

ALL-INCLUSIVES ALL AROUND THE WORLD

The popularity of all-inclusive resorts has surged in recent years and is now available in more and more countries. Alan Orbell

Few tourism concepts have expanded as much as the all-inclusive sector over the last decade. The idea started in the Caribbean islands and has not only spread to many other places but has fostered distinct categories of all-inclusive right up to super luxury. The appeal of upfront payment with nothing more to pay has struck a chord with consumers in these straitened times.

Here are 10 contrasting all-inclusive suggestions in 10 different countries for agents to sell.

Y BARBADOS ALMOND BEACH RESORT

Overview: The four-star Family All-Inclusive Almond Beach Resort, located at the former Almond Beach Village on Barbados' prestigious West Coast, reopened January 16 with 135 rooms – all with a pool or ocean view – on the property's Southern half.

The re-opening followed a \$3 million renovation to pools, public areas, restaurants and rooms. Situated on a half-mile stretch of beach the resort features extensive on-site facilities and services including three swimming pools (one for toddlers, a family pool, and one for adults only) floodlit tennis courts, squash courts, a fitness centre and golf practice range.

Included in the all-inclusive rate are select water sports, glass-bottom boat rides, complimentary shopping shuttles, exchange dining, and a variety of adult on-site experiences such as beach fun days, mixology and yoga sessions, and cooking demonstrations. In addition, adults and children can enjoy speedboat rides on a custom Thriller power boat. Unlimited meals and drinks in two

restaurants, snacks during the day and a wide range of activities are included in the resort's rates.

Ideal for families, a key feature of the resort is the nursery, kids' club and teen centre all fully equipped with play equipment, table games, gaming equipment, and a virtual DJ booth. Fully qualified staff supervise creative play indoors, throughout the grounds and in the outdoor play park, to allow parents time to fully relax.

Sun Group Hotels' Sugar Cane Club Hotel & Spa is near the Almond Beach Resort and will offer a resort spa and exchange dining privileges to Almond's guests.

The property is represented in the UK by Resort Marketing International. www.almondbarbados.com,

SAMPLE PACKAGE: Gold Medal is offering a seven-night all-inclusive package in a Standard Ocean View room in the Almond Beach Resort from £1279pp during June. Flights are with Virgin Atlantic from Gatwick. Goldmedal.co.uk

Y DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BREATHLESS PUNTA CANA RESORT & SPA

Overview: The Breathless concept is claimed by AM Resorts to be completely unique, particularly to the area and is described as 'Miami Beach meets Las Vegas'. The hotel group defines it as vibrant, chic, modern and alive, an adult playground for friends, groups and couples to mix and mingle. The resort's website has an activity and events calendar so guests always know what's going on when!

Breathless Punta Cana Resort & Spa is an all-suite resort situated in the Uvero Alto region of Punta Cana designed for 'sophisticated singles, couples and friends'.

It features 750 ultra-contemporary suites with private and scenic terraces. Breathless Punta Cana guests stay in Unlimited-Luxury® including 11 dining venues with 'carefully selected' wines and other top-shelf spirits served up at eight bars and lounges. There are no limits, required reservations or expected gratuities.

Your clients' Unlimited-Luxury® experience includes a wide range of pastimes focused on entertainment, relaxation and a social lifestyle. Plus, guests can also stay informed with the resort's Unlimited Connectivity mobile app.

SAMPLE PACKAGE: Funway Holidays (0844 557 0626) offers seven nights staying at the all-inclusive Breathless Punta Cana Resort & Spa including return flights with British Airways from Gatwick and transfers. Prices are from £1,259pp, based on June 2014 travel. Funway4agents.co.uk

Y DUBAI JA RESORTS' PALM TREE COURT

Overview: Described as 'casual five-star beachfront luxury at its best', the JA Palm Tree Court provides breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks throughout the day on a full dine-around basis at the resort's 15 dining venues – buffet and a la carte. Beverages include soft drinks, international branded wine, beer, spirits and cocktails during meals and, without meals, around the pool and in bars.

Clients booking a minimum of three nights enjoy credit benefits to the value of £225 per adult for dining, spa and sport activities.

Facilities include the ChillZone teens' club and CoolZone kids' club as well as a crèche for toddlers. There are three temperature-controlled freshwater swimming pools with swim-up bars and two dedicated children's pools.

Half board packages are also available at the resort and upgrades to Royal Jasmine can also be booked.



Agents can become a JA Ambassador and win rewards at discover-ja.com Jaresortshotels.com

SAMPLE PACKAGE: Travel 2 (0800 0224 182) offers all-inclusive packages in a Palm Tree Court & Spa Garden View Junior Suite from £859 for three nights and £1179 for five nights including return flights from London and return transfers travelling August 11 to September 30 this year. travel2.com

JAMAICA

JEWEL PARADISE COVE BEACH

Overview: One of Jamaica's newest properties is the oceanfront Jewel Paradise Cove Beach Resort & Spa, a secluded adults-only 'lush paradise beachfront resort' on Jamaica's north coast. It includes 'signature Jewel Resorts amenities and world-class services', centred on an all-inclusive health and fitness theme.

This completely revitalized Jamaican resort will encourage your clients to drink fresh juices and smoothies and sample healthy cuisine options at the new onsite restaurants Jade Samurai and Moonstone by Sophia.

Jewel Paradise Cove promises 'pure luxury and sophistication' with 225 rooms and junior suites reimagined in a style combining colonial contemporary and casual island. All rooms boast designer bath areas, high-speed Internet access, flat-screen and plasma TVs.

There is unlimited access to six restaurants and other hotel amenities include three pools with swim-up bars and pool concierge service, daily activities and entertainment, weekly dive-in movies, tennis courts, three whirlpools, state-of-the-art fitness facilities with spinning and yoga etc. complimentary internet café, complimentary wi-fi in all rooms and public areas, Bling! Nightclub and complimentary greens fees at the 72-par, 18-hole championship Runaway Bay Golf Club.

A water sports centre features scuba diving (with PADI certified divers) and resort course, sunset cruise, glass-bottom boat tour, reef snorkelling excursion, water skiing, Hobie Cat and windsurfing with instruction, and non-

motorized water sports.

Jewelresorts.com

SAMPLE PACKAGE: Seven nights in Jamaica with Virgin Holidays (0844 557 3973), including scheduled Virgin Atlantic flights from London Gatwick direct to Montego Bay, all-inclusive accommodation at 4V Jewel Paradise Cove Beach Resort & Spa and airport transfers starts from £1,359pp. Price is based on two adults travelling sharing a premier guest room and a June 18 2014 departure. whols4agents.co.uk

MAURITIUS

INTERCONTINENTAL

Overview: The Intercontinental Mauritius Resort is on the west of the island, only 15 minutes from both Grand Baie and Port Louis. The resort overlooks beaches with a privatized island and the backdrop of its renowned sunsets. Resort amenities include a kids' club, water sports activities – including snorkelling, water skiing, glass bottom boats, sailing, kayaking, and peddle boats – and the Yuj Spa. The InterContinental describes itself as 'the ideal location to rediscover tranquillity and romance through the joy and authentic island living, cultures and flavours'.

Mauritius is famous for its food, and the Intercontinental's five restaurants specialize in different culinary traditions including Asian, seafood, African, European, Indian or Mauritian cuisine using the 'finest and freshest ingredients' to create a culinary experience. There are three bars in the resort including full bar service on the beach and a swim-up pool bar.

As part of the all-inclusive package all soft drinks, selected local branded alcoholic drinks, cocktails, breakfast, lunch and dinner at the main buffet restaurant Senso and a full dine-around option are all included.

Intercontinental.com

SAMPLE PACKAGE: Thomson (0871 230 2555) offers a 14-night holiday staying at the 4T InterContinental Resort

Mauritius, Thomson A La Carte Resort on an all-inclusive basis, from £1765pp. Price is based on two adults sharing and includes flights from Gatwick on June 15 2014 and transfers. thomson.co.uk

MALDIVES

ATMOSPHERE KANIFUSHI

MALDIVES

Overview: One of the Maldives' newest properties, the five-star Atmosphere Kanifushi is offering guests a Platinum Plus all-inclusive option which not only includes a la carte dining, all beverages, sports and excursions but also widens the net to take in things like wi-fi and even sun tan lotion. It's described by the resort as 'affordable and luxurious'.

The resort is set on a 90-metre wide two kilometre stretch of white-sand beach and offers 150 spacious sunset view villas, the smallest of which is 100 sq m, amidst lush vegetation and beside a lagoon

Facilities include a kids' club, a range of activities for young adults aged 12 to 16, the Maldives' ▶



A one-bedroom deluxe beachfront room in the newly-opened Almond Beach Resort

► first full-sized 50m swimming pool, a sports complex and a selection of non-motorised water sports.

Until December 19 this year, any client staying for a minimum of seven nights at the resort will be entitled to complimentary seaplane transfers to and from Malé International Airport. With return transfers priced at around £255 per adult and £130 per child aged two-11, the offer represents a significant saving.

This offer is available through tour operators including Destinology, Chic Locations, Sunset Faraway Holidays, Stylish Resorts, Travelbag and Best at Travel, and can be redeemed by quoting AKMMEGA2014. For guests staying between March 1 and October 31 2014 the offer is valid for all bookings received by April 30 2014, while for those staying between November 1 and December 19 2014 the offer is valid for all bookings received on or before August 31 2014.

Atmosphere-kanifushi.com

SAMPLE PACKAGE: Flying with Emirates from Gatwick or



Newcastle in economy via Dubai, Destinology is offering seven nights for the price of five in a Sunset Beach Villa with free seaplane transfer included for stays between May 1 and July 15, 2014 based on two adults and including 10% commission. The cost is £4570 for two people. 01204 474184 destinologyagents.co.uk

Y MEXICO

HARD ROCK RIVIERA MAYA

Overview: If your clients are staying in the 'top-shelf' Hard Rock Riviera Maya on May 4 they'll be able to enjoy the Grand Opening concert performance by an 'International Rock Star'. First opened last December the all-inclusive resort offers 1,264 guest rooms/suites – all with balconies or terrace – overlooking the azure waters of the Caribbean Sea.

The huge range of facilities in the resort include nine restaurants and nine bars, Rock Spa, luxury shopping and the Rock Shop offering Hard Rock merchandise, six pools with four of them adult only), Body Rock fitness centre, Little Big Club for children, Teens Lounge & Club, night club, water-slide, tennis courts, kayaks, climbing wall, snorkelling and the Heaven adults-only expanse with swimming pools, spa treatment rooms

Clockwise from top: Hard Rock in Mexico; The BodyHoliday Clubhouse Bar; Atmosphere Kanifushi's main pool



and access to signature golf courses. Music memorabilia is found all over the resort while room amenities include Egyptian cotton bedding, flat-screen TVs, custom furniture and specially selected artwork, rain showers and Rock Spa bath products, internet, minibar, liquor dispenser, hammocks, complimentary streaming music channels and butler service in Rock Royalty level categories.

Resort credit is available from \$1500 for stays of five to six nights, up to \$2500 for 12/13 nights for bookings up to December 15 and travel before December 23, 2014. Information from uksales@hrhaic.com Hrallinclusive.com

SAMPLE PACKAGE: Hayes & Jarvis (01293 735831) has a seven-night holiday to Mexico on offer with prices from £1,399pp. Departing on October 2 2014, the trip includes a week all-inclusive at the five star Hard Rock Hotel Riviera Maya and return flights from London Gatwick with Virgin Atlantic. Hayesandjarvis.co.uk

Y SAINT LUCIA

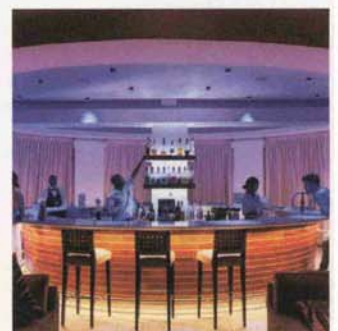
THE BODYHOLIDAY

Overview: Situated on the northwest tip of St. Lucia, the 155-room/suite resort sits directly on Caribblue's crescent beach surrounded by 42 acres of lush tropical gardens.

The BodyHoliday claims to be the first holiday in the world to combine the pleasure of personalised rejuvenation with the opportunity to acquire skills and insights that will enhance the rest of your life... it offers a fun and rejuvenating holiday that will leave clients feeling pampered and wanting to come back for more. The resort is popular with singles.

Room amenities include bathrobes, REN® Toiletries, continental breakfast, room service, CD Players in suites, fixed line Internet access, I-pod stations in Suites and Junior Suites and mini fridge.

BodyHoliday has three restaurants, a wine salon, a deli and two bars. Other facilities include a games room, infinity pool, boardwalk, wellness ►



► centre, 1800 sq ft fitness centre, a wide range of watersports activities including scuba diving, water skiing, windsurfing, kayaking and Hobiecats, tennis, golf (at the 18-hole St. Lucia Golf and Country Club – pay for nine holes and the BodyHoliday pays for the second nine), fencing, cycling, volleyball and archery.

The centre-piece of The BodyHoliday is The Wellness Centre where guests receive their body treatments designed to relax and rejuvenate mind and body. Seven customised treatments are included in the holiday, each for 50 minutes.

The BodyHoliday is represented by SunSwept Resorts, c/o Clear

The seclusion and serenity of Denis Private Island in the Seychelles

Marketing International (0845 217 7844) u.k.reservations@sunsweptresorts.com
Thebodyholiday.com

SAMPLE PACKAGE: Seven nights in the BodyHoliday is from £1709pp with Western & Oriental (020 7666 1234) staying all-inclusive in a Luxury Room – including private transfers and return flights with British Airways or Virgin to St. Lucia. westernoriental.com

SEYCHELLES

DENIS PRIVATE ISLAND

Overview: One of Seychelles' 115 Indian Ocean islands, Denis Private Island offers 25 villas reached by daily 30-minute return Air Seychelles flights from the main island Mahé. It offers clients a real taste of escapism in a beautiful natural setting.

The island strives to be self-



sufficient and this has extended to the furniture and floors being manufactured with timber from the island. It also sources water from natural sources, produces coconut oil, grows much of its own fruit and vegetables, preduces meat and, of course, local fish. Denis also has its own chacuterie and cheese.

Denis Private Island's all-inclusive

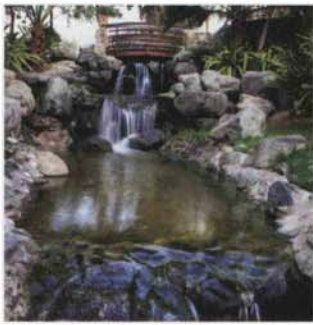
offering includes all meals, a locally-produced beer, soft drinks and fruit juices, house spirits and wine by the glass; tea/coffee/cakes and cookies served at the bar between 16.00 and 17.00; and all non-motorized water-based and land activities including kayaks, snorkelling equipment, billiards, tennis, island tours and bicycles. Up to two children below 12 years can stay free of charge on all-inclusive basis (not including flights) if sharing their parents' cottage.

Diving and fishing also available. **SAMPLE PACKAGE:** A seven-night all-inclusive stay in a Beach Cottage on Denis Island with If Only (0141 955 4000) between May 1 and June 27 is from £2899pp based on two sharing with flights from Heathrow or Manchester with Etihad and return flight from Mahé to Denis. ifonly.net ■



30 FEATURE
all-inclusives





These pages, clockwise from top left: two watery scenes in JA Resorts' Palm Tree Court in Dubai; an InterContinental, Mauritius bedroom, and the Jewel Paradise Cove Beach in Jamaica (right) and Breathless Punta Cana Resort & Spa in the Dominican Republic (left)