**AITO Inspiration**

**Here are some of the greatest winter sun holidays available with the specialist holiday companies within the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO,** [www.aito.com](http://www.aito.com)**).**

**Bored of grey skies, rain and drizzle? Be swept off to warmer climes, whether looking for adventure or relaxation. Choose from a wide range of holidays - from colourful Bollywood backdrops or Pharoahs along the Nile to sea kayaking in Mozambique and wine tours worldwide, with accommodation options from an ex-Sultan’s palace and a cliff-top hotel to exotic villas on stilts and much, much more.**

# New: Walking and Sailing on Bequia and Barbados – from £4,290 pp with Kudu Travel

Two days spent sailing on a traditional 100-foot schooner, visiting Mustique and snorkelling on the idyllic Tobago Cays, is a highlight of a [new tour](http://www.aito.com/barbados/walks-sailing-bequia-and-barbados) to the sleepy islands of Bequia and Barbados – where you’ll enjoy polo, great houses and tropical gardens. Staying in the four-star Bequia Beach hotel and the four-star colonial Atlantis hotel in Barbados, the tour runs from 9-21 February 2014 and costs from £4,290 pp (two sharing). This includes 12 nights’ accommodation, meals and wine, specialist guiding, private transport, boat trips and inter-island flights. International flights extra. Call AITO\* member Kudu Travel on 01225 436 115 ([www.kudutravel.com](http://www.kudutravel.com)).

**Visit the Caribbean’s largest island – Cuba – from £1,516 pp with Journey Latin America**

This new 12-day [Value Cuba holiday](http://www.aito.com/journey-latin-america/value-cuba/1) visits Havana, Trinidad, Viñales and Cayo Levisa. Experience the hospitality of the people, explore old Havana, and see Trinidad’s elegant colonial streets and the fairyland valley of the Viñales region. After these adventures, soak up the sun on the remote white sand beach of Cayo Levisa. The holiday costs from £1,516 pp (two sharing), including flights (London), transfers, most meals and a walking tour excursion of Havana. Call AITO\* member Journey Latin America on 020 8747 8315 ([www.journeylatinamerica.co.uk](http://www.journeylatinamerica.co.uk))

**Add some spice and sun to this winter – from £1,035 pp with Tribes Travel**

This exciting [three centre holiday](http://www.aito.com/tanzania/zanzibar-beach-holiday) on Tanzania’s spice island of Zanzibar is perfect for those looking for somewhere different to enjoy the sun. Although it’s a 10 hour flight, it’s only three hours ahead of the UK. Stay one night at an ex-Sultan’s palace in Stone Town, followed by three nights at the peaceful Fumba Lodge on a beautiful secluded beach. Finish the trip at the small, upmarket beach hotel of Unguja Lodge, on the southern tip of the island, boasting its own dive centre and 12 spacious bungalows. This trip cost from £1,035 pp (two sharing) including half board, airport transfers and a dhow excursion with lunch, drinks and snorkelling.  Flights extra. Call AITO\* member Tribes Travel on 01473 890499 ([www.tribes.co.uk](http://www.tribes.co.uk)).

**Oman, it feels good to be out of the rain – from £1,799 pp, saving £812 with Kirker Holidays**

With average daytime temperatures in the mid 20s in January, [Oman](http://www.aito.com/oman/al-bustan-palace) offers an exquisite alternative to the everyday for discerning winter sun seekers. Set against a background of rugged mountain scenery and overlooking nearly 25 acres of private landscaped gardens, the five-star deluxe Al Bustan Palace promises instant relaxation and excellent service just a short hop (by complimentary shuttle bus) from exotic Muscat. A seven-night stay during January costs from £1,799 pp (two sharing) **when booked by 31 December** - a saving of £812 pp. Price includes flights (Heathrow), VIP meet and greet, visa, private car transfers, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and Kirker Concierge Service.  Call AITO\* member Kirker Holidays on 020 7593 2283 ([www.kirkerholidays.com](http://www.kirkerholidays.com)).

**New: Bollywood and Beaches Family** **Adventure** **– Mumbai and Goa from £1,745 pp with KE Adventure Travel**

After experiencing Mumbai - including a boat trip out to the caves of Elephanta - depart from the tourist trail to be immersed in the crazy, colourful world of Bollywood with a visit to a film studio. Children will love the overnight sleeper train to Goa and everyone will enjoy the warm waters and sandy beaches there. Take a boat trip to see the dolphins, visit a spice plantation and prepare a Goan feast - there’s even time to ride an elephant. [The nine-day family adventure](http://www.aito.com/dominica/totally-tropical-trekking-in-the-dominica) costs from £1,745 per adult and £1,545 per child (two sharing – family rooms are available) including breakfast, park fees, flights (London), transfers and guide. Call AITO\* member KE Adventure Travel on 017687 73966 ([www.keadventure.com](http://www.keadventure.com/)).

**Egypt: ‘Pharaohs Upfront and Personal’ – from £1,589 pp with Nomadic Thoughts**

Enjoy five-star luxury on a [private tailor-made itinerary](http://www.aito.com/nomadic-thoughts) to Cairo, Luxor and Aswan. See the Pyramids, Valley of Kings and the Temple of Philae. Relax on a Nile River dinner cruise or sail through the Aswan Dam and Felucca islands. Ten-day or two-week tours are available, starting from £1,589 pp (two sharing) including flights (Heathrow), half-board accommodation, private transfers and private tours. Call AITO\* member Nomadic Thoughts on 0207 604 4408 ([www.nomadicthoughts.com](http://www.nomadicthoughts.com)).

Discover the revolutionary new wines of South Africa’s Swartland – from £2,399 pp with Arblaster & Clarke Wine Tours

The Cape is one of the most spectacular vineyard regions in the world and [this tour](http://www.aito.com/south-africa/arblaster-and-clarke-safrica-tour) offers a truly private insight into the wine-makers’ world, with personal welcomes from leading wineries*,* great tastings and exclusive lunch and dinner invitations. The tour combines the sights, cities and towns, dramatic coastal scenery and wildlife, whilst soaking up the winter sun. The highlight is the introduction to Swartland, a fascinating new area that has sprung to prominence with revolutionary winemakers who collectively make up one of the most exciting groups of new winemakers in South Africa today. Travelling between 15-23 February 2014, the eight-night tour costs from £2,399 pp (two sharing) including most meals with wine, wine tastings and guide. Flights extra. Call AITO\* member Arblaster & Clarke Wine Tours on 01730 263111 ([www.winetours.co.uk](http://www.winetours.co.uk))

**Stay in luxury in the Maldives – from £3,080 pp with Expressions Holidays**

This exclusive and secluded resort, [The Residence Maldives](http://www.aito.com/maldives/the-residence-maldives), occupies the pristine island of Falhumaafushi, set on its own private white sand beach. With 94 secluded thatched villas - some nestled in the beachside foliage, some atop stilts on the lagoon - prepare to live at one with nature. The resort also boasts a fitness centre, sauna and steam room, meditation and yoga classes, a Spa by Clarins and a five-star PADI diving centre. Seven nights’ B&B costfrom £3,080 pp (two sharing) including flights (London) and transfers.Call AITO\* member Expressions Indian Ocean on 01752 878036 ([www.expressionsholidays.co.uk](http://www.expressionsholidays.co.uk)).

**New: Cliff-top boutique hotel – Gambia from £899 pp with The Gambia Experience**Part of its new luxury collection, the contemporary boutique [Leo’s Beach Hotel](http://www.aito.com/gambia/leos-beach-hotel) offers incredible views from its cliff-top position and complete tranquillity, with just six suites. Located in Brufut, the hotel - which opened earlier this year - was lovingly designed and created by its Austrian owners, complete with spacious grounds and swimming pool with a Jacuzzi. Seven nights’ B&B cost from £899 pp (two sharing) including flights (Gatwick) and transfers. Call AITO\* member The Gambia Experience on 0845 330 2087 ([www.gambia.co.uk](http://www.gambia.co.uk)).

**\*AITO is a highly-respected travel organisation that provides an unrivalled collection of exciting, specialist holidays from award-winning tour operators.  Its 120-plus members are all focused on quality of customer experience and caring, personal service.**

**Ends – 20 December 2013**

**Press:** For more information about AITO ([www.aito.com](http://www.aito.com)) please contact Sue Ockwell, Rebecca Milne or Laura Manning at Travel PR (020 8891 4440, [s.ockwell@travelpr.co.uk](mailto:s.ockwell@travelpr.co.uk), [r.milne@travelpr.co.uk](mailto:r.milne@travelpr.co.uk) or [l.manning@travelpr.co.uk](mailto:l.manning@travelpr.co.uk)).