

Soing Places From serene azure waters to vibrant coastal cityscapes, every exclusively adult voyage includes dining at 20+ eateries, entertainment, group fitness classes, all tips, WiFi, and essential drinks. When you book by 28 February, second Sailors get 55% off and up to \$600 in free drinks on all 2023 voyages — all while earning a compelling commission of 16% on voyages fares, no NCFs, and 10% commission on pre-voyage bookables like airfare, hotel, Shore Things, and more. OFFER ENDS 28 FEBRUARY FOR PACKAGES VISIT WWW.TRADE-VOYAGESTORE.COM

FOR CURRENT OFFERS VISIT WWW.FIRSTMATES.COM





Cruise Critic: Winner of 2022 Editors' Picks Awards - Best Dining



Cruise Critic: Winner of 2022 Editors' Picks Awards - Best Nightlife





AGENT BULLETIN

Earn fam trip places with dedicated training courses and cash in on last-minute February incentives.



PUZZLE BULLETIN

Sudoku your way to a £20 M&S voucher.



ESCORTED TOURING

Guide your clients through bucketlist destinations with a choice of escorted adventures.



UK & IRELAND

Close-to-home city, coach and rail breaks.

FEBRUARY FEVER

ABTA research suggested 15% of those travelling abroad in 2023 made the most of the February half-term.

RESEARCH CONDUCTED by ABTA earlier this month suggested families made the most of lifted restrictions and a wider choice of accessible destinations this half-term.

Of all travellers surveyed who expected to travel abroad this year, 15% suggested they would be heading abroad during the recent half-term holiday period.

Popular half-term winter sun destinations were the Canary Islands, mainland Spain, Portugal and Malta for those in search of short-haul sun. Further afield, Dubai, Florida, Mexico and the Caribbean topped the long-haul list. Ski resorts in France, Italy and Switzerland anticipated busy seasons as families returned to the slopes.

ABTA's findings suggest a wider demand for overseas travel, notably after agents and operators reported record-breaking sales during January's peaks campaign.

Notable changes in booking behaviours since the pandemic include more thought being given to where and how travellers book their holidays, with 75% saying booking with a well-known name in the travel industry will be an important part of the booking process, up from 62% in 2019.

The research proved the importance of, and demand for, travel agents, with consumers 36% more likely to book with a travel professional now than before the pandemic. The security of package holidays (45%), up-to-date-advice (38%) and value for money (31%) proved the most important factors for doing so.

Mark Tanzer, ABTA chief executive, said: "There is, of course, a strong focus on getting good value for money, which is one of the reasons why people are turning to trusted travel agents and tour operators to plan their trips. People are realising that, as well as being able to give them the latest advice and expert help if something goes wrong, they're also highly skilled at finding the best holiday for their budget."

www.abta.com/travelwithconfidence

Poulletin

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Showcase Calendar

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









A robust recovery for Antigua and Barbuda

THE TWIN-ISLAND destination of Antigua and Barbuda is experiencing a surge within its tourism sector, following increases in stayover arrivals.

Colin James, chief executive officer, Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, reported that the tourism sector has recovered 88% of its pre-pandemic business in 2022, and the hospitality sector in particular was thriving.

"Our hotels are showing record occupancy levels as well as record ADRs (Average Daily Rates) and so that has been very good for the industry."

The next step for the tourism authority is to commit to a full restoration of its regional and European flights roster, as well as the development of events to attract interest.





CROSSROADS Maldives achieves GGC status

THE INDIAN Ocean's multi-island integrated destination, CROSSROADS Maldives, was awarded the international renowned Green Globe Certification (GGC), reinforcing its committment to sustainability.

CROSSROADS Maldives has adopted best environmental

practices in accordance with the Green Globe standards, and the Certification shows the successful integration of sustainable, socially-responsible and environmentally-friendly processes throughout the resort's daily operations.

www.crossroadsmaldives.com

New travel agency goes Above and Beyond for luxury cruises

A BRAND new luxury travel agency has launched in the UK, specialising on exclusive tailor-made cruise offerings.

Set up by cruise.co.uk, Above and Beyond Luxury Cruises will offer customers ultra-luxury holidays with a dedicated concierge service which promises to offer 'ultimate connectivity' to its clients. Customers will be able to call, text, email, video call and have a home visit from their concierge team both during and after the booking process.

Bespoke services are also on offer to help with individual holiday arrangements, such as pet care, a 'welcome home' essentials shop and a gift service for anyone missing a special occasion. www.aboveandbeyondluxury.cruises

The Sarojin welcomes love all year round

LOVE IS firmly in the air at The Sarojin as the Thailand boutique residence has made its 'Sarojin Cares Valentine's Package' available all-year-round.

Included in the package is a 'Just for Two' dining experience either under the stars on the Sarojin's picturesque beach, at a jungle waterfall or on a private island. There is also an option for couples to enjoy the sunrise Spiritual Blessing of Love ceremony at a local Thai temple.

Prices for the Valentine's package start at £1,161 for a five-night stay in the Garden

Residence, including airport transfers, food and drink services, and all activities.

The year-long package is ideal for couples wishing to celebrate their love with a romantic getaway but want to avoid the peak Valentine's travelling period.

www.sarojin.com



Forbes awards five stars in the Maldives

THE RITZ-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands has been awarded a coveted Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star award during the resort's first full year of operation, and joins other honourees on the ForbesTravelGuide.com website – the only global rating system for luxury hotels, restaurants, spas and ocean cruises.

"We are incredibly honoured to receive this prestigious and world-renowned accolade and are proud to be recognised as a Forbes Five Star Hotel," said Renato De Oliveira, general manager.

www.ritzcarlton.com





ICELANDIC LOW-COST airline PLAY has introduced a 'value bundles' feature which can save customers up to 40% off the total cost of their journey.



ETIHAD AIRWAYS is expanding its European network this summer by introducing a direct service between Abu Dhabi and Lisbon, as well as returning to the popular summer hotspots Málaga and Mykonos.



PATA presents Patterns report

THE PACIFIC Asia Travel Association (PATA) UK & Ireland has unveiled its PATA Patterns report, a roundup of the latest trends predicted to shape the travel industry in the region for 2023 and beyond.

The report provides an insight into what is predicted to be popular, therefore enlightening agents on what and where to sell. Based on a variety of stakeholder feedback, the most likely trends to shape 2023 travel are Explore More, Keeping it Real, Therapy Travel, Bougie Breaks, Linger Longer, Into the Wild and Agent Authority.

Travel agents can view the report at www.pata.org.uk

Vivid Sydney prepares to dazzle this May

THE COUNTDOWN to New South Wales festival Vivid Sydney is on as it prepares for the Lights On opening ceremony on May 26, 2023.

Celebrating creativity, innovation and technology with the theme 'Vivid Sydney, Naturally', Australia's largest festival is ready for 23 days and nights across four pillars – Vivid



Light, Vivid Music, Vivid Ideas and Vivid Food. www.vividsydney.com



Railbookers adds Italian itineraries as demand soars

AS DEMAND for holidays to Italy doubles, Railbookers has responded with new brochures and itineraries to give travellers the opportunity to cross off items on their Italian bucket list.

Whether visitors wish to experience luxury on the iconic Venice Simplon-Orient-Express or enjoy wine tasting in Tuscany, Railbookers is has added 30 new itineraries to meet growing customer demand.

www.railbookers.co.uk



SANDRA MURRAY

NORMANTON, YORKSHIRE

WHO THINKS it's been a weird month in travel? Flybe, after being rescued in 2020, has now lost again and is being wound down. Jet2 came top in budget airlines according to a recent survey; they're based in Leeds, so that's a win for Yorkshire!

Talking to agents, it sounds like customers are looking for a real selection of holidays; they aren't all wanting to go abroad. There is a lot of interest for the UK from beach, chalet and lodge holidays. Newmarket and Shearings do some nice UK breaks and it's not just the elderly that are staying in the UK! I think it's a kickback from the Covid-19 nightmare but at least they are exploring somewhere different.

Escorted touring is becoming more popular as well because of all the hassle experienced with airports during Covid-19. There is a good variety in touring companies like Newmarket, G Adventures, Intrepid Travel, Explore, Collette, Tauck and Trafalgar to name a few.

Also, I'm told people are wanting to splash out and visit lovely places in the Indian Ocean like Maldives, Seychelles, Mauritius and Sri Lanka (I would love to go back to Sri Lanka!). Have you noticed also there are quite a few travel people in new jobs which is great for them after having been laid off?! New opportunities for them, fantastic!

Just to remind you the Yorkshire Travel Ball is on Thursday July 20 at the Village Hotel (Junc. 28 M62). Do let me know if you are interested in having tickets/tables etc. at s.murray922@btinternet.com. I know a lot of you follow me and my cats on Facebook, but I'm sorry to say my lovely Garfield had to be put to sleep. He was a good age (18!), but Tiger, my one eyed cat from Crete, wonders where he is!



All aboard as MSC opens sales for its 2025 World Cruise

MSC MAGNIFICA will take to the seas in January 2025 for an entirely new itinerary.

Sailing from four European ports (Civitavecchia/Rome on January 4, Genoa on January 5, Marseille on January 6, and Barcelona on January 7), the 116-night voyage takes in 50 destinations across the world.

World Cruise bookings include a dine-and-drink package, 15 shore excursions, a 30% discount on laundry and 5% discounts for MSC Voyager Club members.

www.msccruises.co.uk

News Bites

- EXPLORA JOURNEYS has partnered with Pelorus to offer experience-fuelled voyages across Scotland and Iceland this September.
- OCANT HOTELS is looking ahead to a packed Portugese festival season, immersing guests in the lives of locals.
- TOURSBYLOCALS HAS unveiled new destinations as travel restrictions continue to ease worldwide.



MICHELLE ROBERTS, business development manager for the Israel Government Tourism Office, accompanied a group of UK agents to the International Mediterranean Tourism Market (IMTM) in Tel Aviv, Israel, giving them a first-hand introduction to the destination. IMTM hosted a number of new additions to its profile, including Azerbaijan, Morocco and Turkey for its 29th iteration in 2023.

- TIME IS running out on Wendy Wu's 'Fabulous February Fortnight', with savings of up to £1,650 per person available and 'Partner Flies Free' or 'Solo Traveller Savings' available. All tours are fully bookable online, and include rewards via Wendy Wu Advocates, the agent reward programme. Partners can make their way up the leaderboard to become Bronze, Silver or Gold agents every time they book, which guarantee enhanced cash incentives, VIP fam trip places, and an annual team events. www.wendywutours.co.uk /agents/login.htm
- THE FINAL week of Corsican Places' February giveaway offers up a driving experience for one lucky agent who makes a booking in the final week of February. The more bookings agents make, the more likely they are to

www.serenityholidays.com

 CANADIAN AFFAIR and American Affair's Love2shop incentive continues until the end of the month, with £25 vouchers included on bookings between £2,500 and £4,999, £50 vouchers on those between £5,000 and £9,999, and £125 on bookings over £10,000. The incentive boost applies to all bookings made by February 28, 2023 for travel before October 31, 2023. Eight fam trip places to Toronto and Niagara are available, with every Canadian Affair booking entered into a random draw. Winners will be announced via the dedicated agent Facebook page.

www.canadianaffair.com / www.americanaffair.com





BEVERLY'S BARRHEAD Travel team were surprised by one of Sandals Resorts' business development managers, David Castle, to celebrate Valentine's Day with the romantic luxury brand. Branch manager Julie Nolan (left), and consultants Beverly Hudson (middle) and Louise Walker (right) felt the love with Sandalsinspired treats.



Win a two-night stay for two at the four-star La Bisaccia in Sardinia plus a £100 Love2shop voucher!

Find out more at

www.travelbulletin.co.uk/competitions

AGENT TRAINING

- FOLLOWING THE success of 2022's Malta Academy, Visit Malta has announced dates for 2023's fam trip, with 55 agents from the UK heading to the island haven. From April 21-24, 2023, agent partners will sample experiences from Malta and Gozo covering key selling points including gastronomy, adventure, history and luxury while staying at the Hilton Malta. To be considered for a spot on the trip, agents must complete a series of courses on the Malta Training Programme. Tolene van der Merwe, Visit Malta's director for the UK & Ireland, said: "Travel agents are hugely important to us and supporting them in understanding what Malta has to offer... is a real joy." Keep up to date with the latest trade information at www.facebook.com/VisitMalt aTrade and register and complete courses for a chance to win a place on the fam trip at www.maltatraining.com
- CUNARD IS doubling its fam trip programme for 2023, with 160 spots for agents to step aboard Queens. Register for places at www.shinerewardsclub.com
- STAR CLIPPERS has set up a dedicated WhatsApp channel solely for the trade, showcasing weekly offers, news, updates, information, and competitions. Administrators include Nicola Cox, regional sales manager for the South, and Alison Jared, regional sales manager for the North. Head to the cruise line's dedicated agent portal to join https://agents.starclippers.co .uk/homepage.html
- SERENITY HOLIDAYS has released new training videos for agents, offering inspiration and insight into the brand's destinations and offerings. Four bitesize videos compile staff sharing recent experiences, exciting opportunities and reasons to visit. The videos can be accessed at the dedicated agent portal: www.serenity.co.uk/trade/tra



















Luxury Holidays

Travel Bulletin brought a taste of luxury to Reading and Southampton, along with headline sponsor Virgin Voyages and Cook Islands, Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority, Expedia TAAP, Thanos Hotels Management, Minos Hotel, Oceania Cruises, Tourism Seychelles, Finolhu Maldives, Destination Canada, Heritance Aarah, Eagles Palace, Scenic Tours, Aldemar Resorts, JetBlue Airways, Discover Tunisia, the Israel Government Tourism Office, and the Croatian National Tourist Board. After a number of speed networking sessions, lucky Prize Bingo winners left with complimentary stays, destinationinspired goodie bags and gifts, champagne bottles, and gift vouchers.



















Expedia TAAP









Want to get in on the #TBShowcases action? Our next event will be the Ajman Tourism Roadshow taking place in Manchester on March 1 and London on March 2. To confirm your place or find out when we will be hosting our next event near you contact events@travelbulletin.co.uk

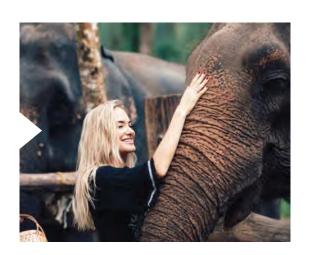
Devasom summer offer for tour operators and travel agents

TRAVEL AGENTS and tour operators can book Devasom Resort Khao Lak from now to April 30, 2023 for stays between April 23 to October 31, 2023.

Included is a peaceful bamboo rafting journey through a lush tropical rainforest, guided by a local paddler. The programme includes roundtrip transfer to/from rafting point.

Also included is the elephant bathing programme where visitors can interact with gentle giants at an ethical elephant sanctuary while supporting eco-tourism.

www.devasom.com



UTC urges travellers to look 'further afield' as popular seasons sell out

THE UNFORGETTABLE Travel Company (UTC) has confirmed its Japanese 'Cherry Blossom' tours, in March and April 2023, have now sold out. The luxury private tour specialist has also said its 'Autumn Colour Months', in October and November this year, may also sell out shortly.

Both seasons are UTC's most popular booking periods for its tailor-made Japanese tours: 63% of its 'Land of the Rising Sun'

enquiries cover these four months alone. UTC has availability outside of these times, and has recommended travellers consider other itinerary options when planning their visit.

Similarly, Tokyo and Kyoto are by far the most popular destinations, with 97% of UTC customers looking to visit one or both cities during their stays.

www.unforgettabletravel.com



Visit Lauderdale meets with key agent partners

VISIT LAUDERDALE brought its first post-pandemic trade mission to the UK in February. The visit came ahead of Norse Atlantic Airways announcing a new service from Gatwick to Fort Lauderdale. Head to *Travel Bulletin's* website to hear from Tracy Vaughan, VP of global trade development.

www.visitlauderdale.com

Jet2holidays thanks trade at key milestone

AS ATOL data revealed that
Jet2holidays is the UK's largest
tour operator with a licence for
5,859,600 passengers, Steve
Heapy, CEO, sang praise to the
trade: "The loyalty of
independent travel agency
partners has been absolutely
integral to our growth and
success... I would like to say a
heartfelt thank you."

Manchester Airport braces for busy February

MANCHESTER AIRPORT enjoyed a bumper fortnight over February half-term, as families escape in search of some final winter sun.

More than 200,000 passengers were expected to fly from the Northern hub during the period, with a further 275,000 or so expected the week after, as schools in most of Greater Manchester and Cheshire closed.

Explora Journeys announces northern European experiences

EXPLORA JOURNEYS has announced details of its inaugural set of destination experiences for Explora I.

These experiences will offer guests the opportunity to discover breath-taking nature, authentic cultures, and culinary delights. Experiences comprise small and intimate groups from 2-25.

The happenings of Hong Kong

AFTER SEVERAL years of restrictions, Hong Kong is once again accessible to all international travellers. In anticipation of tourists' return, the nation has unveiled a packed schedule of events and attractions awaiting with their doors wide open.

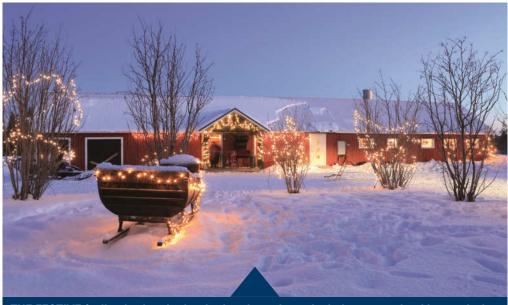


For beachgoers, Treasure Island Hong Kong offers a wide-array of kid-friendly activities at the beach hotspot on Lantua Island. The company offers lessons in kayaking, sailing and paddleboarding, as well as hosting teaching camps throughout the school holidays for children to learn more about the exciting opportunities that lay outdoors.

For the history buffs, Hong Kong Museum of History allows visitors to step back in time and take a trip through the city's past, with hands-on exhibits and special events.

One of the most popular sporting events in Asia, Hong Kong Sevens, is set to return March 31 - April 2, 2023, attracting some of the world's greatest rugby players and thousands of fans across the globe, all ready to soak up the atmosphere and enjoy the fancy dress.

www.discoverhongkong.com



THE FESTIVE feeling is already ricocheting throughout the industry as a booking analysis study conducted by Newmarket Holidays has revealed that flights to visit Santa in Lapland are already reaching capacity. The operator says that concerns over price rises and early booking discounts available until the end of February are playing a large role in the booking surge.

Fiji removes all border restrictions

THE FIJIAN government has announced that international travellers will no longer be required to provide proof of vaccination against Covid-19.

The decision comes after careful analysis by the Covid-19 Risk Mitigation Taskforce (CRMT) of the global and national situation regarding the endemic, and has deemed it fit to remove the last set of entry requirements effective on February 14.

Tourism Fiji chief executive officer, Brent Hill, said: "The industry welcomes the decision to remove all protocols, restrictions, vaccination requirements and Covid-19 tests, and invites the world to come and experience Fiji: where happiness comes naturally."

Fiji's border authorities will continue to review border health measures and maintain community surveillance while fostering socioeconomic recovery.

American restarts three daily Dublin departures

AMERICAN AIRLINES has announced it will restart three of its most popular transatlantic routes departing from Dublin this spring, meaning daily flights will once again be available to Dallas/Fort Worth, Charlotte and Chicago.

With demand for flights between Ireland and North America continuing to grow, the return of American's three seasonal flights will provide more than 1,000 daily seats for customers flying to the US, including its year-round service to Philadelphia.

The seasonal routes will continue to operate until October 27, 2023. www.aa.com





Ambassador hits the stadium big screens

AMBASSADOR CRUISE Line has announced a multi-year partnership with London Stadium where the cruise line will be promoted across the venue's multi-use calendar of sporting and musical events, including Premier League football games.

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

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

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

Closing date for entries is Thursday, March 2. Solution and new puzzle will appear in the next issue.

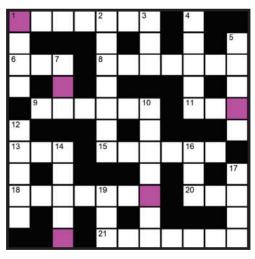
The winner for February 10 is Philip Pascoe from Cornish Cottage Holidays.

February 10 Solution: A=9 B=6 C=7 D=1

Α			8				1		5
	ш		0	-			1	-	5
		9		6		4	7	8	
_	6	7			1				9
В				7	6			1	8
		6	7				3	2	
С	2	1			3	8			
	9				8			7	2
		2	1	3		5		9	
D	7		6				5		



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



Across

- 1 TUI's cruise ships all share this name (7)
- 6 Flag carrier of the Netherlands (3) 8 Island birthplace of Napoleon (7)
- 9 Island in the eastern Med, popular with honeymooners (6)
- 11 Helsinki international airport code
- 13 Senior citizen, initially (3)
- 15 This tower is a popular Paris
- tourist attraction (6) 18 Virgin cruise ship, Lady (7) 20 Abu Dhabi is the capital (3)
- 21 Capital of Lithuania (7)

Down

- 1 Magic is having his last dance at a cinema near you (4)
- 2 Swiss city and lake (7)
- 3 Scottish resort, sounds atmospheric (3)
- 4 Maisie who is currently touring with Kevin Clifton in Strictly Ballroom (5)
- 5 Iconic mountain overlooking Cape Town (5)
- 7 Surname of the Tory PM who served from 2016 to 2019 (3)
- 10 Hotel brand, part of Accor (7)
- 12 Capital of Idaho (5)
- 14 Popular Lanzarote resort,
- 16 National bird of Australia (3)
- 17 One of the gangs in West Side Story (4)
- 19 Currency of Bulgaria (3)

CROSSWORD

COACHING A NEW PLAYER

The UK's newest coach company has a short-break spring in its step.



A NEW coach break company has launched specialising in high-quality short breaks and special-interest day trips across the UK and Europe.

Touromo, which is backed by National Express, brings together seven local coach travel brands: Lucketts Travel, Woods Tours, Stewarts Tours, Solent Tours, Coliseum Coaches, Mortons Travel and Worthing Coaches.

The launch has hit the road running, leading with a multi-channel marketing campaign, including TV commercials, new vehicles and driver uniforms, and a new website complete with an online booking tool.

Touromo's programme will feature hundreds of short breaks and day trips departing from across the Midlands and South of England with sample packages ranging from a one-night 'Canterbury and Rochester Dickensian Christmas' experience from £159 per person to a 10-day 'Tuscany Treasures and Treats' from £1,289 per person.

Day trips include the Chelsea Flower Show, Bruges, Sidmouth and Donkey Sanctuary and Kew Palace and Gardens.

John Boughton, managing director of Touromo, said: "We have ambitious plans to become a major player in the UK coach holiday sector and the creation of Touromo means we can operate on a national scale. There is a strong demand for holidays and day trips. Touromo will allow us to enhance the breadth of our offering while still giving travellers the assurance of the great holiday experience you get from a trusted experienced leisure travel provider."

For agent enquiries and support, email agents@touromo.com

www.touromo.com

Riviera Travel rolls out new concierge service

RIVIERA Travel has launched a Travel
Concierge service on all its European
river cruises and UK escorted tours.
The service will provide guests with
optional extras including the choice of
more regional airports and alternative
airlines, door-to-door UK drop off and
pre- or post-cruise hotel stays.
Travel Concierge applies to 342 cruises
and 66 tours in 2023. Robin Shaw,
Riviera Travel's chief operating officer,
said: "Customers want flexibility. They
are looking to spend more time away,
and to take advantage of easy travel and
transfers. www.rivieratravel.co.uk

Just Go! adds eight-day Italian tour

JUST GO! Holidays has added a new eight-day escorted tour of Italy for 2023. The tour includes two nights in Rome, two nights in Montecatini, a day in Florence, a day in Verona and two nights in Venice. The trip departs on September 20, 2023, and costs from £979 per person, including flights, accommodation with breakfast, three dinners, guided walking tours in Rome, Florence and Venice visits to San Gimignano and Verona. www.justgoholidays.com/agents



It's a private affair with Titan Travel

TITAN TRAVEL is expanding its escorted touring portfolio with a host of new unique and immersive itineraries for 2023 and 2024 departures.

The escorted tour specialist has introduced a new 11-day 'Egypt's Nostalgic Nile by



Dahabiya', which combines stays in Cairo and Luxor with five days on board a dahabiya - a traditional sailboat - sailing down the Nile. Prices lead in at £3,699 per person.

New private jet tours have been added for 2024, including: a 22-day 'Atlas Mountains to Maasai Mara by Private Jet' tour with prices from £39,999 per person; and a 23-day 'Captivating Cultures: A Grand Tour from Rome to Rajasthan by Private Jet' itinerary from £29,999 per person.

Later this year, Titan will release two further private jet itineraries, including a three-week around the world experience by private jet, which will visit Rio de Janeiro, Easter Island, Fiji, Sydney, Siem Reap, Agra, and the Maasai Mara.

www.titantravel.co.uk



Full steam ahead for **National Holidays**

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS has launched a two-day break that includes the chance to take a seat aboard the Sir Nigel Gresley steam engine when it visits the preserved Nene Valley Railway in Cambridgeshire, this April. Prices lead in at £169 per person. www.nationalholidays.com/agents







Audley ramps up agent activity

AUDLEY TRAVEL has stepped up its activity with the trade following a 75% increase in bookings through agents.

The operator has launched a wider range of agent-friendly marketing materials for 2023 and expanded its training programme to include more in-person training events.

Audley is also running its first fam trips later in the year with priority being given to agents who have qualified for the operator's A-List loyalty club. www.audleytravel.com/agents



Fred.\ launches three tours with Collette

FRED.\ HOLIDAYS has launched its '2023/2024 Tailor-Made
Belgium, France & Netherlands' brochure, featuring a selection of more than 20 of its most popular land, rail and river cruise holidays as well as three exclusive escorted tours in partnership with Collette Escorted Tours.

www.fredholidays.co.uk

New experiences rolled out on popular route

A NUMBER of new experiences and activities have launched about 523-mile Great Southern Touring Route, a coastal road from Melbourne to Port Fairy, which is described as "Australia's best road trip".

Travellers embarking on the Great
Southern Touring Route will have the
chance to take in some of the route from
the sky following the launch of the 12
Apostles Helicopter experience, a flight over
the Victoria's Great Ocean Road, which
offers an opportunity to see the entire
Shipwreck Coast and Port Campbell
National Park from the sky.

Other new experiences include Aboriginal cultural experiences throughout the World Heritage listed Budj Bim Cultural Landscape offered by the Aquaculture Centre and Café on the shores of Tae Rak (Lake Condah); scenic flights over the Grampians National Park with Grampians Helicopters as well as wine tours; all-inclusive surfing experiences at Onu Honi Surf camp; and a step back in



time at medieval themed adventure park at Kryal Castle.

New hotels, accommodation offering and two new golf courses have also opened along the route.

www.greatsoutherntouring.com.au

Luxury Gold to host US fam trip

UPMARKET SMALL-GROUP journeys operator Luxury Gold has unveiled a new look to reflect the increasing demand for once-in-a-lifetime aspirational trips and is hosting a fam trip to give agents the chance to experience its new offerings.

The brand is offering 30 small-group journeys to the world's most-sought after places and describes the Luxury Gold experience as

'Delivering Unforgettable Passport Moments'.



The journeys will provide travellers with the chance to stay in the most luxurious of hotels and stays will be combined with curated, bucket-list experiences such as exclusive after-hours visits to iconic attractions including the Jaipur City Palace for afternoon tea and the Doge's Palace in Venice for a private tour.

The brand's rebranded 'Founder's Collection' includes exclusive meet-and-greets curated by founder, the late Stanley Tollman, as a result of friendships he made throughout his lifetime with European nobility, legendary locals and celebrated icons in historic sites or ancestral homes.

Agents have the opportunity to sample one of Luxury Gold's new Deep South tours on a fam trip from May 8-15, 2023.

For more information

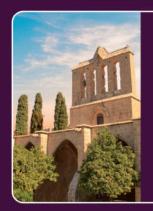
visit www.agents.ttc.com/login





Get more from your tour

At Titan, we create incredible travel experiences. Our effortless adventures take you to destinations around the world, where you'll see more and do more - discover epic landscapes, explore culturally rich cities, taste exquisite food and meet extraordinary people. At Titan, we go further for you to get more from your tour and that's why we're the UK's most awarded escorted tour company.



Northern Cyprus -History in the Present 8 days from £1,279

- 17 meals included
- 10 planned excursions
- Includes our VIP door-todoor travel service[†]

Price based on 20 September 23 departure. Other dates available.



Taste of the Douro Valley

8 days from £1,299

- 14 meals included
- 8 planned excursions
- Includes our VIP door-to-door travel service[†]

Price based on 19 May 23 departure. Other dates available.



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Newmarket launches two new European tours

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS has launched two new European escorted tours of Sardinia and Andalucía to help agents capitalise on strong short haul sales for 2023.

The eight-day 'Classic Sardinia Adventure' starts with a visit to Bonifacio, Corsica before heading to Sardinia for trips to the Giants' grave of Coddu Vecchiu and the prehistoric village of Nuraghe La Prisgiona, Castelsardo, the historic medieval centre of Alghero, and Orgosolo. Prices lead in at £1,107 per person: a saving of £122 per person for bookings made before February 28, 2023.

The eight-day 'Explore Andalucía by Little Boats' offers an alternative view of Spain. Guests will travel via waterway tours along the Guadalquivir River, into Doñana National Park and by catamaran to Rota. The trip also



visits Cádiz, Seville and Marbella. Prices start at £1,040 per person, saving £115 per person on bookings made before February 28. www.newmarketholidays.co.uk

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mage Credits: Top: Sunlife, Bottom: Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldive

NEW HORIZONS FOR SUNLIFE

Mauritian hotel group Sun Resorts rebrands to Sunlife with new-look hotels and new guest experiences.



MAURITIAN HOTEL group Sun Resorts has put the finishing touches to a rebrand to Sunlife, with renovations at two of its properties and a range of new 'Come Alive Collection' guest experiences.

The Sunlife property portfolio features four hotels: Sugar Beach, Long Beach,

InterContinental to host second Manta Retreat

INTERCONTINENTAL MALDIVES

Maamunagau Resort is hosting its second Manta Retreat from March 9-13, featuring snorkelling and research trips, on-hand educational workshops, as well as excursions to find turtles and learn about the surrounding corals.

The Manta Retreat will educate participants on the resort's work on manta ray conservation. Aimed at adventure travellers, nature lovers, young explorers, and those who wish to add more meaning to their holidays, the Manta Retreat combines a luxury holiday and an educational experience.

www.maldives.intercontinental.com/mant

a-trust/manta-retreat

La Pirogue, Ambre and the private island lle aux Cerfs, home to the golf course Ille aux Cerfs Golf Club.

The five-star Sugar Beach has undergone a complete renovation, with the resort's 238 rooms, including two suites and 20 premium suites across the Manor house and 16 villas, all being remodelled. All restaurants and public areas have been redesigned and updated.

Meanwhile at the five-star Long Beach has benefitted from a soft refresh of the rooms and suites along with a new-look Tides Restaurant.

The new 'Come Alive Collection' of experiences include 'Energy Gym',

combining exercise with sustainability; 'Sega Zoomba', a Mauritian fusion of Sega dancing and Zumba; and 'Putting on the Ritz', which includes makeovers and a fashion rental service.

'L'Atelier des Sens' is a new perfumemaking workshop and 'Bubble' gives guests the opportunity to enjoy pampering on the beach while being served by the beach butler. 'Santé' is a new cocktail collection with medicinal healing properties.

Caribtours offers a seven-night stay at Sugar Beach on a half board basis from £2,269 per person.

www.yoursunlife.com

Holiday Inn adds new beach pool villa

HOLIDAY INN Resort Kandooma Maldives has introduced a new three-bedroom beach pool villa, the Kandooma, to meet the growing needs of extended families and groups visiting the island paradise. Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives offers several other accommodation options for families and groups. In addition to the new three-bedroom beach pool villa, there are one-bedroom villas, interconnecting villas, two-bedroom villas and a two-bedroom Overwater pavilion. www.maldives.holidayinnresorts.com





Siyam World offers underwater jets

THE FIVE-STAR Siyam World resort, in the Maldives, has teamed up with the creators of the world's first underwater jet pack, Cudajet, to offer guests the chance to enjoy an alternative water sports experience.

The new addition joins a fleet of other water tovs available at the resort including the launch of the Maldives' first water bikes and the opening of the island group's biggest floating water park. The resort is offered by operators including Hummingbird, Gold Medal and If Only. www.sunsiyam.com



Eggciting times for Marriott Bonvoy

MARRIOTT BONVOY'S portfolio of hotels in the Maldives are looking ahead to Easter with some family-friendly activities. The hotel will host Easter egg hunts, interactive cooking classes, creative arts and crafts and visits from the Easter Bunny. For the grown-ups, there's the chance to experience the natural beauty of the archipelago, with snorkelling excursions.

www.jwmarriottmaldives.com

Angsana Ihuru Maldives reopens as Dhawa Ihuru

THE ANGSANA Ihuru Maldives, on the North Malé Atoll, has been rebranded under Dhawa Ihuru, within the Banyan Tree Group.

The all-villa Dhawa Ihuru has new facilities following its rebrand, including the new Twin Island dine-around concept, which offers travellers a chance to explore dining at the sister resort Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru, while the new social hub, the Nest, Dhawa's signature 24/7 concept, allows guests to connect with other holidaymakers over drinks day or night.

Barception is a relaxed dining experience with local bites and cocktails, while Nook serves food all-day, and Nectar allows guests to dine on Japanese, Indian, Chinese, Maldivian and Western dishes in any location on the island.

Windsurfing, wakeboarding, water skiing and canoeing are available to book along with private sailing excursions with Kahan'bu Catamaran that takes guests over



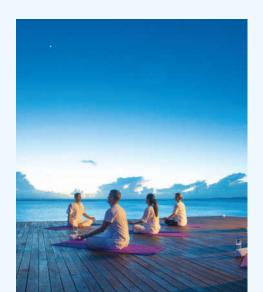
the house reef to snorkel.

There is also the 8LEMENTS Spa and Activa, the resort's fully equipped 24-hour fitness centre and a yoga room. There are savings of 25% on Best Available Rates when booking a minimum of four nights, with complimentary return speedboat transfers. www.dhawa.com

Cenizaro rolls out renewal retreats

CENIZARO HOTELS and Resorts has added three new renewal retreats to its Indian Ocean portfolio for 2023.

'Culinary Wellness at The Residence Mauritius' has been designed to soothe away stress and tension and restore a sense of balance and includes yoga sessions, massages, food that nourishes the soul, and the chance to take part in traditional Mauritian cookery classes.



The Spiritual Sojourn at the Residence Zanzibar provides a mind, body and spiritlifting retreat with a selection of curated experiences from stress-release exercises to wellness workshops. Treatments include a rhythmic body scrub followed by a rainforest facial therapy and a massage. Slow-flow yoga sessions are followed by relaxing evenings on the beach. There are trips to Kizimkazi Village to experience local culture and cuisine, before indulging in hot stone massages and an African rain foot massage.

The Physical and Mental Renewal at the Residence Maldives immerses guests in meditative practices, 120-minute massage sessions that include a full body scrub. The package also includes yoga classes for all abilities, use of bicycles to roam from island to island and a private dinner under the stars on the Castaway Island.

www.cenizaro.com

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Brightwater sets sights on Mauritius

BRIGHTWATER HOLIDAYS has introduced a 12-day 'Gardens of Mauritius' experience with three departure dates.

The highlights include a visit to La Vanille Tropical Garden, home to a giant tortoise more than 100 years old; a boat trip to the island nature reserve of lle aux Aigrettes to see plants and animals on the verge of extinction (rare orchids and pink pigeons); a visit to the unique Seven Coloured Earths, a rare geological oddity; an excursion to the Black River Gorges National Park; a trip to Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolan Botanic Garden at Pamplemousses, famed for its giant waterlilies; and a visit to Domaine de Labourdonnais with a rum tasting.

Prices lead in at £3,295 per person with savings of £150 per person if booked by March 17, 2023. Packages include return flights, accommodation at the beachfront Anelia Resort and Spa Hotel, visits and meals as per the itinerary, all local travel aboard a private coach and local guides.

The departure dates are March 29, November 15, 2023 and March 27, 2024. www.brightwaterholidays.com





Amilla offers microweddings venue

AMILLA MALDIVES Resort and Residences has become the first resort in the world to offer a DIY micro-wedding venue in response to a growing demand for couples to get married with a few or no quests.

The resort's wedding venue is on a secluded beach and comprises a wedding arch, phone stand, enabling guests to record or live stream the occasion; and six rustic benches for any guests in attendance. www.amilla.com



Resort adds intimate dining experience

5° NORTH by Finolhu Baa Atoll Maldives has introduced a new dining experience. Situated on a special platform in the heart of the tropical lagoon, this new dining offering is available for a maximum of eight guests. Diners will have their food prepared by their own chef and served by a dedicated butler. Menus include steak, seafood and vegetarian delights. www.finolhu.com



Authentic India Tours launches Sri Lanka Group tour

AUTHENTIC INDIA Tours has introduced a 13-day 'Highlights of Sri Lanka' group tour.

The itinerary include visits to the ancient capitals of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, the fortress at Sigiriya, the cave temple at Dambulla and the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic in Kandy before heading to the

central highlands, famous for Ceylon tea.

There is also a chance to spot leopards at Yala National Park before visiting the World Heritage Site of Galle and enjoying a beach break prior to returning home. Prices lead in at £1,525 per person excluding flights. www.authenticindiatours.com

ENGLISH SCRIBES & FESTIVAL VIBES

The Isle of Thanet has readied a jam-packed programme to bring the party back to the UK.



THE EASTERNMOST district of Kent is set to become a hub of activity this year as the Isle of Thanet has lined up an exciting roster of events and festivals to satisfy music, art and food lovers up and down the country.

On April 1, music festival Dreamland will host its biggest line up to date, featuring performances from Tom Jones, Bastille, McFly, N-Dubz and The Human League among many other star studded acts.

The following weekend will see the Broadstairs Easter Food Festival showcase some of the Garden of England's most loved produce. The event will include over 100 stalls of produce and street food, as well as

children's cookery classes, chocolate making workshops and Easter crown making, offering a fun filled day for all the family.

The coastal town of Broadstairs will celebrate the worlds and characters built by one of Britain's most loved authors: Charles Dickens. The annual festival, held June 16-18, has been running since 1937 and includes events such as Dickensian Beach Parties, mini golf and a featured play, which this year will be Great Expectations.

Over in Margate, the party is just starting as the annual Pride Festival will kick-off on August 12, featuring exhibitions, events, workshops and much more which will culminate in a day of performance and activities at the Oval Bandstand, before a seafront parade and a gig at Dreamland to end the spectacle.

The programme features many more events and festivals, offering something for everyone to enjoy this year.

www.visitthanet.co.uk

Shearings expands Signature Collection

ESCORTED COACH tours company, Shearings, has boosted its Signature Collection with eight brand new tours.

Head of retail sales, Ashley Dellow, said: "Shearing's Signature Collection, along with our Warner Hotel Breaks, are our premium products, appealing to those looking for an indulgent UK break with luxurious touches and superb hotel facilities to enjoy."

Holidays start from £499 for five days and include two-board accommodation, excursions and coach travel. Agents can secure bookings for 2023/2024 departures with £1pp deposits.

www.shearings.com



City Cruises goes fishing with Mr Chippy

CITY CRUISES is embracing the UK's most renowned delicacy and is launching a 90-minute Fish & Chips cruise in York later this month. For £25 per person, customers can take in the surrounding countryside while sampling the finest fish and chips in the country from the award-winning Mr Chippy fish bar, along with the option to wash it down with a choice of beverages from the on-board bar. www.citycruises.com

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HF Holidays hosts coronation celebration

THE BRITISH bunting will be proudly hung around all 16 of HF Holidays' country houses in honour of His Majesty Charles III's coronation during the bank holiday weekend in May.

Guests who will be staying at the historic houses on May 6 will be able to witness the momentous occasion live on the big screens while enjoying a themed afternoon



tea, a splash of fizz and a helping of Victoria sponge, before testing their knowledge with an inter-house royal quiz with accompanying prizes.

David Harrington, CEO of HF Holidays, commented: "It won't be the first time Charles III has made an appearance in our houses. Our centenary in 2013 was royally marked by His Majesty's visit to Thorns Hall. Then the Prince of Wales, he was briefed about the history of HF Holidays and invited to cut a special 100-year anniversary cake.

"We are delighted that we can be celebrating this national occasion with our guests."

Guests who want to further immerse themselves in the British monarchy can do so on HF Holidays two exclusive 'Snowdonia Discovery' tours, which include visits to Caernarfon, Harlech and Conway Castles, all of which have played a pivotal role in the monarchy's history.

www.hfholidays.co.uk



JG Travel Group enhances showstopping portfolio

THEATRE FANS rejoice as JG Travel Group adds six new shows to its London theatre break portfolio. Customers can now choose from over 20 shows on selected dates throughout 2023, including the new additions of The Great British Bake Off Musical, Mrs Doubtfire the Musical, Aspects

of Love, We Will Rock You, The Wizard of Oz and Crazy for You. All shows are bookable by agents through JG Travel Group's Omega Breaks and National Holidays brands, with prices including transport, accommodation and show tickets.

www.nationalholidays.com



Walk Inn the Great British countryside

THE INN Collection Group (ICG) is welcoming back its 'Walk Inn Breaks' packages, available at all of its properties to be enjoyed by lovers of the Great British outdoors. The package celebrates the nation's love for walking — and fondness for a pint — by combining idyllic inn stays with self-guided walking routes in some of the UK's most picturesque locations.

Endorsed in the past by nature enthusiast Julia Bradbury, the Walk Inn Breaks offer includes a two-night B&B stay at any one of ICG's estate of comfortable inns. This year, following two successful summers, the offer features the additions of The Bull's Head Inn at Beaumaris, the Midland Hotel in Morecambe, and the Wordsworth Hotel in Grasmere, giving way for new ground to be broken by those stepping out on the trails this year.

Walk Inn Breaks are available from April 1 to October 31, 2023. www.inncollectiongroup.com UK & IRELAND FEBRUARY 24 2023 | travelbulletin.co.uk

Omega Breaks offers tempting theatre package

OMEGA BREAKS has launched new coach break packages to allow customers the chance to see 'Ain't Too Proud - The Life and Times of The Temptations', which opens its doors in March 2023.

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Showing at the Prince Edward
Theatre in London's West End,
customers can follow the band's
exhilarating journey from the streets
of Detroit to the Rock n Roll Hall of
Fame. Agents can now promote trips
on selected dates between April 29 to
December 28, 2023, from various
pick-up locations across England.

The musical tells the story of brotherhood, family, loyalty, and betrayal while being set to the beat of so much loved classics, including 'Get Ready', 'Papa Was a Rolling Stone', and 'My Girl', making for a great promotional hook for clients.

Prices for a two-day coach break start from £159pp, departing on selected dates, and include return coach travel from various pick-up locations, one night's stay in B&B accommodation, the show ticket, plus free time in London.

www.omegabreaks.com





The enchantment of Winchester

RUNNING UNTIL March 5, 2023, Winchester's Abbey Gardens has been transformed into a magical Enchanted Light Garden hosting fairytale creatures, light-up tunnels and flowery delights, all of which can be enjoyed either under the cover of darkness or in broad daylight free of charge. The display forms part of the 'season of light' which cumulates in Winchester Cathedral's Luximuralis event: 'The Elements'.

www.visitwinchester.co.uk

What's your favourite UK staycation spot?

Jeanette Ratcliffe Publisher

jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk The Cornish Coast (every day of the week!)



Simon Eddolls

Sales Director simon.eddolls@travelbulletin.co.uk The Dorset Coast.



Sarah Terry Account Manager

sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk So many! Woolacombe, Alfriston, Worthing, Shere...!



Tim Podger

Account Manager - Far East tim.podger@travelbulletin.co.uk Golfing (Scotland in the sun, please!)



Matthew Hayhoe

Acting Editor matthew.rhayhoe@travelbulletin.co.uk Devon (sorry Melissa).



Melissa Paddock Events Coordinator

melissa.paddock@travelbulletin.co.uk



Holly Brown

Events Coordinator holly.brown@travelbulletin.co.uk Anywhere with a spa.



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PRODUCTION

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CIRCULATION

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Client Presentations 6:30PA

Hot Dinner

Presentations

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To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by Wednesday 1st March 2023 to: events@travelbulletin.co.uk or Telephone: 020 7973 0136























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