travelbulletin

February 26 2021 | ISSUE NO 4,167 | travelbulletin.co.uk

Giving agents the edge

AGENT BULLETIN

Incentives, training, and all the latest on Saudi Tourism Authority's virtual roadshow

BULLETIN BRIEFING

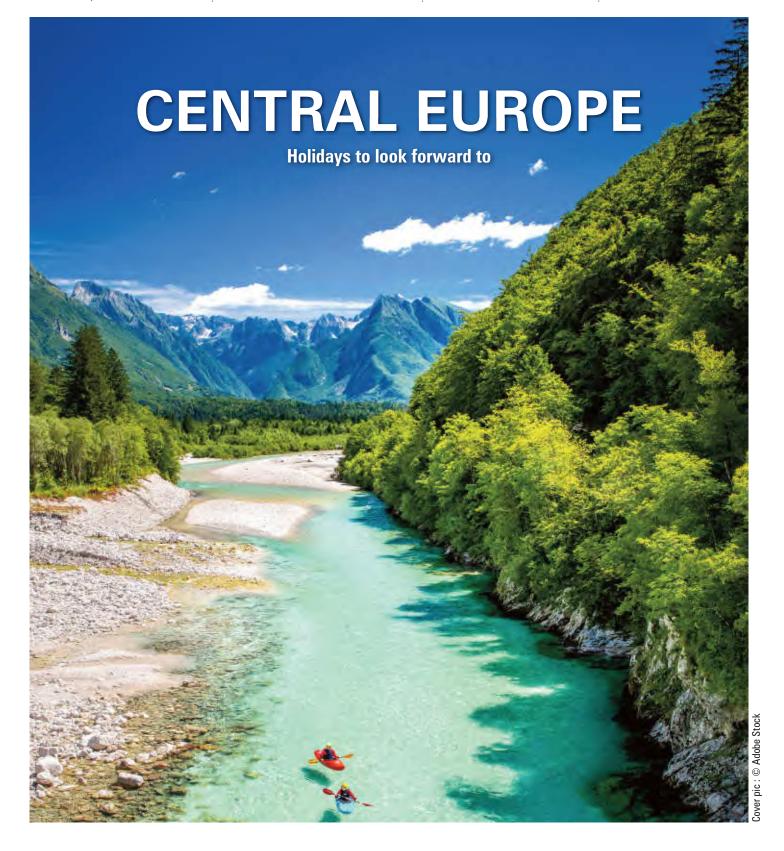
ANTOR'S chairman, Tracey Poggio, on how to best prepare for Brexit

LUXURY

Spa breaks, hotel stays, cruises, and more!

RAIL HOLIDAYS

Help your clients discover the world by rail



travelbulletin

TRAVEL INDUSTRY COLLEAGUES



Have your working conditions changed?

If you have been furloughed, made redundant or are now permanently working from home due to the current pandemic, don't miss out on reading Travel Bulletin magazine!

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THIS WEEK



NEWS

The latest industry developments and announcements



BULLETIN BRIEFING
ANTOR chairman, Tracey Poggio,
on what leaving the EU means for
members and their clients.



MED ISLANDS
From Spain to Greece, who

From Spain to Greece, where to look towards this holiday season.



LUXURY

Regent Seven Seas shares two new luxury-focused itineraries and more.



RAIL HOLIDAYSExciting excursions, sightseeing opportunities and deals to avail.



CENTRAL EUROPEWhy the Balkans should be your client's next holiday destination.

SILVER LINING

In a joint survey, The Advantage Travel Partnership and Silver Travel Advisor have found that travellers over the age of 50 are particularly keen to book their next holiday.



77% of those surveyed said that they would be confident to travel after receiving a vaccine.

THE ADVANTAGE Travel
Partnership and Silver Travel
Advisor jointly conducted a
consumer travel survey,
which found that people
over the age of 50 are
enthusiastic to travel again,
especially after receiving the
vaccine.

The research survey, completed by 477 respondents over the age of 50, found that 94% of people are planning to have the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible, and 77% are of the opinion that receiving the COVID-19 vaccine will give them the confidence to book and travel again within the next six months.

In fact, 46% of respondents said that they planned to travel as much as possible once they are vaccinated, which demonstrates that silver travellers will be leading the recovery of travel this year.

The survey also examined the spending habits for future trips, and found 60% of respondents believing that their budget would remain unchanged, while 26% of people intended to spend more to make up for holidays that have been missed.

The results speak of real opportunity for travel agents and the chance to harness silver travellers' desire to travel and their potential spending power over the coming months.

Almost half (49%) of respondents said that they booked with an agent because of the advice and expertise that they offer, while (42%) preferred the reassurance and help on offer if needed; and 38% of those surveyed felt that financial security was the primary reason.

Of those who were willing to book with agents, 46% showed a preference for an independent travel agent.

Debbie Marshall,
managing director at Silver
Travel Advisor, said,
"Through our partnership
with Advantage, their
members have exclusive
access to the Silver Travel
Advisor accreditation
training which will help
agents understand the
mature market and the
different segments..."

www.advantagemembers.com

travelbulletin

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Experience the Floriade Expo with AmaWaterways

AMAWATERWAYS HAS launched a sale on a limited number of staterooms for cruises visiting the Netherlands' Floriade Expo from April 14 to October 9, 2022. Clients can enjoy a variety of river cruise itineraries sailing along the Rhine, the Dutch and the Belgian Waterways as part of the sale, which includes the 'Best of Holland & Belgium,' 'Rhine Castles & Swiss Alps' and 'Tulip Time' itineraries, among others.

Almere, just outside of Amsterdam, will host the Floriade Expo - the country's largest public event, as part of the International Horticultural Expo, exploring the theme "Growing Green Cities".

The expo will feature a number of stunning gardens, innovative sustainable



The Floriade Expo takes place once every 10 years.

gardening exhibits, panels, live entertainment, souvenirs, and food stalls.

Other itineraries give guests an up-close and intimate look at some of the most picturesque gardens of France, with ample time to explore and photograph beautiful garden scenes on the Seine and Saône rivers.

'The Impressions of the Seine & Paris' itinerary includes land excursions to Monet's Gardens in Giverny and the Harcourt Arboretum in Lyons la-Forêt, in France, while the 'Essence of Burgundy & Provence' itinerary sails through one of the most renowned wine regions, taking guests into the topiary garden at Château de Couches and the baroque garden of Château de Cormatin.

For dates and prices, visit www.amawaterways.co.uk

Golfing goals with Jet2 in Antalya

JET2.COM AND Jet2holidays have added more flights and holidays to Antalya for March 2022, on the back of strong demand from holidaymakers and golfers looking to escape the chilly winters and visit the finest courses in Turkey.

The additional flights mean that customers looking for a break next March can now choose from up to four weekly services to Antalya from Glasgow, and up to three weekly services from Edinburgh and Newcastle.

Customers travelling from Edinburgh, Glasgow and Newcastle Airports can now enjoy much more choice when looking to book a holiday or golf break to Antalya. Those travelling with Jet2.com and Jet2holidays can even take their golf clubs with them for £1.



Turkey's Antalya region offers 14 courses in the upmarket resort of Belek. With a selection of golf hotels to choose from, golfers can enjoy a wealth of first-class facilities on their golfing getaways.

For further information, visit www.jet2holidays.com/destination s/turkey/antalya

Marriott to add 19 properties across six destinations

MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL has announced a planned expansion of its all-inclusive portfolio through a long-term agreement with Sunwing Travel Group's hotel division, Blue Diamond Resorts, which has an extensive portfolio of resort properties throughout the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico.

The agreement is expected to elevate Marriott's position as one of the top 10 global all-inclusive players, adding 19 franchised resorts (with around 7,000 rooms) across six destinations. The agreement more than

doubles the company's presence in the allinclusive segment - with an expected 33 properties by 2025. The majority of the properties are expected to be converted into Marriott's Autograph Collection by mid-2021.

"We are thrilled to work with Sunwing Travel Group and expand into two new leisure destinations - St. Lucia and Antigua," said Tony Capuano, group president, Global Development, Design and Operations Services, Marriott International. www.marriott.com



Emirates launches agent-friendly content and services

EMIRATES WILL be offering exclusive content and services for trade partners on its NDC-enabled direct connect platform, Emirates Gateway, from July 1, 2021.

The new service will provide trade partners with a choice of connection options and products, as well as benefits across channels, including promotional fares, access to a diverse hub of content, option to sell excess baggage, and more.

Travel agents interested in Emirates Gateway can find more information on the Emirates Partners Portal at www.emirates.partners

Riviera Travel launches British Isles tours for 2022

RIVIERA TRAVEL'S 2022 British Isles tours are now on sale.

The 2022 programme covers 12 itineraries, including destinations such as Norfolk, Devon, Oxford, the Scottish Highlands and the Peak District. All tours span five or six days and start from £519 per person.

A new six-day tour to Jersey has been added this year. It comprises a stay at the four-star Pomme D'or Hotel, with visits to the Jersey War Tunnels, La Mare Wine Estate and Elizabeth Castle, as well as a boat trip to explore the eastern coast by sea, starting from £749 per person. Three of the itineraries, to the Conwy Coast & Snowdonia, Lake District and North Yorkshire,



The tours cover the most picturesque parts of the British Isles.

are 'Walk & Discover' tours, which will be guided by professionals, taking guests by foot to local landmarks and beauty spots. In addition, four solo tours, to Norfolk, Cornwall, The Lake District and North Yorkshire are also available.

Guests booking before

March 31, 2021, can take advantage of Riviera's fully flexible booking promise. This allows them to change a booking for free up to 45 days before travel on 2021 holidays, and now up until June 30 for 2022 holidays.

www.rivieratravel.co.uk

Accor to open a new property in Singapore

ACCOR HAS announced Singapore's first Mondrian hotel will be built in the heart of the city's prominent Duxton Hill neighborhood and is set to open in early 2023.

Mondrian Singapore, a luxury lifestyle hotel comprised of 300 guestrooms and suites, a restaurant, a lounge and a rooftop bar will combine historic architecture from Singapore's centuries-old shophouses with a new build of modern, contemporary influences.

The Singapore expansion reflects the brand's growth plan, which will include new offerings in the Dominican Republic, Germany, Maldives, Puerto Rico, Switzerland, Thailand, and Vietnam.

trave bulletin

UPCOMING FEATURES LIST



Short Breaks Weddings & Honeymoons Pacific Islands LGBT Travel



Greece & Cyprus Adventure & Activity Mexico India & Indian Ocean



Staycations **Escorted Tours** Australasia



Air Travel & Airports USA Rail Travel



Canada Training & E-learning Scandinavia



Africa



Spain & Portugal Middle East



www.travelbulletin.co.uk



I HOPE you are all still coping and being positive in these trying times!

At the risk of being accused of teaching my grandmother to suck eggs, I thought it wouldn't harm to remind us all of positive things that only we, as agents, can offer our customers. We can guarantee peace of mind, great customer service (the times someone has said to me, "Sandy, you know what we like!") and better choice. We save our customers time and give them our personal touch, expertise and honesty.

Do you use ABTA enough? Save ABTA's email address (@abta.co.uk) to your address book so you can receive all the notifications. Sign up to the Members' Zone at www.abta.co.uk/register. Make sure you receive their operational bulletins, choose which ones to receive in your profile in the Members Zone. Make use of their Marketing toolkit; you can find the ABTA logo and social media snippets and videos to promote your membership with ABTA. Make use of the Member Support line at 020 3117 0597 or email

memberservices@abta.co.uk . Follow their social media: Facebook (@ABTAlovetravel), Twitter (@ABTAtravel), Youtube (ABTA), Instagram (@ABTAlovetravel) and Linkedin (@ABTA).

Ask them questions, share your experiences (good or bad!). They are your association, and want to help you. They also have an ABTA Partner Services page; if you need a business solution, they have a wide-range of ABTA Partners who can offer you additional expert advice and guidance as well as promotional offers, specialist helplines or free services to ABTA members many of which are exclusive to ABTA!

Check the basics and get them sorted - then you can move on with a good foundation.

Some thoughts to leave you with: 'Problems are not stop signs, they are guidelines' and 'You can't fall if you don't climb, but there is no joy in living your whole life on the ground."



CLASSIC COLLECTION Holidays is offering a seven-night, multi-stay holiday in Majorca, departing on October 13, 2021. Guests will spend three nights at Sant Francesc Hotel Singular in a Deluxe room on a bedand-breakfast basis, and four nights at Jumeirah Port Soller Hotel & Spa in a Deluxe Mountain view room on a half board basis. From £3,106 or £1,553 per person, the price is based on two adults, return flights from London Gatwick Airport to Palma de Mallorca Airport and private transfers. www.classic-collection.co.uk

New direct rail service to London **Luton Airport set to launch**

LONDON LUTON Airport will soon welcome a new half-hourly, non-stop service by East Midlands Railway, linking London St Pancras and Luton Airport Parkway.

Launching as part of the May timetable change, the route is the first step towards a stand-alone 'Luton Airport Express' service. The service, running on all-electric trains, will depart every 30 minutes between 6am and 10pm daily - with additional late night and early morning services coinciding with specific departures from the airport.

The new service escorts passengers from central London to the airport in approximately 30 minutes, meaning the airport will be one of the most accessible from the centre of the capital. The re-scheduled timetable, launching in March, will also introduce a half-hourly service from Corby and a number of other East Midlands stations, meaning passengers can travel from these towns to Luton Airport in under an hour.



The service will run half-hourly services daily from 6am to 10pm, linking St Pancras and a number of East Midlands stations with London Luton.

Managing director at EMR, Will Rogers, explained: "Our May 2021 timetable will provide more seats, quicker journeys and a simpler and more resilient timetable for passengers across the East Midlands and along the Midland Main Line."

www.eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk

FEBRUARY 26 2021 | travelbulletin.co.uk AGENT BULLETIN



A SHOWCASE of the best Saudi has to offer, the Saudi Tourism Authority is hosting its 'Journeys in Arabia' Virtual Roadshow. The event is an opportunity for agents to meet senior representatives from up to 30 destinations, experiences and hospitality brands one-on-one. Agents will learn more about Saudi's hidden treasures and experiences, with chances to win fantastic prizes along the way. The roadshow will take place on March 30 and 31, from 9am to 3:15pm.

Register here: https://www.journeysinarabia.com/ukroadshow-request/

AGENT INCENTIVES

- TITAN TRAVEL has extended its trade exclusive booking incentive for another month. Agents can claim a £20 lifestyle voucher for every new booking they confirm before March 31, 2021. www.titanagents.co.uk
- BRAND USA is offering agents the chance to win two prizes with its USA Discovery Programme. In February, agents can earn Utah's Canyonlands Badge and discover why Southeastern Utah is a top road trip destination in the United States. Agents who successfully complete the badge will be automatically entered into a giveaway for a Utah-themed goody-bag. Agents must ensure that Utah's Canyonlands badge is completed by February 28, 2021, for a chance to win. In March, agents can earn Brand USA's Seattle's Badge while unravelling the city's highlights. Agents who successfully complete the badge will be automatically entered into a competition to win a roundtrip airfare for two on American Airlines' new non-stop flight from London Heathrow to Seattle, providing they use the tickets prior to December 31, 2022. www.USADiscoveryProgram.co.uk



AGENT TRAINING

AS PART of a marketing campaign with the Singapore Tourism Board (STB), luxury tour operator If Only... is challenging travel agents to test their trivia and find out how much they really know about Singapore. The campaign, 'Write Your Own Singapore Story', is designed to educate travel agents and their customers around the unique experiences and attractions throughout the Lion City, and features an online training quiz for agents. Comprising 20 questions, the quiz will test agents' knowledge around everything from COVID-19 safety measures, to top spots for dining and drinks in Singapore. Agents who screenshot and share their results on the If Only Partners Facebook Page before March 10, 2021 will automatically be entered into a draw to win one of five luxury travel journals, to help the winners dream up their very own Singapore story. Take the quiz via the following link: ifonly.co/singaporequiz.



WEBINARS

Register now to attend the

Travel Bulletin

Training Webinar

on 2nd March and train with Ras Al Khaimah.

CLICK HERE to reserve your space.

Celebrity Cruises previews summer 2022 schedule



WITH A newly refreshed look, Celebrity Cruises will host a no-fly European cruise summer schedule from Southampton in 2022.

A diverse programme of sailings, the 2022 season has an escape for all types of clients - from adventurous travellers hoping to push the boundaries of their holidays with a venture across the Norwegian fjords, to kickback cruisers looking for trusty Mediterranean serenity.

The 'Majestic Fjords'

itinerary spotlights cities and panoramic fjords across Scandinavia on a sevennight cruise. Departing on May 7, 2022, this route takes cruisers across Bergen, Alesund, the Geiranger fjords and Stavanger for £1,299 per person for an oceanview stateroom.

The 'Immersive Baltic Culture' cruise sets sail on May 14, 2022 for a 12-night cruise with a number of fastpaced city breaks which blend serene landscapes

with the bustling European city adventures. Calling at Copenhagen, Stockholm, Tallinn and St Petersburg for culture-fuelled city exploration, this itinerary starts from £2,249 per person for an oceanview stateroom.

Celebrity offers a Cruise with Confidence policy, providing flexible amendments for the cautious cruiser.

To explore the summer 2022 programme in full, visit www.celebritycruises.com

MSC Cruises UK & Ireland launches agent connection tool

MSC CRUISES has launched a new tool on its trade portal, MSC Book, dubbed 'Sales Connect: A World of Discovery'. The tool brings agents closer to MSC and its on-the-road sales team.

Aimed at retail agents and remote workers, the tool lets UK agents book virtual appointments with MSC's regional sales team through MSC Book. The appointments will give agents a helping hand with any gueries and resources to help boost sales.

The tool will also keep agents up-to-date with the latest MSC news. Agents will be able to stay in the loop about the latest health and safety protocols, Future Cruise Credits benefits, training sessions, promotions and offers, and business development planning.



Steve Williams, director of sales, explained: "With so many across our sector working remotely, we thought it was important to make it as easy as possible particularly for front line staff and homeworkers to connect with our regional sales managers."

Visit MSC's trade-exclusive site at www.mschook.com

Celebrate International Women's Day with Intrepid

AGENTS HAVE been asked to share stories of exceptional women in the travel industry ahead of International Women's Day 2021 on March 8.

Intrepid Travel is looking for nominations of agents, managers or agency bosses who have shown outstanding strength, resilience, or innovation during the pandemic.

The winner will be treated to a place on Intrepid's Women's Expedition to Morocco

departing in 2022 (date TBC). Led by a local female tour leader, the women-only group will explore Morocco away from the tourist trail and learn about the everyday lives of women in the country.

Agents must visit the Intrepid Loves Agents Facebook group with a nomination before March 4. The winner will be announced on March 8 with a live Q&A on Intrepid Loves Agents.



Butler services in the seas of Antiqua

WADING THROUGH Antiguan seas might sound like the perfect getaway for your clients, but now Sandals is offering luxury additions – butlers refreshing guests with unlimited cocktails and drinks on the private beaches of the Grande Antigua Resort.

Couples looking to carry over the luxury from seaside to poolside can relocate to a private curtained cabana with beds and a Cabana Butler.

Seven nights at the all-inclusive resort start from £1,699 per person, including flights, transfers, a £150 booking bonus and 45% off. www.sandals.co.uk

Win a £50 M&S voucher in the

travelbulletin Su Doku prize puzzle

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

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

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

Closing date for entries is Thursday, 11th March. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

The winner for 12th February is Karen Trowbridge from Wessex Travel.

12th February Solution: A=5 B=7 C=9 D=6

Α			1		7		4	8	
						8	Г		3
	8	7	3		6		Γ		2
В		8				4	9	2	6
	5		9				3		8
C	2	1	6	8				5	
	1		Γ	Γ	4		2	6	9
	7			2			Г		
D		3	2		5		8		



ROSSWORD

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

Across

- Airline initially, with hubs in Tokyo and Osaka (3)
- Long running TV series featuring a group of New York flatmates (7)
- One of the Bronte sisters (5)
- Type of accommodation (5)
- Flows through Turkey, Syria and Iraq (9)
- London Square named for a famous battle (9)
- Singer-songwriter East, originally discovered on X Factor (5)
- The Palm Islands are an iconic feature of this city (5)
- 16 Landlocked English county (7)
- Major travel organisation (3)

Down

- England cricket captain who recently scored a double century in his 100th Test match (3,,4)
- The longest river in France (5)
- Actor Stephen, recently seen in It's a Sin (3)
- Droll stand up comedian and presenter, Jack (3)
- Month of the year, in short (3)
- Helsinki international airport code (3)
- African language (7)
- Popular Scottish seaside resort (3)
- 12 Capital of Morocco (5)
- 14 Currency of Romania (3)
- Breaking ____ sees Bradley Walsh facing nail-biting situations (3)

Where am 1? - Snowdonia National Park, Wales Mystery Word: ELBA

Industry insight by...





Tracey Poggio, ANTOR chairman, on what the UK leaving the EU means for ANTOR members and their clients.

AFTER FOUR years of debating the Brexit result, the United Kingdom finally left the European Union at the end of January. While the issue of Brexit threw up many questions across all areas of future trading, the travel and hospitality sector has seen immediate implications for people moving between the jurisdictions.

The crippling effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown have further muddied the waters, but the travel industry remains resolute in easing the passage for travellers when the holiday season commences.

There remains good news for all travellers in terms of healthcare, as current European Health Insurance Cards (EHIC) are still valid until the date the card expires. The UK Government is rolling out a replacement scheme, the UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) for effective global cover. For full information on how Brexit will directly impact travel, visit the F.C.O website.

The F.C.O website advises that for travel to all EU member states, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, travellers require a valid UK passport that is less than ten years old and has at least 6 months left on it on the day of travel. British tourists can also spend up to 90 days across these countries over a period of 180 days without having to obtain a visa. However, Bulgaria, Croatia and Cyprus each have separate 90-day limits over 180 days.

initial period of four years.

Greece is aiming to further strengthen the cooperation with the United Kingdom in areas of mutual interest in the post-Brexit era by continuing its bilateral consultations with the British side. In this context, initiatives have already been taken, such as the Immigration Action Plan.

...the travel industry remains resolute in easing the passage for travellers...

At the end of 2020, a principal agreement was reached for a proposed framework for a UK European Union Agreement or Treaty on Gibraltar's relationship with the E.U. The Treaty to be negotiated will deal with maximised and unrestricted mobility of people between Gibraltar and the Schengen area. This will be managed by the introduction of a FRONTEX operation for the control of entry and exit points from the Schengen area at the Gibraltar entry points. These arrangements will initially be provided for an

The Greek Government has created a website which is constantly updated with information about Brexit and through which it answers questions from citizens (British and Greeks) and businesses. Between January and June 2021, there will also be a digital campaign on social media with information for British citizens in Greece.

To adequately protect the interests of citizens and economic operators, the Spanish Government has approved a law adopting contingency measures aimed at completing and

implementing, at a national level, the provisions contained in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Through this agents can find specific information for British tourists.

For those travellers who take the family pet along too, further paperwork will be required. Pet passports have changed and are no longer valid, the new rules in place involve a visit to the vet at least a month before travel to obtain an animal certificate. so these will need to be checked too.

It is also worth noting that if you are taking your mobile phone on holiday, new roaming charges will apply, so travellers will need to check with their service providers for specific information on charges.

As with all forms of travel, a valid and full insurance policy is advised.

The past 12 months has seen our industry shaken at the core but as with every crisis faced in our sector, the industry working together will innovate and facilitate a customer friendly environment to assist consumers in booking their long awaited holidays and travel to their favourite destinations.



EXTEND THE OLIVE BRANCH

ToursByLocals' new 'Private Cretan Jewels Wine and Olive Oil Tasting Half Day Tour' offers the chance to explore the olive groves and vineyards in Heraklion city.

TOURSBYLOCALS HAS launched a selection of brand new private tours for 2021, which can be tailored to clients' specific needs.

ToursByLocals' 'Private Cretan Jewels Wine and Olive Oil Tasting Half Day Tour' allows guests to have the ultimate insider's experience at two of the most prominent familyowned farms in Heraklion.

Local guide, Manos, will take guests through olive groves and vineyards in the south of Heraklion city, and into the lush wine region of Crete.

Guests will get to taste six different wines, from both local and international grape varieties, and visit an olive oil factory, where they will learn how the 'Liquid Gold of



Wine production in Greece dates back to around 6,500 years ago.

Crete' is made, and try out some local olive oil too. They can take a walk to explore the vineyards, where grapes have been harvested for centuries. Lunch at a local tavern in the beautiful village of Archanes can also be added to the tour package.

Agents will earn 5% commission with each of the bookings made. Once an agency has booked £5,498 worth of tours, the commission will increase to

10% from the start of the next calendar year. Agents can register for this incentive here: www.toursbylocals.com/age ncy_join

In addition, ToursByLocals offers customer support, full access to individual guides during the planning of the trip, and no-risk refunds with cancellation, for any reason, up to the day of the tour. The price for a five-hour tour starts at £358 for two people. www.toursbylocals.com

Under the Spanish sun at Nobu Hotel Ibiz Bay

TRAVELLERS LOOKING to spend time on the Spanish island of Ibiza can choose Nobu Hotel Ibiza Bay, which offers a luxurious stay for groups, be it family or friends.

The Penthouse Suite offers the seclusion and space of a private seafront Ibizan villa, with all the trimmings of a Nobu Ibiza Bay experience. The three-bedroom luxury suite has a king-sized master bedroom and two additional luxury bedrooms, with indoor and outdoor dining areas, as well as a fully equipped kitchen.

Penthouse residents will get complimentary access to in-room yoga and meditation, a deep soaking tub, daily breakfast, and the services of a Nobu Sushi chef on call for inroom dining experiences.

Guests can enjoy unspoilt views of Talamanca Bay from one of the custom-made relaxation areas on the top floor, take a trip to the magnetic El Vedra rock, or a private boat trip to the Formentera islands.

The Nobu Penthouse Suite is bookable on request. Prices start at £6,500 for a one-night stay for six people on June 21.

www.nobuhotelibizabay.com

MED ISLANDS FEBRUARY 26 2021 | travelbulletin.co.uk

WEST COAST WONDER

Kirker Holidays spotlights the very best of Italy's west coast wonders on three Sicilian offerings, ranging from nine nights of culture and arts to 14 nights of history and heritage.



ITALY'S WEST Coast is one of Europe's most diverse regions, and Kirker Holidays showcase just that with three wide-reaching offerings- the nine-night 'Sicily - an Enigmatic Island' and 'The Sicilian Quartet: Palermo, Agrigento, Syracuse and Taormina' itineraries, and the 12-night 'West Coast Wonders' tour.

Syracuse' Sights

12

Starting in Syracuse, this tour explores the Magna Graecia, the historic island of Ortigia, and Taormina, Modica and Noto. Continuing to Agrigento, century-spanning sightseeing awaits, including remnants of the Roman Empire and Middle Ages. The final days of the tour are spent in Palermo, taking in Greek and Norman history.

This itinerary, including return flights from London, nine nights accommodation with breakfast and seven dinners, starts from £2,758 per person.

West Coast Wonders

For those hoping to spend even more time in Sicily, this self-drive tour starts with four

nights in Palermo, allowing more freedom to soak in the capital's offerings. The tour continues with three nights in Castellammare del Golfo, three nights in Mazara del Vallo, and two final nights in Agrigento, giving guests plenty of time to explore all Sicily has to offer.

This tour includes return flights, car hire, and accommodation from £1,798 per person

The Sicilian Quartet: Palermo, Agrigento, Syracuse and Taormina

Giving guests the freedom of a self-drive option, this itinerary begins with three nights in the neoclassical Palermo, Sicily's capital, where arts and culture thrive. On to Agrigento, guests spend their day exploring the Greek 'Valley of the Temples'. Two nights in Syracuse offer more historical sightseeing, before ending the trip in Taormina.

Including return flights, car hire, and accommodation, this package starts from £2,198 per person.

www.kirkerholidays.co.uk

Majorca matches with mother nature

THE MAJORCA Tourism
Foundation has collated a
programme of hiking trails across
the island, hoping to encourage
visitors to get in touch with nature
and enjoy the seclusion of the
great outdoors.

The mountainous landscapes of Majorca offer ideal conditions for all levels of hiking enthusiasts to explore. A number of signposted itineraries are dotted around the island, with some routes focusing on cultural heritage and others on the island's natural wonder.

The 'Pedra en Sec' route spans over 100 kilometres of open terrain divided into different stages. Most of the trail runs across the Serra de Tramuntana mountain range, a UNESCO World Heritage site.



A number of coastal routes are also marked, letting guests explore hidden coves, rocky cliffs and extensive beaches. These historical trails mark a number of notable landmarks, from the 16th and 17th century defense towers to the Necropolis of Son Real, dating back to the seventh century BC.

www.infomallorca.net



Set sail for seven days with G Adventures

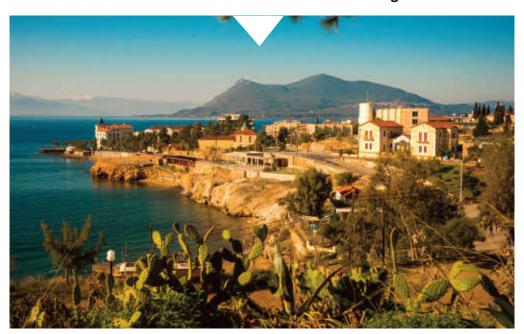
G ADVENTURES SAILS guests away aboard a yacht for a seven-day voyage on the 'Sailing the Canary Islands' itinerary.

Starting in Tenerife, guests sail to the historic San Sebastián de la Gomera on the trip's second day. On the following evening, Santa Cruz de la Palma offers the group a wealth of bars and restaurants. Onto La Gomera, the yacht docks in several isolated anchorages so guests can enjoy the coast from the comfort of the boat. After a day in La Gomera, the boat calls at Puerto Colón for a final day at guests' leisure. The seven-day voyage starts from £764 per person, with a maximum group size of 10. www.gadventures.com

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GREECE IS THE WORD

Exodus Travels is offering the chance to uncover the lesserknown Greek island of Evia, celebrated for its beaches, historical sites and vast mountain ranges.



EXODUS TRAVELS' trip to the Island of Evia reveals a hidden treasure close to Athens, but worlds away, with old stone paths connecting quaint, secluded villages hidden away in the mountains. The tranquil island is separated from mainland Greece by the narrow Euripus Strait.

Guests to the island can climb Mount Kliosi's dramatic summit, where the remains of the ancient acropolis defy time, visit the grand fortress of Castello Rosso and marvel at the beautiful ocean views. Travellers can also discover the remains of the Temple of Poseidon, dating back to the 8th century B.C.

There are plenty of opportunities for swimming at a deserted gin-clear beach or a tucked-away cove, and traditional tavernas and waterfront ouzo-meze shops give your clients plenty of options in terms of food and drink.

Exodus Travels offers a seven-night 'Mountains & Villages of Evia' trip from £1,299 per person, including bed-and-breakfast accommodation, all transport and activities as listed in the itinerary, and a tour leader throughout.

www.exodus.co.uk

Adults-only bliss at MarBella Nido, Corfu

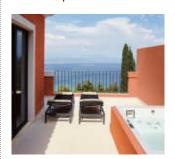
COUPLES LOOKING to get away to the Mediterranean can book a stay for two at the Marbella Nido in Corfu.

A secluded adults-only hideaway, situated on Corfu's south-east coast, offers a cosy and intimate atmosphere with a blend of Corfiot heritage and comfort.

Experiences include wine tastings with sommeliers appointed by the hotel; cooking classes with expert chefs; 'design your own' private yacht cruises; and, time to unwind at the hotel's wellness centre.

For couples looking to enjoy their honeymoon, the hotel offers bespoke packages such as sunset cruises, candlelight dinners and spa rituals for two.

Room choices range from Junior Suites offering sea views to a villa offering a private pool and an indoor whirlpool.



MarBella Nido offers rooms from £135 per night on a bed-andbreakfast basis, based on two people sharing.

To find out more and to book, visit www.marbella.gr/marbella-nido/



Dive into the Canary Islands

THE CANARY Islands is known for its crystal-clear waters, making it an ideal destination for diving enthusiasts.

El Hierro is world famous for its spectacular underwater flora and fauna, while the La Restinga Marine Reserve is an internationally acclaimed diving sanctuary, populated with numerous species of fish. The islands are home to dolphins, turtles, tunas, trumpet fishes, stingrays, thornback rays, and barracudas, among other animals.

The waters of La Palma are also an option for those interested in deep-sea diving.

www.hellocanaryislands.com/diving-sites



WHALES, WILDLIFE AND WILDERNESS

Inspiring Travel Company's luxury-focused tour, 'Beluga Whales, Polar Bears & Manitoba's Wilderness', offers the chance to listen to a whalesong, spot polar bears and marvel at the northern lights.

TRAVEL TO the remote northern depths of Manitoba and explore the Hudson lowlands with Inspiring Travel Company's seven-day luxury tour – 'Beluga Whales, Polar Bears & Manitoba's Wilderness'.

There are various activities on offer at Seal River
Heritage Lodge for the duration of the tour. Guests can join the exploration of Hudson Bay by Zodiac or embark on a search of polar bears using Tundra Trackers.

Sea kayaks and canoes are available for use at any time during the five day adventure, and guests will witness the greatest light show on earth – the northern lights, during the tour's latesummer evenings.

The daily tours can range from a short walk to photograph caribou or a full-



day excursion, complete with a packed lunch.

The Hudson Bay Lowlands is populated with moose, caribou, wolves, arctic fox, black bears, seals and a plethora of migratory and shorebirds, and while trekking, guests might catch sight of fox dens, and rare species of birds or wildflowers unique to this area.

Though the activities are dependent on both weather and group interest, the lodge will attempt to include at least two marine expeditions by boat during the five days, to see beluga whales, seabirds, seals and polar bears.

During their return journey, guests can also visit the Eskimo Museum and explore the vast range of Inuit artifacts and carvings there.

Prices start at £10,159 per person, for seven nights, based on a July 16, 2021 departure.

www.inspiringtravelcompan v.co.uk

The garden of six senses: Six Senses Botanique, Brazil

SIX SENSES Botanique, a newly launched property located in the heart of the Mantiqueira Mountains, Brazil, offers gastronomic delights and wellness journeys coupled with eco-friendly designs and sustainable living.

The property currently has seven suites in the main hotel on offer, along with 11 private villas, located in the hills surrounding the property.

Mina, the resort's signature restaurant, offers contemporary Brazilian dishes and 180-degree views of the mountains and valleys.

The new Fire Side lounge features a variety of drinks prepared with home-grown probiotics and a tonic with ingredients harvested from the surrounding vegetable gardens. Guests can sample local cheeses and cold cuts, house-made coxinha, or some fresh grilled vegetables.

Prices for a panoramic suite starts at approximately £445.93 a night, and hideaway villa suites start at £556.39 a night.

www.sixsenses.com

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ARGENTINA'S AWE

Audley Travel takes guests on a whirlwind exploration of Argentina's cultural highlights in Buenos Aires and natural wonders in the Argentine Lake District and Iguaçu Falls.



AUDLEY'S TWO-WEEK Argentinian adventure ticks off plenty of bucket-list stops along the way, from the country's wealth of heritage to some of South America's richest natural marvels.

Flying from a number of Audley's UK bases, including London, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Glasgow and Edinburgh, guests arrive in Buenos Aires, where transfers whisk them to their base for the trip's first three days, the five-star Palace Duhao. The city is an ideal springboard of cultural exploration, with the tour's first leg encapsulating the city's icons, including the Plaza de Mayo and Casa Rosada.

The tour continues on to Perito Moreno and Los Glaciares National Park, where excursions including hiking, mountain biking and glacier exploration brings travellers in touch with the natural wonders of South America. The fourstar rustic 'Patagonia's Spirit' or Hotel Eolo is called home for the second leg of the tour, a hotel boasting luxurious amenities including

spa facilities and indoor pools, all set deep in the landscape surrounding Lago Argentino.

After soaking up the mountainous glaciers of Los Glaciares, the tour continues to Bariloche, where guests can enjoy expansive hikes around the Argentine Lake District. The exclusive Llao Llao Hotel offers golf and spa facilities as well as natural excursions across the surrounding countryside.

Iguaçu Falls is the final stop on the tour, ending the adventure on a high note with one of Argentina's most popular bucket-list destinations. Staying in the Belmond Hotel des Cataratas, just a short stroll from the Iguaçu Falls, gives visitors two days at their leisure to explore the Argentine and Brazilian viewpoints of the iconic falls before they are transferred to the San Paulo airport for their return journey.

This 14-day adventure starts from £8,350 per person, including flights, accommodation, transfers and excursions.

www.audleytravel.com

LUX* Resorts & Hotels bring a whole new meaning to WFH

AS MANY clients and agents continue to work remotely this year, LUX* Resorts & Hotels swaps the 'H' in WFH from Home to Hotel – letting guests work remotely from the paradise of the Maldives.

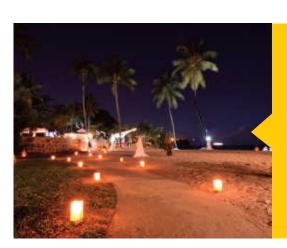
Setting up workspaces in their own villas, LUX*'s remote working offerings guarantee high-speed WiFi and free flowing coffee set against a backdrop of luxury coast.

Promoting productivity and shrinking stress levels, remote workers can indulge with in-villa breakfasts and lunch, and relax with a daily schedule of yoga, meditation and fitness. LUX* Resorts is also offering 'little lunch break luxuries' including coral planting and other marine conservation projects along nearby coastlines.



LUX* South Ari Atoll Resort & Villas' 'Work from Hotel' package starts from US\$5,692 for two people in a Water Villa on a full-board basis, or at LUX* North Male Atoll on a half-board basis from US\$9,581 per couple. Options span from seven to 30 nights.

www.luxresorts.com



Sheer serenity under the St Lucian stars

BEYOND ST Lucia's iconic luscious sands and crystal clear coasts, the Rendezvous resort offers rustic luxury and unique experiences on the island.

Visitors explore a local farm to source ingredients for their dinner on the resort's farm-to-table experience, while the resort's beach is transformed into an outdoor cinema for the popular "Stars and a Movie" experience.

Caribtours offers seven nights at the all-inclusive resort in October 2021 from £2,499 per person, based on two guests sharing. Price includes return flights from London, all transfers and airport lounge access. www.caribtours.co.uk

SAIL THE SEVEN SEAS

Whether your clients wish to bask in balmy Barbados or traverse through Antarctica, Regent Seven Seas' new itineraries suit all tastes (and weather preferences).



REGENT SEVEN Seas' 2022 sailings include a round-trip from Barbados, and a return to Antarctica.

Barbados in Bliss

Guests can begin, and end, their voyage in the Caribbean with Regent Seven Seas Cruises' round-trip 'Barbados in Bliss', which departs from the port of Bridgetown, Barbados. As the ultra-luxurious Seven Seas Navigator meanders around the tropical islands of St Lucia, Antigua and St Barts (to name a few), guests can enjoy free shore excursions included in the itinerary. The Seven Seas Navigator will provide guests with personalised service and the choice of five unique restaurants and four bars and lounges.

The Barbados in Bliss voyage, departing on February 15, 2022, starts from £4,819 per person based on the Deluxe Window Suite.

Journey to Antarctica

Adding the seventh continent to the Regent

fleet's destination list, Seven Seas Voyager's 19-night Journey to Antarctica is a once-in-alifetime scenic round-trip from Buenos Aires.

Departing on January 31, 2022, this voyage offers guests spectacular views of some of the White Continent's best-known sights and unique wildlife, spanning seals, whales, penguins and seabirds – all from the balcony of their suite or one of the ship's panoramic viewing decks. Highlights include the majestic cliffs of Neumayer Channel, Paradise Bay's icy landscapes, and the stunning marine life of Dallmann Bay.

Guests can also enjoy a free three-night Chilean Wonders and Wines pre-cruise land programme, or a free three-night post-cruise land programme in lively Buenos Aires.

The Journey to Antarctica voyage, departs on January 31, 2022, with fares starting from £12,269 per person based on occupancy of the Deluxe Veranda Suite.

www.rssc.com

Gorgeous Greece: Grecotel's tailor-made luxury

BLENDING LUXURY living with home comfort and service the brand has become known for, Grecotel's villas and apartments spotlight Mediterranean luxury.

The brand offers luxury villas and holiday apartments at its resorts, ideal for a sunny and self-contained escape.

The Grecotel Cape Sounio resort is a vast 300-acre property dotted with bungalows and villas, just an hour from Athens, starting from €245 a night. The on-site chefs offer menus of international and Greek cuisine across five finedining restaurants with sea-views.

Grecotel Mykonos Blue showcases an even more private luxury experience, with bungalow suites from €189 a night, offering private pools and views of the Psarou beach in one of the Aegean's most luxurious cosmopolitan resorts.



The Grecotel Corfu Imperial's exclusive bungalows offer guests access to a number of lavish Italian-style gardens, sophisticated lounges and refined restaurants, as well as on-site spa facilities, from €234 a night.

www.grecotel.com



Luxe living on Bequia island

COUPLES LOOKING to take a luxury-focused holiday can visit Bequia, an island situated west of Barbados and south of St. Vincent, staying at the Bequia Beach Hotel, a boutique property set on the idyllic Friendship Beach.

Abercrombie & Kent offers a seven-night stay at Bequia Beach Hotel from £2,100 per person, based on two people staying in a one bed cottage on a half board basis. This includes international flights with Virgin Atlantic and a £50 per person contribution towards a Covid test, which falls under A&K's flexible booking policy.

www.abercrombiekent.co.uk

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RHODES' ROMANTIC CLIFF-TOP RESORT

Perched above the beach of Vlycha Bay on the eastern coast of Rhodes, Lindos Grand Resort & Spa is an eco-chic resort, making for the ultimate romantic getaway.



THE GREEK island of Rhodes is welcoming a new resort, moments from Lindos' old town, with the official opening of Lindos Grand Resort & Spa.

This adults-only hideaway has 189 ultramodern rooms with lavish amenities and personalised experiences. It features floor-toceiling windows for natural light, locally sourced materials, energy saving glass panels and recycled rainwater during winter months.

Lindos Grand is home to three à la carte restaurants, including, Acqua e Sale, an all-day Mediterranean restaurant, the Thalatta fine dining restaurant, serving authentic Greek delicacies with a modern twist, and Yume Mou, offering Japanese, omakase dinners.

Lindos Grand's Evridiki Spa by Apivita invites guests to pamper themselves, with massages, facials, full body rituals and beauty treatments. Wellness seekers can rest and rejuvenate with treatments such as the Mediterranean skin food facial, jasmine and sea salt exfoliation, the ancient Greek massage or a rose pepper anti-cellulite treatment.

Visitors can soak up the culture of Rhodes with historical tours of the Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights or go for a Jeep Safari experience from Lindos Grand. As part of the experience, travellers will be taken off-the-beaten-track to areas such as Seven Springs with verdant woodlands and pine-tree shaded walking trails. They can also learn to scuba dive with PADI certified instructors, try a range of water sports, such as windsurfing and water-skiing, or visit a local vineyard to learn about the production methods of local wine.

Room rates start from £250 per night in a Deluxe Double Garden Room on a bed-and-breakfast basis.

www.lindosgrand.com

Sani Resort offers luxury family holidays in the great outdoors

SANI RESORT has unveiled a series of new offerings this year, for luxury family holidays within a sustainable self-contained bubble, encouraging families to reconnect with nature at the Sani sanctuary.

For guests looking to indulge in activities set in the great outdoors, Sani Resort has collaborated with The Bear Grylls Survival Academy, allowing guests to train with local sports academies, including the Rafa Nadal Tennis Academy and Chelsea FC Football Academy. It encourages children and families to learn survival techniques in a fun and hands-on environment with activities such as lessons on camouflage and concealment, navigation and raft building.

The resort offers spacious family rooms tailored for a carefree luxury escape.



Prices at Sani Beach in a Double Room start from €129 per night, on a half-board basis. Prices for Porto Sani in a suite with a terrace or balcony start from €256 per night, on a half-board basis.

More information can be found at www.saniresort.gr



Dive into COMO Maalifus to explore best-kept underwater secrets

COMO MAALIFUSHI, the only resort in the Thaa Atoll, is offering travellers the opportunity to take part in a series of new diving and surfing experiences. Experienced divers can explore the underwater world with Maalifushi dive experience. For beginners, there are scuba diving courses, PADI Open Water courses and snorkelling the reefs with the resident marine biologist.

The Maalifushi diving package includes 20 complimentary dives per room, diving equipment, exclusive room rates, half board dining and complimentary non-motorised water sports activities.

Booking prices start from £595 per night, and a surf pass from £180.

www.comohotels.com



ON THE BLUE TRAIN

Great Rail Journeys' 'Cape Town, The Blue Train and Kruger National Park' tour offers a mix of old-world nostalgia coupled with thrilling adventures.

GREAT RAIL Journeys' 12-day itinerary, 'Cape Town, The Blue Train and Kruger National Park' offers travellers the chance to journey aboard the luxurious Blue Train from Cape Town to Pretoria, ascend Table Mountain, sample some local wines in Stellenbosch, and enjoy game drives during a three-night stay at the Kruger National Park.

Guests can explore Cape
Town with a journey atop the
iconic Table Mountain and
take a full day tour of the
surrounding coastline
region, which includes the
Boulders Beach, home to
penguin colonies.

A local wine tasting session in Franschhoek and Stellenbosch, followed by a delicious traditional 'boerelbraai' lunch (a social outdoor barbecue), rounds off the fourth day.

The Blue Train ride will revisit one of the oldest rail



The earliest recorded name for Capetown, means 'where clouds gather'.

routes in South Africa.

Travellers will experience impeccable service aboard the luxurious train, which includes drinks, afternoon tea, aperitifs and a lavish formal dinner, accompanied by wine from the Cape Winelands.

After arriving in Kimberley, in Northern Cape, guests will visit 'The Big Hole' mine museum, which details the history of the site, where

diamonds were first found, and which eventually caved in due to over-mining, leaving behind a big hole. Guests will reboard the train for dinner and disembark in Pretoria the next day, after breakfast.

Prices starting at £4,095 per person (based on double sharing), for a January 15, 2022, departure date.

www.greatrail.com

See Scandinavia and Russia with Railbookers

RAILBOOKERS IS offering the opportunity to experience the best of Scandinavia and Russia on a 12-day multi-city tour by train and boat.

Travellers will take the Eurostar from London to Brussels, and another on to Hamburg, with a brief overnight stay in a hotel.

The next rail ride, from
Hamburg to Copenhagen, will pass
through the Danish countryside,
before it takes the last remaining
'boat trains' or train ferries on its
way to Copenhagen. After a
glimpse of Denmark's history and
culture, guests will take a train to
Stockholm and will spend the next
two days discovering the
Scandinavian city.

A sailing across the Baltic Sea and an overnight ferry will offer the chance to explore Helsinki's monuments and observe its islands. The last leg of the tour consists of train journeys from Helsinki to St Petersburg, and from there to Moscow, where guests will stay for two nights.

Prices start from £2,389 per person for 12 days, based on an August 1, 2021, departure date.

www.railbookers.co.uk

FEBRUARY 26 2021 | travelbulletin.co.uk RAIL HOLIDAYS 19

ALL ABOARD

Rocky Mountaineer celebrates its 30th anniversary season with a new promotion for its Canadian railway routes – worth up to US\$800 in value for 2021 bookings.



ROCKY MOUNTAINEER is celebrating the New Year with a new anniversary promotion on a number of its Canadian railway adventures throughout the year.

Passengers booking trips of eight days or more for travel dates throughout 2021 will unlock three free gifts as part of the promotion, including one additional night's stay in a hotel, one airport transfer upon arrival or return and one night's dinner. This saves travellers up to US\$800 per couple.

A number of the company's classic journeys are included in the promotion:

First Passage to the West at Leisure

This eight-day voyage includes two days aboard Rocky Mountaineer. With time to explore the scenic city of Vancouver, where the voyage begins, the train's first leg takes guests through the Coast and Cascade mountains to an overnight stay at Lake Louise. Passengers then transfer to Banff for a

day of exploring Banff National Park by foot. The following day invites guests on a full-day tour of Banff and a panoramic helicopter tour of Kananaskis followed by an overnight stay in Calgary. The package includes activities, select meals, travel, and accommodation, from £2,306 per person.

Rainforest to Gold Rush Classic

Set deep in the rugged Canadian wilderness, this five-day adventure includes three days aboard the Rocky Mountaineer. Also kicking off in Vancouver, this journey takes guests north to Whistler and Quesnel for overnight stays, before venturing east to Jasper for a final overnight stay. This itinerary starts from £1,870 per person including a Vancouver lookout excursion, certain meals, travel and transport, and accommodation.

www.rockymountaineer.com/anniversary-promotion

Roaring twenties aboard the Venice Simplon Orient-Express

INGHAMS WHISKS guests back in time to the golden age of Europe's railway heritage aboard the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express.

The nostalgic trip begins at London Victoria, so passengers can travel to Folkestone and board the Eurotunnel to Calais, where the train awaits.

The following morning sees the train travel through the Swiss alps, where guests enjoy breakfast in their cabins and three-course lunches in the restaurant car. The train arrives in Verona, where passengers for Lake Garda depart after lunch to spend a night in Verona before transferring to a chosen Inghams resort. Those continuing on to Venice Santa Lucia station are treated to afternoon tea enroute. Upon the train's arrival, passengers can enjoy Venice at their leisure.



The journey, including a oneway flight from London Gatwick to Venice (for return journeys) and a night in the Hotel Carlton Capri, Venezi, starts from approximately £3,500 per person, based on an October 12, 2021 departure.

www.inghams.co.uk



Black Diamond's top three Japanese train trips

BLACK DIAMOND has showcased Japan's top railway journeys as the nation looks ahead to welcoming tourists back this year.

The Rail Kitchen Chikugo, Kyushu, sets local cuisine against a scenic backdrop from £21 for brunch or £56 for lunch, per person. Amidst the Japanese Alps, the Three Star Road showcases the heritage of central Japan; tickets start from £39 per person. The Tohoku Emotion train, Hachinohe, blends landscapes and fine dining, with return trips from approximately £82 per person.

www.welcomekyushu.com / www.option-ticket.mitsuboshi-kaidou.com / www.visithachinohe.com



DANUBE DELTA DREAMS

Titan Travel's new itinerary 'Eastern Europe Explorer with the Danube Delta' takes clients through five countries and offers six guided tours.

TITAN TRAVEL's new 15-day itinerary, 'Eastern Europe Explorer with the Danube Delta', offers travellers the opportunity to cruise along the eastern banks of the Danube aboard the MS River Discovery II, passing through five countries along the way, namely Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania.

Budapest will be the first stop, where guests will observe baroque and neoclassical architecture and art nouveau buildings, including St Stephen's Basilica, and the Vajdahunyad Castle, among others.

Kalocsa, also known as the paprika capital of the world, offers a fascinating insight into the local life of Hungary. Guests can take an optional excursion to the Folk Art



The Danube Delta is one of Romania's UNESCO Heritage sites.

House, learn more about the regional spice at the Paprika Museum, and enjoy a small tasting of some traditional cuisine. Optional excursions include a horse-drawn carriage ride and a performance of Hungarian horsemanship.

Vukovar, in eastern Croatia, has many war memorials dating back to the early years of the Yugoslav Wars. The cruise docks in Tulcea, where the tour will travel along the Danube Delta with a local guide, with opportunities to see various species, including frogs, tortoises, and emperor dragonflies, among others.

Prices start at £2,999 per person, based on a May 4, 2022, departure date.

www.titantravel.co.uk

Visit an Austrian Winter Wonderland with Newmarket

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS' six-day 'Austrian Winter Wonderland Adventure' offers a chance to visit the picture-perfect cities and towns of Austria.

The holiday offers clients the chance to experience a walking tour of Mozart's birthplace, Geburthaus, and his family home in Wohnhaus. The tour also includes a visit to the Hohensalzburg Castle, the exquisite Dom cathedral, famous for its frescoes, as well as The Schloss Mirabell, an ornate Baroque palace, across the Salzach river.

Guests can try the sport of 'snowshoeing' the next morning, donning special footwear which makes fresh tracks through the snow, as they walk across pastures and hills.

The package includes five nights' dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation at the four-star Hotel Forsterhof in St Wolfgang, return flights to Austria or Germany and coach travel and transfers, as well as the services of an experienced tour manager.

Prices start at £1,005, based on a January 19, 2022 departure date.

www.newmarketholidays.co.uk

FEBRUARY 26 2021 | travelbulletin.co.uk CENTRAL EUROPE

BEST OF BALKANS

Cosmos takes the value-minded traveller on a whistle-stop tour of the highlights of Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania, exploring bustling cities and historic remnants of past worlds.



BUDGET-CONSCIOUS CLIENTS looking for a European adventure this year need look no further than Cosmos' 'Treasures of the Balkans and Transylvania' – a 13-day showcase of the best Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania has to offer. From architecture dating back to the Middle Ages to some of Central Europe's most popular cities, this wide-reaching adventure gives guests the very best of the Balkans.

Focusing on central Europe's wealth of history, this tour offers sightseeing in abundance. Highlights include Sofia's Boyana Church, a medieval UNESCO World Heritage site, Plovdiv's Roman Amphitheatre, dating back to the first century, and Bran Castle, built in 1377 with imposing Medieval architecture and once inhabitated by Vlad the Impaler - famously known as Dracula.

Those looking for more modern offerings can explore one of central Europe's most popular capitals, Budapest, well known for its expansive bars and nightlife – a highlight for many Brits visiting the Hungarian capital.

Bucharest brings guests that little bit closer to nature, with acres of parks and gardens adored in flowers and boulevards lined with century-old trees.

The Balkans boasts buckets of heritage, too, from Cluj Napoca, Romania's film capital, Novi Sad, known for its citadel, and Brasov, a charming medieval town well known for its baroque architecture and outdoor cafés. Sighisoara, one of Romania's prettiest cities with 11 medieval towns within the city walls, hosts picturesque cobblestone streets.

Testament to the tour's wide-reaching appeal, guests are also given the chance to spend a morning in one of the region's classic ski resorts, Sinaia, set in the Prahova Valley, 3,300 feet above sea level.

With savings of £150 per couple currently available, this itinerary starts from £1,664 per person, including accommodation and selected meals and excursions.

www.cosmos.co.uk

Dubrovnik and the Dalmatian Coast with Leger Holidays

LEGER HOLIDAYS is showcasing the serenity of Croatia's Dalmation Coast on the 14-day 'Dubrovnik and Jewels of the Dalmation Coast' itinerary.

The journey to Dubrovink, the Jewel of the Adriatic, includes overnight stays in northern France, Italy, Split and the fourteenthcentury Mostar along the way, letting guests soak up continental Europe's rich serenity, heritage and culture before the trip arrives in the four-day centrepiece of the trip.

Dubrovnik offers much more than lush Mediterranean coastline; guests are treated to a wealth of Byzantine, Trojan, and Napoleonic history and optional excursions including sightseeing tours and wine tastings.



Highlights of the tour's last leg include sun-baked Mediterranean old towns Split and Trojir, Krka National Park, Plitvice Lakes, and a journey back West via Opatija, Slovenia, Austria and Belgium.

The 14-day journey, including 12 nights in a hotel with breakfast and 10 evening meals, starts from £1,599 per person.

www.leger.co.uk



Jet2CityBreaks showcases Prague perfection

JET2CITYBREAKS OFFER a variety of breaks across Prague; most guests find a four- or five-day getaway enough time to enjoy all the city's offerings.

With a rich heritage of Gothic castles and classic architecture, Prague is an ideal explorative city break close to home, just a two hour flight away from Manchester.

Three-nights at the Elite Hotel on a bed-and-breakfast basis, including flights from Birmingham, starts at £236 per person based on two adults. Those looking for luxury can instead enjoy the five-star Art Nouveau Palace with flights from Manchester from £536 per person.

www.jet2holidays.com

GEMS OF EUROPE

Riviera Travel's diverse tours, river and yacht cruise programme spotlights some of the tourist hotspots and hidden gems of Central Europe, for guests to enjoy.



WITH A host of river cruises, Adriatic yacht voyages, and tours, Riviera Travel's Central European itineraries offer everything from relaxing Danube coastlines to the bustling cityscapes of Krakow, and the culture hotspots of Croatia to undiscovered remote islands of Dalmatia.

Krakow

A four-day tour of the city's highlights, this itinerary kicks off in the main square, the Rynek, one of Krakow's most photogenic spots. Guests visit the Wawel Castle district, dating back to the 11th century. The third day brings the tour to Auschwitz-Birkenau; Riviera hopes to give guests a harrowing but honest understanding of Poland's history.

With return flights to Krakow and four-star accommodation, this break starts from £489 per person- guests can secure the break with a £150 per person deposit.

Cruise the Heart of Europe

Riviera lets guests kick back on this 15-day

journey. Beginning in Cologne for a brief city break, the cruise begins its journey, calling at highlights such as the Roman city of Mainz and the neoclassic Passau. The cruise ends in Budapest to bookend the break with a laidback city break.

The 15-day cruise starts from £2,879 per person including full-board throughout and transfers. Places on the voyage can be reserved with a £250 per person deposit.

Split, Rab & Undiscovered Islands of the North

This intimate yacht cruise aboard the MS II Mare takes guests to some of the secluded hidden gems of the Dalmatians, Natural harbour Telašcica showcases the hidden beauty of the region, whilst the mountainous Rab also serves as many cruisers' favourite stop on this eight-day journey.

This cruise starts from £1,759 per person, including return flights to Split, transfers, tours, and visits, securable with a £250 per person deposit.

www.rivieratravel.co.uk

Bask in the Balkans with Explore!

ON A whirlwind blend of history, culture and adventure, Explore!'s 12-day 'Journey through the Balkans' holiday spotlights the diverse highlights of central Europe, including Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and

The adventure begins in the seafront town of Dobrota, in Montenegro, two hours from Dubrovnik airport. The tour spends the first couple of days with a bustling exploration through the history of central Europe, including highlights such as the medieval Kotor, and Skadar Lake, home to 270 species of birds and a wealth of rare plants.



Towards the end of the tour's first week, travellers have the chance to ride the historic Sargan Eight Railway before guests continue to the rural Mostar, a 15th century city frozen in time. Guests return to Dubrovnik for one final city escape.

The itinerary, including accommodation, local guides, transfers and selected meals, starts from £1,470 per person.

www.explore.co.uk



One&Only Resorts reaches Portonovi, Montenegro

SITTING JUST 15 minutes along the Adriatic Riviera is the luxury One&Only Portonovi; the brand's first property in Europe, set to open March 21, 2021.

The new luxury resort will host 113 luxury guestrooms, suites and villas, as well as 10 One&Only private homes on the banks of the UNESCO World Heritage site, the Bay of Kotor.

One&Only Portonovi will be accessible by land, sea and air, with guestexclusive facilities for yacht, helicopter and private jet transfers.

www.oneandonlyresorts.com/portonovi

FEBRUARY 26 2021 | travelbulletin.co.uk CENTRAL EUROPE

Wine and dine at Zornitza Family Estate with Exsus Travel

EXSUS TRAVEL is offering a holiday at the Zornitza Family Estate in Bulgaria, including a private hot air balloon ride and a tour of local sights.

During their stay, holidaymakers can enjoy a private hot air balloon ride over the vineyards for two people and a half-day tour exploring the local area's monasteries, wineries and historic and cultural monuments. They can also indulge in complimentary extras, such as a wine tasting experience with home-made delicacies from the estate and a bottle of wine on arrival. Depending on the time of



Zornitza Family Estate vineyard, Bulgaria.

year, there are a series of other options too, including tours with wine tastings from local vineyards and skiing day trips to Bansko. Visitors can also go on day trips to Greece, where boat, beach club or restaurant bookings

can be made.

Exsus Travel offers three nights at Zornitza in a Junior Suite on a bed-and-breakfast basis with flight and transfers, from £1,345 per person.

www.exsus.com

Walk the walk in Slovenia

MOUNTAINS, VALLEYS and breathtaking views await holidaymakers as they set off on Saga Holiday's 'Walking in Slovenia' tour.

The series of walking excursions highlight scenery around the country, such as the Kranjska Gora and Lake Jasna; the Krnica Valley; the Martuljek Peaks and waterfalls; and more.

Guests will walk beside lakes, through valleys, woods and mountain paths, discovering the abundance of nature that this region has to offer.

Prices for the holiday starts from £929 per person for two travellers for seven nights.

https://travel.saga.co.uk

What is the scariest film you've ever seen?



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IN ASSOCIATION WITH







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LUXURY HOLIDAYS

VIRTUAL SHOWCASE

THURSDAY 16TH MARCH AT 2PM

Join Travel Bulletin and our leading luxury supplier partners for an informative networking opportunity where you can catch up on the latest news and top selling tips. Then for your chance to win some fantastic prizes, take part in the short product quiz!

TIMINGS

2PM: Welcome From Your Travel Bulletin Host

2:05PM: Presentations

