



## October 2020 Newsletter



Today, I am proud to relaunch my company with a new name “Kew Bridge Travel” and a smart logo, but with the same passion to help my clients create inspiring journeys. I do not deny there were times during the past seven months when it was tough to retain that passion. But I was driven by the determination to emerge from lockdown in better shape, with a revitalised company, well prepared to serve my customers.

I took the opportunity to review my business plan, to identify areas for improvement. I recognised the need for the freedom to select suppliers, especially overseas tour operators whom I can trust to deliver a truly personal service. I also saw the need to control my marketing strategy and the opportunity to promote the company through engagement with local partners.

So, I decided to leave the Travel-PA franchise. I assessed the feasibility of operating as an independent, but I realised that now, more than ever, clients need the reassurance of booking with a strong dependable company with financial protection.

I found the answer in Internova, a large American travel company, which allows Kew Bridge Travel to operate as an “independent contractor” and an affiliate of their British subsidiary, Colletts Travel. This is the best of all worlds; personal service, worldwide suppliers, negotiated contract rates, and the backing of a large organisation. I look forward to helping you plan your next holiday and together we’ll create inspiring journeys.

### Kew Bridge Travel Social Group



Earlier this year we organised social events at The Lensbury and Strawberry Hill Golf Club featuring talks by tour operators and cruise lines. We invited the speakers to introduce us to interesting destinations, tell us about unique travel experiences, and share stories of their own travels.



Sadly, we were forced to suspend these enjoyable and informative social gatherings, but it prompted us to start our own social group. Through the Summer, we enjoyed casual events: a picnic on Kew Green, walks along the Thames, and lunches at Asian restaurants.

If you would like to meet other travellers, hear their stories and pick up ideas for your next trip, please join us: [www.meetup.com/Kew-Bridge-Travel-Meetup-Group](https://www.meetup.com/Kew-Bridge-Travel-Meetup-Group)

### Colletts Travel



Established in 1983 to focus on tailor-made holidays in worldwide destinations, Colletts today ranks as one of the UK’s most respected luxury travel agencies. Colletts provides luxury global travel experiences with a personalised touch, specialising in coordinating quality holidays, flights, and many other travel services at a competitive price. Now part of Internova Travel Group, one of the world’s largest travel companies, Colletts has built its stellar reputation through repeat business and client recommendations.

Our affiliation with Colletts enables us to offer some of the most competitive airfares, hotel rates, cruise promotions, and tour packages in the marketplace, and ensures that our overseas packages are fully ATOL protected, giving you total peace of mind.



### Richmond Literary Lunch

Kew Bridge Travel is delighted to be supporting Richmond Literary Lunch, a society which invites authors to speak about their works and share their creativity with readers and friends, while enjoying a pleasant lunch or dinner.

RLL features a broad brush of authors and our sponsorship enables them to invite authors from further afield. The events are held quarterly at Old Deer Park with magnificent views, to Kew Gardens, to the Pagoda, and over two golf courses. [www.richmondll.co.uk](http://www.richmondll.co.uk)

**Quiz: Which are the oldest and the newest bridges over the Thames within the M25 ring-road?**



**Kew Bridge**, London's most elegant bridge, is officially the King Edward VII Bridge, named in honour of the king who opened the bridge in 1903 in a lavish ceremony held in a marquee on the central span. The current bridge is the third on the site, the earlier bridges having been constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and opened by King George III, resident of nearby Kew Palace.

The bridge connects the genteel neighbourhood of Kew with the former industrial town of Brentford. Kew boasts royal connections and the world famous botanic gardens. Cricket is played on the green in front of St Anne's Church. By contrast, Brentford at the confluence of the Grand Junction Canal and the Thames, was a busy transshipment port, moving coal off narrow boats from the Midlands onto river barges heading into London. The town is witnessing a major regeneration project with thousands of new homes and a new football stadium.

The bridge connecting Kew and Brentford, such different places, is a fitting symbol for a travel company which seeks to help clients encounter diverse destinations and experience different cultures.

**U Bein Bridge** is a sublime and graceful construction with epitomises the Burmese, whose dignity withstands the country's turbulent history. The bridge stretches for almost a mile across Taungathan Lake, near the town of Amarapura.

It was built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, a period when the royal court switched several times between Amarapura and the nearby town of Ava, before relocating to Mandalay eight miles to the north. It is reported that the more than one thousand teak pillars used to construct the bridge were salvaged from an abandoned royal palace.

The bridge has become a popular attraction for domestic and foreign tourists but it continues to be used by local people going about their daily routine. This gives a pleasant opportunity to interact with the Burmese people, especially the young who are keen to practice English.

Mandalay has grown to be Myanmar's second city, a focus for the Buddhist faith, and a vibrant centre for handicrafts and commerce. Tourists normally combine Mandalay, with the mysterious town of Bagan (Pagan) where hundreds of temples have been built across the plain, and the former capital Yangon (Rangoon) the largest city and international gateway.



The **Harbour Bridge**, together with the Opera House, has become the defining image of Sydney, a spectacular cityscape, immediately recognisable worldwide. The massive steel arch which carries the road and rail deck weighs 38,000 tons. Seventy nine percent of this steel was prefabricated in England and assembled, using 6 million rivets, on the other side of the world. The weight of the arch is supported on two huge concrete abutments, on which pairs of granite pylons were built to a height of 292ft. Incredibly, these pylons serve no structural purpose, and were added purely for aesthetic reasons.



The bridge provided employment to thousands of craftsmen and labourers through the Great Depression. It was completed in 1932, giving Australians pride in a world class engineering achievement.

Since 1998, *BridgeClimb* has enabled people to walk on the arch; up the eastern side, crossing at the summit, and down the western side. Groups are escorted by a guide giving a fascinating account of the construction and history of the bridge. This splendid innovation has enthralled more than four million Aussies and overseas visitors with a remarkable close-up look at the bridge and spectacular views over the city.

For 27 years the **Golden Gate Bridge** held the accolade of the longest and tallest suspension bridge in the world. Today its central span of 4,200ft has been surpassed by 15 other bridges, but none have the elegant art deco design features nor the stunning natural setting, which ensure the Golden Gate Bridge can retain its title as the most beautiful.

Many thought it would be impossible to construct a bridge across the Golden Gate, the one-mile wide mouth of San Francisco bay, notorious for swirling waters and strong winds. The challenge was met by a young engineering Joseph Straus. His initial plan for a cantilever bridge was rejected, and sent back to the drawing board to design something more attractive.

The bridge took just four years to build and opened with great fanfare in 1937. The bridge carries US Highway 101 and is the start of a popular drive along that coastal highway, through Monterey and Carmel, past the giant cliffs at Big Sur, south to Santa Barbara and Los Angeles. Heading north, the road less travelled makes for another great road trip, past the giant coastal redwood trees at Muir Woods, around windswept Bodega Bay (the location for Hitchcock's "Birds") and a side trip to taste the fine Pinot Noirs of the Russian River wineries.

