

#### BUCKET LIST TO FAMILY GETAWAYS, GREAT VALUE HOLIDAYS ARE **GUARANTEED!**

**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS EDITION** 

BREAKAWAYS FOR EVERY BUDGET LUXURY BEACH DESTINATIONS GO HEAD TO HEAD TOP CRUISE HOLIDAYS FOR 2024

# 2024 HOLIDAYS NOW ON SALE!

Happy new year! A new year brings new adventures, and we're certainly looking forward to seeing what 2024 has to bring. So, with that, in this Winter 2024 issue of Journeys magazine, we turn our focus to the year ahead and have a whole host of holiday styles for all budgets to excite you about your next holiday. Whether you're deciding which beach destination to head to with the family, are craving a bucket-list adventure or you'd like to splash out on something ultra-luxury, you'll find holiday ideas and recommendations on every page. In fact, each holiday style has its own section so that you can easily find the inspiration you need.

Standout features include roadtripping through the USA with the family, tips on making the most out of your long weekends, and where you can spend them, and we share some of the world's best diving spots, which can be added on to your wider holiday.

We appreciate that not everyone will know how 2024's going to pan out and, for some of us, holiday budgets may not stretch as far as we would like them to...but, as you turn each page, we hope our value packed tips will help you pick out the best holiday deals for you, and provide you with ideas on how your money can go that little bit further. In addition, we have created a Value Packed Guarantee – to assure you that we'll find the best value holiday possible, whether that be price, added inclusions and, of course, how we can save you valuable time with our expert knowledge. Turn to page 5 to find out more.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of Journeys magazine and look forward to helping you book your next holiday.

Best wishes from the team at

Road tripping through USA with

the family

Ultimate diving destinations across the globe





Unforgettable experiences

in Australia

Two top luxury beach destinations go head to head



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" We're here to make sure your holiday is seamless, stress free and fantastic value for money! Wherever you choose to travel to in 2024, we're excited to help you plan. "



We'll find your value packed holiday based on your budget and requirements.

- ✓ We provide best prices
- ✓ Widest choice means value packed recommendations
- ✓ If there's a deal to be had, we'll find it!
- ✓ We're your hassle-free holiday finder
- ✓ Our service and expertise saves you time
- ✓ Our knowledge is what it takes to add value to all kinds of holiday breaks!
- ✓ Value is more than just the best prices!

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



#### **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.

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2024?

With a new year comes excitement and anticipation for what's ahead...including (we think most importantly) what travel plans will be on the agenda!

As travel professionals, we know that the early months of the year are centred around searching for holiday deals for many of our customers, and we're here to provide just that, alongside holiday inspiration for all budgets.

We do, however, recognise the level of uncertainty that's still looming amongst us as the cost of living increases; but it's our job to ensure that you get as much bang for your buck on the holidays we book on your behalf. There are still fantastic deals to be bagged!

Whether you're dreaming of a week in sunny Greece, a long-haul adventure to Vietnam, an ultra-luxury cruise to the Caribbean or anything in between, we understand that value for money is an important factor for everyone when booking their much-needed holiday, and it's our mission to make sure that you get just that. And it

doesn't stop at value for money - booking with us saves you valuable time, too!

Throughout this issue of Journeys, we've shared a range of 'Valued Packed' tips to help you get the most out of your 2024 holiday, so as you turn each page do take a look out for our recommendations. We've even created our very own Value Packed Guarantee, to showcase to you the excellent value we provide to our customers.

Inside this issue, you'll find a range of holiday ideas to help you decide where this year may take you. Whatever's in store for 2024, we're on-hand to share our expertise - if you have questions or would like to book your next trip, don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

# BREAKAWAYS FOR EVERY BUDGET

Sometimes all we need in a holiday is some straightforward relaxation and zero fuss, without breaking the bank, rather than a holiday that, whilst still fun and exciting, leaves you needing another holiday to recover!

As travel experts, we're well versed in finding the best holidays to suit every budget without compromising on the standard of holiday. Whether that be complimentary room or board basis upgrades, free nights or an excursion or two added onto your holiday package, we'll do what we can to make sure you get the best possible value! Whether you're looking for a family getaway or high-end couples' escape, there are two standout destinations that you can't go wrong with when looking for a great deal this year.

### TURKEY IS A FANTASTIC ALL-INCLUSIVE OPTION FOR FAMILIES

Turkey's a pretty big country offering a variety of holiday types but, no matter where you go, it's renowned for its wide choice of all-inclusive family options. Arguably one of the most popular destinations is Antalya; with affordable 5\* hotels such as the Granada Luxury Belek hotel, featuring as many as many as 14 pools including an adults-only pool and kidfriendly pools with 15 water slides, a private beach, kids' club, spa, a cinema, entertainment and sport facilities – hotels like Granada Luxury Belek have families down to a tee!

In addition to incredible hotels, there is also so much family fun to be had in Antalya. Boasting one of the leading sand sculpture events at Sandland during May to October, a literal toy museum (yes, you read that right), amusement parks and stunning natural landscapes such as the Kursunlu Waterfalls, Antalya is a strong family favourite.





Turkey is blessed with 300 days of sunshine a year and temperatures reaching 20°C as early as May. Travel earlier in the season and prices will be far lower than July and August – and you'll likely have more spare cash for excursions and room upgrades.

Not only will you get more for your money, but the weather won't be as intense for the kids, and the hotels will be less crowded too!

There are plenty of other options available and still a bargain to be had all over Europe including in Spain, Greece, Portugal and Bulgaria – some even offer free child places! Simply ask us, your local travel agent, and we'll do all the leg work for you until we find something perfect for you and the kids.



#### WITH A LIVELY NIGHTLIFE AND STRIKING SKYSCRAPERS AND ARCHITECTURE, DUBAI MAKES A GREAT CHOICE FOR COUPLES

With its striking skyscrapers and architecture, manmade islands, lively nightlife and entertainment, it's no wonder people rave about Dubai. Rightly so, it's coined as a playground for all ages, but we're here to tell you why it's the perfect destination for couples.



Excursions include desert safari tours in a myriad of ways, whether that be via camel, dune buggies, sandboarding or even a romantic hot air balloon ride. Some options even provide a trip to a luxurious desert oasis for a gourmet meal or a rare in-flight falcon show as part of the package for something extra special.

But what makes Dubai a great value holiday, we hear you say? Well, let's start at the all-inclusive options... of which there are many! A couple of our favourites include Five Palm Jumeirah – perfect for couples who enjoy beach parties, popular DJs and VIP pool cabanas. Or if you're looking for something a little more unique, Al Maha, A Luxury Collection Desert Resort & Spa has gained a reputation for being one of the most romantic desert escapes in Dubai and is set away from the hustle and bustle of central Dubai. Only accepting guests over the age of 10, each tented suite comes with its own private plunge pool, and you'll have the best view of the night sky.



If you can handle the heat, staying between June and August will provide the best value options where you'll often be swayed by board basis upgrades, room upgrades and complimentary room nights. Temperatures are usually way into the 40s, but Dubai's well equipped with airconditioned bars and restaurants, if you're in need of a bit of respite.

There are lots of all-inclusive options in Dubai, with many hotels offering it as part of their board basis options. Plus, just a 7-hour flight and a 3-hour time difference during our summer months makes it easy to pop over to Dubai for just a few days should you wish!

### SUN HOLIDAYS

Let the waves wash away your worries and immerse yourself in the beauty of a coastal getaway with your loved ones. Whether you seek romance or adventure, you can discover a beach holiday to fit your budget and create unforgettable moments.

OCEAN

Florida



#### BROUGHT TO YOU BY OCEAN FLORIDA FIND YOUR SUNSHINE STATE OF MIND

You deserve a chance to get back to being you. To switch off from the real world and reconnect with your family.

As one of the UK's top independent Florida holiday specialists, our friends at Ocean Florida know about crafting the perfect Sunshine State holiday. We know it's never just a holiday. It's a dream holiday.

From dream villas in Orlando featuring private pools to multicentre trips in the USA visiting New York or experiencing the bright lights of Las Vegas, we can help.



We can even include free experiences worth up to

\$549\* with every Orlando holiday and, for a limited time, you can save up to £400 each, to make that holiday feel even sweeter!

Ocean Florida is on sale up to 2026, with flexible payments and low deposits. So, what are you waiting for? Contact us, your local travel agent, and we'll find your holiday happiness.

\*\$549 saving is based on a family of 4. Price based on 14 nights to Orlando departing in June 2025, subject to availability. Prices correct at time of going to print.

#### BROUGHT TO YOU BY CORSICAN PLACES CORSICA: THE ISLAND OF BEAUTY



Corsica holidays are truly deserving of the word 'breathtaking'. With a mix of spectacular scenery, fabulous cuisine, beautiful villas, apartments and hotels, it's easy to see why it's commonly known as 'The Island of Beauty'.

Despite being our closest Mediterranean island, Corsica remains a mystery to most British holidaymakers. Whilst your sun-drenched villa terrace or hotel pool might be a focus during your holidays to Corsica, there is much to explore further afield. From secluded bays to maquis-covered hillsides and a stunning mountainous interior, the spellbinding landscapes of Corsica will leave you with an everlasting impression.



Pay just 10% deposit instead of 20% when you book by

31 January 2024, and save up to £400\* if you book before 29 February 2024.

Travelling with Corsican Places promises you a first-class experience. Contact us, your local travel agent, to find out more and to book today.

\*Based on 8 people sharing.





We pride ourselves on unbeatable service, a fantastic range of properties and exceptional knowledge on all our destinations. We now offer specialist holidays ranging from Sicily, Croatia, parts of the UK such as the Isles of Scilly and the Channel Islands to name a few – as well as enchanting getaways to Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Our travel experts create unique tailor-made adventures, allowing our customers to enjoy a truly unforgettable journey.

Prestige

HABTA 🔇 AITO

Book with confidence

JAMAICA ANTIGUA SAINT LUCIA THE BAHAMAS GRENADA BARBADOS CURAÇAO SAINT VINCENT

HABTA

3

For more information contact your local travel agent.

Sandals-SALE

SAVE AN EXTRA £125 OFF

BOOK BY 31 JAN '24

DISCOVER THE CARIBBEAN Jour WAY

# TROPICAL TREATS

The Indian Ocean and the Caribbean are home to some of the most stunning destinations this world has to offer, and often rival each other for picturesque beach holidays with a difference. Popular Indian Ocean destinations include the Maldives, Mauritius and the Seychelles for their secluded, white sandy beaches and high-end resorts, where the Caribbean islands offer a charismatic charm, relaxing atmosphere and exciting history.

We've given ourselves the tricky task of picking two worthy destinations from the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean and putting them head-to-head...both of which offer a tropical paradise. Which one will come out victorious? We'll let you decide!



### INDIAN OCEAN PICK: THE SEYCHELLES

The Sevchelles is hard to beat when it comes to beautiful beaches: not only does it have the powderwhite sandy beaches lapped by dazzling, clear blue waters of the Indian Ocean, but they're dotted with coconut palms and gorgeous granite rock formations which differentiates it from its neighbouring destinations. Anse Source d'Argent in La Digue (one of the three main islands) is one of the most sought-after beaches - which, in addition to the beautiful scenery, has clear-bottom kayak rentals for a relaxing glide on the water. For those who like to explore, take a hike to the Romeo & Juliet viewpoint and hire a bicycle (the most popular mode of transport) to see all that the island has to offer.



Made up from an archipelago of 115 islands offering miles of sandy white beaches, lush wilderness, an abundance of colourful coral reefs, vivid and rare widlife and highend, luxury accommodation, the Seychelles is the stuff of dreams!

If you're looking for an extra special getaway and with your own slice of heaven, there are a number of private islands in the Seychelles offering a secluded experience. North Island Seychelles is renowned for being a honeymoon destination, with just 11 incredible villas. Another favourite is Félicité island, perfectly placed just a short speedboat ride from neighbouring Praslin and La Digue, which features just one resort : Six Senses Zil Pasyon. The barefoot luxury resort brings you back to nature and is home to a world-class spa, chic villas and views that will never fail to disappoint.

Whilst these luxury resorts will come with a hefty price tag, the service and value included is impressive; with complimentary water spots, guided tours, your



own infinity pool and tailor-made menus designed with you in mind – this takes luxury island retreat to a whole new level.



Travel to the Seychelles in April, May, October or November where the weather is at its best. December to March can experience heavy winds, but accommodation prices are likely to be lower.

#### CARIBBEAN PICK: BARBADOS

Whilst the Seychelles may be home to unique rock formations on its beaches, Barbados offers a ton of variety! Find unique pink sand at Crane Beach, ride the waves and enjoy some surf at Bathsheba Beach or, for those who enjoy snorkelling or scuba diving, the Carlisle Bay can't be missed, where you'll also find shipwrecks and marine life – anything from adorable seahorses and bizarre frogfish to moray eels and majestic manta rays. With over 80 beaches, there's one that will cater to everyone in Barbados. But it doesn't stop there...

Bridgetown's an essential visit for history buffs; its stunning British colonial architecture and UNESCO World Heritage status will impress - and for those who'd like to try some of the local flavours, take a ride on the steam railway for local rum tasting experiences with a view. There are four famous rum distilleries on the island, including the prestigious Mount Gay Rum Distillery which shouldn't be missed.

Nature lovers have plenty of choice and can choose to visit Harrison's Cave, a dramatic crystallised limestone cave, by tram, as well as get the adrenaline pumping at the eco-adventure park which features a 14-element challenge course, including ziplining over nature trails and more! Hunte's Gardens is also worthy of a visit and full to the brim with colourful flowers and extraordinary birds and animals.

Tear yourself away from your all-inclusive resort on a Friday or Saturday evening for a taster of mahi-mahi at Oistins Fish Fry. Mix in with the locals whilst here and appreciate the traditional Caribbean music, shop for locally made souvenirs or simply people watch and take in the culture.



July through to November would be considered low season, where prices will be more affordable and you'll likely bag more for your money and have a higher chance for room upgrades. However Caribbean destinations are famed for their fantastic allinclusive offerings, meaning that once you arrive you can sit back, relax...and enjoy!



Contact us today with your holiday enquiry! 11



# EXPERIENCE THE OTHER SIDE OF GREECE

When it comes to picking Greece as a holiday destination, most people automatically think about the iconic Greek islands, and they'd be right in thinking that they offer sun, relaxation and picturesque scenery. But there's more to this destination than meets the eye – so if you're looking to add adventure and outdoor activities onto your beach holiday, this could be the place for you!

#### CLIMBING METEORA & KALYMNOS

For climbing enthusiasts, Kalymnos has become something of a mecca in the last two decades, with thousands of routes and incredible Aegean views for all to enjoy. On the Greek mainland, there's the unmissable Meteora, a stunning rock formation with one of the largest and most precipitously constructed Eastern Orthodox monasteries.

#### WATER SPORTS

In the Northern Sporades, visitors will find the largest natural marine park in the Mediterranean as well as first-class diving experiences in Alonissos, which has recently opened Greece's first underwater museum on the islet of Peristera.

### CYCLING IN KOS & KALAMATA

Cycling lovers might just find their idea of heaven exploring Kos. This island is a truly bicycle-friendly destination which has even earnt itself the nickname 'the cycling island' due to its exceptional conditions for cyclists of all skill levels. Kalamata is another gem of a destination for road cyclists of all ages and abilities – so much so, that in 2020, Kalamata hosted the 'Jeroboam Kalamata Gravel Challenge'.



*II* Arachthos and Voidomatis have incredible river rafting routes which are accessible to beginners and practised rafters, providing plenty of challenging, whiteknuckle rides. *II* 

Kalymnos climbing

Nestos river and the calm coastal waters around Samos are perfect for kayaking, whilst Lefkada offers excellent conditions for surfing and windsurfing; seasoned windsurfers will love Vasiliki beach, the ultimate windsurfing playground.

#### **Explore more of Greece**

We hope we've shown you a little more of what's on offer in Greece, for active outdoor and year-round adventures. Contact us today to discuss and start planning your trip to see and experience the other side of Greece.

# MORE FREE KIDS' PLACES THAN EVER\*

... even in the school summer holidays, It's the **Live Happy Sale.** 



### **CRUISE HOLIDAYS**

Discover a sea of possibilities with cruise holidays tailored to diverse tastes. From family-friendly voyages to romantic escapes, explore various cruise lines that cater to every traveller, ensuring an oceanic experience that suits your unique preferences.



#### **PRINCESS**

#### BROUGHT TO YOU BY PRINCESS CRUISES NO-FLY CRUISE VENTURES

Princess Cruises® is renowned for being one of the best European cruise lines for history, culture and cuisine. Unpack once and venture through lands where history and tradition converge.

From the tranquil Sanctuary, a retreat reserved for adults, to innovative new dining options and more, you'll find something for every mood on board the brilliant Sky Princess<sup>®</sup>.

Princess MedallionClass® makes holidays personalised, as well as effortless. From boarding and departure, everything you need is, quite literally, at your fingertips. When you're not taking in the sights at port, you can enjoy the on-board entertainment, original musicals, dazzling magic shows, feature films, top comedians and nightclubs that get your feet movin' and groovin'.



### Sail for 5 days roundtrip from

Southampton to Hamburg from just £399pp and a low deposit of only £50pp when you book before 04 March 2024. Contact us, your local travel agent.

#### Advantage Holidays & Cruise

#### BROUGHT TO YOU BY ADVANTAGE HOLIDAYS & CRUISE CITY BREAK & CRUISE: GET THE BEST OF BOTH!

It doesn't always have to just be about the cruise you've booked; in fact, wouldn't it be great to spend a few days in the destination you're sailing from?

Virgin Voyages is a great example, who offer some fantastic itineraries starting in Athens and Barcelona during the summer months. Book through Advantage Holidays & Cruise, and pre-stay hotels can be added onto your holiday – giving you the best of both worlds! Taking a few nights in either of these cities at the start or end of your chosen cruise itinerary will certainly add to your cruise holiday!



#### Receive a free \$600 bar tab per cabin on Virgin

Voyages' 7 Nights Adriatic Sea & Greek Gems cruise in addition to all shows and entertainment, flights, Michelin star food and 2-nights pre-cruise in Athens. Departing 06 July 2024. All from just £1,749pp! Ask us, your local travel agent, for more information.







#### BROUGHT TO YOU BY FRED. OLSEN CRUISE LINES EXTRAORDINARY SMALL SHIP EXPERIENCES

With an expert team of Journey Planners that handcraft itineraries every year, guests will experience not just the most amazing places on earth, but at the very best possible times: the Azores when the Perseid meteor shower streaks across the night sky, Canada to witness the famous 'Fall' leaves and seek out the mesmerising Northern Lights, when they are at their strongest.

Aboard Fred. Olsen's smaller ships, you'll journey in the best of company, with like-minded travellers – whilst the crew remember your name and even your favourite drink!

From just £2,099pp, witness the Perseid meteor shower on board Balmoral as she sails the remote waters of the Azores and gain insight from an expert guest astronomer on this 15-night cruise. Or, cruise Canada for 26 nights during autumn with an overnight stay in Quebec from £3,699pp in October.



### Book by 29 February for free drinks or on-board spend on

selected 2024/25 cruises. Ask us, your local travel agent, for more information or to book today.



#### BROUGHT TO YOU BY CUNARD LUXURY WORLDWIDE CRUISING

If you're looking to embark on new adventures and experience luxury at sea, why not sail away with Cunard? Discover secluded islands, modern cities and ancient towns as you hop from port to port on board Cunard's Queens.

Spend days on board however you please, knowing that each moment of your voyage is packed with special Cunard touches that come as standard with your cruise fare, including learning something new about the world around you from a Cunard Insights speaker. With a range of expert speakers, you'll come away armed with plenty of surprising facts to delight your friends and family with!

Plus, enjoy mouth-watering dishes and varied entertainment, in addition to expert-led classes on everything from tai chi to watercolour painting. Or for relaxation, head to the soothing spa. Whatever you're looking for on board, you'll find it on a Cunard voyage.



Book by 04 March 2024, and enjoy up to triple on-board

spending money on selected voyages and make your voyage even more special.

Ask us, your travel agent, for more information today.





APT TRAVEL

#### BROUGHT TO YOU BY APT CAPTIVATING VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Explore the wonders of the Mekong River as you glide through legendary landscapes on APT Travelmarvel's 14-day Essential Vietnam and Cambodia river cruise and tour.

Discover the temples of World Heritage-listed Angkor Archaeological Park and explore the bustling stalls and French Colonial architecture of Ho Chi Minh City. Gain a compelling insight into local life aboard the new RV Apsara, featuring all suites with twin balconies, stylish social spaces, swimming pool, spa and fitness centre.



### APT Travelmarvel holidays

offer superior comfort at a price that represents marvellous value, in addition to a perfect balance of inclusions and leisure time. Your price covers everything you need, including return flights from the UK, all sightseeing, hand-picked accommodation, quality dining plus porterage, transfers and tipping.

With APT's Worldwide Sale under way, you can secure this journey of a lifetime today and save up to £1,250pp. Prices start from £3,795pp with departure dates from July 2024 to March 2025.

For more information and terms, contact us, your local travel agent.

#### EMERALD CRUISES

#### BROUGHT TO YOU BY EMERALD CRUISES EUROPEAN LUXURY RIVER CRUISES

Experience an unforgettable cruise down the iconic Danube and through the heart of old Europe on an 8-day Danube Delights cruise with Emerald Cruises from April to October 2024 starting from £1,715pp.\*

This insightful itinerary crosses into four countries, offering a unique perspective into their past and present simultaneously. Guided walks along the cobblestone streets of Germany tell their own story, and city tours of Vienna and Budapest exemplify how the past can shape the future. Celebrate the past as it co-exists with the modern day in the Austrian and Hungarian capitals and gain a personal understanding of why the iconic Danube has acted as inspiration to so many.



### Emerald Cruises' inclusions care for all necessities and

comforts, including return flights, airport transfers, gratuities on board and onshore, on-board meals and excursions. Plus, enjoy a free drinks package when booking selected dates.

Save up to 35%, plus enjoy a free drinks package on selected dates: 05 May, 25 May, 16 June, 27 June and 29 October 2024. Ask us, your local travel agent, for full details, terms and conditions.

\*Price stated based on 29 October 2024 departure.



# TIME SPENT ASHORE

As cruise ships improve so, too, does the quality of shore excursions. Here are three of our favourites that help elevate the off-board experience.

Sure, life on a cruise ship is great, but have you ever tried getting off? There's a whole world out there! From luxury beach clubs to going backstage at a Broadway smash hit, the quality of shore excursions has increased dramatically in recent years as cruise lines compete for better access to incredible sites and higher-quality experiences. Here, we share three that are not to be missed...

#### EXPLORA JOURNEYS AND ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH PELORUS

New ultra-luxury cruise line Explora Journeys has partnered with Pelorus, the luxury travel experience company, to offer a series of shore excursions that are sure to fire up the imagination. These include everything from a forest hike in Sweden followed by a meditation session to joining a soul tram ride in Rotterdam. In New York, guests will get the opportunity to go behind the curtain and meet a Broadway star.



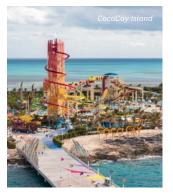
#### UNIWORLD IN VENICE

For luxury cruises, access is everything. And, with Uniworld Boutique River Cruises' Venice itinerary, it doesn't come much better than this. Guests can enjoy a private, after-hours tour of St Mark's Basilica. The doors of the iconic building are opened especially for Uniworld guests who will enjoy seeing the glorious church, which sits in Saint Mark's Square, in the evening light and without the crowds. A truly spectacular experience and one of a number offered by the luxury river cruise line to help elevate its guests' experiences.

#### PERFECT DAY BY COCOCAY

When it comes to holiday experiences, visiting a private island will feature pretty highly on most people's bucket lists, and they don't come much more jawdropping than Royal Caribbean's Perfect Day by CocoCay. The island, which features on a number of Royal Caribbean International, and now Celebrity Cruises, itineraries,





has everything from the tallest waterslide in North America to luxury beach clubs where guests can chill out in the Bahamas' first overwater cabanas.

### Want an exclusive cruising experience?

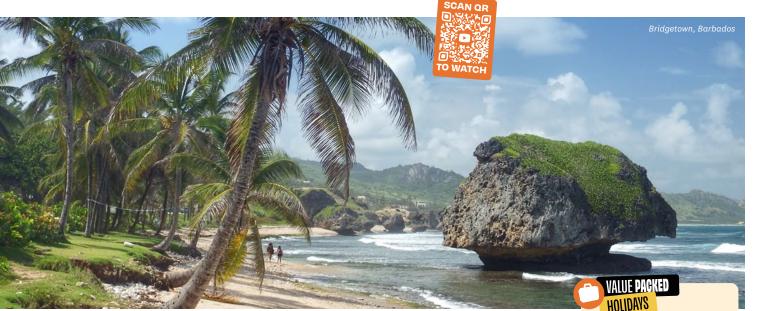
If the off-board experience is as important as being on board, then we hope we've helped you choose your next cruise! Contact us today to find out more.

## EUROPEAN ELEGANCE INTRODUCED TO THE OCEANS OF THE WORLD



GET A GLIMPSE OF WHAT EXPLORA JOURNEYS CAN OFFER YOU glass roof allows for relaxation poolside whatever the weather, and 9,700 sq feet for the spa and fitness studios ensures guests can do as much (or as little) as they like.

A celebration of global culinary talents, cultures and passions, EXPLORA I and EXPLORA II will showcase sophisticated and varied



Explora Journeys is set to transform ocean travel through a synergy of the chicest ships and the most immersive itineraries that allow guests to discover further, travel deeper and linger a little longer at each destination. These are enriching holidays for the curious, cosmopolitan traveller who wants to create connections that last long beyond the cruise itself.

Designed in partnership with the world's foremost superyacht specialists and harnessing cuttingedge maritime technology, Explora Journeys ships offer refined yet effortless luxury and, thanks to their size, they offer an incredible richness of experiences, all whilst maintaining a feeling of intimacy and exclusivity. The first ship in the Explora Journeys fleet, EXPLORA I, is now sailing, with EXPLORA II to set sail in 2024.

On board, European elegance permeates every detail. The 461 suites, penthouses and residences – each with sweeping ocean views from their floor-to-ceiling windows and private sun terraces – offer guests comfortable homes at sea. Each suite is thoughtfully designed to stimulate the senses and reflect the brand's philosophy of creating an 'Ocean State of Mind' owing with carefully considered elements such as natural light, colour, space, privacy and connection with the sea. Explora Journeys has worked meticulously to ensure every guest experiences an opulent, yet intimate, retreat as they embark on their own ocean journey.

More than 27,000 sq feet of outdoor space includes three swimming pools and 64 private cabanas, whilst an indoor pool with a retractable

Book your journey now and benefit from various Always On Value Savings, including the Explora Early Booking Benefit offering savings of 5% when you book early and pay in full. Book an Extended journey - or create your own - and save up to 10% on your journey fare, compared to booking the journeys individually. Travelling solo? Guests enjoying their suite solo can enjoy fares from just 15% above the current per person fares. Terms apply.

culinary experiences across six vibrant restaurants plus in-suite dining, as well as in five of the twelve bars and lounges on board (eight indoor and four outdoor), and a chef's kitchen where guests can discover and enjoy diverse flavours from around the world – a truly unique culinary and beverage 'Journey of discovery', inspired by the Ocean State of Mind.

Explora Journeys also extends a very special welcome to families, with a dedicated programme that caters for multi-generations travelling together. Offering 78 interconnecting suites, a Nautilus Club for young children and teenagers, and special destination experiences created to maximise enjoyment for all generations, families embarking on the trip of a lifetime on board EXPLORA I and EXPLORA II can expect an inspiring journey and wonderful memories.

On sailings between 6 and 44 nights long, guests will venture both on and off the beaten path, with a series of mesmerising itineraries each thoughtfully designed to allow for a slower pace of travel, and to give travellers the opportunity to spend more time in each destination with overnight stays whilst in port to allow time to be fully immersed in the local culture and environment.

From the cobbled streets of Europe's hallowed capitals to savouring French chic in Saint Barths, or lolling beneath Hawaiian waterfalls to discovering the fragrant foods and bustling souks of the Red Sea & Arabian Peninsula. Explora Journeys promises exclusive access that goes far beyond the classic luxury cruise experience. At every destination, Explora Journeys will provide inspiring opportunities for guests to discover authentic cultural, historical and culinary delights from an extraordinary perspective.

All this supported by an industryleading guest to host ratio of 1.25 to 1, allowing for an intuitive, effortless and culturally intelligent service style that makes for the perfect hosts on board.

#### Cruise in ultra luxury

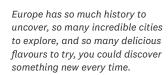
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Hideaway Beach

RoyalCaribbean

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smallest detail

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As well as enjoying 75% off your second guest's cruise fare when you book by 01 April 2024, if you book by 07 February 2024, enjoy Celebrity's most popular amenities, drinks and Wi-Fi for £39 per person per day (reduced from £55 per person per day). So, you can now choose the most convenient way to get the best value from your cruise. It's that simple. One price. All Included.

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# ICONS NEVER STOP PUSHING LIMITS!

This is more than a holiday upgrade. It's the best family holiday in the world. Introducing the new Icon of the Seas, a first-of-its-kind Royal Caribbean adventure arriving in January 2024, sailing from Miami. Then get ready for the second Icon-class ship, Star of the Seas, bringing unbelievable thrills, wows and chill for the whole crew. Sailing from Port Canaveral, Florida, beginning August 2025.

Take your best-ever holiday and crank it up, way up. This is a whole new class of adventure. The kind that fills every moment with new thrills and changes the way you play for good. On board, the thrills you never dared to imagine and next-level chill you never dreamed possible await you. Let your adrenaline surge at the largest waterpark at sea or conquer an all-out test of courage dangling high above the ocean. Pick from seven unique pools to satisfy any

Royal Caribbean ships Icon and Star of the Seas



mood: this is an all-vou-can-swim buffet. Fuel bolder bonding with tons to do for everyone in your crew at Surfside, the ultimate stay-allday family neighbourhood right on board. And discover dishes to delight every appetite with 40 ways to dine and drink. With our boldest entertainment line-up ever, the new Icon of the Seas raises the bar on curtain raising. Like Broadway-style renditions of storytime classics, productions dreamed up for little ones, adults-only comedy shows and live music for any mood. Plus, two new venues that set the stage for spectacular - from the largest ice skating arena at sea to a first-of-its-kind venue that takes the only agua shows at sea to an unimaginable new level.

Memories extend from ship to shore, because every sailing stops at Royal Caribbean's award-winning private destination, Perfect Day at CocoCay.



January 2024!

**HIDEAWAY BEACH** 

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Swim right up to the popping

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and flavourful all-American faves

from Snack Shack. Plus amp up

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one of the Hideout cabanas. The

ultimate beach bash debuts in

Check out Royal Caribbean's kids' sale from £99 promotion, alongside weekly flash sales offering additional on-board credit or savings. Additionally, outstanding dining, entertainment and activities are all included in the cost of the holiday!

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#### BROUGHT TO YOU BY ETIHAD HOLIDAYS CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE IN ABU DHABI

City: Don't miss the breathtaking Grand Mosque, iconic Presidential and Emirates Palaces, the magnificent view from Observation Deck 300, or exploring the city on a tour.

Theme parks: Visit Yas Island's three theme parks, Ferrari World, with the fastest roller coaster in the world, Warner Bros. World and Seaworld, plus Yas Waterworld with over 40 rides. Ask us about hotels Etihad Holidays feature with free theme park entry.

Saadiyat Island: Pristine white sand meets turquoise waters, with a selection of beachfront, All-inclusive hotels. But that's not all the island has to offer; discover art and history at the Louvre Museum, with more museums coming soon.



7-night stay at the luxury 5\* Hilton Abu Dhabi on an All-

inclusive basis, with private transfers and a 7-day access to three theme parks and Yas Waterworld, from £5,379 for 2 adults and 2 children (2-11 years). Offer departs on 13 August 2024 from London Heathrow. Alternative airports available on request.



#### BROUGHT TO YOU BY TRAVEL SOLUTIONS TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAYS ACROSS THE GLOBE

Italian cities by train: The options are endless in Italy, but a favourite itinerary includes train hopping from Rome, Florence and Venice - why see one destination when you can see three?

**Canada**: For those seeking adventure and dramatic scenery, look no further. For something different, consider bear watching, and for something special an Alaska cruise.

Japan and the Cherry Blossom Trail: Visit the amazing city of Tokyo and, as the Cherry Blossoms arrive in the spring, join the locals as they celebrate with picnics, parties and musical events. Extend with a cruise from Japan and visit many exciting ports in Asia.



Travel Solutions offer a wide range of worldwide tailor-

made holidays, with the above just being a few suggestions to whet your appetite. Plus, with an award-winning service and low deposits, you can book with confidence. Contact us, your local travel agent, to find out more.



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# SHORT BREAKS & TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAYS

### FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS



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### **BUCKET LIST HOLIDAYS**

Embark on the extraordinary and turn your dreams into reality with these curated bucket list holidays. From iconic landmarks to hidden gems, let each destination be a milestone on your journey of a lifetime.



### 视 Wendy Wu Tours

#### BROUGHT TO YOU BY WENDY WU TOURS EXTRAORDINARY TOURING IN ASIA

Asia is huge. We're talking 48 countries huge. It's the biggest continent in the world and with each country being rich in history, culture and nature, it's no wonder it tops the chart for many travellers' wish lists.

Being a leading Asia specialist in the UK, Wendy Wu Tours offers tours to some of Asia's finest destinations. With all flights, hotels, meals, sightseeing and even visas taken care of, you can rest assured knowing absolutely everything is covered in the cost, offering fantastic value.

Plus, each tour is led by an experienced National Escort, born and raised in the destination you are exploring, so there's no one better to help you navigate the local customs for an authentic travel experience you simply wouldn't get if travelling alone.



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Book by 29 February and choose 'Partner Flies Free' or

'Single Supplement Savings' on selected 2024 and 2025 tours worldwide, saving over £1,500!

For more information, contact us, your local travel agent.

#### Newmarket HOLIDAYS

#### BROUGHT TO YOU BY NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS ON SAFARI IN SOUTH AFRICA

A safari allows you to embark on an immersive wildlife experience, centred around animal encounters, conservation education, and opportunities for positive contributions to the environment.

Safari holidays are not only bucket-list adventures, but they can be a great value holiday too, with experiences and inclusions jam-packed into your trip. In the heart of Limpopo's Karongwe Private Game reserve, the inclusions for the price will blow you away!



#### From just £2,737pp, enjoy a 7-night safari in 4-star

accommodation, with excursions, all meals and game drives, whilst being escorted by a friendly, experienced local representative and wildlife specialist. Includes return (overnight) flights from London Heathrow, departing 13 March 2025.

Safari holidays have never been so affordable! Get in touch with us, your local travel agent, today to find out more about Newmarket Holidays' safari holidays – and we'll book you onto a once-in-alifetime trip!







#### BROUGHT TO YOU BY CANADIAN AFFAIR EXPLORE CANADA AND ALASKA

If you're looking for a holiday offering the most spectacular landscapes and majestic wildlife, along with plenty of 'pinch me' moments, then a journey through western Canada and Alaska should be right at the top of your travel wish list.

Luckily for you, we can plan a truly unforgettable adventure for you, combining a luxurious journey through the Rockies on board Rocky Mountaineer with a magical cruise to Alaska via the mesmerising Inside Passage. One holiday, two bucket-list experiences!

Our friends at Canadian Affair have over 25 years' experience in the region, with a team of specialists that have the knowledge and expertise to tailor-make the perfect holiday for you. What's more, they offer a price match guarantee, so you can rest assured that you'll receive the best possible price for your once-ina-lifetime adventure.



#### Did you know that Rocky Mountaineer offers two levels

of service: SilverLeaf and GoldLeaf? Both levels offer plenty of added touches you won't want to miss, including friendly hosts, gourmet cuisine, and endlessly amazing views thanks to the glass-dome design that Rocky Mountaineer is renowned for. Speak to us today to find out what else is included in the many packages available!

### 

#### BROUGHT TO YOU BY JUST YOU SOLO ADVENTURES IN NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand is a country of two halves: the lush landscapes of the North Island will appeal to your inner sense of peace and tranquillity, whilst, in the south, it's much more dramatic, with scenery that will take your breath away.

Of course, New Zealand is so much more than its diverse and outstanding nature. You will find more to do here than you ever dreamed possible, such as wining and dining at the Mission Estate Winery in Napier, indulging in the mesmerising views of Lake Taupo, cruising on the stunning Milford Sound, visiting Te Puia Thermal Reserve and riding on the TranzAlpine Train – where the views are incredible!

Experiencing New Zealand on a tour is often the most popular way to cover as much ground as possible, and that means travelling solo has never been easier.



When you book a tour with solo tour specialist Just

You, you'll enjoy a room of your own, welcome get-togethers, breakfast every day, guaranteed departures and expert Holiday Directors. That only means one thing - the perfect holiday to New Zealand is waiting for you! Ask us, your local travel agent, for more information.



Bucket-list holidays

fare via the lodge's Beekeeping

friendly experience takes place

at hives overlooking The Hazards

mountains. If that doesn't satisfy your appetite, the Freycinet Marine

Oyster Farm experience takes

farm. Here, you will step

Pacific oysters.

Australia

Saffire guests to a nearby oyster

into the water and learn about the

local ecology whilst tasting prized

Immerse vourself in

All of these experiences and

us today to find out more.

more can be booked through us,

your local travel agent. Speak to

Oyster shucking at Saffire

Freycinet, Coles Bay, TAS

Experience. Led by Saffire's

local beekeeper, this photo-

# ONLY IN AUSTRALIA

Australia is home to unforgettable luxury experiences within some of the world's most inspiring landscapes. Whether it is tropical rainforests, incredible beaches or red deserts of the outback, there is truly something for everyone.

Discover a curated selection of Australia's ultimate holiday experiences. There are eight collectives that make up 'Signature Experiences of Australia' and represent the very essence of the country, including guided Aboriginal experiences, memorable walks, fishing adventures, wildlife journeys, unparalleled winery experiences, prestigious golf courses, leading cultural attractions and immersive luxury lodges. With each collective revealing a distinctive facet of Australia, they are a celebration of the nation's uniqueness at its finest, with experiences that can be found only in Australia.

#### A WILDLIFE JOURNEY LIKE NOWHERE ELSE ON EARTH

AUSTRALIA

Australia's wildlife is admired the world over for its incredible variety, from cuddly marsupials and exotic birds to the prehistoric predators that are saltwater crocodiles. With more than 80% of Australia's native species found nowhere else on Earth, Australian Wildlife Journeys guides travellers over land, sea and sky to showcase not only the country's unique animals but how wildlife populations are being preserved for years to come.

South Australia's Eyre Peninsula is a haven for wildlife, including muchloved marsupials such as kangaroos, koalas and wombats. With Australian Coastal Safaris, you can see some of these animals on its three-day Eyre Peninsula Wildlife & Ocean Encounters tour. Wula Gura Nyinda Eco Cultural Adventures

#### CONNECTING WITH AUSTRALIA'S FIRST PEOPLE

With a deep spiritual connection to land and sea that dates back 60,000 years, Australian Aboriginal peoples maintain the oldest living culture on the planet. This ancient relationship between Australia's First Peoples and the land to which they belong is so unique that travellers increasingly seek to understand and experience the stories, customs and wisdom that help maintain that connection.

To truly understand the Australian landscape through the lens of its Traditional Owners, you must first become acquainted with each region's Dreamtime stories, which are central to Indigenous culture.

Dreamtime stories can be heard right across the continent, like in Western Australia's dazzling Shark Bay, more than 800 kilometres (497 miles) north of Perth. Shark Bay is known as Gutharraguda (meaning 'two waters') in the local Aboriginal Malgana language. Here Darren 'Capes' Capewell, a descendant of the land's First Peoples and the guide of Wula Gura Nyinda Eco Cultural Adventures, part of Discover Aboriginal Experiences, shows travellers around the spectacular bay as part of the Kayak & Wildlife Adventure, whilst sharing ancient stories passed down to him.

#### FRESH TAKE ON AUSTRALIA

From freshly shucked oysters and handcrafted cheeses to multicultural fine dining with award-winning wines and whiskies to match, Australia's food and drink scene is renowned the world over. But as Aussie produce continues to be refined and reinvented, more and more operators are finding creative ways to produce and incorporate their own homegrown ingredients, adding a whole new flavour to Australia's finest foodie experiences.

Strengthening Australia's thriving farm-to-table dining scene and supporting efforts to reduce food mileage, many Luxury Lodges of Australia are not only featuring local produce on menus but growing their own fare and engaging local experts to create handson experiences. On Tasmania's spectacular east coast, Saffire Freycinet ensures 80% of produce served to guests is locally sourced. Guests can also connect with local



# SUNRISES AT THEIR PEAK

As the first rays of dawn break over the Earth's horizon, there are few vantage points more awe-inspiring than the mountain peaks that kiss the sky. Sunrises from these lofty summits offer a breathtaking symphony of nature, where a world below awakens in a glorious display of colours and light.

Whilst there are many extraordinary destinations across the globe that offer incredible sunrises, we've picked out a few that we believe are extra special...

#### THE PERFECT BACKDROP FOR A DAILY SHOW OF DAZZLING COLOURS - MOUNT BROMO, INDONESIA

Located in East Java, this active volcano provides a breathtaking backdrop for a daily show of dazzling colours and exquisite beauty.

As dawn breaks, the sky over Bromo transforms into a canvas of pinks, purples and oranges. The sun gradually peeks above the horizon, casting a warm glow on the rugged landscape. The silhouettes of pearby volcanoes and the iconic horsemen who guide visitors add to the mesmerising scene.

What makes the Bromo sunrise particularly remarkable is the contrast between the serene, otherworldly beauty of the moment and the raw, untamed energy of the volcano. The juxtaposition of the peaceful sunrise and the geological forces that lie beneath the Earth's surface is a powerful reminder of

#### WITNESSING KILIMANJARO'S LOFTY PEAKS PROVIDES A PROFOUND SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

As the tallest free-standing mountain in the world provides a profound sense of accomplishment and connection to nature. Hikers and climbers from all over the world make the challenging journey to reach Kilimanjaro's summit, enduring strenuous treks through diverse ecosystems and altitude challenges.

When they finally stand at Uhuru Peak, the highest point, they are rewarded with a sunrise that bathes the landscape in an ethereal, golden glow, casting a spell on all who witness it. It feels almost as if you are suspended between heaven and earth with the clouds below you.

*"* This experience will leave you humbled and filled with a sense of wonder at the majesty and magnificence of the world we live in. *"* 



#### THE GRAND CANYON'S IMMENSE SCALE AND DEPTH COMES TO LIFE AT SUNRISE

Each morning as the first rays of sunlight pierce the horizon, the canyon's vast expanse is transformed into a canvas of warm, golden hues and dramatic shadows. As the sun gradually ascends, its radiant glow casts a spotlight on the deep, multilayered rock formations, unveiling their hidden intricacies and vibrant colours.



The Grand Canyon's immense scale and depth comes to life, leaving visitors amazed and dazzled by the forces of erosion and time. Hikers and photographers from the world over gather at various viewpoints, waiting patiently for the grand reveal. The sight of the sun's first rays emerging from behind the canyon's walls is a moment of pure magic, sparking feelings of wonder and tranquillity.

Witnessing a Grand Canyon sunrise is an unforgettable experience that will renew your appreciation for our world's astonishing natural beauty.

#### Experience a sunrise you'll never forget

These destinations all offer sunrises you won't forget in a hurry, and in addition offer nature, history and a range of activities, making witnessing the sunrise just one part of your holiday. Contact us today to find out more.



We have always been big fans of

the US, so in August 2023 I packed

up my husband, 6-year-old boy and

4-year-old girl and headed west for

the result of months of research

Pigeon Forge (for Dollywood),

a couple of weeks. Our itinerary was

and a lot of good advice from expert

travel agents. We visited Nashville,

Savannah and Hilton Head Island.

# ROAD TRIPPING THROUGH THE USA (WITH THE FAMILY!)

Road tripping with children; does the idea fill you with fear or does hitting the open road with the family appeal to your sense of adventure?

Seasoned traveller Kelly Cookes embarked on exactly this during 2023's summer holidays and gives you her top tips to make sure that it is a trip to remember... Hilton Head Island



Savannah

Overall, it was great mixture of city, theme park and beach. Would I do it again? Absolutely! But that is not to say that we didn't learn a lot, so here are my top tips for those looking at doing something similar.

Involve the children in planning! Before the holiday, we involved the children in the planning of the trip by telling them where we were going, what we might see there and by showing them each place on the map. This helped to get them excited about each stop on the itinerary.

#### Create a plane pack for the kids

This was made up of activities, toys and snacks that they hadn't seen before, and they were not allowed to open it until we were on the flight. It helped to keep them entertained (at least for a while!).

#### Take minimal hand luggage

After a long flight children will be tired, so try to plan for the fact that you are likely to be carrying them at some point, and having little hand luggage will allow this. The less hand luggage the better, but always have a spare set of clothes and PJs just in case of delays.

#### Be realistic

You won't be able to spend hours walking around a city. When in a city, plan in kid-friendly stops like local parks and play areas. If you can find a restaurant with a play area, then even better!





#### Plan child-friendly stops

For long journeys, make sure you plan in some child-friendly stops – the quirkier the better. We found the most bizarre rock city out at a church in the middle of nowhere that was a big hit. The kids also developed a love for Dollar Tree so we made some pit stops there.

#### Choose suitable places to eat

We spent a lot of time researching the best spots to eat, and on the trip visited an ice cream shop holding an afternoon fete to celebrate its birthday, a country bar with live music and a creek-side restaurant with wild gators.

#### Plan games

We played license plate bingo trying to find a license plate from every state as we were driving along. We made it to 45 states and had a lot of fun with the challenge!

#### **Digital parenting**

Sometimes digital parenting is ok! When you have exhausted everything else, have an iPad with games and films on it for the journeys.

#### Wear the kids out!

A couple of hours in the pool before we hit the road did the trick!

#### My advice would be – go for it!

Doing a road trip with young children is certainly different from doing one as a couple, but we had an incredible time, having made some amazing memories. Booking with a travel agent like we did will mean that they'll also share their recommendations, book your accommodation and help plan out your itinerary for you, to help make the trip run seamlessly from start to finish.



# Southern Sounds & Elvis

8 DAYS FROM NEW ORLEANS

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City breaks

### **CITY BREAKS**

Indulge in the rhythm of urban exploration with our city breaks. Uncover the heartbeat of vibrant metropolises, where history, culture and modernity intertwine. Your next adventure awaits amidst the bustling streets and iconic landmarks.

Bacharach, Rhine River, Germany

### Waterways

#### BROUGHT TO YOU BY AMAWATERWAYS SEE MORE AND DO MORE ON YOUR HOLIDAY

Discover fairytale castles and historic vineyards on AmaWaterways' 'Rhine Castles and Swiss Alps' river cruise from Amsterdam to Basel, offering you the chance to explore an array of cities and countryside as you sail.

Highlights include scenic cruising through the UNESCO heritage Rhine Gorge, hiking through vineyards in Rüdesheim and visiting the historic city, Strasbourg, known as the Capital of Christmas. Plus, activities and small group excursions are included to help you make the most of this spectacular region.

Back on board AmaWaterways' luxurious ships, you will enjoy daily cocktails, award-winning dining with paired wines, wellness classes and evening entertainment, all included in your cruise fare.



Book by 31 March 2024 and enjoy AmaWaterways

luxury for less. Save up to £1,500 per couple plus complimentary flights from selected UK airports on a wide range of 2024 sailings. For more information, contact us, your local travel agent.

#### railbookers

#### BROUGHT TO YOU BY RAILBOOKERS DISCOVER VENICE, ROME AND AMALFI

Embark on a 9-day rail journey through the heart of Italy where ancient history meets the breathtaking beauty of the Amalfi Coast. Start your journey in 'City of Canals', where you will glide along the Grand Canal on a vaporetto, visit St Mark's Square and explore the maze of narrow alleys.

Journey on to the eternal city of Rome and travel back in time through the ancient landmarks. Travel seamlessly on board a comfortable train, followed by a private transfer to the heart of the Amalfi Coast, a paradise where rugged cliffs meet the azure Mediterranean Sea. Upon arrival in Amalfi, unwind on the picturesque beaches and let the coastal breeze rejuvenate your spirit. This itinerary promises a perfect blend of cultural exploration and coastal charm, sealed with a taste of hand-picked luxury accommodation in each city to provide the ultimate Italian experience.

#### VALUE PACKED Holidays

With so many inclusions in the price, plus expert

knowledge and maximum flexibility, no Railbookers itinerary is too complex! Contact us, your local travel agent, for more information.



Contact us today with your holiday enquiry! 33

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Price based on 1 September 2024 & 22 September 2024 departures Alternative departure dates available - prices may vary Book by 29 February 2024

#### SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

**NEW ORLEANS** Discover the 'Big Easy' with a guided sightseeing tour featuring French Quarter landmarks like St. Louis Cathedral and Jackson Square.

**INDIANOLA** Visit the hometown of the legendary musician B.B. King for a stop at the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Centre.

**MEMPHIS** Enjoy a sightseeing tour with a Local Guide who shares "backstage" stories of the Home of the Blues. Visit the Rock 'n' Soul Museum and Sun Studio, arguably the most famous recording studio in the world. Take a guided audio tour of Graceland, Elvis' palatial estate. Stay at the Guest House hotel at Graceland.

**NASHVILLE** Go behind the scenes of the music industry by visiting the Country Music Hall of Fame. Overnight in the heart of "Music City." Visit RCA Studio B, Nashville's oldest surviving recording studio. Enjoy an orientation tour of the city. See an unforgettable show at the world-famous Grand Ole Opry.

MEALS INCLUDED 2 breakfasts

### Contact your local travel agent to book or to find out more

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy. Itineraries and activities are subject to change at any time due to unforeseen circumstances or other factors
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# BANK HOLIDAY BREAKAWAYS MAKING LONG WEEKENDS EVEN BETTER

Whether it be hopping across the channel, exploring hidden gems in the UK or flying across the pond to the Big Apple, bank holidays are a great excuse for a short getaway and that well-deserved break from the daily grind. The options are endless, but we've highlighted a few destinations that offer excitement and something different, making your long weekends even better!



#### VISIT AMSTERDAM FOR PICTURESQUE CANALS, HISTORY AND A VIBRANT ART SCENE

Known for its picturesque canals, historic architecture and vibrant art scene, Amsterdam offers something for every traveller. Flight times from the UK are super short too (around 1 hour 30 minutes!), making this a destination that's easy to explore in two or three days with minimal travel time.

Top sights include the Anne Frank House, a touching and moving journey through World War II history (we can book your tickets in advance to avoid long queues), Van Gogh Museum, where you'll learn about the artist's troubled life and view many of his paintings close up, and Keukenhof Gardens – which in the spring is extra special as it's filled with the country's trademark flower, the tulip.

Meandering and strolling through the city is just as great too; Amsterdam has canals galore and tons of charming back streets with cute bakeries, restaurants and bars. Neighbourhood De Pijp is worth exploring for just that. And for the foodies amongst us, a must-try Dutch delicacy is a traditional poffertjes (mini pancakes) which you'll find in many restaurants – so don't miss out!

#### CORNWALL IS HOME TO CHARMING SEASIDE TOWNS AND VILLAGES

For those looking to stay on British soil, a visit to Cornwall offers over 400 miles of coastline,



gorgeous scenery, countryside and dramatic shorelines. Sitting on the south-western tip of the UK, for some this could be a destination that's, in fact, further away than neighbouring countries – but don't discount it for that reason... Cornwall has a lot to offer!

It's also home to a vibrant artistic community, with galleries, studios and festivals such as the Cornwall Street Food Festival, which is due to return to Newquay over



the May holiday weekend and gives the opportunity to indulge in some of the best street food in the south-west, as well as great entertainment.

Other attractions include the charming seaside towns and villages of St Ives, Polperro and Tintagel, which showcase breathtaking coastal scenery, perfect for strolls along the beach. One of the most iconic landmarks in Cornwall for its scenic beauty, medieval castle and close association with legends and folklore is St Michael's Mount, a small island that is accessible by foot or by boat during low tide – it's worth the trip!

#### FOR SOMEWHERE A BIT FURTHER AFIELD, VISIT THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS

This iconic metropolis, with its unmistakable skyline and pulsating energy, is an ideal destination for an extended weekend. With a time difference of 5 hours, and an approx. flight time of 8 hours, this isn't a destination that you'll get to in a flash, but it packs a punch when it comes to excitement, sights and attractions! Plus...if you can tag an extra day or two onto your bank holiday weekend, you'll have more time to soak up the city's vibrant atmosphere.

Start with a visit to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, which is a small island located in the New York Harbour and is renowned for its historical significance as an immigration inspection station in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Today, it's home to the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration where you can immerse yourself in the immigrant history of the city. The Empire State Building, Central Park and Times Square are must-see landmarks that encapsulate different aspects of the city's spirit, from its financial power to its appreciation of green spaces and its dynamic, fastpaced lifestyle - all of which New York offers. After exploring the landmarks, head to Broadway to catch a world-renowned show - just like London's West End, there you'll be spolit for choice of musicals and plays to see!

Top it off by immersing yourself in the foodie culture – whether it be treating yourself to a slice of the iconic New York style pizza for a quick bite or heading somewhere a little more special...the options are endless. And we haven't even started on the shopping; our top tip is to leave space in your suitcase!

### How will you spend your next bank holiday?

Whether you're indulging in European culture, basking in British beauty or jetting off to the city that never sleeps, bank holiday getaways always ensure you're making the most of your time off. But where will you choose? Let us know today, and we'll help you plan a great value deal!



# **DIVE INTO PARADISE**

If you're a diving enthusiast, you'll understand that there's nothing guite like exploring the underwater world and encountering vibrant marine life, coral reefs and shipwrecks. With numerous diving destinations around the globe, it's not easy to pick just one.

However, if you're seeking top-tier diving experiences, consider adding these four incredible destinations to vour bucket list - which are suitable for both dive experts or those looking to experience it for the first time.

#### GREAT BARRIER REEF. AUSTRALIA

When it comes to diving, the Great Barrier Reef needs no introduction. It's the world's largest coral reef system and is renowned for its stunning biodiversity and vibrant coral formations.

" Located off the coast of Queensland, Australia, the Great Barrier Reef is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. //

Divers can explore a multitude of dive sites teeming with marine life, from tiny clownfish to massive manta rays and reef sharks. The

underwater visibility is excellent, and the warm waters are perfect for divers of all levels. The Great Barrier Reef offers wall dives, drift dives, and the opportunity to see the mesmerising coral spawning, making it an unparalleled diving experience.

#### HAWAII

Hawaii, an island paradise known for its lush landscapes and welcoming culture, also boasts some of the world's most captivating dive sites. The Hawaiian Islands offer

diverse diving opportunities, with each island providing a unique underwater experience.

On the Big Island, you can encounter graceful manta rays, whilst Molokini Crater near Maui offers crystal-clear waters and thriving marine ecosystems. Oahu is famous for its wreck dives, including the sunken YO-257 and San Pedro. Lanai and Kauai provide excellent opportunities to explore lava formations and encounter spinner dolphins. Hawaii is the perfect destination to combine thrilling dives with a taste of aloha spirit.

#### **RAJA AMPAT, INDONESIA**

Raja Ampat, an archipelago in Indonesia, is a delight for divers who dream of vibrant coral gardens and some of the most biodiverse marine ecosystems on the planet. This remote destination is often called the 'Last Paradise on Earth'.

> " Diving in Raia Ampat feels like diving in an underwater Eden. With its pristine waters and more than 1,500 fish species, you'll find a range of diving sites, from tranquil lagoons to thrilling drift dives along deep channels. *II*

Be prepared to swim with majestic

manta rays, wobbegong sharks

miss exploring the labyrinthine

limestone formations of Wayag

YUCATÁN PENINSULA,

When it comes to underwater

contender for divers seeking an

extraordinary experience. With

its crystal-clear waters, diverse

marine life and unique underwater attractions, there's a lot to offer!

In the Yucatán Peninsula, discover

cenotes. These natural sinkholes,

formed by the collapse of cave

mystical diving experience. The

cenotes' crystal-clear fresh water

is a magical playground, adorned

with intricate limestone formations

a hidden gem for divers: the

systems, offer a surreal and

adventures. Mexico is a top

MEXICO

and experiencing the rich cultural

heritage of the local communities.

and schools of fish that paint the ocean with their colours. Don't





and illuminated by rays of sunlight penetrating the depths.

Another must-visit destination is the MUSA museum. Located off the coast of Cancun and Isla Mujeres, this unique underwater museum features an incredible collection of over 500 life-sized sculptures which have been purposefully placed on the ocean floor to promote coral growth and marine life. It's a mesmerising blend of art and nature that you can explore whilst scuba diving or snorkelling.

These are just a glimpse of the aquatic wonders waiting to be discovered in the captivating country!

#### **Dive into adventure** with us!

Whether you would like a diving adventure as part of your holiday or your whole holiday, we can make it happen! Contact us today to find out more.



For those who have 'been there and done it all', but are still craving an adventure, then look no further! We've showcased our top three lesserknown destinations that you should put on your radar for 2024!

#### PLOVDIV, BULGARIA: BEST FOR CITY BREAKS

The 6th most ancient city in the world, Plovdiv is a charming city of quaint cobblestone roads and quirky architecture. The city received the title of European Capital of Culture back in 2019, but still remains largely undiscovered. Whilst there, check out the Roman Amphitheatre which regularly holds live concerts, and, if you time your trip well, visit during one of the many festivals such as the Spring Fair of Crafts, International Folklore Festival in the summer, and beer and music festivals of all kinds throughout the year!

#### SUKHOTHAI, THAILAND – BEST FOR CULTURE

A treat at any time of the year, but especially magical during the Loy Krathong festival which changes every year according to the Thai lunar calendar. Most welltravelled Brits will head to the popular Chiang Mai for the festival, whilst Sukhothai remains a hidden gem. Hardly heard of by tourists, but very popular with the locals, the celebrations include releasing pretty rice

Sukhothai Historical Park



encourage responsible travel and we can provide you with tips on how you can best do this whilst at the festival. Speak to us to find out more.

paper lanterns in the sky (for the Yi Peng festival which

overlaps), as well as water lanterns made from tree trunks and leaves – and it's all done at the gorgeous

Sukhothai Historical Park, where a show is put on

and enchanting decorations are displayed! We always

#### NORMANDY, FRANCE: BEST FOR DRIVING HOLIDAYS

For those who prefer not to venture too far from home and travel in their own set of wheels, there is a lot to be discovered in Normandy. Within easy reach, you can get to Normandy by catching a ferry or shuttle from Folkestone and arriving into Calais. Stop by Etretat to see the Jardins d'Etretat, a neo-futuristic garden perched atop a cliff overlooking the Alabaster Coast, where Monet did many a painting. Close by, head to Rouen where you'll find picturesque buildings, an impressive cathedral, clock tower and history for days. A little further out, check out fairytale-esque

Mont-Saint-Michel – it's certainly more well-known, but still well worth the visit.



Get in touch to find out what else you can see and do in these wonderful destinations. We can add value to

your holiday by helping you book car hire, guided tours and more to ensure your journey is well planned.



## Australia your way

From tropical coastal rainforests to the red deserts of the Outback, vineyard-coated valleys to golden surf beaches, and cosmopolitan cities to reefs teeming with marine life, Australia offers a continent's worth of experiences. Audley's specialists can use their first-hand knowledge to weave many of these into a trip shaped around your passions.

# Contact your local travel agent to find out more



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# WHY BOOK WITH US?

As an independent travel agent, we will give you the best impartial travel advice, and provide:

- Personalised travel recommendations
- ✓ Outstanding value for money
- ✓ A friendly, convenient service
- ✓ Financial security
- ✓ A wide choice of holiday deals
- ✓ A person to take care of everything!



