

# travelbulletin

July 02 2021 | ISSUE NO 4,176 | [travelbulletin.co.uk](http://travelbulletin.co.uk)

Giving agents the edge

## AGENT BULLETIN

Your chance to win a place on a fam trip around the Greek islands!

## BULLETIN BRIEFING

Tracey Poggio, ANTOR chairman, on travel predictions for the summer

## MALTA

From Roman ruins to a surplus of beaches, our round-up of this Mediterranean gem

## SLOVENIA

Discover the beauty of one of Europe's smallest countries

# GREECE

Our handpicked guide to the islands and beyond



# travelbulletin

## SHOWCASES

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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TOURIST  
BOARD



Land of Creation



VOYAGES



Malta  
Tourism Authority

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

## TRAVEL BULLETIN'S MEDITERRANEAN SHOWCASE

MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021

Mercure Box Hill Burford Bridge Hotel, Dorking

### TIMINGS

#### SESSION 1

10.00am: Registration  
10.15am: Exhibitor Presentations  
12.00pm: Light lunch in the hotel grounds  
12.30pm: Event ends

#### SESSION 2

12.30pm: Registration  
12.45pm: Exhibitor Presentations  
02.15pm: Light lunch in hotel grounds  
02.45pm: Event ends

Agents, join the Travel Bulletin team and leading Mediterranean suppliers our FIRST in-person event of the year!! Where you can discover all that the Mediterranean has to offer through live presentations and Q&A sessions. Learn how to deliver your clients their dreams from fabulous destinations to once in a lifetime experiences'.

To confirm your place at this amazing event,  
email your **name, company and contact details** by **Monday 5th July 2021** to:  
**events@travelbulletin.co.uk** or Telephone: **020 7973 0136**  
**Along with which session you would like to attend.**

**THIS EVENT IS BY INVITATION ONLY**

**and will be booked on a first come first served basis with limited space available.**

Please note all government COVID-secure guidelines will be followed to ensure the safety of our guests.

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### MALTA & GOZO

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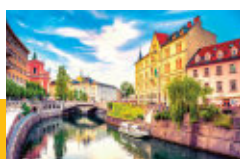
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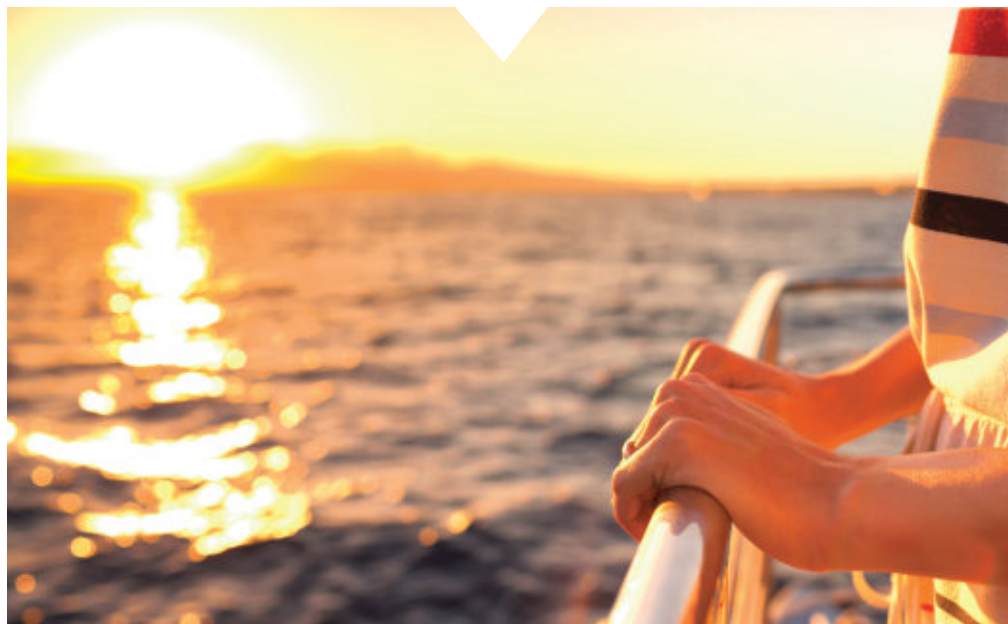


### SLOVENIA

A spotlight on this Central European country's offerings.

# CRUISE CONTROL

A survey by cruise.co.uk has found that UK cruisers seek more time at sea, as bookings for longer sailings surpass levels seen in 2019.



Demand for extended cruises has increased by 10% this year compared to 2019.

UK GUESTS' bookings for longer cruises, totalling at least 21 nights at sea, have overtaken pre-pandemic levels.

Cruise specialist cruise.co.uk has seen demand for extended sailings increase by 10% this year compared to 2019. Voyages of three weeks or more often include worldwide destinations and hotel stays and tours either side of sailing, allowing guests to make the most of their time away.

Sailings to Pacific islands such as Bora Bora, Tahiti and Hawaii have seen the biggest spike in popularity.

Other, more extensive itineraries proving popular with UK guests include a 30-

night tour of the far east, including Singapore and Tokyo; 27 nights in Australia and New Zealand; and, a 37-night 'Pacific Paradise' sailing to Fiji, Vanuatu and Hong Kong. All are set to sail in late 2022 and 2023.

Longer cruises can include a greater variety of port calls as there's more time to reach different destinations, with the added bonus of larger ships with more facilities.

Cruise lines will often offer additional incentives to long-term cruisers, such as free drinks, complimentary wi-fi, a door-to-door luggage service, valet laundry and inclusive tips.

Tony Andrews, deputy managing director of

cruise.co.uk, said: "Guests are increasingly booking for longer periods of time away to really make the most of their holiday after so much time indoors. It's clear there is a real appetite for extended cruises, in part because our opportunities to travel have been so limited for nearly 18 months now.

"Extended cruises are a fantastic holiday option; not only will you enjoy a wonderful time onboard and at the various stops your ship calls at, but there's also the opportunity to explore your destination on land both before and after sailing."

For more information go to [www.cruise.co.uk](http://www.cruise.co.uk)

travelbulletin

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[www.travelbulletin.co.uk](http://www.travelbulletin.co.uk)



## Classic Package Holidays unveils first ever brochure

CLASSIC PACKAGE Holidays, the agent-only online operator, has unveiled its first ever brochure featuring 18 destinations, with flights from up to 26 UK airports.

The new brochure highlights over 140 properties from the operator's total programme of over 3,000 hotels. Destinations featured range from the Canaries to the Caribbean, the Mediterranean to Mexico and North Africa to Dubai, with seven-night holiday deals starting from £209.

Prices quoted in the brochure include luggage and transfers, and all featured hotels cater for the couples, singles, groups and adult-only markets.

A selection available in the brochure will appeal to the family market, with budget



The new brochure features 18 destinations across the world.

all-inclusive offerings and a varied choice of properties offering facilities including waterparks and children's clubs.

Si Morris-Green, director of agency sales and marketing, said: "...this digitalised brochure will be the first of many and there are plans to print future editions. Travel

agents have had it really tough, but there is optimism, thanks to the vaccine programme, and it's great that we are ready to help meet the pent-up demand with a wide-ranging, great value product which is only bookable through agents."

[www.classic-package.co.uk](http://www.classic-package.co.uk)

## Newmarket Holidays launches new offerings

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS has launched its latest 'Holidays and Tours Collection 2021-23' brochure.

The portfolio showcases a total of 15 new tours as part of the range of holidays that now feature dates into 2023.

Richard Forde, head of trade sales, said: "Our agent partners respond quickly when we expand our date ranges. To meet their changing customer needs in the last year, we started by adding more capacity to 2022 and going deeper into the year. That same trend is pushing

though now so we have come to market early with dates through to the end of 2023. It is a really positive move by the company..."

An example of a popular trip in the brochure is 'On Safari in South Africa, Mabula Lodge'. This 10-day experience features six safaris into the Mabula Private Game Reserve, plus a host of activities where guests are accompanied by game reserve experts. Prices start from £1,899 per person.

[www.newmarketholidays.co.uk](http://www.newmarketholidays.co.uk)

## Riviera Travel offers Prague extension on Danube river cruise

RIVIERA TRAVEL is offering a three-day Prague land stay option on select 2022 'Blue Danube' river cruises, meaning guests now have the choice of an eight- or 11-day break.

Those guests opting to visit Prague can now extend their holiday by staying at a city centre hotel, situated on the Vltava river, offering easy access to the city's main tourist hotspots.

From there, guests can take advantage of excursions including guided tours of the castle district, old town and a local brewery. Leisure time to explore Prague independently, as well as a visit to the nearby city of Brno as part of the transfer to the Czech capital, is also allocated.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

The first extended Prague cruise will sail on April 14, 2022, with six other departure dates also available.

Prices for the extended Prague cruise start from £2,068 per person, including return flights and transfers, all meals and on-board Wi-Fi. The eight-day cruise is available from £1,489 per person.

[www.rivieratravel.co.uk](http://www.rivieratravel.co.uk)



Image Credit: Princess

## Princess Cruises to resume US sailings

PRINCESS IS announcing its intent to return to service in the United States, sailing from Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Ft. Lauderdale this autumn.

Sailing between September 25 and November 28, 2021, cruises onboard eight Princess MedallionClass ships will once again take guests to the Caribbean, Panama Canal, Mexico, Hawaii, and the California Coast.

Princess Cruises' 2021 sailings are available for guests who have received their final dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days prior to the beginning of the cruise and have proof of vaccination.

[www.princess.com](http://www.princess.com)

## Responsible Travel launches dedicated collection for travel agents

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL has launched a collection of over 1,000 holidays spanning over 80 countries, exclusively for the travel trade.

The collection is available to book now via the Responsible Travel website, with on-the-phone assistance from the company's travel advisers also available.

Responsible Travel is working with 75 of its partners to bring the collection to the market, and offers 10% commission on bookings for agents.

Trips particularly suit active travellers wanting to support communities and bring themselves closer to nature.

Sub-categories within the holiday collection include: active; adventure; accommodation only; cruises; cycling; volunteering; walking; wellness; wildlife; and, winter holidays.

Tim Williamson, director of customer services, said: "...we're excited to be able to offer a large and unique, dedicated collection of holidays to travel agents. We know that more and more agents are asked about planet-friendly travel options and this



The trips particularly suit active travellers.

collection has a vast range of community-focused, nature-friendly holidays to choose from. We look forward to working with agents and together, making a difference to the future of travel and tourism."

[www.responsibletravel.com](http://www.responsibletravel.com)

## Meliá Hotels International to open Urban Hotel in Chiang Mai

MELIÁ CHIANG Mai, a 260-room urban hotel towering over River Ping and Night Bazaar in the heart of Chiang Mai, Thailand's mountainous north, will open its doors in the fourth quarter of 2021. Owned by Asset World Corporation (AWC) and launched by Meliá Hotels International, the five-star hotel is part of the Meliá brand's roll-out plan in major destinations across Thailand. The hotel will occupy a 22-floor tower fronted by an adjoining seven-floor podium building. It will offer two restaurants, two bars, two lounges, Meliá's signature YHI Spa, swimming pool, ballroom, and more for guests

[www.melia.com](http://www.melia.com)

## Holland America Line announces Autumn Cruise 2021

HOLLAND AMERICA Line is gearing up to restart cruising out of the Port of San Diego in California, beginning with a season of cruises to Mexico, Hawaii and along the California coast, aboard Koningsdam and Zuiderdam.

The cruise line has expanded the season with the addition of six new cruise departures for Zuiderdam and two new cruises on Koningsdam, offering a total of 40 cruises from San Diego from September 2021 to April 2022.

With the resumption of service on the West Coast, Holland America Line also is looking ahead to cruising four of its ships in the Caribbean. All sailing roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the season will begin on October 23, 2021 with Nieuw Amsterdam. The ship will be joined by the new Rotterdam November 3, Eurodam on November 14 and Nieuw Statendam on November 21.

Holland America Line cruises in 2021 are available for guests who have received their final dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days prior to the beginning of the cruise and have proof of vaccination. The company is cancelling cruises in Asia, Australia and New Zealand and South America through the remainder of 2021, along with the Collectors' Voyages (combined cruises) associated with those departures. This affects itineraries on Noordam (Asia), Oosterdam (Australia) and Westerdam (South America). In addition, autumn sailings through the end of 2021 on Volendam and Zaandam are also cancelled. Guests currently booked on cancelled departures will be moved automatically to a comparable 2021 voyage or an equivalent 2022 departure at the current per day fare paid and in the same or equivalent stateroom category. They may also opt to receive a Future Cruise Credit of 110% of any cash paid that will be placed in the guest's loyalty account. Any guest on a cancelled voyage also can request a full refund of all money paid to Holland America Line.

[www.hollandamerica.com](http://www.hollandamerica.com)

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## AGENT INSIGHT

### SARAH WATTS NOT JUST TRAVEL

WITH ALL the recent news about changes to the travel traffic light system, with Portugal coming off and others being added on, it can be easy for agents to feel a bit overwhelmed.

We are all working so hard to help customers, whether it is to have a staycation-style holiday in the UK, or further abroad, this year or next year. Personally, I have been focusing on 2022 and 2023 bookings and making sure my customers know where I am if and when they feel ready to book their next holiday.

At this time, it's really important to make sure you are visible – you never know when your ideal client might be watching or listening and so it's critical not to shy away.

I have worked incredibly hard over the last year to build a good relationship with my local radio station. I have helped them out with lots of comments and now the team come to me to ask about the latest developments whenever something happens in the world of travel. For me, it's about being authentic and giving the listeners, who are potential customers, genuine information that will help them.

I think it's important that potential customers know you are a person too – going through the same ups and downs as they have been this last year. It's about getting that critical message across, being honest, informative and helpful, as well as giving good advice that they will remember.

People will remember good advice and tips that helped them, and they will come to you when the time is right. I have already had a few people reach out to me following the interviews just to say hello, and that once they want to travel again, they will book with me.

So, I'd say, now is the time to get out there and be visible – you never know when your ideal client will be listening.

*Sarah Watts runs her Not Just Travel consultancy:  
<https://sarahwatts.notjusttravel.com/>*



THE FAROE Islands have remained on the UK's green list for travel, but the Danish government has only recently announced it will admit British visitors to enter quarantine-free. Regent Holidays has highlighted its five-day 'Express Fly-Drive' Faroe Islands option from £1,045 per person, including return flights from Edinburgh, four nights' accommodation, and car hire. [www.regent-holidays.co.uk](http://www.regent-holidays.co.uk)

## Fly from regional UK airports with KLM and Sandals Resorts

PREPARING FOR increased winter demand upon the resumption of leisure travel, Sandals Resorts has partnered with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, offering flights to 13 UK regional airports (via Amsterdam) to Barbados.

The airline is adding Barbados as part of six long-haul destinations that are set to join the airline's winter schedule this year, which will kickstart in October. The new service to Barbados will depart from Amsterdam three times a week, on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

13 regional connections will be available, with departures from Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Humberside, London City, London Heathrow, Manchester, Teesside, Newcastle and Norwich, for connections via Amsterdam.

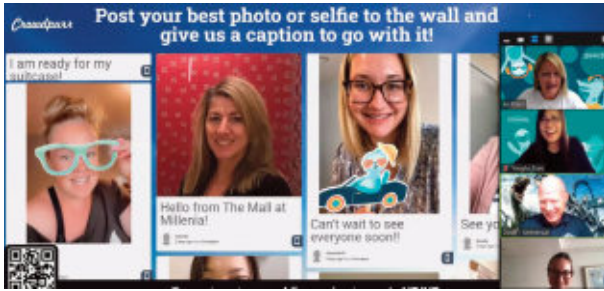


**Regional connections will bring guests from 13 UK airports to Sandals' Beaches and Resorts in Barbados.**

The route is now available via Unique Caribbean Holidays Ltd., with departures from October 16, 2021.

Holidays can be secured and guaranteed with a £175 per person deposit, with the full balance due 71 days before departure.

[www.sandals.co.uk/tas](http://www.sandals.co.uk/tas)



**EXPERIENCE KISSIMMEE** hosted a virtual training FAM for 300 agents across the UK and Ireland. Held over three days (June 8-10), for an hour a day, the agents were given access to partners including Jeeves Florida Rentals, Seaworld Orlando, Universal Orlando, Walt Disney World Resort, Gatorland and many more. The interactive event also included experiential elements, including a safari at Wild Florida and a yoga session at an Encore Resort holiday home.

## AGENT TRAINING

**RIVIERA NAYARIT**, located on Mexico's Pacific Coast, has launched the Riviera Nayarit Showcase, an online training portal dedicated to UK travel agents. The aim of the portal is to provide support for agents, to improve destination knowledge, and provide all of the necessary information for autumn-winter season sales and beyond. The portal will offer practical information, including images, videos, hotel fact sheets, maps, and more. [www.rivieranayarit-showcase.com](http://www.rivieranayarit-showcase.com)

**VISIT JERSEY** has announced the launch of its brand new initiative 'Visit Jersey Updates', inviting travel industry members to a series of monthly Zoom sessions to learn about Jersey's news, travel updates and entry requirements. The aim of each session is to provide agents with the latest update on the island's entry requirements and procedures prior to and post travel, as well as notifying them of upcoming events and activities taking place. Agents can register their interest here.

## AGENT INCENTIVES

- IN HONOUR of National Travel Agent Day 2021, set to take place on July 23, Intrepid Travel is offering travel agents the chance to win a range of incentives and earn some holiday discounts. As part of the celebrations, agents will also have the chance to win a place on Intrepid's first ever UK fam trip. Register your interest here: [www.intrepidtravel.com/uk/national-travel-agent-day](http://www.intrepidtravel.com/uk/national-travel-agent-day)
- EXPEDIA TAAP is offering agents the chance to get an instant upgrade from standard to silver tier, meaning that travel advisors can earn up to 1% more commission on all accommodation, prepaid car rentals and activity bookings made during the promotion period. Secondly, with every eligible booking made till end of July 2021, agents have a chance to win one of the following luxury Fortnum & Mason hampers: the grand prize winner will receive a £750 Monarch hamper; four agents will win £500 Globetrotter hampers; and, five agents will win £250 Celebration hampers. Click here for more.
- AS CELESTYAL Cruises returns to the seas, the cruise line is offering agents the chance to win a place on a fam trip around the Greek islands on the three-night 'Iconic Aegean' voyage. The round-trip from Lavrion, Athens, will depart on October 8, 2021, showing agents a number of the most popular Greek islands, as it calls at Mykonos, Kusadasi, Patmos, Heraklion and Santorini. Eight agents will be lucky enough to join the Mediterranean experience, and will be joined by a Celestyal Cruises host. To enter, agents need to sign up to Celestyal Cruises' Facebook page here by July 17, 2021, and email answers to the following question: 'What is the name of Celestyal's newest ship?' to [p.moschidou@celestyal.com](mailto:p.moschidou@celestyal.com). The winner will be notified on July 19, 2021.



Image Credit: Celestyal Cruises

**THE UK & Ireland chapter of the Pacific Asia Travel Association, (PATA)**, has announced a series of virtual training quizzes and bingo events throughout the summer. A number of guest hosts will join, with representatives from Tourism Australia, Cook Islands Tourism, Hong Kong Tourist Board, Tourism Thailand, Macao, and AAT Kings. The hour-long quizzes will consist of 20 questions about the Asia Pacific region and last approximately an hour. Agents can register for free here.

## travelbulletin COMPETITIONS!

Win a World Duty Free hamper with Birmingham Aiport, filled with goods worth up to £100.

For all competitions, visit <https://travelbulletin.co.uk/competitions>

## The travel trade unites for #TravelDayOfAction

TO VOICE their frustrations and unite as an industry, trade bodies, agents, and operators came together in Westminster for the #TravelDayOfAction.

Agents were showing their support for an industry-specific financial backing scheme, furlough extension, and clarity around the traffic-light system decisions made in recent weeks.

Carly, from Premier Holidays, said: "It's so important to come together and stand as a united industry – standing together is so inspiring."

"I think we all need a lift as well – we need to be heard, because nobody seems to be listening. Other industries have had plenty more support than us. Yes, there are a lot of sectors that have struggled hard during this pandemic, but travel's



Trade bodies were joined by agents, operators and industry staff.

struggles don't seem to be going away anytime soon," Carly concluded.

Joining with a coach load of agents from the North-West, Carol from Kirkham Travel, explained: "We've come to show the Government that we need help to survive. We'd like sector-specific support and extension of furlough. We're here to save our industry."

Emma Brennan, head of PR at ABTA, added: "We hope the Government will listen, there are a lot of people here that are dependent on travel for their jobs and their livelihood – the Government needs to recognise the value that travel brings to the economy at a whole, it supports hundreds and thousands of jobs..."

## Jet2 resumes Jersey flights and holidays programme

JET2.COM AND Jet2holidays have welcomed customers back onboard again, as the leisure airline and tour operator restarts flights and holidays to Jersey for summer 2021.

The service's first flight departed from Leeds Bradford Airport to Jersey on June 24. The companies' inaugural flights to the destination, from Birmingham, East Midlands, Manchester, Newcastle and London Stansted Airports, all departed on June 26, 2021.

The companies will operate to the Island from six UK bases this summer, with flights

and holidays all resuming in time for the peak summer season.

Birmingham, Newcastle and East Midlands offer weekly Saturday services, Leeds Bradford and Manchester offer three weekly services on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, with London Stansted running two weekly flights on Tuesdays and Saturdays, with this summer schedule running until September 25, 2021.

[www.jet2.com](http://www.jet2.com) / [www.jet2holidays.com](http://www.jet2holidays.com)

## Metropolitan and Hurtigruten set course for Galapagos

METROPOLITAN TOURING and Hurtigruten Expeditions have partnered for a Galapagos cruise, setting sail from January 2022.

Metropolitan Touring's 90-guest MS Santa Cruz will visit some of the archipelago's most iconic sites along the way. The ship will see a full series of renovations and upgrades, with Hurtigruten adding its signature Science Area for guests to gain a deep understanding of the Galapagos' natural marvels.



"This partnership brings together two companies that combine the best of two worlds: Hurtigruten Expeditions as a global player with an excellent reputation in expedition cruises, and our long history, deep knowledge and amazing, experienced teams working in the Galapagos Islands." Metropolitan Touring CEO Paulina Burbano de Lara says.

The cruises are carbon neutral; guests contribute to the protection of Ecuador's biodiversity when sailing with the two operators.

[www.metropolitan-touring.com](http://www.metropolitan-touring.com) / [www.hurtigruten.com](http://www.hurtigruten.com)



## CLIA appoints Ben Bouldin as UK & Ireland chair

ROYAL CARIBBEAN Cruises' vice president EMEA, Ben Bouldin, has been appointed as the chair of CLIA UK & Ireland, taking over the role held by Tony Roberts, the vice president of Princess Cruises UK & Europe, who has held the post for three years.

Andy Harmer, CLIA's UK and Ireland managing director, said: "We are delighted to announce that Ben will take on the position of chair. His expertise and influence will ensure the cruise industry continues to lead the way as opportunities to travel further open up."

[www.cruising.org](http://www.cruising.org)



SUDOKU

### Win a £50 M&S voucher in the *travelbulletin* Su Doku prize puzzle A

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, July 15. Solution and new puzzle will appear in the next issue.

**The winner for June 18 is Mike Richardson from Villair Travel.**

**June 18 Solution: A=3 B=4 C=6 D=5**

	8		1		3		6	9
9	3	2		6				8
5		1			2			4
<b>B</b>	4		5		7	3		
				8				
<b>C</b>		7	4		6		9	
1			9			6		5
4				7		9	1	3
<b>D</b>	6	9		3		1		4



## WHERE AM I?

An archipelago of four islands, the landscapes are mostly green, rugged and volcanic with pebbled beaches along the coast. Known for a namesake wine, this place has multiple microclimates and is the birthplace of Cristiano Ronaldo.

CROSSWORD

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

1		2		3				4		5
				6						
								7		
8						9				
										10
		11						12	13	
14								15		
		16								
17										
				18						

Across

- 1 Fred. Olsen's flag ship (7)
- 4 Carrier initially, with hub at Václav Havel Airport, Prague. (3)
- 6 Actress who plays The Coroner, Claire \_\_\_\_\_ sounds like a waterbird (5)
- 7 Hobart is the capital, in short (3)
- 8 Former Roman emperor, now the name of a coffee shop chain (4)
- 9 Capital of 3 Down (4)
- 11 Journey involving a number of destinations (4)
- 12 Capital of the Maldives (4)
- 14 SAA is the flag carrier of this country, initially (3)
- 16 Italian city, sounds like a fruit cake (5)
- 17 One of the Dodecanese islands (3)
- 18 Actor George, snubbed by Mr Warburton in favour of toast! (7)

Down

- 1 This item, worn by Barbara Windsor in a Carry On film, was recently auctioned for charity (6)
- 2 City on the Nile, famous for its ancient temples (5)
- 3 West African city (4)
- 4 Largest of the Greek islands (5)
- 5 Major car rental company (4)
- 9 International airport code for 2 Down (3)
- 10 Condor Ferries operate to this island (6)
- 11 The longest river on the Iberian peninsula (5)
- 13 Capital of Jordan (5)
- 14 Cornish resort, sounds an ideal place to enjoy a stick of candy (4)
- 15 Historic and cultural city of the Algarve (4)

Mystery Word: TEXAS Wher am I? - Madeira

Across: 1 BOLETTE, 4 CSA, 6 GOOSE, 7 TAS, 8 NERO, 9 LOME, 11 TOUR, 12 MALE, 14 RSA, 16 GENOA, 17 KOS, 18 CLOONEY  
 Down: 1 BIKINI, 2 LUXOR, 3 TOGO, 4 CRETE, 5 AVIS, 9 LXR, 10 JERSEY, 11 TAGUS, 13 AMMAN, 14 ROCK, 15 FARO.

# Industry insight by...



**Tracey Poggio, chairman of ANTOR, talks about the importance of communicating our way through summer, and preparing for a surge of 2022 holiday booking confidence.**

A FEW weeks ago, ANTOR hosted its annual summer travel trade event. Our members were delighted to meet with agents, maximising the opportunity to build and strengthen relationships with destinations. Working in an environment where travel advice is changing almost daily between jurisdictions, clear communication from official destination outlets, such as tourism boards, remains paramount.

While faced with a complex web of testing procedures and entry requirements, simplification and clarity is at the heart of messaging and has a direct impact on consumer confidence in making the decision to travel. As governments navigate their way through the ebb and flow of the Covid crisis, destinations continue to move forward with their opening up programmes ready to welcome visitors again safely.

For UK travellers, the market remains tightly bound by the traffic light system, which has further enforced the need to keep in regular contact with the destination that you intend

to travel to and return from. Destinations anticipating a move to the government green list this summer and looking to appeal to consumers must show a hardened resilience in an ever moving market place. Communication through the trade and ultimately directly onto the consumer is critical.

This is an industry with a dogged determination to bounce back and while the summer is hard to predict for even the savviest of tarot card readers, there is confidence in the market that

demand for the autumn and 2022 is strong. For the destination marketer defining travel behavioural patterns as travel starts to stabilise is still some way off. Inevitably, the vaccination programme together with the traffic light system, has implemented change for some jurisdictions to their traditional demographic. It has allowed time to consider the product offering and to appeal to both existing customers and to new target audiences, either by age or preferred activity, with a continued

trend in outdoor pursuits, wellness retreats and experiences closer to nature.

At the start of this pandemic, predictions were made around how the crisis could change the industry. 2020 discussion groups talked about building back better and building forward. It will be sometime before we see the full impact of the past 18 months and the way it changes our businesses and daily lives, but it has already shown us to be nimble in our thinking and adaptable to market conditions.

A new generation of traveller is born every day and the human instinct to explore and experience new surroundings remains unflinching and is unlikely to change any time soon. In the week that the boss of Amazon announced his inaugural trip on Blue Origin's New Shepard, hailing a new era for suborbital travel, with Virgin Galactic soon to join the mix, shows the stakes in experiential travel continue to climb. For now, we may face a bumpy path ahead this summer but the future of the travel industry has plenty mileage on the clock yet.

**...the future of the travel industry has plenty mileage on the clock yet**





# MAGICAL MALTA

**See some of the best-preserved ancient sites in the Mediterranean and a host of isolated beaches on Exsus Travel's trip to Malta.**

EXSUS TRAVEL is offering a trip to historical Malta, a chance to discover UNESCO wonders, explore the capitals of Valetta and Victoria, and relax on secluded beaches.

Guests can immerse themselves in Valletta's charm by discovering the sights of the city, including Fort St Elmo and St John's Co-Cathedral, or they can wander round the Upper Barrakka Gardens, a former private garden for Italian knights, and take in the panoramic views over the Grand Harbour.

There is also the chance to hop across to Gozo, known for its extensive churches and historical landmarks, such as the Ggantija Temples, which are older than Egypt's pyramids.

Exsus Travel offers a stay at the Malta Marriott Hotel & Spa, which sits by the seafront



**The holiday includes a hotel stay at the Malta Marriott Hotel & Spa.**

promenade in St Julian's, just metres from the sands of Balluta Bay. The hotel offers several restaurants and bars, and a spa and rooftop pool, where guests can relax in the sunshine.

Exsus Travel offers three nights at the Malta Marriott Hotel & Spa, in a Superior Room on a bed-and-breakfast basis, including return economy flights with

Air Malta from London Heathrow and private transfers, from £1,230 per person. Clients can upgrade to a Deluxe Sea View Room from £70 per person extra.

This price is based on October 2021 departures, and must be booked by July 31, 2021. Valid for travel up to October 31, 2021.

[www.exsus.com](http://www.exsus.com)

## The Islands of Knights with Saga Holidays

SAGA HOLIDAYS is offering a 10-night tour in both Malta and Gozo on its 'Islands of the Knights' itinerary.

This holiday tour includes stays in both Malta, with its historical architecture and warm weather and the smaller island of Gozo, which is famous for its clear seas and snorkelling.

Tour highlights include a morning tour visit to Mosta, where travellers will see the Church of St Marija Assunta, whose unsupported dome is one of the world's largest. The tour will continue to Mdina, the former capital of Malta before the Knights of St John transferred this honour to Valletta.



This option includes a choice of all-inclusive hotels, along with nine excursions included in the £999 per person price.

There is no additional charge for single occupancy.

[www.saga.co.uk/holidays](http://www.saga.co.uk/holidays)

# HISTORIC GEMS OF MALTA

Titan Travel ticks off the 'Historic Gems of Malta' on this seven-day exploration of the island's heritage-based highlights.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

TITAN TRAVEL spotlights the century-spanning history of Malta, from its capital, Valletta, built by the knights of St John, to the ancient Hagar Qim (worshipping stones), dating back to 3600 BC.

Door-to-door transfers bring guests to the five-star Radisson Blu, St Julian's. The seaside town provides a charming introduction to the Mediterranean hospitality Malta is known for, with its promenade of bars and restaurants letting guests kick back and acclimatise to the Maltese sun.

A tour of the capital city, Valletta, awaits on the second day. The walled city packs a host of heritage, hospitality and luxury for visitors to make the most of.

Main Street's popular luxury and boutique shopping district is a draw for worldwide visitors looking to purchase some unique, one-off clothing items while in Malta.

St Julian's is available at guests' leisure for the following two days. Exploration of the island's popular spots, such as Popeye Village

or the lush coastline, is often at the top of the agenda for many.

On day five, even more history is uncovered with a visit the ancient Hagar Qim and surrounding temple complex.

Day six will see a laidback ferry ride to the island of Gozo, with the island's beaches a popular draw for visitors and locals alike.

The tour draws to a close with an active day exploring Mosta, Rabat and Mdina.

Guests will then return to Valletta and fly home, with Titan's door-to-door transfer service.

The eight-day historic adventure starts from £1,399 per person, including four excursions, a number of tours, seven nights' accommodation, international return flights with Air Malta or British Airways from Gatwick or Heathrow with door-to-door transfers, and selected meals.

[www.titantravel.com](http://www.titantravel.com)

## The Phoenicia Malta's wellness-fuelled summer

AFTER WELCOMING fully-vaccinated Brits from June 1, 2021, The Phoenicia, Valletta, is set to debut new gardens, alongside its other offerings.

During three months of closure during the pandemic, The Phoenicia has unveiled a new hub – the Bastion Pool. Open to day-guests, the area includes cabanas and summer events. A summer menu from executive chef Daniel Debattista includes refreshing cocktails.

With the island's almost year-round sun, the Bastion has proven a hit, and The Phoenicia is expanding with striking gardens for guests to navigate as they bask in the Mediterranean sun.



Image Credit: The Phoenicia

"We have always had one goal for The Phoenicia Malta: to become renowned as the leading Urban Luxury Hotel in the Mediterranean. The history and beauty of this iconic hotel provided the stage," said Mark Shaw, owner of The Phoenicia Malta.

Rooms at The Phoenicia start from approximately £140 per night.

[www.phoeniciamalta.com](http://www.phoeniciamalta.com)

## Visit Malta's suggested short breaks

VISIT MALTA has collated a selection of top picks for a short break in Malta, with suggestions from a solo city break or a romantic getaway.

Valetta tops the list, with 320 monuments rendering the city an 'open-air museum'. Statues, fountains and historical buildings offer a wealth of insight into Malta's past and make ideal spots for great holiday snaps.

For a truly European break, the city's quaint shops and cafés make for a great summer stroll, or the main street's branded shops give their visitors a chance to buy some unique pieces while on holiday.

[www.visitmalta.com](http://www.visitmalta.com)



Image Credit: Pixels/locally Abroad

# SELF-GUIDED GOZO

Blessed with a rugged landscape and a spectacular coastline, explore the island of Gozo with Exodus Travel's 'Walking on Gozo' itinerary.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

EXODUS TRAVEL'S 'Walking on Gozo' holiday will see your clients traversing through coastal paths, colourful villages and unspoilt landscapes on the Mediterranean island.

With a temperate year-round climate, the island is perfect for exploring on foot.

A highlight of the tour comes on day three, where travellers will walk via Basilica Ta' Pinu, a Baroque church, and see the stunning cliffs of the north coast. This north-western corner of the island is only accessible on foot, along easy farm tracks. The first stop on this day is the remarkable neo-Romanesque basilica Ta' Pinu, a huge national shrine built on

the site of a miracle in 1923. The route then leads through unique ravine-like wadis to Gharb with its Baroque church, built in 1699, and traditional stone houses. The final stretch takes guests along the striking cliffs of the north coast where they are rewarded with fantastic views across Gozo's famous salt pans.

The price of the five-day guided trip starts from £849 per person excluding flights (and from £1,199 per person including flights). There are weekly departures through July and August running from Saturday to Wednesday.

[www.exodus.co.uk](http://www.exodus.co.uk)

## A taste of Malta

LEARN ABOUT the history of Malta's gastronomy with ToursByLocals' 'A Taste of Malta Private Tour'.

Local guide Victoria will be on hand to guide clients, offering them some of Malta's best produce, from extra virgin olive oil and Maltese honey to a selection of indigenous wines.

Maltese cuisine is the result of a long relationship between the Islanders and the many invaders who occupied the Maltese Islands. On the island, a number of archaeological finds include Roman tools for olive pressing, Roman amphoras for wine transportation and Roman bee hives for honey making.

Guests will be able to discover the traditions of honey making at a bee hive followed by a visit to a local winery for an afternoon of wine tasting.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

ToursByLocals offers the five-hour 'A Taste of Malta Private Tour' from £267 per tour, for up to four people. The tour includes guiding services and a chauffeur driven car.

[www.toursbylocals.com](http://www.toursbylocals.com)



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

## Moving through Malta with Explore

DISCOVER MALTA'S heritage, including Victoria's Citadel, medieval Mdina, 5,000-year-old Hagar Qim temple, Roman catacombs and salt pans on a seven-night, moderate-graded walking holiday with Explore.

Never far from the sea, travellers will hike through a rugged scrub landscape beside dramatic cliffs, past idyllic bays, and along rural inland paths. The group will discover Malta's fascinating heritage and its many historical sights.

Departures are available from September to November 2021, from £990 per person, including accommodation with breakfast, an Explore tour leader and driver throughout.

[www.explore.co.uk](http://www.explore.co.uk)

# FEEL FREE AGAIN

As fully-vaccinated travellers are welcomed to Malta with no quarantine upon arrival, a series of new openings are set to make Malta and Gozo summer hotspots this year.



IF THEY weren't already at the top of guests' European summer favourites, Mediterranean sunspots Malta and Gozo are gearing up for a series of openings this year that are sure to make it a top priority for sunny escapes.

## Embassy Valetta Hotel

The four-star Embassy Valetta Hotel boasts 81 rooms, including family suites and superior rooms. Breakfast on the rooftop terrace followed by a dip in the infinity pool is an ideal way to kick off guests' day in the sun. Rates, including breakfast, start from €125 per night.

The Embassy building hosts six cinemas, a bookshop, coffee shop, and restaurant.

## Mercure, St Julian's

Another four-star opening, this property in the heart of St Julian's offers modern comfort and a central base for island explorations in its

113 rooms. A rooftop pool and restaurant specialising in local delicacies also go down a treat. Rooms start from £65 per night.

## Deep Nature Spa

Re-opening after a five-year renovation, the Phoenicia Malta's Deep Nature Spa offers bespoke wellness treatments for the modern traveller. Additional facilities include a pool, fitness area, salt room, sauna, and steam room.

## Iniala Spa and Pool

Set in the historic vaults of The Iniala Harbour House, the Iniala Spa offers double and single treatment rooms, a steam room, a sauna, a relaxation area, and a heated pool. An array of advanced wellness therapies are available in the spa or guests' private suites at the hotel.

## Malta Tourism Authority's Gozo training course

MALTA TOURISM Authority (MTA) has unveiled a training course for agents, dedicated to the island of Gozo. The course has been designed alongside Gozo Tourism Authority.

The course comprises of seven lessons: 'Introduction', 'History and Culture', 'Where to Stay', 'Exploring the Capital', 'Keeping Active', 'Seasonal Gastronomy' and 'Rest and Rejuvenation'.

Peter Green, MTA's trade trainer, UK & Ireland, said: "We have developed this course to highlight the product and experiences in Gozo. We want to ensure our agent partners have all the information and knowledge to sell Gozo to their clients in 2021 and beyond."



To reward its partners, MTA and Mercury Holidays are offering the chance to win a three-night stay at the Kempinski San Lawrenz Hotel, including flights and transfers. Agents must complete the course and make a booking to Gozo by July 18, 2021 to be in with a chance.

[www.malta-training.com](http://www.malta-training.com)



## Malta goes Michelin-starred with its new guide

MICHELIN HAS announced its Malta Michelin Guide for 2021, with two new additions recently awarded the prestigious gastronomic accreditation.

Visitors can get a taste of fine dining at five restaurants across the island: De Mondion, Noni, Under Grain, Bahia and ION - The Harbour.

Tolene van der Merwe, director of Malta Tourism Authority UK and Ireland, commented: "The island's exciting food scene has been amplified over the past couple of years by the presence of the Michelin Guide; we are thrilled travellers have more Michelin restaurants to choose from."

[www.guide.michelin.com](http://www.guide.michelin.com)



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

## FAMILY GETAWAY

**Oliver's Travels is offering its Villa Thalassa in Crete for those looking to getaway with the whole family, for some fun in the Grecian sun.**

VILLA RENTAL specialist Oliver's Travels' family-friendly Villa Thalassa, Crete, is the perfect choice for those looking to go on a multi-generational holiday.

The property is located in the village of St. Spyridon on the north-east coast of Corfu, where activities, such as horseback riding and boat trips are in abundance to keep families entertained. Nestled amongst four acres of secluded private gardens, the beach and a range of amenities are just a short stroll away.

The bedrooms each come complete with a balcony where guests can enjoy sea views while making the most of the Corfu sunshine. Outside, the large heated private pool is perfect for a dip, while youngsters may choose to challenge one another to a game of ping pong, play



Image Credit: Oliver's Travels

**Villa Thalassa can sleep up to 10-12 people and has a total of five bedrooms.**

on the climbing frame, or make use of the onsite basketball net.

Oliver's Travels offers a helpful concierge service for families, taking the hassle out of organising certain activities. Oliver's Travels' team can arrange a range of services, including private chefs, food delivery, fridge

stocking, childcare, spa treatments, airport transfers, car hire, travel insurance, tours and activities, a maid service and much more.

Summer rates for a seven-night stay starts from £7,456.

Oliver's Travels offers 10% commission to travel agents.

[www.oliverstravels.com/agents](http://www.oliverstravels.com/agents)

### Loving Lindos with Planet Holidays

FOR YOUR clients looking to take a luxury-focused Greek island escape, Planet Holidays is offering a stay at the adults-only, five-star Lindos Blu Hotel in Vlichia Bay on the outskirts of Lindos.

The hotel is built in the style of a hillside amphitheatre, overlooking the picturesque Vlichia Bay. The property itself features a series of terraces that lead down to a sandy beach, villas and maisonettes with private pools, two restaurants, a penthouse sun-terrace, indoor and outdoor pools and an indulgent spa.

Rooms, suites and villas are set amidst the landscape, with private patios looking into a panorama of the Vlichia Bay.



Image Credit: Planet Holidays

Planet Holidays is offering a stay in a double sea view room, on a bed and breakfast basis, from £1,849 per person. The departure date is July 28, 2021, from Gatwick.

[www.planetholidaysoffers.co.uk](http://www.planetholidaysoffers.co.uk)

# GRAND SLAM

**Active Away has partnered with MarBella Corfu, meaning that guests can now enjoy high-quality tennis programmes while staying at the resort.**



Image Credit: MarBella Collection

MARBELLA COLLECTION has introduced a new tennis academy at the family-friendly MarBella Corfu hotel.

In partnership with Active Away, the collaboration will unite MarBella Corfu guests through a shared passion for tennis. Alongside access to expert professionals, guests will be treated to newly revamped tennis facilities and the chance to participate in the exciting new tennis academy.

The new academy will run from May through to October and will include a comprehensive well-being plan, which has been carefully designed with guests' mental and physical health in mind.

With the new Active Away programme, guests will benefit from specialist HEAD branded equipment and court rental, expert tennis lessons, one-on-one coaching, and access to hitting partners and complimentary taster sessions. The MarBella Corfu's tennis academy also provides taster sessions for children alongside family-friendly tournaments.

MarBella Corfu offers tennis lessons from £69 per person, per lesson. MarBella Corfu offers rooms from £117 per double room, per night.

*For more information, visit [www.marbella.gr/marbella-corfu](http://www.marbella.gr/marbella-corfu)*

## Fun for the whole family at Domes of Corfu

SOVEREIGN TRAVEL is offering a family-focused stay at the Domes of Corfu – a newly renovated beachfront resort, situated just a 25-minute drive from Corfu International Airport and Corfu Town.

The hotel is ideal for families, with an abundance of activities to be enjoyed, including The Domesland kids' club. Activities in the club include sandcastle building, water skiing, video game consoles, pool and air hockey. Guests can accompany little ones to the spa for 'Mummy and Me' treatments. With every stay, children will be offered a complimentary snack by the pool bar, daily ice cream happy hour, a surprise box upon arrival, bath amenities, as well as mini bathrobes and sleepers.



Image Credit: Sovereign Travel

Sovereign offers a seven-night stay in Greece, staying at Domes of Corfu on a half-board basis, from £3,999 per family of four. The price includes return flights from London Gatwick, private transfers and airport lounge access. Based on September departures.

[www.sovereign.com](http://www.sovereign.com)



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

## The Best of Greece

FOR TRAVELLERS looking to take a multi-destination trip to Greece, Cosmos' 'Best of Greece' itinerary may be the perfect choice.

The holiday consists of 10 days visiting the best of historic and mythical Greece, as well as learning about the modern aspects of the country. The tour director will show guests around the sights of Athens, Nauplia, Epidaurus, Sparta and much more.

The holiday is priced from £1,169 per person, based on a October 2, 2021 departure date, or from £1,199 per person for 2022 departures, based on a April 16, 2022 date. The price includes nine breakfasts and three dinners, as well as hotel accommodation and coach travel.

[www.cosmos.co.uk](http://www.cosmos.co.uk)



# A ONE&ONLY EXPERIENCE

**Tucked away in a hideaway on the Glyfada seafront, the One&Only Resorts brand is set to open a property in Greece's capital city of Athens.**



Image Credit: Kerzner Communications

KERZNER INTERNATIONAL, the owner of the luxury One&Only Resorts and Atlantis Resort & Residences brands worldwide, has entered into a resort management agreement with Grivalia Hospitality S.A. for One&Only Aesthesis to be developed in Athens, Greece.

The property will take the form of a 21-hectare beachfront estate, within a six-hectare forest reserve.

One&Only Aesthesis will feature a selection of villas with private pools, including the brand's exclusive Villa One concept; multiple food and beverage options inspired by the flavours of Greece; a beach club; a Chenot Spa; and, a six-hectare forest reserve.

The property will offer programming for families with children as well as

adult-only spaces.

The brand said One&Only Aesthesis would "celebrate the legendary Athenian Riviera", with a design inspired by the region's Grecian heritage and natural surroundings, and a palette of natural stone and timber.

Speaking of the launch, George Chryssikos, founder and chairman, Grivalia Hospitality, said: "...One&Only Aesthesis will be on one of the most iconic and cosmopolitan waterfront sites in Athens, originally designed by prominent Greek architects. From its development in the mid-1950s, the bungalows, the beach and the club hosted an array of the local and international jet setters..."

[www.oneandonlyresorts.com](http://www.oneandonlyresorts.com)

## Azamara reveals 2022 voyage to Greece

AZAMARA, THE boutique cruise line dedicated to Destination Immersion experiences, has revealed over 22 European itineraries and three new land explorations, including Greece, for the brand's fourth ship, Azamara Onward.

On the 'Mythological Greece' (five nights pre-cruise, five nights post-cruise) itinerary, travellers will have a memorable journey that is focused on Greek gods, mythology and the rich history of Greece. Guests will visit several archeological sites in Athens, Olympia, Delphi, and Cape Sounion, including the Acropolis and the Sanctuary of Delphi. They will enjoy a traditional Greek folkloric show with live music and dance and a farewell dinner at the Dionysus restaurant beneath the Acropolis.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

Azamara will offer all onward travellers a complimentary 'Experience More Essentials' package, which includes a €251 shore excursion onboard credit, unlimited Wi-Fi for one device, and a Premium Beverage Package for two on select staterooms and suites when booked by July 16, 2021.

[www.azamara.com](http://www.azamara.com)



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

## Gennadi Grand Resort, Rhodes reopens

GENNADI GRAND Resort in Rhodes has reopened its doors, and now offers a host of new, immersive and educational family experiences.

From activities such as traditional Greek cookery classes and salsa dancing lessons, to zoo-inspired yoga with children, beach barbecues, and excursions to surrounding islands, Gennadi Grand Resort has something to suit all ages.

Rooms start from £207 per night, based on two adults and two children sharing a Suite Garden View on a bed-and-breakfast basis.

[www.gennadigrandresort.com](http://www.gennadigrandresort.com)

# ULTIMATE ADVENTURE

**Sani Resort has launched the Bear Grylls Survival Academy, in partnership with adventurer Bear Grylls, encouraging guests to push themselves, learn new skills and get hands-on in nature.**



Image Credit: Sani Resorts

SANI RESORT has announced the launch of Bear Grylls Survival Academy – the first of its kind at a European resort.

Designed by Bear Grylls exclusively for Sani Resort, the courses will teach guests how to survive in the wild through a series of activities, from learning how to build shelters and fires, navigating and signalling for help, and discovering the world of astro-navigation on a night walk through the woodlands.

## Family Course

For children aged eight and above, the Family Course invites families to come together to learn navigation techniques, spear making, stalking and tracking, raft making and catching food in the wild. Guests have the chance to build their own shelter and campfire before settling down for the night; an ideal family bonding experience.

## Teens Course

This is available for 13 to 17-year-olds. These courses teach the priorities of survival, shelter building and scavenging wild food. Teenagers can enjoy independent fun and meet new friends at the Sani Adventure Park.

The Bear Grylls Survival Academy adds to Sani Resort's range of sporting academies, which allow guests to train and learn alongside the best in the world, including the Rafa Nadal Tennis Centre and Chelsea FC Football Academy.

The Bear Grylls Survival Academy is just one of the many developments created especially for families at Sani Resort this year, including the upgraded Little Guests team, which offer new experiences across the Crèche, Kids and Teens Clubs.

[www.sani-resort.com](http://www.sani-resort.com)

## CAYO Exclusive Resort and Spa opens its doors

OPENED FOR its first season, Crete's CAYO Exclusive Resort and Spa is adding to its lodgings with new two- and three-bedroom villas.

Sat at the top of the terraced resort, with a view of the Spinalonga Islet, CAYO's two-bedroom Pool Villas are spread across three levels. The villas boast an unobstructed panorama of the blue waters beneath, a private terrace complete with heated fresh-water swimming pool, and a fully equipped gym. Two spacious bedrooms each house an en suite and cosy lounge.

Set at the very top of the resort, CAYO's Premium Grand Villa has the best views in the hotel. Three bedrooms open out onto a dedicated dining area, and there is an open plan lounge, sauna, gym, and fully equipped kitchen. A



Image Credit: CAYO Hotels

private butler will arrange exclusive experiences, whether it's a private yoga lesson, in-villa spa treatment at Armonia Spa or an indulgent private dining experience. The price to stay in a deluxe two-bedroom villa starts from approximately £837 per night.

[www.cayoresort.com](http://www.cayoresort.com)



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

## Walk this way in Thessaloniki

FOR THE history buffs among clients, Discover Greece offers a walking tour itinerary of historic Thessaloniki.

With more than 2,000 years of history, the city features early Christian churches, Roman relics, Byzantine castles and Ottoman baths and mosques.

The itinerary starts at the iconic White Tower, the 15th century prison, and ends at Thessaloniki's labyrinth in the upper town. The sites here include the Byzantine Bath (one of the best-preserved from this period), the Church of Hosios David (Latomos Monastery) and the Vlatadon Monastery – all of which are UNESCO-protected.

The walk can be completed in one whole day, but can also be spread across two or three days for a more leisurely experience.

[www.discovergreece.com/experiences](http://www.discovergreece.com/experiences)



## LAKE BLEED BLISS

**Fall in love with the great outdoors of Slovenia with Inghams' collection of outdoor wellness and active holidays around Lake Bled, including at the luxurious Hotel Park.**

IDEAL FOR soaking up some culture, treating taste buds or getting active, Slovenia has it all, and Inghams offers a selection of breaks to the hidden European gem.

Slovenia is a treat for foodies, with a wealth of traditional dishes made from natural ingredients or national wines available to try at local festivals, markets, Michelin-star restaurants and tourist farms.

Guests will also be able to get active at the 380 hiking trails, a number of which sit on the shores of Lake Bled.

Beyond the scenic hiking trails, Lake Bled hosts a selection of golf courses, tennis courts, and kayaking and paddleboarding facilities, making them ideal for holidays to bring the family together.

Three nights at the four-star Hotel Park, flying on May 25, 2022 from Luton, starts



**Hotel Park is an ideal springboard for active exploration of Lake Bled.**

from £579 per person, with a seven-night option on the same departure date starting from £878 per person.

Breaks are available throughout 2021, with seven nights half-board with flights from Heathrow on September 4, 2021, starting from £939 per person.

Between June and September, Julian Alps cards are available for all guests staying two nights or more, which offer a 10% discount

on entry to Bled Castle and Vintgar Gorge, a guided tour of Bled every Monday morning, a Bled hiking map, bike rental and a return Chairlift Sraža ride, along with discounts to various local exhibitions and attractions.

All Inghams breaks are now reservable with a £150 per person deposit, along with a COVID-19 refund promise.

[www.inghams.co.uk](http://www.inghams.co.uk)

### **Slovenia: the European Region of Gastronomy 2021**

AS SLOVENIA begins to re-open for tourism, the country has unveiled a 'Slovenian Gastronomy' video that showcases why its an ideal choice for a culinary adventure this year.

The video explores the connection between the country's Michelin-starred chefs and the natural world, including the country's famed natural produce.

A dedication to sustainability across its gastronomic landscape has led to the nation being named the European Region of Gastronomy 2021, making it an ideal time to visit the country's culinary corners.

The video looks at the destination's unspoiled environment, for which foodies have to thank for their unique local ingredients, and a look at Slovenia's winemakers.

Agents and prospective Slovenian holidaymakers can get to know the six Slovenian chefs with the coveted Michelin star, exploring how their relationships with Slovenia help define their culinary creations.

[www.tasteslovenia.si/en](http://www.tasteslovenia.si/en)

# S-LOVE-NIA

While it's often overlooked as a European short break hotspot, Slovenia's diverse offerings make it ideal for any kind of holiday, from a city stay to a natural escape.



WITH A number of Eastern Europe's imperial cities often the go-to short break for many Brits, Slovenia's 'hidden gem' offerings can often surprise guests with a unique charm.

## New for 2021

Slovenia is set to see a range of new developments and openings throughout 2021. Ljubljana has welcomed the five-star Grand Plaza Hotel: a luxurious base for exploring the capital. For the authentic Lake Bled experience, the Bled Rose Hotel offers rustic charm across its rooms and facilities, including saunas to destress after a day amongst the mountains. The country's first glampsite, Pikol Lake Village, allows guests to be immersed in natural surroundings.

## Slovenian vineyards

The world's oldest vineyards in Maribor are responsible for some of the world's most

popular boutique wines, with a number of wine tasting and vineyard tour experiences available. The orange wine produced in the nation's north-east is a favourite for many.

## A two-wheeled Tour de Force

The Vrsic Pass or Trans-Slovenia 1 trail are a big draw for two-wheeled visitors since Slovenia's surprising performance in 2020's Tour de France. For a unique adventure, visitors can take a two-wheeled journey through the subterranean world of Mt Peca.

## A whole host of history

Uncover the nation's unique and often overlooked history in the medieval walls of Piran, or visit the charming medieval town of honey and chocolate, Radovljica. Škofja Loka's handicraft tradition and centuries-old buildings offer a fascinating insight into the nation's past.

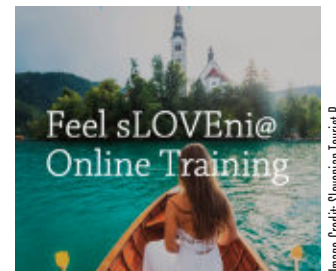
## Slovenian Tourist Board's agent training platform

TO EDUCATE operators and agents on all Slovenia has to offer, the Slovenian Tourist Board has unveiled its 'My Way of Escaping to Slovenia' training platform.

Designed to educate its agent partners, the online platform includes plenty of information that agents will be keen to share with their clients.

Offering a chance to plan a uniquely Slovenian escape, agents can access to a wealth of in-depth information, which they can learn and assess themselves on with basic training materials, tests, and regular assessments.

Virtual visits are also available on the platform, which (combined with the regular assessments) earn agents the title of 'I Feel Slovenia Certified Expert' upon completion.



Maja Pak, director of the Slovenian Tourist Board, said "The online training, in the form of a creative, playful and innovative platform, is an important step towards the further strengthening of the knowledge of travel agents."

[www.onlinetraining.slovenia.info](http://www.onlinetraining.slovenia.info)

## Slovenia ready and waiting for the return of tourism

FOLLOWING THE government's confirmation of Covid restrictions, the Slovenian Tourist Board (STB) is spotlighting its outdoor adventures and luxury experiences.

All establishments are set to follow 'GREEN&SAFE' health and safety regulations, which restrict indoor hospitality in certain areas.

Maja Pak, STB's director, said: "The first steps towards the resumption of tourism give us hope. Active experiences in nature are being highlighted... we also pay special attention to the products including health and well-being."

[www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info)



# SLOVENIA'S SITES

**G Adventures' activity-fuelled holiday to Slovenia will see your clients hiking through woodland trails, partaking in a cheese tasting, and marvelling at the Boka Waterfall.**



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

G ADVENTURES' seven-day hiking adventure, 'Explore Slovenia: Hiking the Julian Alps' offers the perfect opportunity for travellers to slow down and reconnect with nature.

The itinerary includes woodland hikes through the Krma glacial valley, trail walks along the picturesque Soča river, visits to the Savica waterfall, overnight stays on Lake Bled and, for those seeking a dose of adrenaline, plenty of time to enjoy outdoor activities in nature, such as canyoning, kayaking and rafting.

With multi-day hiking, travellers will explore Lake Bled from different angles and viewpoints; learn more about the Slovenian way of life with a honey demonstration with a local beekeeper; get a taste of local cheese in Bovec village and Boka Waterfall; and, enjoy dining in a traditional mountain hut, all while sleeping in the same bed each night.

Prices start from £1,049 per person, with a departure date of October 3, 2021.

For more, visit [www.gadventures.com](http://www.gadventures.com)

## Slovenia's enchanted valley with Inntravel

INNTRAVEL IS offering a single-centre week of walking in the remote Logar Valley, Slovenia.

Travellers will enjoy walking along the valleys and in the mountains, both by foot and via their included hire car, taking in the aptly named Panoramic Road, the beautiful Robanov Kot and the fascinating herdsmen's settlement of Velika Planina.

Included in the holiday is a guided half-day heritage trail to give guests an insight into how the valley's residents have lived and farmed for centuries.

The only hotel within the Logar Valley, the Hotel Plesnik, is a boutique, lodge-style hideaway set beside a waterfall, offering vast views. Rooms are located both in the main building and in an annexe accessible via a covered walkway, and all feature contemporary design and natural materials.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

Meal arrangements include breakfast, plus three dinners and three light lunches.

The price for the seven-night holiday is from £885 per person, based on two sharing.

[www.inntravel.co.uk](http://www.inntravel.co.uk)



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

## Take a dip in Slovenia's healing waters

FOR TRAVELLERS looking to relax and unwind after a stressful year, Slovenia offers a host of health resorts.

Guests will have the option to choose the thermal spa that best suits them, from the Alps to the Mediterranean, the Karst to the Pannonian Plain.

One example of a wellness getaway is at the Villa Aina Boutique Hotel in the Savinja Valley. Activities include time spent at Terme Laško Spa and the Rimske Terme Spa, as well as other wellness experiences.

Prices start from approximately £140 per person, for two people, with breakfast included.

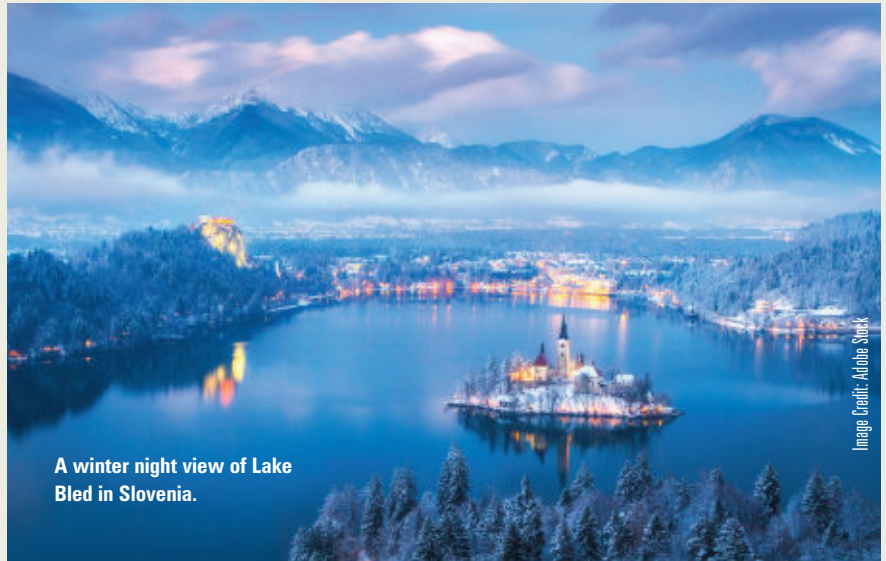
[www.slovenia.info/en/things-to-do/spas-and-health-resorts/wellness-and-selfness](http://www.slovenia.info/en/things-to-do/spas-and-health-resorts/wellness-and-selfness)

## Christmas on Lake Bled

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS is offering a six-day tour package for holidaymakers to celebrate Christmas and New Year on the lakes and mountains of Slovenia. Guests will enjoy a festive light show on the lake, and soak up the atmosphere of Ljubljana, Slovenia's riverside capital.

Guests will visit the Slovenian capital Ljubljana, straddling the River Ljubljanica, with its walkways, bridges and enchanting Old Town dressed for the festive season. They will enjoy a guided introduction from their tour manager and explore a Christmas market, with stall holders selling craft-ware and local produce, and the area offering countless bars and cafes.

As Christmas celebrations begin, there is a chance to attend Midnight Mass, after which tea and cake is served at the hotel. The day includes the chance to view the Legend of the Sunken Bell, a theatrical performance



A winter night view of Lake Bled in Slovenia.

Image Credit: Adobe Stock

set on – and under - the lake's waters. Enacted by divers, the show tells the tale of the island church's and its famous wishing bell. Christmas lunch will be served at the hotel.

When booking up until July 11, customers can save 5% on all holidays. Prices start from £826 per person.

[www.newmarketholidays.co.uk](http://www.newmarketholidays.co.uk)

## Who was your childhood actor/actress crush?



**Jeanette Ratcliffe**  
Publisher  
jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk  
David Soul.



**Bill Coad**  
Account Manager  
bill.coad@travelbulletin.co.uk  
Norman Wisdom.



**Mariam Ahmad**  
Editor  
news@travelbulletin.co.uk  
Pierce Brosnan weirdly enough.



**Sarah Terry**  
Account Manager  
sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk  
John Travolta in Grease.



**Simon Eddolls**  
Sales Director  
simon.eddolls@travelbulletin.co.uk  
Jacqueline Bisset.



**Hannah Carter**  
Events Coordinator  
hannah.carter@travelbulletin.co.uk



**Tim Podger**  
Account Manager - Far East  
tim.podger@travelbulletin.co.uk  
Farrah Fawcett.



**Ashweenee Beerjeraz**  
Events Assistant  
ashweenee.beerjeraz@travelbulletin.co.uk  
Hrithik Roshan.

**EVENTS:** [events@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:events@travelbulletin.co.uk)

**PRODUCTION:** [production@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:production@travelbulletin.co.uk)

**CIRCULATION:** [circulation@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:circulation@travelbulletin.co.uk)

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## EVENTS

Calendar  
2021

### LIVE EVENTS

#### JULY

##### MEDITERRANEAN SHOWCASE

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - Dorking

##### AUSTRALASIA & PACIFIC ISLANDS SHOWCASE

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> - Reading

##### FAMILY HOLIDAYS SHOWCASE

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> - Milton Keynes

#### AUGUST

##### LUXURY HOLIDAYS SHOWCASE

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Bristol

##### LUXURY HOLIDAYS SHOWCASE

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> - Leicester

##### LGBT SHOWCASE

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Birmingham

#### SEPTEMBER

##### NORTH AMERICA SHOWCASE

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - Liverpool

##### ESCORTED TOURS SHOWCASE

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> - Cambridge

#### SEPTEMBER

##### CRUISE SHOWCASE

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> - Oxford

##### ADVENTURE & ACTIVITY SHOWCASE

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> - York  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Chester

##### LUXURY HOLIDAYS SHOWCASE

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - Manchester  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> - Birmingham

#### OCTOBER

##### AIRLINE SHOWCASE

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Glasgow

##### CITY BREAKS SHOWCASE

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> - Sheffield

##### FAMILY HOLIDAYS SHOWCASE

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> - Portsmouth

#### NOVEMBER

##### INDIAN OCEAN SHOWCASE

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Harrogate  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> - Manchester

##### AUSTRALASIA & PACIFIC ISLANDS SHOWCASE

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Oxford

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Giving agents the edge

To find out more information or learn how to take part  
in one of these events, contact your  
Travel Bulletin account manager or email  
[events@travelbulletin.co.uk](mailto:events@travelbulletin.co.uk)

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## SHOWCASES

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

## TRAVEL BULLETIN'S

# AUSTRALASIA & PACIFIC ISLANDS

### SHOWCASE

**WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2021**  
**READING**

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to our Australasia & Pacific Islands Showcase. A fun filled day dedicated to providing you with more information about the diverse range of destinations and tailor-made packages on offer to meet your customers' needs.

You can look forward to engaging in person presentations, Q&A sessions and the chance to win some amazing prizes!!

#### EVENT TIMINGS

**10.00am:** Registration, coffee & biscuits

**10.30am – 12.45pm:** Presentations from 4 leading suppliers | **12.45pm:** Lunch

**1.30pm – 2.30pm:** Presentations from 2 leading suppliers | **2.30pm – 3pm:** Free prize draw

To confirm your place at this amazing event, email your **name, company and contact** details by **Wednesday 14th July 2021** to: **events@travelbulletin.co.uk** or Telephone: **020 7973 0136**

**THIS EVENT IS BY INVITATION ONLY**

and will be booked on a first come first served basis with limited space available.

Please note all government COVID-secure guidelines will be followed to ensure the safety of our guests.