

GEORGENUGENT

TRAVELS

DIGITAL MAGAZINE



LOOKING BACK

**WITH 2022 NOW BEHIND US, WE
TAKE A LOOK BACK AT WHAT THE
YEAR HAD TO OFFER.**

WHAT'S NEXT

**2023 PROMISES TO BE ANOTHER
BUSY YEAR, BUT WHAT DO I HAVE
PLANNED FOR THE YEAR, AND
WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE THE
LAST ISSUE?**

Editor's Note

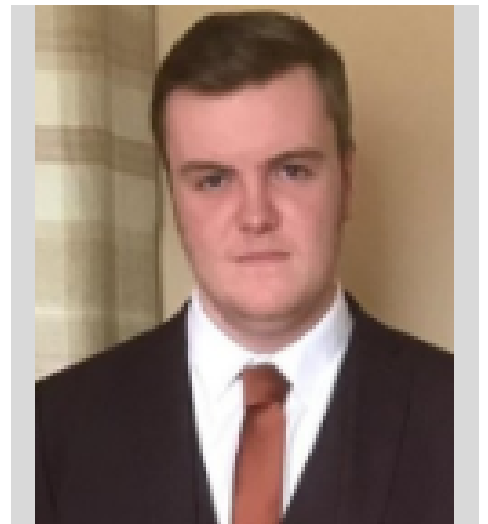


2022 was a year of growth for us as a brand, and that is down to the readers of our content. Every week we aim to provide unique and interesting topics, either based on our recent travels, or based on our wider experience whilst travelling.

To find out how we intend to keep innovating, read about our brands aims for 2023 on Page 13.

In this issue, reflect upon the last year and how we grew. Learn more about how we aim to continue this pattern, and how we aim to implement this.

We also take a look at the destinations across Europe we believe will be popular this summer.



George Nugent
Brand Founder

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Kutna Hora, CZ

Editors Note Image:
Prague, CZ

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Times Square, NYC



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THE BEST AND WORST OF 2022

"Traveling helped me broaden my worldview. I meet new people, learn about different cultures, and explore various aspects of each destination."

L

ast year was my busiest year in terms of travelling. With 35 flights and over 1,000 miles of rail travel completed, I figured I should summarise my 2022.

My first trip of the year allowed me to visit t my final UK nation, Wales and it's capital Cardiff. Flying with easyJet to Bristol before taking GWR to Cardiff, then back to London.

March involved two different trips. The first was a day to London, travelling with British Airways to London Heathrow for the first time. I decided with this trip not to create a plan before travelling, and decided instead deciding to see what I wanted to do at the time.

My second trip in March allowed me to visit my first new European country since before the pandemic hit. A five night trip to Paris booked with easyJet holidays allowed me to see one of Europe's most popular cities and most famous landmarks (I still don't see the hype about Paris, although I have learned this may not be a popular opinion).

My biggest trip of the year kicked off on April 1st 2022 at the Marriott Courtyard at Glasgow Airport.

On April 2nd I made my way to Glasgow Airport to fly with Lufthansa in Business Class to New York via Frankfurt on an Airbus A320 and Boeing 747 on the upper deck.

After spending the night in Manhattan I took my first ride with Amtrak to the wonderful city of Philadelphia. Spending the day walking around the city, in the rain made me feel like I was back in Glasgow. From there it was another Amtrak ride further south to Washington D.C.

The following morning involved a trip back to Newark Airport before taking my first United Airlines flight in 11 years to Chicago, where I would take the Empire Builder Train across the North of the USA to Seattle.

After spending the night in Seattle and travelling down to Portland I flew United Airlines to Denver, before flying to Phoenix with Southwest Airlines the following morning.

Another new airline, Frontier had the pleasure of flying me back to New York, before Lufthansa took me back to Glasgow, this time in economy where I belong.



After a short break at home it was time to travel again, this time with Ryanair from Glasgow to Brussels Charleroi. This would be my first time in Belgium and only my second time flying Ryanair from Glasgow Airport.

After spending the day in the city of Bruges I made my way back to Brussels for the night. I decided to fly with Brussels Airlines to Prague and spend some time with family and friends before flying with Ryanair into Edinburgh.

I would be back in Glasgow Airport soon enough, this time flying with Jet2.com to the Italian capital, Rome. Visiting Rome allowed me to visit another new country, Vatican City before taking the train across to Bologna.

From Bologna another train took us to Rimini, before boarding a coach to San Marino, possibly Europe's most peaceful country.

We then flew back to Glasgow from Bologna with easyJet via London Gatwick.

July was host to another trip, this time with Ryanair and TAP to Lisbon, make sure you read my TAP review to see why I am not keen to recommend them to you.

After a night in the Portuguese capital Lauda took us to Vienna before Ceske Drahy took us to Prague. I spent the rest of July in Prague before flying with easyJet back to Edinburgh.

September started off as a busy month, flying with Aer Lingus Regional from Glasgow to Belfast City. After spending the day exploring Belfast I made my way back to Glasgow. My aim was to fly with Flybe on one of their Q400 aircraft, however, this was changed to a Greek airline called Marathon and one of their Embraer 175 aircraft.

A few days later I travelled with LNER to London from Edinburgh, another review you do not want to miss. After a disappointing trip I flew back to Glasgow with British Airways CityFlyer from London City.

I then resisted the urge to travel until November when I flew with British Airways CityFlyer to London City in order to attend the WorldTravelMarket 2022 at the ExCel. Here I had the opportunity to interview travel brands, learn more about places I plan on visiting, connect with other travel writers and gain insider knowledge on the industry from some of the most influential figures within travel.

This is something I want to do more of, and hope to attend the event this year and also have a few more events I would like to attend if I have the opportunity to do so.

The final month of the year kicked off with a last minute trip to Prague, flying with Ryanair to and from Edinburgh.

Despite numerous visits to Prague before, this would be my first time visiting in winter, and allowed me to experience the cities world famous Christmas Markets, I would definitely recommend visiting them if that is your sort of thing.

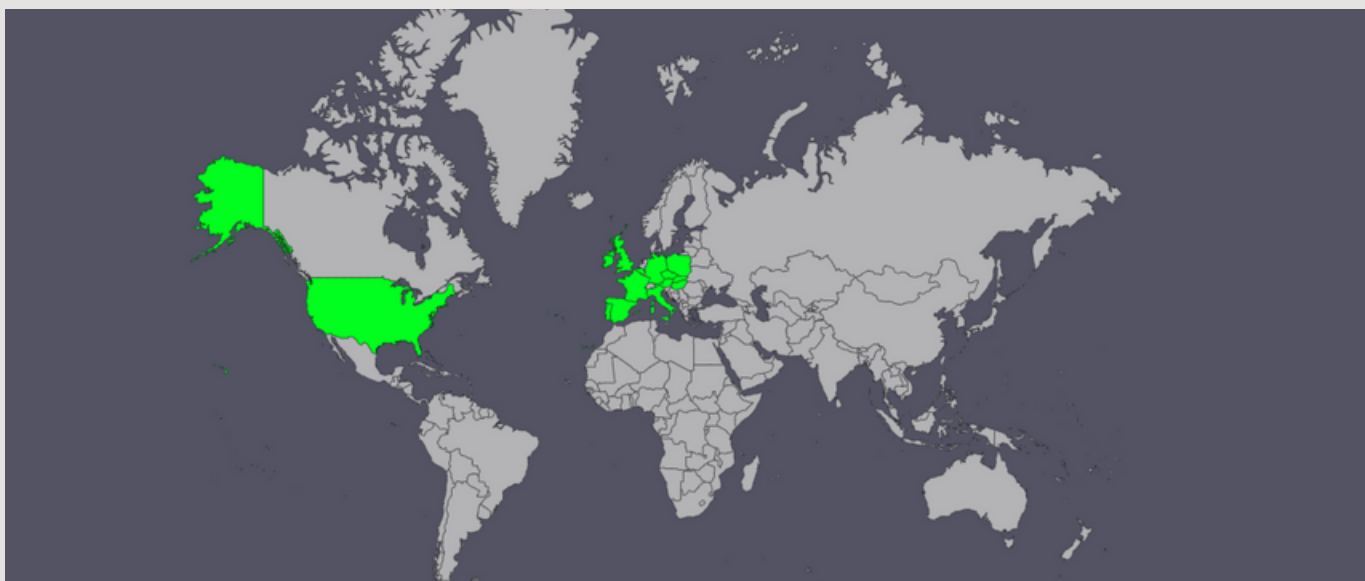
The year concluded with a three night trip to Malaga. Flying with Ryanair from Glasgow Airport, I decided to visit the Upper Deck Lounge, it was nearly Christmas so why not treat myself.

After relaxing and exploring the city I flew back to Glasgow with Jet2.com, before spending the rest of the year at home.

As you can see my year was busy, but, I enjoyed every trip I took. If I was to offer you one piece of advice it would be this, travel whenever you can.

"Money comes back, time and opportunities do not."

**LINKS TO EVERY
REVIEW WILL BE
AVAILABLE AT THE
END OF THE
MAGAZINE**





MY VIEWS ON THIS YEARS HOTTEST

SUMMER ESCAPES



Where will be popular this summer, and where you should go to escape the holiday rush.

This summer is gearing up to be even busier than last year. With that in mind I have decided to share with you where I think you will find the best deals and where to avoid the rush.

If beach holidays are not your thing, flights are readily available to Sofia for those travellers who prefer a city break.

Portugal

Portugal is one of Europe's cheapest countries, and getting their from the UK has never been easier.

With new easyJet flights from Glasgow to both Porto and Lisbon it has never been easier to escape to the sun for a weekend city break.

Flights are also available to both Funchal and Faro for those looking for a relaxing break in the sun a bit further from home,

This is just my opinion, based on my experiences. With that in mind here are my thoughts.

Bulgaria

Bulgaria was just voted as the best "Value for Money" destination by the Post Office. As a result airlines across the UK are increasing capacity to Black Sea destinations in the country.

Although flights operate to Burgas, you will find package deals to Sunny Beach & Nessebar.



Malaga

With people looking to save money, but still escape to the sun I expect Spain to remain popular with tourists.

I have selected Malaga for this list as I am seeing flights to Malaga selling well, and expect this trend to continue as summer approaches.

Offering a city break in the sun, as well as the opportunity to relax on the beach all in the one place. Multiple daily flights are available.

Poland

Poland is likely to remain a popular place for tourists this summer. Krakow offers visitors the opportunity to visit one of Poland's oldest cities, including the medieval city centre, and the cities famous Jewish Quarter. Although people go on holidays to relax, you cannot visit Krakow without taking the day to visit Auschwitz and learn about Poland's dark past.

Unlike Krakow, the capital Warsaw is defined and known for it's historic looks and vibrant energy. This is a city that never sleeps and is easily accessible to those on a budget.

For those who enjoy both modern and old architecture, Warsaw should be high on your list of places to visit, and even during summer the city will still feel relaxed and welcoming.

Wroclaw was built in the 13th-century, and was largely destroyed by bombs during World War 2. Despite this, the city is second on the list of "Polish cities everyone wants to visit" and is known for cheap beers and small local pubs.

Toronto

Toronto is the only long haul destination on this list.

Known for being the gateway for Niagara Falls, the city is also home to the CN tower, High Park, Lake Ontario and one of the longest urban waterfronts in the world.

Plus, it's location within Canada makes it an ideal layover point for those travelling to other Canadian cities, including Calgary, Kelowna or Vancouver.

With daily flights this summer, and flights available throughout the year Toronto is easily accessible at any time of year.

How to travel to these destinations All of these airlines fly direct from Glasgow!

PORTUGAL

LISBON - EASYJET
PORTO - EASYJET
FUNCHAL - JET2
FARO - EASYJET & JET2

BULGARIA

BURGAS - BALKAN HOLIDAYS & JET2

MALAGA

EASYJET, JET2, RYANAIR & TUI

POLAND

KRAKOW - JET2 & RYANAIR
WARSAW - RYANAIR
WROCLAW - RYANAIR

TORONTO

AIR TRANSAT



MY PLANS FOR 2023

I have another busy year of travel planned, and I want to share with you what to expect on my website over the year.

We may only be a few weeks into the year, I have already taken my first trip of the year.

I flew with Lufthansa to Ljubljana in Slovenia and spent the weekend away. I also took the opportunity to visit the Croatian city of Zagreb.

The final few pieces of content from this trip will be published over the coming weeks, this includes a review of Flixbus to Zagreb and a practical guide to Zagreb.

Iceland

My next trip of the year begins with an overnight stay in Reykjavik.

I am taking advantage of Icelandair's stop-over in Iceland deal and using my trip to Canada as an opportunity to visit two countries at once.

I do not currently have any plans on what to see or do whilst there, but I expect to have 20 hours in the city before travelling on to Toronto.

if you have any recommendations on things to do then I would love to hear them, let me know on social media and I will try and make them happen.

Toronto

Having changed the itinerary for my trip to Canada I now only have two nights in Toronto.

I currently plan on visiting Niagara Falls, and using the rest of my time to explore the city and what it has to offer those visiting. If I have time I also plan to go to the top of the CN Tower and get the best view of the city available.

Calgary

After Toronto I will be flying with one of Canada's newest Low Cost Airlines, Flair, on their Boeing 737 Max 8 to Calgary.

MY PLANS FOR 2023



I have booked to stay in Calgary for 6 nights, and will use this time to explore one of Canada's lesser known cities to UK travellers.

Due to the nature of booking this trip I will be staying in two different hotels and also aim to publish a guide to the city, so look out for them this summer.

Kelowna

This has been somewhere I have wanted to visit for a long time, and now I have it booked.

I have a day trip from Calgary booked, and will be flying there with Lynx Air, also on their Boeing 737 Max 8.

After visiting I will publish a short post about why I wanted to visit, and if it was worth it.

Burgas

I mentioned in the previous version of this magazine that I was considering visiting Bulgaria.

I have now confirmed the dates and cities I will be arriving and departing from.

I will be arriving into the city of Burgas, having flown with British Airways and Ryanair from Glasgow via London.

Whilst here I will be shown around the city by a friend and getting an in-depth guide to the city and how it is different from the UK.

I have not decided on content from this trip, so stay tuned as I will confirm this closer to departure.

Sofia

The Bulgarian capital will be my departure point for returning home, this time with Ryanair from Edinburgh at the unfriendly time of 0545.

Due to time constraints I will only have a very limited time in Sofia, so if I find myself enjoying Bulgaria then I will plan another trip and will make sure to visit Sofia again.

If you are planning, or have a trip booked let me know where you are going!

MY GOALS FOR 2023

GROWING INTERNATIONAL READERS

Last year we were able to deliver growth of 190% over 2021.

In 2023 we intend to shift our growth focus away from generic expansion and towards the expansion of international readers to our site.

Our top five international markets in 2022 were,

- United States
- Germany
- Canada
- Bulgaria
- India

We believe that the growth of our international readerships will be achievable by releasing content based on two of our most popular countries.

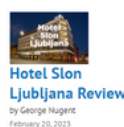
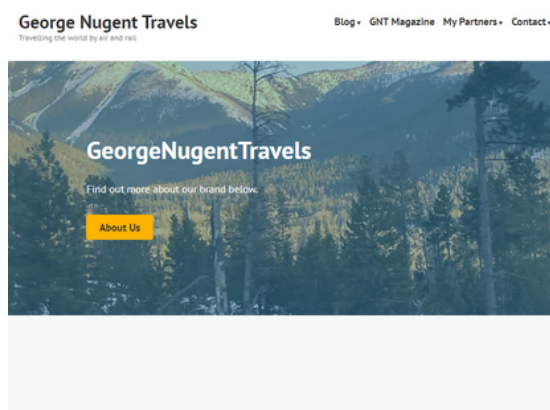
As we continue to grow our brand into a more well known brand, we aim to work with International Tourist Boards, airlines and airports to promote new destinations to Scottish readers, as well as highlighting the reasons why our international viewers should visit Scotland.



CONSISTENT UPLOADS

Despite a solid growth year in 2022, we did not remain consistent with our uploads, especially at the start of the year.

To address these issues we have created a content plan that outlines what we will be posting and when. This is accessible on our website.



NEW WEBSITE LAYOUT

In January of this year we updated the layout of our website to make it more user friendly for our viewers who are on mobile devices.

Our enhanced layout has been received well by our readers, and we are currently working on making some small changes to our pages.

As we make these changes we will communicate these via social media and will ask for your feedback regularly.

Furthermore, for our pages that highlight destinations from Glasgow Airport have now been updated to include the local language of the destination as well as English.

We have also experimented on the home page for this section by implementing a map to allow a visual representation of the content that is available.



WHY YOU SHOULD TRAVEL NOW

MONEY COMES BACK, YOUR TIME AND OPPORTUNITIES DO NOT

Everyone has done it, had a fantastic opportunity and spent so long debating it, only to decide against taking it and regretting it later. I think it's time we stop this!

Before I start let me just clarify this point, travel is a luxury and not a guarantee. Although it appeals to some, for others it is not their thing.

When you are presented with the opportunity to travel, my advice is take it and do it. You have the chance to visit somewhere new and learn something about yourself. I learnt more about myself whilst travelling across America than I did in school.

How often have you found a fantastic holiday deal, only to ask your friends if they want to come with you? I am willing to bet most of the time the reply is "nah" or "I am busy those dates"

Who cares if they are busy, it's you that's travelling.

Let me give you an example. 70% of my trips last year were solo. If I only travelled with friends or family then I would never have travelled across America, visited Brussels or Malaga.

I am not saying that you need to travel across America yourself, but if you do not feel comfortable travelling solo internationally, then why not find a break in a city you have never visited in your own country?

Social Media is a great place to ask for advice and find people in the same situation as you. When you return I am willing to bet you will have enjoyed yourself just as much (or more!) than you would have travelling in a group.

When travelling solo you are responsible for what you do, when you wake up, what you eat and you are able to do things at a pace you set.

So make 2023 the year you travel solo for the first time, and learn more about yourself.

QR CODES TO THE CONTENT MENTIONED IN THIS REVIEW

**Are easyJet really
that easy?**



My Guide to Paris



**Lufthansa Business
Class**



**My First United
Flight in 11 Years**



**Travelling across
the USA with
Amtrak**



**Southwest Airlines
Review**



**Glasgow to Brussels
Charleroi**



**Brussels Airlines to
Prague**



**Jetting to Rome
with Jet2**



QR CODES TO THE CONTENT MENTIONED IN THIS REVIEW

**A Brief Guide to
Rome**



**Trenitalia Rome to
Bologna**



**TAP Air Portugal to
Lisbon**



**I Flew with Aer
Lingus Regional**



**I Tried to fly with
Flybe**



**How Have LNER
Managed this?**



**BA CityFlyer, what a
Flight**



**Icelandair
Interview**



LNER Interview





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Travels