





## **UK & Ireland**

### **Anniversary treat for Royal fans**

Fans of the British Royal Family can find out more about planned events to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Many of Her Majesty's royal residences will be holding special events, including an exhibition of some of the greatest treasures from the Royal Collection.

This will include a spectacular display of the Queen's diamonds at the annual Summer Opening of Buckingham Palace and, to coincide with the Olympics, the largest public display so far of Leonardo da Vinci's anatomical drawings at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace.

At Windsor Castle, 60 photographs of the Queen will present a portrait of Her Majesty's reign as captured in fleeting moments on both official occasions and at family gatherings.

In Edinburgh at the Queen's Gallery, in the Palace of Holyroodhouse, a selection of 100 outstanding works will be on show reflecting the breadth of the Royal Collection, from Michelangelo to Monet.

Most of the works will be shown in Scotland for the first time.

**Stand: UK1104**

## **Treat for Hockney fans**

The Royal Academy of Arts, London, is unveiling details of an exhibition of work featuring artist David Hockney on the Golden Tours Stand.

Maria Salvatierra, marketing manager at the Academy, said: "The exhibition will feature a large number of new paintings, many of which are of ambitious scale and which were executed specifically for the Royal Academy's exhibition.

"Inspired by the Yorkshire landscape in the North of England, these recent works will be shown alongside related drawings and film.

"This body of recent work is contextualised by a number of retrospective works which demonstrate Hockney's long exploration and fascination with the depiction of landscape.

Hockney, an important contributor to the Pop art movement of the 1960s, is considered one of the most influential British artists of the twentieth century.

The exhibition starts in January and runs until early April.

**Stand: L219**

**Queen's Diamond Jubilee**

London & Partners, the tourist board for the UK capital, have details of "momentous events" taking place in the city in 2012.

Not only is the city host to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, it will also celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and many other fantastic events throughout the year.

Following the launch of London & Partners 'Limited Edition London' campaign, which starts this autumn and which highlights once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, the company will be announcing new additions to the programme.

They include details of new hotels, attractions, events and shows, all offering inspiration on what there is to see and do in London in 2012.

**Stand: L300**

## **In Brief**

London's iconic **St Paul's Cathedral** is showing a film detailing the 15-year restoration work to the interior and exterior, which has just been completed. A state-of-the-art conservation technique has made the Sir Christopher Wren's masterpiece "look better than at any time in its 300-year history", according to representatives.

**Stand: UK1100**

## **Europe & Mediterranean**

### **Portugal's Algarve adds more events**

The Algarve Promotion Bureau has extended its ALLGARVE event programme.

Following popular demand, the initiative, which has been running for three years, will now run throughout the year, rather than just in the summer.

ALLGARVE has been running for three years and the decision was taken to expand the event due to its popularity.

ALLGARVE has got bigger every year and culture vultures can find plenty of entertainment in the region when the events programme of theatre, music, art, festivals and events gets fully underway.

More than 100 diverse events take place throughout the year, showcasing a range of entertainment for locals and visitors to the region including sports, gastronomy, street theatre, contemporary circus and classical music.

The ALLGARVE events calendar ensures visitors have plenty to do in the region during their stay.

The Algarve Promotion Bureau is also looking at boosting its share of the Northern Ireland market, following the announcement that Jet2.com is to operate a weekly Belfast to Faro flight, starting at €7.49 one-way (approximately £41).

**Stand: EM900**

## **Portugal unveils its Capital of Culture**

This year at WTM, Turismo de Portugal, the Portuguese tourism body, is focusing on the city of Guimarães.

The city, which became a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site last year, has been awarded the title of 2012 European Capital of Culture.

As a result, an array of activities has been planned for next year and full details are being launched at WTM.

Filipe Silva, director of Turismo de Portugal, says: "The city of Guimarães is immensely proud of its title, 2012 European Capital of Culture, and throughout the year will be the promoter of Europe's cultural diversity, host a number of major gathering of creators and creations and welcome those from other countries.

"Following the renovation of the historical centre and subsequently its recognition by UNESCO as a World Heritage site in 2001, Guimarães' distinguished heritage, inspiring landscape, entrepreneurial capacity, unique gastronomy and warm hospitality, can all be experienced by the visitors in a year that will not only showcase Guimarães but also Portugal."

Guimarães is located in northern Portugal, a 40-minute drive from Portugal's second city Porto, where flights are available to and from the UK. The city is often referred to as the "birthplace of the Portuguese nationality" or "the cradle city" (Cidade Berço in Portuguese).

For Portuguese people, Guimarães has a very special symbolic value, because it was where the first king of Portugal, Afonso Henriques, fought the Battle of São Mamede, in 1128.

**Stand: EM900**

## **Gone fishing**

One of Italy's lesser-known regions, Liguria, has launched authentic 'slow fishing' experiences.

Liguria stretches west along the coast from France, separated by mountains from Piedmont to the north, Emilia Romagna to the east and Tuscany to the south and its lush forests and secluded stretches of coast made it a favourite of Byron, Shelley and Hemingway.

The region holds an annual slow fish festival in May and, following on from the festival's success, Liguria Tourism is expanding the theme.

A spokesman said: "Tourists can now spend a day with local fishermen experiencing 'life at sea' in the Italian region, mastering traditional fishing methods and savouring freshly caught and grilled fish.

"Slow fishing experiences are for visitors who want to get a real taste of the region's food culture and traditions."

**Stand: EM1800**

## **Adelle Cruises launches new ship**

Netherlands based cruiseline Adelle Cruises will be revealing details of its river cruise ship, MS Alegria.

The 100-passenger vessel is the only passenger ship sailing on European waters that has been specifically adapted for the disabled market.

It has 50 cabins, many of which have been adapted to be accessible by wheelchair users.

The ship's lift can take passengers in wheelchairs or using electric scooters from the cabin deck to the promenade deck – where the restaurant, library and bar are located – and the sun deck.

The Alegria can sail the waterways and rivers of Holland and Belgium as well as the German Rhine region.

The ship is available for complete charter, as well as for group and individual travel.

**Stand: EM300**

**Expansion for Dutch cruiseline**

Dutch river cruise company, Feenstra Rhine Line are introducing its brand new ship, the 141-passenger Antonio Bellucci, at WTM.

Due to join the fleet in March 2012, the ship will have spacious twin-bedded cabins with balconies, comfortable public areas, fine dining and a sauna and fitness area.

Full details are available on the stand and the company is looking to talk to any operators that are interested in featuring the vessel.

Antonio Bellucci will join Feenstra Rhine Line's fleet of 12 "classy, comfortable river cruisers", ranking from three to five stars.

The ships sail more than 35 cruise itineraries throughout Western and Central Europe, operating more than 130 scheduled departures.

The ship takes guests on an individual, group or charter basis.

The company is the largest Dutch provider of European river cruises on the Rhine, Danube, Moselle, Main, Neckar and Saar.

**Stand EM530**

## **Istanbul launches museum pass**

The Turkish Culture and Tourism Office has launched the Istanbul Museum Pass, enabling single entrance to several of the city's top tourist attractions including Hagia Sophia, the Istanbul Archaeological Museum and the Topkapi Palace.

The pass is valid for 72 hours and costs approximately £25.

The new initiative enables tourists to pay just once and head straight to the turnstiles, therefore bypassing queues.

The card can be purchased from four and five-star hotels, mobile card stores and tourism information offices throughout the city.

**Stand: EM850, EM800**

## **Flanders to commemorate WWI**

The Flanders and Brussels Tourist Office is targeting niche markets, including battlefield, remembrance and peace tourism, at WTM, in the run up to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War I.

While the UK remains one of its major focuses, it is also looking to increase visitor numbers from other markets, such as the US, Canada and Australia.

Michel Mues, tourist officer for Flanders, said: "We are looking at countries and markets that have a historical link to the event and which have direct flight links.

"Canada, for example, as well as other Commonwealth countries, has a very strong link as many Canadians were involved in the battles around Ypres and lots of Canadians who sadly lost their lives are buried in the region."

Visitors to the stand can find out more about the re-opening of the region's museum, in Flanders Fields Museum, in Ypres, next year.

The re-opening is part of a larger project, Great War – Remembrance 1914-1918, which officially starts in 2014, 100 years on from the start of World War I.

Mues added: "Huge investments are being made in the coming two years in tourist and hotel infrastructure, renovation of war memorials and war cemeteries, in close co-operation with the Commonwealth War Grave Commission.

"The whole project is based on 'peace and remembrance' with a constant positive, open look towards the future."

**Stand: EM1200**

## **Israel reveals its 'hidden treasures'**

Some of the lesser-known attractions of Israel will be revealed at WTM.

The Israel Government Tourist Office are giving away copies of the first in a trilogy of books, called Israel's Hidden Gems, which are being launched at WTM.

A spokeswoman for the IGTO said: "The books will showcase the variety of experiences Israel has to offer the discerning tourist seeking a new destination which may provoke their senses and expand their horizons.

"The books highlight Israel's undiscovered treasures that may not generally be associated with the country; including its contemporary art scene, gay culture, nightlife, culinary, soul and diverse traditions.

"The first book of the trilogy is being launched at WTM and the following two will be released at a later date.

"Some copies of the first book are being given away at WTM."

Some examples of 'hidden gems' include: enjoying a traditional Friday evening of Shabbat dinner and prayers with a Rabbi; joining a 'Tish' – a Hassidic celebration with a Rabbi in the ultra orthodox neighborhood of Mea Shearim in Jerusalem or learning about edible plants and herbs at a spice farm in the Galilee.

Other options include visiting a village in Wadi Ara, central Israel, where Israelis and Arabs live and work together, or visiting Israel's eco-centres on the Negev desert plateau.

**Stand: EM650**

**Facebook first**

Ushuaia Ibiza Beach Hotel, part of Fiesta Hotel Group has launched a pioneering Facebook sharing initiative – a first for the world's hotel industry.

Guests to the new innovative hotel and music venue are now given the option of wearing a wristband, which is synchronised to their Facebook profile.

Throughout the hotel there are various points where guests can check in, take pictures or post a status, simply by swiping their wristband across a sensor.

Irene Cano, sales director of Facebook Spain said: "We are delighted that the Ushuaia Ibiza Beach Hotel is the first hotel to launch this Facebook initiative.

"At Facebook, we are constantly developing our services to find synergies between the virtual and real worlds and we are excited to be collaborating with the holiday experience for the first time."

The pioneering initiative will be highlighted at WTM 2011. WTM participants will be able to check in at a number of different points around the event including the Boulevard, Meridian Club Lounges and the International Press Centre.

**Stand: EM140**

## **Luxury Golf & Spa resort for Kusadasi**

Opening in Spring 2012, the first and only deluxe resort with 18-hole championship standard golf course, and luxury spa, in Kusadasi, Turkey.

From a rural hilltop setting, the resort looks across national parkland to unspoilt beaches of the Aegean with the Greek island of Samos visible.

Appealing to a cosmopolitan holiday market, resort facilities include fine dining and relaxed style restaurants and bars, boutique shops, a private beach club, live entertainment and multi sports facilities.

Family-size suites and penthouses are designed to a high specification to deliver a level of comfort concordant with superior self-catering.

**Stand: EM970**

**In Brief**

German rail operator, **Deutsche Bahn**, will be revealing plans to establish direct services from London to Frankfurt via Brussels and Cologne as well as to Amsterdam via Rotterdam in 2013. Using the latest version of its high-speed flagship Intercity Express (ICE), the direct rail service will reduce the travel time from London to Cologne and Amsterdam to less than four hours and to Frankfurt in just over five.

**Stand: EM540**

Visitors to the **Romania** stand can pick up a free copy of a new guide giving details of the country's health resorts. Romania has one-third of the mineral and thermal waters of the whole of Europe and many world-class health resorts, some of which date back to Roman times.

**Stand: EM640**

**Barcelona Turisme** is showcasing its video guide app, developed in conjunction with Smartour. The downloadable app, for the Apple and Android markets, will be available in November in four languages, Catalan, English, French and Spanish.

**Stand: EM1640**

The **Poland 2012 Football FanCamp**, in light of the 2012 UEFA European Football Championship being held in Poland, will be a feature not to be missed at this year's WTM. The dome covered interactive FanCamp will be located on the exhibition floor.

Discover the history of the European Football Championships, see the authentic championship balls which have been used during official games, and participate in X-box multimedia football events played under the guidance of real X-box masters. Along with a variety of great prizes to be won.

Each day of the event, Poland are giving visitors the opportunity to see a magnificent spectacle of music and light, also known as The Organic Liquid Show – a colourful live multimedia presentation with music performed by Polish artists.

**Stand: EM100**

## **Africa & North Africa**

### **Kenya goes green**

Kenya is using WTM to announce news of a carbon offsetting scheme for its national airline and the opening of a new hotel in Nairobi.

National airline, Kenya Airways, has announced the launch of a new voluntary carbon offsetting tool aimed at providing a channel for its customers to contribute towards reducing the effect of carbon emissions by supporting environmental sustainability initiatives.

In this unique initiative, developed in co-operation with the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the airline will now offer its passengers the opportunity to participate directly in offsetting carbon dioxide.

Meanwhile, the Kenya Tourist Board is providing details about the upcoming arrival of the prestigious Radisson brand to the country.

The hotel giant will open a Radisson Blu in the Upper Hill region of Nairobi, with development due for completion in 2013.

The group will join a range of other quality hotel brands investing in the Kenyan capital, which the tourist board says is great news for both visitors stopping off to see the city on route to a safari.

The increase in choice of properties has also been welcomed by Kenya's growing business traveller market.

**Stand: AF250**

**Celebrate with Sun International**

Southern African hotel group, Sun International, are using WTM to mark special anniversaries at two of its properties.

Its Zambian property, the Victoria Falls Resort, which comprises the five-star Deluxe colonial-style Royal Livingstone, and the four-star family resort, the Zambezi Sun, is celebrating a decade of hospitality.

Meanwhile, flagship property, the Table Bay Hotel in Cape Town, celebrates 15 years in 2012.

It was opened by Nelson Mandela in 1997 and has since welcomed personalities including Michelle Obama, Kylie Minogue and Charlize Theron.

**Stand: AF501**

## **The Americas & Caribbean**

### **Caesars announces Las Vegas plans**

Visitors to the Las Vegas stand can find out about major new developments from Caesars Entertainment in the city.

They include a new hotel, plans for a major new complex and a dedicated agents' website. Visitors can also find out details about the new Nobu Hotel, restaurant and lounge, which opened on the Las Vegas Strip, within Caesars Palace, this summer.

The 180-room boutique hotel is the first Nobu property in the world. Details are also available about a major new entertainment, retail and dining development, Project Ling, due for completion in 2013.

The \$500m complex will include the biggest Ferris wheel in the world, which, at 550ft tall, will be larger than the Singapore Flyer and the London Eye.

Caesars Entertainment has also launched a website, [caesarstravelagents.com](http://caesarstravelagents.com), which provides direct access to customised offers and promotions and up-to-date news and access to sales resources.

Annette Weishaar, vice president of leisure and citywide sales for Caesars Entertainment Las Vegas, said: "We are proud to announce the launch of our travel agency website. This new website provides support and resources for travel agents selling the Caesars Entertainment portfolio of resorts in Las Vegas."

The site offers agents a central place to find relevant information including agent commissions, selling tips and the latest news from the world of Caesars Entertainment. Also available through the site is information about signature programmes including total experiences for travel agents, PetStay Las Vegas, no resort fees, Buffet of Buffets and All-Stage Pass.

Registered agents will also have access to an extensive library of tools including property highlights, global distribution system codes and Caesars Entertainment's international contact list.

**Stand: NA250**

## **Ecuador to open new accommodation**

Ecuador is using WTM to raise the profile of two new and very different properties, due to open around the time the event takes place.

Firstly, Casa Gangotena, an historic mansion house that has been meticulously revamped into a 31-bedroom luxury boutique hotel, will open in the heart of Quito's historic Old Town in October 2011.

The hotel's interiors combine art nouveau with neo-Classical architecture and huge efforts have been made to preserve and restore the mansion's original details, assuring an air of history and sophistication dressed up with understated luxury.

Each of the 31 rooms offers the utmost comfort, while there is a terrace on the third floor offering bird's eye views of the city and beyond.

Its ground-floor restaurant is already tipped to be one of the best in the city and a lively showcase of Ecuadorian gastronomic treasures combining traditional recipes with elaborate delicacies.

Meanwhile, Mashpi Lodge opens in November 2011, offering a new retreat in the heart of the Ecuadorian rainforest within a 2,600 acre private nature reserve.

This sophisticated and intimate lodge has been built with the latest techniques in sustainable building and employing hydroelectric power and has been designed to blend beautifully with its surroundings.

The intimate lodge accommodates 44 guests in 22 luxurious suites, which provide the perfect base for wildlife adventures.

The lodge also has a spa, and a restaurant that will use the finest fresh organic ingredients from the surrounding rainforest.

**Stand: LA250**

## **Aruba says 'it's never been easier to get here'**

Aruba is using WTM to raise awareness of increased airlift to the Caribbean island – making it easier than ever before to get to and from the UK and Europe.

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines will expand its Amsterdam-Aruba service from two to five-times-a-week, starting on 30 October.

The route expansion means UK travellers can catch flights to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport from 19 UK airports, including London, Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow and catch a connecting flight to Aruba.

The flights will depart Amsterdam on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays at 12:05 hours and will arrive in Aruba at 17:10 hours on the same day.

The return flight will depart from Aruba on the same days at 18:30 hours, arriving in Amsterdam the next day at 10:25 hours, leaving plenty of time for connecting flights to and from the UK.

The total flight time, including connections is about 12 hours and, with flights from Amsterdam to Aruba leaving around midday, it is easy to connect a morning flight from the UK to the Dutch capital.

The island's tourist board has been running a major campaign in the UK which has proved successful and the UK is now the second biggest source market in Europe after the Netherlands.

UK visitor figures have grown by more than 60% to almost 15,000 a year, which indicates there is an increased interest about Aruba from British visitors.

Joanna Walding, UK director for the Aruba Tourism Authority, said: 'We are looking forward to welcoming operators at our stand at WTM to tell them all about the new flights, which bring Aruba closer to the UK than ever before.

'Aruba is becoming more and more popular with British holidaymakers as it offers the ultimate beach holiday.

'Earlier this year our beaches were voted among the top three in the world by TripAdvisor users and when you see the white powder sand, the clear turquoise waters and the exotic palm trees you can understand why.

'There is a great choice of activities, accommodation of high standards and with year-round sunshine and temperatures averaging a glorious 28°C, it is summer every day in Aruba!'

**Stand: CA420**

## **Aruba showcases increased accommodation range**

Representatives from Aruba's hotel community are at WTM to talk about new properties and major refurbishments.

The modern, colourful and striking Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort is the latest addition on Aruba's famous Palm Beach, while a Ritz Carlton is to open up at the end of next year.

According to the Aruba Tourism Authority, all the existing hotels on the island have either recently completed major refurbishments or are about to.

Visitors to the Aruba stand can find out about the \$30m renovation project at the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa, due to be completed in October; the \$50m hotel transformation of the Marriott Aruba Resort & Stellaris Casino, which boasts the most spacious rooms on the island, and the newly refurbished deluxe rooms at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, one of Aruba's most intimate beach resorts.

In addition, Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino has added four new luxury suites, including the 2,500 square-foot Governor's Suite.

Meanwhile, the Bucuti Beach Resort & Tara Suites, often regarded as one of the 10 most romantic resorts in the world, recently introduced an adults-only policy.

New tourism initiatives include the Aruba International Film Festival, launched last year and, in November, the first Aruba In Style fashion event, organised by IMG Fashion, the same management team behind the Fashion Weeks in London, Milan and New York.

Earlier this summer Carrubian, a new weekly event was launched, to showcase Aruba's unique cultural heritage and celebrate the people and traditions of over 80 nationalities that live on the island.

**Stand: CA420**

## **Caribbean island takes to the big screen**

Puerto Rico will be revealing more details about its venture into the movie world, with more details about next year's International Film Festival.

The first Puerto Rico International Film Festival (PRIFF) took place in May 2011, on Vieques Island and was deemed a huge success.

Visitors to the Puerto Rico stand can find out about next year's event, which organisers claim will be even bigger and more successful.

It takes place from May 24-27 2012.

A spokesman said: "The event will celebrate local, national and international cinema in an island paradise setting, to expose and promote talented filmmakers, from student productions to big-budget films.

"Expect to see premier screenings, mingle with film producers and fellow fans, sip on cocktails in the bars at the after-parties, and be educated on group tours and activities."

Meanwhile, Western & Oriental is launching a seven-night self-drive package to Puerto Rico, a first for a UK operator.

W&O said the island "is the perfect destination for those travellers who enjoy coastal and mountain drives and plenty of variety, combined with luxury accommodation of resorts such as La Concha Hotel in Condado, Rincón Beach Resort and the Ramada Ponce".

Highlights of the tour include: old San Juan, the Bacardi Rum Distillery, Rio Camuy Caves Park, surfing on Rincon beaches, Caja de Muerto (Coffin Island), Coama Thermal Baths and El Yunque rainforest.

**Stand: CA450**

**Tobago's new hotel aims to be 'premier resort'**

The Caribbean island of Tobago is celebrating the opening of a new property at WTM.

Named after the original European explorers' name for the island, the Magdalena Grand Beach Resort is a four-star hotel sitting within the gated Tobago Plantations community on the island's windward coast.

Built on the site of the former Tobago Hilton, it opened on November 1 2011.

It is aiming to be the premier resort in Trinidad and Tobago, featuring 200 deluxe, ocean-facing rooms.

The hotel is adjacent to the 18-hole Tobago Plantations championship golf course, fringed by a stunning stretch of beach, with facilities that include floodlit tennis courts, a kids' club, three restaurants and a cosy bar.

The hotel will offer rates on a bed and breakfast basis with optional all-inclusive plan, and will have pre-bookable dive, golf and wedding packages.

The UK trade has already shown keen interest in the prospect of a new resort on the island, as its opening brings much-needed bed stock to the island.

A number of key operators will be putting it on sale as soon as it opens, while the hotel is keen to talk to other operators at WTM, who are interested in featuring the property.

Representatives of the hotel are at WTM and can be contacted via the Trinidad and Tobago stand.

**Stand: CA330**

## In Brief

**Suriname** will be giving details of its new Nature Resort Kabalebo and adjoining accommodation, the Inspiration Point, as well as the launch of all-inclusive packages at the Zeelandia Suites, which include a city tour, dolphin tour and interior tour in the price. Visitors can also find out about direct flights with Surinam Airways from Schiphol Airport, as well as the Suriname Tourism Portal, [www.suriname-tourism.org](http://www.suriname-tourism.org)

### **Stand: CA365**

**ARIA Resort & Casino**, in Las Vegas' CityCenter complex, has earned the prestigious AAA Five Diamond Award for its Sky Suites, joining an elite class of resorts recognised with two AAA Five Diamond Awards for two distinct hotel experiences within one property. The AAA Five Diamonds are North America's most sought-after symbol of excellence in the hospitality industry, representing the upper echelon of hotel and dining establishments.

### **Stand: NA250**

## **Asia/ Pacific & Indian Ocean**

### **Cambodia reveals its private island**

Representatives from the new private island resort in Cambodia are at WTM.

Called Song Saa Private Island, the resort opened earlier this year, but representatives are using WTM to further raise awareness of its unique selling points to tour operators visiting the stand.

The resort is in Cambodia's untouched Koh Rong Archipelago, where two pristine islands lie side by side.

They are known locally as Song Saa – Khmer for 'The Sweethearts'.

Song Saa Private Island opened in February 2011 and is described as an intimate private island resort in a remote undiscovered paradise.

The resort consists of 27 over-water, ocean-view and beach villas, built from sustainable materials. The resort also has a spa and wellness centre situated on its own island and a yoga and meditation centre on the eastern shore.

A wide range of guest activities are on offer to authentically showcase the surrounding archipelago, its scenery and friendly people.

Itineraries include kayaking up fresh water estuaries, hiking through virgin rainforest, snorkeling or diving with the resort's marine biologists and visiting local fishing villages.

Song Saa Private Island is a 30-minute speedboat ride from Sihanoukville on the mainland of Cambodia.

The resort operates private airplane transfers from Siem Reap and Phnom Penh, enabling operators to package a twin-centred trip combine the temples of Angkor Wat with Song Saa island paradise in an effortless one hour journey.

**Stand: AS985**

## **More options from Seychelles**

WTM delegates visiting the Seychelles stand can find out about a brand new hotel as well as the re-opening of an established old favourite.

Scheduled for soft opening just after WTM, in November or December, the Kempinski Seychelles Resort Baie Lazare, is the latest hotel addition to the region.

Based on Mahé, the Kempinski will have 150 rooms, four restaurants and bars, a casino and Seychelles' largest conference and events facilities including a ballroom that can accommodate 200 guests for a sit-down dinner. A spa will open in 2012.

In addition, the popular Coco de Mer, on Praslin island, opened its Waterfront Spa just before the start of WTM on November 1 2011. The hotel re-opened in July, following an extensive renovation project.

Other properties that are currently undergoing renovation work include two hotels owned by Berjaya Hotels and Resorts: the Berjaya Beau Vallon Bay Resort and Casino on Mahé and Berjaya Praslin Resort, on Praslin.

The new all-villa resort, Raffles Praslin Seychelles, opened earlier this year, a peaceful heaven with private plunge pools, panoramic views of the island and sea and home to the first signature Raffles Spa.

Representatives of Cerf Island Resort, a boutique hotel hidden away on a small island in Seychelles, will be talking to operators, particularly wedding and honeymoon specialists, about its product, which has 24 individual luxurious villas, within a naturally elegant setting.

Eden Island representatives, meanwhile, are looking to tell upmarket operators about its exclusive residences on the east-coast of Mahé.

Accommodation includes apartments and villas, overlooking private waterways.

**Stand: AS550**

## **Macau expands in business and pleasure**

Macau is using WTM to raise awareness of recent developments for the leisure and business markets.

2011 has been an exciting year for Macau, with the opening of several attractions and properties in the last 12 months.

They include Galaxy Macau, a development that incorporates Banyan Tree and Hotel Okura properties, as well as a Galaxy hotel.

In addition, Cotai Central, which opens next year, will house four international hotels.

Dr Lui Che Woo, founder and chairman of Galaxy Entertainment Group, developer of Galaxy Macau, said the complex offers "what has been missing so far from the local integrated property market".

He explained: "From the beginning, our vision has been to develop and operate a resort that delivers both international-calibre standards but also captures the heartfelt service culture and unique flavour of Asia – something we call 'World Class, Asian Heart'.

"This is especially critical for success in a market where Asian travellers are so dominant.

"In this way, we can make guests from around the region feel right at home, whilst at the same time provide an authentic Asian resort experience for visitors from around the world as well."

More than 97% of Macau's near-25m visitors in 2010 were from Asia, according to Macau Government Tourist Office statistics, with 22m coming from China and Hong Kong.

Next year, more openings are scheduled, including the **Sands Cotai Central**, comprising four properties: Sheraton, Sheraton Towers, Conrad by Hilton and Holiday Inn.

"When the doors to the rooms and suites at Cotai Central start swinging open early next spring, Macau's metamorphosis from a gaming-centric regional location into an international leisure and business destination will be one step closer to completion," said Sheldon G Adelson, chairman of Sands China Ltd and Las Vegas Sands Corp, the joint developers.

He added: "With internationally-renowned hotel brands, countless non-gaming attractions, and casino facilities...we would be proud to have Cotai Central become the government's model for future development in Macau."

Further ahead, a 29.6km bridge which will link Hong Kong, Macau and Zhuhai in mainland China, is estimated to open in 2016.

**Stand: AS745**

## **Seychelles properties launch 'combo' offers**

Two hotel groups will be revealing details about special combination packages in the Seychelles.

The Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort and Spa and its new sister property, Hilton Seychelles Northolme Resort and Spa, are offering a 5% discount for minimum stays of four nights at Northolme and three at Labriz.

Labriz is set within lush rainforest and 2km of sandy beach. Guests can choose from a variety of Creole-inspired spa treatments and island excursions to explore its nature and culture.

The Northolme Resort has private villas that provide a secluded hideaway nestling on the hillside and along small beached coves on Beau Vallon bay.

Meanwhile, Le Relax Hotels, a group of three-star-plus properties, on Mahe, Praslin and La Digue, will be providing details of its exclusive island hopping package, which enables tourists to stay at all three hotels, to experience different islands in the region.

**Stand: AS550**

## **All aboard for Seychelles**

The Seychelles stand has one of its biggest contingents so far of destination management companies, ground handlers and operators, all at WTM to tell visitors about new products and services.

Creole Travel Services, a leading destination management company in the Seychelles, is providing details of its sailing catamaran, Oplezir, which carries 100 passengers in stylish comfort – perfect for cocktails, dinners, wedding receptions and dances.

Mason's Travel, another DMC, is also announcing a new catamaran – the third in its fleet.

The addition of the Anahita will enable Mason's Travel to expand its range of excursions, cruising options and activities for the MICE market.

Mason's Travel has also created a specialist diving section, to cater for all diving requirements along with the introduction of its boat Neptune Warrior, which offers diving live aboard cruises, a first for Seychelles.

Silhouette Cruises, meanwhile, are at WTM to raise awareness of its new niche itineraries for 2012 and 2013.

The company is offering tailored cruise experiences for nature enthusiasts and active travellers, in addition to its existing year-round itineraries.

Swimming with whale sharks, sea kayaking between islands or studying the species of the world's most ancient archipelago, are all new options on the tailor-made cruise menu.

Also on the stand are 7° SOUTH, an inbound operator that operates resorts on Praslin and Mahe, four cruise ships and the Bunson Travel Seychelles travel agency.

The company is looking to speak to tailor-made operators about its options, which include golf, weddings, fishing and nature trails.

Meanwhile, national airline, Air Seychelles, is on the stand to give details of schedules and fares.

**Stand: AS550**

## **New cruise option for Vietnam**

Bhaya Cruises, the largest cruise operator in Vietnam's Halong Bay, is looking to sign up interested tour operators, group specialists and those in the conference and meetings sectors.

This summer, the company added a fourth boat, Bhaya Classic IV, to the fleet, increasing the total capacity for overnight stays from 63 to 80 cabins for a maximum of 160 passengers.

Next year, owner HG Travel will launch Au Co, its new luxury brand for cruising in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Two luxurious 32-cabin and suite cruisers will offer an 'authentic and ultimate three-day voyage exploring three bays in the majestic Gulf of Tonkin including Ha Long Bay, Lan Ha Bay, Bai Tu Long Bay and its largest island, Cat Ba Island'.

In June this year, Bhaya Cruises received certification from the Halong Local Authority for passing the safety requirements for tourist vessels in June 2011.

To find out more, visit [HG Travel](#).

**Stand: AS786**

**Amari reveals expansion plans**

ONYX Hospitality Group will be revealing details about its first Amari property to be launched outside of Thailand.

The Amari Addu Maldives will open on Addu Atoll, in the Maldives, in November.

ONYX was formed in March to allow for ambitious plans for expansion beyond Thailand to pursue hospitality management opportunities in the Asia Pacific and Arabian Gulf regions.

A large amount of ONYX's activity in the coming years will be in overseas projects and other areas currently being looked at include areas within the Asian and Indian Ocean region, such as India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Indonesia and the Middle East.

Under ONYX's current umbrella are four different brands: Shama; Amari; OZO, its selected services brand and Saffron, its luxury brand, both of which were launched last year.

The two new brands complement the well-established mid-to-upscale brand Amari. Under Amari there are 12 properties spread across different locations in Thailand.

**Stand: AS405**

## Middle East

### Become a Dubai Expert

Dubai is using WTM to talk to the trade about new online marketing initiatives.

The Dubai Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DTCM) has redesigned its Dubai Expert online training programme, incorporating a trade resources website.

It has also revamped its monthly Dubai Update e-newsletter.

This latest development comes after the DTCM revamped its branding to Definitely Dubai with a new consumer website ([www.definitelydubai.com](http://www.definitelydubai.com)).

Following agent feedback the DTCM's Dubai Expert (<http://uk.dubaixperts.com>) online training programme has been completely revised to better suit trainees' needs, allowing them to expand their knowledge of Dubai more quickly by using the training course and quizzes.

The relaunched training programme is designed to be more intuitive while also being informative in a fun and easy way.

It also enables trainees to email each other directly.

The programme comprises 14 concise across two courses ('Know Dubai' and 'Sell Dubai') that cover topics including culture, shopping, sports, and general information on Dubai.

For the first time, the new training site also acts as a one stop shop for all the trade, with fact sheets, downloadable images and suggestions for marketing materials.

Trainees can also sign up for the DTCM's revamped monthly Dubai Update e-newsletter, which has been redesigned into a more simplified and reduced layout, with competitions and incentives, selling tips, and regular updates: [www.dubaitourism.ae/subscribe-uk](http://www.dubaitourism.ae/subscribe-uk)

Ian Scott, director UK and Ireland for the DTCM, said: "The overhaul of the DTCM's dedicated travel trade websites and communications strategy, as well as its consumer website, enhances the DTCM's ongoing commitment to the trade.

"Refreshed functionality takes these projects to a new level by inspiring, informing and connecting visitors to Dubai and each other.

"They also provide improved online platforms for training, information and resources.

"These improvements will ensure agents receive interesting and relevant information that will help their knowledge of Dubai and subsequent sales to the emirate."

**Stand: ME101**

## **Dubai adds more options**

Visitors to the Dubai stand can find out about new restaurants and shopping options in the emirate.

Recent openings this summer include Marks and Spencer in the Mall of the Emirates; the Ivy restaurant, in Jumeirah Emirates Towers and Jamie Oliver's restaurant, Jamie's Italian, at Dubai Festival Centre Canal Walk.

Meanwhile, a new restaurant, Hakkasan, at Jumeirah Emirates Towers, will open in November, the Mahiki nightclub at Jumeirah Beach Hotel, in December.

The big news for 2012, meanwhile, is the new Al Maktoum International Airport.

In addition, visitors can find out about refurbishment plans at the popular Ritz-Carlton Dubai, which will provide 163 additional rooms, to total 301, as well as 10 additional private dining rooms.

**Stand: ME101**

## Global Village

### Drive Safe with National

National Car Rental is highlighting its enhanced National Drive Safe initiative, aimed at people driving abroad.

Its website, [www.nationaldrivesafe.com](http://www.nationaldrivesafe.com), has been revamped with a wealth of new information on driving regulations and tips in 50 countries in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and North America.

The enhancement also allows users access to extensive expert local knowledge about driving abroad.

National Drive Safe users can register for updates and news of special offers as well as add their own traffic tips, providing first-hand information for other visitors to the site.

Carmen Gomariz, marketing manager for National Car Rental EMEA, said: "The rules and regulations for driving in foreign countries can often catch out motorists.

"For instance, in Slovenia, drivers are required to use dimmed headlights 24 hours a day; in Kuwait the law follows a zero tolerance policy towards drinking and driving, and road hazards in Namibia include antelope and chickens!

"Drive Safe addresses these concerns by providing up-to-date local information, making it easier than ever to brush up on local road safety before arriving in a new country.

"Drive Safe has been developed using the extensive network of local knowledge we have, collected from our operations throughout Europe, the Middle East, Africa and North America.

"But we are also keen for travellers to share their own knowledge and tips and that's why we've added the Travel Tips section.

"Visitors to the site can send us their own anecdotes which we will then upload for everyone to benefit from."

It also offers key country facts for travellers including the currency, time zone, calling code and real-time weather forecast as well as access to a Google map for each country. And there is a facility to find the best National Car Rental location for the journey as well as book online.

Visitors to the stand can also find out about National Car Rental's Emerald Club, for frequent travellers.

**Stand: GV155**

## **Alamo expands in UAE**

Alamo Rent A Car is highlighting its expanding presence in the United Arab Emirates at WTM.

Less than a year since Alamo launched in the UAE, the brand has rapidly established and is already achieving considerable sales success.

Alamo's presence was stepped up in the spring, with the opening of four new locations in the UAE as well as the launch of a dedicated website for Middle East customers and stand alone reservations centre.

With locations in downtown Abu Dhabi and Dubai and at both Abu Dhabi and Dubai International Airports and with a fleet of more than 4,000 vehicles, Alamo is providing visitors to the region with a high-quality rental experience.

Commenting on the success of the launch, Guy Coghlan, managing director, Middle East, for Alamo, said: "The United Arab Emirates is well and truly established as a holiday destination and we are now able to support travellers who may have already experienced the high quality service and customer care from the Alamo brand in this burgeoning region.

"With the local knowledge that is behind Alamo UAE, we are providing both residents and international holidaymakers with a high quality car rental experience – so that they can get on the road as quickly as possible."

**Stand: GV150**

## **Corinthia Hotels New on the London Luxury Hotel Scene**

New on the London luxury hotel scene: The Corinthia Hotel London, flagship of the Corinthia Hotels five-star collection, is housed within a grand Victorian building near Trafalgar Square and features 294 rooms and suites with sweeping views across London's popular landmarks.

The '21<sup>st</sup> century grand hotel' provides world-class luxury with superb offerings including 'The Northall' restaurant, serving the best in British produce; 'Massimo Restaurant and Oyster Bar', headed by chef patron Massimo Riccioli, and the musically inspired destination bar 'Bassoon'.

Home to 'ESPA Life at Corinthia', a next-generation spa over four floors, the hotel boasts among the largest rooms and suites in London, an original restored ballroom, Victorian columns and tall windows that let in swathes of natural light.

**Stand: GV534**

**In Brief**

**Travellanda**, a London-based wholesaler offering the best rates on more than 100,000 hotels and transfers, is launching two new products to enable agents and operators to access its inventory and increase their business. Companies can either integrate Travellanda's inventory within their own website, through its XML feature, or sign up to a white label version of the site.

**Stand: GV438**

New WTM exhibitor, **Feelgood Travel**, is revealing details of its women-only tours. The Norwegian-based company is launching a unique, women-only adventure holiday wholesale operation, including hiking, biking, responsible travel and cultural experiences.

**Stand: GV491**

## **Technology & Online Travel**

### **Improve your online presence**

Travel companies that want to improve their web performance are invited to talk to Triometric at WTM.

The company is a leading player in web and XML services performance monitoring and analysis and is launching some specific products for the online travel industry.

Marketing executive, Alejandra Delgado Sánchez, said the developments “deliver mission critical operational and search data key performance indicators, to improve look-to-book ratios, revenues and the customer experience.

“The technology has been developed with close ties to industry leaders,” she added.

Triometric, which is based in the UK, has already developed solutions for large companies in other sectors, including HSBC and Mondi.

Its real-user testing and monitoring solutions are being used by Gulliver’s Travel Associates (GTA) to manage the 100-plus million hits and 20,000-plus bookings handled by the travel company’s 45 websites every day.

Triometric’s Web Services Analyzer solution has helped GTA to accelerate web booking times, optimise uptime, improve customer experience and proactively manage partners and suppliers, boosting overall performance by 800%.

Its most recent version, Web Services Analyzer v5.8, is being shown at WTM.

**Stand: TT174**

## **Everyone's Appi**

A new travel app and website is being unveiled to the global market at WTM, which claims to allow more detailed searches than those already available.

Appi Holidays is available as a free app, and allows detailed searches by several criteria to be keyed in at the same time.

For example, users can look for a 'villa' holiday with 'beaches', 'air conditioning' and 'private pool' no more than 'three hours' away from 'Heathrow'.

Alternatively, they can search using criteria such as 'disabled accessible', 'skiing', 'scuba' or 'snow-shoeing'.

Once Appi Holidays has narrowed the search listings, users are given the option of either saving to a wish-list, emailing to a friend or requesting a call back.

When a call-back is requested, the current search is sent to a tour operator that can offer a suitable holiday.

So far, 25 operators have signed up to Appi Holidays and the company is looking at signing up more at WTM.

Alan Kersley, managing director of Appi Holidays, said: "Appi Holidays is a revolutionary new mobile app and sales platform for selling holidays to the consumer via Smartphone and mobile devices.

"It is a mobile-based travel portal, for a complete range of holiday types – always switched on, always to hand, featuring many brands.

"Unlike competitors, who tend to have very narrow search protocols, with Appi Holidays, the entire search engine is bespoke to the customer's needs at the moment of searching.

"Not only does it save users time and hassle, it produces results based on quality and appropriateness, rather than price."

Kersley said the app could also be used as a training tool or selling aid for agents and operators.

## **Stand: TT080**

## **Mobile company seeks partners**

The company behind international roaming solution, TravelSim, are at WTM to talk about white-label opportunities for travel companies.

TravelSim is a prepaid mobile service that claims to save travellers up to 85% on international calls while abroad.

The service is available in more than 190 countries worldwide, in more than 330 networks.

Incoming calls to users of TravelSim are free in more than 80 countries and the list is growing.

More than 2.5m people already use TravelSim and the company is looking to sign up travel companies that are interested in taking a white-label version of the system that they can offer to their own clients.

A spokesman said: "TravelSim is available as a white label product for tourism companies.

"It allows you to extend your brand onto a universally necessary product, earning additional revenue along the way.

"This will increase your brand presence in the mind of your customer through a genuinely value-added offer."

**Stand: TT109**

**Ecocarrier showcases its smartphone**

An affordable mobile roaming service for smartphones is being shown at WTM.

Ecocarrier, based in Canada, offers a range of solutions for 3G mobile devices, which it claims can cut costs by up to 90%.

Users have several options, including using Ecocarrier's service as a standalone SIM, as a pre-installed dongle or as a device called MiWiFiLAN.

MiWiFiLAN enables users to create their own WiFi LAN with broadband service through a 3G network anywhere for use with their 3G mobile handset without the need to replace the SIM card.

The total cost of a one minute call from the European Union to the US would be less than US\$0.08 per minute, the company claims.

Ecocarrier is also using WTM to introduce its One-Account-for-ALL WiFi Hotspot Service that works in more than 250,000 hotspots in 130 countries.

**Stand: TT080**

## **European launch for Fuzion**

EZYield, the global provider of online distribution management solutions for hotels, announce the European launch of its Fuzion Hospitality Suite at WTM.

The suite features Fuzionsync, an advanced reservation delivery platform providing seamless two-way connectivity between a hotel's property, reservation and revenue management systems and multiple online distribution channels.

It also includes Fuzionlink, the industry's most trusted channel management solution, and Fuzionbook, a feature-rich proprietary web booking engine.

EZYield is expanding its European operation to support the region's growth with additional channels.

**Stand: TT160**

## **Video company makes WTM debut**

First-time exhibitor, Caboose, is at WTM to highlight the benefits of incorporating video into travel companies' websites.

Caboose is a London-based production company that specialises in producing films for the travel industry.

The company, which uses the branding 'The Travel Shooters', has created videos for Thomson and First Choice, as well as working with some non-travel names, including Nokia, Volkswagen, and Samsung.

Caboose film producer, Paul Lewis, said: "Last year, we attended some of the WTM seminars, which talked about the importance of video content on websites.

"According to statistics, brands using online video have seen a 20-40% increase in incremental buying and nothing suits the moving image better than the travel industry.

"Video also means fewer surprises for people who purchase.

"They are more informed and more likely to have an experience that matches their expectations.

"Caboose The Travel Shooters create rich, engaging, informative content that will get them booking.

"We are already developing innovative, interactive video products that will deliver a more captivated online audience to your brand.

"We can work to all travel budgets and we are expecting a lot of interest this year at WTM."

Visit Caboose, The Travel Shooters, on **Stand: TT178**

## **Mobile concierge launches at WTM**

Hoteliers can find out how to boost their profiles by signing up to a new 'pocket-concierge' service, launched by exhibitor Yabbedoo.

Yabbedoo has designed a Mobile Concierge App, which users can have as a guide to a particular destination.

The company is marketing the service as "a concierge hiding in the pocket, always available!"

Hotels can upload basic information on the app, such as contact details.

They can then update it at any time, with details of tourist attractions, restaurants and suggested things to do in the area, as well as special offers and promotions.

Yabbedoo said the app can also be used as an information resource by tourist offices.

It is easy to sign up, as hoteliers simply go to Yabbedoo.com, create their individual app and offer it to their guests.

Once they have keyed in the name of their venue, they can start to create and customise the app, including lists of things to do, offers and promotions.

Yabbedoo is owned by SilverSands Group Ltd and recently received a CHF1m private-equity cash injection to launch worldwide.

The App is available for iPhone, Android, Blackberry and Windows7 and will be available in the App Store with the venue name to be downloaded for free for travellers.

## **Stand: TT244**

### **In Brief**

**SustainIT Solutions** is keen to speak to companies that want help to set sustainability targets and objectives. The company offers a bespoke assessment, called the Comparison Report, to help organisations search for the software solution that best suits their needs.

## **Stand: TT186**



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