



TOP HOLIDAY 10 HOT SPOTS

2015

Christmas and the new year is the perfect time to start planning your summer holidays with our inspiring and exciting travel guide.

Australia's Gold Coast

Known as Australia's playground for entertainment and adventure, the Gold Coast is placing itself firmly on the map as a rising and coming hotspot for Irish travellers. The birthplace of the bikini is now one of the hottest places for 2015 with its numerous boutique hotels, luxury glamping options, quirky bars and stylish restaurants along the famous stretch of coastline. The region is set to enter the global spotlight when Johnny Depp arrives to film *Pirates of the Caribbean 5* in 2015, showcasing the area's beautiful beaches and beautiful rainforest hinterland. The summer released the list of destinations for 2015, with the Gold Coast placed in fifth place.

The French Way or Camino Francés is the most famous of all the Camino de Santiago routes and is featured in many documentaries, books and movies such as 'The Way'. Along the French Way, walkers will discover beautiful scenery, charming towns and fascinating history. The last section of this path, from Sarria to Santiago, is the most popular and walkers can expect to meet people from all over the world. Visit www.caminoways.com for more information or call 01 5252886.



Camino de Santiago

Thailand



Thailand is divided into four main regions with the mountains of the north, fertile central plains, the semi arid traditional farming regions of the north-east and fine tropical beaches and off shore islands of the south. It has a tropical climate with three distinct seasons hot in March to May, rainy June to October and cool from November to February (with average temperatures in the low 30s). Known as 'the land of smiles' Thailand is a country rich in culture and tradition with its warm friendly and charming people. There really is so much to explore that a tailor made holiday is recommended to include a city break in Bangkok, a beach break on one of the islands finished off with a cultural visit to the temples of Chiang Rai. For more see www.sunway.ie

Malta

If sandy beaches are your thing, then the Maltese coast has plenty to offer with Ghajn Tuffieha and Golden Bay being very popular with tourists. The island has a host of watersports including paragliding, jet skiing and speed boats, while Malta and Gozo have some fantastic outdoor clubs including Numero Uno, La Grotta and Gianpula. The Isle of MTV has taken place there for the past nine summers, featuring many musical acts including Lady Gaga, Black Eyed Peas, N'E'R'D, Maroon 5, Enrique Iglesias, Snoop Dogg and LMFAO. If that's not quite your scene, then maybe you'd be more at home basking in the cultural glow of the Malta Arts Festival, or kicking back to the smooth sounds of the Malta Jazz Festival.



India

India has become increasingly popular in the Irish market, particularly with Etihad and Emirates making it more accessible. Unforgettable food, pulsing cities, exotic temples, beaches, mountains, incredible wildlife, and a myriad of colourful festivals throughout the year, make India a diverse destination with a seemingly endless array of things to discover. The best way to discover India is with an arranged escorted tour; you'll be secure in the knowledge that you are looked after from the beginning of the trip until the very end. A professional tour director will be at hand to guide you and act as your personal concierge dining at the finest restaurants, opulent accommodation at hotels and palace and opportunities to meet the locals. See Insight Vacations (www.insightvacations.com) for more details.



Seychelles

The Seychelles has a dreamlike setting with talcum-powder beaches lapped by turquoise waters surrounded by lush hills and glacial boulders. While the Seychelles is a favorite of honeymooners, it offers a lot more than romance in sunny paradise. There are spectacular jungle and coastal walks, as well as a host of sea activities such as boating, diving and snorkeling. The Seychelles also has fantastic marine parks and natural reserves. Nobody does luxury quite like the Seychelles, but it also has self-catering and family run guest houses that offer local colour. For the ultimate in a dream holiday to the Seychelles, call Classic Resorts on 01 8745000 or visit www.classicresorts.ie.

The Algarve

The Algarve is still one of Europe's hidden secrets - it is home to some of Europe's most beautiful beaches, it's got the great weather and it is also a top golfing destination, among a host of other things. With 200km of coastline, 50 blue flag beaches and 300 days of sunshine a year, the Algarve is perfect for any holiday. Its long warm summers and mild winters make it a year-round holiday destination. There are lots of activities for the whole family including water sports, tennis and rock climbing. For families wanting to explore the wild side of the Algarve, you can have fun on jeep safaris, go canoeing or discover the nature trails. www.visitalgarve.pt



Italy

Live the Italian dream in 2015 and travel to Italy, the country that will provide you with pleasure, entertainment and memories that will last a lifetime. Italy is famous for its scrumptious food, wonderful wines, luxurious sports cars, stylish fashion, as well as its historical excellence and culture. It is a destination for all holidaymakers from culture vultures to sun seekers - including families. So, why not head to Italy and enjoy all it has to offer, whether you would like an activity holiday in Lake Garda, relax on the beach in Rimini or a historical adventure in Pompeii? With a wide choice of resorts and destinations including Lake Garda, Lido di Jesolo, Sicily, Sorrento and the Adriatic Riviera to name a few - Italy is a must! For more information call Topflight on 01 2401 700 or visit www.topflight.ie.



Menorca

Menorca is part of the Balearic Islands situated in the Mediterranean Sea and perfect for family Summer Sun getaways. Its coastline comprises of picturesque sandy coves overshadowed by dramatic cliffs with a very individual character that creates an atmosphere to be experienced. The slow pace of development has left this island unspoilt despite its popularity and Menorca resorts vary from the quiet fishing village to bustling seaside towns, catering for all ages tastes and pockets. For more information see sunway.ie

Bordeaux, Vineyards & Châteaux

For foodies and wine connoisseurs, an all-inclusive river cruise to Bordeaux and the Aquitaine region is the perfect luxurious and culinary rich holiday. Discover the unparalleled riches of Aquitaine and its charming capital city, Bordeaux. From its noble châteaux to its breathtaking estuary, Bordeaux is an oenophile's paradise and every traveller's dream. Sail three stunning rivers—the Garonne, the Dordogne, and the Gironde—on one amazing journey, all aboard an elegant floating hotel. On this ultra-luxury, all-inclusive river cruise, you will taste regional delights, including duck confit, caviar d'Aquitaine, and oysters, and delve deeply into the Bordeaux region's exalted wines as well as exploring the beautiful countryside and culture. www.unlworld.ie for more details.

