

Live Happy

SUMMER 2026 MAGAZINE



Where's
hot – and
what's on?

Your top travel
questions
answered

Exotic escapes,
unlocked.

Discover the Dominican
Republic's secret spots - plus,
long-haul tips for family trips.



Get more from your holiday

Here at TUI, we're all about going the extra (s)mile to give you more - because you deserve it.



TUI-designed hotels

From onsite waterparks to must-try restaurants, we design our hotels to match your vibe.



24/7 support

We're here when you need us. Chat with a holiday expert 24/7 by phone or on the TUI app.



Luggage and transfers included

No surprises, knowing you've always got transfers, and at least 20kg of luggage included.*



Booking made easy

Book the holiday you really want, however you want - on the app, online, or in store.



100+ years of holidays

After designing holidays for more than 100 years, we're confident we know what you want.

*On package holidays flying both ways with TUI Airways - otherwise, check your booking confirmation e-mail or myTUI account to see your checked-in luggage allowance.

Welcome!

Summer holidays abroad are special - long days, the sun on your skin, and that little thrill of knowing everything's been sorted for you. And this year, we're all about giving you even more to smile about - from TUI-designed hotels to match your style (waterparks, fine dining... whatever your 'thing' is) to round-the-clock support. Because, let's face it, you deserve it.

And guess what - 2026 is an extra special year, because TUI BLUE, our flagship hotel brand, turns 10! Our TUI BLUE hotels are celebrating over the summer with poolside games, Kids' Club workshops, interactive gameshows, and evening discos that make you wish you were a kid again. **Page 64** has the lowdown on even more family fun at our TUI BLUE, TUI MAGIC LIFE and Holiday Villages hotels.

Prefer a quiet escape? **Page 48** reveals the best TUI BLUE hotels for 'silent' stays. In fact, relaxation is a bit of a theme this issue - turn to **page 8** for wellness tips to help make plane trips feel even smoother.

We know one size doesn't fit all when it comes to holidays, so we've handpicked some destination highlights, as well. Check out the best gorges in Greece (**page 24**), flamenco in Spain (**page 26**), and the less-trodden side of the Dominican Republic (**page 38**).

I'm delighted that our sustainability projects are shining brighter than ever. On **page 36**, meet Destination Zero Waste Zanzibar - a small find with a big impact, brought to life by the TUI Care Foundation. Then on **page 73**, Rebecca Gerigk, host of our podcast *We're on it, right?*, shares recent updates and tips for more planet-friendly travel.

PS. That's me enjoying a daytrip to Puglia, Italy!



Happy travels!

Neil Swanson
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On the cover
Saona Island,
Dominican Republic.

**travel
aware**
gov.uk/travelaware

Staying safe and healthy abroad

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and National Travel Health Network and Centre have up-to-date advice on staying safe and healthy abroad.

For the latest general FCDO travel advice, including security and local laws, plus passport and visa information, check gov.uk/travelaware and follow x.com/FCDOtravelGovUK and facebook.com/FCDOtravel

See FCDO travel advice about individual destinations and sign up for FCDO travel advice email alerts, so you automatically receive the latest travel advice updates and travel requirements for the destinations you want to know about, at gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

For travel advice from TUI, see tui.co.uk/destinations/info/travel-aware

For current travel health news, see travelhealthpro.org.uk

Advice can change, so check regularly for updates.





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Your travel year

Get clued up on where it's hot every month of the year, plus a sneak peek at what's on.



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Selling sunsets

Turkey, Greece, Spain? Discover the best spots to snap your sunset selfie.



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Some of the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this magazine and on our website are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. But ATOL protection does not apply to all holiday and travel services listed in this magazine. If you do not receive an ATOL Certificate then the booking will not be ATOL protected.

If you do receive an ATOL Certificate but all the parts of your trip are not listed on it, those parts will not be ATOL protected. Please see our booking conditions for information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.caa.co.uk. TUI, First Choice and Crystal Ski Holidays are trading names of TUI UK Limited (registered in England No.: 2830117) members of TUI Group. Registered Office: Wigmore House, Wigmore Lane, Luton, LU2 9TN, UK. Excludes TUI Holidays Ireland Limited.



This magazine was produced using 100% carbon-balanced paper.

Your travel



30°C

January The Maldives

See in the new year with sunshine and soft sands instead of grey skies and snow showers. Most resorts go all out when the clock strikes midnight. Cue: fireworks, parties and beach dinners.



26°C

March Mexico

Go nuts for **Spring Break**, when, traditionally, US teens flock to the Caribbean Coast for a mid-term holiday. Think pool parties, big beaches and even bigger nights out.



26°C

May Florida

Make a pitstop for the **Formula 1 Miami Grand Prix** in early May. And with temps in the mid-twenties, the Sunshine State certainly lives up to its name this month.



27°C

February Barbados

For the week-long **Holetown Festival**, the west coast goes full carnival mode. Expect folk dancing, street fairs, a Bajan carnival and local eats - hello, pickled pork.



29°C

April Thailand

Massive water fights are the highlight of **Songkran Festival** - Thailand's colourful New Year celebration. Head to Pattaya for the longest celebrations (we're talking a whole week).



24°C

June Italy

Parades and parties take place across the country every year on the 2nd, for Italy's Republic Day, or **Festa della Repubblica** as the locals call it.



year

Here's where it's hot every month of the year, plus a sneak peek at what's on...



30°C

July
Croatia

Settle in for music, opera and dance performances throughout the **Dubrovnik Summer Festival**, which transforms the city's cobbled streets into a giant open-air theatre.



25°C

September
Portugal

Nibble on a pastel de nata (or two) and listen to traditional Portuguese fado music during **Santa Casa Alfama** - a two-day music festival in Lisbon's historic Alfama district.



27°C

November
Egypt

The pyramids play the supporting role in the capital this month, when the **Cairo International Film Festival** steals the spotlight at venues across the city.



31°C

August
Spain

Riding boots replace flip-flops in **Sanlucar de Barrameda**, when horse racing transforms the town's beaches. Don't worry, it happens at night, so you can still top up your tan in the day.



23°C

October
Majorca

Lace up for the **TUI Palma Marathon**. The route takes you from the city's iconic cathedral, past the port, and through the historic old town.



30°C

December
Antigua

Nelson's Dockyard Christmas Day Party is the go-to place for a Caribbean Christmas. Tuck in to a festive feast, sip on Champagne and rock around the tree to live music.





Wellness tips for plane trips

Wellness doesn't have to take a back seat at 35,000 feet. Laura Wilkinson shares the **self-care tricks and tips** to bank for your next flight.

Noise-cancelling headphones

Snoring neighbours and the constant plane 'hum', be gone! Noise-cancelling headphones are a great way to achieve slumber success. Pop on some classical music or white noise sounds and you're golden.



Psst! Earplugs work just like noise-cancelling headphones if you'd rather save your pennies for sightseeing.

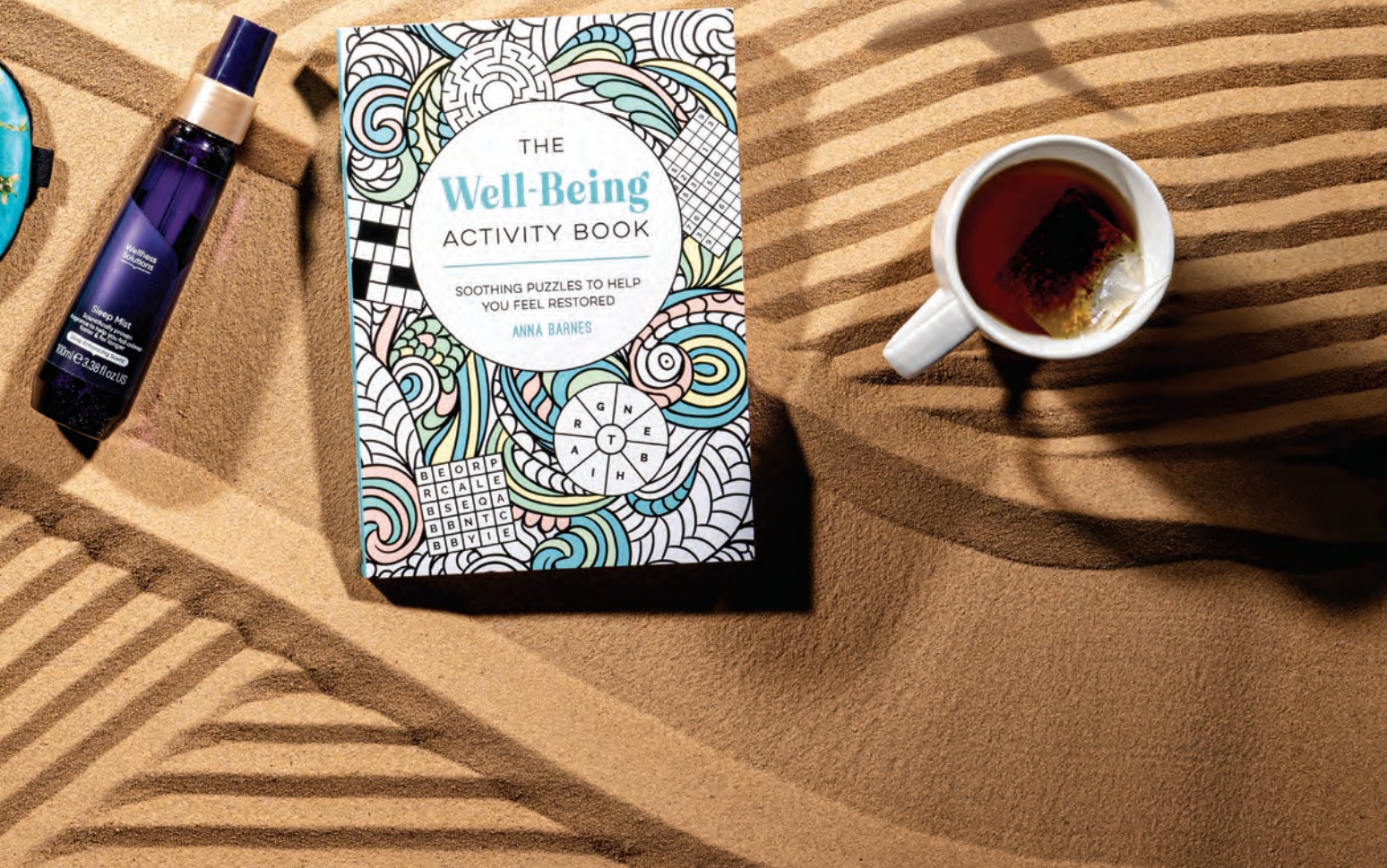
A scented sleep spray

Sleep sprays are ideal for helping you drift off. How, you ask? Lab coats on, it's time for some science. Relaxing scents like lavender and chamomile interact with your sense of smell, which is closely linked to the part of the brain that controls memory. Over time, your brain learns to associate these scents with calm and relaxation. The result? A gentle signal that it's time to unwind. Spritz your spray onto your travel pillow, and you'll be in dreamland before the seatbelt sign is switched off.

A puzzle book

Believe it or not, solving a Sudoku or cracking a codeword is not too dissimilar to meditation - your brain enters a similar state of flow, and your





heart rate slows down. Getting lost in a puzzle book can help distract your brain from any anxious feelings, especially if you're not the biggest fan of flying. Pack a puzzle book in your hand luggage and get cracking - just don't ask what three across is...

An eye mask

An eye mask is a super simple way to block out cabin lights and flickering screens around you. Pick one that's gently weighted or contoured, so it doesn't press against your lids.

Herbal tea bags

There's nothing a cuppa can't fix, right? Even high up in the skies, caffeine-free herbal teas can work their magic. Made from herbs, flowers, roots and fruits,

they're the ultimate triple threat - helping to keep you hydrated, relaxed and calm.



Take a peek at our Café magazine to find your fave herbal tea - the drinks trolley will be rolling by shortly...



See page 38 of the Shop magazine for more soothing products you can use in the air, on holiday, and back home.



Good to know

Next stop - hydration station. Drinking plenty of water is super important, as plane cabins have low humidity, which can lead to dehydration. Bring a reusable water bottle onboard to keep your levels topped up.

It's a sign

Scoping out your next destination?
We've handpicked it for you, with a
little help from the stars...

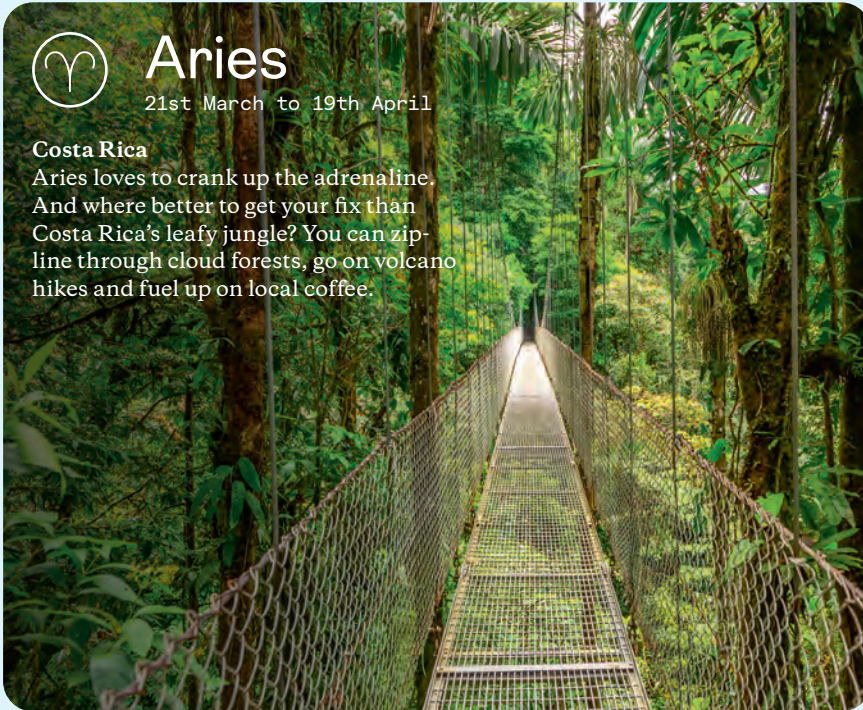


Aries

21st March to 19th April

Costa Rica

Aries loves to crank up the adrenaline. And where better to get your fix than Costa Rica's leafy jungle? You can zip-line through cloud forests, go on volcano hikes and fuel up on local coffee.



Cancer

21st June to 22nd July

Amalfi Coast

Cancer seeks out comforting places that bring a sense of calm. Italy's Amalfi Coast has romantic views and home-cooked dishes, giving all the homely feels you crave, with a welcome dose of sunshine.



Taurus

20th April to 20th May

Zanzibar

For Taurus, it's all about comfort and indulgence, and The Mora Zanzibar more than fits the bill. At this hotel, you can slow down and recharge in a setting that feels plucked straight from paradise.



Gemini

21st May to 20th June

Majorca

Gemini likes keeping busy, with a jam-packed schedule that fills up their camera roll. A buzzy spot like Palma's just the ticket - Majorca's capital has a mix of urban beaches, tapas bars and historical landmarks.



Leo

23rd July to 22nd Aug

Florida

Leo loves to shine and wants a holiday as fabulous as they are. They're confident, excitable and dramatic, making Florida a top match - its theme parks ooze look-at-me energy.





Virgo

23rd Aug to 22nd Sept

Marella Cruises

Virgo's big on efficiency and well-planned experiences, which brings us to cruising. Attention to detail? Check. Guided shore excursions? Loads of them. Ships with top entertainment? Bingo.



Libra

23rd Sept to 22nd Oct

Paris

Libra soaks up style and culture like a sponge, and the Parisian lifestyle has tonnes of it. Gaze at the glittering Eiffel Tower, visit the Louvre, see the Sacré-Cœur - it's all on the cards in the City of Love.



Scorpio

23rd Oct to 21st Nov

Dubrovnik

Anywhere with a bit of mystery catches Scorpio's eye. With Gothic backdrops and history from the seventh century, Croatia's Dubrovnik ticks a lot of boxes. Don't miss the grand cathedral and ancient city walls.



Sagittarius

22nd Nov to 21st Dec

Thailand

Three words to describe Sagittarius are free-spirited, adventurous and philosophical, matching them perfectly with Thailand. Go island hopping, temple visiting, or make the sand your dancefloor at a full moon party.



Capricorn

22nd Dec to 19th Jan

Rhodes

Capricorn is fascinated by power, tradition and history, drawing them to places like Rhodes. With rural vineyards, ancient castles and a UNESCO-listed old town, this Greek island will have them head over heels.



Pisces

19th Feb to 20th March

The Maldives

Anywhere other-worldly is Pisces' cup of tea. They're water babies, too, so it's a no-brainer their pick is the Maldives. Coconut-white beaches and jungle greenery make this place feel like a dream.



Aquarius

20th Jan to 18th Feb

Iceland

Aquarius is a little rebellious and unconventional, and Iceland suits them to a tee. Reykjavik - the capital - has cool vibes, and it rubs shoulders with snowy mountains and volcanic landscapes.



📖 Words: Sophie Heward and Rebecca Williams

TRENDING

GOLDEN HOUR

Selling sunsets



01u Deniz,
Turkey





Golden hour is in (was it ever out?). Check out the best spots to snap your sunset selfie...

Olu Deniz, Turkey

We get it. Planning your day backwards might feel a little off. But, with the reward of a stunner of a sunset at the end of it, it's well worth doing in Olu Deniz. Even if that means planning your trip before you make a mental note of what you're having from the breakfast buffet. Sorry, not sorry.

This Turkish town is part of a region known as the Turquoise Coast, which is basically a polite way of calling out the country's best coastline, without throwing too much shade on the rest of it. Blue isn't the only colour this place works with once the sun starts to dip, though. The sky adds reds, oranges and yellows to the town's blue palette, giving you a snap we already know is going to be the cover star of your post-holiday drop on social media.

The best place to get your golden glow? One of the town's beaches. The spots beside the Blue Lagoon can be busy during the day, but they're quieter once the sun starts to sink into the sky (erm, does everybody know what they're missing?). If you're feeling adventurous, grab your hiking gear and head to the Babadag Mountain for an aerial view. If that sounds like your worst nightmare, take the cable car instead. There's absolutely no judgement here. It's open later in July and August, giving you a chance to soak up the sunset without having to focus on getting your breath back once you've reached the top.

[➤ Read more](#)

Fun fact - sunsets are usually clearer and more colourful in the west.

Saly, Senegal

We'll skip the heavy science, but clearer air has a lot to do with it. So, with that in mind, we couldn't pull this list together without including Saly - a town on the coast of Africa's most western country, Senegal.

Golden hour here is at its best with your toes firmly in the sand. Good news - the town's main beach is famous for being one of the top in the country. Despite its popular status, finding a spot of sand to soak up some sun before it sets usually isn't a problem.

Argostoli, Kefalonia

The Greek Islands are famous for their stellar sunsets, which makes picking just one of them a tricky

task. In the end, we've landed on Kefalonia, which blends golden hues with the island's iconic, whitewashed buildings at sunset. It gives all the aesthetics, trust us.

The island's capital - Argostoli - leads the way when it comes to golden hour. Head to its lighthouse for the perfect sunset pic. It's only around a 30-minute stroll from the centre, so you can be back in town, tucking in to gyros, before dark.

Cap de Cavalleria, Menorca

No gatekeeping this spot in Menorca. Actually, scratch that. While Majorca and Ibiza steal most of the Balearics' thunder, this island's low-key status means sunsets here come without the crowds, so you might want to keep it on the down low.

Set your sat nav for the island's northern tip, and you'll stumble upon a lighthouse with only a small café for company. Stroll - carefully - along the cliffside, and you can often find a spot to watch the show alone. Just make sure you've got your phone to hand to help guide you back once the sun disappears.

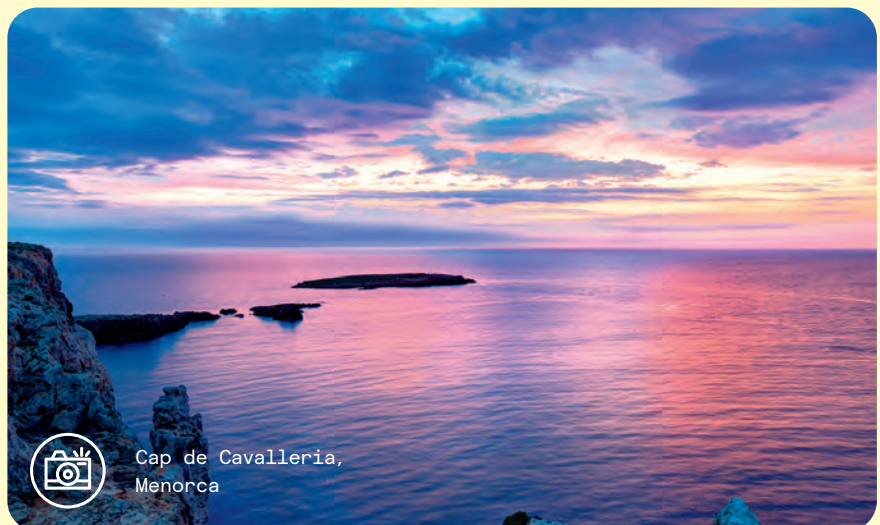
📖 Words: Karl Taylor



Saly,
Senegal

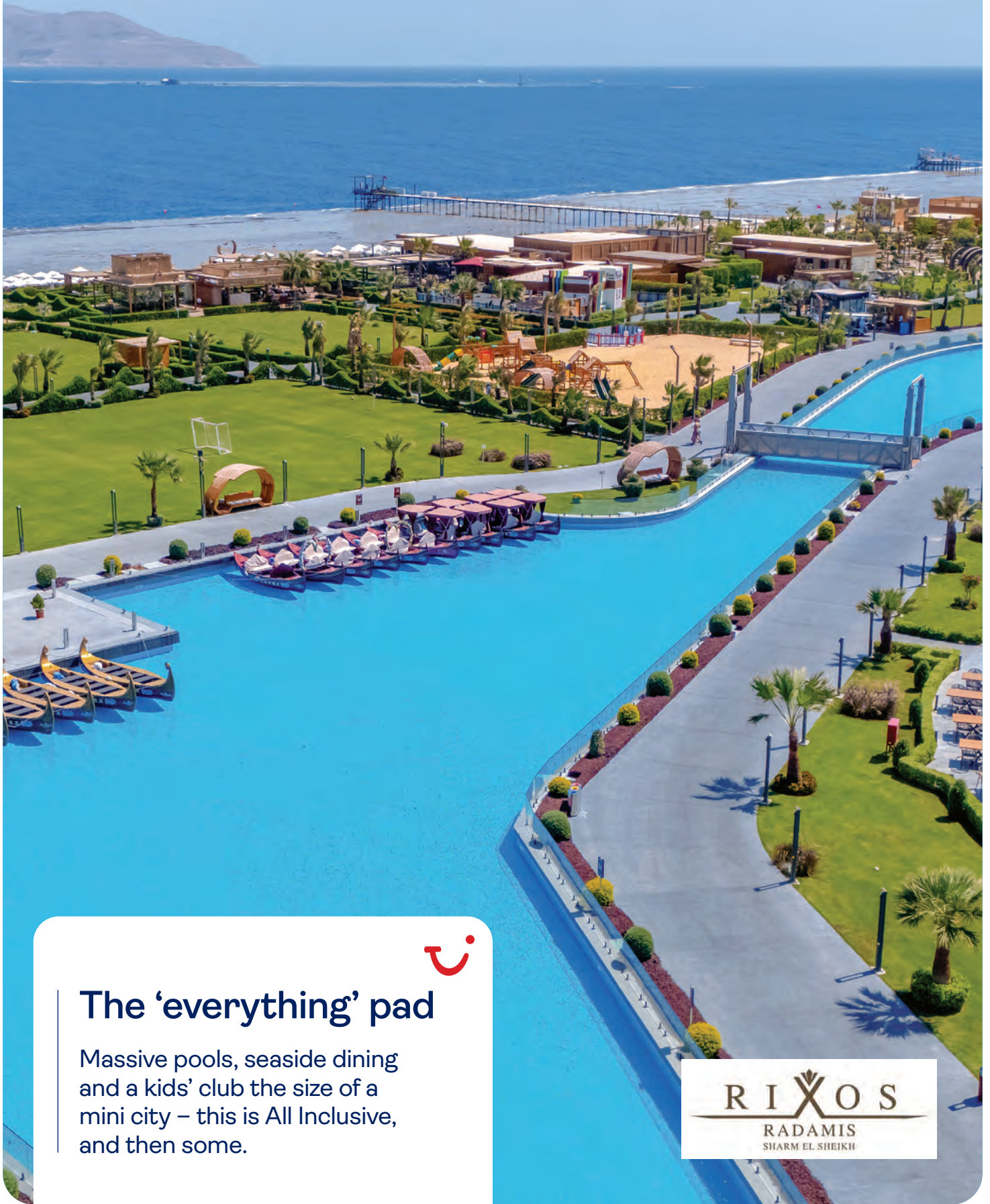


Argostoli,
Kefalonia



Cap de Cavalleria,
Menorca

Rixos Radamis, Egypt



The 'everything' pad

Massive pools, seaside dining and a kids' club the size of a mini city – this is All Inclusive, and then some.

RIXOS
RADAMIS
SHARM EL SHEIKH

TRENDING

CRAFT MASTERS



Portraits of travel

Swap the sightseeing loop for a front-row look at **master artisans** shaping generations of craft.



In a traditional Berber village in **Morocco**, a woman sets her stone mill, turning in slow, steady circles. With each turn, she's one step closer to making the country's liquid gold - argan oil.

The native argan tree, AKA 'the tree of life', is where this centuries-old craft begins, and it's the Berber women who run the show. Sitting on low benches, cushions tucked beneath them, they crush the kernels (small seeds) from the argan nuts into a thick paste. They then press it to release the oil - forget modern production, it's all done by hand, and they make it look easy.

If the kernels are roasted first - voilà - you get a rich, nutty culinary oil, perfect for drizzling on salads or traditional Moroccan bread called khobz. Left raw, it becomes cosmetic gold - the hero hair treatment for thick, luscious locks.

A glimpse of glossy hair is all the proof you need that the oil works. The women flurry through the workshop, hands busy blending creams and perfumes, mixing in scents like lavender, gardenia, and eucalyptus, which you can sample on our traditional souk market and argan cooperative experience. It'll be hard to leave without a bottle... or two.

Wandering east, **Turkey's** bustling markets tell the story of another set of artisans: women weaving the rich red geometric carpets you've spotted on your boho-decor mood boards. Unlike the ones that sneak onto your social feeds, these carpets are *actually* made by hand.

Among a jumble of stalls selling spices, brass coffee pots and mosaic lamps, you find a shop draped floor-to-ceiling in carpets, with a craftsperson seated by a loom strung with hundreds of taut white threads, her foot resting lightly on the pedal. She tightens her headscarf before moving her hands in a steady rhythm.

🕒 [Read more](#)

‘Her quick fingers tie knot after knot – no easy feat when some carpets need more than two million of them.’



A few streets over, in a ceramics workshop, master potters caress clay into plates, bowls and vases with the same patience. Once fired, the pieces will be decorated with intricate patterns of tulips and carnations, the signature of ‘cini’, traditional Turkish ceramics. Watching them take shape is like a front-row seat to Turkey’s living traditions, which you can experience on our ancient Ephesus tour with pottery-making demonstration.

The next portrait transports us to a quieter workshop in Venice, Italy. A man glances up mid-task beside shelves lined with long wooden oars, one balanced across two wooden supports by his side. Outside, a busy canal runs between faded buildings, where gondolas glide by shuttered windows. Inside, the pace slows. The craftsperson wipes his free hand on his apron, slides his glasses back into place and returns to carving.

Welcome to a remèri – an oar-maker’s workshop. Only a handful remain in Venice, each run by a local master known as a remèr. Here, oars and oarlocks – the fittings that attach an oar to the side of a boat – take shape. Each one is made to suit a specific gondola and gondolier, and as the remèr carefully guides his tools along



the grain with steady, practised movements, it’s clear the ‘one size fits all’ motto never stands a chance here.

A boat ride away, Murano – a small island north of Venice – offers a different kind of shop, where guesswork never works, either. Here, glassmakers stand beside open furnaces, heating, stretching and shaping molten glass into jewellery, vases and more. A quick search for ‘Murano glass factory TUI experience’ brings up a local tour with a live blowing demonstration – your up-close moment with a centuries-old tradition.

Words: Conor Braniff, Olivia Torre & Stephanie Ong



Mellieha Bay, Malta



Position perfect

Hilltop plot, all the dream angles – that's a holiday to Malta's Mellieha Bay.



VisitMalta

TRENDING

HOLIDAY HACKS

Out-of-office energy

Wishing for more days away from your desk? Laura Wilkinson has the holiday hacks to (almost) double your annual leave in 2026 and 2027 – you can thank her later...



Spring flings

Ah, May. The month of not one, but two glorious Bank Holiday weekends - hello, two nine-day holidays with just four days' leave. This year, take the **5th to 8th May**, and you'll get to set your out-of-office from the **2nd to 10th**. Take the **26th to 29th May** and wave bye-bye to your inbox from the **23rd to 31st**. Where to go? Well, that's up to you, but a double bite at the nine-day cherry opens the door to far-flung shores in the Maldives, Mexico and more.



Summer success

Book the **first four days off in September 2026** (with the August Bank Holiday Monday thrown in) and another nine days away from the desk is yours. Cue the jealous side-eye from your co-workers. September marks the start of the second half of 'shoulder season' - the sweet spot on either side of summer - when holiday hotspots are quieter and cheaper, but still warm enough to wear your summer outfits. A week soaking up the sun in Greece, Italy or Turkey? Sounds dreamy.



Winter winner

Christmas Day falls on a Friday this year, which means the Boxing Day Bank Holiday moves to Monday - hallelujah for the four-day weekend! And with the New Year just three days later, you can trade seven days' annual leave for 16 days AFK - that's 'away from keyboard', if you didn't know. Claim the **21st to 24th December** and the **29th to 31st December** before any of your colleagues, and you're golden. Here's to celebrating in style in New York or getting your vit D fix in the Dominican Republic.



Easter escape

Work smarter to holiday longer in 2027. Book eight days off - **March 22nd to March 25th** and **March 30th to April 2nd** - and you'll get a huge 16 days out of the office, with a four-day Bank Holiday thrown in for good measure. And with it being spring in the northern hemisphere and autumn in the southern hemisphere, you've got the choice of skiing, sunbathing or even a safari. We'll bet those blank spaces in your diary won't stay empty for long...




[firstchoice.co.uk](https://www.firstchoice.co.uk)
[@firstchoiceholidays](https://www.instagram.com/firstchoiceholidays)

CHEAT CODES UNLOCKED

Consider this your cheat sheet to get those holiday savings without the spreadsheets. We're unlocking a mega series of money-saving hacks, AKA cheat codes, so you can get the trip you really want with the budget you really have...



LOCK IN YOUR TRIP FOR NOTHING WITH £0 DEPOSITS*

Waiting for payday is so over. Who needs it when you can lock in your dream trip for nothing up front?

STEP 1: Secure your holiday for the best price, at least six months before.

STEP 2: Pay NOTHING to enter a direct debit plan if you're flying with TUI Airways, or you can use PayPal Credit for all other airlines.

STEP 3: Spread the cost!

STEP 4: For direct debit, pay your last instalment just 14 days before you fly. For PayPal Credit, this will depend on your specific agreement.



SHARE 2 BAGS BETWEEN 4

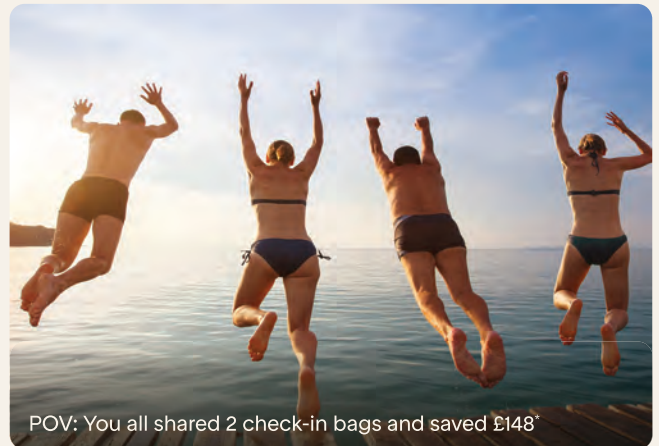
Unlike other providers, most of our holiday packages come without bags and transfers, so you can pick and pay for only what you need.

STEP 1: Pick your perfect trip and head to checkout.

STEP 2: Back yourself to just take hand luggage and save £136* on average. Or, only select bags for 2 passengers out of 4 and save an average of £148.*

TOP TIP – If you fly with TUI Airways, you get a 10kg cabin bag included per person for free anyway!

STEP 3: Book your trip for less.



POV: You all shared 2 check-in bags and saved £148*



Wonky hols = big savings in places like Egypt



PICK DIFFERENT WITH WONKY HOLIDAYS

Our Wonky holidays are picks with things that might put some people off... but that's what increases their value.

OPTION A: Pick an 11-night stay over the classic 7 to save £291 per night on average.*

OPTION B: Fly from Luton Airport instead of Heathrow to save £1,107 per person on average.*

OPTION C: Travel on a Tuesday instead of a Saturday to save £70 per person on average.*

OPTION D: Plan your trip in May rather than July to save £72 per person on average.*

TRENDING

SKI WISHLIST

Zermatt, Switzerland

①

Salla, Finland

②

Bad Gastein, Austria

③

CRYSTAL
SKI HOLIDAYS

Ski's 7 wonders

Everyone's heard of the seven wonders of the world, but what about the **seven ski wonders**? Sophie Taylor's put together her list...

1. Europe's highest-altitude restaurant

Zermatt, Switzerland

Eating a meal above the clouds (and no, not on a plane) feels like the sort of thing that only happens in dreams. But it's also on the cards in Zermatt, where Europe's highest-altitude restaurant, the Matterhorn Glacier Paradise, serves up Swiss dishes at 3,883 metres above sea level. And there's a totally iconic (read: photo-frame-worthy) view of that mountain you've probably seen on a Toblerone bar, otherwise known as the Matterhorn. Towering over Zermatt, it's pointy, dramatic and completely unapologetic about stealing the limelight.

2. Northern Lights chasing

Salla, Finland

Skiing and seeing the Northern Lights on one trip? I'm sold. Salla sits way

up in the Arctic Circle, where inky skies are lit up by ribbons of green and purple swirls, flickering overhead like nature's own disco. Add this to the beginner-friendly ski slopes, cosy log cabins and only-in-Finland activities (sauna in a gondola, anyone?) and you've got yourself a dream getaway in a winter wonderland.

3. Mountain hot springs

Bad Gastein, Austria

People were coming to this grand old mountain town for the thermal springs way before skiing was a thing, and it's still the place to indulge in some traditional alpine wellness. I can't think of anything that screams 'I'm living my best life' quite like sinking into steamy water surrounded by snow-coated peaks and pine trees - whether it's after a session on the slopes or, well, just because you can...





Whistler, Canada

4



Chamonix, France

5



Grindelwald, Switzerland

6



Val di Fassa, Italy

7

4. The longest gondola in the world Whistler, Canada

The Peak 2 Peak isn't just any gondola - it's officially the longest and highest in the world. It zips you between Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains, 436 metres above the valley floor, on an 11-minute ride that's basically one giant, moving postcard. And for the best views in the house, wait in line for one of the two purple glass-bottomed cabins and look down at the frosty forests way below your feet.

5. Step into the Void glass box Chamonix, France

If heights don't faze you, the Step into the Void glass box experience is a must. To reach it, jump on the Aiguille du Midi cable car, which whisks you up to 3,842 metres among some of the tallest peaks in Europe. The view's dramatic

enough, but Step into the Void's guaranteed to get the heart racing, with its five-sided glass box suspended over a sheer drop. And there's no expectation to ski back down - leave that to the experts and enjoy the views on the return cable car ride.

6. The Top of Europe Grindelwald, Switzerland

This one seriously feels like you're on top of the world, hence the name: the Top of Europe. And getting there is a treat, too. The red Jungfrau Railway slowly climbs up through snowy mountain scenes and tunnels carved inside the Alps - very Bond-esque. But nothing prepares you for when the doors open at Europe's highest railway station... wow! The views stretch on forever, with endless photo opps. And you can even post a letter from Europe's highest Post Office.

7. Alpenglow magic Val di Fassa, Italy

Ever seen mountains that glow? In the Italian Dolomites, you can. Head outside just before sunset to catch the magical spectacle that is Alpenglow. The magnificent, jagged peaks found here are formed from a unique type of rock, and it means they turn all shades of red, pink and orange under the soft evening sun, like they've got their very own spotlight.

Which one are you ticking off first?



Go to crystalski.co.uk to get planning.

DESTINATIONS

CRETE

King of Gorgeous

Tie up your hiking boots
and give a salute to Crete -
AKA the King of Gorges.



Do you know what I have so much time for? Destinations that totally go beyond what the internet tells me to expect. I like spots that defy my expectations and serve up a surprise - like a birthday cake that pours Smarties all over the dining table when you cut into it.

And one of those places for me, that really taps into the unexpected treat factor, is Crete. The largest of the Greek Islands might say 'beaches' on the tin, but peel back the lid and you'll find that its interior appears to have been carved by giants. It's no wonder this place is known affectionately as the King of Gorges. Rocks have been split and folded over thousands of years to create a landscape laced with canyons and chasms that snake their way from coast to coast. These rugged corridors carve their way across the land, from the White Mountains in the west, through

touches the stone and the walls rise like cathedral pillars. Others open into wide valleys filled with flowers, trickling springs and the sound of goat bells drifting on the wind. From the famous Samaria Gorge to the quieter paths of Imbros, Agia Irini and Kourtaliotiko, each majestic canyon offers a reminder that Crete isn't just a beach destination, but an island shaped by raw geological force. I'm talking scenery that feels worthy of a royal realm - think *Lothlórien*, *Gondor* and *Rohan*. ONE GORGE TO RULE THEM ALL. (Or not, because how do you even pick your favourite?)

So, where to start?

If you want a taste of gorge walking without committing to a long hike, make your way to **Imbros Gorge** - around 35 minutes from Georgioupolis

'Each canyon offers a reminder that Crete isn't just a beach destination, but an island shaped by raw geological force.'

the Psiloritis range that climbs like a spine up the island's centre, and over to the wild cliffs of the east. Here, the rock face is peppered with ancient burial caves that speak to Crete's long line of rulers and civilisations.

Throughout time, Crete's gorges - and there are more than 400 of them in total - have acted as natural passageways that once connected remote villages (beats an A-road any day, right?). Today, they tempt keen hikers and happy sightseers with their natural drama and a quiet sense of the island's former power during the Minoan civilisation.

Some gorges are as narrow as a doorway, where sunlight barely

by car. There's a gentle, well-marked downhill walk here that takes around two hours to cover on foot. Plus, you get all the regal drama of limestone cliffs and wild cypress trees, without the demands of a huge trek (or sore legs the next day).

For a slightly more challenging route, our vote goes to **Agia Irini Gorge**, a 45-minute drive from Chania. You can expect around three hours of steady walking through pine forests and rugged rock walls - ideal if you want something immersive, but not extremely physical. Plus, there's a natural ledge halfway along the trail that serves up pine-filled views of the valley below. It's a great pausing point for a refreshment (like local



portokalada soda made with real Greek oranges). Pretend you're a monarch surveying your whole kingdom while you're at it.

And for the full gorge experience that takes the crown, it's got to be **Samaria** - about an hour's drive from Chania. Europe's longest gorge stretches grandly for 10 miles through the heart of Crete's White Mountains. Think a full day's adventure through steep sections and rocky terrain, including the famous 'Iron Gates' - a narrow passage where the gorge squeezes to just three-metres wide. And whether you choose to conquer Samaria on a solo trip or with your own fellowship - it's the perfect pick for anyone brave enough to answer the call of adventure.

📖 Words: Rachel Tysoe-Bailey

DESTINATIONS

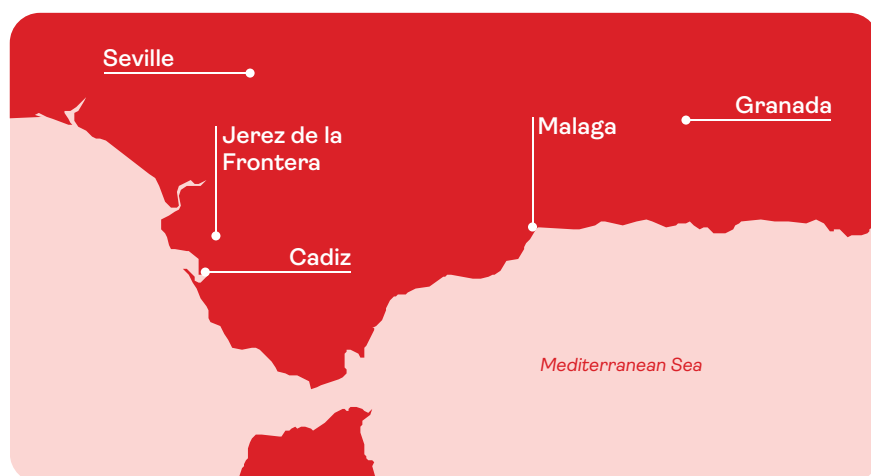
ANDALUCIA



Red is the colour

Fiery, intimate and emotional – this is flamenco.

Born from Andalucía's mix of Romani, Moorish and folk traditions, flamenco can be traced across southern Spain's caves to its sandy coastlines.



Seville

The three strands of flamenco – song, dance and guitar – come alive in Andalucía's orange-scented city of Seville. Step onto the streets and you might spot a flash of red twirling under the arches of Plaza de España, or hear heels tapping as songs of love, loss and longing play out. With over 50 styles, the soulful **soleá** is Seville's number one. Head to a **tablaó** – a wooden stage built for dancers' footwork – and you'll see every hand movement, snap and stamping foot in high definition. Warning: you'll want to clap and tap along (it's basically non-negotiable).

Granada

From Seville's streets, flamenco climbs into Granada's hillside neighbourhood of Sacromonte. Whitewashed cave homes are carved into the rock, looking down over the city and the Alhambra palace and fortress – once shelters for Romani and Moorish communities. Here, flamenco comes alive in a more intimate, raw way. Locals call it **zambra**, and seeing it in these caves feels almost electric. Bare feet stamp the rhythm, hands clap, and the line between performer and audience blurs, until you feel 'el duende' – the raw energy and spirit of flamenco.

🕒 [Read more](#)



Jerez de la Frontera

This sherry-sipping city sits inland in Andalucía - and flamenco pours just as freely. Jerez is best known for **bulerías**, one of the most playful and fast-paced styles of flamenco. The rhythm comes in short bursts, with dancers forming semi-circles and stepping into the centre to show off their finest footwork. Early February to early March is festival time here, when palm-lined streets turn into a restless sea of colourful flamenco dresses - think lots of polka dots - alongside performances and workshops that let you join in the fun.



Cadiz

Taking a turn for the coast, flamenco adopts a sun-kissed spirit in Cadiz. This is home to **alegrías** - a lively, cheerful and festive style. Guitars are hard to miss here, with many songs kicking off with a playful 'tiriti tran tran...' - a local Cadiz flourish - before the dancer jumps in with a sequence known as castellana, crisp footwork marking the start of the song. Long bata de cola skirts twirl with every move. And wherever you watch, locals join in with 'jaleos' - shouts of encouragement like 'olé!'



Words to know

Palos - Flamenco styles
Tablao - Wooden stage for flamenco
Zapateado - Rhythmic footwork
Bata de cola - Long-tailed dress



Malaga

Back on the Costa del Sol, flamenco pulses all year round, but come June and July, the **Málaga Flamenco Festival** takes over. Stages in spots like the Roman amphitheatre see classic styles with contemporary twists - sometimes jazz, sometimes rap - and new talent gets to shine. The **Flamenco Art Museum** brings the history to life, with recordings, posters, guitars, shawls, long-tailed dresses, plus a corner celebrating Juan Brea - whose soulful solos earned him the title of 'king' of **malagueñas**, a local style of flamenco.



Shouts to encourage performers

Vamos! / Venga! - "Let's go!"
Arriba! / Olé! - "Hurrah!"
Que arte?! - "What skill?!"

📖 Words: Olivia Torre





Take the long way

Old town streets and UNESCO-listed sites make Thessaloniki a city made for wandering.



GREECE

DESTINATIONS

LAKES & MOUNTAINS

Where in the world?

Clear waters, local wines and plenty of culture make for a dreamy holiday spot. But where is it? Polly Bryan's got the clues...



Sunlight streams in as you pull back the curtains. Out on the balcony it's quiet, but there's colour all around. Terracotta roofs dot the scene, contrasting with white and stone walls, and a creamy pebble beach curves around turquoise water. Is that a paddleboarder gliding across the horizon? Tall cypress trees frame your view, the breeze softly sifting through the vivid green forest that stretches away into the hills.

Any idea where you are?

Time for breakfast. Maybe you try local meats and cheeses, or sweet bread bursting with dried fruit. Either way, a piece of sticky, flaky baklava's a must.

This is a place where ancient cultures rub shoulders, and you get to explore it all. You've got age-old amphitheatres, open-air museums and local markets to wander. Relaxing's easy too: lie back on the shore and feel the cool water on your toes. Or simply stroll down the Old Town's cobbled lanes and ponder which handcrafted ceramic or polished pearl to take home.

Have you guessed it yet?

Round off your day with fresh lake fish, or a hearty stew made with plenty of paprika and a still-warm pitta on the side. The wine's a treat, too - this small country's becoming a hotspot for wine - and the robust reds are the ones to try. Finally, a toast - and it can only be the fiery brandy, rakija.

As the locals say, 'na zdravje!'



Have you worked out where in the world you are?
See page 75 to find out.

DESTINATIONS

EGYPT

100,000 stories all under one roof

01

3,200-year-old statue of
Pharaoh Ramesses II



Here's a first look inside the new Grand Egyptian Museum (spoiler: you're going to love it).

You're standing face to kneecap with Pharaoh Ramesses II. Perfectly lit, 13 metres tall, quietly intimidating. And, no, aliens didn't build this - despite what the internet might say. Giza's Grand Egyptian Museum showcases human genius on a monumental scale - 500,000 square metres or 70 football pitches, in fact - and it's your first clue that Egypt's no longer playing by the old rules.

The Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM for short... no coincidences here) is Egypt's mic drop. After decades in the making, it's finally bringing together tens of thousands of artefacts once scattered across museums and storage facilities, to tell Egypt's story under one great big roof. It's now the largest archaeological museum in the world dedicated to a single civilisation.

"The museum represents the first time Egypt has told its ancient story on its own terms, at a global scale. It's not just a museum - it's a declaration that Egypt is once again the centre of Egyptology," says TUI River Cruises' Egyptologist, Wael Habib. When you're visiting the museum, Wael recommends picking a theme - the afterlife, daily life or Tutankhamun - and moving slowly, absorbing the artefacts instead of rushing through.

GEM doesn't just show stuff, though - it tells a story. "Context, chronology, human experience," Wael explains. Ancient Egypt stops being mysterious and starts feeling... human. That human connection peaks in the Tutankhamun galleries. "For the first time since 1922, the Boy King's entire



tomb collection is together," he says. Think sandals, gloves and a golden dagger, plus board games, a toy duck and hunting gear - intimate reminders that Tut was once just a teenager.

The Grand Egyptian Museum makes Egypt feel new again, Wael reckons. "Even seasoned visitors realise they've never seen Ancient Egypt this clearly."

So, what are you waiting for? Step inside and see the story of Egypt on a scale you've never seen, and won't forget.

📖 Words: Jessica Houtby



5,000 items from Tutankhamun's tomb are on display.



See the Giza Pyramids in all their glory from the upper terraces.



Visit on a guided tour with TUI experiences, or TUI River Cruises.



02

Kneeling statue of Pharaoh Hatshepsut

Corralejo uncut



Corralejo doesn't need to brag - its dunes do all the talking. This stretch of coast along the northern tip of Fuerteventura, in the Canary Islands, is the kind of place that leaves you blinking at your own photos. Where the sand is bright enough to make everything else look underexposed. Where waves don't just crash in the sea, they've been sculpted into the landscape. No filters, no fancy tricks - just a seven-mile sweep of wild, widescreen drama doing the absolute most.



01


Corralejo Natural Park is a protected coastal area split in two - dunes to the north, and volcanic sands to the south.

02

It's home to native species like lizards and spoonbill birds, and you can take off on whale-and-dolphin-watching tours from the shore.

03

The wind and waves of the Atlantic Ocean make Corralejo a mecca for windsurfers and kite-fliers.

 Words: Lee Dasilva





Search for
TUI Fuerteventura to
see it for yourself.

LIVE HAPPY

DESTINATIONS

ZANZIBAR

Trash to treasure



Picture this: you're walking along a beach in Zanzibar...

While sinking your toes in powder-fine sand that flakes off into the Indian Ocean like desiccated coconut, you stumble upon something unexpected. It's a glass bottle - not the intriguing kind with a handwritten note inside, but one that should've gone in a recycling bin.

This small find might not look like much, but it tells a bigger story about waste. And, it's exactly the kind of problem **Destination Zero Waste Zanzibar** - an upcycling project run by the TUI Care Foundation and social enterprise, Chako - is determined to tackle.

Say one of the project's participants finds that same bottle on a shoreline sweep. They pop it in a bag, where it clinks against other pieces of washed-up glass, before driving the lot to Chako HQ.

The doors to the pilot hub - the project's product development centre, where lots of crafting happens - swing open, and local artisans huddle around shared workspaces to plan their next project with their peers and mentors.

Here, the bottle is carefully cut, carved and polished using specialised machinery until it's been transformed into a homeware item like a jar, vase, candle or lamp that has only one place left to go - up for sale in Chako's Stone Town boutique.

And there's more to the story...

These homewares benefit people as well as the planet, since they're mainly made by young people and women facing barriers to employment. Through the project's training centre, they can learn about cost-calculation



and marketing, which empowers them to get a fair price for their work, and grants are available to those who need them.

The project goes hand in hand with other TUI Care Foundation ventures, like TUI Academy Zanzibar, which increases women's participation in tourism and hospitality.

That's not all, either.

Swap your seaside stroll for a woodland walk around the Masingini Forest National Park, and you'll see over 60,000 new native trees shooting up from the soil. They've been planted by **TUI Forest Zanzibar** to combat deforestation and support biodiversity.

Now that's what we call branching out.

 Words: Isobel Crow



Search for **TUI Care Foundation** to learn more.

'These homewares benefit people, as well as the planet'

The island time forgot

The captain cuts the engine on the boat, and now all I can hear is the sound of the waves. With the noise gone, the scenery comes into focus. No sprawling mega resorts. No blaring beach bars. Just a belt of flour-white sand, lofty palms leaning lazily towards the sea, and water so clear it feels more suited to a travel magazine than real life. As I put my feet in the sand on **Saona Island**, it feels less like arriving somewhere new and more like stepping back in time - to a version of the Dominican Republic that exists long before the rise of tourism in the seventies.

This kilometre-long stretch of private beach is the first stop on our daytrip to the island. I don't do a lot here - just swim, stroll and sunbathe. And that feels like the whole point. Next, it's onto Saona's only inhabited area - the tiny village of Mano Juan. As I walk along its sandy paths, past pastel-painted homes made of wood and corrugated iron, I can't help but think this must be what local life was like on the mainland before the arrival of the big resorts - simple and social. I pick up some souvenirs from a ramshackle market stall guarded by a sleepy dog stretching out in

the shade, then make my way back to the beach for a rum and Coke and a barbecue lunch.

Before I know it, it's time to climb aboard a catamaran for the journey back to the mainland. But there's one final stop - a shallow natural pool formed by sandbanks in the middle of the sea. I look back at the island, which is now just a fringe of green in the distance, as I put on some snorkelling gear to go in search of starfish on the seabed.

Saona's untouched nature isn't accidental, it's deliberate - the island and its waters are part of a protected national park. To make sure its natural beauty is still intact in years to come, there are rules you must follow, like wearing reef safe sunscreen, not touching the starfish, and taking your rubbish back with you. But this place doesn't ask much more of its visitors - just to slow down, kick off your flip-flops, and soak up how little has changed. And I do just that.

📖 Words: Abbie King





How to get there
Our TUI experiences include round-trip transport to Saona Island from Punta Cana and La Romana.

DESTINATIONS

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Living the DR-eam

Not many places hit the relaxation brief quite like the Caribbean, but I've got to admit, curiosity often gets the better of me after too many days posted up by the pool. That's why I rip up the sea and sand rulebook (we'll keep the sun, please) when I visit the Dominican Republic.



Now don't judge me too harshly, but I haven't met anyone who's slipped on their exploring shoes in the Dom Rep, so my expectations aren't at an all-time high. I see it as a place for infinity pools, palm-blanketed beaches and, well, you get the gist.

Turns out I'm wrong.

I start by easing myself into the adventure - a trip to an eco park that's equal parts entertainment and natural beauty. But I'm not there for the Superman-style zip-lines or abseiling descents. Instead, I tip-toe past iguanas and hermit crabs on my way to the blue hole cenote. This natural pool, fed by underground springs, is the sort of thing that barely raises an eyebrow in Mexico. But they're pretty rare here in the DR. Waterfalls tumble into the glassy depths, and there are platforms where [braver] swimmers leap and somersault in.

Next, I go below ground, following zig-zagging forest paths past thatched houses and statues that tell the story of the Dominican Republic's indigenous Taino people. A guide furnishes us with hard hats and leads us into the gloomy depths of the Iguabonita cave, where

hidden chambers and ancient passages branch off everywhere I look. Bats flutter around the stalactites above our heads, and I do my best to look unmoved when torchlight shines on tarantulas scuttling around the rocky floor (alright, I'm scared... happy now?!).

After enough nature to fill a couple of holidays, my attention turns to a different sort of local (with two legs, not eight). Our guide Roberto was all smiles collecting us at the crack of dawn, but I'll tell you more about him later. First, I hop on an American school bus painted like a carnival float, and head inland to the towns and villages that you just wouldn't see if you stayed in the resort bubble. The first village feels a little chaotic, with the colmados - or grocery stores - attracting as many wild chickens as customers. Surrounding shops seem to stock everything from plastic chairs to old tyres out the front. We're only about 20 minutes' drive from the seaside resort of Bavaro, but it already feels like a different world entirely.

Things get even more real when our laidback guide, Roberto - you'll remember him from earlier - casually



takes us to meet a pillar of the local community. Enter Cecilia - a woman who, at first glance, seems to be enjoying a cigar and a rather large bottle of the local firewater (it's called mamajuana, and it's definitely worth a try). What Roberto fails to mention is her occupation - voodoo shaman. All too quickly, she's hammering at the floor with a machete in a frenzied fashion. I'd already faced tarantulas, so I'm ready to tap out when the sword swiping starts. But cheerful Roberto laughs and claps me on the shoulder - Cecilia's just warding off evil spirits. She is, in her unique island way, doing me a favour.

👉 Read more



Learning to make cigars in the village of La Ceiba



To slow things down a little, a bit of crafting finishes my off-the-radar exploring. First, I take a seat in the musky haze of a cigar workshop, where seasoned pros fashion thick, thin and flavoured cigars in a blur of rolling, chopping and sealing. What I lack in speed I try to make up for in finesse, but my patient teacher looks a little underwhelmed at the final product. It's a different story when I try another of the island's main trades, though. It turns out chocolate is my true calling - in a modern MasterChef-like workshop,

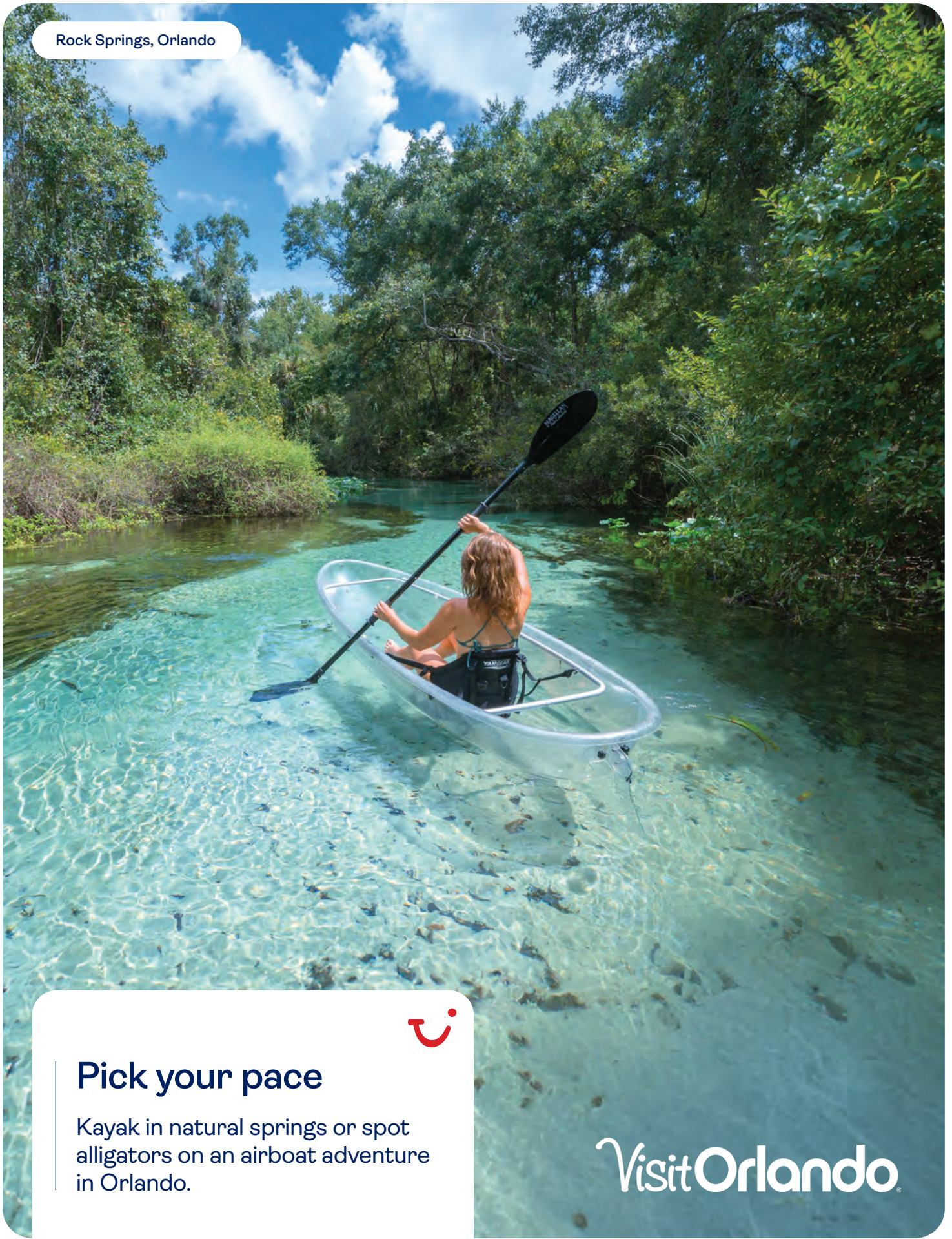
chief chocolatier, Rudy, takes us on a journey from raw cacao pod to toasted cacao nibs, before whipping up a friendly competition to see who can create the best bar of chocolate. Yep, I win. And, yep, I lose count of how many people I tell about my Bake Off-esque handshake.

On the way back to my hotel - looking out of the window at the kaleidoscope of aquamarine, hot pink and banana-yellow bungalows, as bachata music rumbles over the speakers - I realise I've been missing this raw, unfiltered side of the island. I've seen a comfy, polished snapshot from my sunbed, but there's so much more. So, take it from me: don't judge a book by its cover - particularly a book with as many memorable chapters as this.

📖 Words: Shaun Ringwood



Rock Springs, Orlando



Pick your pace

Kayak in natural springs or spot alligators on an airboat adventure in Orlando.

VisitOrlando

HOTELS

SALVAGED STAYS

Greeking out

Believe it or not, this isn't a museum. It's the **TUI BLUE Sensatori Atlantica Dreams** in Rhodes.



Like the sound of holidaying within arm's reach of history? Join the club.

According to a recent survey, holiday-goers are so keen to get up close to relics that they're staying inside old buildings, making 'Salvaged Stays' a top travel trend for 2026. And that got us wondering whether you can channel the same vibes on a beachy break...

Turns out the answer's yes, and the TUI BLUE Sensatori Atlantica Dreams proves it.

This seaside stunner has all the little luxuries you'd expect from Sensatori by TUI BLUE - think fancy á la

cartes and lagoon-like pools - plus, a setting straight out of a sword-and-sandal movie (or a History Channel documentary).

See that maze of time-worn stones? That's the remains of an ancient Greek village. It's just a few flip-flops away from your sunlounger when you stay at this hotel, which was built around the archaeological site. Around 80 houses from Alexander the Great's era once stood in this spot - look closely, and you'll see lots of the original bricks are still intact.

That's not all that's stood the test of time, either.

Look out for the remains of...

- 01 **A basilica**, probably used for business chats rather than worship.
- 02 **An olive press** that squeezed oil from the salty stone fruit.
- 03 **A schoolhouse** where locals would've learned philosophy.



Add some history to your next holiday at tui.co.uk/sensatori

Words: Isobel Crow



TUI BLUE Lagoon Princess, Greece



Busy doing nothing...

Soak up the Aegean Sea views in TUI BLUE Lagoon Princess' four pools.



blue lagoon
PRINCESS
★★★★★

Calabria, a contrast.

Culture and Italy are like two peas in a pod.

But sights like Rome's Colosseum and Pisa's famously wonky tower come with their fair share of tourist crowds. Guides chatter in English as much as Italian, and you might find yourself wishing for something with all the beauty and less of the buzz.

Step forward Calabria. 'Where?' you rightly ask. Well, this part of Italy is at the tippidy-toe of the boot, and the reason you haven't heard of it is


because the locals like to keep it as their own little secret. It's where the Italians themselves - from all across the country - often flock for their own summer holidays.

But il segreto è stato rivelato - that's the closest we can get in Italian to 'the cat is out of the bag'. International tourists have got a sniff of the unspoilt villages and cliff-top towns, and want a share of the action (as well as a share of the local scran). And because Calabria's still pretty under the radar, you'll find yourself pacing piazzas without a familiar word in earshot and pointing at menus because locals aren't as used to English customers.



TUI MAGIC LIFE Calabria shares the same postcode as some of the most picturesque seaside towns - like Pizzo and Capo Vaticano - so you can pop to romantic squares, crumbling castles and pavement trattorias with something comfortable to come home to at the end of the day. It's an All Inclusive club with a modern vibe. Sure, it's got the same forested backdrop and barely trodden beach as its neighbours, but that's where the similarities end.

An XL pool, a swish adults-only lodge area, and a whopping roster of bars and restaurants (the seafront fine-dining place gets my vote) are just a snippet of what's in its locker. Better yet, you're only a short drive from places that feel far from the tourist trail. So you can be tucking in to local gelato balls (they're called tartufo di Pizzo... thank me later) or visiting a stunning Benedictine monastery that looks like it's floating above the sea in Tropea, all while having fancy digs waiting for you at the end of the day.

 Words: Shaun Ringwood



Search **TUI MAGIC LIFE** for more on our ultimate All Inclusive breaks.

HOTELS

HUSHPITALITY

On the QT



When the push-pull rhythm of everyday life can't be fixed with a deep-tissue massage, you know it's time to dial it down. Enter, *hushpitality* - the soul-soothing travel trend that gives you permission to switch off.'

Simply put, hushpitality is about choosing tranquillity over a packed holiday itinerary - that's fancy talk for saying "no, thank you" to making every moment count and "yes, please" to scheduling in some downtime. And for anyone chasing a bit of peace and quiet, it's not just checking into a hotel and chilling out - it's about choosing the spaces that let you do as much or as little as you like.

If silent stays are right up your street, our TUI BLUE collection boasts some of the best hotels for switching off. From Cyprus to Croatia and Mexico to Morocco, there are loads of hush-hush hotspots to pick from. Pads like Crete's TUI BLUE *Insula Alba* has a slip-into-and-stay-all-day pool, plus a pin-drop quiet spa - ideal for spells of deeper serenity. Wake us up when it's dinner time, won't you?

Tucked between trees on a leafy hillside, Turkey's TUI BLUE *Seno* comes up trumps with not only a seafront setting, but with a dining scene worth writing home about. Pull up a chair in one of four restaurants where gourmet food and drink take centre stage, then learn to plate up the perfect meal yourself in an exclusive cooking class.

Is your idea of hushpitality heaven detoxing digitally and devouring a stack of paperbacks poolside? Look no further than the TUI BLUE *Olhuveli Romance*. Nothing is taken more seriously than relaxation in the Maldives - the motto here is 'no news, no shoes', after all. Cue the seclusion of your very own over-water villa with private pool and the simplicity of not having to lift a finger, thanks to your very own personal assistant - excuse us while we order another round...

📖 Words: Laura Wilkinson

Going platinum

Full disclosure - I don't like dressing up. Sure, if I'm going to a wedding I don't rock up in my gym gear, but as soon as it's over, my tie comes straight off, and I breathe a little easier.

On the other hand, every now and again I like the finer things in life (who doesn't, right?)

So, when I'm booking a holiday, it's a bit of a balancing act. I don't want to dress like I've been nominated for an Oscar just to eat dinner every night. But then again, I don't want to feel underdressed when enjoying a great meal and a glass of wine.

That's exactly why **Platinum holidays** do it for me. They're premium without the pretension - where chandeliers and strict dress codes are replaced by modern style and luxury that's still within reach if you want something special without overspending. (Of course, some of them still have a dress code if you want to dress to impress).

My favourite thing about them, though? To remain part of the Platinum collection, a hotel must score either 'good' or 'excellent' with 90% of TUI customers, so I know they've been given a big thumbs-up by other like-minded travellers.

So, if you want to level up your next break, see our picks on the right...



Our Platinum hotels are all 4T and 5T-rated, and are handpicked by our travel experts.



Search **TUI Platinum** to view the full collection.

Words: Darren Notley

Mare Paphos

Family holidays are the forte here, with multiple kids' clubs and plenty of pools. Plus, there's a bar and restaurant line-up that's into double digits.

Paphos, Cyprus



Club Marvy

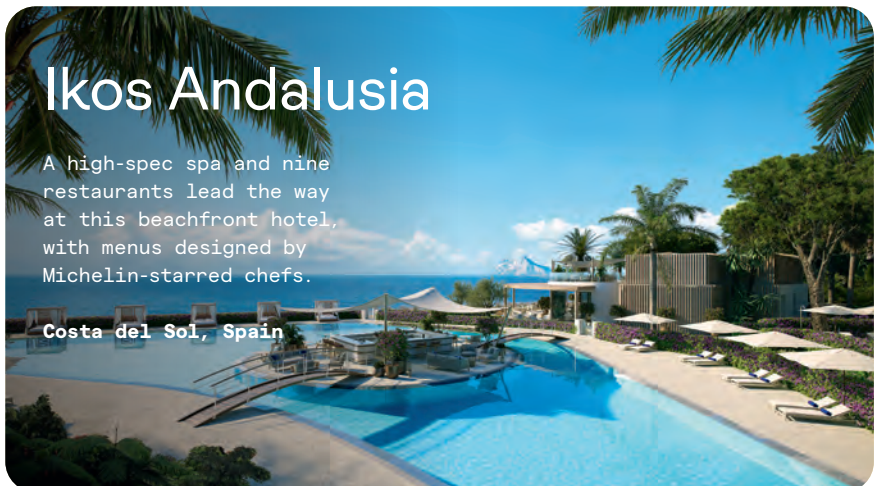
With seven à la cartes, two pools, two private beaches and a seaside spa, the numbers really add up at this family-friendly hotel.

Izmir, Turkey

Ikos Andalusia

A high-spec spa and nine restaurants lead the way at this beachfront hotel, with menus designed by Michelin-starred chefs.

Costa del Sol, Spain



GrecoTEL LUXME White, Greece



Shoreside sanctuary

Dipping in the pool is done
under the palms, and relaxing
is done when you say it is...

GRECOTEL
LUXME WHITE



Next-level bites

Forget beef burgers and bland buffets – **Universal Orlando Resort** is cooking on another level.

You grab something quick, planning to eat on the move, but one bite stops you in your tracks. You're stood still, fork mid-air... the **mac & cheese cone** in your hand has just hijacked the itinerary. It's too good to rush – the schedule can wait.

What starts as a surprise quickly becomes a pattern. As you wander Universal Orlando Resort's four parks, pull up a seat at Universal CityWalk or kick back at one of Universal's 11 hotels, the unexpected treats keep showing up. Case in point: the **Mediterranean braised beef flatbread** from Mythos Restaurant in Universal Islands of Adventure. Warm flatbread is layered with spice-soaked beef, melted halloumi and smoky ajvar sauce and delivers big on flavour.

Then there's Kohola Reef Restaurant & Social Club in Universal Volcano Bay, where the **Huli Huli chicken sandwich** pairs juicy grilled chicken with a

pineapple-ginger glaze – a solid find. And it doesn't stop there...

📖 Words: Conor Braniff



Desserts for starters

At Universal CityWalk, The Toothsome Chocolate Emporium's That's "Mint" Milkshake stacks mint ice-cream, Andes mints and a full ice-cream sandwich into one over-the-top dessert.



The bao with a view

Bar 17 Bistro at Universal Aventura Hotel lines up pork belly bao stuffed with kimchi, gochujang and spicy onion salad - rooftop views included.



The sweet spot

The pastry counter steals the show at TODAY Cafe in Universal Studios Florida - think flaky danishes, glossy éclairs and rotating treats that feel more New York bakery than theme park snack.



The plant-based catch

The Atlantic at Universal Epic Universe treats king oyster mushrooms like seafood, bathing them in citrus and tossing them with tomato and herbs to make a light, fresh ceviche.



The showstopper

The Bistecca - a 16-ounce ribeye - from Mama Della's Ristorante at Loews Portofino Bay Hotel doesn't need explaining once it hits the table...



Wizarding treats

Snacks from The Wizarding World of Harry Potter™ - Diagon Alley™ at Universal Studios Florida punch well above theme park weight. Butterbeer™ comes frothy at the Leaky Cauldron™ and doubles down as ice-cream at Florean Fortescue's Ice-Cream Parlour. There's also a line-up of iconic treats at Sugarplum's, like Chocolate Frogs, Pumpkin Pasties and Exploding Bon Bons. Consider this your permission slip.

Love at first slice

They say love is the universal language that defies all odds and brings people together. I'm sure this is true, but there's something else - something even cheesier - that's just as euphoric. What is it, you ask?

Pizza.

For hundreds of years, we've gathered around dinner tables and relished the joy of sharing a pizza. It's a social event, and one that countries around the globe have put their own spin on. The real love affair started, though, in **Italy's** Naples, when the first pizzeria opened in the 1830s.

Traditional Neapolitan pizza keeps things simple. There's no need to overdo it when the product's this good - a soft, thin crust, airy edges and only the freshest toppings set sparks flying. Fun fact - the first ever Margherita was made in Naples with tomatoes, mozzarella and basil, to mirror the colours of the Italian flag.

Over in the **USA**, things get pretty doughy. The famous Chicago deep-dish was first lovingly baked in the 1940s, with a base so thick and buttery, it's almost bread-like. Toppings are slapped on in reverse, too - you'll find cheese and meat at the base, with chunky tomato sauce and a sprinkling of parmesan lathered on top. Not conventional, but a real catch nonetheless.

Unlike Chicago, **India** isn't a place that springs to mind when you think of pizza - but don't underestimate it. The Desi pizza is a fusion dish that combines the Italian classic with aromatic favourites like tandoori chicken and paneer tikka. If pizza

and Indian food are two of your love languages, put them together and you get a match made in heaven.

Back in Europe, there's a bake from **Spain** called Catalan coca, and it'll win you over from the off. This take on pizza is a thin flatbread rolled into an oblong shape, often topped with veggies like roasted peppers, onions and aubergine. If you have a sweet tooth, you could opt for a dusting of sugar and candied fruits instead. Who says you can't have pizza for dessert? You're on your holidays, after all.

We head back to Asia for the next spotlight - seafood pizza in **Japan**. A popular pick here is a thin base fully loaded with everything from squid and scallops to oysters and shrimps. Instead of a tomato sauce base, it's typically coated in mayonnaise, sometimes with a hint of garlic oil for good measure. This one will have you hooked from your first bite.

If you struggle to pick between pizza and pasta, we've saved the best 'til last. Enter: pizza-ghetti. **Canada's** take on the classic was all the rage in Quebec in the 1960s, and it still tops most menus in the city today. As you might have guessed, this pizza's covered in spaghetti hidden beneath a generous layer of mozzarella cheese. Chef's kiss!

📖 Words: Sophie Heward



United States

Japan

Spain

India

Canada

Italy



Ageing like a fine wine

Sardinia's secret to living longer? Food, wine and a slow life.

On Italy's sun-drenched island of **Sardinia**, reaching 100 years old isn't a headline, it's just part of everyday life. It's one of the world's five Blue Zones - places where people live longer and healthier. The Mediterranean gem is dotted with remote mountain villages like Barbagia, Ogliastra and Seulo, where seeing someone nearing a century barely raises an eyebrow.

There may be a genetic trait linked to long life, but locals swear that it's

their lifestyle, community and diet - not the latest wellness fads - that are the real fountain of youth.

So, what's life really like here? These villages aren't the kinds of places you'll see high-flying execs racing between meetings or locals squeezing in a spin class before breakfast. Instead, farmers and shepherds work the land, while elderly locals tend vegetable gardens and keep active well into their eighties and nineties. Movement's just a part of daily life here - no gym membership needed.

The social fabric's strong in this Blue Zone, too. In these close-knit villages, multiple generations often live under one roof, neighbours chat in the piazza, and church is as much about coming together as it is faith. Even food shopping's part of the ritual, with local markets offering ultra-fresh produce and friendly chats.

And, of course, this is Italy - so food is everything! The Sardinian kitchen is simple, seasonal, and mostly plant-

based. Think wholegrains, veggies, and lots of pecorino cheese, with meat enjoyed occasionally. The local red wine, Cannonau, has a prime place at the table, too. It's rich in antioxidants, with up to three times more than many other reds. While it might not come with a GP's stamp, locals reckon a small glass with meals does the trick.

When it's time to toast, forget the usual 'salute!' In Sardinia, it's 'a kent'annos!' - fittingly, meaning 'may you live to 100!'

 Words: Olivia Torre



Cocoa Beach, Florida



Touch down on Florida's Space Coast

Flip between watching rockets at the Kennedy Space Center and sunbathing sessions on Cocoa Beach.

ON FLORIDA'S
Space Coast

FAMILIES

WALT DISNEY WORLD

Maximise the magic

Dreaming big doesn't have to mean spending big - even at *Walt Disney World* Resort in Florida. On my recent trip, I had one golden rule: keep spending to a minimum. Cue me researching more **Disney saving hacks** than Cinderella swept floors. Just call me your budgeting fairy godmother...



WALT DISNEY WORLD
RESORT
FLORIDA



Huge electric guitars and giant sets of maracas make me feel like I'm shrunk down to the size of a mouse as I walk through the grounds of *Disney's All-Star Music Resort* and I couldn't be more excited. My first tip? **Pick a hotel in Disney's value tier** for a trip that's kinder on your bank balance - you can get great prices and free transport to the Disney Parks from your hotel. *Disney's All-Star Music Resort* is a great pick in that bracket.

We then make our way to the bus stop, kitted out in Disney merch we brought with us to save splurging in the Parks. Oh, and I should mention you get **early Theme Park entry** when you stay at a *Disney Resort* hotel, too. A bus swiftly arrives with a flashing sign that says 'WELCOME WORLD TRAVELERS'. It means only one thing - we're going to *EPCOT*.

I spot the iconic 180-foot-tall *Spaceship Earth* before we even reach the Park gates. Once through the turnstiles, we head to *Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind* and **snack on some fruit** as we queue, saving big bucks on buying breakfast - it's fine to bring your own food, FYI - there are just a couple of rules*, like it can't need heating or be in a glass container. When we get out of the attraction (which is phenomenal, by the way) we stop at *Club Cool*, to **try fountain drinks from around the world for free**. My favourite's a zesty soda from Madagascar.

Speaking of drinks, it's key to stay hydrated in the Floridian sunshine. We have a **water bottle that we fill at stations** around the Parks, but if you don't fancy carrying one, you can ask for a cup of iced water at most quick-service restaurants and snack stands with a drink machine.

After a few more hours in *EPCOT*, we catch the monorail to *Magic Kingdom* Park for the afternoon, and the first thing we see is *Cinderella Castle* standing tall at the end of *Main Street, U.S.A.* We get some photos taken and added to our *Memory Maker*, a digital photo pass that comes with your *Disney*



Magic Tickets. These tickets are better value than at the gate and come with a whole host of benefits, like *Memory Maker* and *Park Hopper* access. Right, now it's time for a snack...

We head for *Gaston's Tavern* in *Fantasyland*, and the warm cinnamon roll catches my eye on the menu. It's the **perfect size for sharing** - just like a lot of the food here at the Disney Parks (I'm looking at you *Mickey pretzels* and *funnel cakes*) - which is another great way to save money.

Of course, any Florida holiday comes with a price tag. But if, like me, you want to squeeze as much as you possibly can into your budget, you'll find there are ways to stretch the magic without the swish of a wand.

📖 Words: Sophie Heward



Quick tips:

- Visit in quieter seasons, if you can. I went in September, when prices were lower, and getting to visit *EPCOT International Food & Wine Festival* was a bonus.
- Keep your eyes peeled for the *Disney Dining & Drinks* offer - you can save big on your food and drinks with this.
- Buy essentials like rain ponchos and handheld fans before you arrive, as they could be on the pricier side in the Parks.
- Grab your *Disney Magic Tickets* before you go. They're better value than at the gate, and come with a whole host of benefits like *Park Hopper* access, which gives you the flexibility to visit more than one Disney Park at any time of day during park hours.

*See disneyworld.co.uk/faq

Go longggg!

Planning to go big on your next family adventure? Check out these top tips for going long haul with little ones...



Long-haul destinations are about a seven-hour flight away.



TUI Airways flies to select long-haul destinations on a 787 Dreamliner, designed to help reduce jet lag.



You can fly direct with us to destinations like Mexico and Florida.



Take your kid far away for free*

Just in case you missed the memo, we now offer free kids' places on some of our long-haul hols. That means you can take your next family adventure further for loads less. Our top picks? Mexico and the Dominican Republic. The sand along the Caribbean Coast scores 10 out of 10 for sandcastle building. Spades at the ready.



Tap a TUI Travel Money MasterCard[^]

Coming home to a bank statement filled with fees is the welcome back nobody wants. The good news? A TUI Travel Money Card is free to use in shops, bars and restaurants, so you won't lose cash paying for their third ice-cream of the day (or a souvenir you know they'll never look at once it's left the shop). You can load the card with up to 11 currencies at once - including the US dollar, Thai baht and Mexican peso - and manage your money on the go with the TUI Travel Money Card App.





So long to jet lag

The key to shrugging off jet lag is adjusting to the local time as soon as you arrive. Heading west - to the Caribbean or Florida - means fighting the urge to get an early night. Travelling east to Asia? Tucking the kids in when it's late afternoon back home might feel a little off, but you'll thank yourself the next day.

PS. With our flexible flight options, you can fly from your local airport and save having to hear "are we there yet?" on repeat from the backseat.

Tuck in to something new

A kid-friendly spread is always on the cards at our All Inclusive hotels. But, a long-haul getaway is the perfect time for little ones to try exciting local flavours. Just don't blame us if they're asking for jerk chicken for dinner once they're back from Jamaica!



Holidays for everyone

We can sort specific seats on the plane, deck you out with sunflower lanyards and book airport assistance, if it's helpful. We'll send you pictures to help set the scene for what it's like on board, too.

Search for **TUI accessible holidays** to find out more.

Get out there

Tearing the kids away from the pool for a day is a must when you go long haul. Don't forget you can book TUI experiences to do everything from snorkelling with tropical fish to visiting wildlife parks.



Words: Karl Taylor

*Free kids' places are available on selected holidays and are subject to availability. ^This card is issued by PrePay Technologies Limited pursuant to a licence by Mastercard International. PrePay Technologies Limited is an authorised Electronic Money Institution authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority under the Electronic Money Regulations 2011 (FRN: 900010) for the issuing of electronic money and payment instruments. Mastercard is a registered trademark, and the circles design is a trademark of Mastercard International Incorporated.

Pickalbatros Jungle Aqua Park Resort Neverland, Hurghada



Essential Egypt

Expect standout pool scenes as standard at Pickalbatros Hotels & Resorts.




PICKALBATROS
HOTELS & RESORTS

Arendelle awaits...

Disneyland
PARIS

A palace on the horizon. A village at its feet. Conor Braniff lines up the top things to do in World of *Frozen* - the latest addition to Disneyland® Paris.



Arendelle Bay
Where the Snowflower Festival takes to the water

01 Set sail first
Make a beeline for the Clock Tower, inside the kingdom of Arendelle, to hop aboard *Frozen Ever After* - the world's headline attraction. This family-friendly boat ride sails past Anna, Olaf and other familiar faces on the way to Elsa's *Ice Palace*, set to a soundtrack that's hard not to hum - or sing - along to. You know the one.

02 Face time with royalty
Then, swap the *Ice Palace* for a warmer affair inside *Arendelle Castle* for a Royal Encounter with Anna and Elsa - your photo op with both Disney Princesses. Beyond the castle gates, 'yoo-hoo' is your call that Oaken - everyone's favourite shopkeeper and sauna owner - isn't far away.

03 Eat and shop like a local
Nordic Crowns Tavern dishes up build-your-own plates of meatballs, seasonal veg and mashed potatoes, plus

a line-up of frosty desserts. From there, detour to *Fjord View Shop* and meet Rúna - an interactive troll toy you'll only find in World of *Frozen*.

04 On with the show
Longships gliding across the bay are your signal the main event's about to start. On the water, Elsa, Anna, Olaf, Kristoff and the villagers lead the Snowflower Festival, in a 15-minute daytime show, *A Celebration in Arendelle*. Cue: brand-new music by the Oscar-winning writers of 'Let It Go'.

From here, the rest of Disney Adventure World - the newly reimagined second park at Disneyland® Paris - is calling...

Family time, unplugged.

Screen-free holidays? Easier than you might think. Just book one with loads of activities, says Rachel Tysoe-Bailey.



Me (Rachel), hubby, Ben, and our girls, Hero and Goldie, nailing that family pic!

The moment my family holiday changed didn't happen on a mountaintop or while watching a dramatic sunset. It happened on a sunlounger at the **Holiday Village Costa del Sol**, in Spain's Benalmadena.

Somewhere between the pool, the kids' disco and the well-stocked dessert bar, I realised I was spending more time trying to capture the perfect family photo for social media than enjoying the holiday in front of me. So, I put my phone down, and suddenly the holiday came into focus - for me, my husband, and my two little girls.

I'm very aware of how screens can creep into family life. Recent research shows that around 40% of kids under two now have their own tablet. Mine don't, but I know that handing over my phone to them "just for a minute" can come with the same challenges. Young brains are still learning to

regulate attention, impulse control and emotions, and fast-paced digital content can overwhelm those systems. On holiday, though, something shifts. When you're cheering your kids down waterslides and counting shells on the beach, screens quickly lose their appeal. My daughters - aged three and five - were too busy learning dance routines, making new friends and splashing in the pool to ask for my phone to watch *Bluey* or *Peppa Pig*, and by bedtime they fell asleep happily exhausted from the day's activities.

I do get the other side of things, though. Holidays today aren't completely screen-free. To some degree, our phones are an integral part of the experience - from downloading boarding passes to booking hotel activities and checking resort info on the app. But for us, once the essentials were sorted, we found we didn't need our phones for much else. On that trip,



Our favourite off-screen activities

Swim School at TUI BLUE hotels features Parent & Tots sessions, as well as a five-stage programme for children three years or older, and adult Swim Fit classes.



my husband and I left one phone in the room and kept the other for practical things like emergency calls or checking the day's schedule for the hotel. Everything that mattered - the fun, the connection, the memories - happened offline.

What I've learnt is that you don't need to overhaul your life to enjoy a screen-light holiday. You don't need to lock your phone away or delete half your apps. Just borrow a little of that holiday mindset. Keep the tools you need - the digital plane tickets, the resort map, the spa bookings - and let the rest wait until later. So, try it. Put your phone in your bag and step into holiday mode - whether you're away or simply wishing you were. Who knows, you may find that taking a quick photo is enough, and that the moments you remember most are the ones when you put your phone away and stay present.



Our Holiday Villages run Football Academy for aspiring sports stars, and Stage Academy to nurture future pop sensations.



MyMo Clubs by TUI MAGIC LIFE offer complete entertainment programmes for little ones, with activities ranging from archery to discos.

CRUISE

ADULTS-ONLY CRUISES

Switching off at sea

Peace and quiet sounding more appealing than a do-it-all holiday this year? You're not alone - research shows that for over 50% of us, R&R is the number one motivation for a getaway in 2026.



Jam-packed itineraries are out. Slowing down is in. Cue the collective exhale. And if you fancy a slice of the action (or, not-so-much action), a Marella cruise is just the thing.

Now, I hear what you're thinking - a cruise probably isn't the obvious choice for a holiday that's all about slowing down. It's about dressing up, dining out and exploring ashore, right? But here's the thing. As soon as you set foot onboard a cruise ship, time naturally shifts. We're talking days shaped by nothing more than your mood, appetite, and whatever you feel like doing. Or not doing. West End-style shows, minigolf courses, quizzes, climbing walls*, fitness classes and more - you'd be correct in thinking that there's a lot going on onboard a Marella ship. Whether you fancy getting involved in it all,



‘There’s a lot going on onboard a Marella ship. Whether you fancy getting involved in it all, though, is up to you.’



though, is up to you. You can spend an entire sea day just lazing around and not feeling even the tiniest bit bad about it, whether that's with a book by the pool (you know, the one you've been meaning to read for months) or at The Veranda* - adults-only sunbathing spaces with sea views, cocoon chairs, and Balinese-style beds. And if you're going to spend all day horizontal, you may as well pop into the onboard spa for a massage while you're at it. At this point, it'd be rude not to.

For a lot of us, though, the best thing about cruise holidays isn't what you can get up to onboard - it's exploring ashore. From secluded beaches to national parks, there's no shortage of

places to squeeze in some bonus R&R while the ship's in port.

In Kefalonia, Greece, you can forget all about your daily routine as you glide in a small boat across Melissani Lake on a shore excursion. It's not your average lake - you'll find it inside an underground cave surrounded by forest, and the water's an impossible shade of electric blue. Or, if you like mountains but would rather stare at them over a glass of vino than attempt a hike to the summit, how about wine-tasting in Alora? Our half-day shore excursion from Malaga to this scenic whitewashed town has 'moment of calm' written all over it. And if your idea of relaxing and recharging looks more like a day on a tropical beach, the Dominican Republic's Saona Island will be right up your street - you can read more about it on page 38.

 Words: Abbie King



Which ships are adults only?

Marella Explorer 2's reserved for grown-ups all year round, while Marella Discovery and Marella Discovery 2 will be adults only for summer this year and winter next year respectively.



Find your next calming cruise at tui.co.uk/cruise



Port(s) of call

Wine's the word on our Douro river cruises. Specifically, port wine, as Darren Notley reveals...

What's the first thing that springs to mind when you think of Portugal? The Algarve's golden beaches? Cristiano Ronaldo? A pastel de nata (or two)? Sure, they're all big pulling points, but they're not the only notes worth savouring.

Tucked away in a sunny corner of southern Europe, Portugal has a lesser-known claim to fame: it's the *only* country in the world legally allowed to produce port wine. Yes, really. Right at the heart of it all is the Douro Valley - a region that quietly gets on with making the good stuff. The river it shares its name with stretches all the way across the north of the country, before dipping into neighbouring Spain. Terraced vineyards are lined up

along the edge, and it's impossible to miss them and the whitewashed barrel warehouses as you glide along.

And, much like the varieties of port wine along the way, the ports themselves have their own distinctive flavours.

Take Peso da Régua, for example. This little town's been at the heart of port wine production for over two centuries, and most of the grapes grown in its hillside vineyards are still harvested by hand. It's the perfect spot to try a drop of **vintage port** - a variety that comes from a single year's harvest and is designed to age gracefully for decades (we'll take note if you do).



‘Most of the grapes grown in its hillside vineyards are still harvested by hand.’



Then, just along the river, there's Porto - Portugal's second-biggest city. With its colourful waterfront and cool crowd, the city's best compared to **tawny port**. It's a blend of harvests from multiple years, is lighter in colour, and is aged for longer in barrels before being bottled. Or, how about **ruby port**? Its young, fruity and vibrant flavours are more in keeping with Salamanca and its lively student population. Granted, the city is just over the border in Spain, but it's a short hop from the laidback town of Vega de Terrón on the Portuguese side.

The perfect pairings

Don't forget to pair your glass of tawny port with a slice of Serra da Estrela

or Azeitão cheese - both creamy, tangy and wonderfully rich. Enjoy your fruitier ruby port with a piece of chocolate fondant, a brigadeiro (chocolate fudge bonbon), or even a slice of bolo de bolacha (biscuit cake) for an indulgent kick. Vintage port, meanwhile, shines with blue cheeses such as Queijo de Cabra Azul or nutty desserts like almond tart, and even with caramelised figs. We don't know about you, but it's making us hungry just thinking about it...



If you fancy ticking off these ports - the towns and the tipples - check out our Douro Discovery itinerary, launching in June 2027 on our first ever new-build river cruise ship, TUI Luzia.

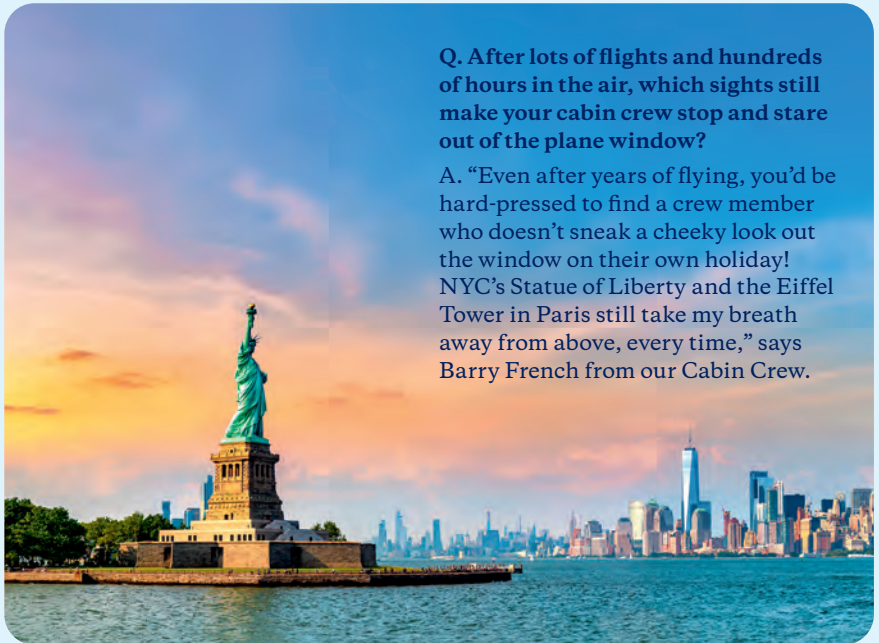
You asked, we answered.

Your most-asked travel questions, answered - from where to go in 2026, to the latest EU visa rules.



Q. As a customer who cares about responsible travel, I want to know how TUI's making it easier for us to enjoy amazing holidays while supporting sustainability.

A. Lots of our hotels come with an independent sustainability label, which means they've met strict criteria for their planet-friendly practices. We're doing even more on our side, too, with 2030 emission-reduction targets for our airline, cruise ships and hotels - all checked and approved by the Science Based Targets initiative. And we also back the TUI Care Foundation, which helps protect nature and support local communities in the places you travel to.



Q. After lots of flights and hundreds of hours in the air, which sights still make your cabin crew stop and stare out of the plane window?

A. "Even after years of flying, you'd be hard-pressed to find a crew member who doesn't sneak a cheeky look out the window on their own holiday! NYC's Statue of Liberty and the Eiffel Tower in Paris still take my breath away from above, every time," says Barry French from our Cabin Crew.



Q. What are TUI's key destinations to visit in 2026?

A. World-famous theme parks and sandy beaches - is it any wonder Florida's taking the lead for long-haul family fun? Plus, there are thousands of free kids' places up for grabs.* Closer to home, Spain's a firm favourite with its big choice of hotels, from TUI BLUE to Holiday Villages. And Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt is also set to be popular this year, thanks to reliably warm weather and excellent scuba diving sites.



*Free kids' places are available on selected holidays and are subject to availability. Only one free kid's place is available per room or apartment, with two full-paying adults. You must pay full price for any other children on the booking.



Q. It's our 50th anniversary in October. We'd like to holiday in the sun, but my husband won't fly for longer than five hours. Where do you advise for guaranteed sunshine?

A. Cape Verde's always one of our hottest October picks, with toasty temps and white-sand beaches. For a shorter flight, at around four hours, you can't go wrong with the Canary Islands - think temperatures in the mid-twenties, and a huge range of hotels, including adults-only options for a special celebration.

Q. Which country is best for accessible travel?

A. Honestly? It's almost impossible to pick just one place. Adapted rooms and accessible transfers are available in lots of destinations we fly to, so the choice is yours when it comes to accessible travel. Loads of hotels on our website have detailed access guides, and our Assisted Travel team can make some suggestions based on your needs - just give them a call on **0800 145 6920**.



Q. How much training do TUI reps get before they head out to resort?

A. Loads! Our TUI reps go through a heap of structured training before flying out to resort, so you'll be fully taken care of while you're away. They're geared up to support you no matter how big or small your query - and they're all super friendly, too, so don't hesitate to flag them down for help or a chat.

And don't forget, if you have any questions while you're away, you can contact a TUI rep 24/7 on our TUI app.



Q. Why is TUI using Ryanair flights?

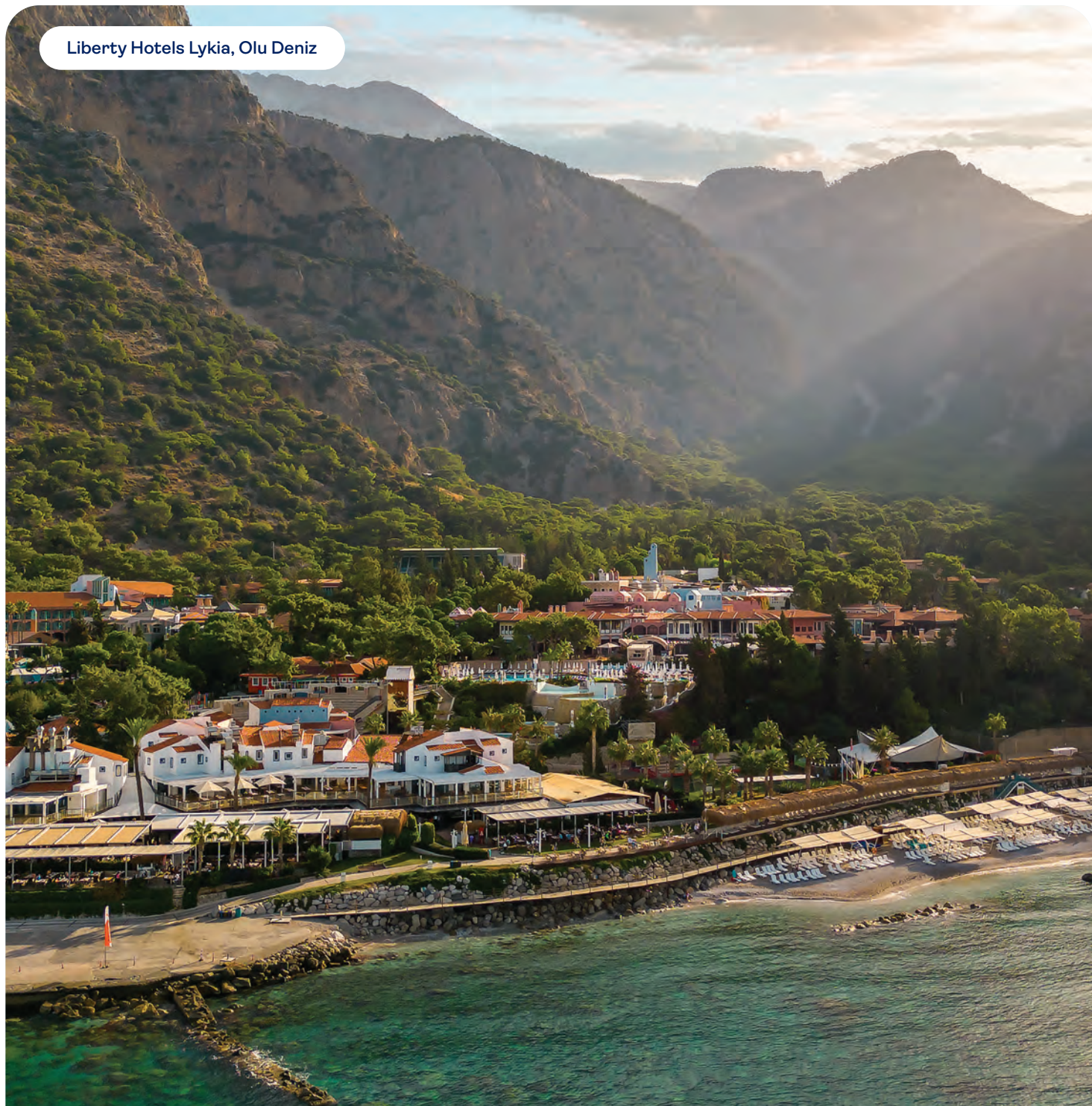
A. Simply put... to give you loads more choice! We've teamed up with Ryanair (and other trusted partner airlines) to offer you more flight options than ever. There are now over one million flights to pick from each year, plus you can fly to shiny new destinations from some of our regional airports - like Kos from Bournemouth, and Bologna from Stansted.



Q. Do I need a visa when visiting an EU country?

A. Right now, no. But later in 2026, the EU will introduce ETIAS Travel Authorisation - an online security screening system, like the USA's ESTA. Until then, you can visit the EU for up to 90 days without a visa.

Words: Rachel Tysoe-Bailey



Dive right in

The pools at this property tick off everything from infinity-edged to slide-packed, with a seafront setting to boot.

The proof is in the progress

Rebecca Gerigk, the host of our sustainability podcast, *We're on it, right?*, shares her insights on some recent updates...

Reducing food waste

To hit our goal of reducing food waste by 25% by 2030, some of our hotels are using AI-powered systems that automatically track which foods get thrown out most. The team then cooks less of those dishes. Winner winner, less wasteful dinner. Rebecca met the team at TUI BLUE Adriatic Beach in Croatia using the tech and says, "they really saw the value once they realised how it helped lower food waste." The biggest culprit at this hotel? Pasta! (I know, we were shocked, too).



Reducing single-use plastics

We've cut over 257 million pieces of single-use plastic from our hotels, cruise ships, airline and offices since 2015, instead using things like reusable water bottles. "When you stop handing something out automatically, you start questioning what's really needed", says Rebecca. Wise words...

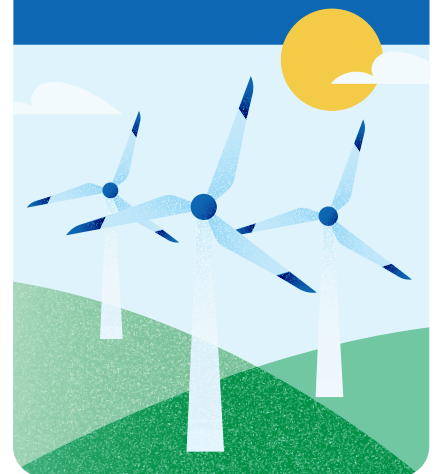


Making tourism a force for good

We assess our experiences (everything from boat trips to city tours) against global sustainability standards to help make sure they benefit local communities while protecting the environment. "It makes sustainability collaborative, with TUI connecting guests and local producers", says Rebecca.

Harnessing solar power

TUI Hotels & Resorts is using solar energy to help power hotels in 19 countries, with infrastructure including three solar parks in Turkey. Rebecca's fave part? "It feels intuitive. The same thing guests come to sunny destinations for powers parts of the operation." We couldn't agree more.



Boosting aircraft efficiency

TUI Airways is investing in planes with more modern engines, like the Boeing 737 MAX, to help reduce emissions. This plane is 16% more fuel-efficient than the one it replaced. But it's not all about the numbers - having interviewed pilots, Rebecca says, "when you spend your working life looking at the world from above, the drive to reduce environmental impact is emotional."



For more on sustainability, tune in to *We're on it, right?* on YouTube, Spotify or Apple Podcasts.

Where's next?

...because who can blame you for already eyeing up your next getaway?





Humble brag: we tried to fit every destination you can choose from onto this map, but there were simply too many. Think of this as your first taste. For the full list of destinations you can travel to with us, head to tui.co.uk



Page 30: Where in the world?

A. Lake Ohrid, North Macedonia – a lesser-known gem just above Greece. Did you guess it?

India

Thailand



The best experiences at home or abroad

provided by TUI Musement



Book now on the **TUI app** or at tui.co.uk



1000s OF TOURS & ACTIVITIES



BEST VALUE GUARANTEE



FREE CANCELLATION

