



#### **Agents on the Front Line**

**Kelly Cookes** 

Leisure Director

**The Advantage Travel Partnership** 



#### **Pre-Pandemic: Leisure Travel**



Brits made a record 93 million overseas trips in 2019

+3% vs. 2018



UK residents spent £62.3 billion on visits overseas in 2019

+7% vs. 2018





# During the Pandemic: Leisure Travel Agents

- Used Furlough...but this was limited
- Reduced overheads
- Accessed support...sometimes
- Navigated the refunds issues!
- Looked after their customers



### What's Next? ... The Future is Bright

- A recent survey of 250 ATOL holders showed 58% expecting an increase in customer numbers this year vs. 2019
- A further 32% think they will match 2019 levels

- 80% now think they will survive
- In a recent Deloitte consumer survey 49% of people said they would spend on holidays and hotels in the next 12 months (the highest item on the grid)





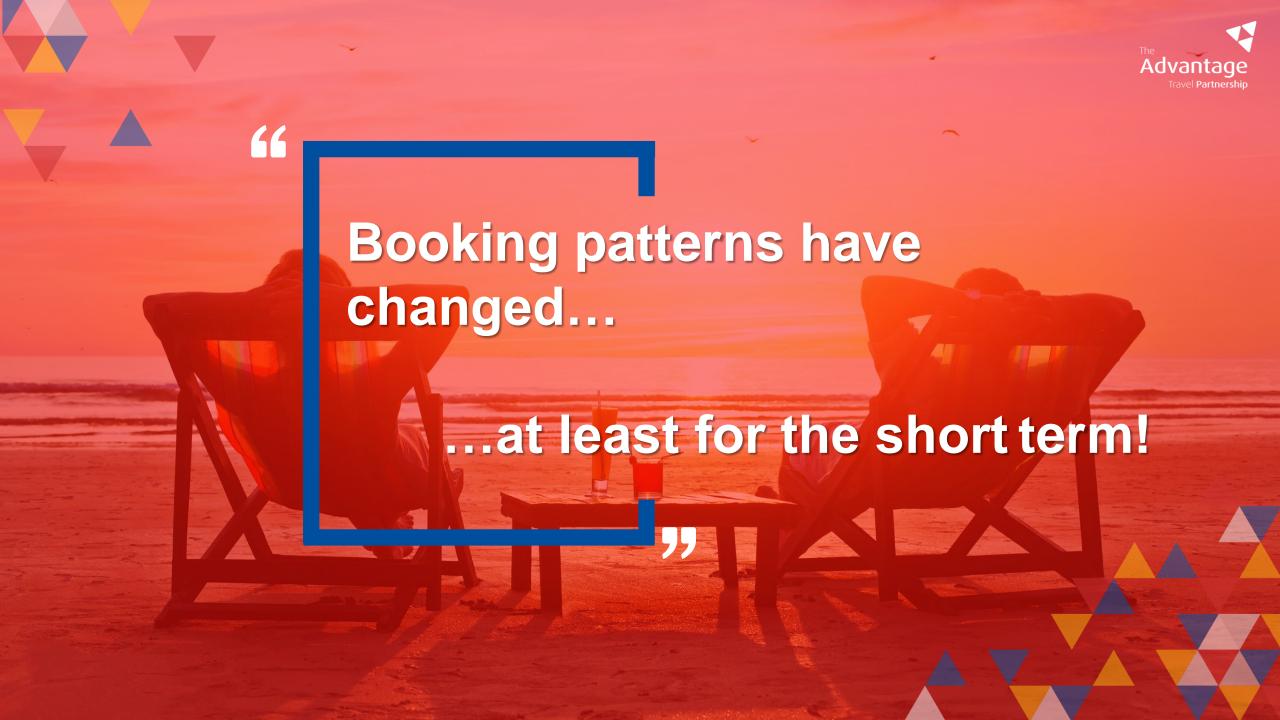
## **But...** There Are Still Challenges Ahead

- Consumer uncertainty
- New Global challenges
- Keeping up to date with ever changing restrictions
- Capacity Tour operator/Airline consolidation
- Regulatory risks
- Economic outlook/rising costs
- Availability of staff
- Cash-flow





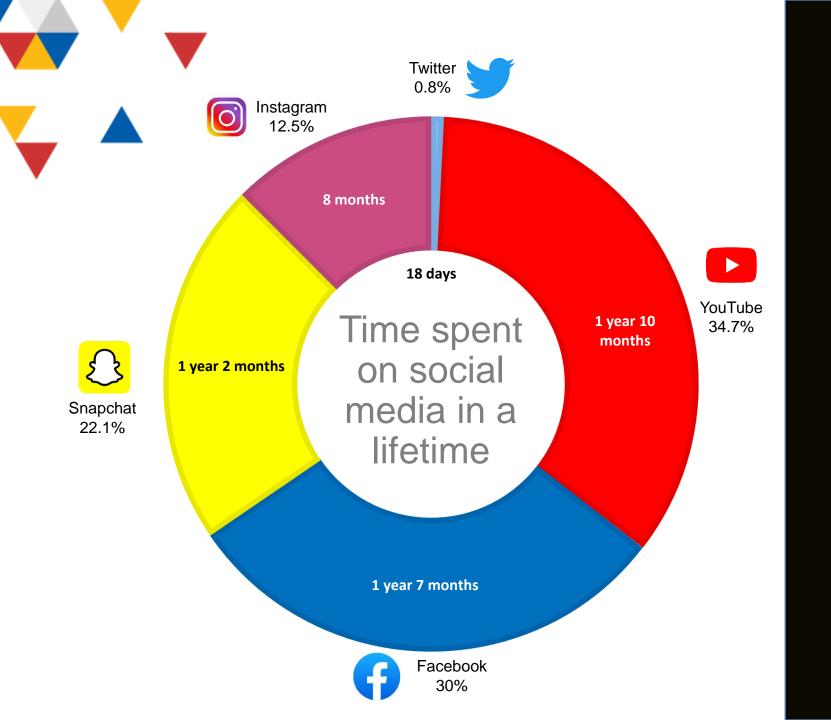
### The New Normal...Or Is It?





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Consumers
want to shop or
buy when its
convenient for
them, not for us!





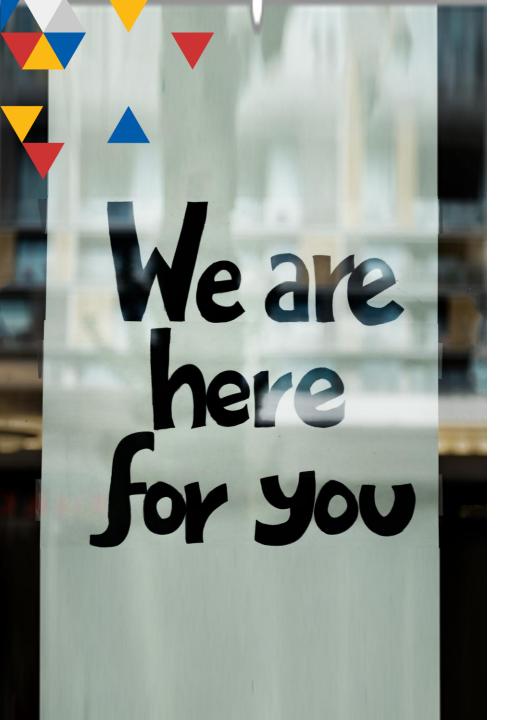
### Social Media From Looking to Booking





### What Is Your Product?

If you don't tell consumers what you are selling, how will they know what its value is?





There has never been a better time to book with an independent travel agent!