

travelbulletin

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AFRICA

SHOWCASE

agent networking evening

Agents, come and join us at this informative, fun event and learn more about the accommodation and flight options available to this stunning part of the world. Soak up the African ambience and discover the diverse range of activities, varied landscapes, cultural and safari opportunities and tailor-made packages on offer to meet your customers' needs. This evening will involve a combination of networking and presentations, delicious authentic food and drinks, exciting entertainment along with a free prize draw with a number of fabulous prizes to be won.

Monday 20th January
Southampton

Registration: 18.00 hours
Networking & Presentations: 18.20 hours
Hot Dinner, Entertainment & Prizes: 20.30 hours
Carriages: 21.45 hours

To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the names and job titles of up to 5 staff members by

Friday 20th December to:

events@travelbulletin.co.uk or telephone:

0207 834 6661

for more information.

FEATURING

MELIÄ ZANZIBAR



This event is by invitation only and will be booked on a first come first served basis.

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Industry updates to keep agents ahead



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AGENT BULLETIN

Hamilton tickets, gift vouchers, luxury hotel stays, and more!

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From biking to yoga to glaciers, learn about adventure holidays

JUST SAY I DO

A study of the hashtag #elopement on Instagram by a wedding videography company found that Bali was the most popular destination for wedding elopements.



Bali proves to be a highly popular destination for couples wanting to elope.

CATHERINE LUTHER
Wedding Films analysed 100,000 Instagram images, that used the hashtag #elopement to determine the 25 most popular destinations for wedding elopements. It was found that Bali was the most popular destination, followed by New York and Paris.

As one of the largest social sharing platforms on the planet, Instagram is a popular place for couples to share their special day with friends and family, with more than 1.4 million images posted with the hashtag #elopement.

The research found that more and more couples are choosing to elope near and far for the intimate wedding

of their dreams. For some, this decision may be down to avoiding the undesired limelight that naturally comes with a big wedding, and for others, it is a great excuse to avoid complicated family relationships – or simply to keep costs low.

"The research was conducted by analysing the location data of over 100,000 Instagram images that were tagged #elopement," says Catherine Luther. "We've created a handy interactive map on our website that details the rankings and provides more information on elopement weddings."

It seems that not having to consider a large guest list means couples are not limited geographically to

where they can choose to tie the knot. For some couples, it is not just about saving money, but the appeal of a remote location to exchange vows with a beautiful backdrop for photographs.

The top five destinations were: Bali, Indonesia; New York, USA; Paris, France; Las Vegas, Nevada; and, Yosemite National Park, USA.

It seems the allure of Bali's natural beauty, along with its affordable accommodation, makes it the most popular destination.

Many couples also chose to elope in the United States, with three of the top 25 destinations being US National Parks – Yosemite, Joshua Tree, and Rocky Mountain National Park.

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Sign up and login at palladiumconnect.com, register your bookings and enjoy your deserved rewards.

Croatia cruising incentives with Katarina Line

KATARINA LINE, Croatia's small ship cruise company, has introduced its updated 2020 programme.

The programme features an expanded cruising schedule and additional departure dates for some of its cruises out of Split and Dubrovnik. As part of the introduction, Katarina Line is offering advance booking incentives of 10% off on select departures in August 2020 and 5% off on departures in April, May and October 2020, valid when booked by December 31.

"In addition to our booking incentives, we're increasing



The itineraries give travellers the chance to explore the towns of Croatia.

our trade show presence and growing our travel agent partnerships worldwide," said Daniel Hauptfeld, managing director of Katarina Line. "Agents have

been instrumental in helping us introduce more travellers to the joys of small ship cruising."

Visit www.katarinaline.com for more info.

Saudi Arabia experiencing e-visa application boom

TOURISM VISA applications to Saudi Arabia have boomed since the secretive kingdom announced it was opening its doors to more foreign visitors in September.

The country opened up its £98 e-visa system for citizens of 49 countries on September 27 – and some 77,000 applications were processed in the first month according to tourism boss Majed M Alghanim, who was speaking at the World Travel Market.

The country has been pressing on with its ambitious 'Vision 2030' strategy that is targeting 100 million visitors a year by 2030.

This strategy saw the kingdom's tourism industry stake its presence at WTM, where it was one of the biggest exhibitors in the Middle Eastern sector with an 800 sqm stand and eight participating tourism companies and bodies.

The recent e-visa introduction was accompanied by a relaxation of rules allowing non-married visiting couples to share hotel rooms, and there is speculation about a change in laws to allow foreign visitors to drink alcohol in resorts.

www.visitsaudi.com

"Qatar. Qurated for you" campaign focuses on culture

UNDER THE slogan "Qatar. Qurated for you", 2019 saw the Qatar Tourism Council open an array of family attractions, a new national museum, a state-of-the-art metro and a range of luxury new hotels to boost the country's tourism attractions. These openings, combined with the country now offering visa-free access, means that Qatar is in a unique position to project itself as a hub of tourism in the Middle East.

The Qatar National Tourism outlined six areas that have seen a recent boost of development in the last year, these included: 'culture', with the opening of the Msheireb Museums complex, which features the National Museum of Qatar, the Museum of Islamic Art, and the Heritage Houses; 'coastal and desert attractions', such as the dozen scenic beach sites; 'sports', including the development of the infrastructure to host the highly anticipated FIFA World Cup in 2022; and 'cruise', with the Doha Port set to become a major turnaround hub in the region, including a total of 16 ships set to use the port in the 2019/2020 season. For more information about Qatar, go to www.visitqatar.qa



Premier Holidays expands offerings to Australasia

PREMIER HOLIDAYS has launched its Australia and New Zealand brochure with eight new tours, 12 new hotels and a variety of new excursions.

A number of excursions have been added to the 2020 brochure so that visitors can enhance their stay in the countries. These include the 'Uluru Sunset Tour', where guests can watch the sunset over the western horizon and see the evening sky bring out the many shades of colour for which Uluru is famous.

In New Zealand, the 'Weta There & Back Again Experience' offers a journey from Middle Earth to Tracy Island and beyond at Weta Workshop, learning about the practical effects created for Lord of the Rings, The Chronicles of Narnia and



Guests can cruise through the Whitsunday Islands in Australia.

Gallipoli, as well as a visit to the authentic Thunderbirds Are Go stage.

An intimate Great Barrier Reef tour is a new addition for the brochure which gives the chance to cruise through the Whitsunday Islands, swim, snorkel and explore the reef and then spend the night under the stars.

A selection of new hotels have been introduced for 2020 including boutique hotels such as Little Albion in

Sydney, located in the Surry Hills neighbourhood and perfect for a small retreat in the big city. In Brisbane, Spicers Balfour has been added and is a welcoming sanctuary for a city escape.

To celebrate the launch of the brochure, travel agents have the chance to win up to £100 in wine and restaurant vouchers, to find out more turn to page 9.

To book, visit www.trade.premierholidays.com.

A capital Canadian Christmas in Ottawa

WITH A guaranteed white Christmas and a host of festive options planned, including some new for this year, Ottawa is welcoming guests to the city to enjoy the festive season.

This year will see the newly launched 'European-Style Christmas Market' at Lansdowne's Aberdeen Square. From picking up locally-inspired gifts and last-minute stocking fillers to loading up on snacks and drinks, the market has a range of offerings for visitors.



The market, which joins established offerings such as the Christmas Market in the Canadian Museum of History's Grand Hall, will then be on weekends from Friday to Sunday through until December 22, backed by a packed programme of family-friendly activities and entertainment, including an array of options for ice skating.

Events will get underway with the lighting of the Lansdowne Christmas tree on November 29, starting from 5:30pm.

To begin planning your clients' trip, visit www.ottawatourism.ca

A host of winter fun with Butlin's

OFFERING GUESTS the opportunity to enjoy classic tracks from British music legends, the 'House of Fun' Weekender returns to Butlin's Minehead on November 29. This event will provide guests with the opportunity to see acts such as Madness, The Undertones, The Bootleg Beatles and Space perform live on stage at the Minehead Arena.

This music packed, adults-only, 'Live Music Weekend' break sees Madness perform two live sets at the 5,000-capacity indoor

Minehead arena. The original 'nutty boys' have curated their own line-up of live acts, DJs and comedy performances.

The weekend runs from November 29 to December 2, and will see guests singing and dancing along to Madness favourites including 'Our House', 'It Must Be Love' and 'Baggy Trousers'.

A three-night 'House of Fun Weekender' break at Butlin's Minehead Resort in Somerset, starts from £140 per person. For more information, go to www.butlins.com



Tui set to increase Greece capacity

AS PART of the additional two million seats TUI fly is adding to its capacity for 2020, the airline has announced that almost every third flight will be headed to the Greek islands of Corfu, Crete, Kos and Rhodes in the summer. The four Greek destinations will account for 30% of the total planned seats for summer 2020. Added capacity includes increased frequency to Corfu from Manchester, Heraklion from Doncaster and Sheffield while Santorini and Skiathos will experience increases from Newcastle Airport and new flights will be added to Skiathos from Bournemouth Airport. www.tui.co.uk

AmaWaterways unveils 2021 River Cruise collection

AMAWATERWAYS' 2021 programme is now on sale and includes a new ship, four new itineraries and new pre- and post-cruise land programmes in Europe.

Joining AmaWaterways' European fleet, the new 156-passenger AmaLucia will feature signature twin balconies, connecting staterooms and multiple dining venues including The Chef's Table, among other amenities. Celebrating spring in the Netherlands and Belgium, AmaLucia begins her journey on March 16, 2021 sailing a series of 'Tulip Time' cruises before setting sail on the Danube, Rhine, Main and Moselle rivers.

In 2021, the river cruise line will debut four new seven-night cruise itineraries – all complemented by pre- or post-cruise land programmes.

In addition, the company



The AmaLucia has joined AmaWaterways' European fleet.

will enhance its pre- and post-cruise experiences with a new land extension in the Champagne region of France where guests can visit vineyards and savour tastings of Veuve Clicquot and Moët et Chandon. This land programme will be available as an add-on to 'Europe's Rivers & Castles', 'Rhine & Moselle Splendours'

and 'Vineyards of the Rhine & Moselle' itineraries.

Prices for the 2021 programme start from £1,458 per person for a seven-night 'Colours of Provence' cruise from Lyon to Avignon onboard AmaKristina (category E stateroom), departing on December 16, 2021.

www.amawaterways.co.uk

Audited Anguilla aims for historic adventures

THE ANGUILLA Tourist Board has completed its biggest audit of the island's history to uncover hidden adventures for visitors to enjoy across the island.

The audit saw many of the island's locals getting involved to pinpoint little known adventures that they have heard of or enjoyed as a child.

The adventures include everything from discovering new and unexplored caves by kayak on Anguilla's offshore islands, including Prickly Pear, where visitors can also hike to the hidden Pink Pond. On the main island, visitors can now join guided hikes through the rugged north to discover the island's arch and little-known Goat Cave. Those who are more adventurous can be taken to cliff diving spots across the island.

The tourist board will be revealing the audit via a series of new imagery and footage in 2020. To begin planning your client's trip to Anguilla, visit www.ivisitanguilla.com



NEWS bites

CARIBBEAN HOTEL UPDATES

The Royalton Antigua has welcomed the first overwater bungalows on the Caribbean island.



Tamarind by Elegant Hotels in Barbados has been converted into a premium all-inclusive resort, focusing on high-quality cuisine and family soft adventure.



St. Lucia's Coconut Bay Resort has undergone more refurbishments and improvements, and is now open for bookings.



Jamaica: beyond the sun, sand and beach

DIRECTOR OF tourism at the Jamaica Tourist Board, Donovan White, stressed at WTM that the island wants to evolve its tourism past the 'obvious Jamaican attractions of sun, resorts and beaches'.

Although these are important tenets of tourism in Jamaica, the aim of the tourist board is to now promote the five, new growth pillars: gastronomy, culture, sports and entertainment, shopping, and knowledge tourism.

Jamaica is hitting milestones in terms of visitor numbers – the island has seen an increase of 8.5% more tourists compared to 2018.

Viking takes a liking to Egyptian adventures

PRESENTED BY Viking Cruises, 'TUTANKHAMUN: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh' is running at the Saatchi Gallery, London, until May 3, 2020. Produced by the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities and IMG, the exhibition features the largest collection of Tutankhamun's treasures ever to travel outside of Egypt and it will be the first time that 60 of the 150 original artefacts from Tutankhamun's tomb will be seen in the UK.

Egypt is popular with Viking guests with most sailings on its 'Pharaohs & Pyramids' itinerary being fully booked a year in advance. On the 12-day voyage, guests follow in the footsteps of pharaohs along the banks of the Nile between Luxor and Aswan as Viking's expert Egyptologists provide insights into one of history's greatest civilisations. The itinerary includes Cairo, with a visit to the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities.

To meet demand, Viking Osiris, a built for the Nile, is under construction and will debut at the end of 2020, joining the cruise line's other ship on the Nile, Viking Ra, which launched in 2018. It hosts 82 guests in 41 staterooms.

Viking has launched a pre-cruise extension 'British Collections of Ancient Egypt' which enables guests to retrace the steps of the world's most famous Egyptologist, Howard Carter.



The exhibition runs until May next year. (Image: Yann Caradec/Flickr)

For more information or to make a booking, call 0800 319 66 60 or go to www.vikingcruises.co.uk

Haven gets into the Olympic spirit with the 2020 brochure

HAVEN'S NEW 2020 brochure features updates on its partnership with Team GB, as well as the latest news on its 'Haven Vision of the Future' and upgrade plans for its park portfolio.

Families can experience the 'Haven Vision of the Future' with outdoor and indoor activities at Dragon Lakes Adventure Village at Hafan y Môr; an indoor activity area known as the Lighthouse Harbour Adventure Village at Craig Tara; and the new Shore Water Park at Seashore. New dining options and entertainment facilities include The Coast House at Hafan y Môr and Seashore; The Marina Lounge at Hopton; and Garden Atrium at Haggerston Castle.



The brochure's theme of 'A Breath of Fresh Air' highlight its parks' beauty, nature and coastal settings, as well as family fun. It features info on things to do in the local area and it shows how families can make the most of their stay via the free Haven app, which covers facilities, activity schedules and entertainment guides.

For more information, go to www.bourmeleisuresales.co.uk

Business Barometer has mixed news for UK tourism

UKINBOUND HAS launched its manifesto for UK tourism, focusing on talent, trade, taxation, transport and Brexit transition. The association also announced its Business Barometer results, showing that while business confidence dropped to a 2019 low, bookings and revenues are holding steady.

The manifesto calls on the government to support the industry during and beyond a Brexit transition period with visa-free access for EU visitors, protection for EU workers, promotion of the UK as a welcoming

destination, access to the Single Market, Customs Union and Open Skies agreement, extension of the December 2020 transition period deadline, reduced taxation on visitors, and ensuring the UK's transport infrastructure supports leisure tourism across the country.

"There is no room for complacency. Our industry continues to be very worried about the impact of Brexit particularly with the end of free movement as parts of the industry rely heavily on EU nationals," said Joss Croft UKinbound CEO.



Reindeer and Christmas cheer at Busch Gardens

BUSCH GARDENS at Tampa Bay has launched its 2019 Christmas experience with a Holiday Sing-Along Train; a Christmas on Ice show; the Elmo's Christmas Wish show; Three Kings Journey which tells the tale of the trail to Bethlehem with music; a Christmas soirée featuring jazz performances; a light show to accompany Carol of the Bells, a choreographed performance; Santa's house with Mrs Claus and elves; photo opportunities with Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and the Sugar Plum Princess; and have breakfast with Sesame Street friends.

For ticket information, go to www.seaworldparks.co.uk

Hidden in Spain shares the fam trip love for 2020



Menorca is part of the tour operator's new honeymoon package.

SPANISH TOUR operator Hidden in Spain is promoting a range of romantic holidays as well as reminding agents that applications are being accepted for a fam trip next year.

Seven-night "Land, Air and Sea" honeymoon packages have been launched for 2020. Priced from \$3,500 per person, the packages take in Barcelona and Menorca and include junior suite accommodation in a four-star hotel with private

Jacuzzi and panoramic views of Barcelona, and a four-star Menorcan hotel with Balinese beds by the pool, free spa treatments and chauffeured private tours.

Excursions can be added to the package, including e-bike tours, sailboating, Jeep adventures, helicopter flights and an additional trip to Ibiza for couples seeking a longer honeymoon.

Hidden in Spain is also offering Canary Islands honeymoon packages to

Fuerteventura, La Palma, Lanzarote, La Gomera, Tenerife, Maspalomas in Gran Canaria, and El Hierro.

In regard to fam trips, the tour operator is accepting applications for a fam trip to northern Spain which runs from March 22-29, 2020. It is priced at \$2,342 per person based on double occupancy. *For more information about the fam trip, go to www.hiddeninspain.com/fam-trip-travel-agents-spring-2020*

A-ROSA River Cruises is online for UK travel agents

A-ROSA RIVER Cruises has launched a website exclusively for the UK market. The website has been designed to support travel agents and A-ROSA UK's tour operator partners.

To help inspire agents, each river has its own section on the website with information on the river itself, what is nearby to see, things to do while cruising on the river and details of international cruises.

Continuing A-ROSA's focus on the city break aspect of a river cruise, the website details the main cities and towns that its ships visit. The 'Experiences' section covers optional excursions available to book on board for each cruise, plus gives ideas for independent exploration in the towns, villages and cities.



The website is not bookable as A-ROSA River Cruises only sells through agents and trade partners. Instead, it points visitors to its partner brands including: Newmarket Holidays; Shearings Holidays; SAGA Holidays; Titan Travel and Andante Travels, and features special offers. www.arosa-cruises.co.uk



InsideJapan hails Rugby World Cup a success

THE RUGBY World Cup was a boon for Japanese tourism and InsideJapan with around 40% of rugby travellers booking through InsideJapan agents. The typhoon, which struck during the tournament, meant 1,200 travellers required assistance from InsideJapan. The operator said in a statement that the way these travellers were helped demonstrated "the benefits of travelling with an operator and people who know the country inside and out". It is hoped this success will continue as visitors book to Japan for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Pictured is Andrew Tait, the operator's new business development manager in Japan.



THE WILD SIDE... Luxury tour operator If Only... took seven UK agents on a Sri Lanka fam trip last month. They were treated to a business class upgrade on the outbound flight with Qatar Airways. On the trip, they enjoyed close encounters with local wildlife.

AGENT INCENTIVES

- TO MARK the launch of Premier Holidays' 2020 Australia and New Zealand Brochure, travel agents have the chance to win wine and restaurant vouchers by answering three questions about the brochure. To enter, go to www.premierholidays.co.uk/2020OZNB. The competition closes on December 11. Additionally, agents who book with Premier Holidays will earn between £25 and £150 in shopping vouchers for every Australia booking made.
- AGENTS WHO make a booking at the East Winds hotel on the island of Saint Lucia by November 30 will be entered into a prize draw to win one of the following prizes: a Net-a-Porter Luxury Beauty Advent Calendar; two tickets to see Hamilton in London; and Bose Wireless Bluetooth over-ear headphones. As a further incentive, the clients of preferred Essential Detail and East Winds travel agents who log their booking details will receive a welcome note along with a bottle of wine, while agents will receive an Amazon voucher from £10 to £20 per booking. For more information, email cheryl.banks@essentialdetail.co.uk or call 020 8977 6099.
- BOOK A luxury holiday with Exsus Travel by December 25, including stays at either of the group's newly opened hotels, and you'll go into a draw to win a two-night stay in one of the properties. The two hotels are Il Palazzo Experimental in Venice and Menorca Experimental (pictured). As well as being in with a chance to win a European mini-break, your client will receive complimentary room upgrades and a free night's stay. Agents get one entry in the draw per booking and there is no limit on the number of bookings you can make. For more information, call 0207 563 1304 or email escape@exsus.com.



AGENT TRAINING

BOURNE LEISURE has launched new online training modules for 2020 for all three of its brands, so agents can become experts on Butlin's, Haven and Warner Leisure Hotels. To support the new modules, Bourne Leisure is offering all agents who complete the training courses in full at www.bourneexpert.co.uk, the chance to win a 2020 break with one of its three brands. The winning agent will be chosen at random and can opt for an off-peak Butlin's or Haven break for a family of four; or a Warner Leisure Hotels break for two adults aged 21 and over on selected dates.

Entries close on December 31.



CELEBRITY CRUISES will support the launch of 'Sail Your Way', the company's new pricing structure with a range of training assets and collateral created for travel partners. This includes a new selling guide, toolkit collection, social assets and dedicated flyers for home workers. A new module on Celebrity Passport will be introduced to encourage partners to learn about the new pricing structure, with webinars and Facebook live sessions available. Agents can visit www.celebritycentral.co.uk for more information.

travelbulletin COMPETITIONS!

Luxury Fortnum and Mason hamper could be yours with Hahn Air

Greek hamper to be won with Louis Hotels

Business Premier return tickets to Paris, Brussels, Rotterdam or Amsterdam to be won with Eurostar!

Win a five-night all-inclusive deluxe stay at the new Palladium Hotel Menorca

FOR ALL COMPETITIONS VISIT travelbulletin.co.uk/competitions

British tourists once again charmed by Sharm

DR RANIA A. Al-Mashat, the Egyptian tourism minister, visited WTM and commented on the return of British tourists to Sharm El-Sheikh following the lifting of restrictions on UK flights to the destination. The restrictions were lifted on October 22 after four years. Additionally, the inauguration of Cairo's Sphinx International Airport took place earlier this year, making the country more accessible to charter flights, and will soon cater to the domestic aviation market.

"We welcome the return of British tourists to Sharm El-Sheikh," Dr Al-Mashat said. "This announcement is a renewal of the ongoing cooperation between both



nations. This step is a testament to the continuous efforts exerted by the Egyptian government to ensure the safety and security of every visitor in all Egypt's destinations, and in South Sinai in particular."

As well as Sharm El-Sheikh becoming more accessible, the Grand Egyptian Museum, the largest archaeological museum in the world, has

opened in Cairo. Other new developments include a new Hyatt Regency hotel slated to open in Cairo at the end of 2020. Sonesta, meanwhile, will be launching the Sun Goddess cruise after a full renovation and this is expected to be sailing again in February 2020, and Mayflower, a new five-star vessel started operations on October 28.

Thailand takes multi-faceted approach to tourism

THE TOURIST Authority of Thailand (TAT) announced a multi-faceted approach to its promotional activities at WTM. The approach will include promoting luxury travel, pitching to new source markets in the UK and Ireland, highlighting the benefits of travelling in the low season and boosting local offerings.

Distinctly Thailand is promoting Thailand as a luxury destination with wellness, beach, nature, cuisine and adventure options as well as high-end accommodation.

Promotion in the UK and Ireland is going to move away from a London-heavy focus and look toward other parts of both countries, including Cardiff, Sheffield, Leeds and Dublin.

Promoting Thailand as a year-round destination to help prevent overtourism is another important pillar of TAT's marketing strategy. As part of the Responsible Thailand campaign, promotion of visiting Thailand in May/June and September/October will be spearheaded by a digital campaign. At a local level, TAT is keen to develop the unique aspects of Thailand. An example of this is the development of the homestay market to give visitors an authentic experience.

Events which TAT is highlighting as selling points for agents include the Amazing Thailand marathon in February 2020 and the Thailand Grand Prix on March 22, 2020.

Albania seeks value over volume in sustainability drive

ALBANIA LAUNCHED its new tourism strategy at a sustainability seminar at WTM. Jeremy Sampson, Travel Foundation CEO, praised the steps towards sustainability which Albania has taken. He said the country is "at a crucial period in its development as a visitor economy".

"We are pleased that [Albania] has taken note of the lessons learned by others. No destination should seek growth for growth's sake," Mr Sampson said. "Tourism should add value to a destination, which may seem obvious, but currently destinations do not understand the full range of costs associated with tourism – only the benefits. Unless these costs are managed, tourism does not pay its own way."



Blendi Klossi, Albania's tourism minister said: "Our vision is to take a smarter approach that focuses on quality over quantity, value over volume, while ensuring Albania's many treasures, natural resources and public assets are maintained for the benefit of residents and visitors alike."

www.albania.al



Qantas trials London-Sydney ultra-long haul flight

AFTER MAKING aviation history with its inaugural non-stop London-Perth flight in 2018, Qantas has operated a non-stop London-Sydney research flight. It is part of Project Sunrise, a series of research flights for the Australian national carrier to investigate ways to reduce jetlag and design an optimum crew rest-and-work pattern for ultra-long haul flights. This follows on from a non-stop New York-Sydney flight last month where innovations such as serving supper at breakfast time were tested to help passengers adjust to time zones. The New York-Sydney flight involved 49 passengers and crew and cut around three hours of transit time.

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, November 28th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

The winner for November 8th is Ryan McColm, Hays Travel Limited in Sunderland.

November 8th Solution: A=8 B=7 C=1 D=2

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



WHERE AM I?

This gem of Gothic art was built in the 12th century, upon the order of King Saint-Louis, to house Christ's Crown of Thoms. Encompassing two levels, the upper chapel of this monument dazzles with the colours and light of a near all surrounding set of stained-glass windows above the visitor.

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								19	

Across

- Airline with a hub at Warsaw Chopin airport (3)
- P&O cruise ship exclusively for adults (7)
- Escape to the Country presenter, Denise ____, sounds like a medic (5)
- Animated Frozen Queen (4)
- European country (7)
- Strictly professional dancer ____ Mabuse (3)
- Cross-Solent operator, ____ Funnel (3)
- First name of the US president appearing on the five dollar bill (7)
- Scottish isle (4)
- The Panama ____ connects the Atlantic with the Pacific (5)
- There is a Great one in Giza (7)
- Seattle-Tacoma international airport code (3)

Down

- Bonnie starring in 42nd Street - The Musical at a cinema near you (8)
- Capital of the Piedmont region (5)
- Arrecife airport code (3)
- Famous Somerset Gorge (7)
- Dance music from the seventies (5)
- Carrier with HQ in Luqa (3,5)
- Home of Disneyland Park (7)
- Capital of Senegal (5)
- Hollywood actor, Tom ____ (5)
- Massachusetts Cape, sounds fishy (3)

Mystery Word: LINDOS Where am I? - Sainte-Chapelle, Paris, France.

Solution: Across: 1. LOT, 3. ARCADIA, 6. NURSE, 7. ELSA, 9. FINLAND, 11. OTI, 12. RED, 14. ABRAHAM, 16. SKYE, 17. CANAL, 18. PYRAMID, 19. SEA. Down: 1. LANGFORD, 2. TURIN, 3. ACE, 4. CHEDDAR, 5. DISCO, 8. AIR MALTA, 10. ANAHEIM, 13. DAKAR, 15. HANKS, 17. CDD.



AN INDIAN ODYSSEY

CROISIEUROPE HAS introduced a new cruise taking in Chennai (pictured), Mumbai, Goa and Kochi, as well as a stop in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital. The 10-night cruise on new ship La Belle Des Océans sets sail on January 11, 2020. It takes 124 passengers in 62 ocean-view suites. Guests will save £2,079 per person if the booking is made before December 31.

For more information or to make bookings, call 020 8328 1281 or visit www.croisieurope.com

Viking expands with new ship and itineraries

VIKING VENUS, the seventh small-ship ocean cruiser for the company, will launch in early 2021. The 930-guest ship will spend her maiden season in Scandinavia and Northern Europe.

Additionally, Viking will expand its offerings in the Mediterranean with five new itineraries that include stops in Istanbul, marking the company's return to the city. The eight-day 'Ancient Mediterranean Treasures' will sail between Athens and Istanbul. Guests looking for an extended experience in the region can choose longer versions of the itinerary, with additions including Venice, Barcelona, Montenegro and Croatia.

Highlights from Turkey



One of the frescoes of the Palace of Knossos in Crete.

include Troy, the battlefields of Gallipoli, and the ancient Greek ruins of Ephesus. Greek highlights include the Rhodes Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Palace of Knossos in Crete. The Mediterranean itineraries will commence in April 2021, sailing on the 930-guest, all-verandah ship Viking Sky.

"Demand from the UK market for our ocean cruises

is very high so we would advise travellers to book as far in advance as possible to avoid disappointment – especially if they would like to sail on Viking Venus in her maiden season," said Wendy Atkin-Smith, managing director of Viking UK. *For more information or to make a booking, go to www.vikingcruises.co.uk or call 0800 298 97 00.*

MOVERS and SHAKERS

• WENDY WU has made four new sales force appointments. Caroline Rennie is head of inside sales and specialist business; Sandra Foreman takes on the role of key account manager for Hays; Caroline Burroughs joins as trade support manager; and Harry Ryan is a personal tailormade consultant. All four are former Thomas Cook employees.

• SUZANNE HORNER, CEO of Gray Dawes Travel (below), will join Advantage Travel Partnership's board. She is also chair of the board at Business Travel Associations.



• AWAZE UK, which includes such as Hoseasons, has appointed Ross Matthews (below) as chief marketing officer. He joins the group from icelolly.com, where he held the same role since 2015.



• GREG WARD (below) has joined Aman as the luxury hospitality group's head of global sales and distribution, after working for Shangri-La Group as vice president of sales.



• CORINTHIA HOTELS has appointed Christian Renz as chief commercial officer. He will be based in London, overseeing sales, marketing and revenue operations for the whole brand.



HAPPY RETURNS

Airlines and airports spent a record \$50 billion worldwide on improving passenger experience and its results are showing

AIRLINES AND airports spent a record US\$50 billion in 2018 on IT to support improvements to the passenger journey, and the benefits of this investment are beginning to show, according to SITA 2019 Air Transport IT Insights report.

The figures show that this investment has resulted in a significant improvement in the satisfaction levels for passengers and average processing time.

The report shows that 60% of airline CIOs recorded up to a 20% year-on-year improvement in passenger satisfaction. During the same period, 45% of them recorded up to 20% improvement in the rate of passengers processed. These strong returns on investment in technology were also seen at airports where 63% of CIOs reported a year-on-year

improvement of up to 20% in passenger satisfaction levels, while 44% recorded quicker passenger processing times.

Airlines and airports also recorded an improvement in their business performance.

Matthys Serfontein, SITA president, Air Travel Solutions, said: "The good news is that the growing investment in automating the passenger journey means the industry is providing a faster, more pleasant airport experience. This is a real success story for automating the passenger journey, particularly at a time when we expect passenger numbers to double over the next 20 years, with physical airport infrastructure struggling to keep pace. Technology is key to alleviating the industry's capacity crunch and avoiding negative impacts

on passengers."

Serfontein said: "The increase in airline spend over the past year was driven by the larger airlines which continue to invest to speed up the pace of digital transformation. Investments in business intelligence and cloud services have emerged as priorities."

From an operational point of view, airlines and airports are increasingly investing in intelligence for real-time and historic views of operations, allowing them to proactively manage everything from baggage and passenger flows, to aircraft turnaround and the allocation of vital assets, such as parking stands and gates.

The full report can be accessed at www.sita.aero/resources/typ e/surveys-reports/air-transport-it-insights-2019

Vietnam Airlines launches new routes to Shenzhen, China

VIETNAM AIRLINES is launching new services on routes Ho Chi Minh City – Shenzhen on November 27 and Hanoi – Shenzhen on November 28, at a frequency of three and four weekly flights respectively.

Operated on the Airbus A321, flights will depart from Ho Chi Minh City to Shenzhen on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 22:45, while flights from Hanoi to Shenzhen will depart on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 23:55. All flights from Shenzhen to Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi depart at 3:35, with Ho Chi Minh City flights departing every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday; and Hanoi flights every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

To celebrate the new launches, the airline is offering promotional roundtrip airfares starting from US\$19 (US\$145 including taxes and charges) on the Ho Chi Minh City – Shenzhen route and from US\$29 (US\$155 including taxes and charges) on the Hanoi-Shenzhen route.

These offers apply to tickets issued until December 31.



A great time that does good

The SeaWorld Parks offer fun like no other. Guests can ride, splash and play to their heart's content and rest assured knowing their tickets are helping conservation efforts. Over 35,000 animals have been rescued by SeaWorld's Rescue Team.



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ROCK 'N' ROLL

Hard Rock opens world's first guitar-shaped hotel

THE SPECTACULAR Seminole Hard Rock Hotel is officially open and set to redefine the Fort Lauderdale skyline.

The grand opening took place in October with a red carpet celebration filled with celebrities and Maroon Five headlining the opening party.

Located in Greater Fort Lauderdale, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel has undergone a \$1.5 billion property-wide expansion and is open to 638 new luxury guest rooms and suites and an oasis tower housing 168 guest suites. Known as an icon for hospitality and entertainment, The Seminole Hard Rock will be introducing its flagship casino which has doubled in size. The casino will include high-stakes table games, South Florida's premier poker room and an extensive roster of slot titles

Guests can also enjoy a 4.5-acre lagoon-style heated pool area featuring dramatic waterfalls, private cabanas, 182-foot high waterslide, elevated jetted spa, hot tub and Beach Club. There are a plethora of restaurants within the hotel, and a luxury spa.

A daily spectacular light show features a



series of orchestrated outdoor music and LED lights programmed to change colour and intensity which are choreographed to different songs. Six high-powered beams of light - that mimic the strings of an imaginary guitar neck - accentuate the production by projecting at least 20,000 feet into the sky.

Among all this, The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel will be introducing its most exciting feature, Hard Rock Live. This will welcome 100 shows a year, with a mix of different acts from live music to boxing matches and other events.

For more information visit

<https://www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com/>

Robbie's back with a new Las Vegas residency

TICKETS WENT on sale last night after Robbie Williams announced he will be returning to Las Vegas for a 2020 residency.

Following the huge success of his 16 sold-out shows this year during three residency runs, 'Robbie Williams Live in Las Vegas' will be back at Wynn Las Vegas' Encore Theater on the city's famous strip with eight dates in March and April next year. The full 2020 dates are: March 24, March 25, March 27, March 28, March 31, April 1, April 3 and April 4.

Robbie said: "I'm so excited to be returning to Las Vegas for new residency dates next year. To have my own run of Vegas shows was a real dream come true and I can't wait to come back."

Tickets went on sale yesterday, Thursday 21st November. *General tickets and official VIP packages will be available from robbiewilliams.com.*

CHEMISTRY AND COCKTAILS

Breaking Bad pops up in Los Angeles

A BREAKING Bad pop-up restaurant has opened its doors in West Hollywood with chemically reactive cocktails and Heisenburger Sliders on the menu.

Diners can expect an interactive experience including an assortment of insta-worthy set recreations from all five seasons of the show.

Fans of the crime drama can feast on a variety of show-inspired drinks and bar snacks up to Walter White's standards. They can enjoy a do-it-yourself menu of chemically-reactive cocktails and taste the delicious Heisenburger Sliders, the Full Measure Grilled Cheese (the "Half Measure" if you want it crustless!) and Loaded SAULsa Nachos, all safely served via hazmat tableside. Themed sides and desserts, as well as vegan and gluten-free options, round out the menu.

General admission tickets are available for £23 and include entry, up to 90 minutes inside and the choice of the first concoction and food item.

The Breaking Bad Experience, which launched in October at 7100 Santa Monica Blvd in West Hollywood, is open Tuesday-Sundays 4pm until 10pm.

Show creator Vince Gilligan said: "It's exciting to be able to give the folks who supported the show for all these years the



chance to experience Walt's world firsthand."

Tickets for the experience are on sale at breakingbadexperience.com until January 2020.

For more information, visit www.visitwesthollywood.com

Jet2 the Big Apple for Black Friday

JET2 HAS announced 19 four-night trips to New York from six UK airports.

The holiday package firm says that due to exceptional demand, Jet2.com and Jet2CityBreaks is offering flights from Birmingham, East Midlands, Glasgow, Leeds Bradford, Manchester and Newcastle Airports to give holidaymakers more choice and flexibility.



With trips perfectly timed for Christmas shopping, US Thanksgiving and Black Friday, there is an abundance of unique experiences awaiting customers from across the UK.

Steve Heapy, CEO of Jet2.com and Jet2CityBreaks said: "With customers clearly loving our New York breaks and even more choice and flexibility for Winter 20, there is no better time to book an unforgettable break to the magical city and enjoy a bite of the Big Apple!"

For the full New York programme for Winter 2020 or to book visit www.jet2.com or www.jet2citybreaks.com



San Fran city break with Shearings

SHEARINGS HOLIDAYS is offering city breaks in San Francisco for 2020 priced from £1,269 per person.

The tour operator is offering agents an easy-to-book package for holidaymakers looking a short break, throughout the year.

With so much about San Francisco to discover, the tour includes three excursions. A hop-on hop-off bus ticket which takes in famous landmarks including, Haight-Ashbury, Fisherman's Wharf, Chinatown, the Golden Gate Bridge and some of the pretty towns across the Bay such as Sausalito, is part of the deal. This ticket also includes entry to Alcatraz Island.

An excursion to San Francisco's wine country, Napa Valley and Sonoma is also included, with the chance to enjoy tastings at three wineries. The final included excursion explores the Pacific Coast. This tour calls at Monterey, Carmel and scenic 17-mile Drive.

Packages cost from £1,269 per person and include return flights plus four nights accommodation, resort transfers and three excursions - based on two sharing.

For more information, visit www.shearingsagent.com

Lego Movie World comes to Legoland California

LEGOLAND CALIFORNIA is planning to unveil Lego Movie World in spring 2020 – the largest ever addition to the theme park.

The attraction is based on The Lego Movie and The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part, the new land will fully immerse visitors into the fictional world of Bricksburg. They will be able to hop aboard Emmet’s triple decker flying couch on the flagship Masters of Flight ride, be launched to the top of Cloud Cuckoo Land on Unikitty’s Disco Drop, and explore the Benny’s Play Ship carousel. Masters of Flight will use the latest technology, including a feature to turn 180 degrees.

General manager, Peter Ronchetti, said: “We can’t wait to see the faces on all the children as they interact within the creative world of Bricksburg and experience the incredible Masters of Flight ride which is taking the traditional soaring-type of ride to new heights.”

The Lego Movie World will be included in the price of admission to Legoland California Resort.

Since opening its doors in 1999 with 12 rides and Miniland USA, North America’s first Legoland theme park has grown with more



than 60 rides, shows and attractions, a 10-acre water park, two-story aquarium and two interactive Lego themed hotels.

For more information, visit www.legoland.com/california

Brand USA and United Airlines partner up to promote America

BRAND USA, the marketing organisation for the United States, and United Airlines have announced a sponsorship deal to reach millions of potential travellers. Over the next three years, they aim “to elevate the position of the US”. Christopher Thompson, of Brand USA, said: “Travel decisions are increasingly influenced by entertaining content and compelling stories.

Brand USA and United Airlines have the right resources and marketing innovation to elevate the position of the US in the worldwide travel sector.”

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*Valid on new bookings only made between 20th October 2019 and 31st December 2019. Gross value must be over £800 to qualify and must be for a minimum of 2 persons. Valid on 14 day ultimate / Real Steal COMBO / Full Monty COMBO 2019 & 2020 tickets. Voucher will be issued when full payment received

THE WILD WEST

Ranch out on a cowboy trip to Arizona

TOUR OPERATOR Ranch Rider has added the popular Kay El Bar Ranch to its Arizona collection - opening in summer 2020.

The property is listed on the US national registry of historic places - and authentic to the last, many of the ranch's adobe brick buildings were built over the years by Maricopa Indians who lived on the nearby reservation.

Kay El Bar is packed full of memorabilia - the property first making an appearance as a working cattle ranch back in the early 1900s. Lodging options include a guest building, two casitas, and a family guest lodge with space for up to six people. A swimming pool and hot tub are also on site.

Only a five-minute drive away from historic Wickenburg, the old gold mining town has a fascinating past. Ranch Rider suggest adding in a visit to Wickenburg's "Gold Rush Days & Senior Pro Rodeo," the three-day extravaganza celebrating the town's origins as a ranching & gold mining centre (February 14-16, 2020). Drawing crowds in the tens of thousands, a colourful parade, carnival and rodeo are part of the programme, the Library of Congress recognising the event as one of America's Living Legacies.

Ranch Rider has seen an increase in demand for authentic ranch holidays.

Managing director Tony Daly said the company was keen to work with agents.

He said: "We are a useful resource for travel agents. We handpick the properties we work with, from working ranches to luxury lodges, and as keen riders ourselves, with eighty years combined experience in the saddle, we



are able to direct agents and ensure they match their client to the right riding holiday. In our sector that's incredibly important as a first riding holiday can often turn into a passion, with clients returning year on year.

"The Kay El Bar is the perfect choice for families who want to reconnect through nature, the property located in Northwest Arizona desert, the ranch set in the shadow of the Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness. The main focus of the stay is horse riding - team-penning, hiking and bird watching alternative activities. Exciting news, several "old-new" trails that have been left hidden for almost a decade will soon be available for guests to rediscover." Seven nights at the Kay El Bar with Ranch Rider start from £1,339 per person (two sharing) and £1,185 per person (seven to 17 years) including accommodation, meals, most ranch activities, taxes, transfers and gratuities. Excludes car hire and return flight. *For more information, visit ranchrider.com.*

Road trips to drive Californian tourism

AT A pre-WTM event hosted by Visit California, the focus was on promoting road trips and emphasising the importance of the UK market as a source of tourism revenue for the Golden State.

The event focused on road trips as a major focus of the Visit California presence at WTM 2019 and as a long-term promotion. The tourism board hopes to promote the wide range of routes available in the state, including drives that take in national parks, beaches, mountains, snowfields, diverse cities and ghost towns.



Jennifer Montero, Visit California's international marketing director, told the event that UK tourists are very welcome to the state, particularly as they tend to spend a lot of money on their holidays and stay for long periods of time. She said despite the wildfires which have attracted international media attention, "California is open for business" and the best way to show support for the businesses that rely on tourism is to encourage more people to visit.

For more information, go to www.visitcalifornia.com



One giant leap to... Seattle

THE LOST remains of Apollo 12 and the 16 F-1 engines that boosted the mighty Saturn V Moon rockets can be seen for the first time at the Museum of Flight in Seattle.

The exhibition, which opened on November 16, will be the first public display of the long-lost rocket engines that launched the Apollo astronauts to the Moon in 1969.

Nasa donated the rescued rocket engine to the museum after it was salvaged by Amazon billionaire boss Jeff Bezos from the Atlantic Ocean in 2013. The exhibition APOLLO reflects those times with artefacts both towering and diminutive, each with powerful stories of the people behind them. It will feature moon rocks, a lunar roving "moon buggy," the only Viking Mars lander on Earth, space suits and the first Apollo command module.

For more information, visit visitseattle.org.

ADVENTURE & ACTIVITY

ACTION ARGENTINA

From glaciers and cruises to wildlife and wineries, Argentina offers a wide range of adventure holidays with accommodation and food options to suit all tastes and budgets.

ARGENTINA HAS become more accessible than ever, thanks to Norwegian offering long-haul flights from Gatwick as well as an extensive internal network to reduce travel times between destinations.

To access the agent portal: www.norwegian.com.

Inspiratravel can help agents with bespoke itineraries to Patagonia, Cuyo, Litoral, the north of the country and the cities. Recommendations include

glacier walks in Los Glaciares National Park, although hikers have to be under 65, and Patagonian kayaking. *For more information, go to www.inspiratravel.com.*

Australis specialises in expedition cruises amid the icy Patagonian fjords with two vessels designed for these conditions. The itineraries are all-inclusive with high quality food and wine, but the real focus of these voyages is the chance to experience wildlife up close, including penguins and sealions. The itineraries run for five days and four nights. To learn more, go to www.australis.com.

Ushuaia is a launching point for cruises as well as offering access to Tierra del Fuego National Park and boat trips in Beagle Channel. Fifteen minutes away is Los Cauquenes, a 54-room waterside resort and spa with chalet-style

accommodation. Agents can book excursions from here for their clients and receive commission.

To find out more about this resort and other properties: www.opalcollection.net.

Senderos has four Argentinian options. Estancia Cristina is a remote farmhouse property best experienced between October and April. It offers day and overnight excursions to wilderness areas. Bahia Bustamante Lodge is an intimate six-room property close to a UNESCO-protected biosphere. Huechahue is a relaxed property offering horseriding, fishing, hiking, birdwatching and camping. Hotel De Esteros is on the fringe of the Ibera wetlands and offers easy access to Brazil and Paraguay for multi-country trips.

For more information, visit www.senderos.co.uk

See the sights and hit the heights in the UAE

The WORLD'S tallest indoor climbing wall and the biggest indoor skydiving flight chamber opens next Friday in the UAE.

Miral, Abu Dhabi's creative developer, has announced that its new sports and leisure attraction will open on Yas Island on the November 29.

The \$100 million (£78 million) CLYMB Abu Dhabi features four walls of varying difficulty, including the world's highest indoor climbing wall at 140ft, and the world's widest skydiving chamber, allowing flyers to mimic a skydiving experience spanning over 32ft.

HE Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, chairman of Miral, said "As one of the most highly anticipated new attractions in Abu Dhabi, it is set to become the ultimate hub for adventure in the region, offering something completely unique, challenging and unforgettable for all ability levels."

CLYMB Abu Dhabi's has striking architecture with a geometric exterior resembling a crystal-like structure – and has already become a Yas Island landmark, adding to the leisure, lifestyle and entertainment experiences available to visitors.

For more information, visit www.clymbadhabi.com



TURBO-BOOST YOUR RIDE

Blaze a trail on e-mountain bikes with H+I Adventures

BIKE SPECIALIST operator H+I Adventures is leading the charge in e-mountain bike (mtb) travel with trips through the deserts of Namibia and an Alpine descent in Switzerland. The adventure company is launching five battery-assisted tours for the year ahead: one to Croatia where the tour begins inland with riders pedalling through farmland and olive groves as they tackle sections of the famous Parenzana Trail (a 123km route linking Trieste and Porec). Prices start from £2,550 per person sharing, including seven-nights' bed-and-breakfast accommodation, transfers, guiding and ferry trip to Rab Island. This departs on the May 17, June 21, August 29, 2020.

Another choice is their Namibia Riders trip to ascend sand dunes on an expert-led safari tour. This would suit someone starting off their e-mtb journey and offers wildlife and meeting local communities. Cyclists will experience pedalling along red dirt roads while surrounded by endless spectacular horizons. Highlights include: spotting giraffe, zebra and oryx from the saddle; cycling from the Skeleton Coast to the Huab River; camping under cloudless, star-filled skies; watching wild river elephants in Damaraland; and meeting indigenous communities, such as the Himba tribe.

Prices start from £3,500 per person sharing, including 11-nights' accommodation, most meals, guiding, transfers and support vehicle. This departs on August 9 or October 4, 2020.



H+I Adventures is also running riding tours to Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland.

The operator says its seen the popularity of e-mountain bikes increase hugely in recent years and the technology has progressed too. The bikes are now much lighter and more fun to ride and are perfect for those who need a little assistance on the ascents.

Each destination has chosen local guides with experience of e-mtb and the itineraries.

Euan Wilson, co-founder of H+I Adventures, said: "We've crafted these new holidays to allow riders to join the e-evolution of mountain bike travel."

Visit mountainbikeworldwide.com

Matthew Usherwood from BookMyTrail talks solo travellers

MATTHEW USHERWOOD says: "One in six people choose to go on holiday by themselves, however solo travellers are hugely under represented.

The majority of lead-in prices are aimed at two people sharing a room. Solo travellers are often levied with extra single supplement fees on top of this lead-in price. It's easy to see why the industry is built around these prices. The margins for couples or groups are significantly better. Some travel companies offer group tours for solo travellers with no published single supplements.

This is positive, however that's if you're sharing a room with a stranger, which allows the single supplement to be removed from the price. But here lies an opportunity. Solo travellers can be broken into big groups: Young 20-30-year-old travellers, who have not made lifelong commitments, and older travellers, who are single or travelling alone for a plethora of reasons.



Each can be broken down into further segments, but there's a common set of themes to which they all adhere regardless of age: Solo travellers are very focused on experiential travel: they do not want to sit by the pool all day. They book based on price: single supplements put off solo travellers, who would rather make their own bookings.

That's often at the detriment of a business that would have otherwise had their custom if their message had spoken to them. Also, they want your reassurance that a chosen destination is safe. This is an opportunity to further develop trust with your customer. My business, BookMyTrail focuses on providing solo self-guided walking holidays.

The feedback I've received so far has been encouraging."

For more information, visit www.bookmytrail.com.

A sea of calm with yoga and sailing in Greece

FOR THOSE who love the sea and wellness, Unforgettable Greece combines relaxation with rolling on the waves with their yoga and sailing tour.

The Sunset Yoga Sailing Trip takes place aboard a luxurious catamaran, travelling along the tranquil Greek sea in Naxos. The yoga sessions are led by a certified instructor, who will guide the group through poses, strength exercises and breathing techniques as the boat travels along the coastline. The wellness tour begins in Athens before heading to the island of Naxos, where it is said the crystal clear water works to heal and purify. Onwards to Crete, the tour includes a visit to a luxury spa offering massage treatments and wellness programmes.

The sunset yoga sailing tip is part of the Greece travel experts' new 'Sun & Sea Therapy Wellness Trip', which offers guests a range of mindfulness activities and detoxifying treatments in an idyllic Greek setting, while tucking into healthy Mediterranean cuisine and exploring the ancient and beautiful Greek islands.

'The Greece Sun & Sea Therapy Wellness Trip' costs from approx £2,099 with luxury accommodation and private airport transfers.

For more information visit <https://unforgettablegreece.com/about-us/>



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KITESURFING IS on offer at one of the world's top spots for the sport – the pristine coastline of Zanzibar.

With qualified instructors and a wide range of equipment, kitesurfers are also guaranteed five-star service at Zanzibar Kite Paradise.

Together with Zanzibar White Sand Luxury Villas & Spa, the school offers never more than two pupils to one instructor - with everyone guaranteed undivided attention resulting in the confidence to become an expert in no time.

Zanzibar White Sand is located on Paje beach, which has calm flat waters,

powder soft sand and combined with year-round winds it's one of the top kitesurfing spots in the world.

The coral reef creates lagoon-flat water, as well as a chance for advanced kites to surf waves, making it the ideal mix of flat and more choppy waters.

The kite school opens on June 15 to September 15, and from December 15 to March 15.

Individual lessons start from approx £163 and group lessons from £111 for three hours. Full equipment hire starts at approx £26 for one hour.

For more information, visit www.whitesandvillas.com.

Drive like Bond: see 007's house from an amphibious car on Lake Como

ADVENTURE MEETS Italian glamour on Lake Como with a new amphibious classic car at Grand Hotel Tremezzo.

March 2020 will see the launch of Amphicar 770, which guests can learn to drive on the water of Lake Como with a local guide, sightseeing at Villa Balbianello – the former home of famous adventurer Guido Monzini and James Bond film location, filled with artefacts from Monzini's round-the-world explorations – and the panoramic views of the forested Comacina Island, one of the most interesting archaeological sites in northern Italy.

One of Lake Como's most iconic hotels, Grand Hotel Tremezzo uses its position on the edge of the lake to arrange a range of other adventures including canoeing, parachuting from the nearby Alps, windsurfing, hiking, horse riding and mountain biking.

Prices for an amphicar tour cost from approx £470 for two hours, available for one-to-three people plus an instructor.

Grand Hotel Tremezzo, Lake Como has rooms from £350 per night, based on two sharing a Park View Prestige Room on a bed-and-breakfast basis. The hotel opens in March 2020.

For more information, visit www.grandhoteltremezzo.com.

Where is your dream US holiday?



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