

travelbulletin

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Giving agents more choice

Croatia

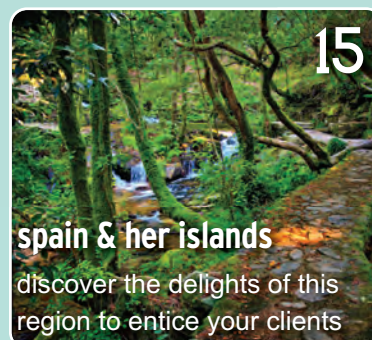
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the destination's
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MOO-VING ON UP...

KANSAS AND Oklahoma Tourism hosted a fam trip for agents to experience the highlights of both states which included visits to the Evel Knievel Motorcycle Museum in Topeka and seeing a buffalo herd at the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve in Kansas. While in Oklahoma, agents saw the open air Cowtown Museum in Wichita, drove a section of the iconic Route 66, and saw a cattle auction at the Stockyards in Oklahoma City. Pictured from the left: Ronaldo Stroppa, United Airlines; Lisa McEwan, Carrick Travel; Jo O'Rourke, Holidays Please; John Redding, Not Just Travel; Malcolm Davies, Funway Holidays; Andrea Smith, Freedom PTA; and Louise Rush, Spear Travels.

Millennials lose the booze on holiday and embrace Instagram instead

POSTING THE perfect Instagram snap on holiday is more important to young adults than drunken nights out, reveals recent research by World Travel Market London.

The survey of 2,000 British holidaymakers found just 9% of millennials want to get drunk on a holiday while 78% of those aged 25-34 are seeking to spur social media envy by posting on the photo-sharing app – closely followed by those in the 18-24 age group who (63%) say they search for social status shots rather than shots of sambuca.

38% of those aged 25-34 say they post online more than once a day while they are on holiday, with a similar proportion (37%) of those aged 18-24 posting once a day; reflecting a definitive shift in attitudes say travel experts who will be appearing at World Travel Market,

which takes place next week from November 5-7.

Paul Nelson from World Travel Market London said: "It's a sobering thought for the older generation of holidaymakers that their drunken antics are just not regarded as cool by younger travellers. It would appear that millennials, 'Generation Sensible' or 'sober socialites', are more health-conscious and mindful of their image when on holiday, and eager to share their photographs instead of handling a hangover. The travel industry is tapping into this trend because Instagram has an estimated one billion users, so it's a very influential platform.

"Budget airline easyJet last week unveiled a Look&Book app feature that allows passengers to instantly book flights using just a photo – without the user needing to know the destination. You can browse Instagram, take screen-grabs of inspiring photos and then share with, or upload to, the budget airline's app.

"Also, our research echoes the findings of a Club Med poll which found that two thirds of millennials pick holiday destinations based on what they see on Instagram and other social media channels."

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new destinations & itineraries for 2019



SPECIALIST CHESHIRE based tour operator **Only Exclusive Travel**, luxury Maldivian eco-resort **Gili Lankanfushi** and **Qatar Airways** recently hosted a select group of UK travel agents to an access-all-areas trip to the Formula 1 Grand Prix in Singapore. During the trip, agents were treated to the best seats in the house and enjoyed catering by Gili's own chefs, flown in for the occasion from the Maldives. There was also a chance for the agents to explore Singapore. Pictured in the back row, from the left are: Stuart McNeill, Knightsbridge Circle; Dan Salmon, Never a Wasted; and Andrew Liggett, Only Exclusive Travel; with (front row) Bianca Wassell, Travel Concept; Iva Acrabova, Hummingbird Travel; Olivia Chetham, Papillon Travel; and Roberto Arganese, Aldo Cadau, and David Stepetic, from Gili Lankanfushi.

Let there be light! SeaWorld celebrates Christmas with three million lights

SEAWORLD ORLANDO will deck the halls with three million lights this festive season, welcoming guests of all ages. The Christmas event will run from November 17 until December 31 and include delicious cuisine, live shows and fun entertainment inspired by the natural world.

Winter Wonderland on Ice, is one of many festive events at the resort new for 2018. Families can enjoy an ice-skating show, in a sea of sparkling trees and towering fountains dancing in the background. Also new for this year is Sesame Street's Elmo's Christmas Wish, a festive and fun musical celebration.

For guests looking to ring in the New Year at the resort, there will be a vibrant firework display on December 31 lighting up the night sky when the clock strikes midnight.

The best value ticket for visiting



SeaWorld Parks in Florida is the Discovery Cove Ultimate Package, which includes a one-day reservation at Discovery Cove (with 30-minute dolphin swim experience, all meals, snacks and beverages included) plus

14-days unlimited entry to SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Aquatica Orlando, with free parking included at all parks. Prices start from £190 per person.

For more information visit www.seaworld.com/orlando

Historic hotel: France joins The Unbound Collection by Hyatt

HÔTEL DU Palais will become the third hotel in France under The Unbound Collection by Hyatt Hotels Corporation, following a new management agreement made between Hyatt affiliate and Socomix for the Hôtel du Palais in Biarritz, France.

Steeped in rich history, the property will be the third in France to join The Unbound Collection by Hyatt brand, alongside Hôtel du Louvre in Paris and Hôtel Martinez in Cannes.

The sixth property in The Unbound Collection by Hyatt in Europe, the 142-room hotel will mark a significant milestone for the brand's growth. In addition to Hôtel du Palais, Great Scotland Yard Hotel in London and Parisi Udvar Hotel in Budapest are expected to open under this brand before the end of 2019.

Hôtel du Palais will deliver on the brand's promise to create story-worthy and shareable experiences for the modern traveller, making it a natural addition to The Unbound Collection by Hyatt portfolio. The hotel will undergo refurbishment by renowned design companies, including Atelier COS, honouring traditional French luxury and the hotel's rich heritage. A partial reopening is set to take place between July and October 2019, and final renovations are scheduled to be complete for a full reopening in June 2020. New features will include renovated guestrooms, two revitalised signature restaurants, a new lounge and bar, as well as restored public areas to create a lively local atmosphere for guests.

"Hôtel du Palais provides Hyatt with a unique opportunity to take on a property steeped in rich national history, significantly strengthening our European resort offering for Hyatt overall and The Unbound Collection by Hyatt brand in particular," said Guido Fredrich, regional vice president, development Europe.

Celebrate Christmas at sea with Cruise & Maritime Voyages

CRUISE AND Maritime Voyages (CMV) is offering six Christmas party opportunities this December, ideal for those considering a cruise to view its facilities and sample the cuisine and entertainment.

During these 'Festive Welcome Aboard Events' party goers can board one of CMV's cruise liners at the London Cruise Terminal in Tilbury. They can enjoy a show alongside welcome cocktails, half a bottle of wine with a five-course lunch or dinner, costing £49 per person and £79 per person respectively. An overnight stay with breakfast in a twin inner cabin is available for £99 per person, with additional supplements payable depending on the type of cabin selected.

The cruise line is hosting six festive events this December on board Columbus, Magellan and Marco Polo. The festive welcome aboard events are a popular choice among small office groups and social groups as an alternative venue for the Christmas party and a booking for a group of ten adults allows the eleventh adult to dine for free. The dates of the parties are December 7, 8, 14, 15 & 20. For any enquiries go to www.cruiseandmaritime.com or call 0844-998 3877.



MANCHESTER AIRPORT, Singapore Airlines and Visit Houston teamed up to host an event for travel agents in Leeds. More than 70 agents from around Yorkshire, attended the event at Aspire Leeds, with the venue decorated to show a fusion of old and new Houston to promote Singapore Airlines five weekly services from Manchester to the Texan city.

Get your salsa on! Havana celebrates 500th anniversary in 2019 with dance and music

DURING THE anniversary year, Havana is set to host a number of events, featuring concerts, performances and parades that will bring the city to life. The Latin American Travel Association has highlighted some of the best tours offered by LATA members to experience the city.

Tucan Travel has launched Havana to Havana, allowing visitors to experience the capital's highlights like a local, with a walking tour and ride through the streets in a classic vintage convertible. Steppes Travel is offering travellers a Western and Central Cuba 12-day tour with travel journalist Lydia Bell, to explore what Cuba has to offer. Meanwhile Explore Travel's Cuba offering is geared toward adventurous families with a 15-day 'Family Viva Cuba' journey for a glimpse into traditional Cuban culture and traditions and an exclusive Salsa lesson.

Cuba Private Travel is offering a one day tour, that gives guests an in-depth insight into Havana's architecture, politics, culture, arts, dance and music. With the help of four specialist guides, visitors can explore

Havana's architectural history from Spanish colonial baroque and neo-classical buildings to the restored mansion of a Latin American art collector.

Colin Stewart, chairman of LATA, said: "In celebration of its 500th birthday in 2019, the vibrant city of Havana is undergoing a number of restoration projects due to be completed next year and, which are expected to further boost tourism numbers and propel the city to the top of the agenda for UK visitors to Cuba.

"In 2019, the city will welcome the launch of seven new luxury hotels, as well as a diverse programme of cultural events including live concerts and theatre performances, honouring the history of Havana.

"It has been an exciting couple of years for Cuba and Havana. The lift of US travel restrictions, the development of tourism infrastructure and the launch of new airline routes from Europe, have firmly placed the destination on the Latin America tourism route. We look forward to continue to work with our LATA members to promote sustainable tourism to Havana and Cuba."

Full steam ahead as CroisiEurope announces the arrival of the MS Amalia Rodrigues on the Douro in 2019

EUROPE'S LARGEST river cruise operator, CroisiEurope, has announced that it will add a new ship to its fleet - the MS Amalia Rodrigues - in Porto on 20th March 2019. It's the sixth ship to join CroisiEurope's fleet on the Douro and its third premium rated ship on the Golden River.

The three-deck ship can accommodate 132 passengers in 66 double-occupancy cabins, including four suites, two of which are on the upper deck and have terraces. The 58 cabins on the middle and upper deck have French balconies with large windows, so guests onboard can enjoy the breathtaking scenery. There is also a spacious lounge, panoramic restaurant, a shop, a large sun deck with sun loungers and a swimming pool, with a total of 26 crew onboard.

The MS Amalia Rodrigues has a contemporary feel throughout, featuring colours and shapes of the Mediterranean along with plenty of natural lighting and open spaces, designer furniture and stylish, sleek décor.

From April to October, the MS Amalia Rodrigues will offer a range of cruises on the Douro, from the Atlantic ocean to the Spanish border.



BOURNE WINNER... Bourne Leisure's August 'Agency of the Month' winner was Premier Travel in Huntingdon. Pictured is store manager Holly Shoter receiving a certificate and a bottle of champagne from Bourne Leisure sales executive, Craig Secker.

Double the luxury in Mexico with Palladium Hotel Group

TRAVEL BULLETIN Star Awards winner, Palladium Hotels, is expanding its offerings in the Americas with two luxury properties opening this month in Mexico.

The five-star family-focused property, Grand Palladium Costa Mujeres Resort & Spa, and the adults-only TRS Coral Hotel, a member of Leading Hotels of the World, are part of a new development to the northeast of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.

The 673-room Grand Palladium Costa Mujeres Resort & Spa provides a five-star Mexican oasis and a family-friendly entertainment programme. Each room features a balcony or terrace overlooking the resort and out to sea and some include premium features such as swim-up pools or hydro-massage hot tubs on their private balconies.

Nine restaurants are on offer including Italian, Thai, Japanese, Indian and Mexican flavours, as well as an à la carte steakhouse and international restaurant.

The TRS Coral Hotel is a 473-room adults-only property, offering a tranquil



escape. There are five à la carte restaurants from which to choose, with French, Spanish and Argentinean cuisines and all-day dining options.

In homage to Palladium Hotel Group's roots in Ibiza, each hotel features a beach club which is exclusive to guests.

Erin Brockovich takes centre stage at Global Travel Group conference

GLOBAL TRAVEL Group agents heading to Florida for their 2018 conference next month are in for a giant boost of inspiration – with Erin Brockovich taking centre stage to give the keynote speech. The self-titled “gutsy broad who doesn’t ever apologise for who she is” will be promoting personal empowerment.

TV fitness guru Mr Motivator – celebrating 25 years on TV in his trademark colourful spandex outfits – will be inspiring delegates into shape with his infectious brand of well-being coaching. He rose to fame in the early 1990s through appearances on UK breakfast television show GMTV.

Former Blue Peter presenter Katy Hill, who now juggles a career as broadcaster, blogger and travel journalist, will be hosting a session to help others realise their potential in our increasingly competitive world.

Global Travel Group commercial director Cherie Richards, said: “The theme of our Florida conference is ‘Ignite – Fire Up Your Business’, so it seems fitting that the itinerary planned for our delegates is to prepare, inspire and motivate to have the best start to 2019 as they can.”

flybmi is the talk of the Toon with new routes to Belgium and Norway

BUDGET AIRLINE flybmi has increased capacity from Newcastle International Airport to the cities of Brussels, Belgium and Stavanger, Norway by 30%.

The increased number of flights is expected to remain in place for 2019 to meet a year-round rise in demand from business and leisure travellers who frequent the routes.

Timed to coincide with Christmas markets in Brussels, Stavanger and Newcastle, the increased capacity has been described as “fantastic news” by Leon McQuaid, the airline’s head of aviation development.

“Brussels and Stavanger are a popular choice for travellers from across the region. The route to Brussels not only connects business passengers to destinations around world but both destinations provide great winter city break options for our leisure passengers,” he added.

Antony Price, director of marketing for flybmi, said: “flybmi is dedicated to serving Newcastle’s vibrant business and leisure communities, connecting the city directly with key business and cultural hubs throughout Europe and also placing Newcastle on the map for international visitors. The Brussels and Stavanger routes have performed particularly well and we are delighted to increase our capacity on the routes for the foreseeable future.”

For more information, go to www.flybmi.com



The Natural Travel Collection dives into the undersea market

REGALDIVE, AN Ely-based diving tour operator, has been acquired by The Natural Travel Collection (TNTC).

TNTC already has Dive Worldwide in its portfolio and the addition of Regaldiver will create what is thought to be the largest dive offering in the UK. The two dive brands have complementary areas of specialism and will continue to operate as separate entities.

The other brands under the TNTC umbrella are Wildlife Worldwide, Families Worldwide, Walks Worldwide, Schools Worldwide and The Travelling Naturalist.

Teresa Bennett, a director of TNTC said, "2018 marks 30 years of Regaldiver packaging diving holidays and my co-directors Chris Breen, Nick Joynes and I now look forward to taking the brand to a new level with the help of our expert team, all of whom are passionate about diving and discovering life beneath the surface of the ocean."

For details, go to www.thenaturaltravelcollection.com

Strength in numbers as Eurostar offers discounted fares for group bookings

EUROSTAR HAS cut fares on group bookings made for travel between now and December 12 to Paris, Brussels, Lille, Calais and any Belgian station, and for travel until December 8 for Rotterdam and Amsterdam.

The high-speed rail operator is offering fares starting at £25 per person each way for groups of four to nine people travelling from the UK to Paris, Lille, Brussels or Calais. Also on these four routes, two people can travel from £28 per person each way and three people for £27 per person each way.

For groups travelling from the UK to Rotterdam or Amsterdam, fares start at £33 per person each way for two people, £32 per person each way for three people, and £30 per person each way for groups of four to nine people.

During the promotion period, upgrades to Standard Premium tickets are available from £70 per person each way, including more space on board, a light meal and drinks served to customers' seats.

Eurostar passengers can also take advantage of two-for-one entry into a range of museums and galleries including Musée d'Orsay in Paris, Bozar in Brussels, and La Palais des Beaux-arts in Lille, by showing their Eurostar ticket.

The blackout dates where there will be limited or no availability for the discounted fares are November 2-4, November 30-December 2, and December 7-9.

For more information, log on to www.eurostar.com



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Oceania Cruises celebrates OceaniaNEXT with November triple points incentive

TO CELEBRATE the next chapter of Oceania Cruises and its new OceaniaNEXT initiatives, the cruise line is launching triple rewards points for travel agent members of OLife Choice Rewards. The incentive applies to all new bookings made between November 1 and 30 which depart in 2019.

OLife Choice Rewards gives travel partners points based on confirmed bookings made. The number of points earned on each confirmed booking will depend on the grade of stateroom or suite booked, and the points can be transferred into vouchers that can be used online at Amazon, John Lewis and Yumbles.

Travel professionals can register for the rewards scheme at www.oceaniarewards.com and will be able to claim triple points on 2019 cruises for the month of November, quoting the code OC2019. Once signed up, agents can check their account, register their confirmed bookings and exchange their points for vouchers worth £25 or £50 through the website or app.

The cruise line has also added 11 new sailings to its OLife Ultimate promotion to assist travel agents in earning those triple points, available between October 30 and November 12. They include a mixture of destinations including the Mediterranean, Canada and New England, the Caribbean and Panama Canal and the Mexican Riviera.

Contact agencysales@oceaniacruises.com or call 0345-505 1920 to find out more.

Mexico tourism board now sixth most visited country as it sees 'exponential growth'

MEXICO SAW a record-breaking 39.3 million visitors in 2017, according to the country's official tourism board.

The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) declared this year that Mexico is now the world's sixth most visited country, a leap from number 15 in the organisation's ranking in 2012. Mexico Tourism Board attributes this growth to its multi-faceted approach to promote the country on the world stage.

Enrique de la Madrid Cordero, Mexico's secretary of tourism, said: "Our goal at the start of this administration was to create programmes that ensure that Mexico thrives as a tourism powerhouse. We credit our success in accelerating the



growth of our tourism industry with the following critical factors: increased air connectivity, the development of new tourism products, fostering high-potential markets, and bringing large-scale events to Mexico. A robust

tourism industry creates opportunities for more people to learn, work and grow right here in Mexico, which proves what we have always known to be true – when tourism grows, Mexico grows."



SUPER SOCIAL.... Super Break has reached the milestone of 6,000 followers on its dedicated agents Facebook page 'Super Break for Travel Agents'. Celebrating this success are members of the sales and business development team, from the left: Briony Smith, Wendy Cameron, Donna Smithson, Rob Edgeley and Chelsea Mills.

How green is your itinerary? Find out with sustainability training

TRAVEL COUNSELLORS has launched an online training course in sustainable tourism. Created with the support of global charity, The Travel Foundation, the course will be accessible to the company's 1,800 homeworking agents and support team colleagues in seven different countries.

The 'Go greener' course features guidelines on reducing water, waste and energy for the company's homeworking Travel Counsellors and office-based support teams, as well as hints and tips on how to make the most sustainable purchases, from food to clothing and souvenirs. It features an action planning template so that those who complete the course can put learning into action.

CEO Steve Byrne said that this was a significant first step and part of the company's commitment to take sustainable tourism seriously: "Sustainable tourism is something the company is investing in both emotionally and financially, and we are glad have the experts at the Travel Foundation to guide us. We want our Travel Counsellors to feel empowered, with tools, training and knowledge, to build their own sustainable tourism businesses. We are serious about having a positive impact on the communities we interact with, and we are committed to the long term."

For more information about the course, log on to www.travelcounsellors.co.uk

AGENT INCENTIVES

- TO CELEBRATE the launch of a new brochure featuring 179 tours from around the world, including 40 new itineraries, Travel 2 is giving agents the chance to win one of two Osprey Transporter backpacks worth £100 each. Agents will be automatically entered into the draw when they make a booking from the new Touring & Incredible Journeys 2018/19 brochure before November 11 (including return flights, minimum five nights). For details, go to www.travel2.com
- MANCHESTER AIRPORT is running a draw in which five agents per week can win a bottle of Champagne for bookings to, from or via the airport. Also one agent from each of the five regions will win a MINI car. The competition runs until November 16. To enter, go to www.manchesterairport.co.uk/traveltrade
- THE BIG Fred. Olsen Giveaway is running until December 15 with an agent each month winning a cruise for two. To be in the running, agents must register every booking they make for the cruise company until the closing date. For details, go to www.fredolsencruises.com



THE GLOBAL Travel Group and P&O Cruises hosted 54 members of the group, as well as suppliers, on a two-night cruise training event to Bruges. The weekend included a scavenger hunt, speed-dating with sales teams and opportunities to explore the Belgian city.

FLORIDA FAM TRIP

GOLD MEDAL is giving agents the chance to win one of ten places on a fam trip in association with Visit Florida. To be in the running, agents must make a Florida booking with Gold Medal (minimum three nights' ground arrangements) before November 30. Email booking references to win@goldmedal.co.uk by December 2.

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Bloomin' brilliant: Kimpton opens its doors in London's Bloomsbury

KIMPTON FITZROY London has opened its doors in London's Bloomsbury neighbourhood. The hotel is centrally located on Russell Square, within an iconic Grade II listed heritage building dating back to 1898. It features 334 luxurious rooms and suites, a large ballroom, restaurants and bars, modern meeting rooms and a 24-hour fitness centre.

The building is named after the original architect, Charles Fitzroy Doll from the Victorian and Edwardian eras. The interior features striking, contemporary design by lead designer Tara Bernerd & Partners that honours the building's heritage. The bedrooms are decorated with contemporary artwork and vibrant floral cushions, featuring a bespoke design by British textile artist Kit Miles.

Paul Walters, general manager of Kimpton Fitzroy London, said: "This hotel will bring a new luxury approach to the UK – a more inclusive style of luxury as opposed to museum-like spaces so guests don't need to keep their voices down in the lobby, or wear a suit jacket to dinner. A defining trait for the Kimpton brand is the focus on heartfelt human connections. We want guests to enjoy the glamour of a historic iconic building but still feel free to be themselves. It's an approach we're excited to bring to London, as we know it's what guests in this city are craving."

A fusion of Darwin themes is a natural evolution for Fusion Originals in Vietnam

HOTEL GROUP Fusion Originals has announced it will add a third brand to its portfolio with the opening of Darwin in Ho Chi Minh City in summer 2019.

Each Originals hotel will bear the name of a pioneering artist, inventor, scientist, or social leader. For the inaugural member of the collection, they've selected Charles Darwin a British botanist, scientist, and naturalist who redefined mankind's place in the universe.

Construction is currently underway on 'Darwin - a Fusion Original', in the heart of Saigon's District 1, less than 200 metres from the city's iconic opera house and close to shops, restaurants, cafés, bars, and tourist hotspots.

The 88-room hotel will pay homage to its namesake by creating an air of 19th-century discovery and adventure. In honour of his memory, Fusion's designers have created botanical motifs, super-sized extracts of Darwin's manuscripts, and a palette of all-natural tones and textures in the interiors. There will be a copy of Darwin's most famous work, *Origin of Species*, in every room, and Origins restaurant will serve a range of dishes based on the botanist's global travels.

Remco de Hoog, Fusion's chief architect said: "With Darwin and every Fusion Original that comes after it, you'll never quite know what to expect. We love shaking things up, and we think our guests will really enjoy the feeling of entering the unknown each time... in a good way, of course!"

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Su Doku

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Number: 040

A →

				1		5	4	6
	4	1		2	3			
6		8	4					
	6	2			7		5	
8	9						6	1
	5		8			2	7	
					2	7		3
			3	8		4	1	
3	8	4		7				

B →

C →

D →

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

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

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

Closing date for entries is Thursday, November 8th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

The winner for 19th October is Bryony Richmond, Thomas Cook in Eastleigh.

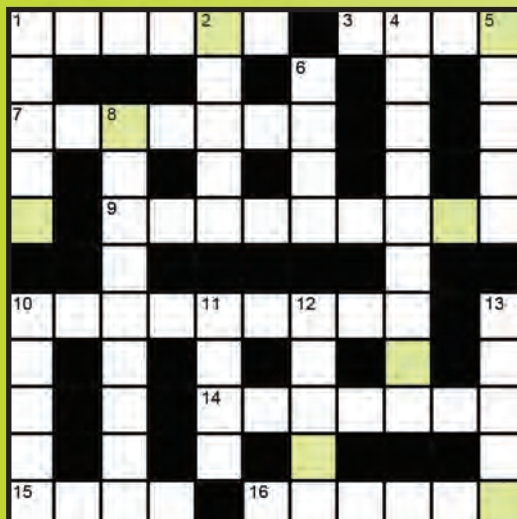
October 19th Solution: A=3 B=8 C=4 D=5

Where Am I?



This cheeky statue of a sewer worker poking out of a sculptural manhole was installed in 1997 in an effort to spice up the look of the area's old town district which was traditionally marked with drab Communist-era architecture and decoration. There is a story that says your wish will come true if you touch the head of the man and you keep it forever secret.

Crossword



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

Across

1. Long haul airline (6)
3. Independent operator, Villa ____ (4)
7. Quito is the capital (7)
9. This city's famous landmark has a golden roof (9)
10. The birthplace of this composer is now a museum in Bonn (9)
14. Country which has the krone as its currency (7)
15. Autumn in the US (4)
16. River, sounds like an online mega store (6)

Down

1. The movie, Bohemian Rhapsody tells the story of this band (5)
2. First name of actor who plays Ross Poldark (5)
4. Vilnius is the capital (9)
5. Luxury safari specialist (5)
6. Horoscope symbol (4)
8. Famous Hollywood studios and theme park (9)
10. Resort town in Alberta's Rockies (5)
11. London's Serpentine lake is located in this park (4)
12. Sci-fi horror movie, starring Tom Hardy, sounds toxic (5)
13. Whitehorse is the capital of this territory (5)

For the solution to the Crossword and Where Am I?
Please see page 22



SHOPPING SPREE... Winning a £100 LoveShop voucher was Kimm Beardmore (left) from Oyster Travel presented by Avis' Maria Pierce.



HOLIDAY IN CRETE... Jess Robbins from Becceles Co-Operative Travel was overjoyed to win an all-inclusive seven-night stay at the Creta Maris Beach Resort which was presented by the resort's Nikos Sfianakis.

#TBSHOWCASES

LAST WEEK Travel Bulletin was in Norwich for its Family Holidays Showcase, welcoming local agents to The Mercure Norwich for an evening of learning and fun. On hand were a variety of top operators, family-friendly resorts and thrilling destinations to impart invaluable advice to agents. All attendees were treated to a social drinks reception, a delectable dinner and the chance to win to some amazing holiday prizes!



TAMPA TREAT... Josephine Ando (right) from Visit Tampa Bay was on hand to present Santha Waldron from Travelserv with a holiday prize for two complete with admission to ZooTampa at Lowry Park and the Florida Aquarium.



DRIVE TO SUCCESS... Winning DriveAway's raffle prize of a £50 Love2Shop voucher was Hayley Haystead from Wroxham Travel gifted by the brand's Mike Lee.



BAHIA BREAK... Thrilled to win an all-inclusive holiday for two at Bahia Principe was lucky Karen Gowing (left) from Travel Norwich Airport Travel, courtesy of Bahia Principe Hotels & Resorts and the company's Faye Shoja.



BOTTLE OF BUBBLY... Bram Elsaies from Europcar UK presents Corin Germany from Ultimate Destinations with her on the spot prize of a bottle of Champagne.



SELLING SANDOS... From the left: Simon Waldron, Travelserv; Gary Woodcock, Travel-PA; Santha Waldron, Travelserv; chat with Bibiana Banovska at the Sandos table; along with Natalie Bishop and Annette Lambert from Broadland Travel Worldchoice.



SANDOS STAY... Carly Everett (left) from Thomas Cook was delighted to win a long weekend for two at the Sandos Hotel & Resort of her choice, presented by the hotelier's Bibiana Banovska.



BALKIN BLITZ... Learning more about Balkan Holidays' product portfolio is, from the left, Cathy Leverett from Thomas Cook, from the operator's Laura Utting, with colleagues Helen Taylor and Mia Roberts.



ROCK STEADY... From the left, Kimm Beardmore and Sophie Baker from Oyster Travel, Tracy Douglas from Premier Holidays and Antonella Medgett of Premier Travel hear the latest Hard Rock Hotels news from Ashleah Sanchez.



LET'S WROX... We extend a warm welcome to the team from Wroxham Travel. From the left, we have Hayley Haystead, Michelle Groves and Bella Chenery.



CHEERS!... Catching up over drinks during our welcome reception is, from the left Jess Robbins, Rochelle Cuss and Stacey Hammond from Beccles Co-Operative Travel.

Want to get in on the **#TBSHOWCASES** action?
Our next event will be the Indian Ocean Showcase taking place in Oxford on November 19 and Bournemouth on November 20. To confirm your place or to find out when we will be hosting our next event near you contact: events@travelbulletin.co.uk

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TENERIFE



Hard Rock International brings music to Madrid

HARD ROCK International is to expand its hotel portfolio, with the opening of the Hard Rock Hotel Madrid next year.

Working in collaboration with ActivumSG Capital Management Ltd (ASG), the brand will bring its signature vibe to this historic metropolitan city with the development of the new 159-room music-centric hotel. Todd Hricko, senior vice president and head of global hotel development, said: "We are pleased to join forces with ASG, a company who shares in our vision, integrity and dedication to quality. Hard Rock Hotel Madrid will bring a fresh, music-inspired destination to the city, and we look forward to offering guests authentic experiences that rock."

The property will be located opposite the historic Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in the Atocha district of Madrid, providing guests with ease of access to local sightseeing and cultural exploration. The Royal Botanical Gardens, Museo Nacional Del Prado and Madrid's largest railway station are also nearby. Regionally inspired food and beverage offerings will be available on-site, as well as a Constant Grind coffee bar and the brand's signature restaurant, Sessions. Guests will enjoy Instagram-worthy panoramic views of the Spanish capital from the Rooftop Bar and Terrace, featuring an open-air urban garden.

The hotel will also offer a number of brand-signature amenities, such as a Body Rock fitness centre and Hard Rock's exclusive wellness program; Rock Om, which provides a fresh take on in-room yoga; The Sound of Your Stay music amenity programme, allowing guests to set the mood with complimentary vinyl players and records or Fender guitar during an in-room jam session; and the brand's iconic Rock Shop, which provides guests with the opportunity to purchase t-shirts, hats, and other branded apparel. For more information visit www.hardrockhotels.com

Show-stopping Seville has Game of Thrones appeal

DURING THE filming for Game of Thrones, picturesque Seville became the backdrop for the land of 'Dorne' – and ever since, avid fans have been visiting to see the locations for themselves and experience their own slice of the fantasy action.

Locations such as the famous bullring, Plaza de Toros de Osuna, and Real Alcázar with its labyrinth of water gardens were featured heavily. The Reales Atarazanas, Seville's famous shipyard, with its gothic style arches was depicted in the popular series as the crypts of the Red Fortress.

There are many other locations within a stone's throw of the city such as the Almodovar del Rio Castle or the Roman ruins of Itálica in Santiponce that make an unforgettable itinerary for inbound visitors.

Go to www.andalucia.com/cities/seville/alcazar/game-of-thrones to find out more.

Hop aboard the Orange Express with Rail Discoveries' eight-day Majorca tour

RAIL DISCOVERIES is helping holidaymakers explore the island of Majorca on its eight-day Majorca & the 'Orange Express' tour.

With prices starting from £895 per person, guests can expect to see the capital and ride the Tren de Soller in the sunny climes of the island with an itinerary which includes Cap de Formentor, Deia, Valldemossa, the Orange Express, Palma and Puerto Pollensa.

Julian Appleyard, commercial director at sister brand Great Rail Journeys, said: "Many tourists only go to Spain for the beaches, and while there are some incredible stretches there's so much more to see. Spain is a country rich in history and culture, just waiting to be discovered and this tour showcases the very best of one of the Spanish islands; Majorca.

"A highlight for many customers on this tour is the ride on the famous Tren de Soller. This wooden-panelled train has been continuously running since 1912, connecting the orange-rich landscapes of Soller with Palma and a breathtaking journey which takes guests through the pretty countryside with a backdrop of the Serra de Tramuntana."

Tour departures run from April to October 2019.

Go to www.raildiscoveries.com or call 0800-240 4470 for more.

Shearings saunters to Santa Susanna

SHEARINGS HOLIDAYS has launched a new 'Costa Brava and Barcelona' tour, which takes a leisurely drive down to Santa Susanna with an overnight in France. Previously, this region was offered by express coach only, travelling through the night to the destination.

The ten-day coach trip includes six nights at the Hotel Caprici Verd in Santa Susanna, located on the town's promenade and a two-minute walk to the beach. Three excursions are included: a full day trip to Barcelona; a full day exploring Besalu and Rupit and a half-day trip to Tordera Market.

Matthew Herbert, product and yield director for the operator, said: "We had feedback from agents that many customers wanted a more leisurely journey down to the Costa Brava rather than the overnight express option that we offer. We created this tour to meet that demand and have included a different choice of excursions to enjoy."

Priced from £465 per person the tour is available on selected days in April, May, June and September 2019 from various pick up points around the UK. The price includes all coach travel, nine nights accommodation, three excursions, daily breakfast and eight dinners plus overnights in France en-route and on the return based on two sharing.

Log on to www.shearingsagent.com for more details.



BAHIA PRINCIPE Hotels & Resorts has officially opened the doors to its fourth hotel on Tenerife. Operating under the group's 'Fantasia' hotel brand – a family-friendly concept offering thematic hotels to travellers of all ages – the five-star all-inclusive property features 370 rooms, including family master suites with a capacity of five people and swim-up rooms for adults only. Other aspects include four swimming pools, children's club, five restaurants and six bars, alongside the hotel's most standout feature; a centrally located 'fairy-tale castle' which will be the setting for a nightly show and other entertainment. A one-night stay at the property in a standard double room is priced from £175 based on two adults sharing. Visit bahia-principe.com to find out more.

Club Med returns to Spain with launch of the Magna Marbella

CLUB MED has returned to Spain after 20 years with the launch of a new family resort; Magna Marbella.

The new 4 Trident flagship Spanish resort, nestled at the foot of the Sierra Blanca Mountains, will welcome its first guests on August 3, 2019.

The property will feature 14 hectares of gardens, five swimming pools including a family water park and adult-only Zen Zone, children's clubs for those aged from four months to 17 years of age, and a wide array of activities from hiking, archery and tennis, to petanque, flying trapeze and trail running. The brand is, for the first time, introducing padel tennis and a meditation area within the resort's grounds.

Located near Spain's south coast, the property is a 20-minute walk from both sandy Mediterranean beaches and Marbella's city centre. It is just a one-hour drive from Gibraltar, Ronda and Malaga or two hours from Grenade, Seville and Cadiz.

Estelle Giraudeau, the company's managing director for UK and Northern Europe said, "We cannot wait to reintroduce the Club Med brand to Spain and know our customers in the UK market will love Club Med Magna Marbella which is situated close to both beautiful beaches and the bustling city centre. Perfect for a fun family summer holiday or a luxurious city break, Club Med Magna Marbella really does have something for everyone."

For more information visit clubmed.co.uk



Exhilaration or relaxation at Fuerteventura's Suite Hotel Atlantis

A FOUR-hour flight from the UK, the four-star Suite Hotel Atlantis Fuerteventura Resort on Fuerteventura caters to sun-seekers looking for an exhilarating or relaxing all-inclusive holiday.

The property is located 50m from the beachfront giving guests the opportunity to try out a range of activities including scuba diving, surfing and kite surfing. It sits on the door step of Corralejo Natural Dune Park where safaris through 10km of pristine sand dunes and volcanoes will help holidaymakers explore the island's diverse landscapes.

For a more relaxing stay, guests can enjoy the exclusive adults-only Premium Club that features a chill-out zone with a private pool, Balinese beds and a chic poolside Bahía Bar. Guests are also free to indulge in La Scala Restaurant, which offers an international buffet and à la carte menu accompanied by local wines.

Go to www.atlantisfuerteventuraresort.com to find out more.

Learn more about La Gomera

LA GOMERA IS known for being one of the most rural and authentic of the Canary Islands, with warm weather year round. Holidaymakers can access the destination via Tenerife, by taking a 50-minute ferry ride or 30-minute connecting flight. There are plenty of attractions to explore, including natural wonders, black sand beaches and historic sites; here are some attractions that agents can suggest to travellers heading to the island for the first time:

Garajonay National Park

This UNESCO World Heritage Site provides the ideal setting for a picnic in nature, with a choice of walks available for all ages and abilities – almost every one of them leads to scenic views including El Chorro de El Cedro, the island's highest waterfall.

The park's habitats are rich and diverse in flora and fauna, with plants and animals exclusive to the island. For example, the Rabiche and Turqué pigeons thrive by eating fruits of the laurel trees, making for great birdwatching opportunities.

Remarkable lookouts

Travellers can take in the most scenic island viewpoints from lookout spots or 'miradores'. At an altitude of 1,487m, Alto de Garajonay is the island's highest point. High enough to see almost the entire island on clear days, visitors might even be able to see the silhouettes of La Palma, El Hierro, Tenerife and Gran Canaria in the distance and on some summer evenings, the sun sets behind the 'mar de nubes', which translates into 'sea of clouds'.

In southern La Gomera, Mirador de Igualero looks across the landscape of Orone. The main highlight is La Fortaleza, a tabletop-shaped mountain that was a sacred site of the island's original inhabitants.

Charming towns

Valle Gran Rey is a village in western La Gomera, notable for its pastel-coloured houses and terraced hillsides, or as the locals call it, 'the walls of La Gomera'.

Here holidaymakers can soak up the sun and cool off on black beaches nearby, such as Playa de Vueltas where the water is calm and protected from the wind, making it ideal for young children and watersports.

Another highlight is Vallehermoso, where travellers will come across dramatic ravines and intense greenery.

Traditional houses dot the palm groves, and visitors can buy local products from the town's orchards. Circular routes throughout the valley lead to many other interesting places, such as Alojera, a pristine beach and the island's main producer of palm honey.

Island flavours

Destination dishes are based around local products such as palm honey, bread, cheese, fish and wine. Others come in the form of stews, sauces and soups such as 'potaje de berros', a wholesome watercress soup served on wooden plates of juniper or holly. There is also a variety of meat and fresh fish on offer on the island.

For cheese lovers, almogrote is traditionally made by mixing mature hard cheese, garlic, pepper, chillies, tomatoes and olive oil into a chunky dip. Wine buffs can try vintages that aren't produced anywhere else in the world and are protected by the Guarantee of Origin, Vinos de La Gomera.

To find out more destination details go to lagomera.travel



Rock out at the Hard Rock Hotel Tenerife

WITH FIVE-star facilities, a full activity programme and an immersive musical experience, Hard Rock Hotel Tenerife is presenting itself as an ideal destination for a fun winter getaway.

The Tenerife hangout features spacious accommodation, combining contemporary interior designs with the style and energy of the Hard Rock brand; a well-matched base for rocking and relaxing in tandem with the next 'Children of the 80s' event which will be held on Saturday December 8. This themed event is free for hotel guests and held in the outdoor concert area, where partygoers can expect a fun-filled eighties' vibe with a jamming musical line-up.

The property features Hard Rock's signature Sound of Your Stay programme, where guests can create their own playlist, mix up songs on a professional deck, or learn to play a Fender guitar, elevating the musical experience to the next level. The Rock Spa offers a chance to relax with its thermal waters, beauty treatments and extensive massage menu, including the music infused 'Rhythm & Motion' signature spa treatment.

Go to www.hrhtenerife.com for more details.

easyJet launches winter flights to Menorca

FROM THIS month, easyJet Airlines will be running a twice-weekly flight from Gatwick to Menorca, becoming the only airline to fly to the island during the winter months.

The new flights have been introduced as part of a partnership between easyJet Airlines and the Menorca tourism board to encourage travel to the island during the low season and to strengthen Menorca's position as a winter destination from the UK.

The flights will operate from November until April 30 for the next three years, from 2018 to 2021, on aircrafts with a capacity for 162 passengers.

Visit www.menorca.es or go to www.easyjet.com

Say Aloe to these wellbeing experiences in Gran Canaria

IN LESS than an hour, holidaymakers can move from the golden sands of Gran Canaria's coast to the heights of Pico de las Nieves, making this 'mini continent' comparable to an open-air gym thanks to the numerous experiences available across the island.

If your clients are looking to wellbeing activities while on holiday, they can start their day with a run on the beach or a yoga session on the dunes, or explore the island on cycling and walking trails.

Luxury hotels offer a wide range of packages with personal trainers on demand, who can create a tailor-made fitness programme to meet their needs.

Should holidaymakers want just to be pampered, there is a choice of spas each

offering different sea water circuits with massage jets, sophisticated Ayurveda treatments or high quality physiotherapy. Aloe Vera from Gran Canaria is also considered by experts as some of the 'purest in the world' as it takes less than 48 hours to transform the plant into the cream or gel and 99% pure Aloe Vera is frequently used in treatments, with all its natural benefits retained.

Standout spas and wellbeing centres on the island include those at the five-star Seaside Hotels Grand Hotel Residencia and Seaside Hotel Palm Beach, the Corallium Thalasso at the five-star Lopesan Villa del Conde and Siam Spa at The Bohemia Suites & Spa.



LOCATED IN north-west Spain, Galicia offers a broad range of activities suitable for all types of visitors and is developing its nature and adventure tourism products with new itineraries for 2019 under the categories of: 'Go Nature', for those who love high-impact adventure; 'Go Water & Wine' including walking routes, spas and wine tastings; and 'Go Tradition' which takes visitors to prehistoric settlements, medieval remains or Viking defensive towers that can be explored by bike, trekking and kayak. Go to www.galiciadestinoactivo.com

Scale Tenerife's heights

ONE OF Tenerife's most picturesque hiking trails, Route 040, is set to officially re-open on November 19, following a complete transformation.

Used by athletes for their training, the route starts at Socorro beach and continues towards Tigaiga and the Lance viewpoint. From there, it ascends to La Fortaleza, in the National Park, and finishes with the climb to Mount Teide by Montaña Blanca. There is an alternative shorter route just before Montaña Blanca that leads to the Portillo Visitor Centre but Route 040 is set to become one of the most attractive routes in Spain, and it can be done in one day.

For walking enthusiasts, May 2019 will bring with it Tenerife's Walking Festival. An annual high point for European ramblers, each edition features a careful selection of some of the most standout trails around the island and attracts more than 100 participants from all over the continent.

It features a significant recreational component with museum visits, talks, traditional cooking demonstrations and for a few days transforms Puerto de la Cruz – in the north of Tenerife and the venue for the event – into the capital of this sport. More information about the festival can be found at www.tenerifewalkingfestival.com

Homemade, local trade: Palma launches 'Emblematic shops' initiative

PALMA 365, the tourism board for the capital of the Balearic Islands, Palma, has launched an initiative to raise awareness of the emblematic shops found in the city.

The project has been constructed with the aim of helping tourists discover the authentic side of Palma and diffuse tourism across the city, with a catalogue that details the city's emblematic shops showcasing traditional Mallorcan trades, such as ceramics, glass-making and shoe-making.

The initiative is as part of Palma 365's tourism strategy to develop a sustainable year-round tourism model focused on major themes such as culture, shopping and art, which benefit local communities. It is expected that the scheme will further help diffuse tourism across the city during peak seasons and raise awareness of Palma's lesser-known tourist attractions, promoting Palma's cultural and historical heritage.

All shops in the catalogue comply with at least one of three pre-requisites in order to be included: they must have opened before 1943, or more than 75 years ago; must showcase traditional trades of the Balearic Islands; housed in a heritage building.

Pedro Homar, general director of Fundació Turismo Palma 365, said: "At Palma 365, we are committed to offering tourists the best experience possible when visiting Palma. It is important to us that we showcase the rich culture and history of the city, which is largely portrayed by the traditional shops and local trades. As such, we will continue to work with our suppliers to preserve these elements of cultural heritage and to encourage tourists to visit them when travelling to Palma."

For more information go to www.visitpalma.com/en



Balkan sees strong take up of island-hopping itineraries

AS PART of Balkan Holidays' new Discovery brochure, the operator is offering a variety of Croatia Cruises and Croatia Island Hopping holidays on the Adriatic, departing from Dubrovnik and Split in 2019.

Chris Rand, the company's sales and marketing manager said: "Our Croatian Island-Hopping Cruises are booking extremely well, as holidaymakers recognise them as a convenient way to take in this beautiful stretch of the Adriatic. Balkan Holidays has a wide choice of beach holidays, cruises, coach tours, island hopping and walking tours to Croatia next year and some great value for money deals."

The operator can provide coach tours such as the 'South Adriatic Coastline Tour

from Dubrovnik', with prices from £764 per person, half-board, for eight days. The tour visits Makarska Riviera, Split and Trogir, taking in numerous historical sites including the medieval town of Korcula. Two central holidays are available, including 'Croatian Coasts and Lakes' which takes in the Opatija Riviera and Plitvice Lakes or 'Croatia Cruise & Stay' which incorporates a seven-night sea cruise with seven nights in a hotel on the Dubrovnik Riviera.

Regional flights are available from Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Doncaster/Sheffield, East Midlands, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Gatwick, Stansted, Manchester and Newcastle.

For further information visit www.balkanholidays.co.uk/agents

Go it alone: Riviera offers new opportunities for solo travellers

RIVIERA TRAVEL has launched its 'For Solo Travellers' collection with new destinations such as the Dalmatian Coast included for the very first time.

Tapping into the increasing numbers of UK travellers who are choosing to explore the world alone – recognised as a strong trend in ABTA's latest Holiday Habits Survey – solo travel is most popular with the over 65s, 18% of whom have travelled alone in the past 12 months; 81% stating they did so for the opportunity to be able to do what they want.

The operator's eight-day 'The Dalmatian Coast Yacht Cruise for Solo Travellers' starts from £2,499 per person departing on May 5, 2019 aboard the MV Corona. Highlights include guided tours of Split and Emperor Diocletian's monumental palace, an impressive structure from the Roman Empire, and the Croatian islands of Hvar and Mljet. The price includes seven nights' half-board accommodation, flights, transfers and activities. Visit www.rivieratravel.co.uk or call 01283-248333 for more information.

Ramblers em-Brac-es a different side to Croatia

NEW AND available through the trade, Ramblers Walking Holidays' 2019 brochure features a new moderate grade journey on Brac, the third largest island in the Croatian archipelago.

Staying in the fishing village of Postira, a short ferry from Split, on Brac's northern shore, travellers will follow a maze of old goat trails and farm roads to uncover sleepy villages and pockets of history all set to an ocean backdrop. Immersion into island life is very much the focus of this holiday, with other highlights including a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage listed Hermitage Blaca, a 16th century monastery erected in the karst caves of Vidova Gora on the south of Brac Island, and a day wandering around Split with a local guide.

The one-week holiday starts from £1,125 per person including return flights to Split, ferry transfer, half-board accommodation, one dinner at a local restaurant, sightseeing, an experienced leader and local transport. Departures fall on May 1 and 8 and on September 12 and 18. Call 01707-331133 or visit www.ramblersholidays.co.uk for more details.

Heritage and lakeside luxury with bumper collection from Prestige

PRESTIGE HOLIDAYS has unveiled a bumper collection of breaks for 2019 including a wider choice of hotels near the Plitvice Lakes, a new hotel in Croatia's capital and more properties on Hvar and in Rovinj, Opatija and Split.

The UNESCO-listed heritage site of Plitvice Lakes is Croatia's most visited attraction, and two new four-star properties have been added to the operator's portfolio – the Etno Garden Exclusive Resort and the 16 Lakes Hotel.

Zagreb regularly ranks amongst Europe's top Christmas markets and the operator has introduced the city's newest hotel, the five-star Amadria Park Capital Heritage Hotel Zagreb, in time for December with prices from £677 per person. Additionally, the operator has increased its cruise options for next summer and has a range of deals for those booking early and throughout the season.

David Skillicorn, the company's general manager, said: "Croatia remains one of our most popular holiday destinations and we are delighted to offer even more value in this stunning destination for 2019 in the form of some great offers from our hotel partners throughout the season. An increase in ferry and fast catamaran services makes it easier for our twin or multi centre clients to explore the islands and with the addition of lots more hotels, the combinations are numerous."

Go to www.prestigeholidays.co.uk or call 01425-480400 for more details.

More capacity for Classic in Croatia

CLASSIC COLLECTION Holidays is recording strong take-up to Croatia, with summer 2019 sales to the country more than 14% up year-on-year.

Gary Boyer, head of purchasing for the operator, said: "We're delighted with the performance of Croatia and continue to work closely with our hotel partners in the country to deliver the best possible value and price to our customers. We are also very thankful to the travel trade for their support and we will continue to go the extra mile to secure bookings on behalf of their clients. Busy summers can lead to 'stop sales', but we won't take that at face value and our reservations staff will always ring the hotel at the enquiry stage to see whether or not it is possible to secure a room for agents' clients."

Given this strong demand, the operator has increased capacity throughout the region with the addition of two new resort areas – Sibenik and Rabac – seven new properties, one new motor cruise option and a new escorted tour by luxury minivan or coach. The operator is featuring two Valamar Collection properties (Marea Suites and Maro Suites) alongside the newly introduced Remisens Premium Grand Hotel Palace, Grand Park Hotel Rovinj, D-Resort Sibenik, and the Hotel Lapad and Rixos Libertas in Dubrovnik. The new coach tour, which runs from April to September, starts in Venice and covers Slovenia before visiting Zagreb, Plitvice Lakes National Park, ending in Split.

Escorted tour prices start from £2,095 per person including flights, bed-and-breakfast accommodation in Venice and Split, transfers, and half-board accommodation for six days.

For further information call 0800-008 7288 or visit www.classic-collection.co.uk



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Island escapes to Rab and Krk by TUI

TUI UK is introducing holidaymakers to Rab and Krk, two islands in Kvarner Bay located in the northern Adriatic Sea, for summer 2019.

The Croatian Tourist Board has seen almost an 8% increase in UK travellers this year following a 26% rise in arrivals the year before and TUI has seen unique searches to the country rise by almost 30% from 2017. Responding to this demand the holiday brand has launched a relatively unknown destination to the UK market introducing two direct weekly flights to Rijeka from Manchester and Gatwick exclusively from May 23 next year.

Mark Hall, director of product at TUI UK, said: "We are excited to launch yet another interesting and different destination to our customers. We are committed to offering holidaymakers the best travel experiences around the world and we know that Croatia is proving extremely popular with UK customers, so we are positive this new addition to our portfolio will be a success. Adding a TUI branded hotel to one of the islands shows we continue offering customers even more choice and flexibility when it comes to adults only holidays."

Ivona Grgan, director of the Croatian National Tourist Office, UK and Ireland, added: "Croatia's multiple offering championed by its natural beauty boasting over 1,000 islands, coastlines, peninsulas, mountains and continental urban flair offers something for every discerning traveller. Unsurprisingly, a variety of locations in the coastal, mountain and continental regions dotted with the National parks and UNESCO sites, provided an ideal film-set for a number of recent films, most notably 'Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again' which, after the premier, is witnessing a rush of UK visitors to the farthest inhabited island of central Dalmatia, island of Vis, marking 16% and 17% rise in arrivals and overnight stays. Croatia's tourism fuelled by films is another boost to the country's prospects in the UK market and enhanced visibility."

CroisiEurope's Croatia coastal cruise

LAUNCHING IN 2019, CroisiEurope's latest Croatia coastal cruise is a seven-night journey round trip from Dubrovnik onboard the MS La Belle de l'Adriatique that takes in Croatia, Albania, Greece and Montenegro.

The journey includes two complimentary excursions to Apollonia, the largest archaeological site in Albania, and Berat which is known as "the city of a thousand windows". The itinerary includes calls into Dubrovnik, Corfu, Saranda, Vlore, Durres, Bar, Dubrovnik. There are seven departures for next year falling throughout February to April and cruise only prices start from £1,377 per person.



Dalmatian delights for 2019 with The River Cruise Line

THE RIVER Cruise Line has announced, as part of its largest programme of cruises to date, several departure dates for a cruise along the Dalmatian coast in 2019, aboard the MV Dream.

Aimed at those who enjoy the atmosphere aboard the operator's river cruise vessels, but are curious to sample a coastal cruise for the first time, this eight-day itinerary offers an opportunity to discover the highlights of the Dalmatian coast at a leisurely pace.

The cruise travels the coastline between Split and Dubrovnik, taking in the islands of Brac, Hvar, Bisevo and the Blue Cave, Vis, Korcula, Mljet and the Elafiti Islands.

Throughout the cruise there will be opportunities to visit beaches and swim the clear waters, stroll along seafront promenades and through historic streets, churches and cultural sites, and to soak up the sunshine and atmosphere.

Cruises will depart on May 18 and 25 and September 14 and 21, 2019 priced from £1,595 per person. The price is based on two sharing an ensuite cabin on half-board basis throughout, with Gatwick flights, seven nights' accommodation on board, excursions, transfers and services of a cruise manager.

For details, visit www.rivercruiseline.co.uk or call 01858-435655.

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Golden Horn, BRAC ISLAND

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puzzlesolutions

Crossword:

Across: 1. QANTAS, 3. PLUS, 7. ECUADOR, 9. INNSBRUCK,
10. BEETHOVEN, 14. DENMARK, 15. FALL, 16. AMAZON.
Down: 1. QUEEN, 2. AIDAN, 4. LITHUANIA, 5. SOMAK, 6. CRAB,
8. UNIVERSAL, 10. BANFF, 11. HYDE, 12. VENOM, 13. YUKON.

Highlighted Word: ASUNCION

Where Am I?: Bratislava, Slovakia



COLLETTE'S 'DISCOVER Croatia, Slovenia and the Adriatic Coast' is an 11-day journey that explores Croatia's charm from £1,759 per person. Highlights of this tour include experiencing the wonder of the 16 cascading lakes at Croatia's Plitvice Lakes and National Park; a visit to a local family for dinner in the Konavle region outside Dubrovnik; and, while in Slovenia, enjoying a Pletna boat ride to the picturesque island in the centre of Lake Bled. Go to www.gocollette.com

We asked our staff the following question this week:

What's the most interesting building you've ever been in or seen?



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The Sistine Chapel.



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The Taj Mahal at sunset.



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Empire State building was pretty epic!



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Natural History Museum.



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UFO bridge, Bratislava



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University House in London - the people there are extremely interesting!



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The home of Dracula (Bran Castle)



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Milan Cathedral - Made me feel some type of way.



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