

travelbulletin

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AGENT BULLETIN

Find out how you can win a
fam to Barbados

LONDON LIFE

The Prince of Egypt comes to
the West End

AIR TRAVEL

More Brits are booking
travel to Ljubljana

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LGBT TRAVEL

The top ten must-visit American cities for
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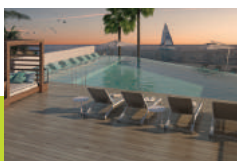
SUNSCAPE
RESORTS & SPAS

THIS WEEK

04

NEWS

Essential travel industry updates from the UK and beyond



08

AGENT INSIGHT

James from Travel Designers on selling to LGBT customers



09

AGENT BULLETIN

Incentives and training opportunities for eager agents



17

AIR TRAVEL

Takeover My Trip with Thomas Cook Airlines



20

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Meet South Africa's awe-inspiring ambassadors



23

LGBT TRAVEL

The ten must-visit American cities for LGBT travellers



THE FREEBIE-JEEBIES

British holidaymakers are increasingly cost-conscious, according to a survey. But if a few freebies can be thrown in, a booking might be more likely.

Are your customers having to raid their piggybanks while on holiday?



VALUE FOR money is extremely important for British holidaymakers, according to a survey conducted by mobile banking service, Monese.

Survey respondents put value for money as their top requirement when booking a holiday. As well as getting a good deal, British holidaymakers have big expectations when it comes to vacation freebies.

The survey found that 52% expect free Wi-Fi, 16% expect free dinners and 27% expect excursions to be thrown in for no extra cost.

Other holiday expenses resented by a large proportion of British travellers include alcohol, with 61% of respondents

unhappy when they have to put their hands in their pockets at the bar, and public transport with 56% not pleased about paying for their fares while abroad.

Hidden bank charges were also unpopular with 47% wanting fee-free cash withdrawals from ATMs and 44% wanting zero charges for using credit and debit cards while away.

Additionally, 30% told Monese they did not like tipping or paying extra service charges on holiday.

Half the survey respondents admitted they have needed an extra £500 or more on top of their expected budget while on holiday. On average, it was found that British

holidaymakers have needed an extra £987 to last until the end of their trip with 43% either running out of money or going over budget.

However, a proportion of cash-strapped holidaymakers have been creative in their quest to boost their budgets with 13% resorting to busking on the streets. Nearly half (49%) have raided their savings while away to keep their cash reserves topped up.

One of the main reasons for Brits running low on funds is big purchases. Half of the respondents splashed out on luxuries, such as jewellery and designer clothes and accessories, while 17% buy electronics, such as TVs and tablets.

travelbulletin

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Food in focus with Palladium's new opening



PALLADIUM HOTEL Group opened Palladium Hotel Costa del Sol this month, making it the group's third opening of the year.

The group undertook an extensive renovation on a former hotel and the result is a four-star property with new facilities. It is located on the beachfront and is 30 minutes from Málaga airport and 600m from the local train station, in the coastal town of Benalmádena.

Aimed at families and couples, the

hotel features 336 rooms and suites, all of which have views of the Mediterranean.

Gastronomic offerings include Chang Thai, an à la carte restaurant serving south-east Asian cuisine; show-cooking restaurant Pintarroja serving regional specialities, and Poseidón, a seafront beach restaurant.

Nix Sky Lounge is a rooftop terrace where guests can sip cocktails while watching the Malagan sunset. The rooftop also features three

hydromassage baths. Guests can also enjoy drinks at the Cuban-style lobby bar Guayabera, comedy-style theatre bar Vodevil and at the Shake-It! Pool Bar.

Zensations by Zentropia Palladium Spa & Wellness is the hotel's gym and spa facility, equipped with a steam room and sauna, plus massage and treatment rooms.

Deluxe rooms are priced from £134, based on two people sharing on an all-inclusive basis.

Jetset

Whichever generation you are, saving your work will always be in fashion!



Save Your Quote

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Sri Lanka back in the spotlight with Bamboo

FOLLOWING THE updated advice from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in regard to travel to Sri Lanka, Bamboo Travel has put together some offers to attract customers back to the Indian ocean country.

The tour operator's 24-day Grand Tour of Sri Lanka itinerary has been discounted by £1,100 per person. By working closely with hotels and ground handlers, the tour is now priced at £3,395 per person in September based on two people sharing. This trip takes in five different national parks, a day trip to Delft Island, a visit to the ruins of Anuradhapura, and a stay in an eco-resort on a west coast beach.

The two-week Highlights of Sri Lanka tour is now £2,145 per person, with a £250 saving. This trip includes climbing Sigiriya Rock, wildlife safaris in Minneriya and Yala National Parks, a



Sri Lanka is welcoming visitors as the FC0 declares the country safe.

visit to a working tea factory, and exploring Galle Fort and Colombo, the capital.

"We have received countless reports from contacts all over the island confirming that life has very much returned to normal and they are eagerly awaiting new arrivals," said Robin Ball, director of Bamboo Travel. "We genuinely believe that now is an opportune moment to visit Sri Lanka as the hotels,

National Parks and cultural sights are much quieter than normal. Added to which the hotels and lodges are offering discounts and value-added incentives, making Sri Lanka fantastic value at this moment in time."

Shearings says sharing is caring with videos for social media

TO HELP agents market their holidays online, Shearings Holidays has created a range of product videos. These can be used by agents across social media, online platforms and on screens in their shops.

Designed to showcase the range of products on offer from Shearings, there are now six videos available for agents to use free of charge, all with a trade call to action.

The videos have been divided into product type or regional categories as follows: Your Summer, Your Way; Worldwide; River Cruises; Britain and Ireland; Your Holiday, Your Way. and Flexible Holidays by Air.

"We know that when we bring product to life, conversion improves significantly and these videos are a real step up for us in terms of providing agents with useable content for their marketing channels," said Jane Atkins, managing director at Shearings Holidays. "Our product offering continues to grow and we felt these videos would help agents highlight the variety of our offering and allow them to focus in on specific product types such as river or worldwide with their marketing. We've made them short and easily accessible so agents can simply download and use them."

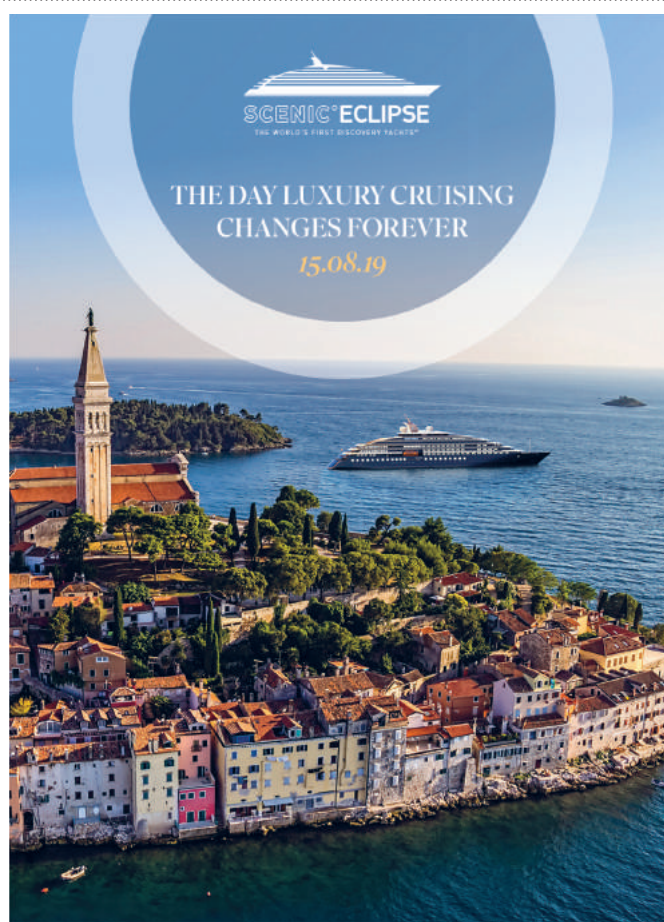
Each video can be downloaded from the agent toolkit at www.shearings.com/toolkit under "general assets".

Vietnam Airlines gets seat-savvy

VIETNAM AIRLINES

passengers can pre-book their preferred seat type and location before online check-in opens. Advanced Seat Selection is available from the moment a ticket is booked until 24 hours before departure on a first-come-first-served basis. It is a free service for Business, Premium Economy and Economy Flex passengers.

Economy class passengers can select standard seats for free with extra legroom and forward zone seats available for a fee. Fees range from \$20 for a Standard Seat in Economy Lite, up to \$50 for extra legroom in Economy Classic.



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Busy calendar ahead for Silverseas sailings

SILVERSEAS HAS a packed schedule with reservations now open for Silver Origin's maiden voyage to the Galapagos Islands, as well as the announcement of an exclusive cruise aboard Silver Shadow, which will set sail in December this year.

Silver Origin will set sail for the Galapagos Islands for the first time in July next year and reservations are now open for places on the 100-guest all-suite ship. It has been exclusively designed for the Galapagos Islands and takes over from the retiring Silver Galapagos. It will be alternating two seven-night itineraries between Baltra and San Cristobal.

The Baltra to San Cristobal north-central itinerary will include a circumnavigation of Isla Daphne Major and explorations of Darwin Bay and Prince Philip's Steps in Genovesa; Galapaguera Cerro Colorado and Punta Pitt in San Cristobal; Gardner Bay and Punta Suarez in Espanola; El Eden, Charles Darwin Research Station and Puerto Ayora in Santa Cruz; as well as Sullivan Bay, North Seymour, Rabida, and South Plaza. There will be snorkelling opportunities for guests can experience marine life up close.

The San Cristobal to Baltra western itinerary,



Seal-spotting is a highlight of the Galapagos Islands.

encompasses Cerro Dragon and Las Bachas Beach in Santa Cruz and a circumnavigation of Kicker Rock. It includes Punta Vicente Roca, Tagus Cove and Elizabeth Bay in Isabela; Post Office Bay, Champion Islet and Punta Cormorant in Floreana; Los Gemelos, Charles Darwin Research Station and Puerto Ayora in Santa Cruz; Playa Espumilla in Santiago, conditions permitting; Punta Espinoza in Fernandina; and Bartolome Island.

The reimagined Silver Shadow, meanwhile, will be undertaking an exclusive nine-day preview sailing which departs from San Juan on December 10 this year. The 388-guest ship will enable guests to journey through some of the Caribbean's smallest islands. Guests can discover Roseau with its distinctive architecture, the pitons of St Lucia or swim in the turquoise waters of St John's Cruz Bay.

G Adventures gives community tourism a lift with Project 100

G ADVENTURES will introduce an additional 25 Planeterra (G Adventures' non-profit partner) community tourism projects into its tours by 2020. Project 100, is the name of the a new initiative, with 25 projects announced later this year.



This will bring the number of projects to 100 globally – 90% of the operator's small-group trips will visit a community tourism project supporting women and children, indigenous culture and/or environmental conservation. This supersedes the operator's '50 in 5' initiative which started in 2015, and sought to add 50 projects to the pre-existing 25, bringing the total to 75 in 46 countries by 2020. This was completed 18 months early with the announcement of the final five projects in Costa Rica, Ecuador, Botswana, Hungary, and Kyrgyzstan.

Bruce Poon Tip, founder of G Adventures, said the commitment to giving back to local people in the communities the company travels gives G Adventures more opportunities to change lives through travel.



Harlem Globetrotters to have a ball at Butlin's

BASKETBALL LEGENDS, the Harlem Globetrotters will be appearing twice at Butlins' three seaside resorts – Bognor Regis in Sussex, Minehead in Somerset, and Skegness in Lincolnshire – during the 2020 summer school holidays.

The shows will feature three basketballers showing off their ball-handling and dunking tricks, and there will be skills clinics for guests. Globie, the Globetrotters' mascot, will be on hand for photographs and merchandise will be on sale. The Globetrotters experience will be included in the price of the break at all three locations.

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AGENT INSIGHT

James Whitaker-Sheppard
Travel Designers

THIS JUNE marked 50 years since the Stonewall riots. As a gay man, I feel incredibly fortunate to live in a liberal, accepting country, but even here in the UK, homophobia is sadly alive and well and we still hear of examples of it in the media.

Organising holidays for the LGBT traveller is usually no different to serving anyone else. They often know what they want, where they want to go and what they wish to spend. Sometimes, however, you have to wonder; at what point should we, the travel agents, be making them aware of anti-gay laws and homophobic attitudes in certain destinations.

You could argue it's down to the client to research this, but I feel we have a duty to inform clients, tactfully, if we know they may encounter negativity. It then, ultimately, has to be their decision if a destination is right for them or not.

Over the years my husband and I have visited a host of particularly gay-friendly destinations, and some less so, but we have been very fortunate in not encountering any obvious homophobia thus far. Some of the more gay-friendly destinations we have visited include Mexico, USA, Australia, Gran Canaria, and Thailand. We've also had positive experiences in countries where you may expect LGBT people to encounter difficulties, such as the Maldives, Mauritius, St Lucia, Bali and Jamaica.

Destinations that I would feel obliged to make my LGBT customers aware of possible issues or negativity, and in some instances, possible criminal charges, include the UAE, Russia, Egypt, Tanzania and Kenya.

But the rule of thumb is that all destinations are accessible to everyone. But it is important for everyone to be mindful of public displays of affection. 'LGBT' is not stamped in passports, but customers may just need to be careful. Don't be afraid to be honest and don't be afraid to send a gay couple to somewhere they want to go, as long as you discuss the positives and negatives with them. It's ultimately their choice.

Colombia ready to welcome UK travellers thanks to updated travel advice

THE FOREIGN & Commonwealth Office has revised travel safety advice for Colombia, with security risks downgraded in regions across the South American country. In particular, Buenaventura and Tumaco were downgraded from red (advise against all travel) to orange (mixed advice, additional research recommended), and Guainía went from orange to green (no reported issues, still check travel advice), except for the area along the border with Venezuela. In addition, parts of Vichada, Meta, Caquetá, Putumayo, Cauca, and Nariño are now classified as green.

This is encouraging news for agents and operators, especially as Colombia has reported an 8.8% increase in visitors from the UK for the first quarter of 2019, compared to the same period last year.

According to ProColombia, the government tourist board, nature and adventure tourism products are popular with UK visitors, especially bird-watching, with more than 1,920 bird species found in Colombia, more than any other country in the world.

"This is great news for us because it confirms the confidence that countries have in Colombia," said Flavia Santoro, president of ProColombia. "It also shows that the work we have done to change the world's perception of Colombia has been successful."



GARDEN PARTY... The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority has been on the road across the UK with COOL Summer Soiree events. Pictured here is the soiree which was held in Dorking.

Glee for Newquay with Flybe

FLYBE WILL operate flights to Cornwall Airport Newquay from Leeds Bradford with the extension of its seasonal summer service this year through to winter. Twice-weekly flights will operate on Mondays and Fridays and are available for booking now at www.flybe.com, for travel between October 27, 2019 and March 27, 2020. One-way fares start from £31.99.

Roy Kinnear, Flybe's chief commercial officer, commented: "We are pleased to add this popular summer route to our winter schedule for the first time this year giving our customers the opportunity to enjoy the best that both destinations have to offer. The timings are perfect for long weekends and, to ensure the very best possible fares, we would advise early booking."



AT TRAVEL Bulletin's Mediterranean Showcase, held at the Jurys Inn Oxford, Lisa Harris, a Gold Travel Counsellor was presented with a box of Greek delicacies by Anastasios Pissas from GNT0.



ROCK ON... Celebrity Cruises was the headline sponsor at Global Travel Group's second Global Rocks event, which was held in Chester on July 4. Michael Young-Richards, Celebrity Cruises regional sales manager (right) gave away a Celebrity Edge suitcase to Jugal Kantelia, director of Platinum Travel Lounge (left).

AGENT INCENTIVES

- CRUISE AND Maritime Voyages (CMV) is offering agents the chance to win one of ten gin-and-tonic-themed prizes. To celebrate CMV's tenth anniversary, agents need to make a CMV booking during July or August and send their details to CMV. All CMV bookings made between now and August 31 will qualify. Agents should email their name, ABTA number and booking reference to competitions@cruiseandmaritime.com. The winners will be drawn shortly after the competition has closed and announced on CMV's Trade Facebook page – Cruise & Maritime Voyages Trade Team – and on the Trade Partners section of the CMV website.
- PREMIER HOLIDAYS is giving agents the chance to win £100 worth of Majestic Wine vouchers in a competition to mark the launch of its 2020 Faraway brochure. To enter, agents need to answer three questions about the new brochure on Premier's trade website before August 2. The second prize is a £75 The Restaurant voucher and third prize is a £25 The Restaurant voucher. The revamped brochure features new destinations, tours and hotels. In the Middle East, the emirate of Ajman has been added as well as a nine-night Oman-and-UAE cruise. There are also three new Indian tours, and updated far-eastern options include an escorted tour in Penang and discounted Hong Kong hotel deals. To enter the competition, visit www.premierholidays.co.uk/resources/brochure-launch/2020FB

AGENT TRAINING

BEACHCOMBER TOURS welcomed 27 Not Just Travel and The Travel Franchise consultants to Mauritius for a week-long conference, including entrepreneur training. Travel Consultant Tracey Fordham said the retreat taught her so much, adding: "The experience far exceeded my expectations, it is so beautiful; the sunsets are amazing, and the food is sensational. The customer service is excellent with fantastic attention to detail; the staff anticipate your wants and needs before you do! Beachcomber know just how to get things right!" Agents interested in joining Not Just Travel and The Travel Franchise with benefits, such as entrepreneur training, should visit www.the-travel-franchise.com



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One ticket, 13 ski areas and 22 Innsbruck attractions

INNSBRUCK TOURISM has launched the SKI plus CITY Pass Stubai Innsbruck, where visitors can purchase one ticket for access to 13 ski areas across the Stubai Valley and Innsbruck region, as well as 22 attractions in and around the city.

The pass opens the door to more than 300km of pistes and 111 lifts for skiers and snowboarders, as well as a wide range of landmarks and attractions for a single fee.

A five-day adult pass costs 230 Euros, and gives visitors extra benefits, such as 25% off night-skiing. The children's pass costs 115 Euros for five days and, when accompanied by a parent who has a pass, children born in 2012 or later go free.



One pass can unlock a range of snowfields and tourist attractions.

Tickets are available from two days to 21 days and they are valid between October 1, 2019, and May 10, 2020. Agents can advise customers to book their tickets online in advance or make this booking for them, or they can be purchased at

the destination from participating cable car ticket offices, Innsbruck Tourism booking offices and partner companies.

For more information about the pass as well as the destination, log on to www.innsbruck.info

Baglioni seeks perfect partners

THE BAGLIONI Hotels & Resorts B2B programme has launched, with the aim of offering services and tools to partners, including agents. Membership of the Dolce Vita programme includes personalised incentive plans for commission, access to private sales and special rates for clients, marketing tools that can be personalised, a customised booking engine and advance notice of promotions and offers. The Baglioni group has properties in Italy, the UK and the Maldives. To find out more about the programme, email dolcevita.support@baglionihotels.com with "Dolce Vita" in the subject line.



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SUDOKU



Complete this Su Doku puzzle and then go to the competition section on travelbulletin.co.uk/competitions and submit the highlighted numbers.

A... B... C... D...

Closing date for entries is Thursday, July 25th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

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A	4			5	9		2	
		9			7		3	
	5						4	
B		3	7		2			1
	1	6					9	2
C	2				3		5	6
	1						7	
	4		7			9		
D			3		5	6		8

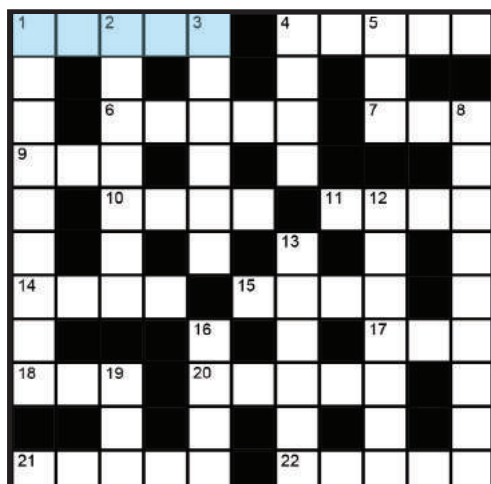


WHERE AM I?



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CROSSWORD



Across

- What is the per person deposit on a Jet2holiday? (5)
- Popular city break destination (5)
- African mountain range (5)
- Cricketing term (3)
- Cornwall-based TV drama series, ____ Martin (3)
- Ancient city which fell after the gift of a wooden horse (4)
- Historic Normandy city (4)
- Singer Bruno, sounds out of this world (4)
- American rock band currently on their End Of The Road World Tour (4)
- Australian state, in short (3)
- Norwich International airport code (3)
- Mountain in the Bernese Alps (5)
- Popular destination for sailors in 19 Down (5)
- Actor known for playing Alfie in EastEnders, ____ Richie (5)

Down

- Superhero: Far From Home, at a cinema near you (6-3)
- Simon Cowell's long-running talent show (1,6)
- Colourful sounding river in China (6)
- Currency of Mexico (4)
- Brazilian city, in short (3)
- Nashville is the state capital (9)
- European country (7)
- Lively Costa Dorada resort surrounded by the hills of the Garraf National Park (6)
- Scottish tourist attraction, Loch ____ (4)
- Island home of Blackgang Chine, initially (3)

The Jet2Holidays Su Doku winner for July 5th is Neil Basnett from Holiday Inspirations.

July 5th Solution: A=7 B=2 C=6 D=9

12. AUSTRIA, 13. SITGES, 16. NESS, 19. IOW, Where am I? - Rome
Down: 1. SPIDER-MAN, 2. X FACTOR, 3. YELLOW, 4. PESO, 5. RIO, 8. TENNESSEE, 15. KISS, 17. TAS, 18. NWI, 20. EIGER, 21. COWES, 22. SHANE.
Across: 1. SIXTY, 4. PARIS, 6. ATLAS, 7. OUT, 9. DOC, 10. TROY, 11. CAEN, 14. MARS, Solution:

For more games and prizes please sign up for emails on the jet2holidays trade site and Partners2success on Facebook...

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Eight new partners help Hahn Air open up more routes across the globe

HAHN AIR has added eight new airlines to its global network of more than 350 air, rail and shuttle companies in the second quarter of this year, bringing the number of new partners for 2019 to 22.

Six of the new partners issuing their own two-letter codes with Hahn Air are Air Greenland, Canada's Air North, Cyprus Airways, China's Donghai Airlines, Russia's Nordwind Airlines and Georgia's MyWay Airlines. Additionally, Neos Airlines from Italy, and Lao Skyway from Laos became new partners of Hahn Air's sister company Hahn Air Systems. Their flights can now be booked by 100,000 travel agents across 190 markets.

Other airlines which have partnered up with Hahn Air this year include Thailand's Nok Air, Tanzania's Precision Air, Comoros Islands' AB Aviation, Myanmar's Air KBZ, Eastafrican and Five Forty Aviation, both from Kenya, Switzerland's Chair Airlines, JC Cambodia Airlines, and Himalaya Airlines, Shree Airlines, Buddha Air and Yeti Airlines, all from Nepal.

"We are celebrating the 20th anniversary of our ticketing business this year", says Steve Knackstedt, vice president of the Airline Business Group at Hahn Air. "Our partner portfolio has grown from five to more than 350 partners since 1999 and we have continuously developed our distribution services."

The Shires to shine at Studley

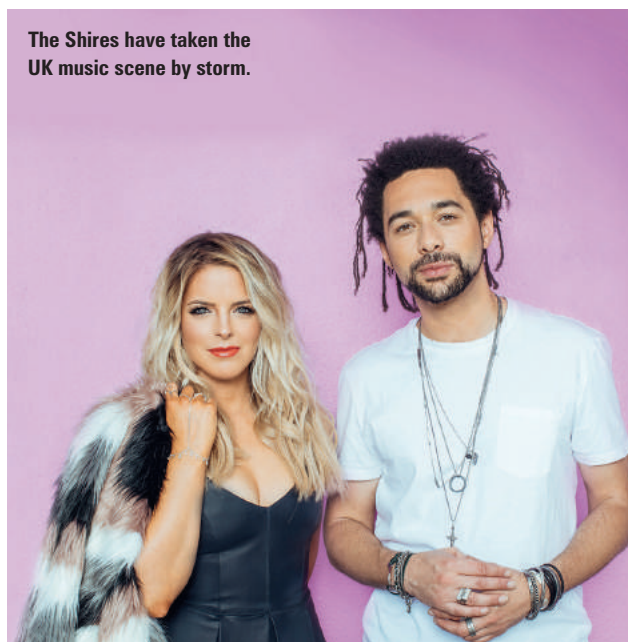
BRITISH COUNTRY music duo, The Shires, will be headlining a break next month at Studley Castle, Warner Leisure's latest opening, located in Warwickshire.

The Shires will perform live during a two-night, mid-week, break at Studley Castle on August 12.

Prices start from £259 per person based on two adults sharing a Standard room inclusive of the Simply Dine package, which includes English and continental buffet breakfast and a three-course evening meal.

As well as the entertainment programme, Studley Castle offers activities such as archery, foot golf, zumba, Zorbing, fencing, shooting and walking rugby, as well as a spa and heated swimming pool.

The Shires have taken the UK music scene by storm.



Saga's boutique cruise ship christened in regal style

THE DUCHESS of Cornwall became godmother to Saga's new boutique cruise ship, Spirit of Discovery.

Taking place in Dover, the Duchess joined more than 500 guests for a garden party-style event on the vessel, complete with plenty of British bunting, parasols, trees, floral decorations and genuine Yorkshire-grown grass on deck.

Instead of the usual Champagne bottle shattered on the hull, a very patriotic jeroaboam of Hush Heath English sparkling wine was used to christen the ship.

Jools Holland was present as Spirit of Discovery features 'The Club by Jools Holland' as one of the entertainment options on selected voyages.



The Duchess of Cornwall cutting a cake at the Spirit of Discovery launch.

There are more than 400 pieces of original art from commissioned British artists decorating the ship, forming a unique collection.

Spirit of Discovery and her sister ship Spirit of Adventure, due to launch in August 2020, mark a new era for Saga.

These two vessels are the only small, new, luxury ships being built for the British market. At an overall length

of 774.3ft and a maximum beam of 102.4ft, Spirit of Discovery will sail up to 999 passengers around the world with more than 500 crew.

Robin Shaw, CEO of Saga Travel, said: "This is an immensely proud moment for Saga ... We firmly believe that Spirit of Discovery creates a new British quality standard in the cruising market and we can't wait to welcome guests on board."

Flexible Autos issue security statement

EARLIER THIS month, Flexible Autos experience a malicious attack on its systems and immediate action was taken to close these systems down for the protection of travel agents and suppliers.

In a statement, the company said a "comprehensive and thorough investigation" was being carried out, with all car hire reservations "unaffected".

"Clients will be able to collect their vehicles with no issues," the statement said.

At the time of going to press, the company's systems were running and access to all countries was being restored. Call 0800 254 5101 for more information.

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AUSTRAVEL

We have two **£3,000** holidays up for grabs, so how can you get your hands on this amazing prize?

Simply book a minimum of 3 Travelopia holidays from now until 30th September '19 to enter the prize draw.

Valid on package bookings for Austravel, Citalia, Hayes & Jarvis, American Holidays and Sovereign.

The winning holiday is up to the value of **£3,000** and we have two to give away. Holidays can be booked with any of the brands stated above.

10 runners up will also receive a surprise Travelopia prize!

To qualify, please email your name, ABTA number and booking references to incentives@travelopia.com

Winning holiday is up to the value of £3,000 in total and normal holiday terms and conditions apply. No cash alternative is offered. Applicable brands to book from are Hayes & Jarvis, Citalia, Sovereign, American Holidays and Austravel only. The winning agent must travel. ATOL Protected.



#VISITLAUDERDALE

LONDON LIFE

Pictured in front of the #VisitLauderdale mural in Shoreditch, from left: Mellony Styles, Trailfinders; Mark Roe and Jamie Saiz, Graffiti Kings; Tracy Vaughan, GFL CVB; with Graham and Steve, Graffiti Kings.

GRAFFITI KINGS

Check out the Lauderdale-inspired mural turning heads in Shoreditch

THOSE MAKING their way through Shoreditch might notice a new mural on display. It celebrates Greater Fort Lauderdale's vibrant arts scene, as part of the Convention & Visitors Bureau's latest initiative to inspire travel to the US destination.

The 'Visit Lauderdale x London Art Swap' will run throughout this month and sees a collaboration between renowned UK street artists, Graffiti Kings, and local Greater Fort Lauderdale artist Ruben Ubiera. The 'Art Swap' saw the Graffiti Kings travel to FATVillage in Greater Fort Lauderdale to produce a one-of-a-kind mural and the mural created in London's Great Eastern Street is in homage to their experiences while in the destination. Mark Roe

from the Graffiti Kings said: "Greater Fort Lauderdale has been on our radar for a while and we were absolutely buzzing to go out there and check it out. We got to spend time with local legend Ruben Ubiera and experienced all the destination has to offer, from getting up close with gators at Sawgrass, bagging some serious bargains at the outlet mall and eating some banging Mexican at El Camino. We've brought our inspiration and the Greater Fort Lauderdale vibes back to the streets of London."

Tracy Vaughan, the bureau's senior vice president of tourism & travel industry sales, said: "We are delighted to bring together renowned muralists like the Graffiti Kings and Ruben Ubiera on this creative

integrated campaign to highlight what Greater Fort Lauderdale has to offer UK travellers beyond the beach. This is the kind of edgy renaissance that we want to show UK travellers and the world. I am thrilled to share this campaign as a quirky representation of Greater Fort Lauderdale, a place where everyone is welcome."

The campaign included a partnership with Trailfinders which gave website visitors the chance to bag themselves a Greater Fort Lauderdale holiday.

For those inspired to check out more of the destination's marvellous murals, or for more information on the Arts Swap, go to www.lauderdalelondonartswap.com and www.sunny.org

Taxi! to Nova Scotia

TOURISM NOVA Scotia has launched a new London taxi campaign in partnership with Canadian airline WestJet.

With a fleet of 14 branded taxis now on the road, the brand awareness campaign will run for six months and incorporates branded tip seats, receipts and videos showcasing the destination's diverse tourism, covering the themes of outdoor adventures, cultural travel and gastronomy.

Joann Fitzgerald, chief marketing officer of Tourism Nova Scotia, said: "With the London taxi campaign, we're raising awareness of Nova Scotia as a world-class holiday destination. From our lively capital of Halifax to our dramatic coastline, and unique landscapes such as the Bay of Fundy and the Cabot Trail, Nova Scotia has so much to offer. With direct flights, and an exciting array of new experiences for visitors, there's never been a better time to visit us."

Visit www.novascotia.com and www.westjet.com to find out more.

EXPERIENCE BRIGHT LIGHTS IN THE BIG CITY WITH SUPER BREAK

Here at Super Break we have been a short break specialist for over 35 years, and we pour all our knowledge, experience and passion into creating the perfect escape for your customers. From luxurious country retreats and coastal escapes to bustling cities and exciting nightlife – we've got short breaks to suit everyone! Plus, with ABTA and ATOL protection providing piece of mind, you can rest assured knowing that your customers will enjoy their break stress free.

Why not allow your customers imagination to be captured by the capital's amazing attractions, get lost in another world with a show in the West End or discover London's world-class nightlife, live music events at London's O2 arena and much more? Whatever your customers decide to do, just know that when booking with Super Break, we will help you handle all those fiddly extras. The ones that make a short break extra special such as rail tickets, seats at the theatre, organising visits to top attractions – we can help you take care of everything!

Add more fun to a London short break by including tickets to a top experience or attraction. If you look between the skyscrapers, red buses and over the black cabs, London will reveal a playground full of adventures. Walk in the footsteps of royalty at Buckingham Palace, discover London's perilous past at The London Dungeons, be transported to the wizarding world of Harry Potter at Warner Bros. Studio Tour – The Making of Harry Potter, or take in breath-taking views from the Thames on a City Cruise... the capital has plenty for everyone!

Get a slice of the action in the West End, where the story starts, and the magic begins. See all the best plays and musicals on the biggest stage of all with dazzling productions, stunning stage-sets and fantastic musical arrangements. Offering everything from the all new 'Come from Away' and 'Rip it up' to classics and customer favourites like 'Disney's The Lion King' and Cameron Mackintosh's 'Les Misérables', you're sure to find the theatre show they're looking for.

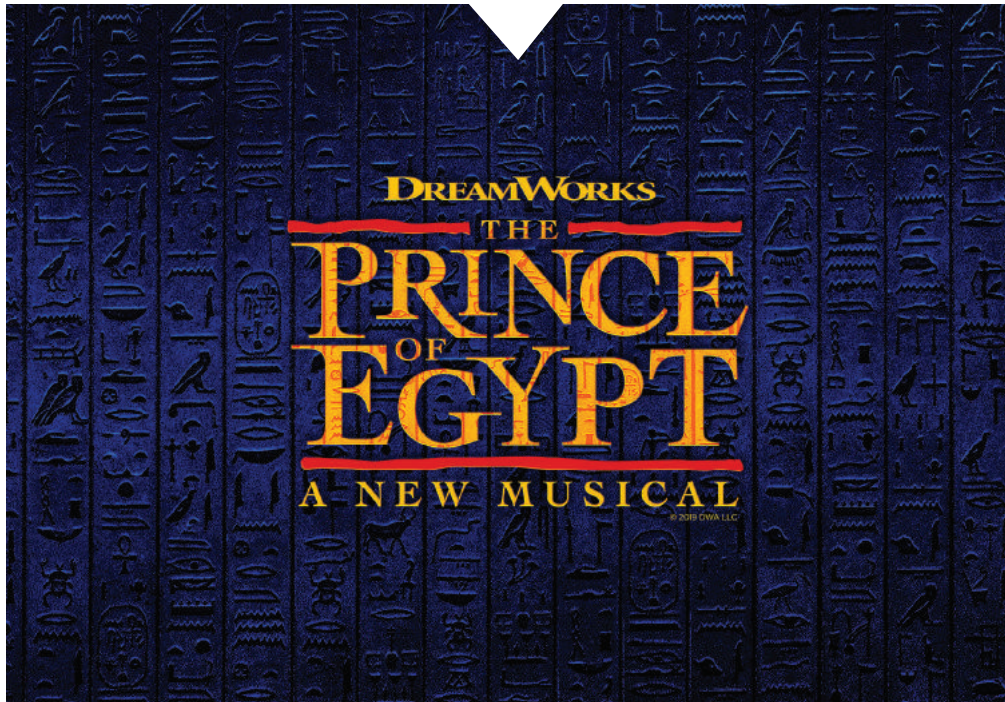
And travelling to London couldn't be any easier. In just a few easy steps you can book National Express Coach travel from an array of convenient pick up stops across the UK, or UK rail from a local station with reserved seats in no time. Plus, when adding rail to a hotel booking with Super Break, your customers can save up to 50% on standard rail fares.



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Email Sales@SuperBreak.com or visit www.SuperBreak.com/TravelAgent to find out more.

WHEN YOU BELIEVE

The Prince of Egypt comes to London's West End for February 2020



A NEW musical based on the celebrated DreamWorks Animation film 'The Prince of Egypt' is to open at London's Dominion Theatre for a 32-week engagement.

With an official premiere scheduled for February 2020, audiences will be taken on a journey through the wonders of ancient Egypt and watch as the stories of two young men, raised as brothers, unfold – one must rule as Pharaoh, the other must rise up and free his true people.

'The Prince of Egypt' will feature ten new songs written by Stephen Schwartz (who composed the hit musical Wicked at London's

Apollo Victoria Theatre), together with five of his acclaimed songs from the DreamWorks Animation film, including Deliver Us, All I Ever Wanted, Through Heaven's Eyes and the academy award-winning When You Believe. It is to be directed by Scott Schwartz and choreographed by Sean Cheesman.

Tickets are now on sale for dates between February 5 to September 12, 2020. Performance times for Monday-Saturday are at 19.30, matinees on Thursday and Saturday at 14.30.

Go to www.ThePrinceOfEgyptMusical.com to find out more.

Take me out to the ball game

THE EXCITEMENT and pageantry of America's national pastime came to London when two of the biggest names in baseball went head to head at London Stadium.

Marking the first time a Major League Baseball series has been played this side of the Atlantic, the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees made their London debut at the end of June. The rivalry between the two teams is one of the most notorious in American sport, spanning 119 years and over 2,000 games, with the Yankees staving off a late Boston rally to take the win this time in front of a crowd of more than 60,000.

The popularity of the event heralds a growing international fanbase and taps into the growing demand for sports tourism. It presents a great opportunity for agents to help their clients experience some of these authentically American sporting experiences. Massachusetts, for example, is home to the Red Sox and Fenway Park, one of the oldest Major League Baseball stadiums. Tickets to a game and a stadium tour for visitors to Greater Boston can be found at www.mlb.com/redsox/ballpark. Alternatively go to www.visit-massachusetts.com for more destination information.



A Right Royale afternoon tea

AGENTS CAN now add 'A Right Royale Tea Experience' to Super Break London hotel bookings. This immersive new add-on experience invites customers to join Lord and Lady Right for a traditional afternoon tea of scones, sandwiches and cake paired with immersive comedy and a cast of mischievous characters. With the audience very much a part of the show, actors each portraying an entertaining persona will mingle and interact with diners as the story unfolds.

A package in mid-August costs from £129.50 per person including one night at the Days Hotel Waterloo and a Right Royal Tea experience (based on two sharing).

Go to www.superbreak.com/agents to find out more.

AIR TRAVEL



TAKEOVER MY TRIP

Thomas Cook Airlines puts TV personalities' holiday decisions in your hands

THOMAS COOK Airlines has launched a social media marketing campaign called 'Takeover My Trip', in which the holiday decisions of TV personalities are being put into the hands of its social media followers.

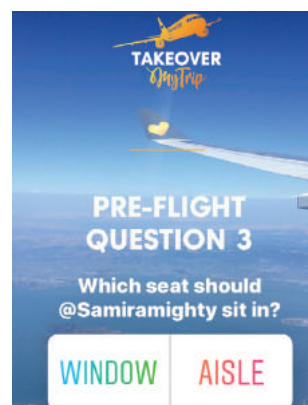
The inspirational three-part travel video series will highlight the airlines' short and long-haul destinations, each targeting a different holidaymaker demographic. Social followers will be asked to make decisions on how each trip unfolds in real time and there will be Facebook live streams from each location allowing customers to feel a part of the journey.

Takeover My Trip began with ex-Love Islander, Samira

Mighty, returning to Palma de Mallorca earlier this month for a stay in Cook's Club Palma Beach, one of Thomas Cook's own-brand hotels aimed at a new generation of travellers. Second in the series is comedian Ben Shires who will go on a long-haul flight to New York in late July to highlight the ease and accessibility of bite-sized long-haul breaks of five nights or less with the airline. These trips are ideal for couples.

Finally, during the school summer holidays in August, ex-CBeebies presenter and family advocate, Alex Winters, will take a family holiday to Antalya, staying at the Paloma Orendo Resort.

Turkey is the holiday brand's second most popular destination this summer, overtaking Greece and only second to Spain, as identified in the Thomas Cook Holiday Report 2019. Turkey accounts for a quarter of all Thomas Cook Airlines flight-only bookings this summer.



More Brits looking to Ljubljana

EARLIER THIS week, British Airways launched its new flight route between Heathrow and Slovenia's capital city of Ljubljana.

The route will run from this month through to September 2 with a flight time of two hours and 20 minutes. BA has launched the flight as a result of a continued increase in the number of British travellers looking to explore what is now regarded as one of Europe's leading green destinations. Last year Slovenia welcomed over 160,000 visitors from the UK, compared to approximately 130,000 in 2017 and less than 110,000 in 2016.

Slovenia's relatively small size means that visitors can easily use Ljubljana, as a base for exploring the country's varied natural landscapes, from the snow-capped Julian Alps in the north to the Mediterranean coast in the south.

For further information go to www.britishairways.com

✓ Fly from the UK to Hartford (BDL) via Dublin

- We're so proud of our 4-star Skytrax rating for our quality and excellence in guest experience.
- Fares to Hartford include 23kg checked luggage allowance, complimentary meals and a great choice of inflight entertainment.
- Our Business Class experience includes fully lie-flat beds, luxury dining and 16" HD touch screens to enjoy top quality entertainment.
- Quick transfer times and US Preclearance at Dublin Airport means you arrive stateside before you even depart.
- Land in the heart of New England and enjoy the ease and convenience of traveling through Bradley International Airport.
- BDL is the second largest airport in New England and has been voted third best airport in the US by Condé Nast Traveler 2018.

aerlingus.com



Aer Lingus



BRADLEY
INTERNATIONAL

TRAVEL TO THE TWIN CITIES

Aer Lingus opens gateway to the Midwest with new flights from the UK

AER LINGUS' inaugural service to Minneapolis-St. Paul has taken to the skies, marking the start of the airline's 16th transatlantic route.

The new service to Minnesota's famous Twin Cities is the latest North American destination to be unveiled by Ireland's flag carrier, as part of its ambition to become the leading value carrier across the transatlantic. The new route will initially operate six times a week, increasing to a daily, year-round service from next month. Up to 2,478 return seats will be available every week.

Sean Doyle, the airline's chief executive officer, said: "We are delighted to commence Ireland's first and only direct service to Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota State. The Minneapolis-St. Paul region holds great promise for Aer Lingus particularly in terms of the connections we can offer to UK and European guests as well as those travelling from North America and onwards to Europe. As a destination, there is both business and leisure appeal and we're pleased to report that we are geared up for a busy summer."

On the inaugural flight, 21% of guests started their journey to Minneapolis-St Paul from the UK, with the majority of travellers flying out of London airports, followed by Manchester and Edinburgh.

Divided by the Mississippi river, North America's twin cities, Minneapolis and St. Paul, have a lot to offer international visitors. Most famously, Minneapolis is home to Mall of America. Located in Bloomington, it is the



largest shopping and entertainment centre in the United States and the number one tourist destination in the entire Midwest, attracting over 40 million visitors each year. A host of outdoor activities and water sports are available, with 13 lakes across the region and over 500 golf courses within the state. The cities are among the top three cycling destinations in America.

Summer fares from the UK to Minneapolis-St. Paul start from £249 each-way, including taxes and charges, when booked as a return trip. Visit aerlingus.com for further information.

Finnair's flight frequency takes off

HOLIDAYMAKERS FLYING with Finnair from Edinburgh and Dublin this winter will have even more seats and flights to choose from.

The Nordic carrier is increasing capacity on its services from both the Scottish and Irish capitals from October to meet increased demand during the winter season. The extra capacity means it will operate up to six weekly flights from Edinburgh and up to nine weekly flights from Dublin to Helsinki, with connections to services across Asia and the Far East departing in the afternoon and evening.

Andrew Fish, the airline's general manager for UK, Ireland and Benelux, said: "The UK and Ireland are key markets for Finnair so we know our customers will appreciate extra flights and more seats on services from Edinburgh and Dublin. We are adding nearly 10% more capacity to the Edinburgh route, which equates to 25 additional flights. Throughout the winter period, our Dublin customers can benefit from an extra 13% – or 168 – flights in total, adding 13,561 additional seats between Dublin and Helsinki." For further information, visit finnair.com or call 0208-0010101.



DELTA AIR Lines is bringing its new cabins to London this November with the launch of a new business class seat, offering more comfort and privacy, plus the introduction of its international premium economy cabin, Delta Premium Select.

The new cabins will be fitted on the 767-400 fleet and bring all four branded seat products – Delta One, Delta Premium Select, Delta Comfort+ and Main Cabin – to this aircraft, and the UK, for the first time. The aircraft have been scheduled to fly from Heathrow to Atlanta from November 13, New York-JFK from November 17 and Boston starting on November 21. By summer 2020, Heathrow services to Detroit, Minneapolis and Portland will also feature these cabins.

The airline is investing millions of pounds in its wide body long-haul fleet to give customers greater choice when they travel. The 767-400 refit follows the introduction of the Delta One suite and Delta Premium Select on its Airbus A330-900neo, Airbus A350-900 and Boeing 777-200 aircraft.

SOUTHERN AFRICA



Soweto, Johannesburg.

Image Source: South Africa Tourism

AWE-INSPIRING AMBASSADORS

'Meet Your South Africa' and its passionate guides

SOUTH AFRICAN Tourism will be bolstering its presence at the specialist African trade show 'Experience Africa' in London next week with Meet Your South Africa ambassadors Charles Ncube and Abigail Mbalo in attendance.

Ncube and Mbalo are two of 12 tourism ambassadors who have been selected by South African Tourism to front its latest campaign, Meet Your South Africa. The campaign focuses on the destination's main pillars: adventure, wildlife, culture, cities, natural beauty and food and drink. Both ambassadors have in-depth and first-hand knowledge around sustainable township tourism, a theme they will be addressing

throughout Experience Africa.

Abigail Mbalo is the creator and chef behind 4Roomed eKasi Culture, a lifestyle concept based on the four-roomed homes found in the oldest townships of South Africa. Abigail encourages young black women to stay in their townships, rather than move away, and use their work and creativity to elevate and bring positive influence to their homes. Charles Ncube was born and grew up in Soweto and now takes tourists around the city of Johannesburg and to his home township, educating them on the culture and the changes Soweto has gone through to become the place it is today.

All Meet Your South Africa

guides have each been handpicked by the tourism board for their friendliness, charisma and invaluable knowledge and expertise in their fields to connect UK travellers with the people of South Africa. From providing insider tips on local hotspots and wowing holidaymakers with dramatic scenery and exhilarating wilderness activities, to offering authentic local experiences and ticking off bucket list items, such as safari and diving with sharks, the guides specialise in bringing South Africa's best experiences to life.

Agent can learn more about each of them and the campaign at www.southafrica.net/meetyoursouthafrica

Shearings puts 2020 dates on sale

SHEARINGS HOLIDAYS has put the 2020 dates for its 'Classic South Africa' tour on sale.

This 17-day tour will be making its return with select departures throughout next year and prices from £2,729 per person, travelling through some of the most famed routes and wine lands of South Africa.

Starting in Johannesburg and ending in Cape Town, highlights of this tour include: searching for the 'Big Five' in Kruger National Park; visiting the birthplace of Nelson Mandela; travelling the Garden Route; visiting a real Swazi chief's village; exploring Cape Town; seeing the Southern Drakensberg Mountains and the Howick Falls; exploring Durban; calling at an aloe factory; seeing Zululand's Kingdom of the KwaZulu, and more.

This tour includes return flights and resort transfers, all accommodation, 14 breakfasts and three dinners, nine excursions, portage and tour guide. Go to www.shearingsagent.com

A roar-some option for those inspired by the Lion King

IN TANDEM with the much-anticipated movie premiere of 'The Lion King' this week, Titan Travel has launched its best ever prices across a number of its African tours for 2020.

Those inspired by the Disney epic to travel to Africa's vast savannas to admire the majestic wildlife up close can opt for a safari experience before exploring the wider region on one of Titan's escorted tours.

For example, the operator is offering a 12-day 'Sensational South Africa' escorted tour from £2,499 per person. The tour will start



in Johannesburg with a three-night stay in Kruger National Park, one of Africa's largest game reserves, where guests will sleep in the wild with the wild. Known for its high density of wild animals and dramatic landscapes, it makes for a great, time-efficient option to tick off the Big Five. The tour includes 11

night's hotel accommodation, 16 meals and ten excursions. The price also includes the brand's VIP door-to-door travel service, services of a tour manager and Heathrow flights. This is based on a February 13, 2020 departure. To find out more call 0808-239 1428 or visit www.titantravel.co.uk



TRAVEL 2 teamed up with Virgin Atlantic and South Africa Tourism to host a group of agents on a trip to South Africa. Agents stayed at Jaci's Lodges, a luxury safari getaway in the Madikwe Game Reserve, where they were taken out on safari and given the chance to photograph some of Africa's big five.

Camp transformation across Sanctuary Retreats

SANCTUARY RETREATS has completed a major investment programme across its portfolio of camps and lodges in Africa.

In Botswana, Sanctuary Baines Camp, the smallest of the group's properties in Africa, now has a total of six suites thanks to the addition of one new suite in 2019. A contemporary redesign has seen the deck area of each suite extended including a shaded area and popular Star Bath which is now a permanent feature. The Botswana riverside retreat of Sanctuary Chobe Chilwero, on the edge of Chobe National Park which is home to the world's largest remaining population of elephants, has re-launched with new family rooms and 15 redesigned suites scattered across the green lawns.

Improvements have also been made to properties in Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania and Uganda.

For more information visit www.sanctuaryretreats.com

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Southern Africa

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PER CABIN

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CASCADEN LODGE

CASCADEN LODGE

- Luxury outside-facing cabins with panoramic windows
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- Feel one with nature on this unique cruise in Zimbabwe on Lake Kariba

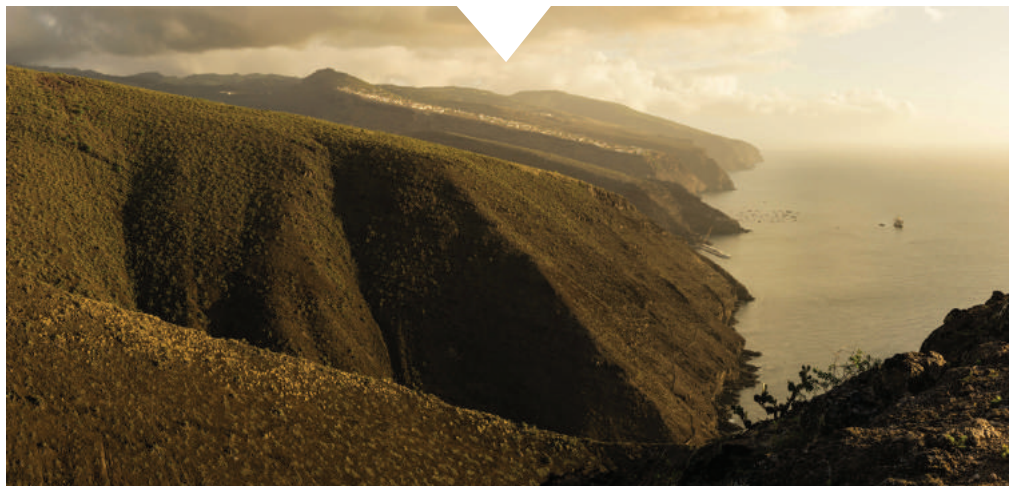
- Deluxe lodge on the banks of the Zambezi River, with a private pool for each bungalow
- Marvel at the splendour of Victoria Falls
- Complimentary Wi-Fi at the lodge

INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS ☎ 0208 3281 281 • <https://pro-uk.croisieurope.com/login-b2b>

* Offer applicable till October 2019 based on double occupancy cabin. Bookings made up to 2 months prior departure. Cruise Promo code: OP_AFRIQUE. IMO67300025. © Shutterstock, Nicky Hoyle, Alexandre Sattler, Eric Vandenberghe

ISLAND ADVENTURERS

Travellers can now explore the remote island of St Helena at a discounted rate



ST HELENA in the South Atlantic has launched a flash sale on return fares with Airlink in July, August and September.

There are also special discounts offered by several accommodation providers on the island, providing visitors with the opportunity to visit the remote destination for a minimum of 14 nights at a reduced rate. The special limited return fares start from £500 and are available from July to September, with the return journey to be completed by September 28.

The island is a haven for walkers with 21 post box walks designed by the St Helena Nature Conservation Group and has a rich history, allowing travellers to get an insight into its role in fighting the slave trade, acting as a Boer prisoner of war site and the major sites associated with Napoleon, including his now-empty tomb. Humpback whales can be

spotted between July and December and those who visit during August might be lucky enough to glimpse them with their calves as they migrate through the island's waters. For any divers visiting the island, they can also be kept busy with eight shipwrecks scattered around St Helena with many featuring articles of archaeological interest.

Visitors to this British Overseas Territory destination can expect to enjoy the hospitality of the Saints (local Saint Helenians) and accommodation providers including The Blue Lantern, Consulate Hotel, Farm Lodge, Harkate Guest House, Mantis St Helena, Richards' Travel Lodge, Somerville Flats and the Town House offer discounts and incentives for visitors.

Visit flyairlink.com and www.sthelenatourism.com to find out more.

Free flights and fly-camping at Kwandwe

FOR CLIENTS seeking an immersive experience in the wild, Kwandwe Private Game Reserve has introduced a seasonal 'Wilderness Walking & Fly Camping Safari'.

The one-, two- or three-day walks follow the Great Fish River which meanders for 30km through the reserve, trekking across its open plains and Karoid bushveld. The day-long walks cumulate at a private fly-camp (camping with extra amenities to elevate it from basic bushcraft) where guests will be welcomed with authentic hot bucket showers and eco-loos to freshen up. With the stars overhead, they will cook around a crackling fire with their guide and enjoy the plentiful sounds of Africa before a night under canvas. As one of the country's largest private game reserves, it is home to the Big Five along with a variety of smaller, less common and endangered species.

Currently, there is a special offer – guests staying in one of the three safari villas can enjoy free return charter flights between Kwandwe and Port Elizabeth (replacing a two-hour one-way drive). This is valid until December 31, on a minimum three-night stay booked at Fort House or Melton Manor or four nights at Uplands Homestead. Visit www.kwandwe.com



Eswatini gets first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

THE KINGDOM of Eswatini is celebrating its first entry into UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Lubombo Biosphere Reserve lies in the Lubombo Mountain Range, which forms the eastern border of Eswatini with Mozambique and South Africa. It is part of the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Biodiversity Hotspot with ecosystems that include forest, wetland and savannah. Moreover, 20 of the 88 mammal species in the area can only be found in the Lubombo region. Significant species in the reserve include Leopard, White Rhino, Tsessebe, Roan Antelope, Cape Buffalo and Suni. Local flora species include the recently discovered *Barleria* species as well as Lubombo Ironwoods, Lubombo Cycads and the Jilobi forest. Numerous conservation and monitoring projects are already in place across the reserve.

For further information, visit www.thekingdomofeswatini.com



EUROPE'S TOP SPOT

Malta recognised as the top European destination for LGBTQ travellers

ILGA-EUROPE has announced that Malta has been ranked the number one travel destination on the Europe Rainbow Index 2018 for the fourth year running.

Out of a total of 49 European countries, Malta has been awarded 90% in recognition of the laws, policies and lifestyles of the LGBTQ community on the Mediterranean island.

First launched in 2009, the European Rainbow Index monitors the positive and negative impacts on the LGBTQ community and considers a range of factors including legal gender recognition, family and marital issues and rights to asylum. Each European country holds

a position on the scale; 100% being the most accurate of respect for human rights and full equality in society, and 0% showing gross violation and discrimination.

2017 saw same sex marriage legalised in Malta, as well as the introduction of gender-neutral passports in 2018. The latter followed Parliament's approval of the Gender Identity Act in 2015 and ensures people are able to have the gender they identify with officially recognised by the State. LGBTQ travel is a strong focus for the country, and Malta has hosted LGBTQ festivals as well as sponsored and supported Pride on the island and overseas.

Peter Vella, the Malta tourism authority's director for UK & Ireland, said: "Malta has once again been showcased as the number one destination for LGBTQ travellers in Europe. The Maltese have a reputation for kindness and excellent hospitality, and this is absolutely reflected in how they welcome all travellers to the island, including the LGBTQ market. Malta holds a unique combination of traditional and historical culture with a contemporary and welcoming mindset towards LGBTQ travellers and our people continue to set an impressive example for other European countries to follow." *For additional information visit www.maltauk.com*

EQUAL recognition

UNITED AIRLINES presented Peter Tatchell, gay rights activist and human rights campaigner, with a United EQUAL award in recognition of his commitment to campaigning for equality over the past 50 years.



As director of the Peter Tatchell Foundation, Tatchell said: "I am honoured and delighted to receive this award from EQUAL and salute its work in supporting United Airlines' LGBT+ staff and the wider LGBT+ community. My sincere gratitude."

EQUAL is United's LGBT+ business resource group committed to fostering diversity and inclusion at the airline and more United employees than ever before took part in this year's London Pride march.

GOD SAVE THE QUEENS



LONDON • ROTTERDAM
AMSTERDAM

Send your clients to the Netherlands
with Eurostar for the Pride celebrations
in August and September.

www.eurostar4agents.com
#prideeveryday

PRIDE ACROSS THE POND

Visit the USA highlights the top ten must-visit American cities for LGBT travellers



JUNE WAS a monumental month for LGBT history in the USA when WorldPride took place for the first time in the States with thousands taking to the streets in celebration in New York City. However, every June sees well-established Pride events take place nationwide, and of course America is a great year-round LGBT-friendly destination. Here are some of the top city breaks you can recommend to clients.

New York City, New York

As host city to the USA's very first WorldPride, New York City is naturally one of the country's leading LGBT destinations. The event this year also marked the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising and the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village is now the country's first national monument dedicated to LGBT rights. Many of the city's great bars are centred near here, but the other boroughs are hugely popular, with New York, a world favourite for LGBT nightlife.

San Francisco, California

San Francisco has celebrated LGBT pride with parades, celebrations and festivals for close to half a century, so it's small surprise that this cultural Californian city is one of the USA's top inclusive destinations. June sees the Fresh Meat Festival, a Transgender and Queer Performance Festival, and Frameline, San Francisco's International LGBT Film Festival, and the city itself is packed with activities, events, books and shops that would enliven any trip.

Washington DC

Filled with lively LGBT-friendly neighbourhoods, the best starting point is DuPont circle, which is packed with cool restaurants and shops, including Kramerbooks & Afterwords Cafe, an independent space with a huge LGBT section.

Elsewhere, Adams Morgan is synonymous with gay nightlife, and during the day the area's independent boutiques are good shopping stops.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Thirty-six rainbow street signs point the way to this East Coast city's 'Gayborhood', in the heart of Midtown Village. The city is home to a number of key events from October's Outfest, which celebrates National Coming Out Day with a block party and street festival, to qFLIX Philadelphia, an independent LGBT film festival which takes place every March. Significant sites include the Barbara Gittings Gay & Lesbian Collection at the Free Library of Philadelphia; Gittings was the 'mother of the LGBT movement' and edited the nation's first lesbian publication, while advocating for more gay and lesbian literature in libraries.

Atlanta, Georgia

Atlanta, or Hotlanta to the locals, is at the epicentre of the LGBT South. The LGBT presence has grown hugely since the first Atlanta Pride Parade in 1970, and this year, the 49th Annual Atlanta Pride Festival will take place over October 11 – 13. It's a city that has a rich culture, filled with festivals, fine dining, brilliant theatre offerings and bars, including Mary's which was voted 'Best Gay Bar' by Out Magazine, and is also home of some of the city's best karaoke.

Greater Fort Lauderdale, Florida

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau is recognised as the only tourist board in the world with a department designed to develop LGBT tourism so naturally, this has made the city one of the most popular destinations for LGBT visitors. Last year's launch of the area's first LGBT visitor

centre has proven to be a big hit, as have the city's golden beaches. Visitors can also head to the World AIDS Museum & Educational Centre, the Stonewall National Museum and Archives, or visit over April 17-26, 2020 for the first ever Pride of the Americas Celebration.

Salt Lake City, Utah

Named the 'Gayest City in America' by The Advocate, the progressive nature and fun vibe of the city is thanks, in part, to Salt Lake's mayor Jackie Biskupski, who is Utah's first openly gay elected official. From cosy cocktail dens to mega clubs, the city's year-round LGBT nightlife is some of the best in America and its annual Utah Pride Festival in June is one of the greatest celebrations in the USA. A similar atmosphere can be found in February during Utah Gay Ski Week, when skiers in rainbow-hued ski suits take to the slopes.

Richmond, Virginia

Virginia's forward-thinking capital has more than 900 restaurants and clubs that are LGBT-friendly, with the city also recognised by The NatWest British LGBT Awards as a Top Ten LGBT city. In terms of LGBT hangouts, visitors can head to the arty Quirk Hotel which has an onsite gallery and rooftop bar; Barcode, a cool bar in downtown which hosts an unforgettable drag brunch; whilst Godfrey's is an institution that's been running for 20 years and is famed for its drag brunch and dining experiences. September will bring with it VA PrideFest on Browns Island.

Baltimore, Maryland

Charm City is just one of the nicknames for Baltimore. In many ways it's a traditional town, but one that has garnered acclaim as a friendly destination for LGBT visitors. It is hometown to director John Waters famous for Hairspray and Pink Flamingo, and a trip around his film locations is just one of the highlights of a visit. Other hangout highlights include



an evening at Flavor, an LGBT-owned restaurant and bar that serves hand-crafted cocktails alongside sliders and Leon's, one of the country's oldest and continuously operating LGBT bars (the bar itself dates back to the 1890s, while it's been a gay bar since 1957).

Ithaca, New York state

As the largest town around the Finger Lakes, and a gateway to the great outdoors, surrounding canyons and waterfalls it's not hard to see where the slogan 'Ithaca is gorges' came from. While it doesn't have the throbbing LGBT-dedicated nightlife of cities like San Francisco, or the crazy run of events like Salt Lake City, its laid-back vibe makes it a great destination for LGBT visitors. For relaxed nightlife and good conversation, The Watershed on Martin Luther King Jr. Street is a cool spot for cocktails and coffee, and a favourite among all members of the community.

For further information, go to www.visittheusa.co.uk/experience/insiders-guide-lgbt-travel-us

Who is the most interesting person you've met and talked with?



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A psychiatrist who treated Ian Brady.



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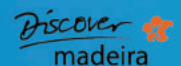
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