

travelbulletin

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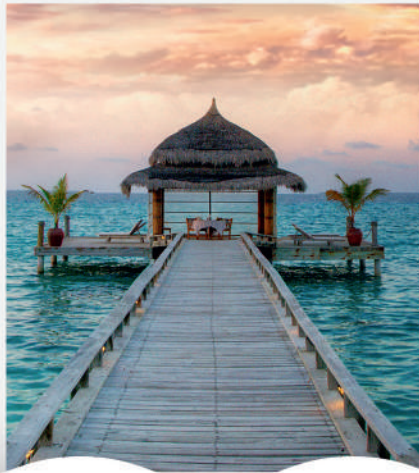
travelbulletin

Giving agents the edge

Invites you to attend an

INDIAN OCEAN SHOWCASE

agent networking evening



Monday 23rd November 2015
Marriott Hotel, Leeds

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to this informative, fun event enabling you to learn more about the accommodation and flight options available and also to discover the diverse range of landscapes, activities, cultural tours and tailor-made packages on offer to you and your customers.

The evening will involve a combination of networking and presentations, exciting entertainment, a free prize draw with a number of fabulous prizes to be won along with delicious, 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 this amazing event, email the names and job titles of up to 5 staff members by Thursday 19th November 2015 to:- gemma.reeve@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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Right on track...

Railtrail has launched its biggest programme for 2016, with its UK & Europe by Rail brochure featuring 37 holiday itineraries, 11 of which are new. As a rail ticketing agent, the company - which offers 10% commission to agents - organises packages from every UK mainland station and prices are transparent in its brochure. Once registered, agents also have access to a log-in section on the website. Pictured marking the new brochure at Foxfield Railway are, from the left: the operator's Lorna Szydelko, Mark Dickin, Jacob Grugel, Rachel Dickin, Helen Smith, Carla Wood, Pauline Felstead, Rob Carroll and Dave Felstead. For details call 01538-382323, email maeve.carroll@railtrail.co.uk or see www.railtrail.co.uk

Inset - Malta

Cover Pictures: Main - Just married couple kissing on tropical beach at sunset, Hawaii Beach Wedding, Intimate loving moment Copyright: EpicStockMedia

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Brits' confidence boosted by presence of ABTA logo, research reveals

NEW RESEARCH from the ABTA Consumer Trends survey reveals the significant value of the ABTA logo, with seven in ten consumers (73%) stating that they feel more confident booking a holiday with a company that is a member of ABTA. Furthermore, more than half of consumers (56%), say that seeing the ABTA logo increases the likelihood of booking with a company.

Findings from the survey also reveal that the value of the ABTA logo is something that many consumers would be willing to pay more for. More than half (56%) of respondents said they would potentially spend up to £25 more to book with an ABTA Member and three quarters (78%) said they would potentially spend up to £10 more.

The research also found that consumers most value ABTA for the help and advice it provides in a crisis. Following this, consumers value ABTA's Code of Conduct, its role in setting standards and the financial protection offered, as well as the association's helpline and its complaints resolution service.

Amongst consumers there is a high expectation that most travel companies will be ABTA members, with seven in ten (74%) people expecting their holiday company to be a member. The research suggests non-members may risk consumer detriment, with six in ten consumers (60%) saying they think less positively of a company that is not a member of ABTA.

The association's head of brand and business development, Victoria Bacon, said: "The ABTA logo has a positive impact on the majority of people. It sends a strong signal to consumers that they are booking with a reputable company and that there is support behind their travel arrangements. We have done a lot of work in the past couple of years to increase awareness and understanding of what ABTA offers and it is encouraging to see that consumers really value what we do, particularly our role in providing help and support and in setting standards for the industry to work to."

France takes top spot for booze cruisers

A NEW poll by Jetcost.co.uk has revealed that the average Brit will spend £194.57 on duty free products, typically when trying to use up the currency left over from their trip abroad, and that France remains the most popular location for duty free products.

A total of 2,410 people who had been on holiday abroad at least once in the past two years were surveyed, with just over half of respondents, 53%, saying they purchased their duty free on the plane on their way home, with the remaining respondents stating that they made their purchases either at the airport before flying to their destination (34%) or in arrivals when coming home (13%).

The poll also revealed what items are popular purchases from duty free, with the most common being alcohol (29%), cigarettes/tobacco (25%), perfume/ aftershave (19%) and confectionary (14%).

France also takes the top spot for Brits bringing goods back from (39%), followed by Spain, Italy, Ireland and Germany.

APT sees Down Under growth following launch of 2016/17 programme

ESCORTED TOUR operator, APT has unveiled its most popular itineraries across Australia and New Zealand in a new Unforgettable Australia and New Zealand 2016/17 brochure.

The new launch follows 'phenomenal sales' growth for Australia and New Zealand according to the operator, with bookings a double-digit percentage ahead for 2016 compared to the same time last year. Itineraries range from a 28-day luxury New Zealand Splendour tour taking in more than 12 different destinations, as well as a cruise and alpine train, to an exclusive 15-day small group and four-wheel-drive Kimberley Complete tour featuring wilderness lodges.

Highlights for agents selling Australia and New Zealand include guaranteed departures; all sightseeing, accommodation, overseas transfers and most meals included; itineraries featuring immersive tours, with a two-night stay in most destinations, and up to four nights included in iconic cities such as Melbourne and Sydney; and savings of up to £1,200 per couple on the 28-day New Zealand Splendour tour when booked before October 31, plus more than £500 savings per couple on a host of other tours until February 29, 2016.

Immersive tour experiences include overnight cruises on selected New Zealand itineraries, a 20-day Great



Milford Sound, New Zealand

New Zealand Rail and Cruise tour featuring six different scenic rail journeys, and the addition of Port Douglas on several Australia tours to offer additional beach relaxation time.

As an example of prices, a 12-day premium East Coast Adventure tour costs from £2,595 per person including 18 meals, transfers, accommodation and all excursions. The itinerary takes in Sydney, Port Macquarie, Byron Bay, Brisbane,

Hervey Bay (for Fraser Island), Rockhampton, Airlie Beach (for Whitsunday National Park), Townsville, Mission Beach and Cairns, and travel dates are from April 2016 to March 2017.

Clients booking by February 29, 2016 can take advantage of savings of up to £400 per couple.

For more information visit www.aptouring.co.uk or call 0800-046 3002.



ELITE GROUP... Pictured at last week's Elite Travel Group conference in Cadiz, Spain are, from the left: (top row) Luke Clarke, Silversea Cruises; Sas Rowbotham, Newmarket Holidays; and Edward Lang, Regent Seven Seas Cruises; with (front row left) Neil Basnett, Elite Travel Group; and Simon Oram from The Travel Shop.

Thomson Airways equips crew with iPads

AS PART of its aim to revolutionise holiday flying, Thomson Airways has completed the roll out of iPad minis to all of its 2,500 cabin crew following a successful trial at Luton Airport last year.

The move follows the introduction of tablets for all TUI UK & Ireland's resort staff this summer to better connect the workforce and offer a more personalised service to holidaymakers.

With the flight marking both the start and end of the holiday, equipping the cabin crew with iPads will help them share destination knowledge from the resort team with customers in the air and make recommendations on everything from restaurants to excursions. They will also be able to pass on special requests and alert the resort team to celebrations such as birthdays or anniversaries to make customer's holidays even more memorable.

The roll out is part of Thomson and First Choice's 'Next Generation Holiday Service', which combines innovations in technology with expert people and unique products. Last year, Thomson pledged to invest in its on-board products and services including the introduction of a complimentary drinks service on all long-haul flights. It also unveiled its five-year vision for the airline which included plans to introduce innovative new concepts such as family booths and duo-seating in the future.



Christmas festivities with the AWTE

The Association of Women Travel Executives (AWTE) has announced FEEFO as the headline sponsor of its Christmas Lunch this year, and the global ratings and reviews provider will also be supporting the AWTE's charity this year as the auctioneers. On December 1, the Christmas lunch event takes place at the London Marriott Hotel in Grosvenor Square and attracts more than 400 travel professionals who come together to network and celebrate the start of the festive season.

Guests will be welcomed with a sparkling wine reception sponsored by Seabourn, before sitting down to a traditional three-course Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings. In-between courses guests will be treated to live entertainment, sponsored by Attraction World and Travlaw, followed by some good old-fashioned carol singing, with a twist.

The live and silent auctions will help raise funds for AWTE's chosen charity, Small Steps, which offers support to children with cerebral palsy and other motor and sensory impairment. Bethy Woodward, the multi medal award winning Paralympian, will also be attending to offer her support.

Tickets to the event are available until November 20 from the AWTE website for £98+VAT for members, £125+VAT for non-members and £980+VAT for a table of ten.

For more information visit www.awte.org.uk

UP, UP AND AWAY...Aspen Snowmass recently hosted a trade appreciation event, giving agents and operators the chance to experience 'Up at The O2' followed with a party incorporating fun and trivia from its new online training system <http://training.aspensnowmass.com>. Pictured scaling the O2 at sunset are, from the left: Owen Chapman, Gus Upton and Charlotte Lamb-Wilson from Ski Club of Great Britain; Meagan Smith, Private Leisure Forums; Travel Bulletin's Adam Potter; O2 climbing guide Richard; Jaque de Souza and Ronaldo Stroppa, United; Mike Pritchard, Born2Ski; Sharon Hills, Amex; Tom Herbst, Colorado Ski Country USA; and Jenny and Matt Jones from Aspen Skiing Company. (Training – page 15)

Carnival Cruise Lines announces launch of 'Fly2Fun' programme

Carnival Cruise Lines has launched a new air programme that is designed to provide guests with maximum value, choice and convenience when making their air arrangements in conjunction with their cruise.

The new Fly2Fun programme is highly flexible as it allows guests to customise their air reservations with a wide range of options, including the ability to specify their preferred air carrier, departure point, flight schedule and type of accommodation (coach, business, etc.).

Immediate confirmation is received once the reservation is made to streamline the holiday-planning process, and flights can also be customised for those who wish to extend their holiday with a pre- or post-cruise stay.

Fly2Fun also includes the Flight Protection Programme that ensures guests will be flown to the next port of call to begin their cruise should they miss their departure due to airline mechanical or weather-related issues, and the line will cover air, hotel, transport and meal costs for guests to meet the ship in the next port of call.

Two different options are available with Fly2Fun – Flexible Air and Restricted Air. With Flexible Air, travel agents can book their clients on major carriers up to four days' prior to sailing with a 'Book Now – Pay Later' feature in which payment for air is collected with the final cruise payment. Additionally, there are no change fees if modifications are made outside of 60 days of departure. With the Restricted Air option, tickets are non-refundable and must be paid at the time of booking. Change fees are also based on the airlines' policies once the ticket is issued. For further information or to book call 0845-351 0556.

Advantage conference registration opens

REGISTRATION HAS opened for the Advantage Conference 2016 which will be held on MSC Fantasia from April 16-20.

The ship will sail from Genoa, Italy at 17.00 on Saturday April 16 with delegates flying to Genoa but also to Nice, Milan and Marseille.

During the four-night mini-cruise, the ship will visit Barcelona on April 17, Palma de Mallorca on April

18 and Ajaccio, Corsica on April 19, before returning to Genoa on April 20, disembarking at 09.00.

The conference will offer a combination of on-board business sessions and social events with shore excursions to the ports visited to provide an authentic cruise experience.

For more information visit www.advantageconference.co.uk

Tucan Travel adds more than 100 new group tours to 2016/17 brochures

TUCAN TRAVEL has released its new brochures for 2016/17 and with them, the launch of 114 new group tours to its worldwide destinations.

Examples include a 12-day Peru in Comfort option for £2,839 which visits Machu Picchu, the Amazon Jungle, a night on the private Suasi Island on Lake Titicaca and tickets for the Andean Explorer train to Puno. Also featured is a nine-day Mexico to Guatemala Flyer for £1,779, travelling from Mexico City to Antigua and visiting

all the key highlights including Chichen Itza, Caye Caulker and Tikal; and a 12-day Istanbul to Athens tour for £1,259 visiting Gallipoli, Troy, Olympia and Delphi among other places.

Along with the launch of the new itineraries, the operator has introduced its Budget Expeditions (18-35s) into Africa for the first time. The group tours, designed exclusively for those aged between 18-35 offer a low cost alternative to its new range of Overland Tours in Africa, which offer a higher

standard of accommodation including hotels and permanent tents, and incorporate a number of flights to cover large distances which would usually be travelled over a number of long travel days.

The company has also launched a range of new Adventure Tours in South East Asia which spend more time in northern Vietnam and Cambodia, plus three new tours in Myanmar, two new Adventure Tours in Sri Lanka and one in Japan.

Small World Marketing signs partnership with Ethiopian Airlines

SMALL WORLD Marketing is now handling all UK media stories and support for Ethiopian Airlines' UK sales and marketing campaigns.

The carrier's area manager UK, Michael Yared, said: "We are delighted to have employed the services of SWM. With their

knowledge of the UK travel industry and the African continent, we believe SWM are strategically placed to promote Ethiopian Airlines as the largest and fastest growing African Airline."

For further information email info@smallworldmarketing.co.uk

Newsbites

- LUTON AIRPORT reports that it saw record passenger numbers in September with 1.2 million passengers choosing to travel through the airport, marking a 19.2% increase on the same month last year and 18 months' consecutive growth at the airport. The airport is investing £100million to increase its annual capacity from 12 million to 18 million by 2026. It will also deliver major upgrades to the airport's facilities, including a redesign of the terminal, improved rail services and a doubling of the existing retail space.
- CREATED IN harmony with nature, The H Resort Beau Vallon Beach, Seychelles offers a relaxed island experience combining authentic Seychellois traditions with luxury surroundings. Conveniently located at the center of Mahé, Seychelles' largest island, on a 3km stretch of beach, the property is the newest five-star hotel offering 100 guestrooms.
- AUSTRALIS IS showcasing a slice of history throughout 2016 as Cape Horn (at the southerly tip of South America) reaches the 400-year anniversary of its discovery. The company is offering three- to seven-night itineraries travelling around Cape Horn, from September to April, with a four-night trip leading in at £934 per person including accommodation, sea transport, all meals, open bar on board, shore excursions and on board entertainment. *For details see www.australis.com*
- DREAMLAND, IN Margate, has announced that its Scenic Railway will reopen on October 15 since it was destroyed in a fire almost ten years ago. The railway's launch marks the completion of The Amusement Park part of a £28m development project, with restored rides and amusements, including the Roller Disco, The Octopus' Garden, Dreamland Emporium, restaurants, food stalls, arcades and an ice-cream parlour.
- THE FIVE-STAR Athenaeum Hotel & Apartments is to be the official hotel partner for the comeback of the popular modelling show Britain's Next Top Model. The new series will hit screens in early 2016 on Lifetime and will see Abbey Clancy return to the programme that first launched her career in 2006, leading as head judge. *Details at www.athenaeumhotel.com*



KING OF THE SHOPS... Pictured is Clare Attwood from Cox and Kings, who was the lucky winner of a £50 Love2Shop voucher in a competition that the Hong Kong Tourism Board ran online with Travel Bulletin.

Save more than 30% with Pierre & Vacances this Christmas



SNOWSPORTS ENTHUSIASTS can currently save up to 30% on Christmas accommodation and up to 25% when booking lift passes and equipment rental in advance with Pierre & Vacances.

Clients concerned about the delayed start to last year's winter can rest assured that they can claim their money back with the company's snow guarantee, which allows holidaymakers to cancel their holiday five days before departure and receive a full refund in the event there is not enough or too much snow. The guarantee is restricted to ski areas located above 1,500m and to departures between December 19 and April 9, 2016.

As an example of prices, a seven-night stay in a one-bedroom apartment (sleeping four) at the five-star Arc 1950 Le Village costs from £1,334 (down from £1,936 - saving 31%) based on a December 19 arrival.

Meanwhile, the operator has partnered up with La Folie Douce to bring a party package to the slopes. Currently available in four destinations (Val Thorens, Val d'Isere, Alpe d'Huez and Meribel), the 'Folie Douce' package costs 70 euros per person and includes a Folie Douce goodie bag and accessories, two meals and some drinks at La Folie Douce bar.

A new family package and kids' ski programme have also been introduced; a 'liberty pack' offers five-star childcare services in selected premium resorts and residences (Flaine, Avoriaz and Arc 1950), where children aged two-13 are looked after by a team of professionals who will introduce them to a range of indoor (creative arts, music workshops) and outdoor (snowshoe walks, Olympics, igloo building) activities. Packages cost from 80 euros for the week and include six childcare sessions of three hours each.

Packages that include ski instruction are also available for children aged five -11 in a selection of resorts, with packages costing from 284 euros including ski school, lunch and a selection of activities.

To book or for further information visit www.pierreetvacances.co.uk or call 0870-026 7145.

Domes of Elounda joins Autograph Collection

AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION Hotels is celebrating its entry into Greece with the announcement that Domes of Elounda has joined its portfolio.

Located in the heart of Crete, the hotel offers 78 luxury suites and 40 villas and recently completed a multi-million pound expansion which includes 28 Domes - luxury residences featuring private swimming pools and a new family area offering an array of activities.

John Licence, brand leader for the collection in Europe, said: "We are delighted to welcome the luxurious and renowned Domes Of Elounda as our first Greek and Mediterranean resort into the Collection. The hotel has established itself exceptionally well in the luxury Greek market, and its unique attributes make it perfect for the brand."

For further information visit www.autographhotels.com and www.domesofelounda.com



Belmond British Pullman launches Festive Family Express for Christmas

FAMILIES ARE invited to step aboard the first 'Festive Express' this Christmas on board Belmond British Pullman.

Departing from London's Victoria on Saturday December 5, the festive journey in the nostalgic 1920s carriages is filled with music, magic and family entertainment as the train travels through the Kent countryside.

The Big Local Community Choir, from Bermondsey, London will send the journey off in style, with performances of favourite carols and festive tunes at Belmond's private check-in lounge.

Families are treated to a festive lunch served by liveried stewards, whilst musicians and magicians keep all ages entertained. The company has also partnered with children's party experts, Sharky and George, to entertain children with a series of traditional games and crafts, along with some seasonal surprises.

The Festive Express journey is part of a varied Christmas programme on both Belmond British Pullman and Belmond Northern Belle, sister trains of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. Each December, both UK day trains operate a full programme of Christmas lunch, dinner and day trips to cities such as Bath and Canterbury for carol singing and Christmas shopping. The festive trips are available between December 1-19 departing from London Victoria (Belmond British Pullman) and regional cities (Belmond Northern Belle), such as Bath, Bristol, Chester, Cardiff, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Leeds, Manchester and Newcastle.

Prices start from £370 per adult and £295 per child and include a decadent festive meal, with children's options available, Champagne and wine for each adult, entertainment and seasonal surprises for children.

To book or for more information call 0845-077 2222 and quote 'XFAM'.

Brand refresh for Cosmos Tours following Monarch's severing of Cosmos ties

COSMOS TOURS has confirmed it will continue to use its name and strengthen its customer proposition after the Monarch Group's announcement to drop the Cosmos brand.

The company has refreshed its brand with a new design highlighting the operator's ethos to deliver 'the perfect holiday for customers and to be in step with every traveller'.

The new look is being rolled out across all marketing material as well as the second edition collection of 2016 brochures.

The company's tours managing director, Alan MacLean, said: "Our commitment to the British traveller and the UK travel industry spans over five decades and is at the core of everything we do.

"The Cosmos name has an incredible heritage, not only with British travellers but on a worldwide basis. We are all excited about the future as we look at strengthening the

brand and taking the business forward to enhance our customer proposition in all aspects of the service and products we offer. Agents and customers can look forward to an exciting choice of fully flexible touring and cruising holidays as we develop our worldwide programme particularly in all aspects of the cruising industry."

The operator has developed its cruise package programme significantly for 2016 with the launch of a first dedicated river and coastal cruises brochure, as well as adding three more cruise line partners - MSC Cruises, A-Rosa and CMV Signature River Cruises to its portfolio.

The 2016/17 programme also sees the introduction of new products and destinations as the company looks to meet market demand for authentic experience based touring holidays, relaxed style touring and new regions to explore.

Explore launches 2016/17 brochure with five new Family Adventures

EXPLORE HAS unveiled five new trips for its 2016/17 Family Adventures collection. New trips include itineraries to Slovakia, Canada, the US as well as Ecuador and the Galapagos, providing more choice for families in search of an adventure of a lifetime.

The operator's trade sales manager, Philippa Baines, said: "With increasingly busy school and work schedules, it's more important than ever for families to spend quality time together on holiday. With 59 different family trips offering the chance to skate along the frozen Ottawa's Rideau Canal; spot toucans and monkeys in the Ecuadorian rainforest and visit the Ben and Jerry's Ice

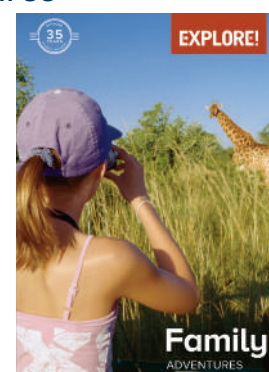
Cream factory in the USA, we're confident that the latest collection of Family Adventures includes something for every family. What's more, our family adventures only operate in the school holidays and we can guarantee that agents won't be undercut by the web or call centre."

As an example of prices, highlights of a new 14-day Family Ecuador and Galapagos Adventure include canoeing along the Napo River; exploring the 'Avenue of Volcanoes' and learning to cook a traditional Ecuadorian meal; snorkelling in the Galapagos in search of giant tortoises and sea lions; and learning to barter for gifts to take home from the colourful Otavalo

market.

Tours depart in December and March, July, October and December 2016 and cost from £3,559 per adult and £3,299 per child (minimum age seven). It

includes flights; 13 nights' breakfast accommodation; most meals; transport and the services of a leader, driver, local guide and naturalist.



New for 2015, Neilson has added Vounaki Beachclub in Greece to its portfolio, offering exclusivity. With improved facilities, the resort is nestled in the village of Paleros and offers vistas and the clear waters of the Ionian Sea for guests to dabble in a range of inclusive activities with on hand tuition. A one-week holiday to the resort starts from £669 per person including flights, transfers, breakfast accommodation, lunch and four evening meals. For more information visit www.neilson.co.uk/beach/greece/paleros

Flexible Autos signs new partnerships

FLEXIBLE AUTOS has signed partnership agreements with Europcar's InterRent and Keddy brands, to offer additional car rental services to customers visiting locations throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

InterRent is the new international low-cost car hire brand from the Europcar group, and Keddy - launched by the group earlier this year - has been introduced specifically for bookings made exclusively through tour operators, online travel agencies and brokers.

The Flexible Autos Premium Package requires no deposit at the time of booking, offers zero excess plus additional benefits, depending on location, including free additional driver, complimentary child seat and a 'full to full' fuel policy, with no amendment fees or cancellation charges outside of 72 hours from collection.

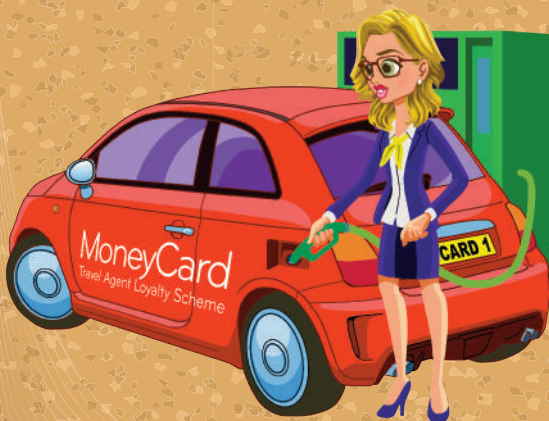
Commenting on the partnerships, the company's managing director, Sue Dixon, said, "We're thrilled to announce these new partnerships, which we recognise makes life even easier for agents looking for car rental solutions for price-sensitive customers, across more locations than ever. Agents can expect our usual commission, plus the peace of mind that comes with knowing that they're booking with a well-known brand."

Booking Incentives

- WARNER LEISURE Hotels is extending its 'Simple Pleasures of Life' autumn booking incentive, offering agents the chance to claim a £5 Love2Shop voucher for every Warner break booked before this Sunday for travel in October, November and December. Agents who make a minimum three-night booking between now and October 18 at one of the 13 properties can claim the voucher at www.bourneleisuresales.co.uk. Agents who book Christmas and New Year breaks can also claim a £10 Love2Shop voucher.
- TO CELEBRATE its 30th birthday, Virgin Holidays is giving agents the chance to win a holiday to its first featured destination - Miami. To be in with the chance to win, agents need to book a holiday this month and register it online at www.vhols4agents.com. A number of daily spot prizes are also being offered.
- THE SAINT LUCIA TOURIST BOARD is giving agents the opportunity to win a £100 Love2Shop voucher when booking holidays for their clients. The weekly prize runs until the end of this month and bookings must be logged at www.saintluciaexpert.com

Agent update

MoneyCard's mascot, Miss MoneyCard, has had a makeover to celebrate her first birthday next month. Partners of the agent loyalty scheme include Collette, Funway Holidays, If Only... and Norwegian Cruise Line and nearly 6,000 agents have now signed up. For details see www.facebook.com/groups/moneycard



Agent offer

Following the recent devastation caused by Storm Erika, the Discover Dominica Tourism Authority has teamed up with LIAT airlines to offer all hoteliers and travel agents flying or connecting from Antigua, Barbados, Guadeloupe, St. Lucia and St. Maarten the opportunity to travel to Dominica with US\$100 off their LIAT return air fare. Local hotels are also offering special rates to the trade taking up the offer include free nights and up to 50% off accommodation. Bookings must be made by December 31 for travel in the same period. *To book email marketing@liat.com and include 'DOM Visit' in the subject line.*



CELEBRITY LINE-UP... More than 45 agents joined the Celebrity Cruises' team in partnership with the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture to celebrate the launch of the line's Celebrity Constellation, which will be based in Abu Dhabi during winter 2016. Pictured are, from the left: Jane Dawkins, Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority; Gavin Boyd, Trailfinders; Ruth Gardiner, Celebrity Cruises; and Kate Self, Travel Counsellors.



Industry Insight by...



The Association of National Tourist Offices and Representatives

Chair of ANTOR, Tracey Poggio, offers tips on how attendees can make the most of this year's WTM...

WTM is just around the corner and this year there are 45 ANTOR members exhibiting, some of whom would like to share their news and advice on what's on, where to visit and how to maximise your time at the show. ANTOR members represent destinations from the four corners of the globe and with that comes a broad variety of events and news to promote. We would like to share some highlights with you that are not to be missed to help you plan your visit.

First of all pick up a 'Just A Drop' water bottle from their stand on the main boulevard, refillable from one of the following members stands: Egypt (Stand AF500), Gibraltar (Stand EU1335), Jersey (Stand UK1540), Korea (AS550), Slovenia (EU700), Lithuania (EU560) and South Pacific Tourism Organisation (AS255).

Every year WTM allows travel agents and tour operator staff to learn about new products, regions, anniversaries and developments from the destination tourist boards and their private sector partners, who together put on an abundance of exhibitions, seminars and networking events to choose from.

This year the Japan National Tourism Organisation (Stand AS370) will be hosting 'Kansai Japan, Your New Destination' on Monday, 3pm to 4pm in South Gallery 5, to present the less well-known region of Kansai – home to the best of quintessentially Japanese experiences – and where attendees can try a light Japanese meal and sake tasting. On Tuesday, don't miss the Atout France (Stand EU2000) for the presentation of the exclusive 'Wool War One' inauguration. After exhibiting at the Grand Palais in France, artist Delit Maille will be present on the stand between 12.30pm and 2.30pm as nearly 800 knitted soldiers take to the stage. The Slovenian Tourist Board will be celebrating the opening of Happy Tours – the first ever destination specialist for Slovenia and the Balkans in the UK on the ETOA stand, GV400 on Tuesday at 5pm.

Wednesday evening head to stand EU650 where the Polish National Tourist Office will be hosting a networking event from 5pm to 8pm with traditional Polish food and drinks celebrating Wroclaw's 2016 Year of Culture. There will also be a golf simulator to get your golf swing in gear with prizes to win throughout the show.

WTM presents a fantastic opportunity for agents and operators to connect through the tourist offices with

ministers, delegations and stakeholders. In 2017, Denmark's second city Aarhus will be European Capital of Culture and the Central Denmark Region has been appointed the European Region of Gastronomy. On Monday, visitors to the stand will be able to meet both Bent Sørensen, head of communications and Rebecca Matthews, managing director of Aarhus 2017 European Capital. The Sultanate of Oman Ministry of Tourism (ME500) will be celebrating the 45th anniversary of His Majesty the Sultan's reign in the presence of Her Excellency, Maitha Al Mahrouqi, with 45 cupcakes on Monday at 2.45pm followed by a unique expedition across Oman launched by Mark Evans of Outward Bounds. For many destinations WTM provides a platform to promote new campaigns, concepts and news to agents, operators and the travel industry at large. The Samoa Tourism Authority (AS255) will be launching its first 'Visit Samoa Year 2016' (Samoa is one of the first places in the world to see in the New Year) where the overarching theme of the year is 'Beautiful Samoa'. The Cyprus Tourism Organisation (EU1300) proudly becomes the first organisation in the world to introduce mandatory sustainability standards for hotels and the Greater Miami CVB (NA400) unveils the Miami Worldcentre: nearly 30 acres, a \$3billion investment, one million square feet of retail space, 600,000 square feet of convention space and 1,800 hotel rooms at the new Marriott Marquis World Convention Centre Hotel, the largest hotel in South Florida!

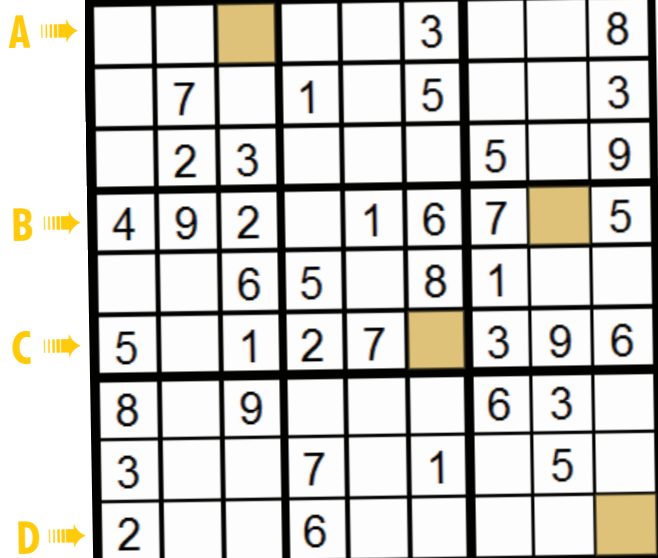
Finally, ANTOR will be chairing a debate on Wednesday between 2pm and 3pm in the South Gallery rooms 19/20 on 'The Future of the Tourist Board and DMO – virtual or reality?' ANTOR chair, Tracey Poggio of Gibraltar Tourism, will lead a panel that is a cross-section of leaders in the travel and tourism industry who are unrivalled in their knowledge and experience: Derek Jones, managing director – Kuoni UK, Luca Romozzi, sales director EMEA – Expedia, Enrique de Lera Ruiz, director of tourism – Spanish National Tourist Office and Adrian Phillips, MD of Bradt Travel Guides. Join us and give us your views on the future of tourist boards.

On behalf of these and all ANTOR members at WTM, we look forward to seeing you at ExCel – don't miss this all important event for the future of your career and sales.

Su Doku

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

Number: 039



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, October 22nd. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

The winner for 2nd October is Katey-Mae Grimwood, Virgin Holidays in Norwich.

October 2 Solution: A=2 B=5 C=8 D=9

Travagrams

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

On Lines



Tour operator that specialises in ski, beachclub and sailing holidays

Irk Aria



Nigeria and West Africa's largest carrier

Where Am I?



Created in an old clay pit, this indoor rainforest in Cornwall opened in 2003

Crossword



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

Across

- Operator specialising in luxury holidays, sounds regal (9)
- European country (7)
- National carrier of 2 Down (3)
- The iconic Millennium Bridge links this town with Newcastle (9)
- Central American country (9)
- Tampa international airport code (3)
- City known for its annual Stampede (7)
- Douglas is the capital (4,2,3)

Down

- Story of women fighting for the vote, at a cinema near you (11)
- African country, initially (3)
- Asian river (5)
- Arizona tourist attraction (5,6)
- Leeds/Bradford airport code (3)
- Major ferry Line (5)
- West African country (5)
- London venue for next month's World Travel Market (5)
- Part of a journey (3)
- Star sign (3)

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

Funway announces new Florida Beach Training programme

TO MARK The launch of Funway Holidays' new Florida Beaches brochure on November 2, the operator has stepped up its training and will be providing a Florida focused training push throughout this month and next.

The sales team, armed with beach themed props from sunglasses to surfboards, will be out in force visiting agencies across the UK talking all things 'Florida and beaches'. The two-month long 'What Beach Are You?' training will aim to educate agents on the different beaches in Florida and the best way to client match each one.

The company's marketing executive, Rebecca Evans, said: "The Sunshine State boasts almost 1,000 miles of flip-flop-friendly beaches, each with its own distinct style. From snow-white sand in Florida Keys & Key West, both perfect for relaxing and for adrenaline seekers in Tampa Bay with Busch Gardens and exciting nightlife, to the historic St. Augustine & Ponte Vedra and the best place to explore with young children.

"Finding the perfect beach for your clients' travel needs can be a daunting task. It is hoped this dedicated



Pictured promoting the new campaign are, from the left, the operator's Rebecca Evans, Adam Reeves and Linda Sumners.

training will provide a clear understanding of Florida's beach scene."

As an example of a family-friendly Florida beach, a seven-night stay in St. Pete/Clearwater at the three-star

Alden Suites leads in at £699 per person including flights with British Airways from Gatwick, based on a November 18 departure.

For more information see www.funway4agents.co.uk

Ten new partners join Kamili Safaris for UK roadshow events

THIS MONTH, ten partners will join Kamili Safaris on its UK roadshow to host half-day (from 14:00-18:00) trade shows offering pre-scheduled 20-minute appointments with operators and owners of high quality, independent lodges and camps from across Africa.

Agents also have the chance to stay for sundowners and dinner once the meetings have concluded.

Venues and dates include October 26 in Winchester; October 27 in Exeter; October 28 in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire; October 29 in Chester; and October 30 in London.

Agents are encouraged to book early as spaces are limited. Email hannah@kamilisafaris.com or call 01664-823750.



THE SAINT LUCIA TOURIST BOARD hosted a week-long series of events during the fourth annual Saint Lucia Showcase 2015, which took place last month and was attended by more than 120 key UK travel trade contacts. This year's event was held at the five-star Grove Hotel & Resort in Hertfordshire and was hosted by model Annaliese Dayes of Britain's Next Top Model fame. Special guest entertainment was provided by The Voice winner, Jermain Jackman, who wowed guests with his incredible vocals. Dates for the 2016 showcase are currently being finalised and the tourist board will also be exhibiting at next month's WTM. For more information call 020-7341 7005 or visit www.saintluciauk.org

Viking instigates new training initiatives to help agents sell

VIKING CRUISES has instigated a series of initiatives, including a magazine launch and new website, designed to educate and engage directly with travel agents.

Launching last week was the first issue of its quarterly trade magazine, entitled HEI (Norwegian for 'Hi'), delivering news about the operator's river and ocean products, along with selling tips, interviews, quizzes and competitions. The launch has also been supported with a press and digital campaign challenging agents to discover what kind of agent they are, with the chance to win a year's worth of chocolate for their agency.

The quiz will feature strongly on a new dedicated website created specifically for agents at www.madefortrade.co.uk, along with news, useful information, brochures, contacts and merchandising. The website will also provide a direct link through to the new training modules where agents can boost their product knowledge and learn how to sell with confidence. On successful completion of the courses, agents become an official Viking Cruises Expert and earn their O.V.E. certificate and travel agent window stickers, designed to attract potential guests into the travel agency.



All STA travel agencies that sell more than 100 Kiwi Experience passes will receive a certificate and a hoodie for each staff member. Pictured modelling the tops are last year's winners - STA Travel in Covent Garden. For details see www.kiwiexperience.com

Air New Zealand to use Google Cardboard for UK agent training

AIR NEW ZEALAND is using Google Cardboard technology to share a virtual reality immersive experience with the UK travel trade.

The new Air New Zealand Cabin Viewer app showcases the airline's Boeing 777-300ER, which flies daily between London and Auckland via Los Angeles. Google Cardboard is a virtual reality platform which uses a fold-out cardboard mount for a mobile phone. The technology allows viewers to take a 360° virtual tour through its Premium Economy and Business Premier cabins.

The airline's general manager UK and Europe, Kathryn Robertson, said: "We are constantly looking at ways to make things easier for the travel trade. This technology is exciting in that it allows the trade to virtually step onboard our aircraft and experience all three cabins and learn about our product in a new and unique way."

To encourage the trade to use the technology, the carrier is giving away 1,000 Google Cardboard sets. To claim, visit www.airnewzealandtrade.com/virtual

New scheme from Voyages to Antiquity

VOYAGES TO Antiquity has announced the launch of a new agent training scheme - 'Voyages to Antiquity Expert'.

The online knowledge forum has a new look and feel and comprises informative videos and short fun quizzes. It also premieres the 'luminary' concept where, upon completing the online training, agents become 'Luminary agents' and have access to exclusive offers, VIP fam trip invitations and advance notice of new programmes. Agents can also download a personalised certificate upon reaching 100% 'Luminary status'.

The line's managing director, Jos Dewing, said: "We are big believers in helping agents develop their knowledge to improve sales. Up-to-date deals, offers and information on the product is key to this and is the overriding reason behind the new training hub."

"The new site marks a significant investment in the UK trade and we are confident that it will enable more agents to inspire their customers to explore off the beaten track destinations with us."

To register visit www.vtaexpert.com and for more information call 0845-437 9737.

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weddings&honeymoons

We met with the Cyprus Tourism Organisation to find out about its 'MarryMeCyprus' brand plus upcoming trends in the wedding & honeymoon market...

Tell us a bit about 'Marry Me Cyprus' – why it has been put together and how it can be utilised by travel agents?

The Marry me Cyprus website (www.marrymecyprus.com) was launched in 2012 for the promotion of Cyprus as a wedding destination. It offers information relating to wedding exhibitions and venues, and features wedding hotels (through dedicated mini hotel pages), where hotels can upload their contents to promote themselves as wedding hotels or those that offer wedding services. The site also promotes Cyprus and weddings through stunning photographic material, posts and announcements. Overall, we were able to create a brand image called 'MarryMeCyprus' and promote it via social media. The www.marrymecyprus.com will soon be an integrated part of the new website of the organisation.

Are there any emerging trends in the W&H market taking place?

The most popular wedding venue is Petra tou Romiou (Aphrodite's Rock) as most brides want to associate themselves with the goddess of Love and Beauty! Other than that, weddings in wineries, museums and at archaeological sites are gaining interest. Traditional Cypriot weddings are also becoming very popular, especially with the third generation of Cypriots born in the UK.

What is your advice to travel agents selling a wedding or honeymoon in Cyprus?

Agents need to be constantly well informed/updated on Cyprus, and taking part in fam trips can be very useful. Agents also have a choice of working with specialist UK-

based tour operators who have wedding & honeymoon programmes to Cyprus, so they should make use of their expertise and knowledge. They should also promote the island's key advantages - year-round sunshine, easy access, a wide choice of hotels, value for money and no language barriers, as English is widely spoken.

What about unusual wedding venues - what are some examples of this?

These could be on a boat or yacht, or for a more rural setting, on the top of a hill, although the number one setting is still the beach.

What about the average cost of a wedding in Cyprus?

This varies from 8,000- 17,000 euros, whereas the same wedding in the UK would cost double this amount.

How easy is it to arrange a wedding in Cyprus?

Marrying in Cyprus is easy as the legal formalities are simple and similar to those required in the UK. Prior to the wedding, the couple need to visit the municipal offices of the town in which they will marry to make their application for a marriage license. Official documents needed include a valid passport, birth certificate, affidavit (freedom to marry certificate) and decree of absolute, if either party is divorced. Death certificates, a letter of consent (if under 18 years), adoption papers and change of name documents are also required if applicable. All documents must be translated in English and legally certified before the arrival on the island of Cyprus.



Honeymooners visiting Gozo next May can opt for a seven-night stay at the five-star Ta Cenc Hotel, which leads in at £499 per person with Belleair Holidays. The price is based on two sharing a country view suite on a bed-and-breakfast basis for a May 12 departure from Luton. It includes flights, transfers, checked baggage and 24-hour overseas representation. Honeymooners will receive a free upgrade from a standard room to a suite plus wine and fruit on arrival. For details see www.belleair.co.uk or call 020-7373 5358.



Caribtours is offering honeymooners a stay at Mount Cinnamon in Grenada from £1,549 per person for seven nights. Based on two sharing, it includes a stay in a Hacienda Suite including breakfast, scheduled flights, private transfers and the use of a UK airport lounge. The offer is valid for travel taken by September 30, 2016 when booked by November 30. Visit www.caribtours.co.uk or call 020-7751 0660 for details.

Say 'I do' at Sandals & Beaches' Caribbean resorts for free

Sandals Resorts and Beaches Resorts has announced further benefits for couples looking to celebrate their special day at one of its 18 Luxury Included resorts across the Caribbean, with the launch of a new free wedding and honeymoon offer. The deal is in addition to couples receiving a free Beautiful Beginnings wedding when they book a minimum of three nights. Couples who marry by December 25 can take advantage of the following offers when they book five, 12 or 18 rooms: Book five rooms and the sixth room is free for the bride and groom; book 12 rooms and receive one room free for guests, based on double occupancy; and book 18

rooms and receive two rooms free for guests, based on double occupancy. Couples who marry between January 2 and August 31 can take advantage of the following offers when they book 11, 24 or 36 rooms: Book 11 rooms and the 12th room is free for the bride and groom; book 24 rooms and receive one room free for guests, based on double occupancy; and book 36 rooms and receive two rooms free for guests, based on double occupancy. The offers are also applicable for the specified dates in 2016 as well as 2017. For more information visit www.sandals.co.uk and www.beachesresorts.co.uk or call 0800-022 3331.

Marry at Banyan Tree Mayakoba & receive a honeymoon in China

COUPLES WHO book and celebrate their wedding at Banyan Tree Mayakoba from now until end of 2016 will receive an exclusive honeymoon to China's Yunnan Province, compliments of Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts.

Following a Mayan-inspired nuptial in Mexico's Riviera Maya, couples can explore the Yunnan Highlands of China and discover the spiritual charm of Tibet. For a limited time, guests who book a destination wedding at Banyan Tree Mayakoba receive a gift certificate redeemable for a five-night honeymoon at Banyan Tree Lijiang or Banyan Tree Ringha, including airfare credit, airport pick-up and ground transport, villa accommodation, a destination dining experience and a spa treatment.

Accommodation is subject to availability at the time of booking, and guests can book their travel from April 1, 2016 to the end of 2017, with blackout dates including April 30 to May 2 and September 30 to October 31, due to Chinese public holidays.

For more information email yeimy.pina@banyantree.com or see www.banyantree.com



Regent Holidays is recommending that agents highlight Iceland as a destination for adventurous honeymooners, with a whole range of activities to explore including whale-watching and chasing the Northern Lights, to candle-lit dinners in Reykjavik's harbour and exploring the volcanic landscape. As an example, the company is offering a 17-day 'Iceland Encompassed' fly/drive option from £2,015 per person including flights from Heathrow with Icelandair; airport taxes; car hire with pick-up/drop-off at Keflavik Airport and unlimited mileage; plus 16 nights' breakfast accommodation. For details see www.regent-holidays.co.uk or call 020-7666 1290.

Sri Lanka's boutique hotel, The Last House, extends honeymoon offer



THE LAST HOUSE, a five-bedroom boutique hotel and villa in Sri Lanka, has extended its honeymoon offer until November 30.

Rooms at the property can be booked independently or the villa can be hired as one, and the secluded location is being highlighted as ideal for honeymooners. Guests have access to a chef who can personalise meals, and access to a different dining venue on the grounds is also offered.

In addition to the onsite pool, garden and beach, activities in the area include visiting Mulkirigala Rock Temple, taking part in a night-time turtle watch, safaris to Yala and Uda Walawe national parks and deep sea fishing.

The property is located around three-and-a-half hours south of Colombo, however less than 2km

from the villa is the landing spot of the Air Taxi (served by Cinnamon Air), which whisks guests from the airport to Mawella Lagoon Airport in around an hour and 15 minutes.

The honeymoon offer, which is free to guests staying a minimum of four nights, includes lunch for two, an Indian head massage, afternoon tea & cake and a candle-lit dinner for two on the private beach.

Guests staying for three nights also receive lunch for two, an Indian head massage and afternoon tea & cake.

Agents need to quote 'Last Word In Luxury' when confirming a booking for guests to qualify.

For more information see www.srilankacollection.com and www.thelasthouse.com

Dedicated wedding guide on Barbados from Elegant Hotels Group

Following the launch of the Nightlife Guide last year, Elegant Hotels Group has launched a dedicated wedding guide to Barbados with all the top tips to think about when planning a wedding in the Caribbean.

Offered in both digital format and hard copy, the new guide offers an essential toolkit for agents when they come to look for something different to offer their clients.

It features everything from why to choose Barbados and booking the right photographer, to legal requirements and post-ceremony celebrations. Also offered is advice on which property to choose depending on the style of wedding requested - from Colony Club's lush tropical gardens to Turtle Beach, located close to the island's nightlife at St Lawrence Gap.

Sunil Chatrani, CEO of the hotel group, said: "We pride ourselves on being the Barbados experts; most of our staff have grown up and attended ceremonies on the island, so who better to ask for the top tips on planning a wedding at one of our hotels? We want to ensure our guests' special day is the best of their lives so we have pulled together everything there is to know in one handy guide."

For more information and to download the wedding guide visit

www.elegant-hotels.com/weddings/barbados-weddings

Funways sees increase in 'Cool Combos' trend for honeymooners

ACCORDING TO Funway, adventurous young couples are increasingly looking to create unique combinations of destinations, otherwise known as combo-moons or adventure-moons.

As a result, the company is highlighting its 'San Francisco and Hawaii' twin-centre break, which has seen a significant rise in demand this year.

The ten-night package includes three nights at the three-and-a-half-star Sir Francis Drake Hotel in San Francisco and seven nights at the three-star Aqua Waikiki Pearl in Hawaii.

Prices start from £1,099 per person including Virgin Atlantic flights from Heathrow, based on a November 23 departure.

New honeymoon deal from the Maldives' Hideaway Beach Resort & Spa

THE HIDEAWAY Beach Resort & Spa in the Maldives is offering newlyweds the chance to honour their union with a traditional Maldivian wedding blessing.

Set against a backdrop of coconut groves, white sands and turquoise waters, the ceremony comprises Maldivian touches such as a garland of flowers to unite the couple, as well as a wedding cake and a celebratory glass of Champagne.

After receiving their blessing, couples are treated to a romantic sunset cruise in a traditional Maldivian Dhoni, followed by a private candle-lit dinner on the beach under the stars.

From November 1, guests will also benefit from complimentary seaplane transfers and half-board during their stay.

The package also includes a welcome fruit platter, a picnic lunch experience, 24-hour butler service and a massage for the bride and groom. On arrival at their villa, couples will also be greeted by a newlywed turn down service with a special room decoration and a rose-petal bath.

Prices start from \$6,280 (approximately £4,214) per couple for a seven-night stay in a deluxe water villa on a bed-and-breakfast basis.

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freephone 0800 008 7288 or visit www.classic-collection.co.uk



malta&gozo

ATTRACTION WORLD has added an Underwater Safari option for agents to sell to clients. Leading in at £18 per adult and £12 per child (aged two-12), clients can now see what lies beneath the sea that surrounds St. Paul's Islands, or discover the wonders of the world beneath the sea around the scenic Sliema Coast from the unique purpose-built underwater Safari Boat. From the observation keel, clients will be able to view underwater sights – from diverse species of fish and the occasional octopus to swaying forests of multi-hued algae. Each trip is more than an hour's duration and passengers have a minimum viewing time of 20 minutes in the observation keel.

Olympic confident for strong winter bookings for Malta

OLYMPIC HOLIDAYS is featuring Malta among its winter sun and summer sun destinations over the next year, with a programme of mainly four- and five-star hotels in the island's leading resorts.

The operator has offered Malta since 2009 in both winter and its three summer programmes – the comprehensive Summer Sun, upmarket Gold & Platinum Collection and budget Smart Choice – and, according to the company, sales levels have consistently met expectations.

The operator's commercial director, Photis Lambrianides, said: "Malta has proved to be a solid performer among our Mediterranean destinations and I'm confident bookings for the coming winter will be sound.

"Malta is a traditional favourite with the British and thanks to the current favourable exchange rate with the euro, the island has the potential to continue to do well for us. We use only scheduled flights to Malta, which gives clients flexibility of holiday duration, from short breaks to long stays. We also benefit from Malta's high level of repeat business."

A top-selling hotel with the operator since it introduced the destination has been the all-inclusive Fortina Spa Resort in Sliema, a five-star thalasso spa property offering seawater and algae therapies.

Lambrianides said: "Malta has developed a very good spa product in properties like the Fortina Spa Resort and prices are highly competitive with properties elsewhere in the Mediterranean. With its abundance of history, Malta makes an excellent short break at any time of year, and those with an interest in culture and history will particularly enjoy Valletta. This small but fascinating city was founded by the Knights of St John around 1570 and today still boasts an amazing number of historic buildings among its tightly packed streets.

"Malta is only three hours away from the UK and easily accessible by scheduled flights. Short break prices are highly competitive with other Med destinations at any time of year."

Capitalise on celebrity appeal at Gozo's ThirtySeven Hotel

THIRTYSEVEN HOTEL is encouraging agents to sell a week exploring Gozo to clients, following visits from Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie who were in the destination to film *By the Sea* (in cinemas this December) and stay in the same hotel where the couple spent their delayed honeymoon.

The boutique guesthouse, located in Munxar, offers ten

rooms, and guests are ideally placed to explore the coastal scenery and pastoral landscapes of Gozo on a variety of self-guided walks.

For example, guests can descend through terraces to a Napoleonic fort, before weaving between tidal salt pans; follow a path to Dwerja's iconic rock-arch and emerald 'inland sea'; or take a boat to neighbouring

Comino to circumnavigate the virtually uninhabited island.

Prices lead in at £1,145 per person with Inntravel based on two sharing, including seven nights' breakfast accommodation, five dinners, two picnics, walking maps and route notes, and ferry/taxi transfers from Malta Airport.

For details call 01653-617000 or see www.inntravel.co.uk

SuperBreak promotes Malta sightseeing add-ons

SUPERBREAK IS promoting its sightseeing bus tours on the island of Malta. Ideal for agents to add on to short break bookings, the bus tours, which are fully commissionable to agents, are ideal for clients looking to visit all the highlights.

As an example of prices, a one-day Malta Sightseeing Bus Tour costs £12.50 per person with two days for £23. Both North and South Hop-On, Hop-Off routes are offered, starting in Sliema, and the bus tours head to the capital Valletta. The north itinerary then heads to the historic city of Mdina and the northern countryside, while the south route offers a more historic aspect of the island with stops at prehistoric temples.

With more than 30 stops and 50 points of interest along the routes, highlights include the Mosta Church and Dome; Ta Qali Craft Village; Rabat with many Roman Sites such as the restored Roman Villa and St Agatha's Catacombs and the medieval town of Mdina. For more information or to book visit www.superbreak.com/agents or call 01904-436000.

Savings for both late and early bookers from Classic Collection

CLASSIC COLLECTION Holidays has a number of offers to tempt both late and early bookers to Malta and Gozo.

The company is offering seven nights for the price of six at The Westin Dragonara Resort in St Julian's, Malta on holidays booked and taken by October 31. It has also reduced rates for stays between November 1 and April 30, 2016, when booked before October 31, at The Palace Hotel in Sliema.

Reduced rates on holidays taken during the same period at The Xara Palace in Mdina are also available, but clients have until December 15 to book. The Xara Palace is the only Relais and Chateaux property on the island.

On the neighbouring island of Gozo, the company is offering seven nights for the price of six at the Kempinski San Lawrenz on holidays taken before October 31, and reduced rates for those booking at least 90, or 60 or 30 days' prior to departure on summer holidays from May 1 until October 31, 2016.

Guests can also take advantage of the Ayurveda Centre in the Kempinski Spa which is offering a diverse range of massage techniques originating from the southern India region of Kerala.

Seven-night prices in May start from £842 per person including flights and private transfers.

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



Air Malta appointed official airline

AIR MALTA has been appointed as the official airline for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) being held in Malta from November 27-29.

Through the agreement, the carrier is co-operating closely with the CHOGM Task Force and offering reduced fares to the large number of delegations.

The carrier's Maria Micallef said: "CHOGM Malta 2015 is a high profile event that will showcase Malta's qualities to 53 countries around the Commonwealth and almost 1,000 international media representatives. As the island's national carrier, we are proud to support this event which will undoubtedly leave a positive impact on Malta's global standing and reputation. We believe the theme chosen for this year's CHOGM - Adding Global Value - fits perfectly with our efforts throughout the years to add global value to Malta."

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www.prestigeholidays.co.uk/malta



Half-term breaks for families at Colorado's Breckenridge from £1,094

BRECKENRIDGE IS a Rocky Mountain town in the heart of Colorado which in the run up to October half-term is offering families an abundance of child-friendly activities.

Families can enjoy exploring Brecks scenic back trails with the help of some four-legged friends, meeting the sled dogs and puppies before they take the reign and enjoy a cart tour. For more information visit www.snowcapssleddogs.com

The area also has vast hiking trails with scenic views ready for families to

explore. Families with small children looking for an easy hike should head to the Sawmill Trail for a scenic one-and-a-half mile stroll leading to a beautiful reservoir. The more experienced hiking families can head to McCullough Gulch, where they can expect an array of evergreen forests, waterfalls and meadows to explore.

Fishing in the waters of Breckenridge's Blue River can also be enjoyed, as well as a spooky historical walking tour in time for Halloween.

America As You Like It is offering a

seven-night family package from £1,094 per person.

It includes flights from Heathrow to Denver with British Airways, seven days' car hire, and seven nights' accommodation at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Breckenridge. The price is based on two adults and two children sharing with flights departing in October half-term.

For further details call 020-8742 8299 or emailsales@americaasyoulikeit.com or for more information on Breckenridge visit www.gobreck.com

WestJet offers flights to six Canadian cities from £163 one-way

WESTJET HAS announced a new non-stop service from England to six Canadian cities. From spring next year, customers can fly on the carrier's fleet of Boeing 767-300 ER aircraft to Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg and Toronto, and to St. John's on its Boeing Next-Generation 737-700 series, with one-way flights starting from £163 including taxes, fees and surcharges.

The carrier's executive vice president, Bob Cummings, said: "Europeans have been paying far too much to fly to Canada and for far too long, so we're going to fix that by offering non-stop flights at very low prices."

The airline is also offering introductory pricing that adds an additional £10 one-way to connect to select Canadian airports beyond the six cities serving Gatwick. Agents are encouraged to look for these introductory prices online at www.westjet.com

All London flights to Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg will operate on one of the carrier's four 767-300ERW extended range aircrafts, with passengers flying to St John's on a Boeing Next-Generation 737. Accommodating 262 guests, the 767s feature a 24-seat Plus cabin with wider seats and more legroom. Hot meals are available and the entire aircraft is equipped with a new inflight entertainment and wireless connectivity system. For further information visit www.westjet.com/londongatwick

Air Canada rouge adds non-stop service from Glasgow to Toronto

AIR CANADA has announced new seasonal non-stop flights from Glasgow Airport to its Toronto hub, Toronto Pearson, beginning in summer 2016.

The route will be operated by Air Canada rouge, its leisure carrier, and will provide Scottish customers with convenient options when travelling to Canada for leisure or business.

The new service between the two cities will operate three times weekly from June 14 to September 25, 2016, and flights are conveniently timed to connect with the carrier's network across the Americas.

The airline's director of sales for Europe, Margaret Skinner, said: "We are pleased to offer our Scottish customers even greater access to Toronto and beyond with direct flights from Glasgow next summer."

"These additional flights complement our existing summer service from Edinburgh, offering convenient connections to destinations across North, Central and South America, as well as the Caribbean through our Toronto hub."

Fares start from £400.60 roundtrip, including taxes, and are available for purchase at www.aircanada.com or by calling 0871-220 1111.

travelbulletin

Giving agents the edge

We asked our staff the following question
this week:

I don't like people who...?

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Are condescending and snobbish

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Over promise and under deliver

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Start fight pits at gigs or festivals - seriously!/? - you're just ruining the music for everyone

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Are inconsiderate

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Finish my sentences for me

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Hurt other people or animals

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Smell

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Are slow at everything

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Force me to drink Sambuca

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Look down on others

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Walk slowly!

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People who interrupt others while they talk

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Keep me waiting

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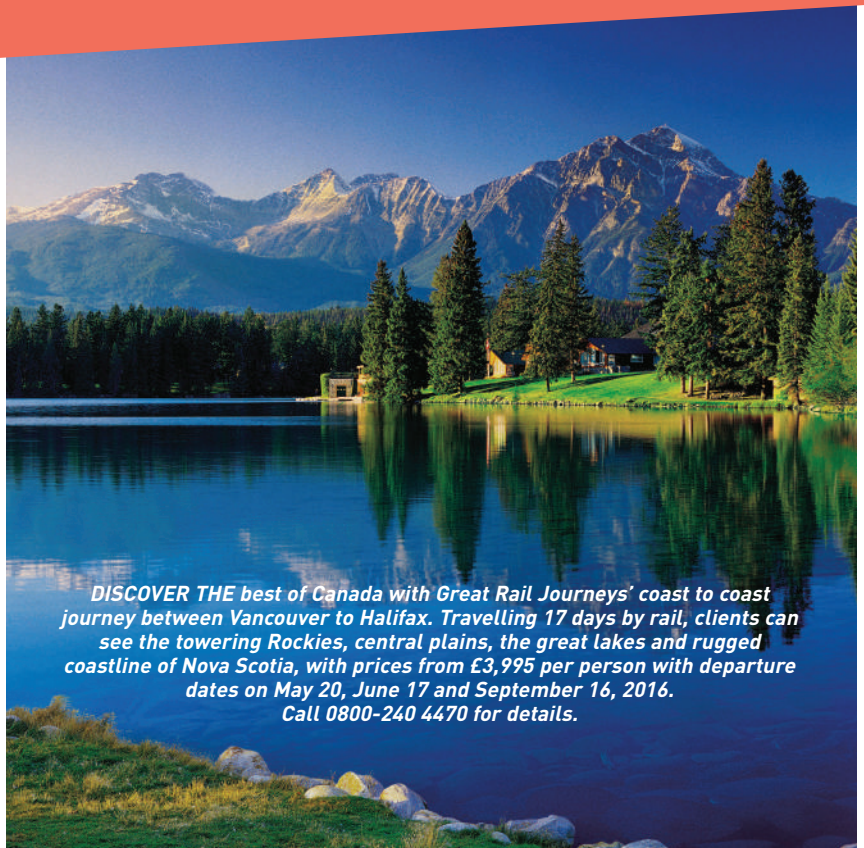
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Air Transat unveils October seat sale campaign

AIR TRANSAT has launched an October seat sale, with one-way fares starting from £191.

The sale rates are available for flights booked by October 19 and are valid for travel from next month through to October 2016.

The carrier operates direct flights from Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham and Glasgow to Toronto and Vancouver year-round; and Calgary and Montreal from May to October.

All flights include a 23kg allowance for hold luggage, meals and soft drinks on board, plus in-flight entertainment.

The airline also offers flexible Eco fares, allowing passengers to make changes for free up to the day of departure. Passengers can also book Option Plus for more Economy benefits, or upgrade to Club Class, a separate cabin Premium Economy service.

Meanwhile, the airline is introducing a range of enhancements to its summer 2016 flight programme which will give UK travellers increased choice and access to Canada.

A new non-stop route from Glasgow to Montreal will also be launched, giving Scottish travellers direct access to the entire Quebec province for the first time. The weekly service, which will run between May and October, will offer a choice of Economy Class and Club, with return Economy fares starting from £385 per person.

In total, the carrier will be adding 20,000 seats on services to and from the UK for summer 2016, with 15,000 seats from the UK to Eastern Canada compared to last year, and a further 5,000 to the West Coast.

Following high demand this season, the airline will also be increasing frequencies on a number of summer routes from Gatwick in 2016. Toronto gains an additional flight bringing the schedule to 11 weekly flights, while Vancouver becomes a daily flight in peak season and the Montreal service gains an additional weekly flight to go three times weekly.

For information or to book call 020-7616 9187 or visit www.airtransat.co.uk

puzzlesolutions

Crossword:

Across: 1. SOVEREIGN, 5. FINLAND, 7. SAA, 8. GATESHEAD, 9. GUATEMALA, 12. TPA, 13. CALGARY, 15. ISLE OF MAN.
Down: 1. SUFFRAGETTE, 2. RSA, 3. INDUS, 4. GRAND CANYON, 6. LBA, 7. STENA, 8. GHANA, 10. EXCEL, 11. LEG, 14. LEO.

Highlighted Word: ITALY

Travagrams: Top: Neilson Bottom: Arik Air

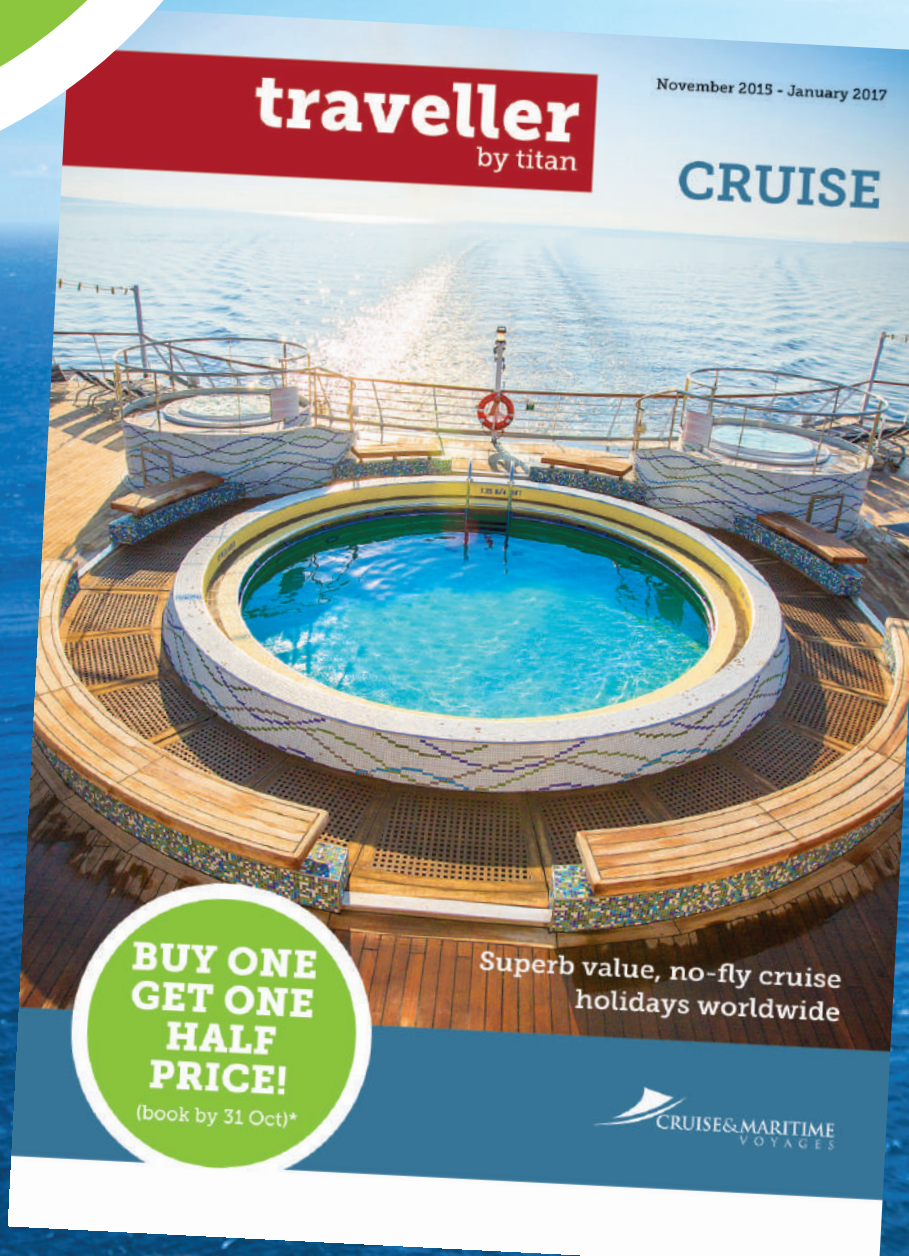
Where Am I?: The Eden Project

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