

# travelbulletin

January 06 2017 | ISSUE NO 1,996 | [travelbulletin.co.uk](http://travelbulletin.co.uk)

Giving agents the edge

## winter sun

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warming new offers

### this week

#### notes from normanton 8

Sandy reveals what she  
has been up to lately

#### london life 13

find out what's new in the  
capital this month

#### uk & ireland 17

operators unveil new  
itineraries and options for 2017



#### spain & her islands 21

explore the landscape of  
geniuses in Costa Daurada



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## HOP TO IT...

**TOURISM AUSTRALIA (TA) and Qantas have launched a new campaign to encourage English cricket fans to book a trip to the 2017/18 Ashes Series. Packages are now on sale via a number of official licensed tour operators and are available for all five test matches: Brisbane from November 23-27, Adelaide from December 2-6, Perth from December 14-18, Melbourne from December 26-30 and Sydney from January 4-8, 2018. As the official airline partner of Cricket Australia, Qantas is encouraging Brits to reserve their seat early for flights to Australia and to utilise the large domestic network between tests. Pictured promoting the new campaign are, from the left: John O'Sullivan, Tourism Australia; Chi-Wai Lee; Qantas cabin crew; and Markus Svensson, Qantas. For details visit [australia.com/ashes](http://australia.com/ashes)**

## CLIA issues 2017 State of the Cruise Industry Outlook & travel trends forecast

THE CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has released the 2017 State of the Cruise Industry Outlook, detailing a steady pace of cruise travel interest and significant investment in the industry. The association has also predicted the top eight cruise travel trends that will have an impact on the industry this year.

Increase in cruise travel is expected to continue throughout 2017, with an estimated 25.3 million passengers expected to sail in 2017, a strong surge from 15.8 million just ten years' prior (2007).

More ships will set sail in 2017 as well; CLIA reports that cruise lines are scheduled to debut 26 new ocean, river and speciality ships in 2017 for a total investment of more than \$6.8 billion in new vessels. From 2017-2026 the industry is expected to introduce a total of 97 new cruise ships totalling an estimated investment of \$53 billion through 2026.

The association's president and CEO, Cindy D'Aoust, said: "The cruise industry is responding to global demand and we are highly encouraged by both the short-term and long-term outlook.

"From technological advancements and deployment of new ships to new ports and destinations around the world, the industry continues to respond to the desires of today's travellers resulting in steady growth and strong economic impact around the world."

CLIA has forecasted the top eight cruise travel trends that will have the most impact on the cruise industry this year: New generation takes to the water - a recent study found that younger generations, including Millennials and Generation X, will embrace cruise travel more than ever before; Travel agent use increases - today there are more than 25,000 CLIA-member travel agents globally compared to 12,000 in 2010; River cruise demand increases; More private islands on cruise itineraries - in 2017, cruise lines offer ports on a total of seven private islands; New cruisers will take to the sea; Drivable port locations in favour - with 69% of non-cruisers in a recent survey believing that the greatest benefit is cost savings and 74% of cruisers like the convenience of driving to a cruise ship; Lure of celeb chefs; and demand for expedition cruises.

For more information on the report see [cruising.org/about-the-industry/research](http://cruising.org/about-the-industry/research)

## THIS WEEK

03

### news

a round-up of the latest industry news & developments

09

### agent bulletin

agent training, competitions & booking incentives

11

### puzzle bulletin

play Su Doku for your chance to win a £50 M&S voucher

12

### bulletin briefing

news and views from The Global Travel Group

13

### london life

find out what's new in the capital this month

17

### uk & ireland

operators unveil new itineraries and options for 2017

21

### spain & her islands

explore the landscape of geniuses in Costa Daurada

27

### winter sun

entice your clients to take a warming break with these new offers

## Titan unveils second edition Worldwide 2017 brochure of escorted tours

TITAN HAS released details of its second edition Worldwide brochure of escorted tours for 2017 and 2018 which features more wildlife experiences and Madagascar joining the portfolio for the first time.

As Canada marks the 150th anniversary of its confederation, the brochure features two new tours; while closer to home a new week-long tour to Sicily offers an insight into the history of the Mediterranean island.

In total, there are 45 new tours with deposits from £49 per person for bookings made by January 31. A new range of 12 'essential' travel adventures that focus on the key highlights of a country, plus details of a new range of river cruise holidays on the MS Serenade 1 which Titan is exclusively chartering throughout 2017, are also offered.

For details or to book call 0800-988 5873 or visit [titantravel.co.uk](http://titantravel.co.uk)

## New tours and worldwide adventures offered through Great Rail Journeys

GREAT RAIL Journeys has enhanced its worldwide portfolio with a number of new tours.

Itineraries include USA & Canada, Japan, Vietnam & China, and Iran, which all feature as part of the operator's new offerings for 2017.

A ten-day New York, Niagara Falls and Toronto, described by the company as 'a captivating discovery of three fascinating cities' includes a sightseeing tour of New York, a guided tour of Washington D.C., a chance to view Niagara Falls and an ice wine tasting in Niagara-on-the-lake.

Prices start from £2,195 per person and there are six departures available between August and October 2018.

Alternatively, a 14-day Northern Vietnam & China offering includes a visit to the Stone Forest of Shilin Yi in Yunnan Province, a walking tour of Sapa, plus a tour which takes in Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the One Pillar Pagoda and the Temple of Literature.

Prices are from £3,695 and there are six departure dates available in

2018, with customers able to choose to fly from Manchester or London.

All tours include the services of a tour manager, quality hotel accommodation, local guides, a

programme of excursions and many meals in the hotel and at local restaurants.

To book or for more information see [greatrail.com](http://greatrail.com) or call 01904-527180.



Toronto



**QANTAS HAS announced that it will operate non-stop flights from London to Perth using the 787-9 Dreamliner, marking the first time the UK will be directly connected to Australia with a non-stop service. The 17-hour route is scheduled to begin in March 2018 and is expected to be the third-longest passenger flight in the world. Bookings open this April.**

## New tours mark The Beach anniversary

TO MARK the 20th anniversary of one of the bestselling novels, *The Beach*, Thailand's Phi Phi Island Village Beach Resort on Koh Phi Phi Don is giving guests the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the world's most famous young backpacker, Richard, with an added touch of comfort thanks to new tours including The Island Explorer and Krabi Adventure Tour.

The Island Explorer tour visits Phi Phi Pi Leh's azure lagoon with its unique acoustics, impressive scenery at Rantree Bay, Hin Pahe and Loh Samah Bay, plus the crystal-clear waters that provided the setting for *The Beach* itself.

The Krabi Adventure Tour takes explorers kayaking through breathtaking limestone caves, elephant trekking through the forest of Koh Kaew, sightseeing past Ao Nang, Koh Poda and Chicken islands and snorkelling close to Phi Phi Don.

The property offers 201 bungalows and hillside villas located in 70 acres of fragrant botanical gardens and overlooking the Andaman Sea.



## Regent Seven Seas Cruises announces cruises featuring Havana

REGENT SEVEN Seas Cruises has been granted permission to offer voyages to Cuba, and has added the destination to two Caribbean voyages on Seven Seas Mariner in April. The two itineraries, departing on April 11 and 18, will both overnight in Havana, giving guests time to experience the city's rich culture and history.

Along with a visit to Cuba's capital, they will both call on the new, upscale resort-style destination in Belize called Harvest Caye, and a range of shore excursions are offered as part of the company's free unlimited shore excursion programme.

All tours will offer guests an authentic Cuban experience that explores the people, music, art, history and culture of the island. To provide guests with greater insights into Cuba and its people, guest scholars and expert lecturers will deliver compelling presentations about Cuba's past, present and future.

The line's president and CEO, Jason Montague, said: "We're excited to be the first luxury cruise line to offer voyages to Cuba, a destination our guests have dreamt of visiting."

"With our industry-leading all-inclusive luxury experience, guests will be able to enjoy the wonders of Havana with a robust selection of free, unlimited shore excursions."

The seven-night Caribbean cruises start from £2,969 per person and include flights, unlimited shore excursions, Wi-Fi and fine wine and spirits.

For details visit [rssc.com](http://rssc.com) or call 02380-682280.

## Funway launches Peaks Campaign

FUNWAY HOLIDAYS has launched its largest turn-of-year sales campaign – the 'Take Off' Sale. It runs until the end of this month across digital media; direct mail in the form of an eight-page mini brochure; e-marketing and the High Street.

Discounts of up to 50% off bookings and 2018 summer holiday availability will lead the company's Christmas and new year booking deals for 2017, while other benefits include low holiday deposits starting from £99.

The operator's head of marketing, Nick Talbot, said: "January is a critical time for any holiday company, and this year competition for consumers' attention is going to be keener than ever."

"We wanted to deliver a campaign that plays to the strengths of what differentiates us in the market and really reminds agents and the travelling public of everything we can do."

"Equally, though, we know they want a great deal at this time of year. So this campaign is geared towards demonstrating that you can have the best of both worlds – five-star treatment without a five-star price tag!"

As an example of prices, a seven-night stay at the two-and-a-half-star Rosen Inn at Pointe Orlando costs from £449 per person including flights from Gatwick with Delta Air Lines. It is based on two adults and two children traveling on June 19.

For details see [funway4agents.co.uk](http://funway4agents.co.uk)

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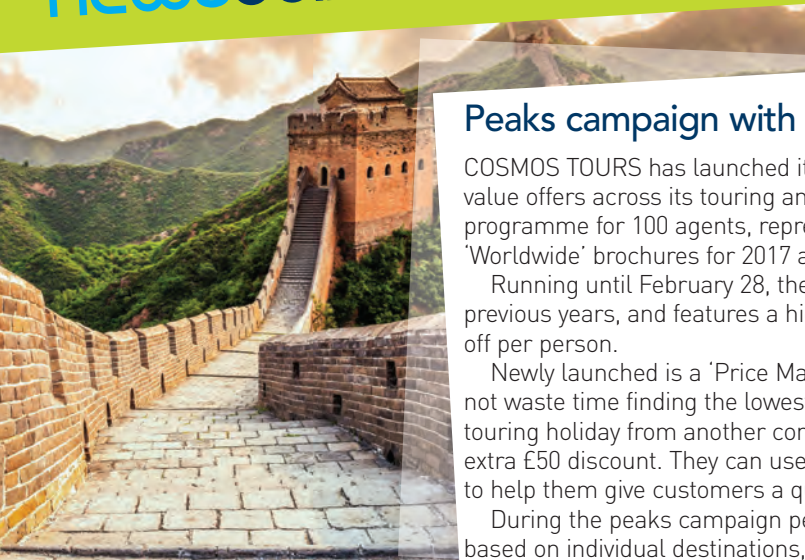
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## Peaks campaign with price match guarantee from Cosmos Tours

COSMOS TOURS has launched its strongest ever peaks campaign with high discounts and extra value offers across its touring and cruise brands, as well as rolling out a fam trip incentive programme for 100 agents, representing an investment of £200,000. 'New Collection' and 'Worldwide' brochures for 2017 are also newly introduced.

Running until February 28, the peaks campaign has an extended booking period compared to previous years, and features a high saving message across all the company's products of £150 off per person.

Newly launched is a 'Price Match Guarantee' applicable to all touring holidays so agents do not waste time finding the lowest priced holiday for a customer. If an agent finds a cheaper touring holiday from another company, Cosmos will match the price and offer the customer an extra £50 discount. They can use [cosmostoursandcruises.co.uk](http://cosmostoursandcruises.co.uk) to check pricing and availability to help them give customers a quote.

During the peaks campaign period, there will also be fortnightly extra exclusive discounts, based on individual destinations, with a 'Top Ten' of selected tours, cruises or beach holidays with a further £25 off per person.

Early bookers can also take advantage of other offers including a low deposit of £75 per person on every holiday and no single supplements on a choice of worldwide tours and departure dates. The operator's VIP home pick up service is included as standard with every holiday booked.

Meanwhile, the launch of worldwide fam trip incentives coincides with the start of the peaks campaign. A total of 100 agents will have the opportunity to travel to a choice of destinations including China, India, the US (New York and Philadelphia), Canada, Italy and Spain.

To be entered into the prize draw to win a place, agents need to confirm a booking with the operator by January 31.

The company's head of trade sales, Janet Parton, said: "This is our strongest ever peaks season campaign with significant discounts across the entire holiday programme as well as our new price match guarantee which will help agents identify the best priced holidays without having to shop around. Our focus is very much on supporting our trade partners with this campaign, as well as providing price parity across all brands and holiday products so they can secure early sales and increase their commission earning potential."

"We're really excited to roll out our largest ever fam trip incentive, as we offer agents the chance to experience some of the most spectacular and exciting destinations in the world which our programme showcases."

"With so many of our new products recently launched in the market, such as private touring, UK & Ireland and European specialist interest tours, we want to grow agents' awareness of the breadth and diversity of our holiday programme. As well as helping them to really understand our KSPs and why they should book with us."

"With our newly formed sales team in place, we are committed to supporting our trade partners as much as possible with webinar training based on our latest campaign, KSPs, reasons to book, and of course a reminder of the fam trip incentive."

To make it easier for agents and customers to identify what's new for 2017, the operator has launched a dedicated 'New Collection' brochure featuring its most recently launched tours, cruises and holidays.

Available for departures from this month through to April 2018, the choice includes private touring, UK & Ireland tours, luxury short breaks and exotic beach holidays. New to the market is a selection of premium brand, 'Select by Globus' tours across the US as well as, a first of its kind, a 112-day holiday across five continents and ten different countries.

*For supplies of the newly launched brochures agents can visit [trade-gate.co.uk](http://trade-gate.co.uk) or for more details on any of the above call 0800-440 2797 or see [cosmostoursandcruises.co.uk](http://cosmostoursandcruises.co.uk)*

## Newly designed high-speed trains from SNCF

SNCF HAS introduced newly-designed TGV Océane trains on the line linking Paris-

Montparnasse station with Bordeaux and Toulouse in southwestern France.

The new design features of the TGV trains are evident in the first delivery of 40 new trainsets that will run on France's southwestern network between now and 2019.

More comfortable, more practical and better connected than ever, two of the trainsets offer rail liveries in colours that reflect the cities and regions—Nouvelle-Aquitaine and Occitanie—they serve.

They are wrapped in a unique adhesive film created especially for the occasion by street artists/illustrators Epis One and Mondé.

## More choice from Southampton as Flybe expands summer schedule

FLYBE HAS added more routes for sale from Southampton as part of its expanding 2017 summer schedule that currently offers a choice of up to 306 flights week across 29 routes including an early selection of sun routes.

Tickets are available for booking now at [flybe.com](http://flybe.com) with one-way fares from £32.99 including taxes and charges for travel from March 26 through to September 2017.

Flights to Faro, Palma-Mallorca and Alicante are on sale for those who are looking to beat the winter blues by booking some summer sun, with more flights to be added in the coming weeks.

The airline's 2017 summer schedule features increased frequency on Amsterdam, Bordeaux, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Newcastle services allowing greater flexibility and choice for business and leisure travellers alike.

Onward travel to the rest of the world is also more extensive, with the carrier's 11 codeshare partners offering regional customers wide-ranging opportunities of onward long-haul travel through Flybe hubs. Codeshare partners include Virgin Atlantic, Emirates and Air France via Manchester, Dublin, Amsterdam and Paris Charles de Gaulle.



## New Paris route from Vueling

VUELING HAS announced a new route between Birmingham and Paris-Orly, which will launch in March 2017.

Flights are on sale now for services beginning on March 26, operating initially four times weekly and increasing to six times weekly in June 2017.

Flights will be operated by an Airbus A321 aircraft with capacity for 220 passengers and fares are from 29.99 euros for direct one-way flights, including taxes and handling charges. For more information see [vueling.com](http://vueling.com)

## Monarch adds new routes to summer 2017 programme

MONARCH IS adding flights from Birmingham to Porto and Manchester to Dubrovnik as part of its summer 2017 schedule.

Fares to Porto start at £32 with two-night holidays starting from £155. Flights start on April 28 and will operate three times weekly on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Fares to Dubrovnik start at £32 with seven-night holidays from £299, with flights commencing on April 29, operating twice weekly on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

There will also be additional flights to Gibraltar for summer 2017 from Manchester Airport, with fares from £39.

As well as the new flights to Dubrovnik from Manchester, the carrier has added a Tuesday flight to its Gatwick programme. There will now be up to five flights a week to Dubrovnik from Gatwick.

Flights and holidays to Antalya from Gatwick are also now also on sale, with flights starting at £39 and seven-night holidays from £455.

The extended summer 2017 schedule follows September's announcement of three new destinations to the airline's network; Stockholm, Zagreb and Porto.

To book or for more information see [monarchagents.co.uk](http://monarchagents.co.uk)



Every week during January and February we'll award one lucky agent a long haul holiday of their choice, to the value to **£2,500!** All you need to do to enter the weekly prize draw is **make a package booking with Gold Medal.** Your booking will be automatically entered!

Book between 02 January and 26 February 2017 to enter. Winners will be announced each week.

**Win!**  
A **£2,500**  
holiday!

**FARE  
BANK**  
**DOUBLE  
REWARDS**

## DOUBLE Farebank Rewards!

Earn **DOUBLE** on **EVERYTHING\*** you book with Gold Medal up to 31 January 2017! Don't miss out – get booking today.



## Worldwide Holiday Sale NOW ON!

Step inside 2017 with incredible savings on worldwide holidays! Sign up to receive GMag Online updates by emailing [GMag@goldmedal.co.uk](mailto:GMag@goldmedal.co.uk)

Terms & Conditions: Gold Medal's 888 Holiday Jackpot incentive is for eight holidays – each to the value of £2,500. If chosen holiday is over £2,500, the agent must pay the difference in cost. Destination and hotels chosen by the eight winning agents must be featured in the Gold Medal worldwide portfolio. Holiday departure dates may be subject to blackout periods. Winner will be drawn at random on a weekly basis from all package bookings made with Gold Medal between 02 January and 26 February 2017. Weeks run from Monday to Sunday. Every booking counts as a separate draw entry. Prizes are non-transferable, there is no cash alternative and Gold Medal's decision is final. \*Double Farebank Rewards on all components booked with Gold Medal between 28 December 2016 and 31 January 2017 except business and first class flights. Gold Medal reserves the right to change/withdraw these incentives at any time.

Call: 0800 014 7777 Visit: [goldmedal.co.uk](http://goldmedal.co.uk)





Notes from

## Normanton...

**I** HOPE you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year – I think 2017 is going to be a great year! Let's face it, we have had enough 'deaths' in the past few weeks to last a year and all so young! Was reading an article 'Ten reasons why you should book with a travel agent' – it was all straight forward but I think sometimes we forget the good service we give. So just to remind you – here it is. I particularly like no. 5 & 8.

1. Buying travel is a unique purchase, because you are buying both a product and a service.
2. Travel agents are trained to take a critical look at each piece in your trip puzzle.
3. They can make sense of the multitude of offers from cruise lines, airlines and hotels.
4. Travel professionals save you time and money.
5. They are your advocate – whether you need an upgrade to an ocean view or a ticket out of harm's way after an earthquake, your travel agent will be there for you, intervening with suppliers on your behalf.
6. They are the experts.
7. Knowledge is power.
8. They have your back. When things go wrong, a travel professional knows whom to call to get it fixed on the spot. If your flight is cancelled, just have a seat and pick up the phone while the rest of the passengers are lined up trying to rebook. Didn't get the room category you booked? No need to argue with the front desk. One call will get it corrected.
9. They are your personal shopper.
10. They can offer customized experiences that no one else can.

Have you seen the new ABTA video where it mentions 12 destinations? Bet you can't guess which they are – see [abta.com/traveltrends2017](http://abta.com/traveltrends2017). I also like their new poster Travel Fraud Up 450% and costs Holidaymakers £11.5million. "Be smart – always book with an ABTA Travel Company" – if that doesn't make them book with a travel agent I don't know what will!

'One thing you can't recycle is wasted time' and 'Your mind is like a parachute, it functions only when open'.

*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)

## NEWS BITES

- **ANA, JAPAN'S** largest airline, has become the country's first carrier to take delivery of an Airbus A320 new engine option (A320neo). The airline is scheduled to begin operating it on short-haul international routes later this month.
- **VALUE RETAIL** has announced that Fidenza Village, located near Milan, has undergone a 30 million euro expansion to offer 3,500sq.m of additional space, bringing the total to 21,000sq. m. As part of the expansion, 20 new international fashion brands have joined the existing 102 boutiques.
- **TRAINLINE HAS** announced it is now offering tickets to destinations across the whole of Benelux via its website and mobile applications.
- **TURKISH AIRLINES** has launched Miniport, a new daily passenger baggage transport service between Taksim MINI PORT - Ataturk Airport - Taksim MINI PORT, which lets passengers enjoy Istanbul without slowing down. For details see <http://miniport.istanbul/>.
- **WYNN LAS** Vegas and Amazon have announced plans to equip all 4,748 hotel rooms at Wynn Las Vegas with Echo, Amazon's hands-free voice-controlled speaker. The introduction of the technology into every guest room will allow guests to control various hotel room features with a series of voice commands via Alexa, the brain behind Echo.

## Adult-only hotel & luxury beach club, Bikini Beach, opens in Cape Verde

CAPE VERDE has seen the opening of its first adult-only hotel and the first luxury beach club, Bikini Beach.

Developed by resort hospitality company, The Resort Group (TRG), the hotels welcomed their first guests last month and guests can choose to stay in one of two adult-only hotels; Sensimar Cabo Verde by TUI and MELIÀ Llana Beach Hotel.

Both offer a range of hotel suites, tropical pools and spa facilities, all set against the backdrop of beaches and tropical gardens.

TRG has invested 70 million euros into the development of the two hotels and a further three million euros into Bikini Beach. The two hotels have more than 600 suites and can welcome 43,873 tourists per year.

The group plans to expand the Bikini Beach brand across Cape Verde and other key locations around the world.



## AGENT TRAINING

- AGENTS WHO successfully complete the Avis online training programme between now and January 15 will be entered into a prize draw for the chance to win £200 in shopping vouchers. For details see [avistraining.co.uk](http://avistraining.co.uk)
- MANCHESTER AIRPORT is hosting its first trade event in Birmingham in February to educate agents about the wealth of routes served from the UK's third biggest airport. The informal event will allow agents to meet more than 20 airlines and tourist boards that fly from Manchester. Key routes being profiled on the night include San Francisco, Boston, Beijing and Houston. Along with food, drinks, music and entertainment, agents will have the chance to win one of 25 prizes including flights. To register to attend see [manchesterairport.co.uk/traveltrade](http://manchesterairport.co.uk/traveltrade)

## AGENT COMPETITION

TO CELEBRATE the release of its new Escorted Holiday Collection by Air brochure, Newmarket Holidays has placed 50 golden tickets randomly into the new brochure packs that will be arriving with agents this month. If an agent finds a Golden Ticket they could win prizes including places on a fam trip to India in May, Samsung Galaxy Tablets and £20 Love2Shop vouchers. To redeem their prize agents must post a picture of themselves with the golden ticket to [facebook.com/Nic.newmarket](https://www.facebook.com/Nic.newmarket) and quote their winning code by January 31.

## BOOKING INCENTIVE

PREMIER HOLIDAYS has unveiled its agent incentives for its 2017 peaks campaign, which includes daily, weekly and monthly prizes throughout this month and next. Prizes include long-haul fam trip places, theatre tickets, destination-inspired hampers and a Heritage bike.



THE GLOBAL Travel Group's series of free regional one-day training events took place in Crawley at the end of last year. The day brought together 26 agents from 17 agencies who had the chance to enjoy one-on-one training sessions with 16 suppliers. For details see [globaltravelgroup.com](http://globaltravelgroup.com)



## SAVE, SEA & SKI

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## Early booking savings from Cycling for Softies & BSpoke Tours

CYCLING FOR Softies and BSpoke Tours are offering an Early Booking Offer to save couples £100 off this year's tours.

New for 2017 are Cycling for Softies' experiences in Spain and Italy whilst BSpoke Tours now offers 32 tours across nine European countries, more than doubling the number of cycling, walking and boating-with-biking breaks available.

As an example of prices, a five-night 'Treasures of Tuscany & Umbria Ebike Tour', taking in historic squares and quaint towns, with al fresco dining, regional cooking, cooking classes and an authentic Italian truffle hunt, costs from £1,055 per person including bed and breakfast accommodation, e-bikes and equipment and luggage transfers.

All tours include flights, transfers, breakfast accommodation, maps, a personalised itinerary, onsite assistance, bike hire, panniers and puncture repair kits.

For more information or to book visit [cycling-for-softies.co.uk](http://cycling-for-softies.co.uk) and [bspoketours.com](http://bspoketours.com)

## Disney World family savings of up to £650 with DoSomethingDifferent.com

DOSOMETHINGDIFFERENT.COM and Walt Disney World have teamed up to offer a 25% reduction on Disney tickets, equating to more than £100 per person as well as 14 days for the price of seven.

This means that agents can pass on savings of up to £650 per family, if they book their Orlando tickets with the operator before January 31. In addition, there is free Disney Memory Maker for the whole family so magical moments can be captured.

With the offer, a 14-day Disney Ultimate Ticket will cost from £319 per adult and £309 per child which includes unlimited access to all six Disney parks - Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom, Blizzard Beach Water Park and Typhoon Lagoon Water Park.

Annabel Cove, the operator's head of trade sales and marketing, said: "This is our best ever Disney offer and it makes an Orlando holiday so much more affordable; 25% discount on Disney tickets is unparalleled and with 14 days for seven on top of this, families can really make the most of all the parks in Orlando. Even if they



just pop into Magic Kingdom for the Wishes night-time spectacular or an afternoon parade, it will add something a bit special to every day."

Discounts are also offered on combination tickets - with the option

to include Universal, SeaWorld and LEGOLAND parks on the Orlando Freedom Ticket (up to 12 parks, £674 per adult and £644 per child), or the Disney & Universal Combo Ticket (up to nine parks, £559 per adult and £532 per child).



**TIGNES TRIP...**Mark Warner recently took a group of agents on a fam trip to Tignes. The group stayed at the Chalet Hotel Aiguille Percee and skied for two days in the Espace Killy plus had fun apres-ing at the Folie and Cocoricco. Pictured are, from the left: Ben Salmon, Mark Warner; Matt Roland, Ski Solutions; Marcus Williams (below), Travel Wise; Curtis Burrell, Interactive; and Ellis Raule, Iglu Ski.

## James Villa Holidays unveils new look

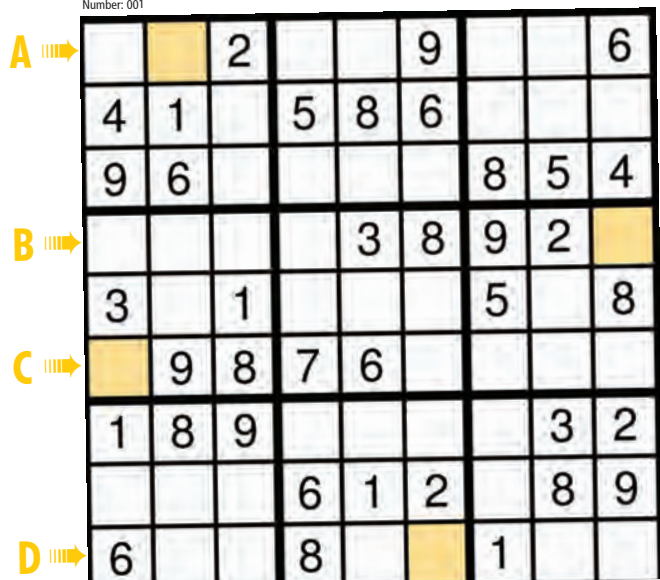
JAMES VILLA Holidays has launched a new look including an easy-to-use online experience, together with a new series of villa categories known as the Villa Collections.

The new site has been designed to inspire and guide holidaymakers through the process of choosing the ideal villa holiday, while the new Villa Collections have been launched to meet the different needs of the company's customers.

The new Villa Collections consist of: Simply - for simple and affordable properties; Classic, for a home away from home vibe with modern comforts; Signature, which offer something extra; Luxury, featuring stand out properties; Ultimate, for the finest finish and opulent comfort; and iNDIVIDUAL, which have been specifically handpicked and recommended by one of the product team.

For reservations and more information visit [jamesvillas.co.uk](http://jamesvillas.co.uk), call 0800-074 0122 or email [reservations@jamesvillas.co.uk](mailto:reservations@jamesvillas.co.uk)

Number: 001



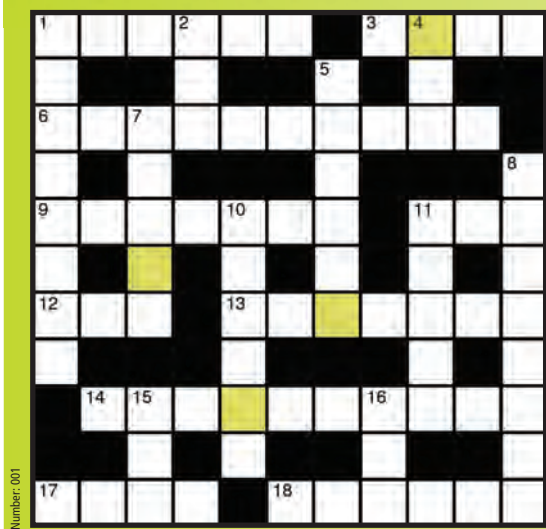
**December 16 Solution: A=1 B=8 C=6 D=2**

# Where Am I?



This 1,000ft. radio telescope is recognised as one of the most important national centres for research in radio astronomy, planetary radar and terrestrial aeronomy. It was also used as a filming location in the climax of the James Bond movie GoldenEye.

# Crossword



1. Sports presenter who won the 2016 Strictly glitterball (3,5)
2. Small river island (3)
3. English cricketer, \_\_\_ Stokes (3)
4. Japanese high-speed train (6)
5. Desert between the Red Sea and the Med (5)
6. Scandinavian capital city (8)
7. Delhi airport, Indira \_\_\_ International (6)
8. First name of country music icon with a theme park in Tennessee (5)
9. Airport code for 8 Down (3)
10. Airline with a Prague hub (3)

January 6 2017 **travelbulletin** 11



# Industry Insight by...



The time for excess is over says Andy Stark, managing director of The Global Travel Group...



IF YOUR workplace is anything like ours, you'll have spent most of December in sugar-filled surroundings with evenings made even merrier embracing the generous hospitality of friends and family and wholeheartedly entering into the seasonal spirit.

Of course, this festive feasting continues all the way through to New Year's Eve, when the party season achieves peak jollity and temptation is never more than a Toblerone away. It may well be the most wonderful time of the year but, as waistlines everywhere attest, it's also the most excessive.

After an overindulgent few weeks we know that, just as we come down off that sugar high, stress levels tend to shoot up as the travel industry kick-starts the year with its busiest booking season of all.

So, here's a New Year promise you can count on amidst the traditional sea of well-meaning resolutions: we'll make sure we've given you all the tools you need to maximise sales during the peak booking period – and then we'll leave you to it.

After all, our members pride themselves on successfully running their own businesses. And we know that the last thing agents really need after more weeks of yuletide gluttony than you can shake a stick at is surplus attention exactly when you most need to get down to business.

In the run up to the end of the year our team was every bit as busy as Santa's elves getting everything ready for our #LoveTravel campaign. Designed to help agents excel throughout this critical time, our biggest ever turn-of-year initiative incorporates all the assets, collateral and marketing guidance agents need to achieve

their full sales potential. We recognise how hard it can be for independent agents to find time to manage the promotional side of things. Having access to personalised marketing materials becomes all the more valuable.

One of the most consistent pieces of feedback we receive from agents is that we leave our members to run their own business but are always at the end of the phone to help them when they need it. This is one of the reasons why we've also introduced a dedicated peaks campaign hotline number for agents to contact our dedicated marketing team for on-the-spot advice until the end of March.

**"After an overindulgent few weeks we know that, just as we come down off that sugar high, stress levels tend to shoot up as the travel industry kick-starts the year with its busiest booking season of all"**

Of course, with new developments expected throughout the year – from new destination training opportunities, to industry updates on everything from the ATOL reforms to potential changes to APD levels and our own in house technology – we can still be relied upon to provide the ongoing background knowledge you need to stay ahead of the curve throughout 2017.

After all, everything in moderation...

# LONDONLIFE

Event and hospitality group, Camm & Hooper, is opening a new social scene in Soho this month. Located at 11 Soho Square in central London, the **Six Storeys** townhouse will host five floors dedicated to decadence with elegant bars, a relaxed dining style, private rooms and venues for stylish events. Visit [sixstoreys.com](http://sixstoreys.com)



## Events & Exhibitions

J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone was first released in 1997, meaning June 2017 will see in the 20th anniversary of the Harry Potter book series. Whilst in London, Potter fans can have their photo taken pushing a trolley through Platform 9 ¾ at King's Cross Station or, for would-be sorcerers, a visit to the **Warner Bros. Studio Tour** reveals a magical insight into The Making of Harry Potter film series.

With JM Barrie's Peter Pan taking flight at London's National Theatre, **MBNA Thames Clippers** is sprinkling extra pixie dust on the new production with two special offers. Theatre-goers who choose to enjoy the capital's skyline from the river on their way to the show can do so with a third off travel when single tickets are bought online using the code 'PeterPan16'. They can also enjoy a £5 per person discount off evening performances with adult tickets in price band B (from £52) and price band C (from £39) when 'CLIPPERCODE' is used at the point of purchase. Promotions run until February. Visit [thamesclippers.com](http://thamesclippers.com)



A year-long festival of Nordic art and culture, featuring music, dance, theatre, visual arts, participation, talks and debates, plus gastronomy will be running at the **Southbank Centre** from January 13 into 2018. A particular emphasis will be placed on the idea of play fostering curiosity and creativity for people of all ages, but particularly children and young people. Moving beyond popular perceptions of 'Nordic Noir', the programme will embed Nordic culture and artists in the centre's year-long artistic offer, and provide a platform to some of the more 'hidden voices' from Greenland, Åland and the Faroe Islands.

Packages to the Chelsea Flower Show are now on sale with **SuperBreak**. With the best in gardening and horticulture brought together in one place from May 25-27, the show is held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, home to the Chelsea Pensioners, next to the River Thames. Prices start from £198 per person including one night at the three-star Eaton Square Belgrave hotel with breakfast and a ticket to the show. Visit [superbreak.com/agents](http://superbreak.com/agents)





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- 2 nights' at 3\* Best Western Pemberton Hotel, Pemberton
- 3 nights' at 3\* ibis Styles, Albany
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- 3 nights' at 4\* O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, Lamington National Park
- 4 nights' at 4\* Adina Apartment Hotel Bondi Beach, Sydney
- 4 days AVIS car hire, pick up and drop off Brisbane

**FROM £1,299PP**

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**3 FREE NIGHTS**

## 10 DAY TASMANIAN WONDERS

### INCLUDES

- Return flights with Etihad Airways
- 10 day Tasmanian Wonders escorted tour with AAT Kings, including 9 nights' accommodation, services of an experienced tour guide, various meals and selected sightseeing

### HIGHLIGHTS

Visit Hobart's iconic Salamanca Market and Battery Point before exploring Mount Field National Park and its spectacular 3-tiered waterfall before travelling on to Queenstown. Enjoy a pot of lunch whilst cruising the Gordon River. Learn about the gold mining history in Launceston and visit the local Boags Brewery before stepping back in time in Port Arthur with a guided tour of its infamous convict prison.

**FROM £2,559PP**

Tour departs: 10 May 17

## 13 DAY EAST COAST ADVENTURE

### INCLUDES

- Return flights with Etihad Airways
- 13 day escorted tour with APT, including 12 nights' accommodation, services of an experienced tour guide, various meals and selected sightseeing

### HIGHLIGHTS

Travel along the gorgeous coastline of New South Wales to bohemian Byron Bay. Visit the Australia Zoo and see native Australian animals. Explore World Heritage-listed Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island as you journey along the coast. Cruise to and experience the Barrier Reef's marine life and enjoy two nights on idyllic Daydream Island in the Whitsunday Islands.

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Tour departs: 17 Sep 17

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# LONDONLIFE

## The Palm Court at Sheraton Grand London Park Lane

is offering a new Golden Age of Cocktails menu created by Rebecca Seal. As the newly appointed in-house drinks historian, Rebecca has explored the hotel's archives and picked out the best and most unique content to inform her choice of cocktails. The etiquette-based menu guides guests to which particular libation suits the time of day and experiments with the many tastes and trends the hotel has served in its 90-year history.



## Hotel Updates



**The Wellesley** in Knightsbridge will officially join The Luxury Collection's portfolio, now part of Marriott International, in March 2017. The 36-room hotel, converted from a 1920s townhouse, overlooks Hyde Park and is famed for its Art Deco style with services including a complimentary 24-hour butler and Rolls-Royce drop-off service. The hotel's addition will help to strengthen The Luxury Collection's presence in the UK and Europe, with 2017 on target to be another milestone year for the brand. Visit [thewellesley.co.uk](http://thewellesley.co.uk)

**Mercure Hotels** has now opened the doors of its latest four-star London property. The 79th addition to the hotel group's UK portfolio, the new townhouse hotel offers a sleek, elegant design and is located at 8-14 Talbot Square, a few minutes away from Hyde Park and Paddington station, with rooms starting from £131 per night. Visit [mercure.com](http://mercure.com)

**Dorsett Shepherd's Bush** will be stepping into the New Year with a Lucy Choi London pop-up event. Hotel guests and local fashionistas will be able to shop Lucy Choi's autumn/winter collection with up to 50% off on selected styles in the stylish setting of the hotel's atrium on January 25 (16:00-20:00) and on January 27 (12:00-18:00). Visit [dorsetthotels.com](http://dorsetthotels.com)

**The ibis Styles Southwark – Borough Market Hotel** officially reopens this month. Having undergone a full refurbishment and inspired by classic on stage stories, the contemporary hotel now features West End themed musical décor. The hotel is within close proximity to Borough Market and the Tate Modern, while those looking to hit the tourist trail won't have far to go to reach the London Eye. From there, it's a quick stroll over Waterloo Bridge into the heart of London's West End or to the Globe Theatre, located just around the corner. Overnight stays start from £125 for a double room with breakfast. Visit [ibis.com](http://ibis.com)

**The London Marriott Hotel County Hall** has recently undergone a multi-million pound renovation and relaunch. The property now offers a range of meeting and event spaces in restored rooms overlooking Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament and the River Thames. All suites include upgraded bathroom facilities, entrances with tiled mosaic flooring and bespoke wallpaper featuring a historic map of London from the era of the building's infancy.



**GUESTS CAN** enjoy ancient York, delightful Brontë country and scenic railway journeys on Rail Discoveries' five-day 'Yorkshire by Steam' signature tour. Following the success of its Yorkshire programme, the company has increased the number of tours to God's own country to 50 departures this year, which are scheduled from March to October and cost from £325 per person. Visit [raildiscoveries.com](http://raildiscoveries.com) for details.

## Prestige Holidays boosts selection of UK getaways

PRESTIGE HAS increased its UK holiday options with castle breaks in Scotland and Ireland, the introduction of escorted group tours and more hotel choice across the Isles of Scilly and Channel Islands.

Lee Hamilton, the operator's specialist sales manager, said: "With uncertainty elsewhere in the world and the weakening of the pound following Brexit, the appetite for UK holidays continues to grow. We have seen a surge in UK bookings year-on-year and our business is up almost 60% - hence the expansion of our programme. We have also seen a growing trend for escorted tours and have had success with these in other destinations so it made sense to offer them for the UK too."

Crossbasket Castle, close to Glasgow and Ashford Castle just 45 minutes from Galway City, are both new additions for 2017. Crossbasket offers five-star luxury with a slice of Scottish history from £749 per person for three nights' bed-and-breakfast stay with flights from Heathrow and transfers.

North of Galway, the 13th Century Ashford Castle is the oldest castle hotel in Ireland. Set in 350 acres of ancient woodland, it sits on the shores of Lough Corrib and offers 82 individually styled rooms plus a hideaway lakeside cottage. Facilities include cinema, golf course, kayaking, fly-fishing and a falconry school. A three-night stay in a Corrib

room starts from £788 per person including flights from London.

The operator has also introduced a seven-night escorted tour of the Emerald Isle which includes a stay at the castle and takes in the best of Ireland's scenery and sights from £1,595 per person. It includes flights from the UK, breakfast and selected meals, excursions and guided transport.

Another addition is the eight-night Country Roads of Scotland tour for those keen to visit the country's key sights for £1,895, as well as an eight-night escorted tour of the Channel Islands and Normandy that stops at key World War II sights.

There is also an emotive four-night tour of Northern France and Belgium taking in World War I's battlefields.

Meanwhile, making an entrance in the Isles of Scilly is Karms St Martin's on the island of St Martin's. A three-night stay at the 30-room contemporary four-star hotel costs from £664 per person on bed-and-breakfast with flights from Land's End to St Mary's and boat transfers to the island. The operator has self-catering options on Guernsey for the first time at the five-star Les Piques Cottages and has added La Barbarie Hotel, the luxury St Pierre Park Hotel in St Peter Port and the Peninsula Hotel on a sandy beach in Grand Havre Bay to its portfolio. New in St Helier Jersey is the Royal Yacht Hotel plus the Chateau La Chaire.

## New 'taster' option from Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

FIRST TIME cruisers looking for a taster cruise with Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines can now take a one-night voyage without having to take out a cruise travel insurance policy.

Throughout its 2017/18 cruise season, the line is offering a selection of short UK 'taster cruises', which allow guests to stay on its ships for one night to enjoy a 'snapshot' of the facilities and a cruise holiday, experiencing a five-course dinner, entertainment and accommodation.

Neil Herbert, head of sales for the cruise line, said: "We are always looking to attract new-to-cruise customers and to make the cruising experience as easy and straightforward as possible. Our range of one-night taster cruises offer the perfect opportunity for potential cruisers to sample our product, without committing too much time or money. And, with the news that travel insurance is no longer required on these sailings, we hope to attract even more first-timers to try out our friendly and relaxed holidays."

To further remove a barrier for guests looking for a taster cruise, but who do not hold a current passport, the range of short sailings do not require a valid passport. Instead, guests can choose another form of photographic ID at check-in.

For further information visit [fredolsencruises.com](http://fredolsencruises.com)

## SuperBreak adds Wedgwood tours to portfolio

SUPERBREAK HAS added a new attraction in Staffordshire that can be added to any hotel booking by agents.

Several Wedgwood tours are now available that celebrate the very best of British craftsmanship at the interactive visitor centre and museum.

Visitors can see craftsmen at work in the heart of the Potteries, utilising unique artisan skills and techniques, trace more than 250 years of design and production and discover Josiah Wedgwood's lasting influence on industry and society.

The museum houses a UNESCO protected collection of historic and cultural significance and three tours are available: Wedgwood Experience - museum and factory tour; Wedgwood Discovery tour and afternoon tea; and a Wedgwood Experience Day which includes a tour, lunch, pot throwing master class and tea tasting.

Prices start from £49 per person based on one night at the three-star North Stafford Hotel with breakfast and tickets for the Wedgwood Experience museum and factory tour.

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





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## GRJ boosts escorted tours offering

NEW FOR this year, Great Rail Journeys has enhanced its escorted tours collection with a number of new itineraries in England, Scotland and Ireland.

Special attention has been paid to introducing the new product in response to the rise in popularity of staycations.

Peter Liney, the operator's CEO, said: "We use our 40-year expertise to constantly develop our portfolio in line with customer feedback, consumer trends and cultural interests. We're very excited about the seven new GBI tours we are offering for 2017."

The six-day 'Britain's Roman Heritage', starting from £845 per person is described by the operator as "the most fascinating journey through Britain's incredible history" and includes a stay at the four-star Lumley Castle, a journey on Hadrian's Wall Line, a visit to the Roman Army Museum, plus an excursion to Chedworth Roman Villa. It also includes a special guest speaker talk by Patrick Ottaway on the history of Roman Britain.

Meanwhile, showcasing the culture and majesty of the Scottish Highlands, a ten-day 'Grand Tour of Scotland' has been added to the company's portfolio.

The itinerary includes a stay at Inverloch Castle, a Prosecco reception, a Loch Ness cruise, a tasting tour of the Talisker Distillery plus other excursions, as well as journeys on the Jacobite Steam Train and West Highland Line. Tours lead in at £2,795 per person with departure dates between May and September.

Visit [greatrail.com](http://greatrail.com) or call 0800-240 4470 for more details.



**THIS YEAR** marks the 20th birthday of Nidd Hall in North Yorkshire and, to celebrate, Warner Leisure Hotels has announced a £2million makeover which will see the restaurant and Late Lounge revamped, as well as the creation of three new historic rooms in the main house. For guests who want to experience the new Nidd Hall, prices for a three-night weekend break start from £199 per person arriving on January 27 based on two sharing standard accommodation including the Simply Dine package.

## Peter Sommer Travels tours the UK for the first time

PETER SOMMER Travels has introduced tours in England and Ireland for the first time in its newly-released 2017 brochure.

The three new tours - two in England and one in Ireland - are the first that the operator has offered outside the Mediterranean and provide the same combination of academic guides, small groups of up to 18 people, ancient history, local scenery and a range of cuisine.

The seven-day 'Exploring Wessex: From Neolithic Avebury to Georgian Bath' explores World Heritage sites and landmarks of the old Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex, staying firstly in a Victorian country house in Wiltshire, followed by an elegant mansion house in Bath.

Guests will discover the stone circles at Stonehenge and Avebury, the mosaics at the Roman Villa of Chedworth, Salisbury Cathedral, the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey and the grandeur and Roman legacy of Bath.

Departing on July 2, prices are from £2,645 per person based on two sharing and

including six nights' four- and five-star breakfast accommodation in hotels, three lunches, four dinners, all entrance fees, expert-led excursions and minibuss travel.

'Exploring Hadrian's Wall: Romans, Reivers and Romantics' examines England's richly-layered history while staying in the 14th century Langley Castle.

Led by tour specialists, Paul Beston and Peter Sommer himself, the seven-day tour follows the Roman Emperor Hadrian's fortifications across the frontier lands of northern England to discover stern traces of Roman power, medieval market towns and a region which has drawn conquerors, settlers and Victorian romantics. Departing on July 8, prices lead in at £2,495.

'Exploring Ireland: The Heart of the Emerald Isle' is an 11-day trip which leaps into Ireland's heritage, tradition and culture while staying in a range of renovated castles, manors and town houses. Departing on July 17, prices start from £4,295.

For further information call on 01600-888220 or visit [petersommer.com](http://petersommer.com)

## Songs & Showstoppers on Saga's Isle of Wight music weekend

TRIBUTE ARTISTS will perform the songs of Shirley Bassey, Tom Jones and Neil Diamond during Saga's entertainment weekend, starting from March 3 at Norton Grange Coastal Village, Freshwater on the Isle of Wight.

Norton Grange, which is part of Warner Leisure Hotels, is a chalet village offering views of the Solent and facilities including an indoor heated pool, bubble pool and sauna, plus snooker, table tennis and croquet. The operator has reserved the entire hotel exclusively for its guests and for the three nights of music, dancing and shows, prices start from £115 per person.

Guests can enjoy a drinks reception on arrival plus there's a single host to welcome solo travellers. In addition, guests pay just £5 for the car ferry crossing which includes up to four passengers.

The village is a short walk from many of the island's attractions including Fort Victoria Country Park and an optional excursion into Newport can be booked for £10. For details visit [travel.saga.co.uk/nortongrange](http://travel.saga.co.uk/nortongrange) or call 03301-009780.



**NEW FROM Hoseasons for 2017, Stables House on the outskirts of the Yorkshire Dales sleeps 12 people in six bedrooms making it ideal for big family getaways or a weekend break with friends. The house is set in the 1,000 acre Gisburn Park Estate in the heart of the Ribblesdale loop, afternoon teas by a roaring fire or simply sipping some champagne under the stars in the outdoor hot tub. The house also comes complete with a large open plan kitchen with a range cooker, dining area and log burner. A four-night break for twelve people, costs from £841 (£70 per person). Visit [hoseasons.co.uk](http://hoseasons.co.uk)**



## Five-day Yorkshire option from £429 with Diamond Rail Holidays

DIAMOND RAIL Holidays has introduced a number of new UK short breaks for 2017, including the five-day Settle to Carlisle Railway & Yorkshire Steam trip.

Taking in the striking Yorkshire scenery by rail, this new itinerary includes the North Yorkshire Moors Railway; a return journey on the Settle-Carlisle Railway, which travels 72 miles through the North Pennines, Eden Valley and Yorkshire Dales; and a trip on the classic

Embsay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway.

The tour costs from £429 per person based on two sharing on a half-board basis, with departures available on three dates in May, July and September. The price includes accommodation, transfers, rail excursions and the services of a tour manager. Return travel to Yorkshire is excluded. For more information visit [diamondrailholidays.co.uk](http://diamondrailholidays.co.uk) or call 0844-544 7581.

## Sherpa Expeditions expands domestic portfolio with new activity holidays

SHERPA EXPEDITIONS is expanding its product in 2017 with the launch of two new itineraries this spring in Scotland and the Channel Islands.

In response to increased interest in UK trips, the 12-day John Muir Way costing from £830 per person will be the activity holiday specialist's ninth itinerary in Scotland and its latest addition north of the border. In the Channel Islands, the company already offers a three-centre cycling itinerary, which will now be complemented by a week long walking option from £525 on the islands of Guernsey, Herm, Sark and Alderney.

Both trips will be launching in April with prices inclusive of accommodation, most meals, experienced guides, luggage transfers between hotels (where applicable) and maps.

Tali Emdin, expeditions manager for the operator, said: "The recent additions of the James Herriot Way in the Yorkshire Dales, our two itineraries on the Isle of Wight and the longest ever guided version of the Coast-to-Coast have all been very well received by our customers, so we have been keen to expand our domestic choices.

"This year we are heading further north and south; the new John Muir Way honours the Scottish-born naturalist linking the country's east and west coasts, while the Channel Islands, closer to France yet a Crown dependency, brim with character and are a walker's paradise."

For more information visit [sherpaexpeditions.com](http://sherpaexpeditions.com) or call 020-8875 5070.

## Haven issues new brochure and launches early booking offer

HAVEN'S NEW 2017 brochure packs were delivered to agents just before Christmas, containing news on the brand's new entertainment and activities, latest refurbishments and early booking offers.

With early booking offers displayed throughout the new brochure, agents can secure their customers savings of up to 25 % on all 2017 holidays when booked by February 6.

This year the company will be re-

investing more than £50million back into its holiday parks. New developments include sports facilities, extensive swimming pool re-developments, landscaping and pitch developments, as well as new accommodation, all of which will be completed in time for the parks' re-opening in March.

As part of its new outdoor activities for children, the company's popular Nature Rockz has introduced two new activities

available across all parks; 'Dream Catchers' and 'Survival Bracelets'. New outdoor activities include watersports at Primrose Valley such as paddle boarding, kayaks and Canadian canoes. Primrose Valley will also welcome a new Aerial Adventure high ropes course across its onsite lake. Lakeland, Cumbria will also be operating a high ropes course this year, while Segways will be arriving at Marton Mere, Presthaven and Primrose Valley.

# spain&herislands



**THE FIVE-STAR Hotel Jardines de Nivaria in the south of Tenerife has reopened following a 13.5million euro investment, which has seen a comprehensive modernisation of the resort. Improvements include the refurbishment of all rooms, a new gym and the relocation of gourmet restaurant, La Cúpula, which now features panoramic views over the island's coastline. Comfort double rooms start from 228 euros per night based on two adults sharing on a bed-and-breakfast basis. Visit [hoteljardinesnivaria.com](http://hoteljardinesnivaria.com) for details.**

## Explore the landscape of geniuses in Costa Daurada

TRAVELLING ACROSS the Catalonian landscape of The Costa Daurada, the 'Genius Route' connects the towns which inspired four 'geniuses' from the world of culture and arts.

Travellers can begin their journey in Reus, 10km from Tarragona, where the architect Antoni Gaudí was born. Best known as the creator of Catalan Modernism, visitors can discover the history of the artist with a trip to the Gaudí centre, before joining a walking route that visits his home on Calle Sant Vicenç.

El Vendrell is the next stop on the route, around 40km north of Reus and the birthplace of Pau Casals, one of the most renowned Spanish musicians and composer of the UN anthem. Born in 1876, it was in the Church of El Vendrell where Pau Casals first played the organ at the age of nine, and he spent many summers at his house on Sant Salvador beach, which is now home to his museum.

The artist Joan Miró first came to the Mas Miró estate near Mont-roig del Camp, 20km south of Reus, in 1911 to recover from an illness. He returned every summer for 65 years and cited the location as the inspiration behind the artwork that propelled him to international fame, including his piece 'The Farm'. The landscapes can be explored on a bike tour, taking in La Pixerota beach and the mountain of La Roca. Guests can also visit the Centro Miró to learn more about his relationship with the 'red land' of Mont Roig.

The 'Genius Route' concludes in Horta de Sant Joan, just over an hour's drive from Mont Roig. Pablo Picasso visited the village twice, but on both occasions it renewed his health and inspired his creativity. The area can be seen in many of his paintings, including the Reservoir at Horta and The Factory at Horta de Ebro. Guests can visit the Centro Picasso museum to see examples of his work, as well as enjoy a walking tour of the places Picasso visited in the historic town. There is also a hiking route to the cave where Picasso stayed at in the nearby Els Ports National Park.

As part of the route, there are also other activities that travellers can experience such as vermouth tasting in Reus, a vineyard and wine cellar tour outside El Vendrell with cello accompaniment composed by Pa Casals and a photography course in Mont-roig del Camp. The route can be explored in a weekend, either independently or by booking an accommodation package from 47 euros per person for one night and 62 euros for two nights.

The 'Targeta Genial' pass includes access to all the museums and cultural centres along the route, as well as discounts on guided tours, bicycle trips and accommodation. The card costs 11 euros for adults, while children under 14 are allowed free entry.

Ryanair flights from Stansted to Barcelona (Reus) are available from £31.98 return and Jet2 flights from Manchester, Newcastle, Leeds-Bradford, Edinburgh, East Midlands or Glasgow to Reus are available from £60.

For more destination information visit [costadaurada.info](http://costadaurada.info)

## Jet2 & Jet2holidays introduce authentic Almeria for summer

JET2.COM AND Jet2holidays have launched the new Spanish destination of Almeria for summer.

Costa de Almeria is the companies' 14th Spanish destination and the seventh in mainland Spain, with flights and holidays starting from April.

Flights will operate twice-weekly from Leeds Bradford and Manchester Airports and weekly from Edinburgh, East Midlands and Newcastle Airports, available from £44 one-way, including taxes.

Escaping the tourist boom of the 1960s, the region of Almeria has retained its traditional charms, offering a coastline of golden beaches and rocky coves. Many of the best beaches

in this region are backed by resort towns such as Mojacar and Roquetas de Mar, meaning an unspoilt slice of Spain is never too far off the beaten track.

The brand offers ATOL protected package holidays to the region from £299, secured with a £60 per person deposit. As an example of packages, a seven-night, all-inclusive stay at the three-star ROC Golf Trinidad in Roquetas De Mar, Almeria costs from £399 per person. The price is based on a May 2 departure from Manchester and includes 22kg baggage allowance and transfers.

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

## SuperBreak boosts Spanish portfolio

SUPERBREAK HAS boosted its portfolio in the city of Madrid by adding nine hotels to its programme, bringing the total now featured to 48.

The growth comes as part of the operator's increased connectivity with Marriott overseas and offers agents the chance to book a variety of hotel brands under the Marriott umbrella. These include the entry level Courtyard option offering value for money and the popular original brand, in addition to the AC Hotels' brand which offers a Spanish flair.

Three-, four- and five-star options are available in a range of locations around the city and hotels can be packaged with a range of flight options, all of which are fully commissionable and ATOL protected.

As an example of prices, a three-night short break to Madrid starts from £295 per person including flights from Stansted and three nights at the four-star Courtyard Madrid Princesa on a bed-and-breakfast basis.

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



# travelbulletin

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## Invites you to an **ESCORTED TOURS SHOWCASE**



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**Crowne Plaza, Leeds**

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to this informative, fun event enabling you to learn more about the diverse range of cultural specialists, tours and itineraries available, allowing your clients to discover some of the most amazing landscapes and places on the planet.

The evening will involve a combination of networking and presentations, exciting entertainment, a free prize draw with a number of fabulous prizes to be won along with delicious food and drinks.

Registration: 18:00 hours  
Networking & Presentations: 18:30 hours  
Buffet, Entertainment & Prizes: 20:00 hours  
Carriages: 21:30 hours

To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the names and job titles of up to 5 staff members by  
**Thursday 19th January 2017** to [oliver.barton@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:oliver.barton@travelbulletin.co.uk)  
or telephone:

# 020 7834 6661

For more information.

These events are by invitation only and will be booked on a first come first served basis.

### SPONSORS



## Boutique Hotel Cort opens in Palma for those seeking a luxury weekend break

OFFERING A mild sunny climate year-round and just two hours' flight time from London, Palma makes for an ideal weekend destination.

Featuring 14 suites and two double rooms, Hotel Cort is one of the city's newest boutique hotels in the heart of old Palma and is located a ten-minute stroll from the beach.

The luxury hotel combines traditional hand-painted tiles, wooden floors and Mediterranean colours, carefully preserving the character of this 19th century building, and all rooms and suites have been individually designed.

The Island Suite duplex, for example, offers a downstairs living area, spacious second floor bedroom with bathroom and on the top floor terrace a hot tub, sun loungers and a wonderful view. Some of the other suites also offer balconies and tiled terraces.

Guests also have access to a plunge pool on the third floor terrace, with sun beds to relax and take in the city views.

Dining options include the hotel's Raw Bar serving seafood specialities, oysters and Cava, plus Mallorcan and Mediterranean fusion cuisine made for sharing in the

restaurant and mezzanine bar, or guests can enjoy the buzz of the outdoor terrace on the historic Plaça Cort. See [hotelcort.com](http://hotelcort.com) for more details.



## British visitor arrivals to Tenerife projected to exceed two million for close of 2016

VISITOR ARRIVALS from the UK to Tenerife are set to exceed two million in 2016 for the first time following a bumper year of unprecedented growth.

More than 1.55 million visitors from the UK travelled to Tenerife between January and September 2016, representing a 19.9% increase compared to the same period in 2015.

The figures, released by the Tenerife Tourism Corporation, demonstrate the continued strength of the UK market which remains the island's largest source market, accounting for 36.9% of all visitors.

Alberto Bernabé, tourism minister for the Tenerife Island Government, said: "This is excellent news for the island as the numbers show that this year we have welcomed about 350,000 additional British visitors to the island. One out of two Brits coming to the Canary Islands choose Tenerife as their preferred destination, and nearly four out of ten visitors to Tenerife come from the UK."

It is expected that this growth will continue until next summer thanks to the increase in air capacity and the launch of new routes. There will be five new routes this winter: Manchester with Vueling and Norwegian; Birmingham with Vueling; Newcastle and Belfast with Ryanair, in addition to the recently-launched weekly service with Thomson Airways from Humberside Airport.

The Irish market also performed well last year with a total of 73,001 visitors from Ireland travelling to the island from January to September, up 19.2% compared to the same period in 2015.

## Rail Discoveries marvels at vibrant Madrid with two new tours in 2017

RAIL DISCOVERIES has introduced two new Spanish tours for 2017, 'Madrid & the Pilgrim's Trail' and 'Madrid, Toledo & Salamanca'.

Louise Heatley, the company's head of product and contracting, said: "Vibrant culture, rich history and sensational weather are just some of the attractions that our escorted rail tours of Spain have to offer. Madrid is especially compelling which is why we have introduced several new tours featuring the city; the cosmopolitan capital is steeped in art, culture and attractions both ancient and modern."

Beginning in Bilbao, the heart of Basque country, the nine-day holiday 'Pilgrim's Trail' journeys to Santiago before ending in the capital, Madrid. From £995 per person it includes flights, transfers and four-star accommodation.

Alternatively, with prices starting from £795, a new eight-day 'Madrid, Toledo & Salamanca' takes customers to three of Spain's historic cities and includes flights, all transfers and four-star accommodation.

For further details visit [raildiscoveries.com](http://raildiscoveries.com) or call 0800-240 4470.



## Cycling for Softies focuses firmly on the 'foodie' with new gourmet tours

FOR THE first time in 35 years and expanding beyond France for the first time, Cycling for Softies is offering new self-guided easy-paced adventures for 'foodies on tour' in regions of Spain.

For those who adore wine, the new six-night 101km 'Cava to Coastlines in Catalonia' gourmet adventure provides the opportunity for guests to combine their passion with peaceful pedalling through one of the most enchanting areas of the Mediterranean coastline.

The first stop on the tour is Hotel Restaurant Duran, Figueres which dates back to 1855 (with Salvador Dali among one of its earliest and most regular visitors) delivering traditional Catalan dishes and a remarkable wine cellar stocked with a selection of local wines and cava. Moving on from Figueres to Perelada, guests can enjoy a rest at Castillo Perelada Degustation Centre, a 5,500-strong wine and cava emporium.

The landmark route from Torroella de Montgri to Palamos passes through the old town of Parafugell, home to Casa Serra; a renowned family-run affair selling pastries, cakes and local delicacies as well as specialist dessert wines and ideal for an 'après-cycle' stop or a spot of afternoon tea.

The tour is priced from £1,215 per person based on six nights' accommodation including breakfast, gourmet evening meal, bikes and equipment and luggage transfers.

For more information, visit [cycling-for-softies.com](http://cycling-for-softies.com) or call 020-7471 7760.

## Urban-style Only You Hotel Atocha opens its doors in Madrid

NEW MADRID property, Only YOU Hotel Atocha has opened its doors bringing a slice of New York to the Spanish capital.

The launch of the new urban-style hotel brings with it a unique range of events including a pop up gin bar and, for its four-month launch period, an authentic jazz residency from renowned US jazz label Blue Note.

Facing Atocha railway station, one of the city's major transportation hubs, the hotel overlooks the Paseo Infanta Isabel and Alfonso XII street, close to Madrid's Retiro Park. It's location means visitors can easily explore the city on foot, including Madrid's famous Golden Triangle of Art (including the Prado, Reina Sofia Museum and Thyssen – Bornemisza Museum), as well as many of the capital's historic sites.



The hotel includes 205 rooms, spread across seven floors as well as a gym with a personal trainer service and running club, multi-purpose rooms for business guests and multiple dining options. The lobby area offers different spaces and concepts to enjoy during the day or at night featuring exhibitions and events and a bar and café designed to welcome visitors and locals alike.

The Atocha addition to the Only YOU Hotels portfolio joins Only YOU Boutique Hotel Madrid in the Spanish capital, and is part of the Palladium Hotel Group's strategy of increasing its urban portfolio in Europe's main city destinations.

Double rooms are priced from £143 with breakfast. For more information visit [onlyyouhotels.com/hotel-atocha/](http://onlyyouhotels.com/hotel-atocha/)

## Simply Luxury by Travel 2 highlights diversity of Mallorca & Lanzarote

MALLORCA REMAINS one of Simply Luxury by Travel 2's top selling Spanish islands.

One of the largest islands for British tourists in the Mediterranean, it offers a diverse range of holidays from cosmopolitan city breaks in Palma to the party atmosphere of Magaluf.

Lauren Ross, product and commercial manager (Europe, Short Haul) for the operator, also advised: "For those customers looking to experience a quieter and more relaxed holiday, they can escape to the luxury hotels in secluded locations on the island which offer guests the opportunity to experience some of the finest spa's and world renowned restaurants.

"Another Spanish island selling well is Lanzarote. The island is recognised as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve due to the volcanic formations and limited rain fall, making for a diverse environment. The island is also great for sports enthusiasts, both on land and the ocean, with challenging routes for cycling and good conditions for surfing, windsurfing and kitesurfing."



James  
VILLA HOLIDAYS

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**WITH A range of well-appointed suites and villas, including beachside accommodation with private pools, The Anam is a new luxury five-star resort located on Northern Cam Ranh Peninsula in Vietnam. Combining colonial era charm with 21st century design and convenience, a philosophy based around 'No Shoes. No News. No Stress' means the emphasis is firmly on relaxation. Rates for a double sea view premium villa start from £245 per night. See [theanam.com](http://theanam.com) for more information.**

## Battered Suitcase explores the ancient wonders of Oman

WITH THREE direct daily flights from London, the Sultanate of Oman is easily accessible for travellers to experience its wealth of culture, history and diverse countryside.

Battered Suitcase has introduced an 11-day, private 'Ancient wonders of Oman' tour for the independent traveller with luxury hotel accommodation in the Chedi and Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa, Muscat; the Golden Tulip at Nizwa and the peaceful Alila mountain resort.

The itinerary begins with a guided tour of Muscat and a visit to a dhow boat building yard, before heading out for a night in a desert camp with dinner featuring Shuwa style lamb, an Omani speciality cooked in a desert pit for 24 hours.

Heritage sites include Jibreen Castle, which was built as a summer house for the Sultan in 1670; Neolithic Beehive Tombs at Zukait and the Falaj Daris. Visitors will also be offered leisure time in the Gulf of Oman.

Prices are from £5,199 per person including flights, transfers, breakfast accommodation, some meals and a private driver/guide.

Additional options can be arranged such as a whale and dolphin-watching tour; a three-day excursion to the Wild Oryx Sanctuary; a private overnight stay on a dhow; a two-day trip to the Queen of Sheba archaeological ruins, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Salalah and activities such as golf.

For details or to book call 0800-689 1586 or visit [battered-suitcase.com](http://battered-suitcase.com)

## Simply Luxury by Travel 2 promotes popular destinations

TRAVEL 2 HAS reported that Australia remains a strong winter sun choice for its Simply Luxury brand.

The operator's Oceania assistant product manager, Rachel McMurdo, said: "Although it is a long flight, amazing weather can almost always be guaranteed. More and more often we are seeing clients seeking multi-centre holidays to Australia with three or four stops including 'once in a lifetime' experiences such as reef sleeps on the Great Barrier Reef, or dinner surrounded by the Field of Lights near Ayers Rock."

Later this year the company will be introducing the new Heart Hotel and Gallery in Airlie Beach and the Cicada Lodge in Katherine to its new brochure. Lizard Island Resort has also re-opened this year.

Meanwhile, the operator's short-haul Europe product and commercial manager,

Lauren Ross, said: "For winter breaks in Turkey, I would recommend the region of Antalya. The weather tends to be warmer in Antalya than other holiday destinations in Turkey and it is one of the few beach destinations in Turkey that you can travel to directly from the UK during the winter season."

With a number of golf courses in the area, Antalya is popular with golfers and also offers a range of sights including the Antalya Museum, the ruins of Termessos, the Duden waterfall, as well as shopping opportunities.

The operator highlights Belek as an ideal area to stay for its beaches, clear water and close proximity to Antalya town, and recommends the five-star Titanic Deluxe Belek hotel, which features five outdoor pools, a private beach and 14 bars, as well as a bowling alley and spa.

## Bermuda launches annual Pink Sale

THE BERMUDA Tourism Authority has launched its annual Pink Sale, offering up to 50% off hotel stays during spring, autumn and winter.

The Pink Sale is run in association with several tour operators at hotels including Grotto Bay Beach Resort, Royal Palms Hotel, Hamilton Princess & Beach Club, Newstead Belmont Hills, Elbow Beach Bermuda, Coco Reef, The Reefs and Fairmont Southampton.

The properties will offer discounts of up to 50% on all bookings made until January 24, with discounts varying based on the individual hotel and number of nights booked by April 30 and between September 4 and December 31.

The Atlantic destination, which has a temperate year-round climate and is a seven-hour flight from the UK, is now also attracting a new generation of more adventurous travellers with a range of new health, fitness and wellbeing activities and sports, unique events and authentic island life experiences.

To find out more visit [gotobermuda.co.uk/pinksale](http://gotobermuda.co.uk/pinksale)



## VisitTheUSA highlights new winter sun opportunities across states

FOR TRAVELLERS hunting for some winter sun state side, VisitTheUSA.co.uk has highlighted some of regions agents should keep an eye on for 2017 and beyond.

From September 1, Aer Lingus will commence its new long-haul route from Dublin to Miami every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

New to the destination is the The Nobu Hotel Miami Beach which arrived at Eden Roc Miami Beach last autumn following a multi-million dollar renovation and landmark restoration to relaunch the iconic Morris Lapidus property. The hotel's opening is part of Eden Roc Miami Beach's transformation with renowned chef Nobu and actor Robert De Niro at the helm.

Also in Florida, British Airways recently announced its new flight route into Fort Lauderdale, commencing from July 6 directly from Gatwick. The destination is considered to be the gateway to the Everglades, where visitors can take an airboat ride and witness flora, fauna and wildlife - from alligators to Florida panthers. It is also home to the Seminole Indians, who invite visitors to learn about their ancient culture.

The US Territory of Puerto Rico offers a blend of old and new, from the walled colonial city of Old San Juan to luxury, modern resorts.

With the average temperature during winter in San Juan being around 28 Celsius, winter is an ideal time to visit this outpost of Spanish culture and tropical beauty, and Norwegian Air operates a non-stop service from Gatwick to San Juan, departing every Wednesday and Saturday.

Just outside the capital of San Juan, visitors can explore the El Yunque Rainforest or swim in the bioluminescent bays, where colonies of dinoflagellates make the ocean glow at night. Travellers can also explore the sinkholes and underground rivers located at Rio Camuy Cave Park.

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

## The Moorings offers crewed sailings to Puerto Rico & Spanish Virgin Islands

AGENTS CAN now book all-inclusive crewed sailing holidays to Puerto Rico and the Spanish Virgin Islands through premium yacht charter company, The Moorings.

The archipelago offers an ideal winter sun destination with average temperatures of 29C between January and March. The sailing area is still largely undiscovered and is ideal for customers who like the idea of the freedom a sailing holiday offers, but who are not experienced sailors.

Various crewed yacht sizes are available for agents to book, all with en-suite cabins including two crewed sail catamarans - the Moorings 4800 which sleeps up to six and the flagship Moorings 5800 which sleeps up to ten and also includes a host.



The 514PC crewed power catamaran, which sleeps up to six, is also available for those who prefer power to sail and yacht charters are also commissionable to agents.

A seven-night private charter in late March on a Moorings 5800 crewed yacht costs from £2,872 per person

based on ten sharing. It includes a captain, chef, host, all meals, snacks and beverages, housekeeping, Wi-Fi and all onboard equipment. Flights can be added by the company, which is ATOL protected and ABTA members.

For more information call 03303-321520 or visit [moorings.co.uk](http://moorings.co.uk)

## Barceló Hotels highlights its range of options in the Canary Islands

BARCELÓ HOTELS & Resorts is promoting its range of properties across the Canary Islands which can cater to families and couples alike.

Ideal for couples is the adult-only Barceló Tegui Beach which reopened last year following a transformation. The four-star, seafront hotel offers a new and contemporary interior design, two infinity swimming pools, a new U-Wellness spa with a sun terrace, sauna, steam bath, sensation showers, gym and a wide choice of treatments.

Located in the heart of Costa Tegui, one of Lanzarote's most popular beach resorts, it overlooks Las Cucharas beach which is protected by reefs and is a mecca for wind-surfing and other watersports. Rates start from 140 euros per room, per night, based on two sharing on a half-board basis.

When it comes to travelling with children, Barceló Jandía Mar in the south of Fuerteventura offers a special kids reception on arrival, themed family rooms, revamped kids' club and kids corner in the restaurant for younger guests to serve themselves. Activities include miniature golf, windsurfing, scuba diving and fishing, and there is also a wellness centre featuring a sauna, gym, massage service and solarium.

Also on Fuerteventura is the new Barceló Corralejo Sands, located in the centre of Corralejo 300m from the beach. It is an ideal base for clients who might like to try a range of watersport activities such as windsurfing, diving, kite-surfing and sailing. Guests can also visit the large beaches in the Corralejo Dunes natural park 3km away and enjoy views of the islands of Lobos and Lanzarote.

Visit [barcelo.com](http://barcelo.com) for more details.



## Sandals launches over-the-water villas in Jamaica

SANDALS ROYAL Caribbean Resort & Private Island in Montego Bay, Jamaica recently welcomed its first guests to experience the brand's flagship over-the-water villas and announced the development of additional over-the-water suites at new locations throughout the region.

Citing unparalleled demand and a drive toward continued innovation, the suites will be unveiled at select Luxury Included resorts throughout this year and next, including 12 additional over-the-water bungalows at Sandals Royal Caribbean, which are expected to open in March.

Gordon Stewart, the company's chairman and founder, said: "I have always said that being out on the water is where I am happiest, and with these suites, guests can experience a direct link to the Caribbean Sea.

"Being first is nice, and as a category leader we've enjoyed a lot of firsts – but what is more important is that we continue to evolve, continue to innovate, continue to upend the notion of what an all-inclusive can be and of course, continue to exceed the expectation of our guests."

For more information call 020-7590 0210 or visit [sellingsandals.co.uk](http://sellingsandals.co.uk)



**INTRODUCING THE first luxury pool villa resort in Southern Oman, Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara is conveniently located 15km from Salalah International Airport and is within easy reach of a range of cultural treasures. The recently opened resort offers 136 guest rooms and villas offering views of the ocean, lagoon or gardens; three dining venues; a fitness centre; watersports centre; tennis court; beach volleyball court; infinity pool; and Anantara Spa, offering treatments and wellness programmes. Nightly rates start from £264 on a bed-and-breakfast basis in a premier sea view room. See [salalah.anantara.com](http://salalah.anantara.com)**

## Beachside escapes from Kimpton

KIMPTON HOTELS & Restaurants is highlighting its range of packages to destinations including Florida and California.

The Kimpton Vero Beach Hotel & Spa in Florida features an outdoor pool, complimentary sunscreen for all guests and views of the Atlantic Ocean and soft sands. For those looking for an aquatic adventure, concierge watersports such as boogie boarding, kayaking, paddle boarding or snorkelling, are available from partners at Shark Bait. Visit [verobeachhotelandspa.com](http://verobeachhotelandspa.com)

Housed in a historic art deco building and offering a palm-tree-lined pool and a section of beach, the Kimpton Surfcomber Hotel sits in the heart of South Beach, Florida. A short stroll away, bars, shops, cafes and galleries invite adults to soak up the fun on South Beach, while kids are made to feel extra special with the 'Kimpton Kids Program', which includes a welcome gift and a pet goldfish on request to look after during their stay. Visit [surfcomber.com](http://surfcomber.com)

With surfing-inspired décor (and located steps away from the beaches of Surf City USA), Kimpton Shorebreak Hotel in California offers seaside thrills in a home-away-from-home environment.

The hotel's beachside restaurant, Zimzala, offers local coastline cuisine made with California-grown produce, which guests can savour whilst enjoying live music performances twice a week. In addition, the hotel's onsite Surf Ambassadors are on hand to advise guests on where to find the best surf breaks, or the ideal conditions and swell directions, plus the best times to paddle out. See [shorebreakhotel.com](http://shorebreakhotel.com)

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

## Gold Medal highlights appeal of St Lucia for couples

ST LUCIA MAKES for an ideal destination for couples seeking a winter sun island escape, with the weather during the UK winter months tropical, temperatures reaching the mid to high 20s and the months between January and March the lowest time for rainfall.

In the south there are rainforests and the iconic Piton Mountains – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – as well as botanical gardens and rainforest waterfalls to explore.

Ashley Pilkington, the company's US and Caribbean assistant product manager, said: "I would recommend the Rainforest Adventure Excursion for couples. The tour starts with a walk to the top of the Piton Mountains and visitors will see breathtaking views along the way and also visit the sulphur springs at the Caribbean's only drive-in volcano. Couples after an adventure can enjoy activities such as zip-lining, mountain biking or horse-riding on the island. I would certainly recommend that couples go on a rum tour at one of the St Lucia distilleries.

"An ideal hotel to stay in is Rendezvous. The boutique-style hotel was created as a haven for couples and is set on a two-mile stretch of white sandy beach, just a short distance to the capital Castries.

"It is also home to a restaurant named 'Malabar Beach Club' which is a 'toes in the sand' restaurant featuring an open sail roof to offer a romantic dining experience on the water's edge."

## Funway turns up the heat with beach holidays to Florida

AT THE end of this month, Funway Holidays will launch its new 96-page 'Florida Beaches' brochure.

The new edition focuses on both established beaches and different beach locations such as Bradenton & Sarasota, Daytona Beach, Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach and Panama City Beach. Also new to the Florida programme is Smyrna Beach.

Nick Talbot, head of marketing for the operator, said: "The sunshine state of Florida has an excellent winter climate and has the highest average January temperatures in the

USA, usually reaching around 23-26C. Our programme includes a wealth of product – from the most popular and well established beach resorts to some real little hidden gems such as New Smyrna, a classic small beach town."

As an example of prices, the company is offering seven nights in Florida staying at the three-star Holiday Inn & Suites Clearwater from £1,195 per person, including flights with Virgin Atlantic and travel on January 29 for two adults sharing.

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





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



**DARI INDERA Villas and Spa and its luxury villa, 'the Muse', set in Seminyak, a stone's throw away from the beaches, restaurants, spas and shopping in one of Bali's most lively resorts, is highlighting the destination's 30-degree sunshine in January. With room for up to eight people, all visits include airport pick up, an in-house chef and housekeeper, laundry and shopping services, plus personal concierge services. Prices start from £1,200 for a three-night stay. Visit [dariindera.com](http://dariindera.com) to book or for details.**

## puzzlesolutions

### Crossword:

Across: 1. OCEANA, 3. IBIS, 6. EASTBOURNE, 9. DONEGAL, 11. DEE, 12. BMI, 13. NETTLES, 14. THE HALCYON, 17. BALI, 18. AMALFI.

Down: 1. ORE ODUBA, 2. AIT, 4. BEN, 5. BULLET, 7. SINAI, 8. HELSINKI, 10. GANDHI, 11. DOLLY, 15. HEL, 16. CSA.

Highlighted Word: BATH

Where Am I?: The Arecibo Observatory, Arecibo, Puerto Rico.



We asked our staff the following question this week:

## What's your New Year's resolution?



### Jeanette Ratcliffe

Publisher

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*The same as every year...lose weight and get fit!*



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*To get my Christmas shopping done in October!*



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*Head to the gym more often - and mean it this time.*



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*To de-clutter - anyone want to buy clutter?*



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*Frown less and smile more.*



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*Lose my beer belly!*



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*Not to change a thing, apart from changing everything I did in 2016.*



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*Learn to stick to plans.*



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*Exercise.*



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*More exercise/zumba classes.*



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*To stop biting my nails.*



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*Play more Tiddlywinks*



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*To save money*



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