

## Weddings & Honeymoons

Research reveals increase  
in British brides seeking  
beach weddings



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## Flying the flag...

**PRESTIGE HOLIDAYS**, together with key partners, recently hosted eight travel agents on an action-packed itinerary taking in Canada's 'Best of the West' Rocky Mountains and British Columbia Tour. The fam trip showcased the operator's extensive standalone Canadian programme including British Airways flights and a three-day trip on the Rocky Mountaineer train, where the group enjoyed the operator's luxurious 'Goldleaf' service. Destination highlights included Calgary, Banff, Jasper, Whistler and Vancouver. Pictured flying the flag before boarding the Rocky Mountaineer are, from the left: Fiona Bibby, Travel Architect; Craig Upshall, Rocky Mountaineer; Natalie Bennett, Off Broadway Travel; Sibyl Brandon-Jones, Courtney World Travel; Dave Batley, Savvi Travel; Denise Hunn, Prestige Holidays; Dave Harkness, Norad Travel; Charlotte Robson, Fred Olsen Travel; Helen Darby, Travel Stop; and Audrey Quinn, Largs Travel.

## 'Budget List' revealed for Europe's buzziest summer events

BREAKS WITH bragging rights are where it's at, according to new research from car rental brand Budget.

The research shows that for 20-30 year-olds, four out of ten (42%) are looking for a break that offers more than just a tan, actively searching instead for that once-in-a-lifetime experience from their holidays.

Social media plays a key role in how the nation picks its trips – and not only when it comes to reviews; most 20-30 year-olds (59%) admit to regularly checking out online and social media reviews before deciding on their holiday destination. But more revealing is that we're a nation of braggers – with research finding that the majority (56%) of 20-30 year-olds specifically book holidays based on the bragging rights it gives them.

The research also reveals that our love affair with selfies shows no signs of abating – almost four in ten (38%) of those aged 20-30 are most likely to take selfie shots posing in front of a big crowd or beautiful backdrop while on holiday.

With this in mind, the company looked at a range of events across Europe over the key holiday period, and has revealed its top ten events based on the 'buzz' they generated in the past year. They include Course Ultrarail du Mont Blanc in France; Red Bull 400 in Austria; Salinas Longboard Festival and Descenso del Sella in Spain; Bestival in the UK; Cous Cous Festival in Italy; NK Beach Volleyball Young Professionals in the Netherlands; Cortona Mix Festival in Italy; Leeds Festival in the UK; and PukkelPop in Belgium.

Beyond the top ten, adrenaline sports junkies can check out the Pringles Kite Surf World Cup in Germany and the Fuerteventura Surf Festival in Spain. Foodies can check out the Great British Food Festival and the Swiss Food Festival, while culture vultures can check out the Pangea Festival in Germany and La Notte della Taranta in Italy.

For further information see <http://list.budget.co.uk>

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## 80% of people in the UK lose personal belongings on holiday

A NEW survey by eShores, a luxury travel company in the UK, has found that 80% of people lose, forget or have their items stolen when on holiday.

Of the items that went missing, only 40% were ever returned, and people appeared to lose a range of different things while on holiday, the most common being sunglasses, camera, clothing, purse/wallet and jewellery.

According to the results, those travelling from Northern Ireland were the most likely to come back with a lighter suitcase, with 94% of them returning home with fewer personal belongings than they originally went away with.

Other findings revealed that holidaymakers lost an average of £176 worth of personal belongings, adding up to £1,760 over 10 years.

## England rugby star to DJ at Away Resorts' Hampshire property

AWAY RESORTS' Mill Rythe Holiday Village on Hayling Island, Hampshire has launched The Primo Weekender, a new themed break featuring a range of music, comedy, magic and burlesque.

One of highlights of the weekend will be England rugby legend, James Haskell, performing an exclusive DJ set, while other acts include the Hill Valley Joes, Southern Union, The Houndogs, Steve Royle, Mick Miller and Brendon Rodrigues.

There will also be a variety of activities for visitors on offer including

life drawing, burlesque workshop, pottery painting, health advice and information with James Haskell, a retro roller disco and a sleigh scooter derby.

A three-night, half-board Primo Weekender break, commencing on Friday October 7, costs £129 per person. Accommodation is in single or twin/double rooms with en suite facilities and a TV. Other facilities at the property include an indoor swimming pool, snooker, table tennis, pool, spa treatments, a restaurant and bars and lounges offering free Wi-Fi.



James Haskell

For information visit [awayresorts.co.uk](http://awayresorts.co.uk) or call 01442-508850.

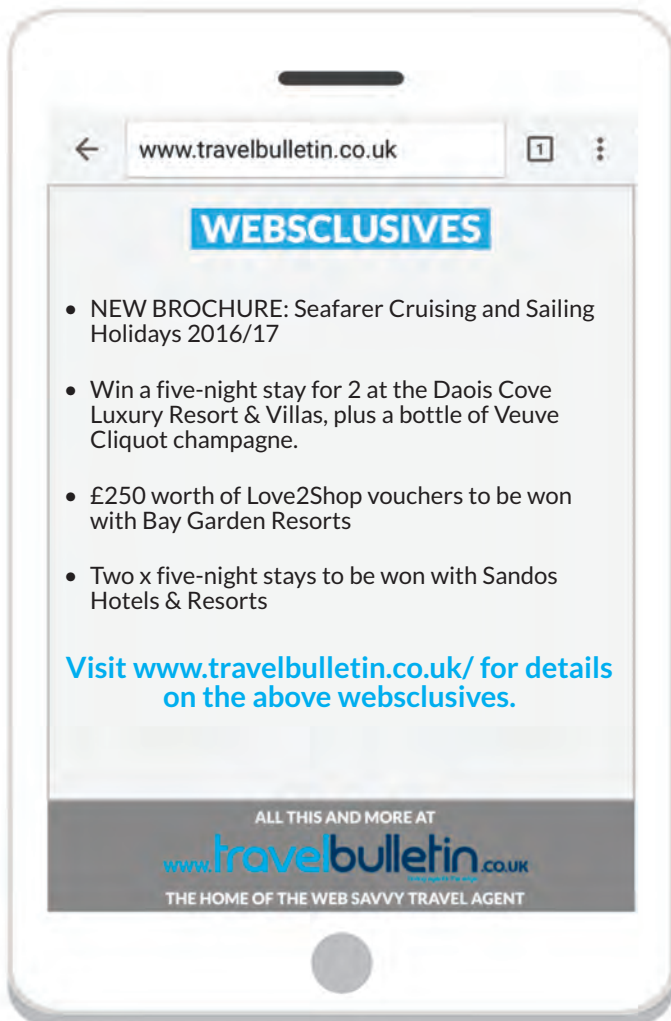
## New India offering from Contiki

CONTIKI HAS added a new Indian itinerary to build on its extensive Asian product offering. The 12-day Eternal India trip takes adventurous young explorers on a journey through Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Udaipur, Mumbai and Goa, immersing them in the magic of India at a pace that allows discovery and exploration in each destination. With initial departure dates running from December through to April 2017, the itinerary takes place over 12 days, following Contiki's more culturally curious 'In-Depth Explorer' travel style, visiting Delhi, Agra, Ranthambhore, Jaipur, Udaipur, Mumbai and the beach paradise of Goa. In addition to the group atmosphere, great local food, great accommodation and comfortable private transport, the company offers a range of included and optional activities on its trips as a standard. Eternal India is no exception with English-speaking local guides on hand to give travellers authentic and local experiences in each city, plus excursions to major heritage sites, a special stay in Ranthambhore National Park, and, of course, a trip to the world famous Taj Mahal all included.

Some of the optional 'ME Time' activities on the new itinerary include a sunrise safari in Ranthambhore National Park, a cooking demonstration and local family supper in Jaipur, a Bollywood tour in Mumbai, a tour of Mumbai at dawn and a yoga class on the beach in Goa.

Prices start from £1,465 per person which includes 11 nights' twin-share hotel accommodation, 11 breakfasts, one lunch and one dinner, entry into four UNESCO World Heritage Sites and two internal flights (from Udaipur to Mumbai and Mumbai to Goa), an experienced trip manager and driver team, air-conditioned coach transport and sightseeing tours of all major cities.

Clients are offered a 10% early payment discount when booked by September 8, and paid in full by October 20.





## Esprit Ski freezes prices on festive family fun

ESPRIT SKI has frozen its prices until further notice, and is offering the Chalet Aventine from £1,822 for a family of three.

Set in a quiet yet convenient location, the chalet offers a 'home from home' for families, where they can spend the day on the slopes followed by a traditional festive dinner.

The price is based on two adults and one child (aged five to eight) travelling on December 23 and includes flights from Southampton to Geneva, transfers, free Wi-Fi, use of sauna and hot tub and seven nights' chalet catered accommodation with a cooked breakfast, afternoon tea, children's high tea and four-course dinners with complimentary wine.

For details or to book see [espritski.com](http://espritski.com) or call 01483-791920.



**HAT'S THE WAY...**Emily Parkes (second from left) from Titan Agency Sales recently took ten agents on the company's 'Wonders of China' escorted tour. Highlights of the itinerary included visits to Beijing, Xi'an and the Terracotta Warriors, along with a trip on the bullet train to Shanghai and a visit to the Great Wall of China. Pictured keeping cool at Tiananmen Square in Beijing are, from the left: Ruaridh Wilson, Barrhead Travel Glasgow; Emily Parkes, Titan; Karen Smith, Dawson & Sanderson Morpeth; Kim Nichol, Titan; Lisa Gilham, Central England Co - Op March; Lucy Avery, Hays Travel Barnard Castle.

## Expedia brings rail travel to UK customers this autumn

THE EXPEDIA Group has announced that its rail offering will be available on the [Expedia.co.uk](http://Expedia.co.uk) site this autumn.


In partnership with SilverRail, and supported by the Association of Train Operating Companies and the Rail Delivery Group (RDG), customers will soon be able to also purchase rail travel throughout Britain alongside the travel options already available.

The availability of rail on [Expedia.co.uk](http://Expedia.co.uk) will mark the first time a global, full-service online travel agency has offered a rail component in addition to other travel products such as air, hotel, car rental, activities and packages.


Greg Schulze, the group's senior vice president of commercial strategy and services, said: "Rail presents an extraordinary opportunity for the business in attracting new customers, growing the frequency of site visits and offering a new transport option with existing travel purchases.

"Adding rail will allow travellers to create new types of package holidays, such as combining train travel with a hotel stay, car hire or other things to do at their destination. We've learned quickly that adding rail to our business is not as easy as copy-pasting our existing booking models. Rail is a unique platform and our partners have been great in ensuring a seamless entrance into the market and delivering high customer value as well."

Agents visiting the company's website will be the first to be able to book rail travel this autumn, and plans to expand to other countries and rail providers in the future are being discussed.




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October prices based on 2 sharing a lagoon  
view junior suite for 3 nights on a b&b basis

Travel with confidence



## Simply Sweden launches exclusive luxury wilderness break from £3,695

SIMPLY SWEDEN is offering a new luxury break in the Arctic wilderness for exclusive sale by the travel trade.

Fjellborg Arctic Lodge, on the shores of Lake Väkärä in Swedish Lapland, is the base for the tailor-made two- or three-night break, and up to eight guests can book sole use of the homestead, which has a large living area, spacious dining room and an outdoor Jacuzzi.

The action starts from the moment guests land, racing their own husky team to the remote lodge. Ice-fishing, snowshoeing, ice-sculpting workshops and visits to the local Sami village to find out about their nomadic way of life are

among the expert-led experiences that can be arranged.

Travel agents can earn 10% commission on the following prices. A two-night stay costs from £3,695 per adult, based on two sharing, and £2,195 per child (aged 12 years and under). A three-night stay costs from £5,065 per adult, based on two sharing, and £3,175 per child.

Prices include flights in SAS Plus Class to Kiruna via Stockholm, full board, transfers, all excursions, free Wi-Fi and warm outdoor clothing.

To book or for details call 01427-700115 or see [simplysweden.co.uk](http://simplysweden.co.uk)

## Sol House teams up with Ibiza Rocks for new collaboration this summer

MELIÁ HOTELS International has announced a partnership with Sol House and Ibiza Rocks to launch Sol House Mixed by Ibiza Rocks. Opening this summer, the collaboration will introduce an Ibiza Rocks curated music and entertainment programme and unique 'Mixologist' modern day concierge service at Sol House Ibiza and Sol House Mallorca, before being rolled out globally across the Sol House portfolio.

Positioned at party tourists with a passion for music, innovative design and affordable lifestyle experiences, Sol House will provide the venue whilst the world famous Ibiza Rocks brand brings the noise.

The brand's Sol House is a new selection of vibrant lifestyle hotels for like-minded people and custom built for good times. With music at the heart of

both brands, the partnership will inject unrivalled energy and atmosphere, and authentic musical heritage into the guest's experience. Placed in stunning, lively destinations where the tailored soundtrack sets the beat throughout the hotel, guests can roam free from room to poolside to beachside and back again.

The entertainment programme will include the eclectic 'Sound of Ibiza Rocks' pool parties by day and 'Sol Sets' sunset sessions until midnight at the destination rooftop bar by night, both featuring Rocks favourite resident DJs and island heroes.

Guests in Ibiza will be able to take advantage of tickets to the Ibiza Rocks live concerts at the Ibiza Rocks Hotel on Wednesdays until September 16. Globally renowned as the home of live music in Ibiza, the 2016 line up includes



LCD Soundsystem, Faithless, Major Lazer Soundsystem, Kaiser Chiefs, Jess Glynne, Tinie Tempah, Slaves and Jack Garratt.

Rates at Sol House Ibiza and Sol House Mallorca start from £168 for a standard room with breakfast and £256 for a superior room with breakfast, based on double occupancy in high season.

For further information see [sol-hotels.com](http://sol-hotels.com)



**LYNN'S LUCK...**Lynn Boardman won TIPTO member Shearings' Spot the Difference competition by successfully booking a Shearings River Cruise and correctly spotting all ten differences. She is pictured with her £50 Love2Shop voucher.

## Diamond Rail Holidays adds Spain's Orange Blossom coast to portfolio

DIAMOND RAIL Holidays has introduced a new tour to Spain's Costa Azahar as part of its programme of no-fly holidays for 2016/17.

The eight-day Valencia & the Orange Blossom Coast tour visits Barcelona on a city tour before embarking on a journey along a stretch of Spanish coastline, famed for its oranges and springtime blossom.

Based in Peñíscola, which sits at the top of a rocky headland jutting out into the Mediterranean, the trip offers plenty of free time to explore this relatively untouched seaside town which film-buffs may remember from Charlton Heston's 60's classic, El Cid.

There will also be an opportunity to visit some of the other highlights of the Orange Blossom Coast, including Valencia and its 13th century cathedral, a selection of beaches, modern avant-garde buildings and medieval Morella - voted one of the prettiest villages in Spain - with its ancient stone houses, ruined castle and 14th century walls.

Prices lead in at £849 per person, based on two sharing on a half-board basis. It includes travel by Eurostar to Paris, return high-speed TGV to Barcelona, a night's stay in Barcelona, six nights' accommodation in Peñíscola, all excursions and the services of a tour manager throughout.

Departures are available on October 9 and three dates in April, May and June 2017.

For more information or to book visit [diamondrailholidays.co.uk](http://diamondrailholidays.co.uk) or call 0844-544 7581.



## Regent issues new Iceland & Arctic Winter brochure for 2016/17

REGENT HOLIDAYS has released a new Iceland & the Arctic Winter brochure for 2016/17, which includes a number of new group tours, tailor-made and fly/drive holidays in Finland and Norway, as well as a new range of Iceland excursions.

The operator's general manager, Andrea Godfrey, said: "We decided to include Vesterålen and Lofoten because these areas are relatively unknown, yet they offer a higher chance of seeing the Northern Lights than some of our other destinations. They are also great for wildlife, with whale-watching available all-year-round and the chance to see moose, eagles and other birds most of the year. New accommodation options in Finland have been added as well, as we have witnessed a huge increase in interest for people wanting to visit the country."

The company has expanded its Norway portfolio with a number of new trips to some of the most isolated, remote and northernmost parts of the country including the Vesterålen archipelago and the Lofoten Islands.

As examples, a four-day trip to Ongajok Mountain Lodge located in the most northerly region of Norway, costs from £619 per person.

Alternatively, a four-day Vesterålen Aurora & Whales option, which leads in at £1,325, discovers the northernmost island of Andøya, famed for its large number of humpback whales and travel to the northern tip of the island. There are also opportunities to take a virtual trip into space at the Andøya Space Centre and search for the magical aurora. This four-day tour costs from £1,325 per person.

For more information or to book visit [regent-holidays.co.uk](http://regent-holidays.co.uk) or call 020-7666 1290.

## Brits still looking for a piste of the action

BRITS ARE defying the economic downturn and booking more ski holidays according to Club Med.

The operator reports that it has seen a surge in ski sales since launching options for winter 2016/17 breaks – up 6% on last year.

Bookings at Swiss resorts have seen an 18% rise, followed by resorts in Italy and France, with 17% and 4% jumps respectively.

Some destinations, such as the four trident Pragelato Via Lattea in the Italian Alps, have seen a 90% increase; to cope with demand, the resort will be adding 105 more rooms – scheduled to open in winter 2018.

Europe is not the only place having a ski peak. The luxury Club Med Beidhau in north-east China has caught the attention of many travellers looking to visit an alternative ski destination according to the company. Situated in the Jilin province, two hours from Beijing, Beidhau features 13 pistes spread over two main peaks.

The larger of the two has an elevation of 1,457m –

offering advanced skiers 800m of vertical riding – the highest operating vertical in the country.

For more information see [clubmed.co.uk](http://clubmed.co.uk)



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## Notes from Normanton...

**W**ELL WHAT a hectic couple of weeks! I had a brilliant time at the Brit Awards at Bodelwyddan Castle in North Wales. It was a brilliant place to have an event and the meal was excellent. I have discovered a lovely starter – fig stuffed with feta cheese! Louise Tansey from Bourne Leisure did a fantastic job organising it all.

I can't believe there have been more terrorist attacks – what on earth is happening? And for that poor priest to be murdered inside a church is horrendous. These terrorists need to know that they can't win.

I had a quick 5 days in Crete staying at some different apartments to the Kaissa – I was saddened to hear that Lipstick and Shadow the two original cats that were neutered a couple of years ago had been poisoned...it's not what one would expect from the Kaissa. I haven't really found out 'who done it' yet – maybe if I go back in September I might find something out.

I would like to thank all operators for their support of the Yorkshire Travel Ball, especially Jet2 for sponsoring the entertainment and pre-dinner drinks, plus Leeds Bradford Airport & Monarch for the photo booth. We raised £1,000 for Reuben's Retreat, £1,000 for the Greek Cat Welfare Society, £500 for Wetnose Animal Aid (bit like our rednose day but for animals!) £500 for Hull Animal Welfare and £75 for ABTA Lifeline – thank you everyone for being so generous. Next year's is Thursday July 13.

Had to laugh – I always say Tony Mann from Idle Travel is well known, but just had proof. I sent him a card for his birthday and realised I had just put Mr T Mann, Idle Travel – without the address! I rang him to tell him but he phoned me on his birthday laughing because his card had arrived on time! True fame – everyone knows him, what can I say!

'You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream' and 'The way to get started is to quit talking and start doing'.

*Sandy*

by SANDRA MURRAY  
in Normanton, Yorkshire

To respond to any  
of Sandy's comments email  
[lauretta.wright@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:lauretta.wright@travelbulletin.co.uk)

## My Emirates Pass lands in Dubai

EMIRATES AIRLINE passengers can experience more of Dubai this summer with discounts and exclusive offers available across the city with the 'My Emirates Pass', launched jointly with Department of Economic Development in Dubai.

Passengers flying on the airline to or through Dubai until August 31 can take advantage of a range of offers by showing their boarding pass and a valid form of identification. Special discounts at more than 65 restaurants and hotel dining outlets are included as are ten leisure experiences ranging from desert safaris, golf course packages and helicopter tours, in addition to a range of spa experiences which can be accessed for less.

Mohammad Ali Rashed Lootah, executive director commercial compliance and the consumer protection sector, said: "The Department of Economic Development in Dubai ensures that Dubai's visitors enjoy a memorable shopping experience, and we want to make Dubai their preferred destination to shop, dine, sightsee and so much more. The joint initiative between the Department of Economic Development and Emirates aims to provide tourists and consumers with the best that Dubai has to offer."

For more information visit the Emirates website.



## Low deposit offer on winter & festive tours from Great Rail Journeys

GREAT RAIL Journeys has released a low-deposit offer, valid on selected 'Winter & Festive' 2017 tours when booked before August 16.

A new eight-day Northern Lights Over Swedish Lapland option leads in at £2,095 per person with a reduced deposit of up to £99. It includes an ice-breaker safari, an Aurora photo safari and a visit to the Aurora Sky Station. With a talk from expert guest speaker, Chad Blakley, one of the highlights of the itinerary is an excursion to the Ice Hotel, which offers several opportunities to see the famous Aurora Borealis.

Alternatively, guests can discover the culture of China on a tour that celebrates its cities and

sights, the 13-day Harbin Ice Festival which leads in at £2,895. The tour offers First Class rail throughout, and includes visits to Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai, with excursions to Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall of China and the Terracotta Army. The holiday, which has an exclusive departure of January 9, 2017 has a low deposit offer of £50 per person when booking on or before August 16.

All tours include rail/air travel and transfers, the services of a UK tour manager, hotel accommodation, local guides, a comprehensive programme of excursions, many meals in the hotel and at local restaurants and specialist tour advisors. For further information visit [greatrail.com](http://greatrail.com)



## AGENT TRAINING

An innovative set of 'how to' video tutorials has been unveiled for Global Travel Group members designed to offer them all the skills they need to make best use of the consortium's marketing tools. The videos — which are all between one and two minutes in length — can be found on the group's Horizon intranet system. Initially, five tutorials have been created, with the simple, step-by-step guides covering setting up a Mail Chimp account, creating a subscribers' list, sending an email campaign and uploading social media cards on both Twitter and Facebook. The group is also developing a series of pdf tutorials which agents can download or print out, to go alongside each video. Continuing the drive to add marketing resources, Horizon's functionality is also expanding with a new image library for agents along with an online store area which allows agents to order marketing material directly. For details see [globaltravelgroup.com](http://globaltravelgroup.com) or call 0844-826 4567.

## BOOKING INCENTIVES

- Monarch has launched a nationwide agent competition offering the chance for agents to win one of five prizes by booking a summer 2017 package holiday on [monarchagents.co.uk](http://monarchagents.co.uk) and then emailing the agency sales team with the booking reference. Agents have until August 31 to be in with a chance of winning and prizes include a pair of return Monarch flights, a £50 Love2Shop voucher, a £25 iTunes voucher, a Molton Brown giftset and a Hotel Chocolat hamper.
- If Only.. has joined forces with Constance Hotels & Resorts and Qatar Airways to offer agents the chance to win a seven-night, all-inclusive holiday at the five-star Constance Moofushi in the Maldives, including flights with Qatar Airways. Every time agents book any Constance Hotel & Resort or a Qatar Airways flight with the operator they'll be in with the chance of winning. If booking both, there are more chances to win. Bookings must be made by September 30 for stays this year. Details at [agents/ifonly.net](http://agents/ifonly.net)
- Bookings made on selected G Adventures' river cruises by August 31 can earn agents £50 in Love2Shop gift vouchers. Every booking made before August 31 on any 2016 river cruise through the operator on the Mekong, the Ganges or in Burgundy will be eligible, with the added benefit of customers also receiving 30% off the list price offer. To claim the gift voucher agents should email the booking details to [river50@gadventures.com](mailto:river50@gadventures.com). For details call 0344-272 2200 or visit [gadventures.com/agents](http://gadventures.com/agents)

## Agent competition

Osprey Holidays is giving one agent the chance to win a Christmas market break for two to Berlin including accommodation and flights. To be entered into the draw, agents need to make a booking between now and the end of August then send the booking reference number in an email titled 'WIN CHRISTMAS' to [marketing@ospreyholidays.com](mailto:marketing@ospreyholidays.com) by August 31. For details see [ospreyholidays.com/blog/win-christmas-market](http://ospreyholidays.com/blog/win-christmas-market)



## Why let your travellers have all the fun?

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**G Adventures**



**NEW!**

## The 'Essential Collection'

In July 2016, Titan launched a brand new 'Essential Collection'. As the name suggests, these new itineraries focus on the standout highlights of a country or region. They are generally shorter in duration, and have slightly fewer inclusions - there is no VIP door-to-door travel service, for example.

But 'Essential' doesn't mean no frills! Just lower prices - perfect if holiday time or budget is limited.



- Focusing on the highlights of a country or region
- Shorter in duration
- Fewer inclusions

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Titan's full brand new 'Essential Collection' is featured in our Worldwide brochure, **OUT NOW!**

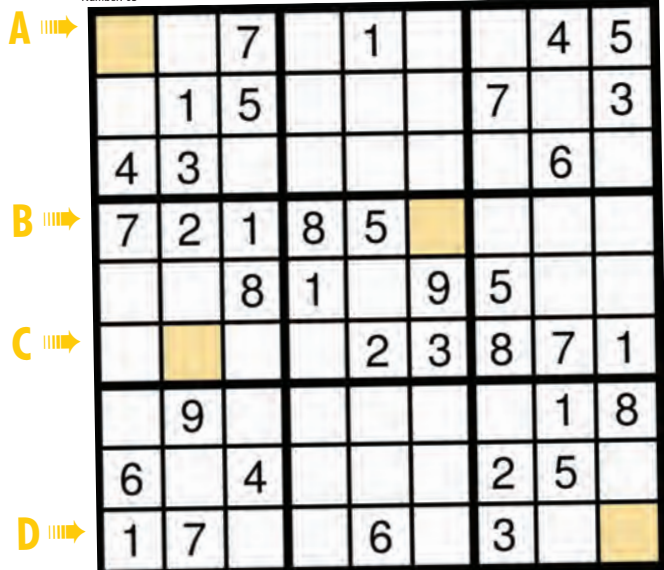
For more information, please visit [titanagents.co.uk](http://titanagents.co.uk)



# Su Doku

Win a £50 M&S voucher in the [travelbulletin](#) Su Doku prize puzzle

Number: 030



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](mailto:competition@travelbulletin.co.uk)

Closing date for entries is Thursday, August 11th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

The winner for 15th July is Ray Moye, Fred Olsen Travel in Bournemouth.

July 15 Solution: A=9 B=2 C=3 D=1

The winner for 22nd July is Keith Butler, Travel Counsellors in Dartford.

July 22 Solution: A=7 B=8 C=4 D=2

# Where Am I?



Built during the reign of King Rameses II, this site is made up of two temples, one of which was dedicated to his wife Queen Nefertari. The complex is part of the UNESCO site known as the Nubian Monuments.

# Crossword

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

Across

1. Award-winning travel company, part of Saga (5)
3. Independent family-owned travel company, sounds high ranking (5)
5. Stylish Portuguese resort, close to the capital (7)
7. First name of England's new football manager (3)
8. Florence airport code (3)
9. River and rainforest (6)
11. Luxury cruise line (6)
14. June Brown plays this EastEnders character (3)
16. Cambridgeshire city with a famous cathedral (3)
17. Actor Mark, playing a huge part in 1 Down (7)
18. European country with a red and yellow flag (5)
19. Picturesque village on Cornwall's north coast, St \_\_\_\_ (5)

Down

1. Roald Dahl story looming large at a cinema near you (3,3)
2. The Balcón de Europa is a feature of this Costa del Sol resort (5)
3. Mediterranean island (5)
4. Popular city break destination (4)
6. Resort on the English Riviera (7)
7. Highest mountain in Wales (7)
10. The Acropolis overlooks this city (6)
12. Scottish island (5)
13. Major American airline (5)
15. Mythical king of the gods and ruler of Mount Olympus (4)

For the solution to the Crossword and Where Am I?  
Please see page 26





**GREEK GODDESSES...**Helen Walker (left) from Thomas Cook won a seven-night stay in Greece from Lynne Brocklesby from Olympic Holidays.



**TONY'S TRIUMPH...**Tony Mann from Idle Travel won a stay at the five-star St Raphael Resort in Cyprus, sponsored by Sandra Bruce on behalf of St Raphael Resort.



**A WARM RECEPTION...** Enjoying pre-ball drinks are, from the left: Debbie Collinson, Travelwise; Justin Coles, Somak Holidays; and Kathryn Coles, Tauck.



**HIGH FLYER...**Julie Nunes (left) from Silversea hands over a Bulgari gift set and Champagne to Claire Barlow from Virgin Atlantic Flightstore.



**BELLES OF THE BALL...**Nicola Graham from Reuben's Retreat and Yorkshire Ball organiser, Sandy Murray from Sandy's Travel Escapes.



**YORKSHIRE TREAT...**Emma Holliday from Leeds Bradford International Airport (LBA) hands over a Yorkshire Hamper & a £50 Love2Shop voucher to Gaz Ashton from Quartz Travel.



**FINDERS KEEPERS...**Raj Mistry from Carrier presents a Red Letter Day voucher to Donna Alexander from Travel Counsellors.



**LEEDING THE WAY...**Helen Parry (left) from Jet2 presents Linda Boddy from Thomas Cook with her prize of a one-night stay at Oulton Hall in Leeds including breakfast, dinner and a spa treatment for two.



**CHOCOLATE HEAVEN...**Ball organiser and Travel Bulletin columnist, Sandy Murray from Sandy's Travel Escapes, presents a Thornton's hamper to Allison Disney from Baildon Travel.



**BOURNE TO SHOP...**Louise Tansey (left) from Bourne Leisure presents Helen Woodward from Spa Travel with a £30 Debenhams voucher.

The Yorkshire Travel Ball was held at the Village Hotel Club Leeds South on July 21 and was attended by more than 200 agents and suppliers. Pre-dinner drinks and live entertainment (from THE FUTURE) was sponsored by Jet2holidays, and the ball raised money for Reuben's Retreat, The Greek Cat Welfare Society, Wetnose Animal Aid, Hull Animal Welfare and ABTA Lifeline.



# LONDON LIFE

## Hotel Updates

**Sheraton Grand London Park Lane** (previously Sheraton London Park Lane Hotel) is celebrating 55 years of 101 Dalmatians with the launch of a Dalmatian-inspired Afternoon Tea and a dog-friendly package. The Afternoon Tea can be enjoyed as part of the Dotty Dalmatian Package which has been created for dog lovers; owners are offered a limited edition Dalmatian Afternoon Tea, while their furry friend is being walked around the original movie set, across the road in Green Park. The first 20 guest dogs will also be gifted with a special Sheraton Grand doggy bag which includes a number of luxury treats. Available for stays by August 31, the package leads in at £292 based on two people and one dog sharing a room. It includes a complimentary room upgrade (subject to availability), breakfast for two for owners, Afternoon Tea and a complimentary walking service around Green Park for dog guests. The Dotty Dalmatian Afternoon Tea is available separately for £37 per person.



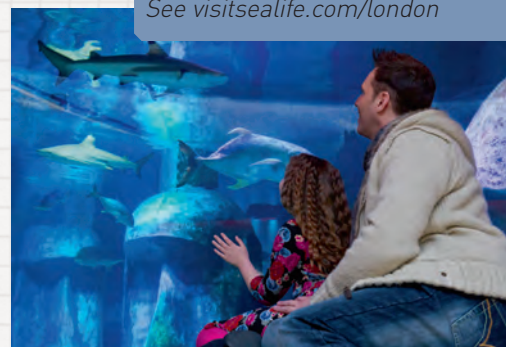
Clients can stay two nights this summer at one of **Radisson Blu Edwardian London** ten four- and five-star properties and receive access to more than 60 attractions with a free London Pass. The pass opens up iconic landmarks such as Westminster Abbey, Windsor Castle and Royal Albert Hall; family-friendly entertainment including Science Museum IMAX and London Zoo, as well as experiences as diverse as a Rock 'n' Roll Walking Tour or the Beefeater Gin Distillery Tour. Prices start from £165 per room, per night including VAT, breakfast and complimentary Wi-Fi.

Hilton **London Hyde Park** has completed its £5.4million refurbishment which included a full revamp of meeting space, common areas and guest rooms. The number of rooms offered by the hotel has increased and there has been extensive restaurant expansion. All 136 bedrooms offer contemporary spaces with a classic twist, keeping in line with the rich history of the Grade II listed Edwardian building. The plan also involved adding a new room type for families to reflect the increase of guests coming to visit London for leisure. The four new rooms are built so they can be accessed via a private door on a floor of their own and can be hired exclusively for larger groups.

## Attraction News

**SEA LIFE London Aquarium** is declaring August 'Shark Month' with free games and activities in celebration of one of the oceans' most misunderstood and vitally important predators. Guests will be entertained with shark-themed fun while learning facts along the way. As well as coming face-to-fin with the animals, visitors will get a better understanding of the issues sharks face in our oceans, from finning to unsustainable fishing, and what they can do to help. Activities and talks are included in the entrance price to the attraction, with prices from £19.50 per adult and £14.50 per child.

See [visitsealife.com/london](http://visitsealife.com/london)



## EATING OUT

THE TEAM behind **Dirty Bones** has announced the opening of its third site in East London this summer. The new restaurant will be housed in an iconic, Grade II listed heritage building in the heart of Shoreditch and will serve a selection of New York inspired comfort food dishes and cocktails. It will be the first Dirty Bones to house an all-day dining menu and will also house a lively bar area where a live band and DJ nights of old school funk, soul and hip hop music will be showcased.

For details see [dirty-bones.com/shoreditch](http://dirty-bones.com/shoreditch)





# Industry Insight by...



Elite Travel Group's chief executive, Neil Basnett, offers his take on headline-grabbing travel news...



THINGS ARE slowly starting to settle after the EU Referendum result. It would seem that none of the politicians from either the remain or leave camp were expecting the result to be a vote to leave the EU, and their general dithering and squabbling in the aftermath of the result were the main cause for the fall in the value of sterling. The FTSE Index has held up well, there have already been some very encouraging signs that the Chinese and Australians, for example, are keen to start talking to the UK about trade deals as quickly as possible and the general economy is still perceived to be strong. There will be uncertainty for a few years over many aspects of where the UK goes from here and holidays in 2017 are likely to be more expensive solely as a result of the weak pound.

We have however been faced with this currency situation before and the great travelling public merely adapt their holiday spend rather than going without a holiday entirely. Although I am optimistic, the most distressing news is undoubtedly that British holidaymakers have been told that they cannot use sunbeds in the lake resort of Ohrid in Macedonia as they are reserved for Belgian and Dutch tourists only: the doom-merchants of course will also blame that on Brexit!

What a horrible few weeks it has been for news just as we have entered the main holiday season. Between July 14 and 27, the news has been filled with stories of atrocities occurring in Nice and Rouen in France and Wurzburg, Munich, Reutlingen and Ansbach in Germany. Some of these have been terrorist related and some have been as a result of crazed individuals wreaking their own form of revenge for reasons best known to them. All of us involved in this travel industry have to feel genuine sorrow for both nations as they seem to have been targeted more than any other country recently and at a time when their own nationals have their own versions of 'staycations'. I have recently arranged for some valued clients the first holiday to Germany that I have been asked to

book for many years: this holiday includes two weeks in the Black Forest and Bavaria. I am keeping a very careful eye on developments and the almost daily updates from ABTA concerning all these recent situations have continued to be superb. At times like this, there is no better proof of the value of being a member of ABTA.

How much more can poor Turkey take? With their previously thriving summer holiday seasons starting to be decimated last year by problems in bordering Syria (although nearly 1,000km away from Turkey's main tourist resorts), and with booking levels having nose-dived disastrously this year, we have lost one of our leading tour operators here in the Midlands – Anatolian Sky. Akin and his team were always supportive of the travel trade and although they had diversified their product range, it was too little too late to save them and we are greatly saddened by their demise. Having already lost another long-standing company earlier in the year – Jewel in the Crown, the last thing needed was a failed coup attempt, but the signs sadly are not looking good for normality to return for some time.

Apparently July 28, 2016 was the best date of the year to have a birthday according to a recent study. The day promised sunshine, it was near payday and guests were more likely to attend a party and bring gifts. A total of 2,000 separate birth dates were analysed by researchers and given scores. Our summer months of June, July and August came out top and this was down to their summer feel-good factor. The worst month not surprisingly was December with 16% of people born in this month "unhappy" with their day. Those lucky enough to be born in August are likely to get the most expensive presents with many items costing £50 or more. The saddest statistic is that there are obviously some out there prepared to undertake such research, with others even sadder in responding. Early hint therefore: my birthday is September 13 and a bottle of decent Shiraz would keep me very happy!





**PLANET PRODUCT...** Sophie Taylor (left) from Planet Destinations showcases the company's product offering to Susan Percival from Travel Nation.



**BULLETIN BUDDIES...** Travel Bulletin's Jeanette Ratcliffe (left) catches up with Sue Rothwell from Ethos Marketing.

## Celebrate Africa

The sixth annual Celebrate Africa, in association with Travel Bulletin, was held at Baden Powell House in London last month. The event brought together 28 African suppliers to share their passion and knowledge with the travel trade. Guests enjoyed one-to-one meetings, a delicious lunch and a selection of great prizes...



**LUXURY LADIES...** Kate Holmes (left) from Luxury Rep Collection and Daphne de Vogue from Cazenove & Loyd.



**AFRICA ACES...** Malcolm Holcroft from Kuoni and Penny Rice from Isibindi catch up on industry news.



**RESORT REPS...** Ready to meet with guests are, from the left: Britt More from MORE Luxury Hotels & Lodges, Kate Pirie from The Explorations Company and Kathy Davies from Legacy Hotels.



**FLYING HIGH...** DD Kingscote (left) from Outposts Africa with Angela Price from South African Airways.



**TRAVEL TALK...** Murray Chalibamba from Travepack and Sue Rothwell from Ethos Marketing talk business.





# Mark Pope

Co-founder/Sales & business director,  
TruTravels



## On weekends I like to...

Play sports and hang out with my friends, generally switching off from work!

## How do you relax?

As soon as I get in from the office I put my feet up in front of the TV.

## What's your favourite gadget?

Has to be the new Bluetooth speakers I have just bought for the garden. They're perfect for listening to some tunes whilst cooking a BBQ, especially now the weather has got better.

## What's your favourite movie or TV programme?

Wolf of Wall Street hands down. It actually inspires me to be a better person!

## What is the last picture you took on your phone?

It's a picture of me and my mates at a pool party in Vegas a few weeks back...although I can't remember taking it!

## What is the strangest thing you have ever eaten?

Bumble bee. A good Thai friend made me try one of his dishes...it was very spicy!

## What has been your most extravagant purchase?

A round the world ticket, which actually led me into this awesome industry.

## What's been your latest DIY project?

We've been renovating our new London

head office. It has taken about three months but we got there in the end - and it looks fantastic.

## What's your most embarrassing moment?

The toilet door flew open in front of the sandwich cart on a boat full of travellers as we are heading to one of the Thai Islands. I was mortified!

## What's the best compliment you've received?

I was told that I was inspirational after I gave some training to agents on our products, which makes me love what I do even more.

## My greatest strength is...

People management. I feel like I create a good bond with our staff which makes everyone love what they do and stay as productive as possible.

## My one weakness is....

Time management. Sometimes I get carried away with the little projects that do not need my input as much as the big ones.

## What gives you the greatest satisfaction?

Reading customer feedback from our trips. Especially the ones that say they had the best time ever and that travelling has changed their perspective on life. I love it that we have had such an impact and it really does make me love what I do.

## What's your favourite quote?

"Travelling. It leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller." – Ibn Battuta

## What skill would you like to master?

Golf - I'm useless!

## Who is your celebrity crush?

Margot Robbie from Wolf of Wall Street.

## Who would you most like to be seated with on an aeroplane?

Margot Robbie ;-)

## Which fictional character do you most liken yourself to?

Maybe Clark Kent...but with more game and zero super powers.

## What other companies/organisations have you previously worked for?

I worked for the BBC on Top of the Pops and I was a manager of a local estate agents before my life in travel.

## What do you love about the travel industry?

Having the ability and opportunity to convince someone to get out of their comfort zone and travel in an unfamiliar country with a different culture.

## If you could change one thing in the industry what would it be?

To make sure that all types of tourism are ethical and sustainable.

## What is your top travel tip?

Take a leap of faith and step outside your comfort zone, whether that will be trying a new type of food or doing something you wouldn't normally do. It all adds to the experience and helps to make you a better person.

## Where's your next holiday to?

Probably a working holiday to Cambodia as we have just opened a new office over there for our newest trips.

“ I was told that I was inspirational after I gave some training to agents ”

# weddings & honeymoons

*SECRETS RESORTS & Spas has introduced a new 'Pop the Question Engagement Package' that includes a romantic rose petal and candle path decoration leading towards the proposal spot on the beach. A 'Will you marry me...?' message carved in the sand, a bottle of sparkling wine, bouquet of roses, a 'just engaged' door band and an engagement photo shoot with five photos are also included. The package is complimentary when a minimum five-night stay is booked in the required room category.*

## Post Office research reveals boom in British beach brides

RESEARCH FROM Post Office International Payments has revealed that nearly three quarters (73%) of travel agents are seeing an increase in demand for beach wedding locations.

The findings, collated from telephone interviews with 115 travel agents, reveal that Cyprus was the number one overseas wedding destination over the course of the last 12 months and that agents predict this will continue over the next year.

Agents are also confident that the international weddings market is set to grow over the coming year, with 58% expecting budgets for overseas weddings to increase by an average of 12%.

Meanwhile, the top five destinations for overseas weddings all follow the trend of destinations with a high chance of sunshine, with the Caribbean Islands the second most popular destination followed by Greece, Italy and Mexico.

Rob Scott, the company's MoneyGram manager, said: "The prospect of guaranteed sunshine sees many couples looking abroad for their wedding destination. Organising an international

wedding inevitably involves a lot of high value payments to overseas suppliers. But the cost of these payments can really mount up if you automatically use a High Street bank, which often charges around £25 per transaction. Specialist international payments providers are an easy way to reduce these costs, offering peace of mind as couples can lock in an exchange rate for up to a year, saving themselves money if the pound weakens in that time."

Although beach locations showed the biggest increase in popularity, one in three travel agents (34%) also reported growth for countryside locations and 28% for city locations. Others reported an increased demand for marriages near historical monuments, in mountain or jungle locations, or on cruise ships.

Nearly half of all agents reported an increase in grooms getting more involved with the wedding organisation process compared to three years ago. Moreover, 12% reported an increase in interest from clients in holding the stag or hen do on the same trip as the wedding itself.

## Palazzo Victoria treats guests to luxury experiences in Verona

FAMOUSLY ASSOCIATED with Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers, Verona is a honeymoon destination full of romance, poetry and culture, and the city's Palazzo Victoria has introduced some unique experiences for guests to enjoy.

With an eclectic mix of suites on offer, guests who stay for a minimum of three nights can indulge in the 'Ultimate Bubble Bath' from approximately £6,770. Filled to the brim with the guests' favourite 'bubbles', be it prosecco, spumante or Champagne, an additional chilled bottle is provided, along with scented candles. Alternatively, a 'chocolate fountain' bath can be drawn from £1,880.

Reflecting the rich musical culture for which Verona is celebrated, couples staying at the hotel can also take advantage of a uniquely front-row opera experience with 'Victoria's Serenade' from £752. An operatic tenor will serenade guests in the privacy of their own room or on their private balcony as drinks and canapés are served.

For more information visit [palazzovictoria.com](http://palazzovictoria.com)

## Caribbean ceremonies with Elite Island Resorts

FOR COUPLES seeking a ceremony in the Caribbean, Elite Island Resorts has a dedicated weddings team to help plan weddings in all its locations.

A basic wedding package is included for stays of seven nights or more and includes the services of a wedding coordinator, registrar and ceremony charges, along with the venue (including flower decoration), a bouquet for the bride and boutonniere for the groom, cake, a bottle of Champagne and all taxes and gratuities.

The company has also recently launched a spa-inclusive stay option. This is being highlighted as an ideal option for newly-weds looking for some extra pampering as guests booking a spa suite room receive five free treatments at the resort's spa. The initiative is available at Club Barbados, St James's Club Morgan Bay St Lucia, St James's Club & Villas Antigua and Verandah Resort & Spa Antigua.



## Cyplon highlights Greek & Cypriot appeal for wedding ceremonies

HIGHLIGHTED BY Cyplon Holidays as some of Europe's top wedding destinations, Cyprus and Greece offer a plethora of options for marriage ceremonies – either Anglican, Catholic or civil ceremonies.

The operator says that agents can highlight the value that both countries offer, as they remain relatively inexpensive and are easily accessible with a flight journey of approximately four hours.

Tass Anastasi, the operator's sales and marketing director, said: "A wedding in Cyprus and the Greek Islands is everything you could imagine it would be. Quality hotels with excellent facilities with sun-kissed beaches and the crystal-clear waters of the Mediterranean combine to create an idyllic ceremony, reception and honeymoon. We can accommodate everyone's budget and holiday requirements."

As an example of packages, the operator is able to offer an all-inclusive wedding in a four-star hotel from £1,968 per couple including seven nights' accommodation, flights and private transfers. For a wedding in a four-star hotel including a seven-night bed-and-breakfast stay with flights and private transfers, prices start from £1,705 per couple. Meanwhile, a five-star hotel wedding reception for 20 guests starts from £3,050.

The operator is also promoting a series of special wedding offers dependant on the number of guests attending. Ten guests provides a free bride's bouquet worth £52, 16 guests enables free photography worth £175, 24 for a free wedding DVD worth £220, whilst 36 guests entitles free photography and a DVD with a combined worth of £395.

## Funway fuses adventure with romance in USA National Parks

IN HAND with the celebrations of the USA National Parks' 100th anniversary this month, Funway Holidays has put together some special itineraries combining romance and adventure.

Rebecca Evans, senior marketing executive for the operator, said: "Both Bryce Canyon and Zion are perfect for any couple looking for an adventurous honeymoon. From sun up to sun down, this area is beautiful and couples can watch the early morning light over the hoodoos from Sunrise Point or take an evening stroll along the rim and watch the night fall from Sunset Point.

"If hiking hand-in-hand is requested, full moon hikes are one of the most romantic ways to explore the park and, with some of the clearest air in the country, stargazing is a must.

"We suggest a stay in the Honeymoon Suite at the Zion Mountain Ranch which features a large jetted bathtub and a cosy fireplace."



The company is offering an eight-day 'Canyon Adventure Self Drive Holiday' taking in both Bryce Canyon and Zion.

The itinerary starts in Las Vegas and from there heads to the sandstone cliffs of Zion, the red spires of Bryce Canyon, the arches of Arches, the canyons of Canyonlands, the cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde and the Grand Canyon. Prices start from £945 per person including flights and car hire.

Visit [funway4agents.co.uk](http://funway4agents.co.uk) for more information.



**DUSIT THANI Maldives** has enhanced its honeymoon benefits for newlyweds. Running until the end of the year, honeymooners staying for four nights or less can enjoy sparkling wine, a fruit basket and romantic bed decorations upon arrival, with a choice of culinary journeys including a sunset aperitif, a three-course dinner in Sea Grill or Benjarong restaurant and an after dinner cocktail. Those staying five nights or more will receive one Lagoon Champagne breakfast, a 50% discount on spa treatments for couples and a surprise gift on departure. Stays should not be more than six months after a wedding and certificates should be presented on arrival.

## Larnaka highlights sea and castle offering

THE LARNAKA Tourism Board has highlighted its new-look website and the number of wedding venues available to couples, including the Medieval Fort in the city's coastal strip.

The Medieval Fort at the end of the Foinikoudes promenade is now available for wedding ceremonies by permission of the Antiquities Department, and the castle's picturesque courtyard and upper level provides a backdrop for civil ceremonies with a distinctly 'Cyprus' feel, with panoramic sea views from the top.

Adjacent to the fort is Castle Pier, which extends out to the sea and is also a favourite choice for tying the knot thanks to its ocean views and the added presence of the grand castle.

At the opposite end of the promenade is a larger pier and Larnaka Marina, where wedding ceremonies can be performed amidst the background scenery of the moored boats.

As one of the region's top attractions, the Salt Lake is most famous for its migrating flamingos, but is also available for a more unusual outdoor ceremony, and may come complete with some long-legged, pink wedding guests if clients choose to marry between the months of October and March when the flamingos frequent the lake.

A more modern and popular choice is emerging along the trendy beach strip of McKenzie, where wedding couples are opting for ceremonies and receptions at the cafes, restaurants and nightspots along the coast.

And to complete the experience, white horse-drawn carriages are also available to transport the couple to their ceremony, taking a leisurely route around the city.

For more information visit [larnakaregion.com/page/sea-and-castle-weddings](http://larnakaregion.com/page/sea-and-castle-weddings)

## Makanyi tempts clients to say 'I do' to a safari wedding

FOR A wild wedding ceremony in the bush, Makanyi Lodge's safari setting offers a unique backdrop for a couple's special day.

The luxury lodge's wedding package includes all the necessary documentation, as required by the government of South Africa, a wedding ceremony conducted by a minister (either in the main lodge or at a special location in the bush), music, flowers and décor for the event, as well as a choice of fine catering, wedding cake and wines.

To make the day even more special, the package also includes a Mr & Mrs one-hour massage, exclusive use of the property's new game vehicle for the day, private dinner on the deck of the room, turn down service and a rose-petal bubble bath.

Wedding extras can also be arranged including a hairdresser, make-up artist and photographer. Other options include pre-ceremony cocktails overlooking the scenic dam, a solo violinist during the ceremony or traditional Shangaan dancers to bestow good-luck.

Accommodation rates start from approximately £350 per person, per night on full board, while wedding packages cost from £950.

Visit [makanyilodge.com](http://makanyilodge.com) for further details.

## New 'Adventuremoons' from Shangri-La's Rasa Ria Resort in Malaysian Borneo

SHANGRI-LA'S Rasa Ria Resort & Spa in Malaysian Borneo has launched a new 'Adventuremoon' package which is aimed at honeymooners looking for a more active start to their married lives.

It invites honeymooners to explore the sights and sounds of Borneo's jungle coastline through a range of adventurous activities.

Couples will have a chance to interact with nature on a river cruise that explores the Bornean mangroves to spot the indigenous primates and can trek 90m above sea level to enjoy a Champagne breakfast overlooking the highest mountain in the Malay Archipelago, Mount Kinabalu.

Adventuremooners looking to take to the water can embark on a sunset river cruise on the Mengkabong River, kayak through a deserted honeymoon cove and paddle board on the waters of Pantai Dalit beach.

Couples can also horse-ride across the 3km of white sand along the hotel's beachfront and can enjoy a 'his and hers' golf lesson with the resort's resident golf professional.

The five-star resort also offers a daily bath menu, a couples massage in the beach cabana, plus opportunities for guests to soak in their own oversized bathtub on their private balcony, exclusive to their Ocean Wing Premier Room.

Prices start from £1,444 for two adults sharing and include seven nights' breakfast accommodation in an Ocean Wing premier room, one Champagne breakfast with a jungle view trek, a proboscis monkey river cruise, a sunset cruise, a beach cabana massage for two, a horse-riding trip and a day's paddle boarding rental.

For more information visit [shangri-la.com](http://shangri-la.com)

# Allow us to be part of your dreams



## SANDOS WEDDINGS

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## Saint Lucia Tourist Board launches 'Romance Revitaliser' experiences for couples

THIS SEPTEMBER will see the launch of Saint Lucia's new romance programme, 'Romance Revitaliser' which focuses on bespoke on-island experiences for couples.

Packages will be tailored to the couple's interests and are designed to provide a personal, holistic experience of the Caribbean island, whether celebrating a honeymoon, anniversary or rekindling a spark.

Planned activities include a discovery of the hills and valleys of the island in 'Reach the peak' and climbing to the summit of the Pitons together; an exploration of the island's creole cuisine through a private cooking tour; 'Feel the Heat' with a visit to the Sulphur Springs near Soufriere; a body scrub making class and Saint Lucian Treatment; and 'Paint the Pitons', an afternoon spent in the company of St. Lucian artist Alwyn St.Omer where couples can create a masterpiece together under his tutelage.

In addition, recent research commissioned by the tourist board has revealed that almost four in ten Brits (37%) are not particularly happy with their wedding photos and would have them redone if they could. The research, which polled 2,000 men and women aged between 18 to over 55 across the UK who are either married or in long term relationships, concentrated on peoples' attitudes to wedding and honeymoon locations and photos.

Looking between the age demographics, the majority of 25-34 year olds (57%) and 35-44 year olds (60%) cited a desire to have their wedding photos retaken, compared to 19% of over 55s.

Of those who stated they were not happy with the photography, one in five said the reason was down to the setting not being special enough and one in three didn't like how they look. More than twice as many men (28%) as women (12%) disliked their wedding photos because they believe they don't reflect the people they are today.

In addition to promoting its picturesque backdrops, the

island is also able to offer a diverse range of wedding venues and locations - from private villas, hotel sun decks, waterfalls and botanical gardens, to plantation houses and spa resorts. Romance breaks currently account for more than 30% of all global arrivals to the destination.

For more information visit [saintluciauk.org/romance](http://saintluciauk.org/romance)



**THAILAND'S DHARA** Dhevi Chiang Mai is offering couples two new tiers of wedding packages. A colourful and spiritual Buddhist Lanna wedding includes a traditional wrist binding ceremony, live Lanna music, horse-drawn carriages and offering to an auspicious order of nine monks. Alternatively, for those preferring a European-style ceremony, exotic flower arrangements complement the bridal party and vows are celebrated in a fragrant shower of flower petals. Wedding packages start from £2,540. Visit [dharadhevi.com](http://dharadhevi.com)

## Planet Weddings presents beach, city & classic options to entice couples

WITH THE average wedding in Britain costing tens of thousands of pounds, it's no surprise that an increasing number of couples continue to choose an overseas setting for their big day, saving money in the process to splash out on the little extras that will make their wedding celebrations last longer than just a day or evening.

Mathilde Robert, managing director for Planet Weddings, said: "Short-haul weddings are on the rise and have been for the past decade. The popularity of Portugal, Malta and its islands, Greece and its islands, Italy and Cyprus continues, with couples booking as far ahead as 2019. Travel agents utilising our wedding services have much to gain, not just because we offer a comprehensive service but because they can earn commission from all the extras."

The operator notes that beach weddings currently prove the most popular option for couples with destinations such as Cyprus, Greece, The Algarve in Portugal and Malta ideal for a 'sand-between-your-toes' ceremony.

In addition, Aghia Triada is a new beach venue for this year. Located in Protaras, the region offers a picturesque coastline and wedding packages can include 'dressing' the beach followed by a choice of reception suggestions to suit the number of guests attending.

For a touch of urban chic, Italy tops the bill starting with the Palazzo Vecchio, the town hall of Florence, where ceremonies take place in the wedding hall and the reception arranged at one of Florence's many restaurants.

Meanwhile, in Malta the operator recommends Palazzo Parisio which features striking gardens, an orangery and an open-air terrace to offer a Mediterranean venue infused with local flavours.

Alternatively, in Portugal the Pousada Convento de Arraiolos or Pousada Castelo de Alácer, 99kms from Lisbon in the historic town of Alcer do Sal are recommended. Featuring just 35 bedrooms, the original castle stands proud and couples can exchange their vows in the cloister or by the poolside with its castellated structure in the background.

For old-fashioned glamour, The Annabelle is to Cyprus what Claridges is to London. Located in Paphos, and with views of the castle and harbour, the hotel is surrounded by gardens that are ideal for outdoor ceremonies.

New venues in Cyprus include the boutique hotel Lokàl in the heart of Larnaka, a village wedding fete in Lefkara or, further into the Troodos, the newly introduced Casale Panayiotis.

For more information visit [planetweddings.co.uk](http://planetweddings.co.uk) or call 01438-841270.



# xmasmarkets

## CMV creates four Christmas cruises for clients

### CRUISE & MARITIME

Voyages has four Christmas Market cruises scheduled this year, delivering plenty of Christmas shopping opportunities for clients.

Magellan sails from Tilbury on December 6 and 18 to Amsterdam and Antwerp for three nights. Although Amsterdam doesn't have a traditional Christmas market, it provides a good opportunity to shop for gifts, and guests are also able to take a sightseeing canal trip, explore the art galleries and museums or browse the flower market.

Also available is Antwerp, where visitors can explore the Christmas Market for unique gifts or take an optional tour to Bruges or Brussels, with fares from £219 per person. There is also a longer cruise option where, on December 11, Magellan sails from Tilbury for five nights, with Hamburg added to the ports of Amsterdam and Antwerp and fares starting from £324.

The line's Marco Polo also sails from Bristol Avonmouth on December 18 with a three-night party and Christmas shopping cruise to Ireland. Ports of call include Dublin and historic Cobh for optional tours to Cork, with fares leading in at £219.

A 'Buy One Get One Free' promotion is also offered, where the first adult pays and the second adult, sharing twin accommodation, travels for free. Visit [cruiseandmaritime.com](http://cruiseandmaritime.com) or call 0844-998 3877 for more information.

**THE ADVENT FESTIVAL** in Croatia has many traditional Christmas markets as part of a city wide celebration in Zagreb. Visitors can take in a selection of vibrant markets, including a traditional Christmas fair in the streets surrounding the Jelai Square, a decorations market at the European Square accompanied by a music programme in the evenings and illuminations in Zrinjevac Square and park, with stalls selling ornaments by selected artists and Zagreb specialities including fried apples, baked štrukle, hot chocolate and mulled wine. Visit [adventzagreb.com](http://adventzagreb.com)

## SuperBreak marks festive season with short river cruise break

AGENTS CAN now book a four-night Christmas Market cruise package that combines a river cruise to Amsterdam and Antwerp with a P&O Ferries' crossing from Hull to Rotterdam. The new product offers customers the chance to join in the festivities of the popular European cities and experience the onboard entertainment on MV Serenity from £249 per person.

Customers will travel overnight in an en-suite cabin from Hull to Rotterdam Europort, arriving early the following morning. After a morning visit to the festive town of Delft, it's on to Rotterdam city centre for some Christmas shopping.

From here, customers will embark on the four-star river cruise ship MV Serenity, with welcome drinks with the Captain and a four-course dinner followed by a quiz, games, live music and a late night disco. On day three the ship arrives in Amsterdam with markets, ice-skating and the Amsterdam Light Festival.

That evening a Christmas gala dinner is served on the ship, followed by live entertainment and late night disco. Overnight the ship sails back to Rotterdam where coaches will be waiting to transfer guests to Antwerp for the day, allowing time to enjoy the Christmas Markets and Christmas festivities across the city. Late afternoon, customers are transferred back to Rotterdam Europort and set sail for Hull, arriving early the next morning.

The trip costs from £249 per person and departs on December 18 and includes roundtrip sailings from Hull to Rotterdam in an ensuite cabin, two nights on MS Serenity in an en-suite cabin, four dinners including a gala dinner and breakfast daily, various on board entertainment and visits to Delft, Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Antwerp.

Visit [superbreak.com/agents](http://superbreak.com/agents) or call 01904-436000 for more information.

## Jet2CityBreaks adds Munich to Christmas weekends collection

JET2CITYBREAKS HAS seven dedicated Christmas Market weekend breaks available for 2016. They include the popular winter wonderlands of Berlin, Copenhagen and Vienna, which return to the programme after a bumper 2015, as well as the addition of a new destination - Munich.

Each two-night break departs on Friday morning and returns on Sunday evening, and flight-only options are available from £129 return, with flight and hotel bookings available from £199, secured with a £60 deposit.

As an example of prices, a package to Munich costs from £199 per person based on two sharing at the three-star NH München City Süd, for three nights' room-only stay, departing from Leeds Bradford on December 2.

In addition to the special breaks, Jet2.com and Jet2CityBreaks are offering a range of flight-only and flight and hotel options to a host of other Christmas market destinations including Budapest, Prague, Krakow and festive shopping trips to New York.

For further information call 0800-408 5587 or visit [tradesite.jet2holidays.com](http://tradesite.jet2holidays.com)





## Railtrail adds new tours to Christmas Markets programme with prices from £399

RAILTRAIL HAS launched an expanded Christmas Markets programme, featuring seven destinations and four new tours.

In the UK, the operator combines three local Christmas Markets on its five-day Winchester, Salisbury and Bournemouth Christmas Markets tour, while Durham, York and Grassington are covered on its six-

day Durham & Yorkshire Festive Steam tour.

European destinations include Germany and the Czech Republic and, although mulled wine is normally the seasonal tipple, the operator's new Belgian Christmas Beer Festival & Christmas Markets' five-day tour incorporates the festive markets of Bruges and Ghent with brewery visits,

a Christmas Beer Festival event and the opportunity for clients to blend their own beer.

Prices lead in at £399 for the five-day Winchester, Salisbury & Bournemouth Christmas Markets tour and £495 for the five-day Rhine Valley Christmas Markets & Steam tour.

For more information visit [railtrail.co.uk](http://railtrail.co.uk)

## The River Cruise Line explores Austrian markets with four-day cruise from £529

THE RIVER CRUISE Line has introduced a number of new trips to Europe's Christmas markets for 2016, including a four-day journey to the Austrian cities of Vienna and Linz.

Travelling along the Danube and through the Wachau Valley on the MS Select Explorer, guests can soak up the festive atmosphere at two of Austria's most celebrated markets. During Christmas, Vienna's streets, parks and squares are taken over by decorated stalls selling handcrafted gifts and seasonal treats, and there is an opportunity to take a guided tour around the city's historic Ringstrasse boulevard, before travelling to the wine stalls and markets of Linz.

This trip costs from £529 per person, based on two sharing an en-suite cabin on a full board basis, and includes flights from Heathrow to Munich, transfers and the services of a tour manager.

For more information visit [rivercruiseline.co.uk](http://rivercruiseline.co.uk) or call 0844-544 7580.



**TRAFALGAR IS** offering an eight-day 'Christmas Markets of Austria, Germany and Switzerland' trip, which offers a mix of iconic sights of Central Europe with the festive markets and illuminated landmarks of Vienna, Salzburg, Munich, Innsbruck and Lucerne. It costs from £1,225 per person, based on a twin share, and includes seven nights' four- and five-star hotel accommodation with breakfast, dining experiences, sightseeing, a travel director, luxury coach transport with complimentary Wi-Fi, and private door-to-door transfers. Departures take place between November 25 and December 11.

## Diamond Rail introduces new festive tours

DIAMOND RAIL Holidays has launched new trips featuring a range of festive celebrations in Belgium, France and Germany.

The new four-day 'Bruges, Ypres & Lille Christmas Markets' itinerary includes a visit to a local chocolatier in Bruges, with the chance to browse the chalets in the town centre, each filled with handcrafted gifts, decorations and local specialities, before exploring Ypres' winter wonderland scene.

During the festive period, this city's main square transforms into an ice-rink surrounded by wooden huts offering warming glühwein.

There is also the opportunity for travellers to shop for last-minute presents before the journey comes to an end, with a visit to Lille and one of the largest Christmas markets in northern France. With more than 50 wooden chalets set-up to sell their wares in the town's centre, twinkling lights and street performers help create a special festive atmosphere.

Costing from £299 per person, the trip is based on two sharing on a bed-and-breakfast basis and includes travel by Eurostar, transfers, accommodation throughout and the services of a tour manager. Departures are available on November 27 and December 5.

For more information visit [diamondrailholidays.co.uk](http://diamondrailholidays.co.uk) or call 0844-544 7581.





**FFESTINIÖG TRAVEL** has added Budapest to its escorted Christmas Markets programme. Departing on November 24, the seven-night holiday costs from £1,050 per person. Also available is a Christmas Market option to the UNESCO World Heritage town of Stralsund in Germany. It departs on November 24 and costs from £970. Call 01766-772030 or visit [ffestiniogtravel.com](http://ffestiniogtravel.com)

## Uniworld gets into the festive spirit with luxury Christmas river cruises

UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE River Cruise Collection has put together a programme of luxury festive river cruises designed to get guests into the Christmas spirit.

An eight-day 'Classic Christmas Markets' cruise from Nuremburg to Frankfurt allows guests to explore villages, with shore-based activities including a 'Taste of Christmas' tour where guests can try Frankfurt's famous apple cider, watch a master baker make stollen in Wertheim, try Bamberg's specially brewed holiday beer and enjoy Nuremburg's gingerbread with steaming mugs of Glühwein.

Also on board, is a signature lecture of 'European Christmas Traditions, from the



Nutcracker to the Tannenbaum'.

Prices for the cruise start from £1,979 per person, based on a twin share, and include seven nights' onboard accommodation in a riverview stateroom on the S.S. Antoinette, all meals and unlimited beverages on board, a range of onshore excursions, wellness on the water experiences, plus all transfers on arrival and departure days.

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## Rotana offers up to 30% summer discounts for stays in Abu Dhabi

ROTANA HOTELS is offering up to 30% discount on room rates for those seeking a summer sun getaway in Abu Dhabi.

Valid until September 3, the offer includes flexible booking with no cancellation fees in locations across Abu Dhabi, including Beach Rotana with its views of the Gulf as well as Centro Yas Island Hotel.

The hotel brand also has news of two forthcoming openings in Abu Dhabi for 2017.

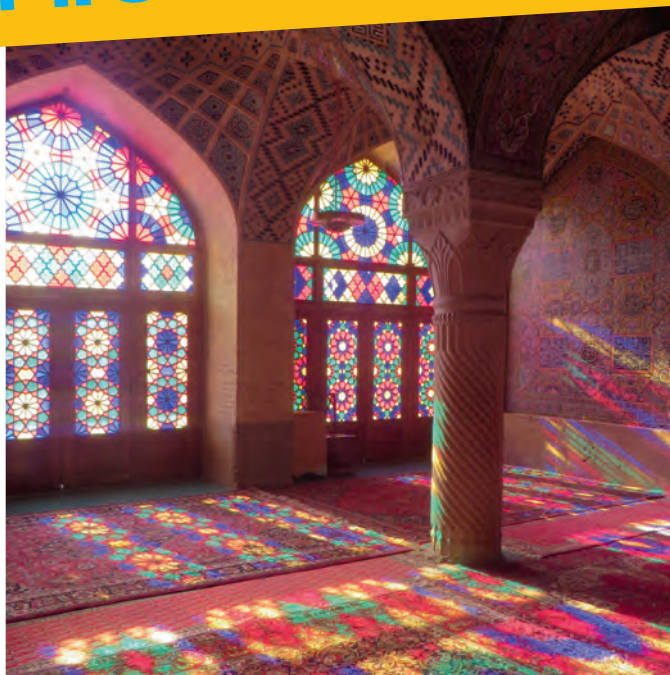
In quarter three of next year the company is to manage the five-star Saadiyat Rotana Resort situated on the secluded Saadiyat Beach, one of six districts of the island. The property will feature 367 upscale room suites and villas, a private stretch of beach, a variety of food and beverage outlets with meeting and conference facilities, in addition to a spa and a fully equipped Bodylines health & fitness club.

Meanwhile, the Capital Centre Rotana, which is set to open in the fourth quarter of 2017, aims to serve both business and leisure travellers with 315 rooms, four dining outlets, a swimming pool and massage room.

In other news, in Ras Al Khaimah the Cove Rotana Resort is currently undergoing significant expansion to add to its five-star offering.

Due to be completed in quarter two of 2017, 112 well-appointed standard and superior rooms ranging from 40sq.m to 48sq.m will be added, along with ten upscale junior suites and 21 executive suites ranging from 50sq.m to 63sq.m.

Two accessible rooms for guests with special needs will also be created, and the expansion will also include an all-day dining restaurant, an outdoor pool with pool bar, and a kids' club and pool.



**EXPLORE'S 14-DAY 'Treasures of Iran' trip offers an immersive and insightful tour through ancient Persia and modern day life in Iran. Guests can discover the looming Towers of Silence in Yazd, the lush Naranjistan gardens in Shiraz and visit Naqsh-e Rostam, the home of a bygone necropolis and cliff-face rock tombs. A visit to the mountainside village of Abyaneh, capital of Tehran and city of Isfahan are also included. Trip departures are between August and December and cost from £1,761 per person including flights, 13 nights' hotel accommodation with breakfast, transport and the services of a leader, driver and local guides.**

## Jordan Tourism Board launches 'ExtraJORDANary' campaign

THE JORDAN Tourism Board (JTB) has launched a new marketing campaign, investing in excess of half a million pounds.

Dubbed the 'ExtraJORDANary' campaign, it aims to continue to support UK trade partners in selling Jordan and to promote the history, culture and hospitality the country offers.

The campaign will run until September with the objective of attracting visitors to Jordan and increasing arrival figures this year and next.

Jordan is home to a plethora of attractions, including the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Petra and the Dead Sea which sits at 400m below sea level, the lowest point on earth. Situated in the north is Amman which offers a blend of old and new with modern restaurants, traditional boutiques and local markets surrounded by evidence of its historic past.

The campaign comes as the JTB continues to strengthen its position in the UK market through national print activity and a three-month long broadcast promotion across stations including ITV, Sky News and More 4. During the course of the campaign, 'ExtraJORDANary' will also be present around the UK with posters featuring on the London Underground, in

the Bullring shopping centre in Birmingham and the Trafford Centre in Manchester.

The campaign marks a significant spend for the tourist board and, key to its success, a focus on maximising both reach and frequency to ensure it is both influential and remembered.

Adel Amin, director of marketing at the tourism board, said: "The campaign's focus is to showcase our majestic country and inspire people to visit, as well as extend support to our trade partners. The campaign highlight's Jordan's most special places, including Petra, the Dead Sea, Wadi Rum and Aqaba, and aims to create desire and intrigue through a captivating headline and stunning visuals.

"Jordan has unique experiences in all segments including wellness, biblical, adventure at Wadi Mujib and Wadi Hidan and other undiscovered locations around Jordan.

"We look forward to seeing our valued UK partners capitalise on this incredible promotion and will continue to work together to ensure the appetite for Jordan develops and the visitor numbers to our wonderful Kingdom increases."

For more information see [visitjordan.com](http://visitjordan.com)

## Middle East expansion from Wyndham

WYNDHAM HOTEL Group has announced a series of new development deals with new hotel openings in destinations including Iraq and Oman.

The group's latest signings include the co-located Ramada Encore Muscat Al Ghubra and Ramada Hotel & Suites Muscat Al Ghubra, which will open at the end of 2018, offering increased choice in accommodation to the growing visitor numbers to Oman's capital city.

A dual deal comprising of the Ramada Plaza Najaf and Ramada Hotel & Suites Najaf in Iraq is expected to attract some of the large numbers of religious pilgrims who visit the nearby Imam Ali Holy Shrine every year.

Visit [wyndhamrewards.com](http://wyndhamrewards.com) to find out more.

## Regent responds to growing interest in Iran

REGENT HOLIDAYS has created a new position for an Iran product manager, following growing interest in travel to the country since the FCO's travel advice was relaxed and the British Embassy in Tehran reopened.

Marianne Grimshaw, who has worked in travel for the past ten years, started in her new role last month and will oversee the introduction of four new trips to the country for the operator, which is one of the few UK operators to offer tours to Iran.

Grimshaw visited the country in 2014 when the FCO still advised against travel and said: "It is the friendliest country I have ever visited. I was welcomed in to the houses of friends and family of my guide and these were some of the highlights of my trip. I would recommend that everyone visits the desert city of Kashan, famous for its roses and beautiful Qajar houses, as well as the Tomb of Hafez in Shiraz. Hafez is the nation's favourite poet and locals gather there every evening to enjoy the gardens and read poetry to each other."

Visit [regent-holidays.co.uk](http://regent-holidays.co.uk) or call 020-7666 1244.

## Dubai promotes romantic offerings for couples seeking a honeymoon getaway

WITH THE wedding season already upon the UK, Dubai is highlighting itself as an ideal destination for newlyweds seeking a honeymoon getaway.

From luxury hotels, numerous attractions, sunny weather, immaculate beaches and world-class dining, the city has all the essential ingredients for a romantic escape and is only a three-hour time difference away.

For love and luxury in the desert, the Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa is tucked away amidst the dunes, yet is a half-hour drive from the city centre. Guests can enjoy a drink and a soak at the pool, explore the surroundings on a desert drive or camel ride, or relax with a Body Harmony meditative treatment or Desert Delight body exfoliation.

For beach fans, the destination offers the waters of the Arabian Gulf at Kite Beach or Sunset Beach and, when it's time for a break from the rays, couples can find a host of beach clubs fringing the Palm Jumeirah. Alternatively, the ambiance and extravagant luxury of Nikki Beach Dubai is offered on Pearl Jumeirah.

In Downtown Dubai, visitors can soak up the views from Burj Khalifa's At the Top observation deck, stroll through the winding streets of Deira (Dubai's heritage district) or enjoy a Romantic Moonlight Swim in the infinity pool of Burj Al Arab's Talise Spa. Couples can also enjoy some five-star privacy by sailing out on the Arabian Gulf with Xclusive Yachts.

Newlyweds looking for some luxurious rest and relaxation after their big day can indulge with the Romance 1001 Roses package at Jumeirah Zabeel Saray's Talise Ottoman Spa, offering an experience with a private treatment room, Jacuzzi and sauna. They can also try one of Madinat Jumeirah's indulgent couples' experiences with a choice of private outdoor cabanas and signature massage treatments. The romantic setting of Dining by Design at Anantara, The Palm Dubai Resort, offers diners a candlelit meal for two beneath the stars – either on the beach or along the resort's private jetty.



**HOLIDAYMAKERS CAN** explore the Middle East this December on a seven-night cruise on Royal Caribbean's Vision of the Seas. Sailing round-trip from Dubai from December 19, the itinerary visits Khasab and Muscat in Oman and Abu Dhabi, with prices starting at £1,306 per person based on two sharing an oceanview stateroom. It includes drinks on an all-inclusive package and flights from Heathrow.

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\* Based on London Heathrow departure on the 11th September 2016 - 20kg Baggage included.

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## Attraction World highlights highflying experiences in Dubai

ATTRACTION WORLD is offering a variety of diverse experiences in Dubai that agents can offer to their clients.

For those seeking a taste of indoor skydiving, iFLY Dubai is the world's first double vertical wind tunnel and the first to attach itself to a mall. The unique design includes being raised three metres into the air giving flyers a bird's-eye-view over Playnation, accommodates all types of flyers and can be booked through the company for £45 per person.

Alternatively, guests can climb the tallest building in the world and experience 360-degree views of Dubai's skyline from the 124th floor of the Burj Khalifa. The company is able to offer the 'At the Top' experience in tandem with a visit to Dubai's ten-million litre aquarium and underwater zoo.

Located on the ground level of The Dubai Mall, it is the largest suspended aquarium in the world and guests can walk through the 48-metre Aquarium Tunnel and explore the Rainforest, Rocky Shore Living Ocean environments and UAE Night Creature at the Underwater Zoo.

Together, the 'At the Top, Burj Khalifa' and 'Dubai Aquarium & Underwater Zoo' is being offered through the operator for £40 per adult and £32 per child aged four to 12 years.



Travel Bulletin is published by  
**Alain Charles Publishing (Travel) Ltd**  
University House, 11-13 Lower Grosvenor Place,  
London, SW1W 0EX  
Tel: 020-7834 6661  
Printed by: Buxton Press  
Subscriptions are £125 p.a. £195 overseas  
ISSN: 0956-2419



### puzzlesolutions

#### Crossword:

Across: 1. TITAN, 3. MAJOR, 5. ESTORIL, 7. SAM, 8. FLR, 9. AMAZON, 11. CUNARD, 14. DOT, 16. ELY, 17. RYLAND, 18. SPAIN, 19. AGNES.

Down: 1. THE BFG, 2. NERJA, 3. MALTA, 4. ROME, 6. TORQUAY, 7. SNOWDON, 10. ATHENS, 12. ARRAN, 13. DELTA, 15. ZEUS.

Highlighted Word: TANZANIA

Where Am I?: Abu Simbel, Aswan, Egypt



@TravelBulletin



TravelBulletin

We asked our staff the following question this week:

**If you had to get a tattoo, what would you choose?**



**Jeanette Ratcliffe**

Publisher

jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk

*A ladybird.*



**Lauretta Wright**

Editor

lauretta.wright@travelbulletin.co.uk

*#ss*



**Adam Potter**

Editorial Assistant

adam.potter@travelbulletin.co.uk

*How about Psyduck from Pokemon, in an undisclosed location :-)*



**Paul Scudamore**

Contributing Editor

post@travelbulletin.co.uk

*My blood group and d.o.b.*



**Simon Eddolls**

Sales Director

simon.eddolls@travelbulletin.co.uk

*Worry less...live longer.*



**Tim Podger**

Account Manager - Far East

tim.podger@travelbulletin.co.uk

*A yin yang.*



**Bill Coad**

Account Manager

bill.coad@travelbulletin.co.uk

*Never liked them so cannot even think of what to have.*



**Matt Gill**

Senior Account Manager

matt.gill@travelbulletin.co.uk



**Matthew Weinreb**

Sales Executive

matthew.weinreb@travelbulletin.co.uk

*I'd have "Travel Agents R Us" scrawled down my forearm.*



**Kathryn Frost**

Sales Executive

kathryn.frost@travelbulletin.co.uk

*Scandinavian sea serpent winding around my arm.*



**Gemma Reeve**

Events & Sales Administrator

gemma.reeve@travelbulletin.co.uk

*Tiny birds flying up the inner side of my finger.*



**Nicky Valsamakis**

Design Team Leader

nicky.valsamakis@travelbulletin.co.uk

*Oriental dragon back piece.*

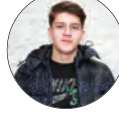


**Miriam Brtkova**

Designer

miriam.brtkova@travelbulletin.co.uk

*Evil Purple Minion.*



**Liam Jackson**

Design Apprentice

liam.jackson@travelbulletin.co.uk

*I would get a Pikachu tattooed on my forehead.*



**Nelly Mendes**

Production

production@travelbulletin.co.uk

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