

WEEKLY REPORT



MMGY
Weekly Report for UK & Ireland
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ECONOMIC, POLITICAL & SOCIAL UPDATE

UK Prime Minister warns of “hatred rising” after terror attack at Manchester synagogue

On 2 October a terrorist attack took place at a Manchester synagogue with two killed and others seriously injured. The attack, which occurred on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, is being described as one of the worst acts of antisemitism in the UK in modern history, leading to concerns of “rising hatred”. Sir Keir Starmer made a statement saying that Britain would “come together to wrap our arms” around the Jewish community. In response, security has been heightened at Jewish places of worship across the UK, and the incident has intensified debates on safeguarding religious minorities and countering hate crime.

Source: [Sky News](#)
[The Guardian](#)

Tax rises expected as ONS reveal government borrowing at highest level in five years

Government borrowing reached its highest level in five years, official figures show, intensifying the fiscal challenge facing UK Chancellor Rachel Reeves. August's borrowing figure was the highest since 2020, when the COVID furlough scheme was ongoing, according to data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). While tax and national insurance receipts were “noticeably” higher than last year, these increases were offset by higher spending on public services, benefits, and debt interest payments, the ONS said. “Stealth” and “sin” taxes are expected to rise to bridge the widening gap between spending and revenue as Reeves approaches the November budget. Sin taxes are applied to products including tobacco and alcohol, while stealth taxes are ones typically not noticed by taxpayers, such as freezing the tax bands, so wage rises mean people fall into higher brackets.

Source: [Sky News](#)

Starmer challenges Reform UK at Labour party annual conference

At the Labour Party annual conference that took place this week, Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer delivered a speech, aiming to reset both his leadership and his party’s direction after months of poor polling and internal discontent. Starmer sought to frame the next general election as a stark choice between Labour and Nigel Farage’s Reform UK, casting it as a battle of “decency or division, renewal or decline.” He directly attacked Reform’s controversial immigration policy, which proposes deporting people with indefinite leave to remain if they fail income or language tests, calling it “racist” exposing tensions between moral clarity and diplomatic caution. The speech has rallied his party around a common enemy and sharpened Labour’s message, but with fiscal challenges and key elections ahead, his “renewal” agenda still faces a long test with critics stating that Starmer lacks solutions.

Source: [The Times](#)

TRADE UPDATE

UK Travellers Warned Of Strikes And Demos In France

The UK Foreign Office has updated its advice for France ahead of a nationwide strike on 2 October, called by unions in protest against austerity measures and pension reforms. The action follows inconclusive talks with new Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu and is expected to include widespread demonstrations. Travellers are advised to monitor local news, check with operators for potential delays, and review guidance if connecting flights are involved. The FCDO warned the strikes could cause significant disruption to travel across France.

Source: [Travel Gossip](#)

Independent Hotels in Europe See Longer Stays

Independent hotels across Europe reported longer guest stays, earlier bookings, and increased ancillary revenue in summer 2025, despite pressure on room rates, according to RoomRaccoon's European Hotel Performance Report. Based on 600,000 bookings from 2,000 properties, the study found lead times rising from 42 to 53 days, particularly in the UK, Spain, and the Netherlands. Southern European markets saw more extended holidays, while Northern Europe remained dominated by shorter breaks. Direct bookings continued to perform strongly in the UK and Belgium, with Google Hotel Ads emerging as a growing channel..

Source: [Travel Daily News](#)

US Government Shutdown Raises Concerns For Travellers

The ongoing US federal government shutdown, which began on 1 October, is already causing travel disruption, with warnings that visitors may face closures of museums, National Parks, and other federally run attractions. Advantage CEO Julia Lo Bue-Said advised travellers to check ahead for closures and allow extra time at US airports, while passport control and ESTA processing remain unaffected. Essential services such as air traffic control, border protection, and law enforcement continue, but the shutdown's duration remains uncertain as political deadlock persists between Republicans and Democrats over public service funding.

Source: [Travel Gossip](#)

AIRLINE UPDATE

EasyJet - EasyJet Holidays has launched a new Luxury Collection, offering stays in more than 70 five-star properties across Europe and North Africa, including the Fairmont, Four Seasons, One&Only Portonovi in Montenegro, and Mykonos Grand Hotel & Resort. Packages include premium extras such as 26 kg luggage allowance, dedicated bag drop, fast-track security, speedy boarding, pre-selected seating, and private transfers. CEO Garry Wilson said the collection aims to redefine premium travel by combining value with elevated experiences like Michelin-star dining. The Luxury Collection is on sale now for departures from 1 April 2026.

Source: [Travel Gossip](#)

IndiGo - IndiGo, India's largest carrier, will restart direct air links between India and China for the first time in nearly five years, with daily non-stop flights from Kolkata to Guangzhou beginning 26 October 2025 on Airbus A320neo aircraft. A Delhi–Guangzhou service is also planned, subject to approval. CEO Pieter Elbers said IndiGo is exploring further China routes, marking a major step in restoring connectivity after years of reliance on third-country stopovers. Air India is also expected to resume services from Delhi to Shanghai later this year.

Source: [Skift](#)

RyanAir - Ryanair has warned that up to 600 flights daily may be cancelled from 7–10 October in response to planned strikes by French air traffic controllers, threatening to affect as many as 100,000 passengers per day. The disruption will impact flights crossing French airspace — including routes between the UK and southern Europe. CEO Michael O'Leary has criticised EU rules that allow overflight bans during national strikes and called for Eurocontrol to manage such airspace in future. Other airlines haven't confirmed comparable numbers yet, but concerns about broader disruption across Western Europe are growing

Source: [The Guardian](#)

TOUR OPERATORS, TRAVEL AGENCIES & OTA UPDATE

Abercrombie & Kent - Abercrombie & Kent has acquired Crillon Tours, a specialist operator in Bolivia, strengthening its South American portfolio. The deal includes DMC Bolivia, with Crillon's team continuing under existing leadership. A&K will develop its own DMC presence in the country while retaining signature products such as luxury camping on the Uyuni salt flats. CEO Cristina Levis said the move reflects A&K's commitment to combining authentic local expertise with luxury standards. Crillon's vice president Darius Morgan highlighted the opportunity to showcase Bolivia to A&K's global client base, while the company's assets — including its fleet of Airstream trailers — will be upgraded to A&K's Sanctuary brand standards.

Source: [Travel Weekly](#)

Audley Travel - Audley Travel has revived its popular £10,000 trade booking incentive, running from 1 October to 14 December 2025. Agents making tailor-made bookings during this period will be entered into a competition to win a £10,000 Audley travel voucher to spend on their own bespoke trip. A runner-up prize offers the chance to join Audley's 2026 agent experience trip to Namibia. Trade sales manager Greg Thurston said the incentive aims to motivate agents through the key autumn and winter booking season, highlighting the chance to win a classic Audley tailor-made journey.

Source: [Travel Weekly](#)

TUI River Cruises - TUI River Cruises will introduce its first new-build vessel, the 111-passenger TUI Luzia, on Portugal's Douro River in summer 2027. The ship will feature 56 cabins across four decks, with venues including a wellness lounge, alfresco dining, and a top-deck pool. Itineraries will start from Porto, visiting UNESCO-listed Douro Valley towns and offering connections to Salamanca, Spain. The launch coincides with TUI's largest-ever summer river programme, featuring 35 sailings across Europe from March to October 2027, including new ports in the Netherlands and Croatia. Head of River Cruises Katy Berzins described the expansion as a milestone, bringing more destinations, durations, and flexibility for guests

Source: [Travel Daily News](#)

MEDIA & SOCIAL UPDATE

Threads launches ‘Communities’ feature for dedicated spaces on shared interests

Threads has introduced a new Communities feature, creating dedicated spaces for users to engage around specific interests like books, sports, TV, AI, and more. Users can join a community which gets shown on their profile, and posts within that community are integrated into their feed. Each community even gets a custom “Like” emoji (e.g. a basketball for the NBA community). Unlike platforms like X, Threads’ communities are currently created and moderated by Meta itself.

Source: [TechCrunch](#)

Key Media Movers and Shakers:

Arrival Magazine launches: Arrival Magazine, a new travel, culture and lifestyle publication, will launch in print and online this winter, with Antonia Windsor as the editorial director.

Alessandra Steinherr, Sheerlux: Sheerlux has announced the appointment of beauty director Alessandra Steinherr as Contributing Editor. Alessandra was previously Beauty Director at Glamour and Marie Claire.

Nigel Thompson leaves Reach PLC: Nigel Thompson has left his role as Travel Editor of the Reach National newspapers and has retired.

Sources: [Diary Directory](#), [Roxhill Media](#)

MICE UPDATE

IACC launches upgraded website featuring AI-driven venue finder

IACC, the international association for business event venue operators, has built a new website featuring a new AI-driven venue-finding tool designed to make the search process faster and more accurate for event planners. The new platform, believed to be the first of its kind created by an association, lists over 400 IACC-certified hotels, resorts, conference venues and experiential venues in 18 countries. As well as providing a quick search function for planners, the new-look website hosts case studies, research and other practical resources for venue operators.

Source: [AMI \(Association Meetings and International\)](#)