

travelbulletin

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Giving agents the edge

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entice more visitors

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FESTIVAL FRIENDS

...Ottawa Tourism took a group of operators on a fam trip to the capital to experience Ottawa's Winterlude Festival. Pictured ready to take in the sights are, from the left: Jessica Jackson, Hayes & Jarvis; Peter Watson, Jetset Holidays; Lauren Sycamore, Axis Travel Marketing; Carolyn Stead, Trailfinders; Susan Riggs, Experience Holidays; and Marcia Headley, Holidays 2.

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Kuoni Trend Report reveals The Maldives, Thailand & Dubai are top of best-selling holiday destinations for 2015

THE DOMINICAN Republic, Cuba, Mexico and Cambodia have been highlighted as four of the fastest-growing long-haul holiday destinations for British travellers, according to a new report from worldwide travel company Kuoni.

Whilst islands in the Maldives hold on to their best-selling spot for the tenth year running, the company's 35th worldwide trends report shows demand is also growing rapidly for both Dubai and Abu Dhabi, with combined sales putting them in the operator's top three for the first time.

Thailand keeps its number two position despite a turbulent last year, which saw a change of government following three months of protests.

The company also reveals that the Caribbean is enjoying particularly strong sales with the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Antigua and Cuba all listed in the operator's fastest-rising destinations list for 2015. Cuba has moved further up the best-sellers list and is now at number seven, its highest ever ranking. The relaxed regulations of the post-Castro era have seen tourism thriving, yet it still retains its

authentic feel.

The Dominican Republic has seen the biggest leap out of any destination year-on-year. The country has moved up 15 places in the best-seller list from 38 last year to 23 for 2015.

Growth is largely down to British Airways' twice-weekly direct flights, which has increased access and a number of new all-inclusive, five-star hotels. The Dominican Republic has also made great strides to improve food quality and service which has broadened its appeal for more affluent customers.

Vietnam has seen record rises over the past few years, though it stays just outside the top ten in 13th position. Now its near-neighbour, less developed Cambodia, is also following suit moving up five places to 22nd position as people see it as a natural next step from Vietnam.

Other emerging destinations for 2015 include Ethiopia, which has been added to the operator's 2015 touring programme for the first time, and the Philippines, which is now more accessible with a direct flight from London to Manila.

Study highlights currency mishaps

A STUDY conducted by Sunshine.co.uk has revealed that one in seven Brits has accidentally taken the wrong currency on holiday with them. A total of 2,173 people took part in the study which found that 14% of holidaymakers had taken away the wrong currency, with the top three destinations for this happening being Turkey, Egypt and Canada. The majority of those who took the wrong currency to Turkey (51%) had accidentally taken euros, with the same mistake made by 62% of those who had taken the wrong currency to Egypt, while the majority of those who had taken the wrong currency to Canada had taken US dollars (77%).

Hilton Worldwide to develop first modular hotel at Bristol Airport

HILTON WORLDWIDE has reached an agreement with modular building provider CIMC to develop the first hotel at Bristol Airport under its economy Hampton by Hilton brand.

Robert Sinclair, CEO at Bristol Airport said: "The development of a high quality on-site hotel to be operated under such a world-renowned brand will be a very welcome addition to our facilities for the growing number of passengers choosing to fly to

and from Bristol Airport. Alongside the terminal extension currently under construction, this is another statement of our ambition to be a world class regional airport serving the South West of the UK."

The 201-guestroom property is expected to open in spring 2016 and will be the first hotel at the airport. The property will incorporate flexible meeting spaces for business guests, a 24-hour fitness room, parking for 120 cars, complimentary Wi-Fi



An artist's impression of the new hotel

and Hampton's 'On the House' hot breakfast.

For further details see www.hampton.com

Easter savings across range of destinations from Prestige Holidays

PRESTIGE HOLIDAYS is offering savings on Easter breaks across a range of destinations.

Examples include savings of £506 per family in Tenerife on selected stays at La Plantacion del Sur, with a seven-night stay departing on March 31 costing £1,221 per person, including savings, based on two adults and two children travelling. The price also includes flights with Norwegian from Gatwick, accommodation in two adjoining rooms on a bed-and-breakfast basis and private transfers.

Alternatively, clients can save £408 per family in Turkey on selected stays

at the five-star Gloria Golf in Turkey. The property features an Aqua-park for children, indoor and outdoor pools, a spa and wellness centre and two 18-hole championship golf courses plus a nine-hole academy course.

A seven-night stay departing on April 4 costs £1,071 per adult and £1,017 per child, based on a family of four and including flights with easyJet from Gatwick, all-inclusive accommodation and private transfers.

Meanwhile, the company is offering savings of £334.50 per person off its Dalmatian Highlights Cruise. New for 2015, it takes in the Islands of

Korcula, Brac and Hvar, as well as Mljet, one of Croatia's greenest islands with both national parks and saltwater lakes.

A seven-night stay in a standard cabin on Adriatic Pearl, departing on April 26, costs from £679 per person including flights with easyJet from Stansted, transfers and meals on board comprising breakfast and lunch each day and dinner on the first night. Discounts are also available on May 3, 10, 17 and 24 departures.

To book or for more information call 01425-480400 or see www.prestigeholidays.co.uk



SAIL AWAY

...Viking Cruises ran a 'Great Big Viking Giveaway' at the end of last year, giving agents the chance to win a series of prizes each day for a week including shopping vouchers, Champagne, an iPod and a Kindle Voyage, with the major prize being a European Christmas Markets cruise for two on a Viking Longship along the Rhine or the Danube. Pictured is the main prize winner, John Wilson (left) from 2J's Travel in Somerset receiving his prize from the operator's Andrew Schweitzer.

Condor Ferries marks National Ferry Fortnight with free upgrade

CONDOR FERRIES will introduce the newest addition to its fleet – Condor Liberation – this month and, to celebrate, customers will be offered a free upgrade when they book a trip to the Channel Islands on the new fast ferry during National Ferry Fortnight.

Agents booking a crossing to Jersey or Guernsey for their clients by March 15 and using the promotional code 'NFFUPGRADE', will be able to offer their clients an upgrade to Ocean Plus for travel before November.

Passengers will have the choice of either a table or recliner seat with convenient power sockets available in Ocean Plus, situated in a spacious lounge at the front of the ship, with panoramic views. Adding to the exclusivity of the experience, the lounge is key card entry only and has its own Horizon Bar. Whilst onboard, passengers will also have access to the new Adore Duty Free shopping and a wide range of eating and drinking outlets located around the ferry. In addition, customers booking a trip by March 27 will receive a further 10% discount off the price of their travel.

From the end of March, all journeys to the Channel Islands will be on Condor Liberation from Poole.

For details see www.condorferries.com

Up to £200 off five-star Nile cruises with Discover Egypt

DISCOVER EGYPT is offering £200 off per person for Nile cruises on the five-star deluxe Royal Viking.

Prices start from £899 for the week-long cruise, departing from Luxor and including flights from Heathrow, transfers in resort, full-board cruise and ten guided excursions for departures on April 20 and 27 and weekly throughout May, plus no single room supplement. Guests can also choose to add on a drinks package for £90 (£12 a day) per person.

Prices for a 14-night Best of Egypt option, which includes the Nile cruise and a stay in Hurghada, lead in at £1,248,

offering a saving of £200.

Alternatively, a seven-night Classic Jordan private escorted tour costs from £1,799 and takes in the ruined city of Petra, Wadi Rum and the Dead Sea. The holiday includes two nights in the capital Amman, staying at the Al Qasr Metropole, three nights in Petra staying at the Marriott Petra and two nights at the Marriott Resort & Spa on the shores of the Dead Sea. Breakfast accommodation, flights and the private tour, for travel this month, are also included.

For details call 020-7407 2111.

More flights take off for Montréal

AIR TRANSAT/Canadian Air has added a second weekly flight between London and Montréal in Québec for this summer following demand.

BA is also capitalising on renewed interest in the destination by adding a new Boeing 787 Dreamliner to its schedule of daily flights between Heathrow and Montréal from March 29.

For more information on the destination see www.quebecoriginal.com

DoSomethingDifferent offers 20% savings to mark PortAventura's anniversary

TO CELEBRATE the 20th anniversary of the Spanish theme park PortAventura, DoSomethingDifferent.com is offering agents a 20% discount on all multiday tickets for a limited time.

The offer is a UK exclusive discount for customers pre-purchasing tickets through travel agents and is not

available at the gate. A two-day ticket now costs from £33 per adult and £29 per child – the same price as a one-day ticket.

Four- and seven-day tickets to the theme park also feature the 20% discount, as do the combined two-park tickets which also include admission to Costa Caribe Aquatic Park for three,

four or seven days. The bestselling three-day-two-park ticket costs £47 per adult and £38 per child.

Real tickets are provided to reduce time queuing and the tickets are open dated.

For more information visit www.dosomethingdifferent.com or call 020-8090 3890.

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THE TRAVEL TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS

Digital Trip sails into new reseller agreement with Revelex Corporation

WITH THE number of holidaymakers choosing to take a cruise rising by 1.5%, Digital Trip is giving travel businesses the opportunity to gain a competitive advantage in the cruise sector and increase profits on bookings by 50% using its new fully integrated cruise platform.

The company's managing director, Andy Speight, said: "Travel agents would be mad to ignore how much profit they can make from selling the latest cruise deals, but many agents feel their website isn't sophisticated enough to compete for this type of business against larger dominant competitors.

"Using our new cruise booking technology, small and medium travel enterprises can operate

online with all the sophistication of a big operator – but at a fraction of the cost."

The company's partnership with US-based Revelex means that travel businesses can be connected directly to more than 35 major cruise lines and inspire customers with imagery, engaging copy, reviews, videos and more.

Live pricing is available for the majority of ships and cabins in multiple currencies for the local market and agents can customise cruise feeds to pull web and private fares and then search and book multiple cruise products in real-time, applying mark-ups and discounts with the easy to use tools.

For details see www.digital-trip.com/cruise

Newsbites

- THE GLOBAL Travel Group has pledged to support Just a Drop at its upcoming annual conference (March 8-10) as part of the consortium's ongoing relationship with the safe water charity.

For details see www.globaltravelgroup.com or call 0844-826 4567.

- REGISTRATION FOR The Travel Convention is now open with a discounted early bird registration fee. The convention will be held from October 12-14 at Costa Navarino located in the Greek region of Messinia in southwest Peloponnese, and ABTA has taken over the Westin Resort Costa Navarino in entirety for delegate accommodation.

For details see www.thetravelconvention.com

- THIS YEAR'S CLIA UK & Ireland Selling Cruise Conference, which provides targeted content for customer facing travel professionals, is taking place in Southampton from May 21-23. As with previous years, the conference will feature a trade fair, business sessions, gala dinner and visits to three ships – Royal Princess, Anthem of the Seas and Britannia.

- THE RESPONSIBLE Tourism in Destinations (RTD10) conference will be hosted in Calvia, Mallorca from March 26-27. The event's social partner and host is Sol Katmandu Park and Resort and the park will be opening its doors to delegates, offering attendees the chance to step into the mythical world of unexpected adventure, rides, 4D encounters and splash park thrills. Conference tickets are on sale for 140 euros plus a booking fee and include the full two-day programme plus welcome drinks at Hotel Partner Valentin Hotels venue in Paguera and the Sol Katmandu Park and Resort social event.

For details visit www.rtdconference.com

- TAXICODE'S RECENT research, which compared prices on specific journeys in London, has revealed that it offers the cheapest taxi service in London. The company has also announced that it is currently working on a new travel agent portal which will be available soon.

For details see www.taxicode.com

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New air connections from Just Corsica

JUST CORSICA has announced new air connections from the UK to Corsica this year.

They include new flights from Southampton (on Thursday and Sunday) and Birmingham (on Sunday), with connections from Belfast to Bastia on the north east coast of Corsica with Flybe from May 24 to September 27.

Flights with easyJet from Gatwick to Figari in the south (on Sunday) are also new this year from June 14 to September 20.

The addition of the new routes brings the total to 13 weekly flights between the UK and Corsica including scheduled and charter flights.

Rob Ashton-Kane, the operator's product manager, said: "The new flights are good news for Corsica and the UK market can access the island at reasonable prices with regular flights from additional, easily accessible departure points."

For more information call 01202-703500 or see www.justcorsica.co.uk

Edinburgh launch from Etihad Airways

ETIHAD AIRWAYS, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, will launch its first service from Scotland with the start of a non-stop daily flight from Edinburgh to its home base of Abu Dhabi, the UAE's capital city.

The new route, which will commence on June 8, will be operated with a two-class Airbus A330-200 aircraft, offering a total of 22 seats in Business Class and 240 seats in Economy.

In addition to providing a direct connection between Edinburgh and Abu Dhabi, the new service will enable passengers and cargo from Scotland to connect conveniently to the carrier's destinations across the Gulf region, Asia, Australia and Africa.

Edinburgh is the airline's first Scottish destination, and its third departure point from the UK. It currently offers triple-daily flights from London and double-daily flights from Manchester.

James Hogan, the carrier's president and CEO, said: "Scotland has been on our radar for some time and we are delighted that the first direct connection between its capital, Edinburgh, and the capital of the UAE, Abu Dhabi, will be operational from 2015.

"The two cities share strong tourism links and the UAE is Scotland's primary trade partner in the Gulf region, which will fuel strong demand among business and leisure travellers on our non-stop service. Travellers will also benefit from convenient connections to many other destinations, both on our own global network and through our relationships with other airlines."

For details see www.etihad.com or call 0345-608 1225 and for more information on Abu Dhabi see www.visitabudhabi.ae



...has announced that the fourth annual Abu Dhabi Air Expo will take place in February 2016 at Al Bateen Executive Airport, the region's only dedicated business aviation airport, and will be held every two years instead of annually. The decision to push back the event to next year is due to the fact that several upgrade and refurbishment projects are currently underway at the airport, which will provide a state-of-the-art venue to host Abu Dhabi Air Expo 2016. These include a new VIP Terminal, with enhancements being made to the existing VIP Terminal. The taxiway, airfield and the Sheikh Zayed Terminal will also be upgraded as part of the refurbishment.

O&E Osborne & Ebel SPECIAL OFFERS

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JANUARY SALE: Book by 15 Feb 15 and receive Special Reduction on the Room Rate
Valid for stays between 11 Jan – 18 Dec 15
ULTIMATE GETAWAY OFFER
Free Nights Stay 4 Pay 3 and Stay 7 Pay 5 + Complimentary Half Board + Complimentary Transfers!
Valid for selected room categories for stays between 11 Jan – 18 Dec 15



SHERATON FULL MOON RESORT MALDIVES

JANUARY SALE: Book by 28 Feb 15 and receive Free Mealplan Upgrade from BB to HB, HB to FB and FB to All Inclusive
FREE NIGHTS – Stay 7 Pay 5; Stay 14 Pay 10 – For selected periods throughout 2015
EARLY BOOKING OFFER – Book 60 days prior to arrival and receive 10% Discount on room rates only
All above offers combinable
Valid for stays between 10 Jan – 25 Dec 15



NALADHU MALDIVES

FREE NIGHTS – Stay 4 Pay 3; Stay 7 Pay 5; Stay 8 Pay 6; Stay 12 Pay 9; Stay 14 Pay 10
EARLY BOOKING OFFER – Book 60 days prior to arrival and receive 30% Discount on room rates only
Above offers not combinable - Valid for stays in selected periods between 05 Jan – 25 Dec 15



THE SUN SIYAM IRUFUSHI MALDIVES

REDUCED RATES: Receive 25% Discount on room rates only
Valid for stays between 01 Jan – 14 Feb 15 and 01 Mar – 30 Apr 15
FREE NIGHTS: Stay 4 Pay 3; Stay 7 Pay 5; Stay 14 Pay 10;
EARLY BOOKING OFFER – Book 90 days prior to arrival and receive 15% Discount on room rates only Valid for stays during selected periods between 11 Jan – 26 Dec 15



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Notes from

Normanton...

HAVE ALWAYS worried about air circulation in planes as I always seem to get a cold or sinus trouble whenever I have flown. Was reading an article in the Daily Mail the other day - it read 'Passengers lives ARE at risk from toxic fumes in cabins' coroner tells airline chiefs!'. This has got publicity because of a BA pilot, Richard Westgate, who died in 2012 at the age of 43 - suspected of suffering from Aerotoxic Syndrome. The Coroner warns pressurised air, tainted with jet fuel, is risking the lives of everyone travelling on planes, and is demanding an urgent response from airline chiefs. Symptoms can be memory loss, headaches, tremors, lethargy and even death. With that news airline staff should be claiming danger money!

The Coroner has written to Keith Williams of BA and Andrew Haines, head of the CAA, saying that in his opinion urgent action should be taken. Two government inquiries in the past have dismissed the risk as minimal but, wait for it...a law practice firm has been approached by more than 50 former airline staff and two frequent fliers and is preparing legal claims against a number of airlines. This is not the publicity the travel industry needs and I would suggest all the money the airlines are saving at the moment with the reduced oil prices should be poured (excuse the pun!) into making the air safer on planes - it will benefit all of us, not just airline staff.

I have discovered a great if not quirky website called Weather Wherever and, as soon as I access my emails in the morning, I get an email telling me what the weather is going to be in Wakefield that day. I have found it more reliable than watching the weather forecast on the TV! And it sometimes gives you other bits of information as well.

'If someone offers you an amazing opportunity and you are not sure you can do it, say yes then learn how to do it later' and 'It is better to see something once than to hear about it a thousand times'.

Sandy

by SANDRA MURRAY
in Normanton, Yorkshire

To respond to any
of Sandy's comments email
jill.sayles@travelbulletin.co.uk



GOING GREEN
...Pictured is the team from Scenic Tours celebrating all things Emerald to mark the launch of its 2016 Emerald Preview brochure featuring the chance to book 2016 cruises at 2015 prices, up to 350 euros in credit per cabin and savings of £500 per person. The company is also rewarding agents who make a booking by March 31 by entering them in a daily draw to win a pamper package for two.
For details see www.scenictours.co.uk

Easter sales opportunity for agents from Amadeus River Cruises

AMADEUS RIVER Cruises is offering agents a special late cruise-only fare of £775 net for its Tulip Cruise, departing April 4-11.

With full-board accommodation provided throughout on the eight-day sailing, the cruise-only fare enables agents to offer their clients a river cruise for less than £100 a day.

Departing from Amsterdam, ports of call include Volendam, Arnhem, Middleburg, Ghent, Antwerp, Kinderdijk and Utrecht.

The price includes seven nights' accommodation in an outside cabin; breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner and midnight snack throughout; complimentary red and white wines, beer and soft drinks with dinner on board; a Dutch folklore show and daily music performances by resident musicians; free use of bicycles; a cocktail reception, welcome dinner, captain's gala dinner and crew show; audio guides for all excursions; complimentary Wi-Fi onboard; transfers between Schiphol Airport or Amsterdam Central train station; and two days in Amsterdam.

The company is offering three tailor-made excursion packages, which can be booked in advance, offering savings of 15%. Packages lead in at £135 for a city tour of Amsterdam with a canal cruise, a city tour of Ghent and Antwerp and a visit to Keukenhof Gardens.
For further information call 01252-714477 or visit www.amadeusrivercruises.co.uk

Booking incentives

- Agents have the opportunity to earn extra money towards their wardrobe following the launch of Orientis' new Amazing China tour, bookable through Inspired by Asia. For every booking made for the ten-day tour, which departs on September 12, agents will receive a £30 Love2Shop voucher. Bookings must be made by June 30.
For details see www.inspiredbyasia.co.uk
- PETER DE Savary's Mount Cinnamon Resort in Grenada is giving agents the chance to win the latest iPad mini in a new booking incentive. To enter, agents must have sold 28 room nights by May 1, with an iPad mini going to the top three Mount Cinnamon sellers overall. Booking details should be sent to Annabel Griffin, Le Petit Monde at annabel@lepetitmonde.com
- AGENTS ARE being offered the chance to escape the winter blues and head to the sunnier shores of Newport Beach, in Southern California. One agent has the chance to win a seven-night holiday for two to the luxury beach destination, with flights to LA supplied by Air New Zealand. For a chance to win, agents should book accommodation at a Newport Beach hotel and flights with Air New Zealand to LAX for their clients by April 3 for travel at any time, then complete the form at www.visitnewportbeach.com/trade to register bookings. There will also be ten runner-up Love2Shop vouchers of £25.

AGENT OFFERS

- FROM NOW until March 31, agents can benefit from Attraction World's UK exclusive ticket offerings to PortAventura for their customers. They include a 20% saving off the gate rate on all multi-day tickets, two days for the price of one for £35 per adult and £30 per child (aged four-ten), a three-day ticket for £49 per adult and £40 per child, a four-day ticket for £62 per adult and £53 per child, as well as two-park savings such as a seven-day, two-park ticket for £72 per adult and £61 per child. Agents can also earn a £5 Love2Shop voucher for all bookings made up until March 31, based on a minimum two tickets per booking. To claim, agents should email their reference number to portaventura@attractionworld.com
- WARNER LEISURE Hotels is hosting a free open day exclusively for agents at Norton Grange Coastal Village, Isle of Wight on Tuesday March 10. It will take place from 11:00 and gives agents the opportunity to experience a fun day at one of the company's popular properties. The day includes a tour of the coastal village, the chance to take part in sports and leisure activities including archery and rifle shooting and a taste of the entertainment available for guests, as well as lunch. Agents interested in attending the day will meet the Bourne Leisure team at Lymington Port where the ferry and further transport will be provided to Norton Grange. Spaces are limited so agents need to email trade.sales@bourne-leisure.co.uk to confirm their place.



TITAN TREAT

... Donna Brown (left) and Jacqueline Turtle from TUI Superstore in Northampton accept flowers and Prosecco on behalf of their colleague, Tracy Livingston-Marks, who made a £16,000 Titan booking to Australia with Business Class upgrades for one of her clients after recommending the operator.

FANCY A FAM?

GOLD MEDAL is offering its travel agent partners the chance to win a place on its next mega fam 'Down Under'. In partnership with Qantas, Australia's Northern Territory and Tourism Tropical North Queensland, the operator will be whisking 28 travel agents to the other side of the world to experience the destinations first hand. Places will be allocated seven per region, and will be split between the top selling agents overall, top selling Australia agents and most improved year-on-year. To be in with a chance of winning a place, agents should book Australian itineraries with the operator. League tables tracking agency's performance are published at www.goldmedal.co.uk each week and highlight agencies who are in line to secure a seat. Meanwhile, the company has 12 places up for grabs on a fam to Barbados for top performing agencies, the most improved agency and top Caribbean sellers.

Summer holiday brochure launch from Taber sees addition of new tours

TABER HOLIDAYS has launched its summer 2015 programme with the addition of 12 new tours across Norway, Iceland, Denmark, Sweden and Spitsbergen. They include an expedition cruise in search of the polar bear, a family tour in Denmark and a hiking trip to Norway, with prices leading in at £735 per person for a short break to Stockholm.

Other new highlights of the brochure include a ten-day Icelandic Glaciers, Geysirs and Waterfalls in Iceland from £2,134, a luxury driving holiday that focuses on Iceland's stunning locations and hidden gems, including flights from Heathrow, transfers, car hire, accommodation and a three course-dinner throughout except for in Reykjavik. The tour departs daily from May 1 to September 30.



Jokulsarton Shing, Iceland

Alternatively, agents can highlight a Hardanger Experience in Norway to their clients, which leads in at £1,425. Ideal for both walkers and serious hikers, the tour is based in Norway's Hardanger region and offers countless routes to explore - from a gentle stroll along the Hardanger fruit trail, to a hike to the top of Trolltunga for a

brehtaking view. The new tour includes flights from Heathrow to Bergen (via Oslo), car hire, four nights in Lofthus with breakfast and dinner and two nights in Bergen, with breakfast. It departs daily from May 1 to September 25.

For more information call 01274-875199 or see www.taberhols.co.uk



...Stena Line's Jimmy Howey (left), Richard Davies (centre) and Steve Harries visit the shipyard in Gdynia, Poland, to oversee the final stages of refurbishment before Stena Superfast X departed for Holyhead to begin service on the Holyhead to Dublin Port route. Featuring ten decks, the new vessel will make two daily sailings on the route, carry up to 1,200 passengers and offer almost 2km of lane space for vehicles and freight traffic. For details see www.stenaline.co.uk or call 0844-770 7070.

Second edition launch from Warner

WARNER LEISURE Hotels' second edition brochure has been issued and features information on new breaks, news on product developments and the latest pricing, as well as details of breaks starting from April and including the first three months of 2016.

The company's latest deal offers guests savings of up to 40% on thousands of rooms throughout 2015 as well as details of advanced 2016 bookings where guests can save up to 50% on rooms, with a deposit of £35 per person.

The brochure also highlights the hotel group's new entertainment including new celebrity Star Breaks; new midweek variety breaks comprising Top Tribute, Comedy Time, West End to Warner, Decades and Last Night of the Warner Proms; the new Piano Legends show; Warner festival weekends and the Tinsel and Turkey festive fun breaks.

Prices for a four-night mid-week break at Corton Coastal Village, Suffolk start from £50 per person, per night arriving on May 25, based on two adults sharing a standard room and including the Simply Dine package.

For details see www.bourneleisuresales.co.uk or call 0808-141111.

Quark Expeditions introduces new trips & new ways to see the Arctic in 2016

QUARK EXPEDITIONS has announced its 2016 arctic itineraries with new trips including new fly/cruise options, a Greenland spotlight, the Northwest Passage and Across the Arctic Circle from Scotland.

The operator has added three fly/cruise options for time-constrained travellers, as well as several new trips to guide polar travellers in and around Greenland.

They include a 13-day Arctic Express: Greenland's Northern Lights (cruise north, fly south); a ten-day Arctic Express: Greenland's Northern Lights (fly north, fly south); and a 13-day Arctic Express: Greenland's Northern Lights (fly north, cruise south), with prices starting from £4,100 for the ten-day Arctic Express.

New itineraries on the small ship Sea Adventurer include a 13-day voyage to the seldom-visited lands of the Arctic

Archipelagos: Spitsbergen and Franz Josef Land voyage, and a culturally-diverse 13-day Greenland to Canada: Inuit, Ice and Wildfire adventure embarking from Kangerlussuaq, Greenland.

The popularity of the Northwest Passage, spurred by the recent discovery of the Franklin Expedition's lost HMS Erebus ship, has resulted in the addition of another voyage to the region, the 20-day Northwest Passage: Fury and Hecla expedition. This marks the second of the company's voyages to the destination, along with the Northwest Passage: Franklins Legend.

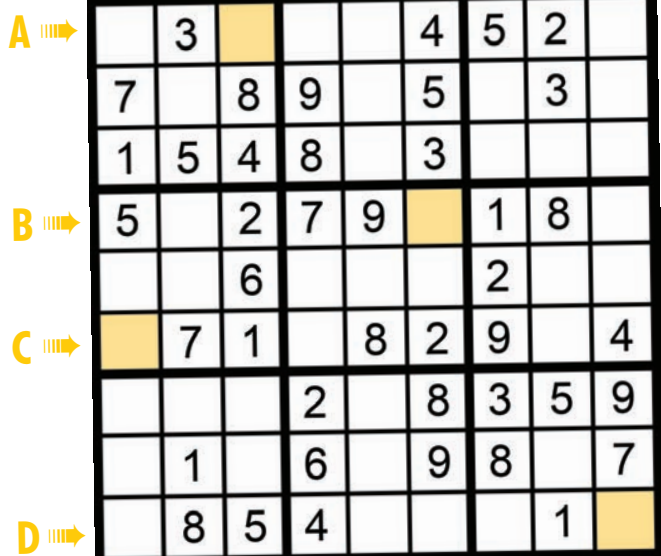
Next year's arctic expeditions are available from £3,500 per person excluding flights, and agents can highlight up to 25% savings per person on selected voyages when clients make a booking by May 1.

For more information visit www.quarkexpeditions.com or call 0808-120 2333.

Su Doku

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

Number: 009



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

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

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

Closing date for entries is Thursday, March 12th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

The winner for 20th February is Karen Anderson, Ponteland Travel Bureau in Newcastle.

February 20 Solution: A=7 B=1 C=5 D=4

Travagrams

Can you solve the following anagrams to decipher the destination & tour operator?



The oldest cave decorated by man known as "Grotte Chauvet"



The second largest city of Brazil recently celebrated its 450th anniversary

Where Am I?



Asian country, capital is Thimphu

Crossword

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

Across

- Welsh actor Rob, the face of P&O advertising (6)
- City in southern France which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (4)
- Burton Upon Trent based operator, ___ Travel (7)
- Sydney is the capital, initially (3)
- This island is a major New York tourist destination (9)
- Crystal offers ski holidays to this resort in the Austrian Tyrol (9)
- High speed European train, initially (3)
- West Sussex location of the Duke of Norfolk's castle (7)
- City home of the National Railway Museum (4)
- 7 Across offers cruises on this river (6)

Down

- It flew in LA and won Best Picture Oscar (7)
- Tourist district of Paris, sounds like a musical event (5)
- Former name of St Petersburg (9)
- Island initially, chosen by Benedict Cumberbatch for his recent wedding (3)
- Currency of Thailand (4)
- City in British Columbia (9)
- Somerset landmark, Glastonbury ___ (3)
- The largest freshwater lake in Israel, Sea of ___ (7)
- Ben Gurion international airport is the home terminal for this carrier (2,2)
- Cheese with a distinctive red peel, named after a city in the Netherlands (5)
- Longest river in Scotland, popular for salmon fishing (3)

For the solution to the Crossword, Where Am I? and Travagrams, please see page 30

staffreview

Jill Sayles from Travel Bulletin took a two-night hotel break at the Macdonald Old England Hotel in Windermere. Here are her thoughts...

First impressions10/10

Very welcoming. I arrived at Windermere train station and called the hotel for directions to walk there. They sent a car to pick me up! The hotel is in a historic Georgian house built of traditional grey stone from the local area.

Comfort10/10

My room with a view of Lake Windermere featured a large comfortable bed, en-suite bathroom with Arran Aromatics toiletries, free Wi-Fi, TV, a desk, tea and Nespresso coffee-making facilities, iron and ironing board, trouser press, hairdryer, complimentary mineral water, bathrobes and slippers. There's also a Terrace Lounge & Cocktail Bar downstairs where I could go to relax with a book.

Quality9/10

This four-star Lake District hotel - part of Macdonald Spa Hotels group - has a small, but well equipped gym, spa and a 20m heated indoor pool with great views. The award winning restaurant, known as 'the restaurant on the lake', serves a good choice of high quality dishes.

Affordability9/10

Prices for a Classic Double/Classic twin room start from £97 per room, week days, £192 per room at weekends.

Service9/10

Service was always friendly and informative.

Good to know

Ask for a room with a lake view & try the facial at the spa. Also, ask at reception for maps of walks in the area. For details see www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk/our-hotels/macdonald-old-england-hotel-spa

Overall scoring:

9/10



If you'd like to take part and receive a £10 M&S voucher please email jill.sayles@travelbulletin.co.uk or call 020-7834 6661 with your name and contact details.



CHOCs AWAY

...Funway delivered boxes of chocolates to mark last month's Valentine's Day to selected agents around the UK. Pictured is the operator's Anna Hawkins (right) with Lorna Hamilton from Thomas Cook in Mansfield.

Trade launch from Marrakech Riad

MARRAKECH RIAD, which consists of four boutique hotels in the old town Medina of Marrakech, has launched to the trade.

English owner Mike Wood has launched the company's first brochure, aimed at helping agents and operators sell the riad properties: Riad Papillon, Riad Cinnamon, Dar Habiba and the latest addition to the portfolio, Riad Star.

Former merchants' houses, the four properties have each been restored working with traditional materials and craftsmen while incorporating modern conveniences. Guests can expect complimentary toiletries, breakfast served at the time of their choosing, help booking restaurants and excursions, iPod docking stations and Wi-Fi.

The company has a UK based reservations team and offers agents a wealth of local know-how via its website, with regularly updated articles featuring tips on making the most of the imperial city.

Rooms cost from £75 to £180 per night including breakfast. For more information see www.marrakech-riad.co.uk

easyJet announces Bristol expansion

EASYJET HAS announced that from April and May it will commence flights to Bilbao, Isle of Man and Zante from Bristol Airport.

In total, the airline will add seven new destinations to its Bristol operations this summer as part of its five-year agreement with the airport for continued growth.

Bristol to Bilbao will offer a year-round service flying twice weekly from April 19, with prices from £30.99 one-way. Bristol to the Isle of Man is a year-round service flying four times weekly from April 19, with prices from £28.99 and Bristol to Zante is a summer service flying from May 13 with prices from £34.99.

As part of the carrier's expansion at Bristol, a 12th aircraft will be located at the base this summer. For further information see www.easyjet.com



Industry Insight by...

Members predict up to 10% growth in UK visitor figures for 2015 says ANTOR chair, Tracey Poggio

THIS MONTH ANTOR (The Association of National Tourist Offices and Representatives) has surveyed its members to see what changes the tourist boards are predicting for their destinations in 2015 from the UK market, to help travel agents and tour operators target their sales and promotional activity.

ANTOR's members are expecting to see an increase in visitor numbers in 2015, with 60% predicting up to 5% growth and a further 40% from 5% to 10% growth. This has been attributed in some cases to changes in exchange rates creating a more cost effective destination for visitors, as well as product adjustments made by tour operators that create a pull factor to the area e.g. Thomson TUI setting up a home port in Split for 2015.

Some 71% of respondents stated that in terms of an increase in visitor numbers, they were expecting this to be in the form of city breaks. This trend was also highlighted in ABTA's Travel Trends 2015 report with 43% of the consumers surveyed planning a city break as opposed to 42% planning a beach holiday, maintaining the trend set in 2014. Poland comments that this trend affects not just the major cities, e.g. Krakow or Warsaw, but that other cities across the country that have easy air access such as Gdansk, Szczecin or Wroclaw, are also experiencing more arrivals from the UK.

Although 93% of ANTOR members surveyed stated that there had been no shift in focus on target markets, the second most popular holiday for 2015 according to members is expected to be an activity or walking holiday, a segment that only ranked 8th in 2014 in ABTA's Top 10 types of holidays taken. The third most popular, according to ANTOR members, will be a beach holiday.

As the strong pound continues to work in favour of holidaymakers, tourist boards report mixed feelings with regards to their focus on increasing visitor numbers during low and shoulder seasons in 2015, with 60% putting this down as a priority for 2015. The Croatian National Tourist Office advised that its 'Croatia 365' campaign aims at drawing visitors in the pre- and post-summer season by promoting six tourism products: cycling, wellness & health, wine & gastronomy, meetings & events and active & culture".

Oman commented that its strategy is to encourage stopovers in Muscat and twin-centre holidays for Oman

"Although 93% of ANTOR members surveyed stated that there had been no shift in focus on target markets, the second most popular holiday for 2015 is expected to be activity or walking holidays"

Air passengers e.g. Muscat & the Maldives. Japan is also working with airlines to make the destination more affordable, and is promoting its year-round aspects including skiing and outdoor activities.

Lithuania has just entered the Eurozone in 2015 giving tourists a steadier exchange rate, while the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority is looking to increase UK visitor numbers to the destination, in particular in May, June and September - by promoting affordable accommodation, gastronomy and spa products.

The majority of tourist boards (67%) are not expecting an increase in advertising budgets for 2015, while a small minority (27%) had an increase of up to 5%. Two areas of focus highlighted by tourist boards were B2B sales promotions and partnerships.

Just over half (51%) of the ANTOR tourist boards offer agents an online training programme, with 44% of these offering third party online training platforms and 11% of tourist boards offering more than one platform.

Coupled with their own roadshows and ANTOR Meets the Travel Trade on June 9, there are lots of opportunities for the travel trade to expand their product knowledge. ANTOR member roadshow dates can be found at www.antor.com

Meanwhile, at a recent meeting, ABTA and AITO reminded ANTOR's tourist boards of the EU Directive rules concerning holiday sales at consumer shows. Some of the tourist boards stated that they do or would be happy to have bonded operators on their stands in order to convert the consumer's interest into a sale under the EU Directive rules.

We suggest that operators should contact the tourist boards of interest directly in order to take up this sales opportunity - their details of which can be found on our website.

Travel Bulletin recently held two **Southern & Eastern Africa showcase** events in **London** and **Cardiff**. Agents had the opportunity to meet up with a variety of suppliers, enjoy a buffet evening meal plus the chance to win a selection of prizes...

CARDIFF



CHEERS

...Nina Farrimond (left) of South African Tourism UK is pictured at the Cardiff event with The Travel House's Christopher Allen (left) and Justin Hawkins and Sue Watts from Cartwright Travel.



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botswana
tourism

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SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events



CATCHING UP

...Discussing all things Southern Africa are Alex Williams and Vanessa Young (right) from Blue Skies Travel, with Lorinda Webb from Travel Counsellors.



TRAIL TEAM

...Enjoying the reception drinks are, from the left: Jo Oliver, Kelly Gray, Rhian Wynn-Stewart and Nicola Uren from Trailfinders.



ONLY KUONI

...Pictured are, from the left: Jemma Allerton-Griffiths, Annette Woodall and Adele Jones from Kuoni in Cardiff with Lee Barker from One & Only Resorts.



IN THE BAG

...Gemma Hall (left) from First Choice Holidays picks up her prize (a Botswana briefcase) from Dawn Wilson of Botswana Tourism.

LONDON



BROCHURE SHOW

...Claire Webb (left) and Sue Cooper from Great Rail Journeys get ready to greet agents for product training.



VOUCHER SMILES

...Louise Sword (left) from Titan gives Alison Ashford from Meadway Travel her £50 M&S voucher prize.



FIZZY PRIZE

...Edward Waite-Roberts from Chandelle Travel collects his prize of a bottle of Champagne, presented by Travel Bulletin's Tasneem Rahman.



BOTSWANA BRIEF

...Travel Counsellor's Cornel Schalkwyk (left) wins a Botswana briefcase from Dawn Wilson, Botswana Tourism.



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SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events

HEADS DOWN

...Agents play a game of Southern & East Africa themed Bingo.



WINE WIN

...Khaled Shiraj from Sam Travel won two bottles of wine courtesy of 2By2 Holidays. He is presented with his prize by the tour operator's Claire Farley.

LONDON LIFE

HOTEL UPDATES

Staybridge Suites London Vauxhall is the first London hotel to appoint a four legged member of staff. Wagers, a three-month old miniature labradoodle, has been officially inaugurated with a collar of appointment by fellow labradoodle and West End celebrity 'Barney' who is currently performing in the adaptation of the Oscar-winning film Shakespeare in Love at the Noel Coward theatre. Wagers will meet and greet guests as he works alongside his owner and hotel manager, Giovanni Valentini, and the rest of the team. See www.staybridgesuites.com/lonvauxhall



Staybridge Suites
London Vauxhall

Clients can celebrate St Patrick's Day on Tuesday March 17 with a stay at the Doyle Collection's Bloomsbury Hotel which has teamed up with Lord of The Dance to offer tickets to its latest show, Lord of The Dance: Dangerous Games, at the Dominion Theatre. The show runs from March 13 to September 5 and the package costs £355 per room, based on two sharing, including breakfast, a pint of Guinness or Irish coffee and two tickets to the show. See www.doylecollection.com/bloomsbury

Z Hotels' newest addition to its portfolio, Z Shoreditch, is set to open this month. Rates start from £80 per night, based on two sharing a double room, which includes complimentary cheese and wine, Sky movies and Wi-Fi as well as luxury linen and towels. For details see www.thezhotels.com

A BITE TO EAT

The Carvery & Grill at Strand Palace Hotel is offering a new experience for guests and visitors. The restaurant now features a traditional classic carvery and a modern British menu which offers seasonal produce from award-winning local artisans and farms within a 30-mile radius of the hotel. For more information email restaurants@strandpalacehotel.co.uk or call 020-7379 4737.

The Big Red Pizza restaurant, located six minutes' walk from London Bridge, is offering a 10% discount for diners visiting before 18:00 from Tuesday to Friday. The quirky venue is partly housed in a converted double decker bus just by Deptford Creek and offers outdoor space for summer evenings, jazz nights and special themed evenings and events, along with Italian food and tapas. For details see www.bigredpizza.co.uk or call 0203-490 8346.



The Big Red
Pizza restaurant



There's a new menu at The
Carvery & Grill, Strand
Palace Hotel

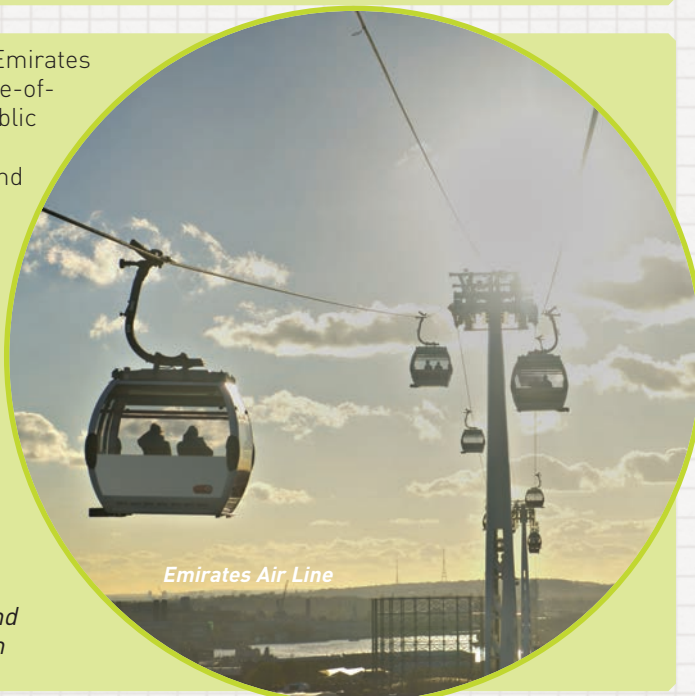
● ATTRACTION NEWS

From tomorrow (March 7), the ArcelorMittal Orbit will be transformed into a yoga studio, where every Saturday morning yoga participants will be able to take in views across Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and 20 miles of London as they practise Hatha Yoga 80m above the city. Individual classes are £17.50 while a course of six costs £80.
For details see www.arcelormittalorbit.com

London's newest attraction, Emirates Aviation experience, uses state-of-the-art technology to offer public flight simulators along with interactive aviation displays and life-size aircraft models.

Single fares cost £2.30 per child and £4.50 per adult. Meanwhile, the Emirates Air Line Discovery Experience includes a 360 round trip, inflight discovery film, inflight guide and free entry into the Emirates Aviation Experience. It costs £6.20 per child and £10.70 per adult, with children under five going free.

For details see www.emiratesairline.co.uk and www.aviation-experience.com



Throughout April and May, the Ripley's Believe It or Not! London attraction will be hosting a 'Spiceworld' exhibit which consists of limited edition merchandise collected from the height of the Spice Girl phenomenon. The collection includes designer and hand-made outfits, jewellery and shoes, all of which were worn by the Spice Girls in music videos, live concerts, on screen and at high profile public engagements. Tickets are £26.95 per adult and £19.95 per child. Family tickets are £79.95 based on two adults and two children.

For details visit www.ripleyslondon.com

● THEATRE NEWS

The award-winning production of Mike Kenny's stage adaptation of E. Nesbit's novel *The Railway Children* returns to London this month in its new home, the King's Cross Theatre, where the production is currently booking until September 6. Tickets cost between £25-£49.50 and children aged under 16 receive 25% off ticket prices.
For details or to book see www.railwaychildrenlondon.com or call 0844-871 7604.

STOMP will host a Gala Night for teenagers to mark its 13th birthday in London on Monday May 11. There are currently four STOMP companies performing worldwide - in North America, another throughout Europe and the rest of the world, one in New York and one in London. Tickets cost from £26 from 0844-811 2334 or at www.theambassadorstheatre.co.uk.
For more information see www.stomplondon.com

● TOUR NEWS

DoSomethingDifferent.com has added new London tours including an Eat London! Gourmet Walking Tour for Two for £69; a Magic of London and Champagne Afternoon Tea for £105 per person; a Household Cavalry Museum & Afternoon Tea for Two for £59, valid until March 31; and a Romantic Movie London Bus Tour for Two for £52. As with all tickets, there are no deposits, cancellation or amendment fees, and commission is paid on all tickets.
For details see www.dosomethingdifferent.com or call 020-8090 3890.



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couple**

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Valid for travel: 02 Jun 15

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Includes

- Return flights
- 7 nights in a Hilton Guest Room, bed & breakfast
- Return private transfers



**SAVE up to
£155 per
couple**

From £869PP

Valid for travel: 13 May 15

5* Meliá De Mar, Mallorca

Includes

- Return flights
- 7 nights in a Double Room, bed & breakfast
- Return private transfers

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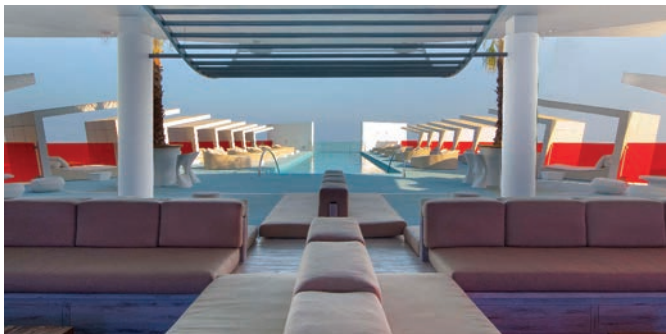
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LAS COLINAS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB,

....located just south of Alicante, has unveiled a luxury package with accommodation at the resort's newly launched villas. From now until May 31, golfers looking for a premium experience can enjoy a five-night stay and four rounds of golf from £315 per person. The new villas are located in the resort's Enebro Community with guests able to pick between the new Abubilla or Mirlo Villas. Add-on experiences available to book include local wine tours, sailing & fishing charters, diving, hot-air balloon rides and region tours. For more information see www.aworldapart.es



RESERVA DEL HIGUERÓN RESORT,

a residential and leisure development on Spain's Costa del Sol, is offering room rates from 115 euros per room, per night. The adult-only property is an ideal base for golfers and offers 177 guestrooms plus a range of on-site facilities including a gym, spa and tennis and beach volleyball courts. Meanwhile, Jose Navas has recently joined the property as new general manager. For details email commercial@reservadelhiguero.com or visit www.reservadelhiguero.com

Fred.\ Holidays offers 20% discount at Hotel Jardín Tecina on La Gomera

THE HOTEL Jardín Tecina on the Spanish island of La Gomera, Canary Islands, has achieved a Travelife for Hotels & Accommodations Gold award.

Travelife – the international sustainability certification scheme – assesses a property's performance in managing their social, environmental and economic impacts and Fred.\ Holidays is currently promoting a 20% discount on seven-day stays at the hotel for this month and next. Prices lead in at £679 per person including flights from Gatwick, seven nights' half-board accommodation and ferry transfers.

For more information call 0808-256 8148 or visit www.fredhoteljardintecina.co.uk

Marconfort Griego Hotel reopens

MARCONFORT GRIEGO Hotel, in Malaga's Torremolinos, has reopened as a four-star property following a refurbishment.

The hotel now offers free Wi-Fi, a new restaurant with show cooking and a large terrace, as well as modern decor. Both adult and child entertainment is also available, with organised programmes and night shows.

The 400 guestrooms, some of which sleep up to five, offer flat screen TVs, central heating and air-conditioning.

Agents can earn 10% commission on bookings and all-inclusive agent rates are also offered from 28 euros per night in March, April, May and October.



Marconfort Griego Hotel



NH HOTEL

...Group's premium brand NH Collection has launched its flagship hotel in Madrid, NH Collection Eurobuilding, following a multi-million pound investment. The hotel features four 'Living Lab' guestrooms and communal areas that allow guests to test the latest technology, such as wireless charging of mobile devices, video support via tablets and a 3D holographic telepresence system. Superior rooms start from approximately £143 per night. See www.nh-hotels.com for details.



Mallorca property additions from SuperBreak

SUPERBREAK has added nine new properties in Mallorca to its portfolio of accommodation on the island, bringing the total now featured to 111.

Following an increase in demand for beach resorts around Spain, the new additions offer agents more options to sell on Mallorca as the busy booking period

for early summer season gets underway.

New hotels include Melina Corfu, Villanova Apartments, Gabarda Hotel, Martinez Apartments, Les Velas Apartments, Hotel Dor, Oasis Dor Hotel, Parque Mar Apartmetns and Viva Bahia Aparthotel. Board basis for the new properties range from all-inclusive,

self-catering, bed-and-breakfast and room-only.

A package in May costs from £321 per person including seven nights at the Oasis Dor Hotel on a bed-and-breakfast basis and flights from Manchester.

For more information visit www.superbreak.com/agent or call 01904-436000.

La Manga unveils new Elite Football Centre

LA MANGA Club, located in Murcia-south-east Spain- has opened a High Performance Football Centre to offer professionals, both established and aspiring, the chance to sign up to one of its new comprehensive, fully residential programmes to help showcase their skills and further their careers.

Open to footballers of all nationalities, players training at the new centre will be coached, mentored and looked after by the resort's team of experts including UEFA-qualified

coaches, professional sport and exercise scientists, physiotherapists, nutritionists and football analysts to help them reach their full potential.

Players will be able to improve their fitness and technique at the elite centre and also have the chance to gain competitive experience and impress watching scouts by playing in friendly matches - including against professional clubs from around the world staying at the resort.

As well as eight international-standard

pitches, the centre's facilities also include a match pitch with stand accommodating 800 spectators, a wide range of soccer training equipment, changing rooms, professional fitness facilities, a biomechanics lab, physio and massage facilities, meeting rooms, spa with hydromassage baths, hot and cold recovery pools, sauna and steam rooms, as well as an extensive choice of restaurants and leisure facilities.

For more information visit www.lamangaclub.com

MarBella Corfu introduces aerial yoga for guests

MARBELLA CORFU is continuing its focus on wellbeing with the introduction of Aerial Heart Yoga.

Using classical positions and maintaining the philosophy and spirituality of traditional yoga combined with modern techniques, the new fitness trend allows guests to be suspended, weightless a few feet above the ground in a safe and comfortable yoga hammock.

The new classes officially launch when the hotel re-opens in May and will be available throughout the season. Group sessions last for an hour and 15 minutes and will take place in a purpose built yoga area, whilst one-to-one sessions will also be available on request.

The benefits of Aerial Yoga are reported to extend beyond simply relaxation and improvement of yogic practice. Aerial Yoga also combats many of the everyday symptoms of modern life including stress, fatigue and joint pain. It also aligns the spine, decompresses the muscular and skeletal systems as well as stimulates the blood circulation and lymphatic system.

Classic Collection Holidays is offering seven nights at the hotel from £676/£949 per person in May, based on two adults sharing on a half-board/all-inclusive basis.

Prices include flights from Gatwick (other UK departure airports available) to Corfu and private transfers. To book or for details call 0800-294 9321 or see www.classic-collection.co.uk



PIERRE ET VACANCES has added the Origo Mare Resort in Fuerteventura to its portfolio. The hotel, located in Majanicho between the villages of Corralejo and El Coto, is set around a series of different oases, each with its own swimming pool, sun loungers and parasols. On-site facilities include a selection of restaurants and bars, a supermarket, bakery, salon and hairdresser. Prices start from £257 (saving 29% from £367) for a studio for two people departing on June 13, excluding flights. For details see www.pierreetvacances.co.uk or call 0870-026 7145.

Palladium Hotel Group adds to Playa d'en Bossa hotel offering

PALLADIUM HOTEL Group has expanded its hotel offering in Ibiza's Playa d'en Bossa with the new five-star Grand Palladium White Island Resort & Spa, scheduled to open in spring.

The new hotel will be a transformation of the former Fiesta Club Palm Beach which is being redeveloped to become the latest addition to the group's portfolio of luxury five-star establishments. Along with neighbouring Grand Palladium Palace Ibiza Resort & Spa, the two hotels will create a new complex where facilities and services are shared, similar to the existing Grand Palladium Resorts located in Mexico, Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

Ideal for families, groups and couples, the new property will offer 430 rooms (almost half of which will be spacious suites), along with a large freshwater pool with an integrated Jacuzzi, two tennis courts, two outdoor pools, a kids' splash pool and a spa and wellness centre.

A variety of entertainment is also offered including several kids' clubs.

The lead in price is £183 per night, based on two people sharing a standard room on an all-inclusive basis.

Thomson is offering seven-night, all-inclusive holidays at the hotel from £580 per adult, with the first child travelling from £380 and £500 for the second child. The price is based on two adults sharing and includes flights from Luton on May 6.

To book call 0871-230 2555 or see www.thomson.co.uk and for more information on the hotel visit www.palladiumhotelgroup.com

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*£300 discount is based on a family of 4 (per person discount of £75) and is valid on any Cosmos Summer 2015 package holiday booking made between 26 Dec 2014 – 31 Mar 2015, departing from any UK Airport. This offer will be generated at source and will not be available in conjunction with any other offers available. Package holiday prices are subject to change without notice & are subject to availability. †Pay £59 per person low deposit (Short Haul & £75 per person Long Haul) with nothing to pay until 10 weeks prior to travel date. The deposit is valid for bookings made 26 Dec 2014–31 Mar 2015 with a departure date between 1 May 15–30 Apr 16 inclusive. Package holiday prices are subject to change without notice & are subject to availability.

Palma welcomes addition of adult-only waterpark from BH Mallorca

BH Mallorca has announced the completion of its over 18s waterpark in Palma ahead of its April 30 opening date.

The

Aqualoop, a 360° human rollercoaster which reaches speeds of up to 60km, plus a four-lane race slide.

The four-star hotel has also seen a refurbishment of its guestrooms to offer full length mirrors, TVs with Freeview UK channels and air-conditioning, as well as free Wi-Fi throughout the complex.

The resort is on sale with all the main operators and guests staying in the hotel will benefit from full access to the park and complimentary food and drink between 11:00 and 20:00. Other resort guests can purchase day tickets, with numerous packages and add-on

options available.

Agents can email helloagent@gchmallorca.com for sales queries and to

register for more information on agent incentives and to receive monthly newsletters.



new park features hi-adrenaline slides, including the



PRESTIGE
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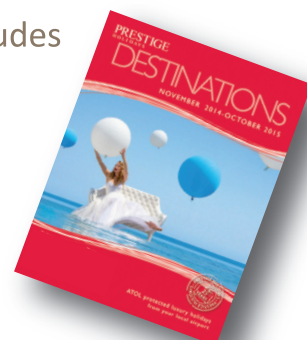


JARDIN TECINA, LA GOMERA

This lovely relaxing 4 star hotel is cleverly laid out in beautiful gardens, includes an 18 hole golf course, beach club, swimming pools, bars and restaurants, free wi-fi and health club. Perfect for couples & families.

Great discounts for stays of 7 nights or more in March & April.
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NEW DIRECT ROUTE TO TENERIFE FROM IBERIA EXPRESS



UK HOLIDAYMAKERS are being offered increased choice when travelling to Tenerife this summer with the launch of a new direct flight route from Heathrow.

From March 29, Iberia Express - a subsidiary of Iberia - will operate a three times weekly service to Tenerife's Reina Sofia Airport in the south of the island.

Fares start from 89 euros each way and the new route is one of three new direct weekly services from the carrier, with new services also set to operate from Lyon in France and Asturias in Spain.

Meanwhile, Tenerife is set to be at the forefront of the golf industry later this year when the destination hosts the International Golf Travel Market (IGTM) for the first time from October 5-8.

Tickets for the new flight routes are available from www.iberiaexpress.com and for details on golf opportunities visit www.webtenerife.com/golf

InBrief

- **HOTEL SANT FRANCESC** in Palma, Mallorca is scheduled to open this month. The previous old manor house has been converted into a luxury boutique hotel offering 43 guestrooms. As a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, the hotel's five-star facilities comprise rooftop terrace with a pool, patio bar, garden restaurant, gym and spa.
For details see www.slh.com
- **TAUCK** is offering a 14-day Paradors of Northern Spain option from £3,200 excluding flights. It includes visits to cultural charms with overnight stays in historic paradors, authentically restored castles, palaces and monasteries. Also included is a spa treatment or a cooking demo; a seven-course feast in a medieval castle; port wine tasting and dinner; transfers; 30 meals; and service charges, gratuities, admission fees, taxes and portage.
- **INSIGHT VACATIONS** has added a 12-day Iberian Elegance option to its programme which explores Iberia's rich and colourful history of discovery and empire. Highlights include stops in Spanish cities such as Seville, Barcelona and Madrid and a stopover in Lisbon for a guided sightseeing tour of the city. Prices start from £2,595 per person and include flights, 11 nights' breakfast accommodation, private VIP door-to-door transfers, sightseeing and the services of a tour director.
- **AFFORDABLE CAR HIRE** is predicting Spain's busiest year in car hire following a 19% increase in bookings in 2014, with many British tourists returning to their favourite holiday hotspots including Malaga, Palma, Alicante and Barcelona. The company has introduced a range of new products including a personal touch from Goldcar - a free disposable child seat cover on every car hire. Prices start from £5 per day.
For details visit www.affordablecarhire.com or call 0845-900 0420.



THE RECENTLY RENOVATED *Barceló Sants* in Barcelona offers a galactic themed design with rates from £60 per room, per night including breakfast, VAT and a special 20% advanced booking discount for guests booking 15 days in advance. The hotel's galactic theme runs throughout the property - from the boarding desk (reception) to the bar, the 'Orbital' guestrooms, suites and the artwork. Each room has specially designed shuttle window hatches and views over the city. For more information see www.barcelosants.com

Brazil capitalises on popularity of sporting events to entice more visitors

by VICENTE NETO,
president of Embratur



FOLLOWING THE introduction of new tourism products in Brazil last year, we witnessed a significant increase in interest and demand for information on Brazil as a holiday destination. As such, we expect that operators that were not previously selling Brazil will begin to do so this year and others, who were tentatively selling, will intensify their sales.

The World Cup impact

With last summer's World Cup widely heralded as a success and the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games drawing ever closer, Brazil is riding the wave of international sporting events, and benefiting its tourism industry as a result. The tournament's success is reflected in the contribution to Brazil's economy, as tourists spent more than £3billion between January and August. This fits into our long-term economic plan, as we more than doubled the foreign currency generated by international tourists from 2003 to 2013, and this is set to increase over the next two years.

As well as boosting visitor figures for this year (the World Cup brought more than a million tourists to Brazil), the tournament encouraged renewed interest in Brazil's smaller cities such as Salvador and Recife. We also successfully operated an additional 973 flights which proved that Brazil has the infrastructure, as well as the logistical capability, to deliver great sporting competitions to the world.

The Indigenous Games

Bridging the gap between the World Cup and the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Brazil will be

holding the first World Indigenous Games, taking place in September in Palmas in the state of Tocantins. The Indigenous Games has been held in Brazil since 1996, but after a meeting of the Intertribal committee at the U.N, it was decided that the Games should become an international tournament. As such, we are expecting 2,000 athletes from 30 countries, all representing different native tribes with their own traditions and heritage. Although some of the sports will be clearly recognisable, there are some that have been uniquely picked for the tribes to show off their traditional skills, including rustic canoeing, log races, a tree trunk foot race and forest archery.

The Rio Olympics

The Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be of historic importance for South America as well as the Olympic movement, as it will be the first time that the Games will be held on the continent. As a result, there will be a special emphasis on increasing the flow of South American tourists to Brazil to promote intra-regional tourism, on top of promoting tourism from the US and the UK.

We are investing heavily in new accommodation for the Games; by 2016, Brazil will have at least 422 new hotels or hostels, with an overall increase of 70,351 rooms across the country. Moreover, we are predicting £32.5billion of economic movement in Brazil as a result of the Olympics, and upwards of 200,000 new jobs.

Gastronomy

We are also seeing an increased enthusiasm for tourists trying out

traditional Brazilian foods. The unique health properties of fruits native to South America such as cupuaçu, bacuri, pupunha and tucumã have long been known, but with increased tourism from countries such as the UK there is also interest in national dishes such as feijoada (a hearty black-bean stew with smoked meat) and moqueca (a spicy Amazonian fish stew). In order to capitalise on this emerging market, we will be flying chefs into the UK next year to focus on the up-and-coming sector of holidays inspired by Brazilian cuisine, as well as placing Brazilian gastronomy firmly at the heart of Embratur's promotional activities.

Fostering relationships

Embratur is also excited to take advantage of the popularity of Manaus with UK visitors who stayed in the city for England's first World Cup match. We heard a lot of positive feedback of the locals getting on well with the British tourists, and we would like to further foster this relationship.

We are also strengthening our ties with Brazilian companies that specialise in luxury holidays and ecotourism, so that we can continue to offer visitors a wide range of experiences, from snorkelling off the coast of Trancoso to hiking through the Pantanal wetlands.

Over the next year, we are planning training sessions for UK tour operators on the emerging regions for Brazilian tourism, and two roadshows to cover six cities across the UK, in order to reach even more travel agencies. ♦



AIR EUROPA

...is increasing Sao Paulo frequencies from five to seven per week, with the sixth flight commencing from March 19 and the seventh flight operating from July 7. Fares to San Salvador de Bahia (SSA) lead in at £585 including taxes.

Brazilian Grand Prix promotion from Passion Brazil

Passion Brazil, the Rio De Janeiro based destination management company for Brazil, is offering a five-day package with tickets and transfers to the 2105 Brazilian Grand Prix, which takes place in Sao Paulo from November 13-15. It includes four nights in a quality hotel close to the Interlagos track and visits to nearby attractions.

Prices lead in at US\$1,467 per person in a double room, based on two sharing. Tickets to the Grand Prix are included in the lead price.

For more information see www.passionbrazil.com or email mariana@passionbrazil.com



Grand Prix

VBRATA highlights states of Maranhão & Minas Gerais in training programme

VBRATA UK's highlight destinations for this year include the states of Maranhão in the northeast of Brazil and Minas Gerais in the Southeast of Brazil.

The organisation is giving agents the chance to learn about the destinations by completing the modules on BOT - Brazil Online Training, which provides a selection of training courses for Brazilian destinations, travel industry service providers and suppliers specialising in Brazil.

On completion of the courses, agents will obtain an online certificate, become a 'specialist' in Brazil and have the opportunity to win prizes including places on fam trips.

For more information see www.brazilot.com and www.vbrata.org.uk

Ten-day Argentina & Brazil option from Contiki from £2,035

CONTIKI IS highlighting a ten-day trip that combines both Argentina and Brazil.

Beginning in Buenos Aires, guests will have time to familiarise themselves with the city before heading to the Brazilian border to see the Iguassu Falls.

Brazil is next on the agenda and the beachside resort town of Buzios is the first port of call, followed by a visit to Rio de Janeiro with the chance to take a cable car to the summit of Sugarloaf mountain and tour the famous Favelas.

Prices start from £2,035 per person including nine nights' breakfast accommodation, two internal flights, sightseeing tours and the services of a trip manager throughout.

NEW OFFERS FROM TAP

TAP is promoting a selection of offers to Brazil for bookings made by March 13. They include return flights to Rio de Janeiro from £489 per person; to São Paulo (including Campinas) from £525; to Salvador from £553; to Manaus, Belém, Belo Horizonte, Natal and Fortaleza from £493; and to Recife, Porto Alegre and Brasília from £496. The offers are available for travel up to March 26 and between April 7 and June 15. For further information or to book visit www.flytap.com or call 0345-601 0932.





TRAFALGAR

...is featuring a ten-day Impressions of South America trip which begins in Brazil and offers guests the chance to explore Rio de Janeiro on a sightseeing trip and the chance to learn how to mix the perfect caipirinha, Brazil's national cocktail. Visitors can marvel at Sugar Loaf Mountain and Christ the Redeemer statue and admire Iguassu Falls on the border between Argentina and Brazil before heading into Argentina to explore Buenos Aires. Prices start from £3,500 per person land and air including nine nights' breakfast accommodation, VIP door-to-door transfers, sightseeing and the services of a professional travel director throughout.

Rainforest & National Park highlights from Journey Latin America

JOURNEY LATIN America, which specialises in tailor-made holidays to Central and South America, including Brazil, is promoting options that are now more accessible including a tropical rainforest option and a tour to a National Park.

For clients wanting to visit the remote interior states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul, flights to the remote community of Alta Floresta are operating normally, therefore making it easier to visit the area.

A 14-day Brazil Wildlife: Explore

Mato Grosso itinerary visits the hot, and until recently remote, interior states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul, focusing on three locations for a wetland and tropical rainforest experience – northern and southern Pantanal and Alta Floresta. Excluding international flights, it costs from £5,734 per person including breakfast accommodation, most meals, excursions, transfers and domestic flights.

Meanwhile, the operator has created a one off group tour departure to take

in two national parks this summer.

The small group journey visits Salvador, the Chapada Diamantina National Park, Praia do Forte, Sao Luis, Lençóis Maranhenses National Park and Jericoacoara.

Departing on August 14, it costs from £3,538 including breakfast accommodation, some meals, excursions, all transfers and all flights.

To book or for more information call 020-8600 1881 or see

www.journeylatinamerica.co.uk

14-day 'Essence of South America' tour from £4,160 with Tauck

TAUCK IS promoting its 14-day Essence of South America tour from £4,160 plus on-tour air, excluding flights.

Highlights include a walk along the base of Iguazú Falls; a three-night stay in Buenos Aires featuring a private visit to Teatro Colón Opera

House, plus dinner and a tango show at Esquina Carlos Gardel; three nights in Rio de Janeiro; a Private tour of Rio's Samba City for a behind-the-scenes look at the carnival costumes and floats; a private cruise on Guanabara Bay; two nights in Bariloche, the 'Switzerland of South

America'; and a tour and gourmet lunch at a renowned Chilean winery during two nights in Santiago.

Transfers, 31 meals, gratuities to local guides, service charges, taxes and portage are also included.

For more information visit <http://tauck.co.uk>

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or visit www.aireuropaexperts.com

REGENT HOLIDAYS

fareast

...has availability on a 16-day 'Burma in Depth' tour departing on November 5. It leads in at £3,675 per person and includes flights, transfers, breakfast accommodation, a tour guide, some additional meals and transport. The itinerary starts in Yangon, the former capital of Burma, where guests can explore Little China and visit the Kyaukhtatgyi Pagoda, as well as the Shwedagon Pagoda, the most revered Buddhist temple in Burma. The tour also incorporates the Mandalay region, including Mandalay, Burma's second largest city, and four nights in Bagan, with a private cruise on the Irrawaddy River. To book or for details see www.regentholidays.co.uk or call 020-7666 1244.

Vietnam Airlines announces switch to Heathrow this summer following demand

VIETNAM AIRLINES has confirmed that from March 31, its non-stop UK services to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City will operate from Heathrow, with the airline joining its fellow SkyTeam members at Terminal 4.

The airline's switch from Gatwick to Heathrow will see a substantial increase in the frequency of non-stop services to Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City, rising to a daily service following the deployment of the carrier's new Boeing 787-9s on its

UK routes.

Heathrow will be the first international destination on the airline's network to be served by the new next-generation Dreamliners. The new aircraft will feature in-flight Wi-Fi and fully flat beds in Business Class, and will also herald the launch of the company's new branding and corporate identity.

The airline's general manager UK & Ireland, Le Thanh Dzung, said: "The launch of our non-stop services from

Gatwick saw UK arrivals into Vietnam rise by more than 40% year-on-year, and both the leisure and corporate markets have grown steadily ever since. Moving our operations to Heathrow will enable us to offer the increased frequency and capacity needed to build on and cater to this growing demand. As a prestigious global hub airport, Heathrow also provides a perfect platform on which to launch our new, world class product and branding."

Macau highlights new walking tour routes

THE MACAU Government Tourist Office has added four new walks to its 'Step Out, Macau' walking tour routes and has redesigned its four existing routes to give visitors a choice of eight different itineraries to explore the diversity of Macau's neighbourhoods on foot.

The new routes will take visitors to lesser-known districts including the Parish of the Nossa Senhora de Fátima, Parish of the Santo António, in areas of Macau Peninsula, the Parish of the Nossa Senhora do Carmo in Taipa and the Parish of São Francisco Xavier in Coloane.

Visitors can download an

electronic guide book which includes route maps and transport tips or view the different routes online at www.macautourism.gov.mo

Meanwhile, Cathay Pacific Airways now flies four times weekly from Manchester to Hong Kong, making Macau easier to access for those travelling from the north of England. The service offers Business Class, Premium Economy Class and new Economy Class seats. Once in Hong Kong, travellers can take the short 50-minute ferry ride into the heart of Macau direct from Hong Kong International Airport.

Visit www.macautourism.gov.mo for further information.

Regal Hotels teams up with Garuda Indonesia

REGAL HOTELS International has announced a new partnership agreement with Garuda Indonesia, the national air carrier of Indonesia, offering frequent flyer mile rewards to hotel guests.

Members of GarudaMiles, the airline's frequent flyer programme, are entitled to earn 500 and 250 miles respectively for every eligible stay at any Regal Hotels and Iclub Hotels with specified qualifying room rates.

For details visit www.regalhotel.com and <https://garudamiles.com>



Premier room at Regal International East Asia

Thomas Cook & Singapore Tourism Board team up for 'Get into Singapore' initiative

THE THOMAS Cook Group and the Singapore Tourism Board have announced a cooperative marketing agreement aimed at promoting Singapore as a unique holiday destination rather than just a stop-over haven for UK visitors.

The national partnership, which

will initially last for three months, will see the operator and tourism board integrate traditional and digital media and will include branded content in print and online, in-store promotions across the operator's retail estate, prominence in brochures and posters, social

media activities and print and digital marketing activity.

The overall focus of the partnership is to offer holidaymakers a deeper understanding of Singapore and all that it has to offer, while educating them on the many reasons to visit the destination.

Premier Holidays announces new Singapore campaign for 2015

PREMIER HOLIDAYS has unveiled a new selection of tactical offers in conjunction with Singapore Tourism, to drive sales throughout the peak booking period.

The specially selected range of Singapore deals each offer a saving of up to £1,596 per couple, and include some of the operator's top destinations within the Far East and Australasia.

The company has combined several of its top destinations with a Singapore stay, to create a range of twin-centre offers which include flights from Heathrow and private transfers. Each of the offers are based on two adults sharing, and are valid for travel on selected dates from April 15 - June 15, with alternative dates also available.

As examples, clients wishing to follow a Singapore city stay with a taste of Thailand's tropical shores can opt for an 11-night Singapore & Koh Samui holiday from £1,149 per person, offering a saving of up to £858 per couple. It includes a three-night stay at the four-star Park Hotel Clarke

Quay in Singapore and a further eight nights at Thailand's four-star Centara Villas, Koh Samui.

Alternatively, those looking for a more opulent experience can take a 13-night Luxury Singapore & Bali offer from £1,899, saving up to £1,596 per couple. It includes a three-night stay at the five-star Raffles Hotel Singapore, before flying on to Nusa

Dua, Bali for a further ten nights at the five-star Laguna Resort & Spa.

Agents can also benefit from the operator's agent incentive, earning between £25-£150 per inclusive Singapore booking, dependent on the booking value.

For more information or to book visit www.trade.premierholidays.co.uk or call 0844-493 7542.



EVA AIR
...is introducing non-stop flights between Taipei and Houston from June 19. The new service will be offered three times weekly on a Boeing 777-300ER, with frequency increased to four flights per week from July 1.
For details see www.evair.com

Tauck highlights 16-day China, the Yangtze River & Hong Kong option

TAUCK IS offering a 16-day China, the Yangtze River & Hong Kong - Eastbound itinerary from £3,990 per person, excluding flights.

The tour includes a three-night Eastbound Yangtze River cruise on the Yangzi Explorer, with the Westbound trip including a four-night Yangtze River cruise; an Insider experience in Beijing's disappearing hutongs including a rickshaw ride and a visit with a local hutong family; a private talk with a conservation expert at the Terra Cotta Warriors museum in Xi'an; special visits to the Han Yang Ling Underground Museum and the Shaanxi History Museum; an introduction to Shanghai at the Shanghai Urban Planning Center; dining experiences at local restaurants; a performance of Shanghai's daring, hi-tech ERA acrobatic show; a Sampan ride on Shennong Stream during the Yangtze cruise; airport transfers; and 37 meals. Gratuities to ship staff, local guides, taxes, service charges, admission fees and portage are also included.

Guests can celebrate Songkran in style at Thailand's boutique resort - The Sarojin

BOUTIQUE RESORT, The Sarojin has introduced a series of special Songkran experiences for guests.

Songkran Festival, or 'water splashing festival', is Thailand's most celebrated festival which runs from April 13-15. In Khao Lak, where The Sarojin is located, visitors will see the main event being celebrated over the course of the first day - offering a full day of religious blessings, fun-filled water fights and a carnival

atmosphere with dancers, drums and colourful processions.

On April 13, guests can experience the resort's newly-developed 'Songkran at The Sarojin' package with a number of watery experiences, including the chance to discover the waterways of southern Thailand - spending the morning on the backwaters of the 135-mile Takuapa river system. The tour also takes in a local temple to receive a blessing from

Buddhist monks and jovial water fights in Takaua Old Town.

Prices start from approximately £261 per person, including accommodation in a luxury Garden Residence with all-day à la carte breakfast and sparkling wine for two. EVA Air offers direct flights to Thailand from Heathrow, with fares from £578 return.

For details see www.evaair.com and www.sarojin.com

Vietnam's Hanoi & Ho Chi Minh to welcome new Vinpearl Land theme parks

VINGROUP IS set to capitalise on the growth of the family holiday market in Vietnam with the opening of two more Vinpearl Land amusement parks.

Sites for the two new parks in the capital Hanoi and the second city of Ho Chi Minh, which are both set to open in the next three years, have been confirmed.

The operator launched its second Vinpearl Land theme park on November 1 last year on Vietnam's tropical Phu Quoc Island in the Gulf of

Thailand, a 45-minute flight from Ho Chi Minh City and easily accessible from Thailand.

Duong Thi Mai Hoa, the company's CEO, said: "The Vinpearl Land parks are an integral part of what we do and our rollout plans for the model complement those for our other key concepts including our luxurious Vinpearl Resorts, Vincharm Spas and Vinpearl Golf Clubs. As such we are very excited to have secured prime development sites in the country's

two main gateway cities, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh, which will make access very convenient for international visitors."

Tickets to Vinpearl Phu Quoc cost VND 500,000 (just under £15) for visitors more than 140cm tall, VND 400,000 (just under £15) for visitors who are 100-140cm tall and are free for children under 100cm tall and visitors aged over 60 years.

For more information see www.vinpearlland.com/en



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ASIA'S BOUTIQUE AIRLINE

travelbulletin

Giving oge's the edge

We asked our staff the following question this week:

What's your middle name?

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AMARI PHUKET

...which is located on a secluded beach near Thailand's Patong, is offering a 'Bounce Back' spa package which combines a three-night stay with spa treatments. It costs from THB 29,088 (approximately £587) for two people.

Savings of 30% across Asia from Geckos Adventures

GECKOS ADVENTURES is offering 30% off selected trips to South East Asia this spring.

The offer is valid on bookings made before March 14 for travel during April and May, and clients can choose from a range of more than 21 tours to Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, China and Laos.

As examples, China's Greatest Hits takes in the Great Wall in Beijing, the Terracotta Warriors in Xian and Shanghai in eight days and leads in at £448 (from £640) for an April 3 departure.

A Sabah – The Greatest Land You've Never Heard Of ten-day tour explores Borneo's tropical playground, with visits to Kota Kinabalu and the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre. A dusk cruise up the Kinabatangan River and a Mt Kinabalu trek is also included with prices from £703 (from £1,005), based on an April 12 departure.

Prices include accommodation, transport, selected meals and a local guide.

See www.geckosadventures.com/cheap-date for details.

Specialist garden tour to Japan from Cox & Kings

COX & Kings has launched a one-off escorted botanical tour to Japan from October 10-23, led by English garden and landscape designer Paul Hervey-Brookes.

The 11-night tour leads in at £4,995 per person and includes flights with Cathay Pacific, transfers, excursions and breakfast accommodation.

With more than 7,000 plant species, of which 2,900 are endemic, Japan is home to a diversity of plants and landscapes, which can be easily visited in the country's many ornamental gardens. Travelling across Japan by bullet train, guests will visit a selection of gardens to discover Japanese flora as well as the temples of Kyoto and the Adachi Museum Gardens. Two days will be spent in Sasebo to explore the celebrated Gardening World Cup at Huis Ten Bosch, which in its five years has hosted some of the world's leading garden and landscape designers.

For more information visit www.coxandkings.co.uk

puzzlesolutions

Crossword:

Across: 1. BRYDON, 3. ALBI, 7. RIVIERA, 9. NSW, 10. MANHATTAN, 13. OBERGURGL, 16. TGV, 17. ARUNDEL, 18. YORK, 19. DANUBE.

Down: 1. BIRDMAN, 2. OPERA, 4. LENINGRAD, 5. IOW, 6. BAHT, 8. VANCOUVER, 11. TOR, 12. GALILEE, 14. EL AL, 15. GOUDA, 16. TAY.

Highlighted Word: BAHRAIN

Travagrams: (top) Cave of Pont-d'Arc (bottom) Rio de Janeiro
Where Am I?: Bhutan

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Invites you to attend one of our

North America Showcase

agent networking evenings



Monday 16th March 2015
Crowne Plaza Leeds



Monday 23rd March 2015
Park Inn by Radisson, Cardiff

Agents, come and join us at one of these informative, fun events and learn more about the accommodation and flight options available to this amazing part of the world. Soak up the North American ambiance and update yourselves on the diverse range of activities, multi-centre holidays, fly drives, city breaks and tailor-made packages on offer to meet your customers' needs.

These evenings 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, authentic 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 one of these amazing events, email the names and job titles of up to 5 staff members by Wednesday 11th March 2015 to:- tasneem.rahman@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.

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Facts & Figures: TUNISIA

- The most competitive destination in the Mediterranean
- Ranked as the second largest spa destination after France
- 3 hours, is the average journey time to Tunisia from any regional airport.
- Beach, History & Culture, Golf, Spa and Sahara desert are the five major selling points of Tunisia.
- Very low cost of living against a very strong British Pound
- Thomas Cook, TUI Travel, Jet2holidays, Monarch and Just Sunshine are the five TOs and Airlines chartering flights to Tunisia from over 20 regional airports in the UK. Tunisair and EasyJet (From June) are the only scheduled airlines from London
- Boasts long sunny and warm periods from March till end of November
- Captivating sceneries in the Sahara Desert including three Star Wars film Locations
- Perfect destination to have fun and entertain the families as well as relaxing long stays for seniors
- Fantastic beach front Hotels hand-picked by Tour Operators
- It is an open-air museum : 3000 years of history especially, the roman era
- 425,000 British holidaymakers travelled to Tunisia 2014.
- It is considered as an emerging golf destination
- An enticing dishes from a rich and varied Mediterranean Cuisine
- Very warm and friendly population



For more information or for further details on transport, attractions and accommodation in Tunisia, visit our website

www.cometotunisia.co.uk or

Email trade@cometotunisia.co.uk or Call 0207 224 55 61