

travelbulletin

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Giving agents the edge

Russia

New tours & add-ons to
boost client bookings

this week

puzzle bulletin 11

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

hotel checkout 13

we take a closer look at
the Constantinou Bros
Athena Beach in Cyprus



australasia

deals and discounts down under

uk airports 21

new developments,
technology systems
& trends



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Our Live It Up campaign to encourage early bookings into **higher room categories** for 2018 travel is back! Customers booking any Preferred Club room category* will receive an **additional 5% discount** on top of all other offers and early booking discounts.

**Valid for all bookings made from 16 August to 30 September 2017, for travel 02 January 2018 to 21 December 2018. Live It Up is valid for all brands within the AMResorts Collection. For more information and to book please contact your preferred tour operator today!*

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Spa treat...

SEVEN AGENTS recently enjoyed a spa day at Greenwoods Hotel & Spa in Essex courtesy of Carnival Cruise Line. The Spa Day with Afternoon Tea, which is one of the experience days that agents can earn through Carnival Cruise Line's Loyalty Rocks Club, combined plenty of relaxation in the swimming pool, hot tubs, sauna, steam and relations rooms with traditional afternoon tea. The agents earned their places as a result of participating in training as well as through social media competitions. Pictured are, from the left: Caroline Walker and Kerry Vidler, Travel Counsellors; Bella Romano and Hannah Beagley, Carnival Cruise Line; Samantha Fielder and Corey Campbell, US Airtours; Colleen Creevy, Ocean Holidays; and Travel Bulletin columnist Eileen Saunders from Travel Counsellors.

Operators unveil statistics behind Brits' getaways over the summer holidays

WITH THE summer holidays now over and the kids having gone back to school, Thomson, Thomson Cruises and First Choice have totted up some of the statistics from the nearly four million passengers they sent on holiday.

This summer Thomson Airways spent more than 41,000 hours in the air jetting millions of holidaymakers away to sunny climates which equates to flying around the world more than 600 times. The leading holiday airline made more than 5,400 round trips to summer holiday hotspots, with engineers making sure the fleet of 64 aircraft were in tip top condition and a cleaning crew spending 3,200 hours hand cleaning each plane.

In the holiday resorts the teams have also been busy keeping everyone amused with guests enjoying more than 4,200 hours of entertainment across the ten First Choice Holiday Villages. Expert teams at First Choice have also trained more than 3,800 budding footie stars at its football academies and kept over 17,000 children amused in their kids' clubs. Thomson has taught more than 2,300 children to swim this summer since the launch of its new swim schools at 13 of its TUI Family Life resorts. Meanwhile in the TUI Sensatori resorts guests have been pampered, as the spa staff has provided more than 40,000 luxurious spa treatments.

Meanwhile onboard, Thomson Cruises' six ships took around 195,000 passengers to 117 ports of call over the summer. The ships, including the latest addition to the fleet, TUI Discovery 2 served more than 5,300 litres of ice-cream and 56,070 litres of beer, used 100,330 tea bags and went through 1,180kg of coffee - each week.

The Balearics continued to be the most popular destination this summer, with cultural hotspots Bulgaria and Croatia seeing a significant increase in demand. Bulgaria, has seen a 21% increase in passenger growth since 2016, with trendy Croatia seeing 17% more passengers over summer compared to the same period last year. With the heavy rain and unseasonal weather in August, Thomson and First Choice also saw a sudden spike in bookings in the first week of the month with a surge in short break bookings (three- and four-night breaks were up 150% year-on-year).

Mark Hall, director of Product for Thomson and First Choice, said: "This has been another great summer for our resort teams and the statistics are mind boggling - with more than 17,000 children being entertained at our First Choice kids clubs and over 40,000 spa treatments being given. Thousands of people work very hard behind the scenes and in resort with our guests to enable them to discover their smiles, relax and unwind on their annual break."

THIS WEEK

03

news

a look at this week's latest offers and programme additions

08

at home with eileen

find out what Travel Counsellors' homeworker Eileen has been up to recently

11

puzzle bulletin

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

13

hotel checkout

we take a closer look at Constantinou Bros Athena Beach Hotel in Cyprus

14

personality bulletin

which industry personality is in the hot seat this week?

15

australasia

deals and discounts
Down Under

21

uk airports

new developments, technology
systems & trends

23

russia

new tours and add-ons to boost
client bookings



TRAIN TO GAIN... Travel 2 joined forces with the Millington Travel team for their annual training day recently. Joining more than six suppliers to conduct training across its products, the day culminated in a well-deserved drink in the local bar. Pictured are, from the left: Claire Hills from Travel 2 with Jemma Lee, Sharon Staples, Graham Woodham and Maria Scriven, all from various Millington branches.

Riviera Travel sets sail with Lucy Worsley on Rhine Cruise to Switzerland

RIVIERA TRAVEL has announced that the popular historian, writer and broadcaster Lucy Worsley will be joining its Rhine Cruise to Switzerland, departing on October 19 on the five-star MS Jane Austen.



Lucy Worsley

Lucy has written a new book aptly titled 'Jane Austen at Home', exploring the author's life through the places which meant the most to her. The line's guests will receive a complimentary copy of the book, which Lucy will autograph during an exclusive book signing in the afternoon on board the ship. Later after dinner, guests can join her once again for an insightful talk on Jane Austen.

All meals are included on board, as well as excursions and tours to destinations along the river, including medieval Koblenz, the romantic town

of Rüdesheim and the lakeside town of Lucerne, with a dedicated tour manager. Alternatively, guests can relax on board and admire the changing views from the comfort of their suite.

The Rhine Cruise to Switzerland starts from £1,199 per person for eight days, including Eurostar travel from London St Pancras to Brussels (with coach transport to Cologne) or flights from selected regional airports to Cologne or Düsseldorf.

To find out more call 01283-744307 or email agencysales@rivieratravel.co.uk

New loyalty programme from Vueling

VUELING HAS announced a new loyalty programme, Vueling Club, that enables members to collect and spend Avios – the loyalty currency for IAG's airlines.

The new addition, which is being launched in autumn, will replace the current Punto programme and customers will be able to collect and spend Avios to get free flights from the airline. In the future, they will also have the opportunity to fly to 380 destinations across IAG's airlines' network, including Iberia and British Airways, alongside other Avios airline partners.

Vueling Club will be the only loyalty programme in Europe using Avios to offer members up to 100% free flights, including taxes, fees and charges. Its members will also be able to collect Avios on everyday purchases from a wide range of brands spanning retail, hotels, taxis and car hire across Spain, France, Italy and the rest of Europe. This also includes the Avios eStore, where customers can collect Avios whilst shopping online.

Eurowings to launch Christmas & New Year flights to Berlin

EUROWINGS HAS announced it will launch flights from Birmingham to Berlin.

The new flight will operate twice-weekly on Fridays and Sundays from December 1 until January 7, 2018 catering for the Christmas market and New Year city break seekers.

All services are planned with an A320 aircraft configured to 180 seats. Flights are scheduled to arrive from Berlin at 14:20 and depart Birmingham at 15:00.

The carrier's network development and airport relations manager, Ivan Orec, said: "We know how popular traditional German markets are around Christmas time and Berlin has one of the world's best. It's also a fantastic city to be in to celebrate the New Year with lots going on outdoors as well as great nightlife to enjoy. These flights are running for one month and so we urge passengers to book early as we expect seats to sell quickly."

Fares start from £39.99 one-way including taxes and charges.

For more information or to book flights visit eurowings.com



Saga's secret cruise

SAGA PASSENGERS throw caution to the wind when they join Saga Sapphire's new three-week Secret Cruise as they are kept in suspense as to the itinerary. It is only when Saga Sapphire moors in each port that the destination is announced.

The cruise is fun-themed and passengers are guaranteed great-value inclusions such as a return chauffeur service to and from the port; selected wines at lunch and dinner; house-branded spirits, draught beer and lager, non-alcoholic cocktails and soft drinks served at no additional cost; excursions included at every port; complimentary Wi-Fi and gratuities.

The 21-day sailing offers inspiring experiences, nightly entertainment and a programme of daytime activities.

Prices start from £4,784 departing from Southampton on November 27, 2018.

For details visit saga.co.uk/ocean-cruises or call 0800-505030.

OLYMPIC HOLIDAYS has added several destinations to its winter sun programme, including Cape Verde. As an example of packages, a seven-night breakfast stay in a double room at the four-star Dunas De Sal in Santa Maria, Sal Island costs from £799 per person based on a February 28, 2018 departure from Gatwick. See olympicholidays.com for details.

New tall ship cruise packages from Star Clippers

STAR CLIPPERS has launched a new series of flight inclusive, no hassle packages, including the opportunity to see the 2018 Monaco F1 Grand Prix trials, departing on Star Flyer on May 19, and, for lovers of historic cars, Monaco's historic Grand Prix featuring 180 vehicles selected for their history and authenticity, part of a cruise of the Balearic Islands and the French Riviera, departing on May 12 on Royal Clipper.

Both itineraries include seven-night sailings with breakfast, lunch, dinner, flights and non-UK transfers, plus access to view the Grand Prix in Monaco harbour. A week's sailing for two costs from £1,699 per person.

Departing on December 4, the company has come up with a Caribbean cruise package from Jamaica to Barbados on

flagship Royal Clipper. Saving £473 per person (was £2,575, now £2,102) the cruise includes all meals on board, port charges and an 11-night sailing.

Celebrating a year since the return of the Clippers to South East Asia, the company is sailing the winter 2017 season between Singapore and Phuket, taking in some of the most exotic and scenic ports and harbours in Thailand and Malaysia.

Departing on November 21, the company has a flight inclusive package from the UK, including transfers, three nights' breakfast stay at the Hotel Jen Tanglin in Singapore and a seven-night cruise on Star Clipper, with all meals and port charges, from £2,699.

For details or to book call 0808-231 4798 or see starclippers.co.uk

October Canada deals - including half-term - from Air Transat

AIR TRANSAT is offering competitive low-price fares from the UK to Canada throughout October including the half-term break.

Costs for return Economy Class flights start from £346 per person, departing from Gatwick; £430 from Manchester; £386 from Glasgow and £437 from Birmingham.



WOW AIR has added Detroit, Cleveland, St. Louis and Cincinnati to its ever-growing portfolio of US destinations, along with a new route from Stansted. Daily flights from Stansted to Reykjavik (Keflavik International Airport) will begin on April 25, 2018, with fares from £29.99. This will provide connections to the airline's new services to Cleveland (inaugural flight May 3, 2018), Cincinnati (May 9, 2018), Detroit (April 25, 2018) and St. Louis (May 17, 2018). The starting price for all four new routes will be from £129.99. See wowair.co.uk

Rocky Mountaineer issues Peaks and Perks promotion

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER is encouraging consumers to enjoy a more luxurious side of train travel with a limited-time Peaks and Perks promotion, offering couples up to £480 in added value on all eligible 2018 packages.

The company is offering couples credit on eligible journeys booked before October 27, for either GoldLeaf or SilverLeaf services with a duration of eight days (seven nights) or more. The exclusive offer gives guests the opportunity to book a variety of luxurious add-ons, including extra hotel nights in Seattle, Vancouver or Calgary, airport transfers, alternative Rocky

Mountaineer routes, meals, activities and tours. Credit can also be used towards a timeless Alaskan Cruise as part of the Rocky Mountaineer's Rail and Cruise packages.

As an example of prices, a ten-day voyage, priced from £2,990 per guest, includes a foodie themed itinerary incorporating a walking tour of Granville Island or Chinatown, an Icefields Parkway tour and even a six-course paired tasting menu at the luxury Eden restaurant at the Rimrock Hotel in Banff.

For further information visit rockymountaineer.com

Kuoni to cover cost of credit card fees for independent agents

FROM NEXT January, Kuoni will assist independent agents in covering costs for customers who choose to pay by credit card by uplifting commission by 0.5%.

The move comes as new legislation will prohibit agents from charging fees to customers for the use of debit and credit cards. The Payment Services Directive 2, which will come into effect on January 13, 2018 means travel agents will no longer be allowed to charge customers for paying by credit card.

Brad Bennetts, national sales manager for the long-haul tour operator, said: "It may be good news for consumers but the impact on agents' bottom line from not being able to charge for credit card payments will be significant. We know this topic has been front of mind for many of our travel agent partners and the financial impact is a genuine cause for concern for them.

"Trade support is really important to our business and we want to send a clear message to agents now to say that we get it. We've listened and we want to take early meaningful action to help you to run your business profitably.

"We will cover the agents' costs by raising commission. It will be there for all independent agents from the start of next year when the legislation is due to come into force. In developing this proposal we had some really useful conversations with The Advantage Travel Partnership who have welcomed our move and we remain firmly committed to supporting and investing in the trade."

New group tours to Italy from On The Go

ON THE Go Tours has introduced Italy to its Europe portfolio with two new touring itineraries.

A seven-day Italian Espresso option travels from Venice to Florence, kicking off with a water taxi from the airport into Venice.

After exploring the city and tasting the gelato and locally produced wine of Verona, the next stop is the Italian playground for the rich and famous – Lake Como. Travellers will enjoy lunch in the lakeside town of Bellagio, a leisurely meal overlooking the picturesque lake.

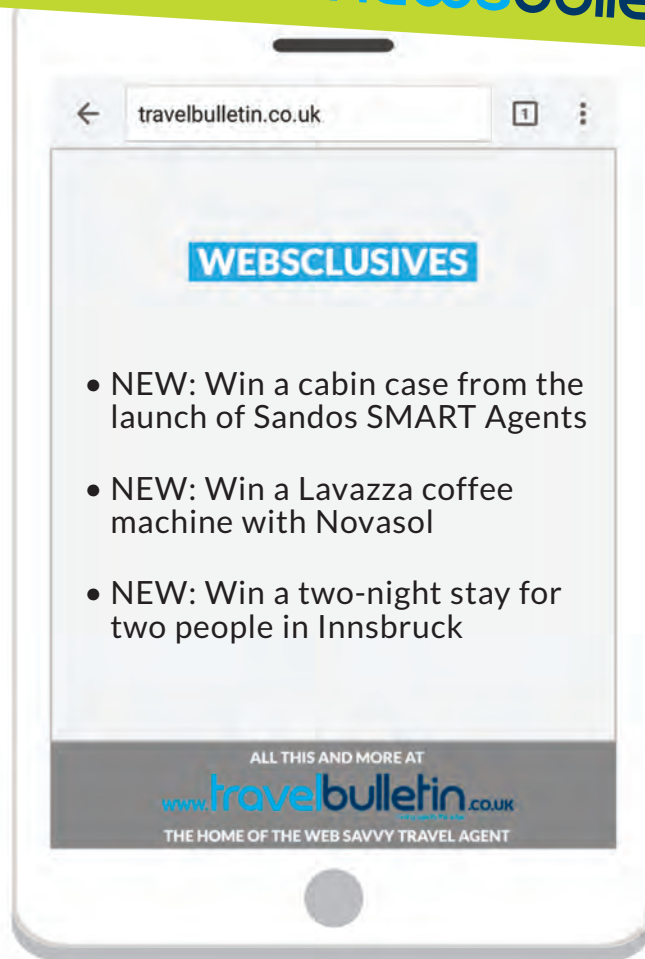
In Milan explorers will head out on a guided walking tour, visiting the elegant and sophisticated sites, before spending the night in Genoa with a cooking demonstration in the birthplace of pesto. A day at leisure is spent in Cinque Terre, with a day pass allowing the group to walk from village to village or take the train as they wish. On the last day of the tour the group head to Pisa, before finishing in the renaissance city of Florence. Prices lead in at £1,745 per person.

Alternatively, a ten-day Renaissance & Riviera offers a real taste of Italy, with the first seven days matching the Italian Espresso itinerary before extending the adventure south finishing in Rome. Prices lead in at £2,425.

For further information or to make a booking see onthegotours.com

NEWS BITES

- THE CAYMAN Islands has recently played host to Michelin-starred chefs in a bid to promote its culinary diversity and strength as part of an ongoing programme. As an example, acclaimed chef, Clare Smyth, visited the islands to get some inspiration ahead of her first restaurant opening in London. The ten-day culinary extravaganza started with a four-course delectable dinner in the Presidential Suite at The Kimpton Seafire Resort + Spa, moving onto a farm-to-table feast at Abacus at Camana Bay working with local farmers and chefs to create a uniquely Caymanian fare.
- HARD ROCK Hotel Ibiza has revealed its new 80s themed suite (called the '80's Suite') offering the chance to relive the spirit and vibrancy of the 1980s. The suites feature a neon colour scheme and 80s-inspired décor and are complemented by a range of luxury touches that feature in all the hotel's suites such as a jacuzzi and sea views. A host of activities inspired by the 80s such as a Nintendo (NES Classic Edition) with games such as Mario Bros and Popeye, a doll with a rotating disco ball head, a cassette player with some of the favourite music anthems of the decade, as well as 1980s-inspired posters, vinyl and classic 1980s sweets and treats are also offered. Prices start from 240 euros per night based on two sharing including breakfast. See hrhibiza.com for details.
- CATHAY PACIFIC is to launch non-stop services to Brussels, Dublin and Copenhagen in summer 2018.



BUDGET AND GO BECAUSE...

YOU COULD WIN A FIAT 500!

To be in with a chance of winning a Fiat 500*, simply visit [beep on abgbeep.com](http://beep.abgbeep.com), register and log all your Avis and Budget bookings via 'Competition Spotlight' up until 14/10/17*

Not only that, every month we will be giving away an Amazon Echo and there will be spot prizes throughout the competition too so log your bookings as you make them!

Winners for all prizes are chosen through a prize draw, so the more bookings you make the better your chances are!

*The winner of the Fiat 500 will be drawn once the competition has closed and the winner will be contacted in November. The winner of the Amazon Echo will be drawn monthly and spot prize winners will be contacted at random. Closing date for all entries is 14/10/17



amazon echo



Budget®



At home with Eileen...

What has homemaker Eileen
been up to this month?

IT WAS my birthday a few weeks ago and one of the presents I received was a spa day at a local hotel, which I really enjoyed.

While relaxing there, I couldn't help but recall previous experiences I'd had at hotel spas over the years. I don't know if it's just me but funny things seem to happen to me when I visit a spa so I thought I might share a few of these memories with you.

The first time I went to a sauna I'd expected it to be very hot but after lying on the wooden bench for about 20 minutes, I gradually started to feel quite cold. I wondered if perhaps the sauna wasn't working and as I was about to go and check, somebody walked in and went through a door I hadn't noticed. It was then I suddenly realised I'd been lying in the changing room.

A few years later at a hotel spa in Madeira, a far 'hotter' sauna experience awaited me. On entering, I was surprised to find four naked men sitting there. My immediate reaction was to turn around and leave but not wishing to seem like an embarrassed teenager, I nonchalantly sat down next to them. It was quite surreal sitting there not knowing where to look and trying hard not to laugh.

My most memorable spa experience was at a hotel in the Caribbean. I'd booked the last appointment of the day - a seaweed body wrap. My body was painted with a seaweed concoction and I was wrapped up very tightly, cocooned from neck to toe in plastic film and unable to move. The therapist told me she'd be back in 30 minutes but she didn't return. I called out a few times but nobody responded. Then mimicking Houdini, I wriggled this way and that and finally managed to break free but soon realised that everyone had gone home and I'd been locked in. I washed off the green gunge as best I could in the shower but with no towels, I had to get dressed while still wet. I was finally released when a cleaner arrived on the scene. I didn't make a complaint but the hotel got to hear about what happened. They apologised and the explanation was that the therapist had to leave or she would have missed her bus home. How hilarious is that?

Eileen

by EILEEN SAUNDERS of Travel Counsellors
To respond to any of Eileen's comments email
lauretta.wright@travelbulletin.co.uk

Mark Warner adds new activity for S18

MARK WARNER has announced that it will be offering Dinghy & Windsurf Foiling for summer 2018 at Lakitira Beach Resort in Kos and Levante Beach Resort in Rhodes.

Foiling is a new aspect to dinghy sailing and windsurfing where riders attain enough speed to activate lift from Hydrofoils attached to the dagger board & rudder (for dinghies) or fin (for windsurfing) that will push the dinghy hull or windsurf board out of the water, reducing drag and thus increasing speed over the water.

It's an advanced style of sailing and windsurfing and guests must already hold an RYA level 2 qualification or equivalent with experience in Lasers/ RS Aero's for Dinghy Foiling to take part.

In windsurfing, guests will be expected to have an RYA Intermediate Planning or equivalent qualification and be comfortable in the foot straps and a harness. The company will run entry level courses in resort for those who want to become more advanced before turning to Foiling.

For those who are keen to get on board and progress, the company will offer RYA courses 'Intro to Foiling' which can be pre-booked (from February 2018) before departure at a cost of around 60 euros for three hours.

Meanwhile, early booking offers for summer 2018 start from £579 per person with savings of up to £150 off of the brochure price. Free child places are also available along with an additional £100 off per person for bookings paid in full.

Packages include flights, transfers, accommodation, half/full board dining options, childcare (ages two-17), sailing and windsurfing with tuition, SUP boarding and kayaking, tennis, biking with guided tours and fitness classes.

To book or for more information call 0333-305 9795 or see markwarner.co.uk



A LOTTA BOTTLE... The recent winners of the Heritage Le Telfair Mauritius competition, which ran on travelbulletin.co.uk a few months ago, have been announced. The first prize winner was Nicola Braddock from Travel By Inspire who won seven nights for two at Heritage Le Telfair in Mauritius on a half-board basis. The second prize of a £100 Love2Shop voucher went to Veronica Bailey from Fare Wise Travel and the third prize of six bottles of wine was won by June Laiklock (pictured) from Traveltime Beaconsfield.

BOOKING INCENTIVES

- UNNA LUXURY Resorts and Residences is giving agents a £30 Amazon voucher for every seven-night holiday booked between now and October 31 at the company's Saint Peter's Bay and Port Ferdinand luxury resorts in Barbados. The offer applies to holidays taken from now until December 15. If an agent books three holidays at Port Ferdinand, the voucher awarded will increase to £50 per booking, which would mean vouchers of £150 awarded in total. Call 020-8679 2508 for details.
- PURE LUXURY is offering agents the chance to win one of eight £500 Farebank Rewards throughout this month. The campaign is being run in conjunction with Dubai tourism and runs for eight weeks. For the chance to win, agents should make a new booking with the operator to Dubai including flights with Emirates before September 25. In addition, the agent with the most improved sales year-on-year will also receive a five-night luxury holiday to Dubai including flights with Emirates. See goldmedal.co.uk for details.
- SANDALS RESORTS is giving away six five-night stays in its signature luxury Love Nest Suites to UK agents. The stays are up for grabs every two weeks for agents who make bookings at any of the operator's resorts, with the more bookings made, the more entries received. Bookings at the company's newest resort, Sandals Royal Barbados, which is due to open on December 20, will receive a total of three entries per booking when any category of room is sold. Bookings must be made between by November 14 and reported to agents' regional business development manager for the chance to win and travel must be completed by December 15, 2018.
- SERENITY HOLIDAYS is giving agents the chance to fill their fridge for Christmas, as part of its latest booking incentive. Agents have until November 30 to make as many bookings as possible across all of Serenity's six destinations, and individuals who achieve £15,000 worth of revenue will automatically win a whole host of festive goodies. Gift vouchers for £50 are also available for agents who achieve £10,000 worth of revenue, at a store of the individual's choice. Brands include The Gambia Experience, Cape Verde Experience, Goa Experience, Corsican Places, Sardinian Places and Sicilian Places.
- GREAT RAIL Journeys has launched a new trade competition which runs until September 29. It is valid on any booking made across all three brands in the company's group (Great Rail Journeys, Rail Discoveries and GRJ independent) and gives agents the chance to win a £100 Red Letter Days voucher. For details email: rebekahamos@greatrail.com

AGENT OFFER

HAVEN IS giving agents the chance to enjoy a three- or four-night autumn break with their families from £79 per family staying in a deluxe caravan on selected dates during September and October. To book, agents should email their ABTA number, contact details, the date and park they'd like to visit and how many people will travel in their party to trade.sales@bourne-leisure.co.uk.



THAI TREAT. Keeping in the spirit of Star Clippers' newly launched tall ship sailings to Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, the UK sales team is organising a series of training lunches this month and next. The events will all be held at the Thai street food chain, ThaiKhun, and attendance is limited to a maximum of 15 delegates per event, with a two-course set lunch included. Pictured promoting the events are, from the left: the company's Alison Jared, Fay McCormack and Danielle Dudley. For details email agency.sales@starclippers.co.uk

FANCY A FAM?

PRINCESS CRUISES will host a 300-agent sailing on Royal Princess in May 2018, the line's largest fam trip.

The cruise, a 12-night British Isles voyage, will give agents the opportunity to experience the 'Ocean Medallion' which launches from November this year. The 'Medallion Mega Fam' is open to all agents in the UK and Ireland, who have two ways in which to apply for a place. Until October 31, agents need to make a 2018/19 booking and enter code INNO18. Alternatively, from November 1-

30 agents can apply by completing an online Ocean Medallion training course via onesourcecruises.com.

The 300 agents can join one of five legs of the sailing with departures from Southampton, Dublin, Glasgow and Edinburgh. Fam trip winners will be announced weekly via the line's Academy Facebook page until November 30.

New Private Collection from Ski Independence is ideal for families & groups

LAVISH ACCOMMODATION, high-end facilities and a broad range of bespoke services are now available with the new Private Collection from Ski Independence.

Ideal for families or groups looking for the ultimate luxury retreat in an exclusive setting, the ski specialist has added the new product in sought-after resorts including Val d'Isère, Courchevel, Méribel and La Clusaz.

Discerning skiers can choose from two-bedroom retreats, ideal for a romantic getaway, to extensive eight-bedroom lodges set over several floors.

Clients can choose to add a wide range of bespoke add-ons to complement their stay, with services including a private chef, porter or chauffeur; half-board upgrades; childcare and babysitting; grocery deliveries; private yoga instruction; beauty treatments; massages and more.

As an example, the penthouse Apartment 61 at the Residence Aspen Lodge in Méribel, formerly the Club Med property at Le Rond Point des Pistes, offers stunning views from its floor to ceiling windows. The duplex apartment sleeps up to ten adults and offers top of the range fixtures and fittings, an open plan kitchen, dining room and living room with fireplace, underfloor heating and easy access to the slopes.

Prices are from £812 per person for seven nights based on four adults and

four children staying on a room only basis, including SWISS flights from Heathrow to Geneva and private transfers

To book or for more details see ski-i.com/france/meribel-mottaret/residence-aspen-lodge

The company is also reminding agents about their chance to win a two-night stay at the five-star deluxe hotel The Chedi Andermatt, GaultMillau Hotel of the Year 2017.

For every European ski booking made with the company by November 15, agents can be in with a chance of winning the prize. Agents should email their booking references to marketing@ski-i.com with the subject line "WIN CHEDI" by Wednesday November 15.



REGENT'S PARK Open Air Theatre's production of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar* is now playing until September 23. The production, which has returned to the Open Air Theatre following a sell-out run in 2016, was awarded the 2016 Evening Standard Award for Best Musical, and the 2017 Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival, with the Open Air Theatre announced as 'London Theatre of the Year' in The Stage Awards 2017. Tickets cost from £25 and group discounts are also available. See openairtheatre.com/jesuschristsuperstar for details.

Cox & Kings adds new escorted tours to 2018 Latin America brochure

COX & KINGS, which celebrates its 260th anniversary in 2018, has launched two new escorted tours to Latin America, as well as increasing suggestions for family holidays and private tours.

Peru remains one of the operator's bestselling destinations and the Train to Machu Picchu escorted tour is its bestselling escorted tour to South America, with confirmed bookings already up 40% on 2016.

A 16-day / 14-night tour is priced from £2,995 per person and includes an overnight stay on the luxury Belmond Andean Explorer train.

The company's Latin America product manager, Vessela Baleva, said: "For 2018 we are introducing new escorted tours that combine countries, allowing people to see as much as possible in one trip: improvements in domestic flight connections have meant that it's easier to create multi-country itineraries. Our team of experts in the UK travel regularly to the region and there's very little that they can't recommend or arrange."

The two new escorted tours include a 16-day Conquistadores, Incas and Islands, which starts in Peru's Sacred Valley before visiting Machu Picchu and then Lima. The second half of the tour is in Ecuador, staying in Quito for two nights and then a four-night cruise around the Galapagos islands. Prices are from £4,795 per person.

Also offered is a 19-day Journey through the Andes which travels through Chile, Bolivia and Peru, discovering dramatic altiplanic scenery and traditional cultures including the Atacama desert and Uyuni salt flats; Lake Titicaca, the legendary birthplace of the Incas; and finally the ancient sites of the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu. Prices are from £3,995.

The operator has also increased its suggestions for exploring Latin America as a family. Three new itineraries to Peru, Mexico and Ecuador have been created with experiences that aim to inspire and excite all generations.

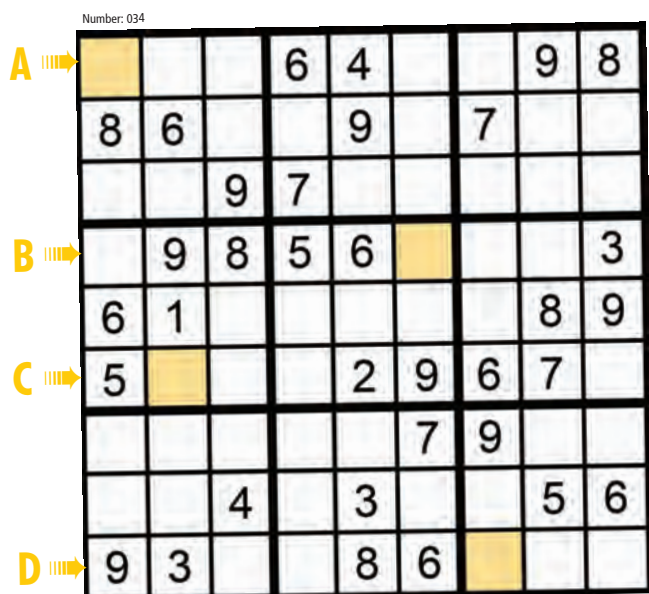
As an example of prices, a 12-day Costa Rica Family Adventure private tour costs from £2,095.

All prices include flights from London, transfers, excursions and accommodation with breakfast daily unless otherwise specified.

For details see coxandkings.co.uk/destinations/south-america

Su Doku

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



Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 3 x 3 squares contains the 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, September 14th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

The winner for 25th August is Catherine Wassell, Solent World Travel in Lee on Solent.

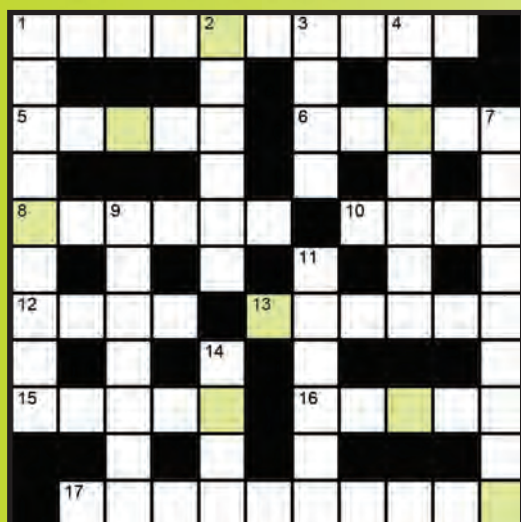
August 25 Solution: A=5 B=4 C=8 D=7

Where Am I?



This remote volcanic outpost is famous for being the place of Napoleon Bonaparte's exile and death, as commemorated by a now-empty tomb. Climbing destinations include the 699 steps of Jacob's Ladder and Diana's Peak.

Crossword



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

Across

1. UK travel company, founded in 1841 (6,4)
5. Popular Red Sea resort (5)
6. Augusta is the state capital (5)
8. Resort town on the French Riviera (6)
10. Party with dancing and bubbles (4)
12. Hotel brand, part of Accor (4)
13. They are Red and fly in formation (6)
15. Resort overlooking the Isle of Arran (5)
16. Free newspaper read on this transport system perhaps (5)
17. Cumbria's largest lake (10)

Down

1. Danny O'Donoghue is back in voice as frontman of this band (3,6)
2. Royal Caribbean cruise ship, ___ of the Seas (6)
3. Picturesque Italian lake (4)
4. Flows through South America (7)
7. Recently named the world's highest-paid actress (4,5)
9. Capital of Kenya (7)
11. Norfolk seaside resort (6)
14. First name of Famous Five author (4)

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



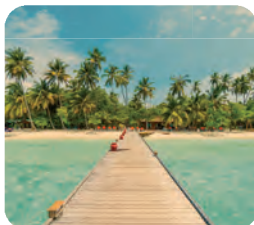
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Sarah Dooley

Regional Sales Manager North West,
Silversea Cruises

On weekends, I like to...

Spend quality time with my family whether that's out doing fun things with our boys or just relaxing at home.

How do you relax?

I love to go out for nice meals and have a chat over a glass of wine, although I'm more than happy with a nice takeaway and a film!

What's your favourite movie or TV programme?

It has to be A League of Their Own US Road Trip – I love the normal series of A League of Their Own but the road trips are just brilliant!

What has been your most extravagant purchase?

I have treated myself to a Ted Baker suitcase ready for holidays! I do love Ted Baker accessories!

What's your most embarrassing moment?

When I first joined Silversea in 2015 I had just arrived back at Wigan train station after a few days at our London office. It was 10pm and I'd chosen to use the lift as I had lots of luggage with me but unfortunately the lift broke down. After ringing the emergency bell the fire brigade was sent to rescue me and several

firemen had to pull me out of the lift. If that wasn't embarrassing enough the incident happened right outside a busy pub and I was given a cheer when I was rescued by all of the pub goers! What's the best compliment you've received?

It has to be from my nine-year-old son. When I recently sighed and grumbled whilst inspecting my wrinkles he told me 'Mum, don't worry you look great'. I'm sure that was just before he asked for something though!

What gives you the greatest satisfaction?

From a work perspective it's knowing that I've helped an account – whether that's by helping them to achieve a booking by giving them training and resources or simply supporting them through a query. I recommend agents use the Silversea Academy – our innovative new online training portal. From a personal perspective, just seeing my family happy is everything to me...

What's your favourite quote?

"Tomorrow is another day" by Audrey Hepburn.

What skill would you like to master?

I'd like to be a better cook. I'm sure my other half would appreciate that too!

Who is your celebrity crush?

It was Robbie Williams for years but

recently I've taken more of a liking to Gary Barlow!

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

It has to be James Corden, I love a good sing-a-long and I think he'd definitely make the flight entertaining!

Which fictional character do you most liken yourself to?

I asked my children this question as I didn't have a clue. My eldest said Cinderella which having thought about it is probably quite accurate at times! Cleaning in jogging pants at home to dressing up for work and going out to travel trade balls!

What other

companies/organisations have you previously worked for?

I started my travel career at Anatolian Sky and then went on to work for Resorthoppa, Lowcostbeds, Cruising Excursions and World Travel Holdings.

What is your top travel tip?

Be organised and book early to get the best prices and have your choice of suite. Silversea's suites offer one of the highest space-per-guest ratios of any luxury cruise accommodation along with a butler, fully stocked mini bar, premium amenities and even a pillow menu!

Where currently ranks highest on your travel wish list?

I have a few places on my priority list. It has to be Bora Bora, the Maldives and the Seychelles.

THE GREAT Ocean Road, Australia's iconic road trip route, is set to receive nearly \$4million worth of investment as part of a tourism driven programme. To complement the natural scenery of the drive, a number of new attractions will be created throughout the next 18 months in addition to the development of existing venues. A chocolate factory in Forrest with a cafe and retail outlet as well as a 20 hectare wildlife park are just two of the new destinations set to pop up. The Fyansford Papermill will also be reopened as a winery, to highlight some of the region's fine wines.

Tourism Australia adds 'Youth' module to training programme

TOURISM AUSTRALIA has launched a new Youth module on its Aussie Specialist Programme (ASP).

The ASP is designed to give agents the knowledge and confidence to sell Australia to their clients, and this new module has been created to help agents tailor ideas for their younger customers, including information on the Working Holiday Maker visa.

To complete the new module, agents need to have completed the core modules and be a qualified Aussie Specialist. For more details go to aussiespecialist.com/en-gb

Coral Expeditions launches Sepik River expeditions

IN RESPONSE to an increased demand from consumers to see more of Papua New Guinea, Coral Expeditions has planned a series of four landmark expeditions for February 2018.

Combining ocean and river cruising, each seven-day Sepik River Scouting Expedition will delve deeper into the heart of Papua New Guinea following the course of the river further into its interior. With dense terrain making this part of the world largely inaccessible by road, the river passes through some of the oldest rainforests in the world, encountering local tribes and exotic wildlife.

The operator has been exploring the Lower Sepik River for several years and has collaborated with local experts – some of whom have many decades of experience and relationships with these remote communities – to create an itinerary that explores the rarely visited sites of the Middle Sepik on expedition vessel, Coral Expeditions I.

Highlights of the itinerary include: experiencing a 'sing sing' demonstration at the very remote Kamindimbit village; viewing the vibrant wildlife at Chambri Lakes; a traditional face painting at Tambanum; exploring the rich artistry of the region, from the pottery at Aibom to the carvings at Mendam; and visiting the village of Kambaramaba which hovers over the river on stilts. In true expeditionary style, the voyage offers guests a flexible itinerary as the captain sets his watch to local time and follows the rhythm of the river. This allows for an element of discovery, as guests will be advised the day prior where their next journey lies, and prices start from \$4,990 per person.

To find out more email reservations@coralexpeditions.com or visit coralexpeditions.com

Philippine Airlines introduces non-stop Manila to Auckland flights

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES is to introduce a major enhancement on its Manila - Auckland route with non-stop flights beginning December 6. The new service means New Zealand's largest city will be reachable from London with only one stop.

The service will operate via PR218 three times weekly – on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays - departing Manila at 23:15, and arriving into Auckland at 14:05 local time the

following day. PR219 will leave Auckland every Friday, Saturday and Tuesday at 00:30 local time and touches down in Manila at 05:45.

With the forthcoming route, travel time to Auckland will be reduced to ten hours from the current 12 hour 15 minutes Manila – Auckland via Cairns route.

David Cochrane, the airline's country manager for UK & Ireland, said: "Our new non-stop service makes it easier than ever to reach

Auckland from the UK. Same day connections at Manila make the trip down to New Zealand faster and more convenient."

The company will be utilising its twin-aisle dual class 254-seater A340s from its single-aisle 156-seater A320s, increasing capacity by 60%. This update follows the announcement that the airline will operate a Boeing 777-300ER on its London – Manila route from September 19.



ROCKY MOUNTAINEER



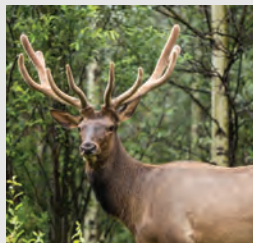
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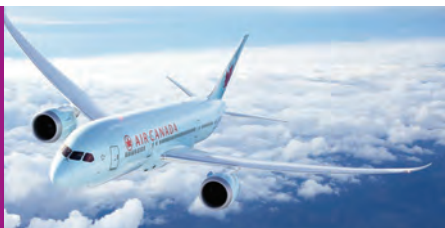
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Visit: goldmedal.co.uk

GOLDMEDAL



New Oz additions from Travel 2

TRAVEL 2 has added the Adina Apartment Hotel in the centre of Melbourne to its Australia offering.

Rachel McMurdo, the operator's assistant product manager for Oceania, said: "New for 2017, we've also has added the Melbourne by bike tour which is a great way to get to know the city and see the sights up close. I would also suggest trying out the Yarra Valley Wine Experience in Melbourne which is home to some of the most spectacular wines as well as the Moët & Chandon Australian house and also Balgownie Estate.

"Whilst in Victoria, agents could recommend to clients that they explore and experience the Great Ocean Road; one of the most spectacular scenic coastal driving routes anywhere in the world."

As an example of packages, the operator is offering four nights at the four-star Adina Apartment Hotel Melbourne on a room only basis, flights and four nights on the five-day Great Ocean Road self-drive from £1,469 per person. This includes the Melbourne by Bike day tour and Yarra Valley Wine experience and is valid for travel on September 15 and September 20. Visit travel2.com or call 0800-022 4182 for more details.



15 AGENTS recently joined Travel 2's Gemma Pinder and Qantas' Claire Macklin, for the operator's latest Aussie FAM trip to Queensland. Pictured on Fraser Island, from the left is: Anna Reed, Ocky White Travel; Wendy Porter, Not Just Travel; Gemma Pinder from Travel 2; Mags Dipper, Freedom OZ; Rachel Gray, Lincolnshire Co-op; Dave Felton, E Shores; Christine Unwin, Escape Worldwide; Stacey Hamilton, Feherty Travel; Joan Pearman, Althams Travel; Elaine Overton; Midcounties PTA; Joe Crane, Advance Travel; Deidre Laughlin, Clubworld Travel; Samantha Bell, Millington; Toni Cotton, Ten UK; Claire Macklin from Qantas; Lisa Clover, East of England Co-Op; and Carley Gower of Newells Travel.

Qantas & Emirates extend partnership with more flight options

QANTAS AND Emirates will apply to extend their partnership for another five years, providing more options for customers travelling to Australia.

The key change will see the airlines better leveraging each other's networks, by providing three options to Australia from Europe; via Dubai and Singapore, and direct to Perth.

From March 2018, Qantas will re-route its daily London to Sydney A380 service via Singapore rather than Dubai and upgrade its existing daily Singapore to Melbourne flight from an A330 to an A380. As previously announced, the airline's existing London - Dubai - Melbourne service will be replaced with its direct Dreamliner service flying London - Perth - Melbourne. This change will also see Qantas boost its network across Asia, providing UK customers with more options to travel to destinations in Southeast Asia serviced by the airline's broader group network.

Customer demand for flights from London to Australia via Dubai with Emirates will remain well-served. Emirates will continue to operate 77 weekly services from Dubai to five cities - Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney - including seven daily A380 flights.

Alan Joyce, CEO for Qantas Group, said:

"The first five years of the Qantas-Emirates alliance has been a great success. Emirates has given Qantas customers an unbeatable network into Europe that is still growing. We want to keep leveraging this strength and offer additional travel options on Qantas, particularly through Asia.

"Our partnership has evolved to a point where Qantas no longer needs to fly its own aircraft through Dubai, and that means we can redirect some of our A380 flying into Singapore and meet the strong demand we're seeing in Asia.

"Improvements in aircraft technology means the Qantas network will eventually feature a handful of direct routes between Europe and Australia, but this will never overtake the sheer number of destinations served by Emirates and that's why Dubai will remain an important hub for our customers."

The airlines will shortly seek re-authorisation from relevant regulators and tickets for new services will be available from September. Customers with existing bookings impacted by the changes will be re-accommodated onto the airlines' new services or will be given the option to change their flights.

Destination NSW sees hiking trips climb in popularity with holidaymakers

IT'S BEEN reported that more than 4.3 million domestic and international overnight visitors to NSW chose to hike as part of their holiday experience last year, representing a 5.2% rise on the previous year.

Sandra Chipchase, Destination NSW's chief executive officer, said: "NSW is the perfect place for a hiking holiday. The state is home to some of Australia's most popular walking trails, as well as many hidden gems including superb multi-day hikes and fantastic short and long day hikes along stunning coastal and inland trails."

The Seven Peaks Walk is one of the newest walks to join the list of Great Walks of Australia. This challenging hike on Lord Howe Island is for experienced hikers, with a few sections of the walk off-track and requiring a steady head for heights. For a coastal trek, hikers might like to try the new three-day Light to Light walk which hugs the coastline between Boyds Tower and Green Cape Lightstation in Ben Boyd National Park on the Sapphire Coast. If hiking in luxury is more to a client's style, Light to Light Camps can carry gear, set up camp each night and cook the dinner, whilst holidaymakers enjoy the walk at their leisure. For more hiking ideas and information go to visitnsw.com

Flight Centre celebrates partnership with Tourism & Events Queensland

FLIGHT CENTRE'S Gordon Street store in Glasgow recently celebrated the company's newly renewed marketing partnership with Tourism & Events Queensland with a Commonwealth Games-themed store takeover.

UK activity behind the renewed three-year deal will see marketing campaigns, consumer promotions, travel agent education and training, product growth and event support. The Commonwealth Games will also be a particular focus. The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018), which begins on April 4, 2018, is to be one of the largest sporting events Australia will see this decade and the biggest sporting spectacular the Gold Coast has ever seen, setting the destination up as an up-and-coming hotspot for sports fans and travellers.

Gold medallist, Tyler Jolly (pictured), was invited to stop off at the travel agent's Glasgow store at the end of last month to meet with staff and customers. The city's store was also wrapped in gold for the occasion. Alison Zacher, retail managing director for Flight Centre, said at the event: "We're excited to be here in



Glasgow celebrating the renewal of our partnership with Tourism & Events Queensland (TEQ). The first three years of our partnership has been a huge success and we're delighted to be continuing for another three. Since we began our partnership with TEQ in 2014, we have not only grown holiday sales to the state but also truly cemented Queensland into Flight Centre's business strategy. We look forward to continuing to grow both the volume and the quality of these tailor-made holidays for our customers."

Jane Nicholson, international director of UK, Ireland and Nordic Region at Tourism and Events Queensland, added: "We were delighted to kick start our renewed partnership with Flight Centre in such a glittering way; bringing a slice of the Gold Coast to Glasgow. The campaign theme 'There's so much competing for your attention' perfectly sums up Queensland, what with its must-see destinations, delicious food, memorable activities and views for days."



NEW ZEALAND'S Great Barrier Island, located 100km north-east of central Auckland, has become the first island in the world to be designated an International Dark Sky Sanctuary, in a bid to protect its night skies for present and future generations. The island is one of only three places in the world to be awarded this status, alongside sanctuaries in New Mexico and Chile. With natural rugged beauty and untouched wilderness, the island makes for one of the most tranquil and unspoilt places in the wider Auckland region.

Gold Medal highlights hidden secrets of Melbourne

GOLD MEDAL has added the Oaks Hotel Southbank Melbourne to its Australia offering in Melbourne, located in the arts, dining and entertainment area of the city.

Rebecca Turner, the operator's senior product manager for Asia and Australia, said: "Whilst in Melbourne it is worth visiting the National Gallery, taking a trip to Federation Square and going to Old Melbourne Gaol, Victoria's oldest jail. Another highlight in Victoria is taking a day trip to Phillip Island to get up close and personal with the penguins as they come in at night.

"Be sure to suggest to clients that they head out with locals on the Hidden Secrets morning tour as this gives a real insight to some of those hidden gems within the city that only the real locals know about; like a tiny little coffee shop with some of the best baristas in the city. I would also recommend the chocolate walk in Melbourne which goes through the city's cultural hotspots and shows visitors how one of the nation's favourite treats is made in boutique chocolatiers."

As an example of packages, prices start from £1,579 per person which includes economy flights from Gatwick, three nights at the 4.5-star Cosmopolitan Hotel Melbourne, (room only, Deluxe Room) three nights at the three-star Yarra Valley Lodge with breakfast, and two nights at the four-star Crown Metropol Melbourne, room only. The price includes eight days economy car hire, the Melbourne Chocolate Lanes day tour and the one day Wilsons Promontory National Park Tour and is valid for travel between November 26 and December 7.

For more information go to goldmedal.co.uk or call 0800-014 7777.

SCOUTING EXPEDITIONS ON THE SEPIK RIVER

EXPLORE DEEP INTO A FRONTIER LAND WITH AUSTRALIA'S PIONEERING CRUISE LINE



Coral Expeditions first explored the Sepik River nearly a decade ago. We were amazed at what we saw. We encountered a truly wild and unspoilt land - increasing in magnificence the further upriver we went.

In response to increasing demand to see more of Papua New Guinea, Coral Expeditions has planned a short series of four landmark expeditions for February 2018.

Allowing the rhythm of the river to determine our schedule, we will pass through ancient rainforests and remote village untouched by time. You will experience the culture of the Sepik people and visit their Haus Tambarans, while looking out for local species such as the famed Bird of Paradise. Aboard the boutique catamaran *Coral Expeditions I*, enjoy an intimate expedition atmosphere, small-batch meals, and the expertise of our expedition team. A river cruise through this ancient land is a voyage of learning and discovery.

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AUSTRALIA'S PIONEERING CRUISE LINE



'Sustainable tourism is at the core of what we do' says Samoa

WITH 2017 designated the International Year of Sustainable Tourism by the United Nations, Samoa continues to be a regional leader in sustainable tourism and is advocating for ongoing destination stewardship amongst tourism businesses and visitors.

As a small island state, the destination's ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to environmental challenges brought on by climate change and it recognises that sustainably managed tourism development plays a key role in addressing these threats through enhanced climate change adaptation and risk reduction, strengthened community resilience, and environmental conservation.

Sonja Hunter, CEO of the Samoa Tourism Authority, said: "Tourism is a key

driver of social and economic development and sustainable tourism is at the core of what we do. Samoa was the first South Pacific destination to establish its sustainable tourism indicators and it was fitting that we were part of the collective efforts at the United Nations which ultimately led to this year being designated the International Year for Sustainable Tourism for Development".

With an average temperature of 27 degrees, Samoa offers secluded beaches, warm tropical seas and colourful coral reefs alive with marine life. For the more adventurous, the destination's mountainous rainforest interior is filled with wildlife, waterfalls and lagoons and can be explored via hiking trails and cycling routes.

Flying off to Fiji

WITH ITS ease of accessibility from New Zealand and Australia, Fiji is presenting itself as the ideal addition, or starting point, for a round the world trip.

With its 333 islands and unique blend of cultures, Fiji is able to offer a range of experiences and activities for holidaymakers. For a taste of Fijian hospitality, travellers might like to mix with the locals at a Kava ceremony (Fijian Kava is a traditional drink to welcome and bless guests) or check out historical artefacts and documents displayed at local museums and National Heritage Sites such as Levuka. The first colonial capital of Fiji also makes for a good day trip.

For those looking to see Fiji from a different perspective, Terratrek Tours is Fiji's only self-drive guided tour company giving holiday makers the chance to drive dune buggies from the mountains at the back of Pacific Harbour into the rainforest to find Fiji's waterfalls. Golf enthusiasts might like to try their hand at one of the 14 courses scattered throughout the islands complete with views over the Pacific Ocean, such as the Natadola Bay Championship Golf Course open to players of all levels, and for a real taste of island life The Flavours of Fiji Cooking School will take budding chefs to local markets before cooking fine Fijian dishes.

Now easier to reach, Fiji Airways provides flights from Singapore and San Francisco to Fiji. The airline also connects with flights from Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and Los Angeles, so holidaymakers from the UK will need to change at one of these destinations. Korean Air also offers flights via Dubai, Sydney, and LA. For more information visit fiji.travel



NEW FROM Trafalgar, 'The Long White Cloud' delves into the scenic delights of New Zealand's North and South Islands during a 22-day adventure. Explorers can combine natural beauty with a touch of luxury as they overnight in the rainforests of Franz Josef at the foothills of Mt. Cook, sleep among the treetops in the Coromandel Ranges and journey south to the wild landscapes of Stewart Island. Prices start from £7,395 per person.



LONDON LUTON Airport was granted planning permission for a new fully automated £200million mass passenger transit system linking the airport terminal with Luton Airport Parkway station. The 24-hour, 1.4-mile line will replace the existing shuttle bus service and is expected to enter operation in 2021. Visit transforminglla.com

Manchester Airport begins £1billion transformation

THE SECRETARY of State for Transport, the Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, was on hand to see Manchester Airport begin work on its ten-year, £1billion transformation programme.

The visit came in tandem with the start of a Government consultation process for its Aviation Strategy which will seek to set out a vision for UK aviation over the next three decades and include proposals for how best use can be made of existing runway capacity at airports like Manchester, Stansted and East Midlands.

The Manchester Airport Transformation Programme aims to further improve the North's international connectivity, and the airport is currently targeting an expansion of its route network into North America, the Gulf, Asia, Africa and Latin America. Upon completion, the airport will be able to handle 45 million passengers a year, an increase of almost 20 million.

Charlie Cornish, CEO of Manchester Airports Group, said: "This marks a significant moment in the history of Manchester Airport and demonstrates the confidence that we

have in the long term future of both the North and the UK economy. This is the largest private investment that has been made in the region for some time and the increased connectivity that it will deliver will enable it to become one of the most accessible and productive regions in Europe."

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling added: "Aviation is central to our future prosperity as we leave the European Union. As a global, trading nation we want to build on the great industry we have today and create opportunities for people up and down the country. Our new aviation strategy will look beyond the new runway at Heathrow and sets out a comprehensive long-term plan for UK aviation. It will support jobs and economic growth across the whole of the UK."

"I welcome Manchester Airport Group's £1billion programme to double the size of Manchester Airport's Terminal 2 which will create 1,500 jobs. This is great news for the local economy and for passengers who will be able to fly to more destinations, more often." Visit manchesterairport.co.uk for more information.

Birmingham Airport supports local education initiative

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT has partnered with a social enterprise company called 'The Wonder Why Society' to help promote learning and improve educational opportunities for pupils in local primary schools.

Based in Birmingham and part of the Solihull Chamber, the company aims to tackle disengaged learning and the skills gap. The interactive learning platform informs and engages users on issues such as the environment and community and has a Birmingham Airport zone included.

Jo Lloyd, the airport's commercial director said: "We have always believed that supporting the education of young people is one of the most effective ways in which we can invest in our region's future. The Wonder Why Society is an innovative way for us to take our education programme forward in an exciting and dynamic direction. We're sure the local pupils, who will be given access to the site from airport funding, are going to love exploring a whole new world of learning."

For more information visit thewonderwhysociety.co.uk

Plaza Premium Group opens new Heathrow lounge

CURRENTLY OFFERING a roster of lounges at Heathrow's Terminals 2 and 4 Departures and Arrivals areas, the Plaza Premium Group has now opened a new Terminal 3 Arrivals lounge at the airport.

It features a 28-person seating capacity and food and beverage services as part of its lounge use packages. International newspapers and magazines, satellite TV channels, unlimited high-speed Wi-Fi and a pressing service are also available.

In line with Heathrow's efforts to increase its Airport Service Quality (ASQ) rating, the lounge group has worked to improve facilities for passengers by investing heavily in showers. The new lounge in Terminal 3 Arrivals offers 11 shower rooms for those passengers coming in from long-haul flights.

Pauline Cheung, regional general manager of the UK and European arm of the company, said: "Our arrivals lounges are designed to bring comfort, convenience and value to passengers. We are delighted to open the doors to another lounge in Heathrow and are proud to continue our expansion plans at the largest and busiest airport in Europe. We have received excellent feedback in regards to the Arrivals lounges in Terminals 2 and 4 and we are sure the Terminal 3 Arrivals lounge will be met with high praise too."

Pre-flight pampering: APH compares airport wellness offerings

ACCORDING TO the Global Business Travel Association Foundation, more than one-third of business travellers (37%) have combined their work travel with an extended leisure break, resulting in what has become known as a 'bleisure' trip. Subsequently, for travellers looking for a spot of pampering prior to their trip, Airport Parking and Hotels (APH) has put together a guide comparing the wellness and beauty treatments available at airports across the UK.

Nine out of the 22 airports researched offer massages prior to departure, including at Cloud Spa branches at Birmingham and Manchester Airports, and at Be-Relax Spa at Heathrow, which is located after security in Terminal 5B. The lowest priced massage available at each airport ranges from £1 per minute at Cloud Spa branches to £25 for a 15-minute massage at Plaza Premium lounges at Heathrow.

For travellers looking for a last-minute manicure, nine airports offer manicure and pedicure treatments, including AeroSpa branches at Liverpool John Lennon and Newcastle International, as well as Bliss Spa at Aspire at London Luton. Starting prices for manicures vary from £17 at AeroSpa branches to £40 for a file and polish at The Travel Spa at No1 Lounge at Heathrow Terminal 3. To avoid additional waiting time, appointments at AeroSpa and Cloud Spa branches can be booked ahead online, prior to arriving at the airport.

Three of the airports researched provide spa facilities within an airport lounge, including the wellness spas at Heathrow Terminal 2's Plaza Premium lounges and The Travel Spa, located within the No1 Lounge at Heathrow Terminal 3. It should be noted that an additional lounge-access fee must be paid to access the spa facilities.

Long-haul travellers keen to freshen-up ahead of a connecting flight can use the shower facilities provided within ten lounges, including the Plaza Premium lounges at Heathrow's Terminals 2, 3 and 4 and Bliss Spa at Aspire at Terminal 5. The charge for taking a shower ranges from £15 at Plaza Premium lounges to £20 at Bliss Spa at Aspire lounges, but is provided free of charge for guests who purchase a treatment worth £25 or more at Heathrow Terminal 3's The Travel Spa at No1 Lounge.

The research can be found at aph.com/airportspas



CONSTRUCTION HAS begun on a new extension to Edinburgh Airport's terminal building. Scheduled for completion by summer 2018, it will see the South East Pier extended to create new boarding gates and seating areas between Gates 13 and 14 and is part of an £80 million investment plan designed to help the airport handle the forecasted growth of up to 16.5million passengers by 2021 and beyond.



Thomas Cook Airlines' Rainbow Heart takes to the skies from Manchester

MANCHESTER PRIDE'S The Big Weekend took place on the last Bank Holiday of August and, to mark Thomas Cook Airlines and Manchester Airport's joint headline sponsorship of the event, the airline adorned one of its fleet with a special rainbow edition of its sunny heart logo.

The A321 made its first flight with the new rainbow livery to Heraklion, and will carry this multi-coloured logo for up to a year, operating short haul routes. In addition, its crew can choose to wear a rainbow logo pin alongside their uniform badge throughout this month. The airport has sponsored Manchester Pride for six years with Thomas Cook Airlines onboard for the last three.

On the run up to the event Christoph Debus, chief airlines officer at Thomas Cook Group, said: "This confirms our on-going support of Manchester Pride and its bank holiday celebration The Big Weekend, as well as other pride events across the UK, that celebrate the diverse communities we live and work in. We wanted to do something extra special that our customers could share with us to mark this year's celebrations."

Collette Roche, interim managing director of Manchester Airport, also added: "As co-sponsors of The Big Weekend we are delighted to be the first airport to welcome and see Thomas Cook Airlines' rainbow heart aircraft take to the skies. I am sure it will prove popular with staff, passengers and aviation enthusiasts alike, as it jets around Europe."

Gatwick sees popularity of stateside trips increase for Bank Holiday

RECENT FIGURES released by Gatwick Airport found that more Brits opted to spend their August Bank Holiday weekend in the US, taking advantage of the extra day off to pay a flying visit to popular destinations across the pond.

The number of long-haul passengers departing from the airport across the weekend increased significantly, up 14% year-on-year. In addition, several American cities were in the airport's top ten of biggest growing long-haul destinations, with the number of passengers travelling to Oakland, New York and Los Angeles throughout the holiday weekend rising by 124.8%, 54.9% and 28.9% respectively, compared with 2016. Boston also saw substantial growth as a Bank Holiday favourite increasing in popularity by 16.2% on the same weekend last year.

While transatlantic destinations proved more attractive than ever, passengers were also opting for a quick long-haul break. The city was the most popular long-haul destination that weekend, up 10.7% year-on-year.

The airport noted that shorter breaks have also proved particularly popular amongst British holidaymakers, with just under a third of the airport's leisure passengers (31.9%) heading off on four-day trips.



RUSSIA

INSIGHT VACATIONS has introduced a new 'Easy Pace Russia with Christmas Markets' tour showcasing the Christmas Markets of St. Petersburg and Moscow over an eight-day itinerary. Departures are available this December and in January 2018. Prices for the new Russia winter trip start from £1,526 per person, based on a twin share, and this includes seven nights' first class hotel accommodation, daily buffet breakfast, regional dining experiences, sightseeing, high-speed Sapsan train transportation, private VIP door to door transfers and a dedicated tour director.

Golden Eagle explores southwest Russia on 2018 tour

GOLDEN EAGLE Luxury Trains has introduced a new rail journey for 2018 on which guests will travel the North Caucasus and Black Sea Coast.

Returning to the area of the company's very first Russian tour, the new adventure will be hauled entirely by Soviet-era steam locomotives to the rarely-explored area of southwest Russia.

After a two-night stay in Moscow, with an included tour of the city's famous museums and buildings, guests will board the Golden Eagle at the city's Kazanskiy station with a welcome glass of champagne. From there, the route heads south to Saratov, a former closed city during Soviet times on the banks of the Volga, before following the river towards the shores of the Caspian Sea. Highlights on this 15-day adventure include: Astrakhan, Russia's 'Caviar Capital' and home to two cathedrals; Akhmad Kadyrov Mosque in the Caucasus foothills, the largest mosque in Russia; Sochi, location of the recent Winter Olympics; Gagra, which was Lenin's coastal summer destination of choice and during the Soviet era, a playground for Russian elites; and Volgograd, once known as Stalingrad, the scene of one of WWII's most brutal battles.

Prices start from £9,995 per person sharing a heritage cabin, including 12

nights' full-board accommodation aboard the train, two nights at the five-star hotel in Moscow, transfers, activities and the services of a train manager with upgrades to Silver Class, Gold Class or Imperial Suites available. This tour departs on September 28, 2018.

In other news, along with Steppes Travel, the operator is to host an evening at London's Royal Geographical Society on October 26 where a host of speakers will bring the Russian Revolution to life. Entitled 'Revolutionary Russia and The World's Longest Railway' the event will mark one hundred years to the day after the October Revolution, and guests will hear from two Royals whose families were devastated during the uprisings. Crucial, both during and after the Revolution, was the Trans-Siberian Railway which still runs across Russia, connecting the east with the west. Speaking about the importance of this 'revolutionary road' will be award-winning author and expert Christian Wolmar, while others setting the scene will include BBC world affairs editor John Simpson and Susan Reed, the co-founder of the British Library's exhibition on the Russian Revolution. Tickets are priced from £15. Visit goldeneagleluxurytrains.com or call 016192 89410 for more details.

Pettitts takes in the 'Jewels of Russia'

RUSSIA IS a land of forests, magnificent fortresses and opulent palaces and no more is this typified than in the medieval and baroque buildings of Moscow and St Petersburg, whilst a taste of Russia's landscape can be glimpsed from the window of the high-speed train that links the two cities.

Pettitts 'Jewels of Russia' tour spends three nights in Moscow - visiting Red Square, St Basil's Cathedral, Kremlin and Tretyakov Gallery - before heading to St Petersburg to explore the Winter Palace and Hermitage Museum, the palace complex at Tsarskoe Selo and the extravagant palace at Peterhof. Eight days costs from £2,390 per person. Visit pettitts.co.uk or call 01892 515966 for more details.

Low deposit offer from Rail Discoveries

RAIL DISCOVERIES has a low deposit offer on its Moscow & St Petersburg tour.

This seven-day discovery of the heritage of Russia starts from £1,335 per person with departure dates falling on May 4, August 9 and September 6 of next year. Customers can also take advantage of a low deposit offer of £100 per person when booking on or before December 8.

Louise Heatley, head of product and contracting at Great Rail Journeys, commented: "Personally, I love Russia. The country is filled with rich heritage and beautiful cities and this tour showcases the best of two vibrant and different cities. With plenty of tours and free time, customers can truly delve into the history and culture of both amazing cities."

The itinerary includes Peterhof Palace, a guided tour of Moscow and a guided tour of St Petersburg.

Visit raildiscoveries.com or call 0800-240 4470 for more details.

Romanovs & Revolution from Kirker Holidays this autumn

KIRKER HOLIDAYS still has some places available on its three escorted cultural tours to Russia taking place this autumn.

'The Palaces & Galleries of St. Petersburg' is a six-night holiday departing October 6 with prices from £2,098 per person based on two sharing and 'Art, Music & Literature in Moscow' is a five-night break departing October 12 from £1,996.

In the centenary year of the 'ten days that shook the world', the operator's escorted seven-night 'Romanovs and Revolution' cultural tour retraces the events of 1917, from the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg to Lenin's Mausoleum in Moscow. Guests will visit the resting places of the last of the Romanovs, see the locations of key events during the Bolshevik revolution, and discover some of the many legacies of the Soviet era which remain today. The itinerary also includes free time to explore the museums and monuments of these starkly contrasting modern cities.

Departing November 6, this tour costs from £2,995 per person based on two sharing and includes BA flights from Heathrow, seven nights' accommodation with breakfast (four at the four-star Hotel Angleterre in St. Petersburg; three at the four-star Baltschug Kempinski in Moscow), high-speed rail from St. Petersburg to Moscow, four dinners and

one lunch, all sightseeing, entrance fees and gratuities, and the services of a local guide and tour lecturer.

Call on 020-7593 2288 or visit kirkerholidays.com for more information.



Fred. Olsen highlights cruise offer

FRED. OLSEN Cruise Lines currently has a special offer running on its 13-night Baltic Cruise in October, which includes a visit to St Petersburg.

Balmoral's 'Discover the Baltic' adult-only cruise departs from Southampton on October 2 with prices starting from £1,099 per person for an Interior Room representing a saving of up to 20% (single rooms from £1,999 per person).

During their cruise guests will call into St. Petersburg for a full day stay affording the opportunity to join a guided tour to marvel at 'must-visit' attractions such as the Cathedral in St. Issac's Square, The Church of Our Saviour on the Spilled Blood and Peterhof Palace. Guests might also like to examine the world-famous jewelled eggs on display at the Fabergé Museum, catch a show at the Hermitage Museum or even experience a boat ride along the city's canals.

Other ports of call include Tallinn, Estonia's UNESCO-listed capital and Copenhagen, at a time when both these absorbing destinations are less crowded; the Latvian capital of Riga; and the chance to visit Berlin from Warnemünde.

For more information see fredolsencruises.com

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NEW FROM Trafalgar is a tour taking in 'Festive St Petersburg and Moscow'. With departures running throughout December, guests can see the transformation of these two iconic Russian cities into winter wonderlands. The trip begins in St Petersburg where guests will visit the Tsar's Winter Palace, Nevsky Prospekt, St. Isaac's Cathedral and the Hermitage Museum before continuing into Moscow via high-speed train through scenic winter landscapes in rural Russia. The city's annual Christmas festival is complete with grand scale ice rinks, snow sculptures and light installations and prices for the tour start from £1,495 per person.



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puzzlesolutions

Crossword:

Across: 1. THOMAS COOK, 5. EILAT, 6. MAINE, 8. CANNES, 10. FOAM, 12. IBIS, 13. ARROWS, 15. TROON, 16. METRO, 17. WINDERMERE.

Down: 1. THE SCRIPT, 2. ANTHEM, 3. COMO, 4. ORINOCO, 7. EMMA STONE, 9. NAIROBI, 11. CROMER, 14. ENID.

Highlighted Word: ALICANTE

Where Am I?: Saint Helena, South Atlantic Ocean.

We asked our staff the following question this week:

What's the best piece of advice a parent or mentor has given you?



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Don't sweat the small stuff - and it's all small stuff.



Adam Potter

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Take my advice - I'm not using it.



Paul Scudamore

Contributing Editor

Always remember; honesty is the best policy. Most of the time.



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If something makes you angry...try to take a deep breath before reacting.



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If you have nothing to say, say nothing.



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Keep smiling.



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Don't eat yellow snow.



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Save save save



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Listen to your heart but take your brain with you.



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Dinner, Entertainment & Prizes: 20:00 hours

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To confirm your place at one of this amazing event, email the names of up to 5 staff members by **Monday 11th September 2017** to:
carol.mthembu@travelbulletin.co.uk or telephone:

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for more information.

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



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