

JOURNEYS

INSPIRING HOLIDAY IDEAS | AUTUMN 2023

WINTER FUN OR SUMMER SUN

FROM CHRISTMAS MARKETS
TO FAMILY BEACH GETAWAYS!

CHASING THE AURORA

DISCOVER THE
NORTHERN LIGHTS
THIS WINTER

2024 TOP CRUISE DESTINATIONS

VENICE, SANTORINI, COPENHAGEN, BUDAPEST...
WHICH WILL YOU CHOOSE?

PLUS



FIRST-HAND TIPS FOR HOLIDAYS TO MENORCA
GO WILD IN AFRICA
TOP EXPERIENCES IN ANCIENT EGYPT

HOLIDAYS ARE CALLING!

The milder months may have come to an end, but it doesn't mean your holiday dreams need to. In this autumn 2023 issue of Journeys, we share holiday ideas for the remaining months of this year and look ahead to 2024, and the wonderful destinations that are waiting to be explored. It's never too early to book your next break – after all, we all need something in the diary to look forward to.

If you're an avid cruiser or would like to experience setting sail for the first time, turn to page 6, where we put the spotlight on four of the best European cruise destinations for 2024, all of which offer overnight stays, exclusive ports or long docking periods so that you can experience more of each port of call.

Or perhaps 2024 beach breaks are calling? Head to page 16 for recommendations for family holidays to Menorca, where mum of three, Sarah, shares her top tips for the perfect break there. Or if travelling further afield is what you're craving, then read about the luxurious and exciting adventures on offer in Abu Dhabi on page 24, where water parks, beautiful beaches and cultural activities can all be enjoyed!

Other holiday inspiration includes essential tips for a trip to Rome, two of our favourite African safari destinations and ideas for the perfect trip to Australia – just to name a few.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of Journeys magazine and that we can help you plan your next holiday very soon – wherever you choose.

Must-do experiences for a trip to ancient Egypt



22-23

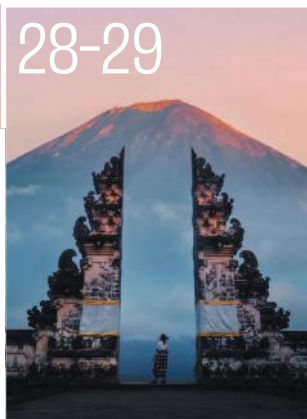
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WINTER FUN OR SUMMER SUN

WHICH WILL YOU CHOOSE?

With the waning of the summer and the slow shortening of the days, 'What's next?', 'When will will I see the sun again?' and 'I need something to look forward to!' have started to run regularly through our minds. To help us all answer these very pressing questions, we've put together an issue packed with options covering what to do this winter, be it embracing the cold or chasing the sun, and those big plans for 2024. We hope you find plenty of inspiration for one, the other, or both!

WINTER HOLIDAYS

Just because things are beginning to get a whole lot colder, it doesn't mean there aren't plenty of exciting travel options in the winter. The Northern Lights dance across the skies in the far north – spotting them can be enjoyed alongside a whole host of winter activities like dog sledding and ice caving. The festive cheer of Christmas markets that springs up across Europe; food, drink and culture can be savoured on cosy city breaks; and the ski season starts in earnest. But if you're shivering at the very thought of all that coldness, there are always winter sun destinations to consider – the Canaries are a great short-haul

choice, with balmy temperatures throughout the winter, or you can go long-haul and head to the likes of Asia for something wholly hotter and more tropical.



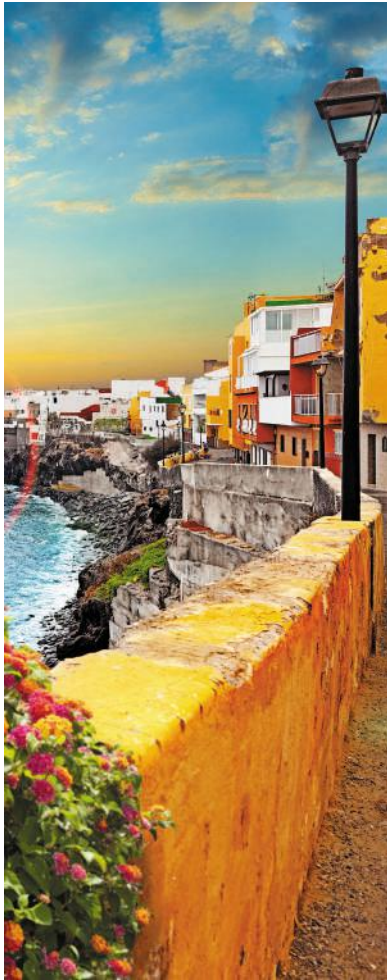
EXPERIENCE MAGICAL CHRISTMAS MARKETS

The ideal way to squeeze in one final break this year is by heading to one of the many Christmas markets that pop up across Europe in December. Bustling, vibrant and full of cheer, some of the best include Cologne and Berlin in Germany, Salzburg in Austria, Prague in the Czech Republic, Budapest in Hungary and Strasbourg in France but there are many, many more. What better way to get into the festive spirit than eating, drinking, ice skating and making merry in one of these wonderful cities!



Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife





FUN IN THE SUN

If your mind is already way ahead in 2024, don't stop it - get planning! Booking ahead for spring and summer next year not only gives you something to look forward to through those grey winter days but has loads of advantages, like early booking deals, having the pick of the holiday bunch and plenty of time to pay it all off. Fancy sipping sangria

in Spain, eating pizza in Italy or relaxing in Greece? Then let's get it sorted. You know what they say, the early bird catches the worm!

FOR SEAMLESS AND STRESS-FREE HOLIDAY PLANNING, BOOK WITH US!

If you like things easy, seamless and stress-free, booking with us, your local travel agent, is the jewel in the crown for both breaks - this winter and planning further ahead for next year. You barely have to do a thing. Just tell us the what, the where and the how much and we'll fly into research mode.

Whether you're looking for the Christmas market that is the most festive, which Canary Island is the best in November or the best package for that long-haul destination you've been considering for a while, you can rest assured that we will find the very best deal for you.



DID YOU KNOW...

We're a member of The Advantage Travel Partnership, the UK's largest group of independently owned travel agents, meaning we have access to the widest choice of great value, financially protected holidays. So, whether you're looking for culture, adventure or relaxation, we are ideally placed to help you find your dream holiday, underpinned by the peace of mind of knowing you have the support of your travel agent when you travel.

OUR 2023

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- ✓ Stress-free holiday planning
- ✓ A person to take care of everything!

Book with us, your local independent travel agent, where your travel plans are in the best possible hands!

TOP EUROPEAN CRUISE DESTINATIONS FOR 2024

WHEREVER THE
DESTINATION
**BOOK YOUR
CRUISE WITH
US!**

Ocean or river, cruises truly are voyages of discovery that allow you to experience a number of the world's most spectacular cities and sights all at once, on one magical itinerary. Travelling by water, you'll experience these places at a different level and from a new angle, sailing directly into the heart of a destination with an unrivalled sense of adventure.

From short and action-packed with a stop a day to take in those iconic sights to long and leisurely with plenty of time to soak up all the wonders of each port, with so many options, choosing a cruise can be a difficult task. Here, we're putting the spotlight on cruises that allow you to spend more time in port, with full days or a full night (or even two), so that you can explore even more.



SANTORINI

With such unique and dramatic beauty, it's no wonder that Santorini is so alluring to cruise-goers. Its whitewashed villages and blue domed churches spilling down cliffsides has become one of the iconic images of Greece, and one that many of us want to experience for ourselves.

You'll approach Santorini across a lagoon formed by a flooded volcanic crater, spying those clifftop villages teetering far above. Whilst wandering the villages and admiring their dazzling panoramas is a must, there is plenty more on offer here. Relax on a beautiful volcanic beach like the red-hued sands and cliffs of Akrotiri and soak up the lively atmosphere of capital Fira, full of bustling restaurants and bars. As the late afternoon approaches, head to Oia village to get a prime spot for one of Santorini's legendary sunsets.

Take me there

To appreciate Santorini at its best, choose to cruise with ultra-luxury cruise line Explora Journeys. With them, you spend 24 hours on this beautiful island, docking as the other cruise liners depart, giving you time to enjoy a dreamy sunset and explore the island a little deeper.



Santorini, Greece

COPENHAGEN

Cool, compact and the epitome of Scandi chic, Copenhagen is a wonderfully welcoming place that perfectly combines fascinating history and sustainable modernism with great attractions and delicious food. Back from the bright-coloured buildings of the waterfront, it is also small and easy to navigate, particularly on foot or by bike, meaning you can pack a whole lot into your day.

For café culture and the excellent craft beer scene, spend some time exploring Jægersborggade, while Nyhavn, the harbour, is the spot for watching the world go by. For history, wander around Slotsholmen to the Christiansborg Palace and into Indre By, the city centre, for excellent museums and galleries like the Nationalmuseet and NY Carlsberg Glyptotek. For those after a little more thrill, Tivoli Gardens is the world's second-oldest amusement park – great for kids and big kids alike.

Take me there

In 2024, premium cruise line Celebrity Cruises will be featuring a two-night stop in Copenhagen on its 12-night Best of Scandinavia cruise, allowing you to experience the city in the morning, noon and night. Departing from Southampton, other stop-offs include Tallinn, Helsinki and Stockholm.



Nyhavn Canal, Copenhagen



Danube River, Budapest

BUDAPEST

It's easy to see how Budapest earned the moniker the 'Paris of the East'; it's a city that exudes elegance and romance, from its atmospheric cobbled streets, right up to the spires of its magnificent domed Parliament building.

It is from the Danube river that the city is best admired. Pest on the east bank and Buda on the west, the river slices the city into two different but wholly complementary sides. Arriving by river cruise ship, you're delivered right into the action, just a short stroll away from iconic sights like the UNESCO-listed 13th century Buda Castle and St Stephen's Basilica. After a day of discovery, head to the vibrant Jewish Quarter for drinks in one of the city's famous ruin bars.

Take me there

A river cruise allows you to explore Budapest and many other magnificent European cities all on one trip. AMA Waterways offers a number of river cruise itineraries that include a one-night stop in Budapest, giving you time to either explore at your leisure or take advantage of some of their many included excursions.

BURANO ISLAND, VENICE

Burano is a tiny but character-filled island in the Venetian Lagoon, just a couple of miles off Venice itself. An utter delight to wander, the palpably romantic streets are lined with cottages painted in a rainbow of bright colours. Renowned for its handmade lace, as you explore, you may be lucky enough to stumble across a tableau of local life – women sitting in the sun sewing as they have done for centuries.

Whilst Burano is a popular day trip from Venice, there are very few places to stay on the island, meaning that, before the first vaporettos arrive in the morning and after the last depart in the evening, the island is quiet and atmospheric, the streets empty and perfectly photogenic and the magical sunrises and sunsets exclusively yours.

Visiting Burano Island will give you a taste of a more authentic, quiet side of Venice, which is a relatively exclusive experience. It's really quite a contrast to the central region of Venice, which also is a must-see on any European cruise itinerary!

Take me there

Boutique river cruise line Uniworld makes this dreamy image a reality with its very own port at Burano.

They stop overnight here as part of their eight-day Venice & The Jewels of Veneto river cruise, an extra special experience for the guests who embark on this itinerary. Excursions are included, or you can opt to explore independently.



Burano Island, Venice



DISCOVER THE OCEAN STATE OF MIND

Explora Journeys is **CREATING** a *collection* of journeys that offer the *perfect BLEND* of *celebrated* destinations and less-travelled spots, both seen from a *new* and **ORIGINAL** *point of view* that will *inspire* and **EXCITE** in equal measure.

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DISCOVER PORTUGAL'S BEAUTIFUL DOURO REGION

Say 'Olá' to the MS Estrela, APT Travelmarvel's stunning new-build ship, sailing her maiden voyage through Portugal's beautiful Douro region in summer 2024.



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This unique river ship has been custom-built to reflect the beauty and style of Portugal, with ample natural light and a distinctly southern European ambience immersing guests in Portuguese culture from the moment they arrive. One of APT's smaller river ships, the MS Estrela offers 60 stunningly appointed cabins as well as plenty of outdoor space, including an alfresco dining area to sit and watch the spectacular scenery glide by. On board, you'll

enjoy outstanding dining and contemporary facilities, including a sun deck boasting a spacious swimming pool, plush sunbeds and a putting green.

"Guests can also enjoy a range of entertainment on board, including a marvellous night of Portuguese folk music, accompanied with wine, song and dance."

A trip to Portugal wouldn't be complete without sampling some of the culinary delights on offer. The ship's main restaurant showcases expertly prepared Portuguese, Mediterranean and international flavours, accompanied by carefully



Lisbon, Portugal



NEW SHIP

So much is included in your APT Douro river cruise:

- ✓ 7 nights on board MS Estrela, plus return scheduled flights
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selected European wine and beer at lunch and dinner.

Kick off your love affair with port in the sun-drenched city of Porto and enjoy a captivating flamenco show. In Pinhão, enjoy a sumptuous dinner of traditional dishes and dessert at a picturesque local quinta, a Portuguese winery. On arrival in Régua, you'll head to a local quinta, which boasts outstanding views over the Douro Valley. Here you'll enjoy a tasting of local port wine, Portugal's most famous tippie. You'll keep sailing along the Duoro River with the perfect balance of free time to explore as you wish, with included excursions to maximise your trip.

Get cruising

To find out more, scan the QR code to see more of life on board MS Estrela and the destinations visited, or, to book, contact us, your local travel agent, today.



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For its first-ever winter season in Europe and the Mediterranean, the award-winning Celebrity Infinity® offers 9- to 12-night sailings that let you unravel the exotic mysteries of Tangier, marvel at the iconic La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, or explore the ruins of the Parthenon atop the Acropolis in Athens.

These sailings depart from Lisbon, Barcelona, and Athens—each city a holiday-worthy destination on its own. Whichever itinerary you choose, you'll visit some of the most extraordinary places on Earth and discover the unexpected on a Celebrity Cruises holiday filled with wonder.



NEW FOR 2023

CANARIES, MOROCCO & SPAIN

11-NIGHTS | 28 NOVEMBER 2023
Departs from Barcelona

Visiting Fuerteventura, Canary Islands; Gran Canaria, Canary Islands; Tenerife, Canary Islands; Casablanca, Morocco; Seville (Cadiz), Spain; Valencia, Spain; Barcelona, Spain

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SAILING

CANARIES, MOROCCO & SPAIN

12-NIGHTS | 21 DECEMBER 2023
Departs from Barcelona

Visiting Lanzarote, Canary Islands; Tenerife, Canary Islands; La Palma, Canary Islands; Casablanca, Morocco; Tangier, Morocco; Seville (Cadiz), Spain; Valencia, Spain; Barcelona, Spain

OVERNIGHT IN ISTANBUL

GREECE & TURKEY

10-NIGHTS | 26 APRIL 2024
Departs from Athens (Piraeus)

Visiting Volos, Greece; Istanbul, Turkey (Overnight); Ephesus (Kusadasi), Turkey; Santorini, Greece; Rhodes, Greece; Mykonos, Greece; Athens (Piraeus), Greece

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EMBRACE YOUR ADVENTUROUS SIDE WITH A MULTI-CENTRE HOLIDAY



The rise of the multi-centre holiday has paved the way for an entirely new way to explore the world, offering a unique blend of cultural immersion, diverse landscapes and unmatched excitement, allowing adventurers to savour a variety of experiences in one unforgettable journey.

Whether you're yearning for a fusion of flavours, a medley of cultures or



a symphony of landscapes, a multi-centre holiday might just be your ticket to the ultimate adventure! The options are endless, but here we put the focus on Spain...

Imagine flying out to Malaga for a two-night stay, enjoying tapas and sweet dessert wines after visiting the beautiful Renaissance cathedral and the 11th century Alcazaba – one of the best preserved in all of Spain – nestled just above the city with incredible views. Next, you'll be whisked away by high-speed train to the enchanting city of Cordoba for the two nights, where you'll discover the immense mosque dating back to 784AD, as well as world-renowned leather manufacturers and silversmiths. After you've spent time taking in all that Cordoba has to offer, you'll once again board the train to conclude your adventure in Spain's elegant and exciting capital,

Málaga, Spain

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Madrid. Here, you can spend a leisurely couple of days taking in museums, strolling in parks, and wonder at the Royal Palace, full of paintings by the likes of Goya, Rubens and Caravaggio.

Top tip! Enjoy this break in spring to take advantage of the slightly cooler days for sightseeing.

Book via Advantage Holidays & Cruise for a seamless holiday itinerary

A wide choice of flight connections, high-speed trains and well-organised transfers makes hopping from one destination to another hassle-free. We can organise all of that through our exclusive partner, Advantage Holidays & Cruise. Contact us to find out more.



Mount Kirkjufell, Iceland

CHASING THE AURORA

Europe's best destinations for spotting the Northern Lights

The planet's most spectacular light show, the celestial dance of the Northern Lights (otherwise known as the aurora borealis), has intrigued and enchanted us for millennia. These enthralling, swirling curtains of colour, created by charged particles from the sun meeting the earth's atmosphere, appear annually to bring an extra magic to our northernmost skies in the depths of winter.

Gazing in wonder at the Northern Lights has become a bucket-list item for many travellers but, like much in nature, there is no guarantee that they will appear when and where they are supposed to. For the best chance of witnessing an enthralling show, you need to travel between November and March; it is very much worth the effort! Luckily the very best places in Europe to see them also offer vibrant urban centres and a host of other fabulous winter activities, from geothermal pools to ice caving, so your Northern Lights experience can be as adventurous or relaxing as you fancy.

ICELAND IS HOME TO EUROPE'S LARGEST GLACIER, WITH CAPITAL CITY REYKJAVIK BOASTING AN EXCELLENT BASE TO EXPLORE

An ever popular destination for the Northern Lights, and the majesty of nature in general, Iceland has stark and dramatic beauty by the bucketload. Capital city Reykjavik is compact and lively, and an excellent base from which to explore. With a hedonistic nightlife, excellent eateries and a series of engaging museums, there is much to charm visitors and, with the famous silica-rich hot waters of the Blue Lagoon in easy reach, to relax them too.

Trips to see the Northern Lights can be easily arranged from Reykjavik, but heading farther into Iceland's wilderness makes it easier to watch their mesmerising ballet and gives access to the host of waterfalls, volcanoes, beaches and glaciers. If you choose to visit Europe's largest glacier, you can crank up the exhilaration with glacier hiking and ice caving, whilst from Hella you can visit geysers, black sand beaches and the famous Strokkur geyser.

NORWAY'S TROMSØ OFFERS AN ARRAY OF WINTER ACTIVITIES AND ONE OF THE LONGEST DURATIONS TO SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

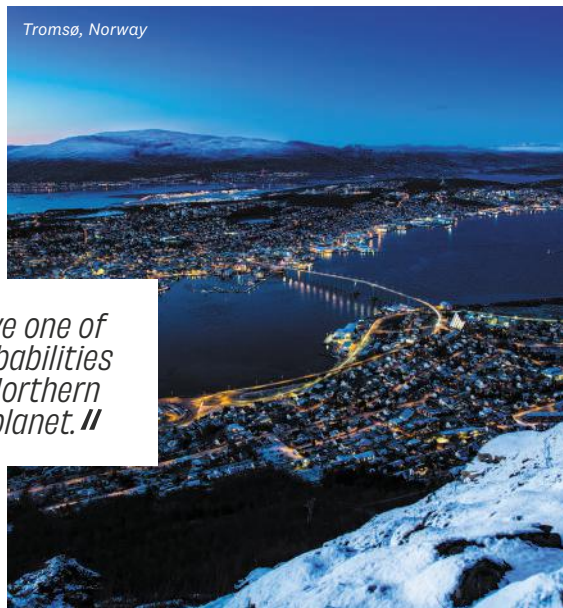
A third of Norway's territory lies within the Arctic Circle, the long dark winters offering plentiful opportunity to chase the aurora borealis. Vibrant Tromsø has long been the 'gateway to the Arctic' as the starting point for many Arctic expeditions in the early 1900s; here you have one of the highest probabilities of seeing the Northern Lights on the planet.

Set on the icy waters of a fjord and surrounded by rugged snowcapped peaks, you couldn't get much more polar than this - something that is reflected in the range of activities on offer. Dog sledding, reindeer sledding and a visit or stay in the Tromsø ice domes offer the perfect winter experiences, whilst cruising the fjord not only offers spectacular views but excellent birdwatching too. With an extended aurora spotting season between September and April, taking a guided tour out into a darker, more remote area gives a better experience, even though it is possible to see the aurora from within the city.

FOR A REMOTE EXPERIENCE AT THE HEART OF NATURE, CHOOSE SVALBARD IN NORWAY

From an archipelago in the high Arctic, Northern Light spotting doesn't get much more unique and adventurous than in Svalbard. One of the northernmost inhabited places on earth (though polar bears outnumber humans!), Svalbard is both awe-

"Here you have one of the highest probabilities of seeing the Northern Lights on the planet."



inspiring and unforgiving, with a rugged, snowy and remote terrain that is considered Europe's last great wilderness.

Here, the winters are deep and dark - there is no daylight at all between November and the end of January - and the Northern Lights regularly play in the limitless dark. Stay in the town of Longyearbyen, on the island of Spitsbergen, a bustling little place where you can base yourself to venture out exploring iceberg strewn waters, ice caves and to spot incredible wildlife. After a day of adventures, sample the wares of the

world's northernmost brewery or warm up with a glass or two from one of Scandinavia's best wine cellars whilst waiting for the Northern Lights to flicker through the night skies.



Longyearbyen amongst snow-capped mountains of the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard

Which destination suits you?

Keen to see the Northern Lights this winter? Then you've come to the right place! Get in touch and we can discuss the best options for a magical getaway.

MENORCA: THE PERFECT FAMILY DESTINATION

Mum of three, Sarah, inspires us to love the island of Menorca with her colourful Instagram updates about the Balearic island.

Passionate about all things on the Balearic island, Sarah's mission is to showcase this dreamy destination and the many wonderful adventures she gets up to with her husband and three girls, aged 10, 7 and 4.

Sharing her time between the UK and the island of Menorca, Sarah has built up some avid followers through her Instagram profile [@the_menorca_mum](#).



 [@the_menorca_mum](#)

If you're thinking of booking a holiday to Menorca, head over to Instagram for Sarah's top tips and recommendations.



SO, WHY IS MENORCA SO GOOD FOR FAMILIES?

It's understated, peaceful, laid-back and is steeped in history and natural beauty.

Mornings spent by the pool, long lunches in pretty tavernas and afternoons spent on sandy beaches. Days spent exploring picturesque towns, splashing about in water parks and discovering hidden coves by boat. Menorca ticks all the boxes when it comes to a family holiday.

“A super short flight from the UK, just over 2 hours, it's a relatively easy journey with kids!”

You can drive from east to west in 45 minutes, and there's just one main road, making navigating a breeze. There are generally not many cars, plus there are no long travel journeys, making exploring much more manageable, particularly if you have young children. “Are we there yet?” You can always answer “Almost!”

THERE ARE MORE BEACHES THAN MALLORCA AND IBIZA COMBINED!

My advice would be to explore more than one corner of this idyllic island. That said, be warned - perfect beaches exist in all shapes and sizes - and not just the odd one; think Caribbean-aquamarine sea and fine white sand. With 200km of coastline, Menorca has more beaches than Mallorca and Ibiza combined!

Cala Galdana, Arenal d'en Castell, Santo Tomas, Cala en Porter, Arenal de Son Saura and Son Bou are a few of the bigger resort beaches - all with crystal-clear water and an

Arenal de Son Saura, Menorca



expanse of soft golden sand, easy access, some with a playground nearby and close to shops and beach bars. The ‘calas’ or small coves are also worth visiting and ideal for little ones, with calm, shallow waters: Alcaufar, Binisafua and Binidali to name a few of our favourites.

If you prefer something off the beaten track, Cala Mitjana, Cala Macarelleta and Cala Pregonda are all breathtakingly beautiful. The walk along the Cami de Cavalls (Menorca's walking path, which encircles the whole island) to get to these beaches may not be ideal for younger children or pushchairs but certainly doable for older kids, providing you bring enough water and snacks!

Ciutadella, Menorca



THERE ARE SO MANY CHARMING TOWNS AND VILLAGES

The two main towns lie on opposite sides of the island, and I recommend visiting at least one.

Charming Ciutadella lies on the west coast of the island. The best way to explore it is to wander its narrow streets full of traditional pastel buildings, quaint coffee shops and bars, pretty squares, an impressive Cathedral and a picture-perfect port. Head to Plaça des Pins for

a beautiful, shaded playground surrounded by bars and cafés perfect for families.

Mahon, the elegant capital, lies on a plateau on the east coast overlooking the largest natural harbour in the Med. Streets are lined with shops, boutiques and restaurants. Slightly more modern, yet still full of traditional architecture, are a buzzing fish market and a remarkable museum.

The red land train or 'Mahon Express' is a great way to explore the town with kids of all ages. The land train winds down the streets of Mahon and runs along the harbour in a 45-minute loop that you can hop on and hop off as you please.



Cavalleria Lighthouse



Cala Galdana, Menorca

Another favourite activity is the glass bottom boat cruise heading out into the mouth of the harbour.

If you're seeking authentic villages, Fornells, an old fishing harbour in the north famed for its lobster stew, is worthy of your time. As is the pretty Cala Fonts of Es Castell, a tiny harbour where you can dine on fresh seafood and sip a Pomada. Binibeca Vell should also top the list, a labyrinth of white-washed villas built in the 1970s to resemble a fishing village.

Step outside the main centres and you'll find a patchwork of green fields enclosed by ancient dry stone walls, pretty white houses and fincas selling traditional Mahon cheese and spicy Sobrasada sausage. The odd surprise is also in store. Lithica, a former quarry



turned open-air stone museum, complete with a limestone maze, is one of them. Talati de Dalt, reminiscent of Stonehenge, one of the numerous prehistoric Talayotic settlements found on the island, is another. There are seven lighthouses to be found here, Cavalleria, Favartix and Artrutx, all worth a visit. And of course, not forgetting the S'Albufera des Grau nature reserve, the centrepiece of the island's UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status it was awarded in 1993.

"For such a small island, it packs a punch, and there's always something waiting to be explored, enticing you to visit again and again."

Is Menorca next on your holiday list?

Menorca is a destination with something for everyone; year-round warm temperatures, beaches galore, pretty villages, and plenty of restaurants, it'll keep the whole family busy. You'll find even a two-week holiday won't be long enough!

If Sarah's recommendations have inspired you to pay Menorca a visit and you'd like to book, then do get in touch with us, your local travel agent – and we'll help you plan!

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CLASSIC COLLECTION

It's just a short flight from northern Europe, yet Morocco encapsulates the exoticism of more distant lands. It's mountainous and surprisingly green; a country of outstanding natural beauty.

Morocco's cities are as exciting as the landscape. Marrakech's medina enchants with its multitude of souks. Medieval Fez is filled with outstanding Islamic architecture and artistry. The swathe of golden beaches which decorate Morocco's Atlantic coast are neatly punctuated with coastal resort towns, Essaouira, Taghazout and Agadir, each offering a very different experience of a beach-based holiday.

To add to your holiday enjoyment, our travel experts will be delighted to organise a two or multi-centre holiday combining contrasting areas of Morocco: desert and city, mountains and coast.

Contact your local travel agent to find out more.



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Solterra Resort



Reunion Resort

REUNION RESORT

Ranging from one-bedroom retreats to 1-bedroom mansions, villas at Reunion are beautifully designed and feature modern kitchens with views of the golfing greens, plus have exceptional restaurants and a waterpark on-site. Whilst each home-from-home varies, picture a private pool, a spillover spa and an outdoor BBQ for delightful al fresco dining. Some even feature a games room and in-home cinema.

- ✓ Under 10 miles from Walt Disney World
- ✓ 5-acre water park with a lazy river
- ✓ 3 PGA golf courses

CHAMPIONS GATE RESORT

Here, enjoy an 18-hole golf course, watching films at the movie theatre and cycling around the tranquil lakes and lush surrounds. The 4- to 9-bedroom homes are suitably lavish, meaning you may not even want to leave! Unwind in the expansive living areas, take a refreshing dip in the sparkling pool or bask in the serene outdoor space.

- ✓ 20 minutes from Universal Orlando Resort
- ✓ 18-hole championship golf course
- ✓ On-site cinema



Champions Gate Resort

SOLTERRA RESORT

Nestled in lush countryside, Solterra offers a relaxing escape, surrounded by piney forests and picturesque lakes. Head to the pool, where you can drift along the gentle currents of the lazy river or experience the exhilaration of waterslides. Villas range from 4 to 14 bedrooms, making it a great option for large groups or families, and feature charming, themed bedrooms and games rooms.

- ✓ 25 minutes from Walt Disney World Resort
- ✓ Clubhouse with cabanas
- ✓ Resort-style pool with lazy river

Ready to head to Florida?

Whichever resort you choose, enjoy low deposits and free attractions for every guest when booking an Ocean Florida holiday. Speak to us, your local Advantage travel agent, today and find out how you can elevate your stay in the Sunshine State! Or if you're excited already, scan the QR code to see more.



**BOOK NOW
AND SAVE!**

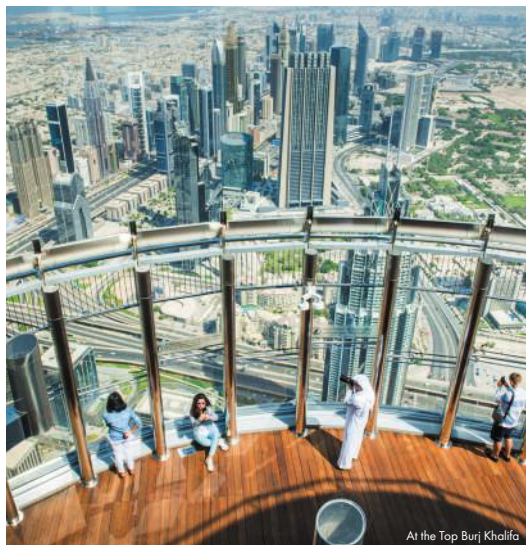
Book an Ocean Florida, Orlando, villa and receive \$440 worth of attraction tickets per family.

Embark on your own Arabian adventure in Dubai

Dubai is a city of unparalleled ambition. Here you will find theme parks pumped full of excitement; the tallest building in the world; the largest shopping mall in the world; the world's tallest observation wheel; the world's highest infinity pool, and the largest fountain. There is something for everyone to discover at every turn.

When you book a Gold Medal holiday to Dubai with your travel agent you will receive discounted rates on an Arabian Adventures 3-day or 5-day Adventure Pass, so you can enjoy a range of theme parks, water parks and more of Dubai's iconic attractions including...

Evening Desert Safari: Have the ride of your life on an exhilarating ride over the dunes before savouring a delicious barbecue under the stars.



Waterpark fun: Spend the day at Aquaventure Waterpark or Wild Wadi Waterpark™ - a fun-filled time is guaranteed.

At the Top Burj Khalifa: By day and night Burj Khalifa provides stunning views of the city skyline.

Dubai Frame: Witness the spectacular views from this magnificent architectural landmark in Zabeel Park.

There are plenty more attractions to enjoy with your Arabian Adventures Pass. Speak to your travel agent today to find out more details.



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GOLD MEDAL

Tailor-make your next Dubai holiday with your preferred travel agent today

ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR A ROMAN GETAWAY

A first-hand experience from Travel Writer, Nishi V

Drawing from her extensive knowledge of Italy gained through living in Florence for a year and making multiple visits around the country over the past two decades, Travel Writer Nishi V shares her first-hand experience of planning a trip to Rome for the ultimate city break.

Rome is one of the most iconic cities in Europe. Every building breathes history in this impressive city and it can feel like you are walking through a huge museum.

However, Rome is such a popular destination, it feels as though everyone is there at the same time as you. Despite the crowds, there are plenty of ways to enjoy the city – and you won't be disappointed.

Before you pack your bags and prepare to eat your weight in gelato, here are my essential tips to make the best of your visit in Rome.

DRESS APPROPRIATELY

Dress respectfully. The Vatican and most churches have a modest dress code: no shorts, miniskirts or sleeveless tops. Pack appropriately to cover your shoulders and knees and save yourself from any last-minute panic purchases.

Wear comfortable shoes. I know this is really boring, but I guarantee your feet will thank you. Rome is a small city; all the landmarks are within relative walking distance of one another so your step count will inevitably rack up. If you do need to take a break from walking, Rome has a simple metro system which makes getting around even easier.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT SEASON TO VISIT

Spring and early autumn are the best time of year to visit Rome, where temperatures are mild and comfortable for walking around all day. If you choose to visit in the



Nishi V, Travel Writer

summer, be warned – it's very hot and humid!

PLAN AN ITINERARY, BUT DON'T OVER PLAN

I'd recommend booking your trip and tickets to the main attractions in advance with your knowledgeable travel agent, as a good itinerary is essential in Rome. They'll make sure everything runs smoothly, and will be on hand should you need

them when you're away.

It's important to allow yourself some time to explore off the beaten path and soak up the atmosphere too. My advice would be to walk in the opposite direction to where the crowds are headed.

People are so focused on their main goal, they may forget about the other things around them: the charming streets, wonderful architecture, secret alleys, piazzas and the simple joy of people watching.

It's always worth considering paying extra for 'skip-the-line' tickets, as you might only have a few days in Rome and will probably want to see it all. Like me, you would probably rather not spend all your time queuing and completely miss out on a more authentic experience. Again, your travel agent can help you book these, so you have more time to explore.

BE AWARE OF CLOSING DATES

Don't assume everything is always open. The Vatican museums are generally closed on Sunday and most museums aren't open on Mondays, except for the Colosseum

and Borghese Gallery which require pre-booking. Saying that, it gives you a chance to explore the city by foot and soak up the atmosphere.

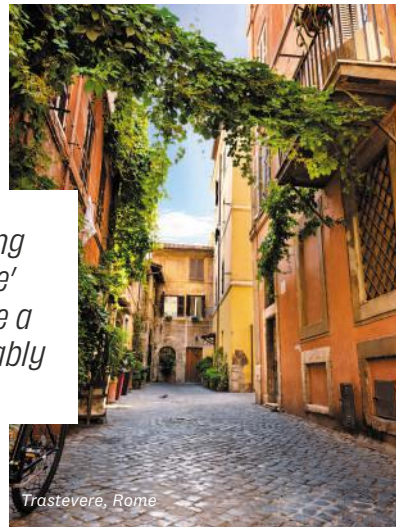
ITALIAN MEAL TIMES

Italians usually head out for dinner

"It's always worth considering paying extra for 'skip-the-line' tickets, as you might only have a few days in Rome and will probably want to see it all."

from 8.30pm onwards, so you might find that some restaurants aren't open if you're accustomed to dining earlier. If you can't hold out until then, do as the Italians do and have an aperitivo from 7pm. Restaurant kitchens are known to close well after 10pm, so don't worry about missing out on a proper dinner!

Don't miss trying gelato either; it's one of the delights people associate Italy with, and likely to be one of the first things you'll be searching for if you travel in hotter months. However, not all gelato is authentic; steer away from the gelaterias that display brightly coloured, puffy clouds of gelato. Real gelato



Trastevere, Rome

is made with fresh and natural ingredients, and a blended banana is never fluorescent yellow!

HOW TO GET THE BEST SHOT OF THE TREVI FOUNTAIN

To take great photos of the famous, must-see landmark without the crowds, arrive before 7am for the best photo opportunity, before everyone else has surfaced from their hotel rooms.

Alternatively, visit the United Colors of Benetton store across from the fountain and take a photo from the first-floor windows facing it. Obviously it won't be perfect... maybe the windows will be cleaner during your visit than they were during mine!



The Trevi Fountain in the morning light, Rome



 @NISHIV_

Follow Nishi on Instagram for more recommendations and first-hand travel adventures, or check out her website nishiv.com

EXPERIENCE SAADIYAT ISLAND, ABU DHABI

The breathtaking island of Saadiyat in Abu Dhabi caters to all interests, and spans 27 square kilometres, offering a fusion of unique experiences and year-round sun.

Stunning natural beaches allow the whole family to enjoy the crystal-clear waters of the Arabian Gulf and view the thriving marine life with your own eyes! The soft white sands offer the perfect place to take in the sensational sunsets. Just a 15-minute drive and you'll reach downtown Abu Dhabi and Dubai is an hour away.

STAY IN ONE OF SIX EXCLUSIVE LUXURY HOTELS AND RESORTS

Hotels and resorts include global hotel brands St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort and Park Hyatt Abu Dhabi Hotel, and regional pioneers Jumeirah at Saadiyat Island Resort, Rixos Premium Saadiyat Island and Saadiyat Rotana Resort. Alternatively, stay at Nurai Island, an exclusive boutique island retreat, surrounded by clear pristine waters and soft white sands – paradise personified.



WORLD-CLASS 18-HOLE GOLF COURSE

Saadiyat Beach Golf Club is the Arabian Gulf's first beachfront course, where you can enjoy a round of golf with top-of-the-range practice facilities as you take in the beauty of Saadiyat Island and the glittering ocean. Recognised globally as a world-class golfing destination, it creates an unparalleled golfing experience like no other.

A PIONEERING CULTURAL DISTRICT

There are many world-class cultural institutions, including the first international outpost of the iconic Louvre Museum, with inspiring

architecture and a thought-provoking collection. Opening in 2025, Guggenheim Museum Abu Dhabi is set to be the region's pre-eminent museum of global modern and contemporary art, and the Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi will feature some of the rarest natural history specimens ever found on Earth.

Book your If Only holiday with us!

If Only... offers a range of luxury holidays to Abu Dhabi and beyond, offering once-in-a-lifetime holidays. Contact us, your local travel agent, to book and to find out more.

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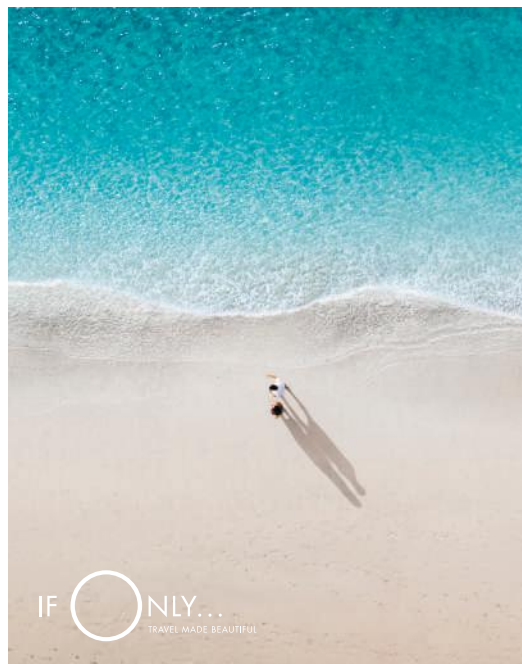
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EXPLORE MORE OF ABU DHABI

Whilst it may be the capital of the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi is often considered as Dubai's little sister; quieter and more relaxed... but it certainly packs a punch, with

exciting activities and luxurious hotels that will rival any upmarket destination. Plus, with year-round sunshine, it's a wonderful option for those last-minute winter getaways when you're craving some vitamin D!

Here are just a few of the activities and sights on offer here...

Yas Waterworld: for those seeking a fun family day out

Ferrari World Abu Dhabi: for thrill seekers and car enthusiasts

Al Bateen Beach: for beautiful sea views and water sports

Abu Dhabi Mall: for an ultimate shopping experience

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque: for cultural immersion

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque



Have we tempted you?

Just a 7-hour flight from the UK, year-round sun and a wonderful choice of accommodation, Abu Dhabi won't disappoint families, friends and couples seeking sun, culture, adventure and luxury. Contact us, your local travel agent, today to find out more.



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Abercrombie & Kent

THE REALLY WILD SHOW

It's fair to say that Africa is the ultimate wildlife watching destination. With wide open plains, sunsets that paint the huge skies brilliant oranges, reds and yellows, lush green river deltas and vast national parks, there are so many places to spot a huge variety of magnificent beasts. And the best way to do it? On safari of course!

Often a once-in-a-lifetime experience, with safaris the possibilities are wonderfully endless; luxurious or intrepid, lodge or tented camp, exploring by jeep, by river or even on foot, you can design it to fit your desires and your budget.

We recommend safari-ing between June and October, during the slightly cooler dry season when your chance of seeing wild animals in their natural habitats is fantastic, so here are two destinations that are particularly good during this time...

MAASAI MARA, KENYA

One of the world's greatest safari destinations with one of the highest concentrations of wildlife on earth, the Maasai Mara brings a whole lot to the table. Here, you can spot the infamous Big 5 (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and African buffalo) as well as impala, hyenas, warthogs, giraffes and more, experience the rich cultural heritage of the Maasai people and find yourself in breathtaking panoramas of boundless savannah, rolling hills and riverine bush. In early September there is an added spectacle, the great migration, when over two million wildebeest, antelope and zebra, plus assorted predators, move onto the Maasai plains, creating possibly the most extraordinary wildlife experience on the planet.

There are plenty of luxury options to be had here, from tented camps that add to the safari aesthetic to decadent lodges with every comfort. Whilst all stays are likely to include game drives, others also add spa treatments, dinners with a local twist, such as eating

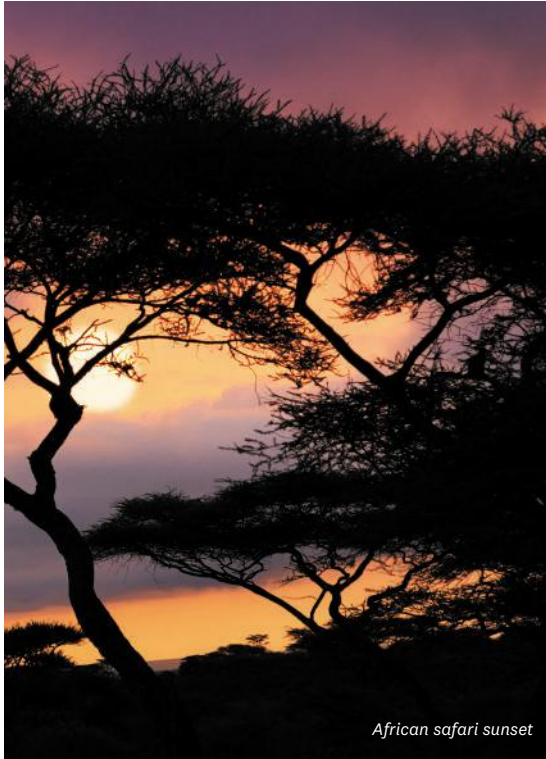


out in the bush at twilight or enjoying a Maasai cultural show, and other unique experiences into the mix, which make your holiday even more unforgettable. For those who prefer to travel sustainably, the Saruni Mara, an exclusive tented lodge adjacent to the Maasai Mara, could be for you. As well as doing plenty to ensure the local community benefits from the lodge, over 80% of the staff come from nearby villages, and they sell locally made and female led curios in their shop, operate on solar power and sponsor wildlife protection rangers.

Big Cats

One of our favourite spots out on the Maasai Mara are the big cats – lions, whether lounging under acacia trees or preparing to hunt, are truly magnificent. Look up, and you may find a leopard resting in the branches of a tree.





African safari sunset



Maasai tribe member

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK, BOTSWANA

Occupying the tip of northern Botswana on the fringes of the great Okavango Delta, Chobe National Park is a vast wilderness. The lifeblood of the park is the Chobe River, which meanders through a wide range of ecosystems that include flood plain, grassland and forest. The herds of elephants, hippos and crocodiles you'll see along it are just some of the prestigious



The Chobe River

array of wildlife the park supports, including leopards, cheetah, puku and servals.

Chobe is best known for its huge elephant population (estimated to be around 60,000 strong) and the resourceful lions that hunt them. All this water adds an extra dimension to your safari experience, as river cruises are an equally incredible and surprisingly relaxing way to spot animals. These, along with morning and afternoon game drives and unique extra adventures like bush walks and bush breakfasts, are offered by the area's luxury accommodation options. Try Chobe Chilwero for something extra special, located on the border of the park. Rooms are in thatched cottages that blend perfectly with their wild surroundings, whilst you'll also find a well-stocked wine cellar and luxurious spa in which to relax after the day's adventures.

Wild Dogs

Whilst wild dogs are considered one of the world's most endangered mammals, in Chobe National Park there is a thriving population of charismatic African wild dogs, so you have an excellent chance of spotting a pack roaming through the bush.



Craving a new adventure?

There's nothing quite like watching the sun rising over the African savannah whilst you quietly sit and watch a whole world of wonderful wildlife going about their lives just metres away...so what are you waiting for? To book your dream African safari, contact us, your local Advantage travel agent.



Gates of Heaven, Bali

THE UNDISCOVERED SIDE OF INDONESIA

Picture yourself strolling along exquisite beaches, discovering lush jungles and immersing yourself in a vibrant new culture. In Indonesia's off-peak season, you can experience all of this and more without the hustle and bustle of peak tourist season.

The weather is still fantastic, and there are fewer people around, as well as more affordable options for accommodation and activities. Whether you're the spontaneous type who likes to escape at the last minute or a planner looking ahead to next year, look no further than the magical periods from March to June and September to November when this tropical paradise truly shines.

A VARIETY OF IDYLIC LANDSCAPES

Indonesia is home to some of the world's most sought-after beaches. Whether you're a surfer seeking the perfect wave at the beach of Canggu or travelling as a family in search of a serene shoreline in the south, Indonesia's diverse beaches cater to all preferences.

If you're up for a one-of-a-kind cultural experience, you definitely

have to check out the Sacred Monkey Forest in Ubud. You'll be amazed at how the natural surroundings, spiritual vibes and wildlife combine to create a truly breathtaking atmosphere. Whilst in Ubud, take the opportunity to explore the famous rice fields that showcase the stunning agricultural landscapes that this country is known for.

MAJESTIC WILDLIFE

For wildlife enthusiasts, Indonesia's off-peak season is a dream come true. Venture to Komodo National Park between April and June, the ideal time to catch a glimpse of the iconic Komodo dragons as the dry season begins and the islands flourish in lush greenery. Not only will you witness the world's largest lizards in their natural habitat, but the journey there itself will enhance your overall adventure.

Orangutans, the enchanting creatures of Sumatra and Kalimantan, are another highlight.



TOP EVENTS DURING THE OFF-PEAK SEASON

As you explore the diverse cultural landscape, keep an eye out for captivating events. Join the Bali Spring Festival in May for a fusion of yoga, dance, music and healing. Or, if jazz is your passion, the Jakarta International Java Jazz Festival in early March will have you tapping your feet to world-class performances.

Whilst May is the prime month for orangutan sightings, the window extends from March to October, granting you numerous opportunities to observe this endangered species in its natural habitat.

From June to September, whale sharks and Mola mola sunfish gather in crystal-clear waters



Mount Bromo

around Indonesia. Immerse yourself in the underwater wonders of Nusa Penida's Crystal Bay, SD Point, Toyapakeh and Manta Point for the chance to witness these majestic creatures of the ocean. Saleh Bay in Sumbawa offers a unique encounter with whale sharks, whilst Cenderawasih Bay boasts year-round opportunities to spot these gentle giants.

CLIMB TO NEW HEIGHTS

For those seeking adventure, Indonesia's volcanic landscapes are a true gem, and the off-peak season offers the perfect conditions for volcano hikes. The mild weather and fewer crowds make exploring volcanoes like Mount Bromo and Mount Rinjani an unforgettable experience. Witness the sunrise from the rim of a volcano and be

rewarded with panoramic views that will leave you in awe.

MUST-VISIT ATTRACTIONS

Whilst you're in Indonesia don't miss the chance to explore some of Indonesia's most famous attractions. From the spiritual cleansing pools of Pura Tirta Empul to the iconic Lempuyang Temple with its picturesque 'Gates of Heaven', your journey will be filled with awe-inspiring moments.

Let us help you plan

Contact us, your local travel agent, today to embrace the off-peak season for this year-round destination and let the magic of Indonesia unfold before you.

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THE PERFECT TRIP DOWN UNDER

Using the services of a travel agent often means you are benefitting from first-hand experience and advice from an expert who can help give recommendations to make your trip run smoothly. Here, we have a first-hand account from Lisa, a seasoned travel professional, giving her top recommendations for a perfect trip down under...

SYDNEY: AUSTRALIA'S BUSIEST CITY

A great place to start is one of the world's most vibrant and famous cities, Sydney! This great city delights visitors with seemingly endless beaches, a delicious food and drink scene and a long list of must-see attractions from spending time in Circular Quay, relaxing on the many beaches, to indulging in the foodie scene, and so much in-between.

No visit would be complete without a trip around the spectacular harbour with a cruise past the famous Sydney Opera House and under the Harbour Bridge. If you want a closer look, join the adventurous amongst us and climb the bridge! You can't leave without visiting Bondi Beach and checking out the surf action, trendy cafés, bars and shops.

PICTURESQUE CANYONS, RUGGED CLIFFS AND WATERFALLS: THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD

The Great Ocean Road runs from Torquay, near Melbourne, to Warrnambool to the west and is widely considered one of the most scenic and best-driven roads in the world. It is an awe-inspiring 150-mile drive full of picturesque views of canyons, waterfalls and rugged cliffs. Get your camera ready as



your journey culminates with the spectacular sight of the 'Twelve Apostles', a collection of limestone stacks which is a breathtaking view alongside the rich azure waters of the Southern Ocean.

Day trips are available from Melbourne, or you can hire a car and take the trip at your own pace.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST CORAL REEF: THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

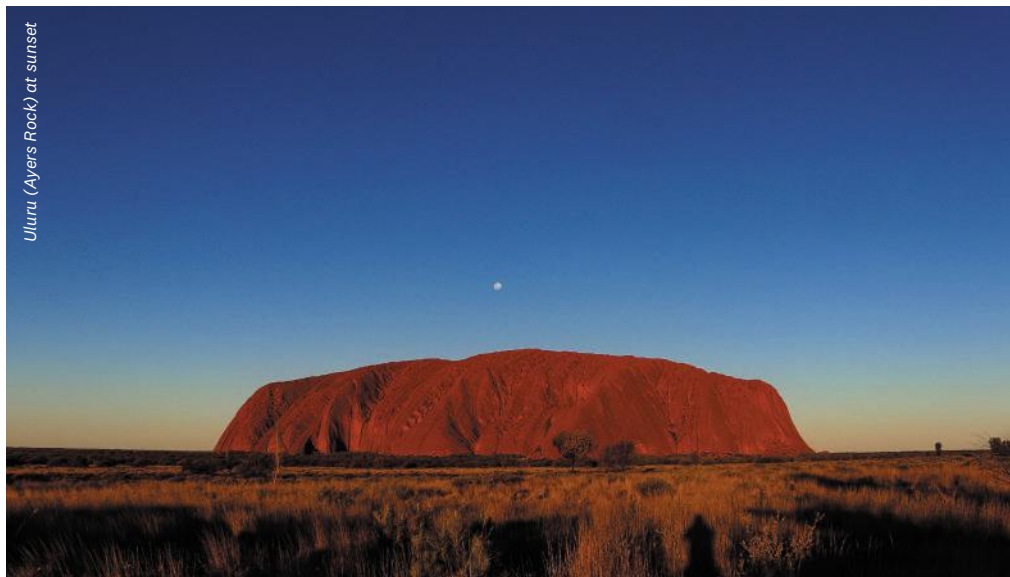
Experience one of the seven wonders of the natural world, the Great Barrier Reef, which is the world's largest coral reef system, boasting around 3,000 individual coral reefs and 900 islands.

This UNESCO World Heritage site is a diver's dream whether you are a novice, an expert or a casual snorkeller.

With its diverse range of wildlife, of over 1,500 species of fish, turtles, whales and dolphins, you are sure to have an unforgettable experience.



Uluru (Ayers Rock) at sunset



The reef is easily accessible from Cairns which has a lagoon you can relax by and soak up the atmosphere – not to mention a number of other sights worth exploring too!

GREAT BARRIER REEF AND CAIRNS TOP TIPS

- ✓ Winter months (May-October) are best to snorkel as summer months (November-April) are jellyfish season
- ✓ Go in search of 'The Great Eight'
- ✓ Spend a day or two relaxing in Cairns and exploring the surrounds

THE RED CENTRE: HOME TO INCREDIBLE SUNRISES AND SUNSETS

One of the most unique Australian experiences is exploring the outback, and it doesn't get more

spectacular than visiting the 'Red Centre', especially at sunrise or sunset when the rock transforms from ochre to blazing red and burnished orange.

Uluru is sacred to Aboriginal people and is thought to have started forming a whopping 550 million years ago. Whilst here, there are a wide range of activities to get involved in from walks and hikes, taking in views of all terrains, to exploring the 'Field of Light' which is a unique art installation by acclaimed artist, Bruce Munroe. Don't miss out on a unique dining

experience under the stars – a special experience you'll never forget!

The options are endless!

These are just a few ideas for a 'perfect trip Down Under' – the options are endless. Booking with a trusted travel agent like us is the best way to book a detailed itinerary such as this one – so get in touch and we'll start planning your ideal adventure.



The Great Barrier Reef



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COX & KINGS
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DISCOVER EGYPT 5 MUST-DO EXPERIENCES

Pyramids of Giza

Visitors cannot run out of remarkable things to do in Egypt. The country is simply jam-packed with spectacular archaeological sites, picturesque desert scenes, relaxing oases and, of course, the Nile. With proud and hospitable local people, you will be welcomed to Egypt with open arms.

Touring specialist, Cox & Kings, has shared a selection of top 5 must-do experiences when touring the country – all of which can be explored when booking a group or tailor-made tour.

1 DISCOVER THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS

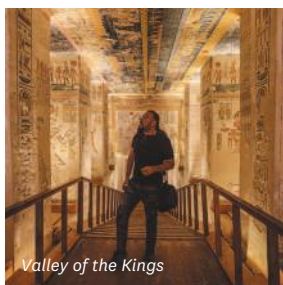
The Valley of the Kings is one of the most special excavation works of all time. It is worth entering to see the intricate royal tombs of King Tutankhamun, Ramses II and Seti I, as well as many other leaders of the time. Their mummified remains were entombed along with a trove of personal treasures that they believed would be carried into the afterlife.

2 WANDER THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

A tour of the Egyptian Museum is an essential part of an archaeology enthusiast's visit to Cairo. It's home to the greatest collection of perfectly preserved artefacts from pharaonic times. Aside from being able to see King Tutankhamun's gleaming gold mask and sarcophagus, there are over 120,000 spectacular objects to see.



Felucca boats



Valley of the Kings

3 THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA

No trip to Egypt is complete without a visit to the last standing of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: The Great Pyramid of Giza. Witness the remaining legacy of a fascinating early civilisation and absorb the sheer scale of the pyramids first-hand. The feat of their construction remains a mystery to this day.

4 SAIL IN A TRADITIONAL FELUCCA BOAT

Felucca sailboats have been used since the earliest times and offer the most traditional way to explore the Nile. Slowly meander along the river, taking in the colourful sights as you're rocked gently by the current.

5 AVENUE OF SPHINXES

Encounter true ancient Egypt whilst walking through the Avenue of Sphinxes. This 3,400-year-old path, which connects Luxor Temple and Karnak Temple, is steeped in enchantment. Flanked by hundreds of stone sphinxes and ram-headed lions, the Avenue of Sphinxes is one of the greatest exposed museums in the world.

Interested in exploring Egypt yourself?

Contact us, your local Advantage travel agent, and experience the perfect balance of adventure and culture on a small-group tour with Cox & Kings.



TRANSFORM THE WAY YOU TRAVEL

For almost 50 years, Exodus has been taking people on incredible adventure holidays around the world and has tens of thousands of happy travellers to prove it. Having expanded to a range of over 500 small group and self-guided tours in 100+ countries around the globe, here, we share more on two of their popular destinations, the Amalfi Coast and Costa Rica.

DISCOVER THE HIGHLIGHTS OF ITALY'S AMALFI COAST ON FOOT

The Amalfi Coast is one of the most dramatic coastlines in Europe. Mountains jut steeply out of the Mediterranean and picturesque towns nestle in the coves below. Walking the ancient hillsides, admire lemon groves and deep gorges, before descending from the Agerola Plain to the quaint towns of Positano, Ravello and Amalfi itself. No visit would be complete without a trip to see the remains of Pompeii, located under the imposing volcanic cone of Mount Vesuvius. The highlight of this Amalfi Coast guided walking is arguably the best coastal walk in the world: the 'Path

of the Gods'. Away from the trails, you'll take part in a traditional pastime and sample incredible food and wine.

"As you explore the world, you will do so with local guides who love to introduce you to their home countries and allow you to experience it like a local. It's these leaders that show you the real heart of a destination and take your adventure to the next level."

EXPLORE THE TROPICAL PARADISE THAT IS COSTA RICA

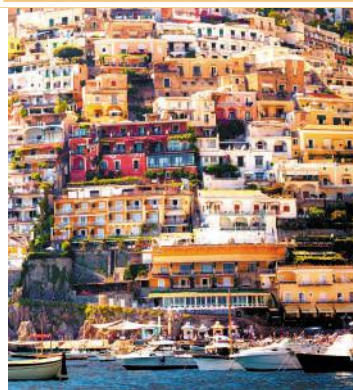
Experience the enchanting rainforest, majestic mountains and compelling coasts of Costa Rica's tropical paradise. Renowned for having proportionately more protected land than any other country, Costa Rica is ripe for wildlife tourism. You can expect to see a marvellous and often bizarre variety of animals in their natural habitat, from catatonic sloths and screaming howler monkeys to screeching toucans and nesting green turtles. Throw in the Caribbean and Pacific coastlines and it is easy to see why so many return here again and again.

Dreaming of an immersive touring holiday?

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