

AITO Know It All – Media Newsletter, Autumn 2018 and Spring 2019

AITO's (www.aito.com) 120-plus specialist holiday companies continue to create inspiring trips and experiences for travellers of all ages and abilities to enjoy. Here is a selection of new itineraries, member updates and exciting events taking place in 2018 and going into 2019.

Issued on 31 July 2018

New tours and news from AITO members

*Travellers can book directly through the AITO members featured in this newsletter. AITO members marked * can also be booked through a local, trusted [AITO Specialist Travel Agency](#).*

CICERONI Travel has introduced a **new** tour to Barbados, [An Island Paradise: Country Houses of Barbados](#). Gain private access to some of Barbados' rich architectural treasures, from the Dutch-influenced mansions of the seventeenth century to the sophisticated houses of English artist, Oliver Messel whilst staying at iconic, colonial-style Cobblers Cove. **Departs 27 March – 5 April 2019.**

Ffestiniog Travel* has added **new** railways, tram networks and destinations to its [Japan – Trains, Trams and Cherry Blossom](#) tour. Journey on the Odakyu Ltd. Express from Tokyo to Enoshima, explore the 3'6" tram routes of Toyama and Takaoka, and ride on the Hokuriku Shinkansen bullet train and coastal Hokuriku Line to Fukui, and more. **Departs 19 March 2019.**

Fleewinter is championing plastic-free travel to Cambodia and giving customers a complimentary reusable aluminium bottle on tours such as the 14-day [Essence of Cambodia](#) itinerary. Customers can fill up their bottles for free at several hotels and attractions across the country as part of the Refill not Landfill campaign which aims to reduce the millions of plastic bottles discarded in Cambodia each year.

Intravel* has introduced a **new** [Snow Holiday](#) to the Three Peaks region of the Dolomites, Italy, staying in the gorgeous Hotel Drei Zinnen, Moso. Guests can enjoy cross-country skiing and snow shoeing before retiring to the stylish spa hotel for an alpine feast each evening. Seven nights cost from £1,235 pp (two sharing). **Departs 22 December 2018 – 10 March 2019.**

InsideAsia Tours* has introduced a **new** itinerary for the active and adventurous traveller looking to immerse themselves in the natural surroundings of Southeast Asia. The [Trekking Northern Vietnam & Laos](#) tour includes hikes through rice terraces and dense jungle, plus water sports and wildlife spotting. 12 nights cost from £3,580 pp (two sharing). **Departs October – December 2018 and February – June 2019.**

Llama Travel is offering seclusion in Costa Rica with its [Best of Costa Rica](#) tour, exploring city life, jungle waterways and lava trails. Visit the Villa Blanca Cloud Forest, where your hotel is the only one around. Discover flora such as bromeliads and orchids and spot a possible 280 bird species on this fascinating reserve. **Departs November 2018 – December 2019.**

Pettitts Travel* has introduced a **new** [Images of China](#) tour. Experience the bustling cities of Shanghai and Beijing and the relaxed pace of the water town of Suzhou. Cruise along the Grand Canal, and visit historical sites including the Great Wall, the Qin Shi Hunanngdi Tomb and the famous Terracotta Warriors. **Departs from now until 31 December 2019.**

Ramblers Walking Holidays has launched its new Cruise and Walk holidays for 2019, featuring European river cruises. Activities range from exploring Eastern European cities, cruising on the Danube and discovering the German waterways. Sample the [Highlights of the Rhine and Moselle](#) on a seven-night full board cruise, dipping into France and Switzerland for £1,995 pp. **Departs 27 June 2019.**

The Aurora Zone has launched a **new** autumn tour in northern Finland, [Autumn Lights Over Lake Inari](#). Stay at the spectacular Wilderness Hotel Inari, high above the Arctic Circle, on the shores of lake Inari. The four-night tour includes a guided nature walk, a visit to the Sámi Siida Museum and three Aurora hunts. **Departs 21 August – 15 November 2018.**

Undiscovered Destinations* has launched a remarkable **new** 12-day escorted [Tour of Haiti](#), featuring a visit to an authentic Vodou festival and the once-off-limits Port-au-Prince suburb of Cité Soleil, a shanty town region once considered one of the most dangerous places on earth. 11 nights, the tour costs from £2,175 pp (two sharing). **Departs November 2018 – February 2019.**

Latest news from AITO-affiliated Tourist Boards

The Austrian National Tourist Office is excited to share [Operation Eagle](#). Watch Eddie the Eagle, Britain's most loveable ski jumper, put to the ultimate test in four unique challenges across different Austrian destinations. See Eddie busk for beer money in Salzburg, paddle-board in Zell am See-Kaprun, race through Innsbruck and more.

The Hungarian Tourism Agency invites visitors to experience the largest and most well-known festival in Budapest, Sziget Festival, from **8 – 15 August 2018**. One of Europe's biggest extravaganzas, the festival draws tens of thousands of revellers to Budapest each year for the live music and performing arts and talks.

The Israel Tourist Office is pleased to announce that Wizz Air will offer direct flights to Eilat for the 2018/19 winter season. Services will run from **28 October 2018 - 27 March 2019**, with flights departing from London Luton on Wednesdays and Sundays, currently landing at Ovda airport, changing to Ramon airport after its opening in early 2019.

The Lanzarote Tourist Board invites visitors to the unique boutique festival inside Jameos del Agua's enthralling volcanic cave. Held across four days, **21 July, 4 August, 18 August and 8 September 2018**. The festival features an exquisite disco plus funk, soul and house music, including some of the most sought-after artists in the world.

The Malta Tourism Authority has added a new [Bar Trail](#) to its series of themed trails across the archipelago. The tour boasts an array of drinking hot spots in Malta and Gozo - from gin bars to nightclubs and wine bars - and is the ultimate guide to experience the Maltese archipelago's up-and-coming nightlife scene.

The Spanish Tourist Office is celebrating 25 years of the famous Greenways (Vías Verdes), the 115 abandoned railway lines converted to trails. Offering a network of more than 24,000 km of paths through natural settings, the trails provide an original, varied alternative for those wishing to discover Spain's rich landscapes and cultural sites in an easy, environmentally-friendly way.

Visit Denmark has launched a bid for 'hygge', the Danish art of creating mindfulness and reconnection, to receive UNESCO status. The campaign, [Is Copenhagen The Antidote?](#) invites visitors to discover the benefits of 'hygge' and the relaxed Copenhagen lifestyle for themselves.

Visit Portugal is excited to share its new cultural programme [365 Alentejo – Ribatejo](#). Featuring a year's worth of events from companies, organisations and locals sharing their traditions, culture and identity with visitors, events will range from the performing arts, food and wine, fairs, markets and more.

Ends

SAVE THE DATE: AITO Meets the Media and the AITO Travel Writer of the Year awards on Tuesday 16 October. For more information email j.franklin@travelpr.co.uk.

Note to Editors:

AITO, www.aito.com, is an alliance of over 120 of the best travel specialists. AITO members collectively provide an unrivalled range of holidays to every corner of the world. They are passionate about what they do and pride themselves on their attention to every detail of their customers' holidays.

AITO members' joint aim is to offer personal, caring service, to look after the environment in the places in which they work and to provide holidays that deliver both good value and high standards. All AITO holiday companies are required, as a condition of membership, to take full financial protection measures on behalf of their clients via the appropriate industry bonding schemes.

Travel PR will happily email all AITO members with any queries that travel writers may have – it's a great way to receive speedy feedback or information from AITO experts via just one email request.

For further information on AITO, please contact [Travel PR](http://TravelPR) on 020 8891 4440 or email Sue Ockwell (s.ockwell@travelpr.co.uk) or Jackie Franklin (j.franklin@travelpr.co.uk).

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