

# Holiday World 2015 opens with a roar... and here are its best tips, deals and destinations

Holiday World is open for business at the RDS Dublin, and Pól Ó Conghaile is on site bringing us the best deals he can find.

Holiday World runs Friday to Sunday (January 23-25) at the RDS Dublin, with over 1,000 travel experts from 50 countries attending this year.

The joy of the show is that, whereas researching holidays online can be frustrating, here you can interact with tour operators and tourist boards in real-time.

You can talk to human beings, in other words.

I'm at the RDS, this morning, posting updates as I find them:

## Out of Africa



*Lalibela, Ethiopia*

One of the major travel developments this year is the news that Ethiopian Airlines will be flying direct from Dublin to Addis Ababa. The flights kick off in June (the airline's Dreamliner will also be flying from Dublin to LA), and several countries are exhibiting together at a tiny Africa stand – urging you to use Addis as a connection point to visit Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe. You can also enter a prize draw to win flights plus three nights' accommodation at the stand.

*Find this: Stand D11.*

## Yoga Holidays



*Emma Burke Kennedy, stretching out!*

You may notice a rather flexible lady striking yoga poses at the Travel Department stand. She's Emma Burke Kennedy, and she's promoting the company's Algarve Yoga holiday, which departs April 13 and includes flights plus five nights' accommodation, transfers and eight yoga sessions (with Emma herself) from €699pp. Travel Department also has €100 off all river cruises booked at Holiday World.

*Find this: Stand T3*

## Wild about Waterford



*Team Waterford at Holiday World 2015*

Think Waterford had a big 2014, celebrating its 1,100th birthday? It's only getting started. Now that its city and county council have amalgamated, they'll be rebooting the Waterford brand with a big splash this March. Watch out for a new Greenway coming down the tracks too. Show-only deals include a Golden Years Break at the Tower Hotel – offering three nights' dinner and B&B from €149pp.

*Find this: Stand p8*

## Let's talk Turkey

Turkish Airways plans to fly twice daily from Dublin to Istanbul from the end of March. It has return fares from €189 available at the show.

*Find this: Stand K6/L6*

## Newfoundland calling...



*Newfoundland's stand at Holiday World.*

Did you know Newfoundland is home to the world's largest concentration of humpback whales? That it's the only place to see icebergs in North America? Or that direct flights from Dublin have been taking as little as 3.5 hours, thanks to helpful tailwinds? I learned all of this today. Flights from Dublin to St. John's are available with WestJet from €128 each way, in a sale ending January 27.

*Find this: Stand T2*

## Sunway's Competition Time

Sunway is offering €100 off bookings made at Holiday World. It has several competitions on the go too – you can enter your contact details to win a four-star holiday in Lanzarote, or if you make an actual booking at the show, your name goes into the hat to win a holiday to Lapland.

*Find this: Stand E9*

## A Loop Head Cycle Way



*The Wild Atlantic Way*

Loop Head, the desolately beautiful Co. Clare peninsula, is going from strength to strength. A new, 76km cycling loop set to open this May bank holiday weekend. Yet another reason to visit!

*Find this: Stand P1*

## A New Wendy Wu

Wendy Wu Tours, the UK's leading holiday provider to China, launched a new Irish operation this week. The company has a presence at holiday World, and is offering €200 off Irish bookings made before the end of May.

*Find this: Stand c3*

## Donegal takes flight



*Slieve League Peninsula, Donegal*

Aer Lingus Regional will be taking over Flybe's direct flights from Donegal to Glasgow and Dublin as of February 1st. The flights are available from €34.99 each way. The airport also offers 'Fly Breaks' on its website ([donegalairport.ie](http://donegalairport.ie)) I've just

learned, including flights from Dublin and two nights' B&B from €159pp. Did you know Donegal also has the most sea stacks in Ireland?

*Find this: Stand N4*

## **Expert Travel Clinics**

A favourite feature of Holiday World are Eoghan Corry's expert travel clinics, and Eoghan is in cracking form today as he gears up to present on topics including cruises, weddings abroad, golf trips, visas and more. Eoghan is one of Ireland's foremost travel experts, so this is an excellent opportunity to ask the questions nobody else can answer. He's holding a Q&A with Robin Kiely of Ryanair on Sunday, too.

*Find this: Back of arena*

## **Kings of Kinsale**



*Team Kinsale at Holiday World 2015*

Kinsale is looking fresh as ever at its Holiday World stand, manned by Jackie Dawson and friends. Talk to them about staycation ideas in the area, and pick up a flyer for the Trident Hotel's show-only deal... a winter warmer special offering two nights' B&B and one dinner from just €90pp.

*Find this: Stand N7*

## **New York, New York**

Fitzpatrick's New York City hotels are a favourite of many Irish visitors to the Big Apple, and they have a stand to themselves at Holiday World this Year. They've got rooms from \$179 on July 4th, and from \$199 over the Easter break.

*Find this: Stand f3*

## **A Celtic Camino?**



*Maria Golpe of CaminoWays.com*

CaminoWays.com, the Camino de Santiago tour specialists, are launching their new website, IrelandWays.com, at the Holiday World Show. IrelandWays.com will offer a selection of cycling and walking holidays in Ireland, including walks on the Wild Atlantic Way and Wicklow Way. The company is offering 10pc off bookings made at the show, and a competition for a three-night stay on the wild Atlantic way.

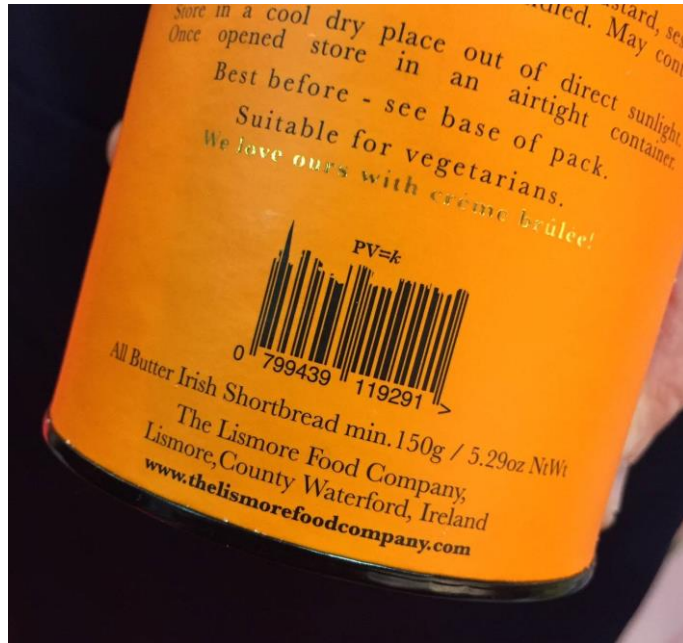
*Find this: Stand K5.*

## **Royal Caribbean deals**

Book with Royal Caribbean by January 31st, and you can make some great savings on all-inclusive holidays in 2015 – and even free drinks and tips as part of its show deals. A seven-night Greek Island cruise departing October 31st is on offer from €819pp, leaving from Venice.

*Find this: Stand K2/L2*

**And finally...**



*Barcode boom!*

Kudos to new business, the Lismore Food Company, which is offering tasters of its yummy handmade biscuits and other products at the Waterford stand. The company has managed to get the barcode on the back of its biscuit tubs to evoke Lismore's skyline. Now that's tasty!

*More details: [www.holidayworldshow.com](http://www.holidayworldshow.com)*