jumeirah Marsa Al Arab will feature 387 hotel rooms, 82 residences, a superyacht marina, five pools, 10 restaurants, nine bars and a spa. Jumeirah The Red Sea launches on the main hub island, Shaura, with the property being an ideal choice for guests seeking eco-friendly experiences.

www.jumeirah.com

also includes a cruise between Luxor and Aswan on a luxury ship and openair felucca sailboats, a meal with a local family to better understand modern Egypt and a trip to Abu Simbel. Prices lead in at £2,825 per person.

Ramblers' nine-night 'Discover Oman' itinerary explores the country's contrasting terrains of white beaches and amber-hued desert dunes with hikes through the villages and wadis of the Jebel Akhdar plateau with the chance to watch the sunset and stargaze from a desert camp in the Wahiba Sands. The experience includes a sunset cruise along the Muscat coastline and the chance to discover the old capital of Nizwa with its winding streets, bustling

souks and ancient forts. Prices start at £3,900 per person.

The 10-night 'Northern Morocco adventure' visits the colourful town of Chefchaouen, the Berber-Roman town of Volubilis, and Tangier for its lively, bohemian ambience. A visit to the Atlas Mountains also features along with a trip to Fes for some haggling in the city's souks. Prices lead in at £1,990.

Talking about the new additions, David Kay, product manager (Middle East), said: "We have added some great new tours to our winter programme. For agents with clients wanting to enjoy a step change in cultural experiences with minimum travelling, the Middle East is the place." www.ramblersholidays.co.uk

The Pearl in the Qatari crown

FOUR SEASONS has started taking bookings for its new hotel at The Pearl, Qatar.

Accommodation options include 161 luxury one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments, each offers expansive living areas complete with fully equipped kitchens, ensuite bathrooms, and outdoor furnished terraces. The resort has a private beach and two outdoor pools, a spa, a gym, an indoor lap pool and 'Kids for All Seasons' mini resort for children. www.fourseasons.com

























Middle East Showcase

WE BROUGHT a taste of the Middle East to the Midlands on July 3rd, teaming up with the Ras Al Khaimah Development Authority, the Israel Government Tourist Office, AlUla, Riviera Travel, Jules Verne, the Jordan Tourism Board and Emaar Hospitality Group for a Middle East

Lucky prize draw winners left with bottles of fizz, vouchers worth up to £100, and goodie bags!







Want to get in on the #TBShowcases action? Our next event will see us head down under for the Australia Takeover, in partnership with Tourism Australia, taking place in Dorking on September 5th. To confirm your place or find out when we will be hosting our next event near you contact events@travelbulletin.co.uk

JULY 28 2023 | travelbulletin.co.uk MIDDLE EAST 15

Sustainable Saudi: two new resorts

RESORT DEVELOPER Red Sea Global has announced plans to open two new destinations in Saudi Arabia that are centred on sustainability, from the exclusive use of electric vehicles in-destination to the focus on environmental protection and the upskilling of local communities.

Located along Saudi Arabia's west coast, The Red Sea is launching this year with three hotels in 2023: Six Senses Southern Dunes The Red Sea, St. Regis Red Sea Resort and Nujuma A Ritz-Carlton Reserve. The destination covers 28,000 km² and includes a vast archipelago of more than 90 islands. The destination also features desert dunes, mountain canyons, dormant volcanoes and ancient cultural and heritage sites. It is designed to include hotels, residential properties, leisure, commercial and entertainment amenities, as well as supporting infrastructure that emphasises renewable energy and water conservation

and re-use, as well as a circular waste management system to achieve zero waste to landfill.

Amaala, which will open next year, will be an integrated family wellness destination and the first global integrated family wellness destination. Two of its signature attractions will be the Red Sea marine life institute, an educational and scientific research centre, and the Triple Bay Marina Yacht Club, which is set to become an international hub for luxury yachting. www.redseaglobal.com





Ras Al Khaimah to host Minifootball World Cup '23

RAS AL Khaimah is looking to establish a reputation for putting on global sports events by hosting the region's first Minifootball World Cup – a major international competition held every two years – which will bring 32 national teams and their fans to the emirate in November.

Taking place from October 26th to

November 4th, the Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority believes that the tournament will be a great showcase as spectators will be able to explore the region and take part in activities including hiking, rock climbing, kayaking, experiencing the world's longest zipline and enjoying the 64km of coastline. www.visitrasalkhaimah.com



Cruise tours expert adds promotions

CRUISE EXCURSIONS provider
Venture Ashore has introduced
new group shore excursions and
promotions in the Middle East.
The latest promotion to be added
is a free space for group leaders
on groups of 20 or more.

Venture Ashore's group
departments and group
specialists create
commissionable custom
excursions with flexible payment
options and back-to-ship
guarantee with a number of
tours in Dubai, Israel and Oman.
www.ventureashore.com



Premier bolsters Middle East focus

PREMIER Holidays has launched its new 'Faraway' brochure incorporating beach product to include destinations in the Middle East.

The operator has also added a new 'Beyond' section highlighting the vast selection of stopover combinations in Dubai. Copies of the brochure are being distributed to agents.

www.premierholidays.co.uk



Contact our dedicated, friendly Sales Team today!



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SINGLE TRAVELLERS

ME-TIME IN MEXICO

The Grand Velas Riviera Maya has launched a dedicated solo travel package for guests wanting a dose of luxurious me-time.



BASK IN the peaceful serenity that comes with travelling alone while lapping up the luxury at Grand Velas Riveria Maya with the resort's new package designed specifically for solo travellers to enjoy a touch of luxury during their alone time.

Guests can indulge in premium spa treatments, bike tours, gastronomic

Spoilt for choice with Solos Holidays

FROM ADVENTURE seekers to beach dwellers to golf enthusiasts, everyone can find a holiday that suits them with Solos Holidays' 'Solos Exclusives'.

Travellers holidaying alone can find their dream destination with a tailored itinerary no matter their interests. New to 2023, the 'Solos Exclusive Turkey' package offers accommodation purely for single travellers so guests can seek solitude in the sunshine. The package can either be seven or 14 nights, with prices beginning at £1,259 per person.

Solos Holidays also provides packages for city breaks, skiing holidays, winter sun destinations, and more.

www.solosholidays.co.uk

tasting sessions, and a full activity programme that lets travellers experience the very best of what Riviera Maya has to offer. Onsite, guests can partake in a number of activities, from Mexican ancestral spirit tastings, pilates and yoga classes, and tours and tastings at the resort's new Melionario bee sanctuary, to biking and indulgent spa treatments that are only found within the resort.

Offsite, the package offers a day trip to visit Riviera Maya's various cenotes, and guests have the opportunity to swim with sea turtles and join an exclusive beach club.

The trip starts with a visit to the region's Mayan cenotes where travellers can explore the cerulean waters of the

underground cavern, before taking to the Alumal nature reserve to swim with turtles. Later on, the exclusive Punta Venado Beach Club hideaway offers an ideal spot to unwind, where they can savour authentic Mexican food while connecting with other solo travellers.

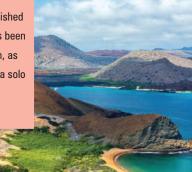
The service doesn't stop there, as on the first night guests will be treated to a cheese plate in their suites; chocolate covered strawberries on the second night; and a full Mexican candy basket on the third.

The starting rate for the minimum-three-night 'Solo Travel Getaway' is £1,005 per person per night, including luxury accommodation, gourmet meals, premium wine and fitness centre services.

Riviera adds solo versions of popular tours

RIVIERA TRAVEL has added a selection of new tours to its established Solo Tour collection. The 16-day 'Ecuador and the Galapagos' has been made available for solo travellers starting from £5,999 per person, as well as the eight-day 'Helsinki, Tallinn & Riga' tour now boasting a solo version. Prices for that tour begin at £1,599 per person.

www.rivieratravel.co.uk



Solo stateside: ideal independent destinations across the pond

A HOST of states and cities across America are ready to welcome solo guests with open arms.

Nicknamed the 'Emerald City' for its vast natural surroundings, Seattle invites solo travellers to lose themselves in the cycleways of the North Cascade National Park or waters of Alki Beach. Culture awaits in the city itself, from the Museum of Pop Culture to Chihuly Garden and Glass. British Airways offers a flight and accommodation package from £1,370 per person. www.visitseattle.org / www.britishairways.com

Colorado is a destination primed for self-discovery, with American Sky collating an escorted tour ticking off the Mesa Verde National Park, a host of landscapes from hot springs to mountains, and the capital, Denver. The nine-night 'Welcome to Colorado' trip starts from £2,889 per person with flights. www.colorado.com / www.americansky.co.uk

Pittsburgh is primed for solo guests, too: home to the world's largest museum dedicated to one artist (the Andy Warhol



Museum), architectural masterpieces (notably Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater), and a host of history, best explored via the Heinz History Centre. British Airways offers flight and hotel packages from £1,420 per person.

www.visitpittsburgh.com / www.britishairways.com



For more information and to book:

Call: **01283 744370**

Visit: rivieratravel.co.uk/agents







Newmarket celebrates traveller independence with solo collection

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS' recentlylaunched 'Solo Traveller Collection' gives independent explorers more choice when it comes to picking that tour of a lifetime.

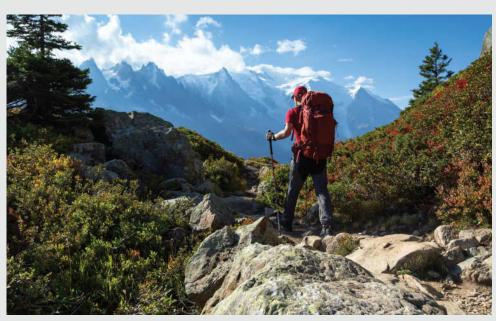
The bespoke programme houses five exclusive itineraries that promise to offer travellers going it alone a world-class experience in the hottest wish-list destinations. The five tours are tailored for like-minded travellers, and span across farreaching destinations and close-to-home hotspots.

The Collection is made up of the five-day 'Highlights of the Scottish Highlands', the eight-day 'A Snapshot of Western Sicily', the nine-day 'Delights of Croatia', the 13-day 'India's Golden Triangle, Tigers and Amritsar's Golden Temple', and finally the 10-day 'Kenyan Wildlife & Coastal Explorer'. Departure dates for the tours range from February 2024 to November 2025.

Verity Rice, Newmarket's director of product, said: "With five tours that are exclusively for solos, and lots more options for those wanting to join our classic tours without paying an additional supplement, our Solo Collection features getaways that go beyond the guidebooks, and offer the company and community of like-minded travellers."

In addition to the Solo Traveller
Collection, Newmarket has 20 classic
itineraries with no single supplement on
selected dates throughout the year.
www.newmarketholidays.co.uk





Lose yourself in the 'Wild & Unusual'

IN THE Chartreuse region of Isère, hikers can expect a timeless journey through France's countryside lineage. The 'Escaping into the Wild & Unusual' tour by Alpette takes travellers through the unique landscapes of the region, with visits to the Grande Chartreuse Museum and the Echelles caves.

The hike is accessible to all, whether travelling solo or making it a family affair. Prices for the seven-day journey begin at £735 per person, including accommodation and the services of a qualified Alpette tour guide. www.alpette.com



Safari: solo style

SOLO TRAVELLERS can find a balance between solitude and socialisation with Sky Safari's immersive itineraries through the great wilderness. With luxurious safari experiences available through Kenya, Tanzania and East Africa, travellers can take their journey into their own hands and cherish moments alone admiring the vast plains, or come together with like-minded visitors and share stories. Sky Safari has also waived single supplements.

www.skysafari.com



Just Go on a solo adventure

JUST GO! Holidays offers a bespoke collection of breaks for independent travellers, bringing together the most popular destinations and experiences so everybody can enjoy them.

The 'Going Solo' collection offers a wide range of diverse coach and self-drive breaks at a selection of price points so that travellers can find their perfect solo adventure.

www.justgoholidays.com



Go beyond Kenya's **Great Migration**

EXPERIENCE THE ultimate Kenyan wildlife adventure as the Fairmont Collection unveils the once-in-alifetime three-stop safari, 'Beyond the Great Migration'. Tailored for families, solo female travellers, and honeymooners, each moment of the safari will provide a sense of privacy and luxury while guests witness the largest landmigration on Earth across the Mara River. The three-stop trip includes stays at Fairmont The Norfolk, Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club, and Fairmont Mara Safari Club. www.fairmont.com



Jules Verne's singleton surge

RIVER CRUISING is riding a wave of popularity with solo travellers and small groups due to the limited size vessels offering a more intimate experience.

To meet the rising demands, Jules Verne offers a river cruise to satisfy the needs of any guest, with 30 itineraries across 12 countries. Due to the popularity with solo travellers, Jules Verne have removed their single supplements wherever possible. www.vjv.com

Independence in Italy with AG Boutique Journey

THERE ARE bountiful opportunities to explore the medieval cities and culinary wonders of Italy as AG Boutique Journey provides a full roster of individual trips perfect for single travellers.

Travellers are urged to discover the beauty of Italy beyond the tourist destinations. There is the chance to stay in the 1,000-yearold Brandolini Castle which stands upon the enchanting hills of the Prosecco region or explore the peculiar buildings in the World Heritage Site of Matera.

For those wanting to experience more of the 'traditional' Italian holiday, AG Boutique Journey offers a private tour of Tuscany, visiting the sprawling vineyards and charming cities; a flash tour of the Venetian highlights that are renowned all over the world, as well as a few surprises along the way; and the chance to wander the iconic streets of Florence and learn to cook like a local.



For those single travellers who want to go at their own pace, the 'Sicily Self Drive' package offers all the archaeological wonders and traditional cuisine to be enjoy at leisure. Prices for the packages are available upon request.

www.agboutiquejourney.it

Contiki goes K-razy with new tour

THE SOCIAL travel brand for 18-35-yearolds has introduced the first-ever youth-focussed trip to South Korea.

Whether travelling with friends or alone, the nine-day trip offers the best of K-Wave culture blended with the traditional tourist

A full roster of excursions await, including a trip to Gangnam, a visit to the Korean Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) where (on a clear day) the border into North Korea is visible,



and a trip to Busan where guests can watch a baseball game and star in their very own K-pop music video.

Taryn Welsh, operations director, Asia at Contiki, said: "(South Korea is) now one of the most sought-after travel destinations among 18-35s globally, thanks in no small part to movies and TV shows such as Parasite and Squid Game, plus the rising popularity of K-pop and K-beauty.

"We're delighted to be launching this trip. It does a great job of showcasing both the modern and traditional aspects of this diverse and wonderful country."

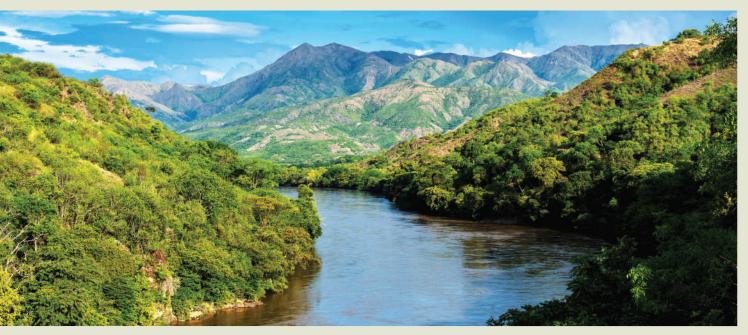
Popular with students and solo travellers, this tour provides an insightful look into the K-Wave phenomenon that is sweeping the globe. Prices for the nine-day 'South Korean Soul' trip start at £1,940 per person, with a departure date on March 22nd, 2024. Flights are not included.

www.contiki.com

LATIN AMERICA

COLOMBIA CRUISING FIRST

AmaWaterways becomes the first river cruise line to offer voyages in Colombia.



AMAWATERWAYS IS poised to become the first major river cruise line to explore the Magdalena River in Colombia with the launch of two new custom-built ships, *AmaMagdalena* and *AmaMelodia* that will set sail in the region next year.

The 60-guest *AmaMagdalena* is launching on March 30th, 2024, and the

Grand Palladium Riviera Maya to reopen this year

GRAND PALLADIUM Kantenah Resort and Spa in Mexico's Riviera Maya is reopening this summer, and will be introducing the Family Selection as part of a \$40 million renovation project.

The Family Selection is a premium accommodation concept designed with families in mind, offering exclusive amenities for children and 'Family Hosts' on hand for personalised services such as setting up themed nights in-room or delivering cookies and milk for movie nights. The Family Selection area of the hotel has easy beach access and its own private swimming pool with pool bar and an exclusive restaurant and VIP games area. www.palladiumhotelgroup.com

64-guest *AmaMelodia* will begin voyages on June 19th, 2024. Guests will have the choice of two seven-night itineraries: 'Magic of Colombia' and 'Wonders of Colombia', sailing between Cartagena and Barranquilla.

Highlights include experiencing a
Carnival celebration in Barranquilla
featuring vibrant live performances
reserved exclusively for AmaWaterways
guests; exploring the country's cities
through historical walking tours in
destinations including Mompox, a
UNESCO Site preserved in colonial
charm; birdwatching tours; a visit to
Palenque, historically named the first 'free
city' in the Americas; riding an authentic

paola through the town of Calamar; and experiencing the Magdalena basin.

Pre-cruise land packages include stays in Medellín and Cartagena, with post-cruise land packages taking place in Panama City. Rudi Schreiner, cofounder and president of AmaWaterways said: "After visiting and falling in love with this region, we are so excited to now offer our guests the opportunity to discover Colombia's vibrant culture, unique traditions and natural beauty."

Prices for seven-night cruises start at £2,864 per person based on double occupancy.

www.amawaterways.co.uk

Hurtigruten adds new expedition cruises

HURTIGRUTEN EXPEDITIONS is introducing a series of immersive expedition cruises, combining the Patagonian fjords of South America with Antarctica. At the centre of the new adventure is the 17-day 'Antarctica, Patagonia, and Chilean Fjords' expedition, setting sail from Punta Arenas, Chile. In addition, the small and purpose-built expedition ship *MS Maud* will embark on epic 23 and 24-day voyages from Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Antarctica and to Punta Arenas. www.hurtigruten.com



JOURNEY LATIN America has relaunched its Peru family holiday tour to mark the much-anticipated film 'Paddington in Peru' which began shooting this month.

Journey Latin America's 14-day 'From Paddington to Peru' family holiday offers an opportunity to meet and learn about the endangered spectacled bears in their own environment.

The package features a visit to a bear sanctuary near Machu Picchu and another in the north of the country called Chaparri Reserve, a conservation area in Peru's dry forest biome.

The experience also visits pre-Inca burial sites and offers active adventures in Peru's Sacred Valley

including hiking, biking and whitewater rafting.

The holiday costs from £3,280 per person and includes hotels on a B&B basis, transfers, excursions and domestic flights. International flights are extra and start at £866 per

www.journeylatinamerica.com





Mexico expansion on the cards for Marriott

ALL-INCLUSIVE BY Marriott Bonvoy has unveiled plans to open three allinclusive luxury resorts in Mexico.

The three properties include Almare, a Luxury Collection All-Inclusive Resort, Isla Mujeres opening in 2024; JW Marriott All-Inclusive Costa Mujeres opening in 2026; and W All-Inclusive Costa Mujeres opening in 2026.

Marriott also recently announced Cancun's iconic Marriott Resort is to reopen as an all-inclusive in early 2024. The award-winning hotel, now renamed Marriott Cancun, An All-Inclusive Resort, has been Marriott International's legacy property in the Yucatan Peninsula for several decades. www.all-inclusive.marriott.com

If you had a time machine, when/where would you go

Jeanette Ratcliffe **Publisher**

jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk Birth of my son... I'd ask for an epidural earlier!



Simon Eddolls **Sales Director**

simon.eddolls@travelbulletin.co.uk



Sarah Terry Senior Account Manager sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk Use it to go to Australia quickly.



Tim Podger Account Manager - Far East tim.podger@travelbulletin.co.uk 1966 Wembley with Bridget Bardot.



Matthew Hayhoe Acting Editor matthew.rhayhoe@travelbulletin.co.uk Laurel Canyon in the 1970s.



Melissa Paddock **Events Coordinator** melissa.paddock@travelbulletin.co.uk New York in the 1950s.



Holly Brown Events Coordinator holly.brown@travelbulletin.co.uk To see dinosaurs.



Leah Kelly Acting Deputy Editor leah.kelly@travelbulletin.co.uk The Regency period for those Pride and Prejudice vibes.



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THE AUSTRALIA TAKEOVER

TUESDAY, **5TH SEPTEMBER** DENBIES WINE ESTATE, DORKING

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to The Australia Takeover Showcase. A fun filled evening dedicated to providing you with more information about Australia and their diverse range of destinations and tailor-made packages on offer to meet your customers' needs. Look forward to engaging presentations, professional networking, amazing entertainment and being in with the chance of winning some incredible prizes!

THIS EVENT IS BY INVITATION ONLY and will be booked on a first-come, first-served basis with limited space available.

Timings

Registration 6:00^{PM} Travel Bulletin Welcome

Client Presentation

Hot Dinner

Product Quiz & Free Prize Draw

7:30PM

9:15PM - 9:30PM





6:25PM



6:30PM















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