

AITO Inspiration – Sub-zero



29 October 2018

Make the most of the snowy season with these unique winter experiences from travel specialist members of AITO, The Specialist Travel Association (www.aito.com).

From sailing the Norwegian coastline to taking in the Swiss Alps by rail, and from hunting for the Northern Lights to skiing Japan's mountains and more, embrace sub-zero temperatures with these incredible experiences.

*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](#).*

Missed the last AITO Inspiration e-newsletter? See it [here](#).

NEW: Aurora hunting adventure in Apukka, Finland – from £855 pp with Artisan Travel

Enjoy an Arctic adventure full of bucket-list experiences while staying at Apukka Resort with Artisan Travel's specialist Northern Lights tour operator, The Aurora Zone. Journey across stunning frozen lakes and through snowy forests on a husky safari, before searching for the elusive Northern Lights on Apukka's cosy Snowtrain. Experience a night-time reindeer sleigh ride before relaxing in a wilderness hut, or try Apukka's incredible Aurora Sauna Wagon or Ice Sauna. Book before 1 December and experience a complimentary upgrade to an Ice Cabin for one night. **Departing between 6 January – 17 March 2019**, the [Aurora Adventure at Apukka](#) costs from £855 pp (two sharing), including flights (London), transfers, three nights' half-board accommodation, activities as listed and cold weather clothing for duration. Call Artisan Travel on 01670 785 085 (www.artisantravel.co.uk).

Snow on the Alps: Switzerland by rail – from £1,775 pp with Ffestiniog Travel*

Watch Switzerland's majestic winter scenery unfold from the comfort of your carriage on a ten-day escorted tour that travels on the UNESCO 'Rhaetian Railway', including journeys on the world-famous Glacier and Bernina Express trains. On free days, join accompanied excursions to Arosa, Davos, Zermatt and Montreux, or explore independently using the first-class Swiss Travel Pass that comes with this holiday. **Departing 12 February 2019**, [Snow on the Alps](#) costs from £1,775 pp (two sharing), including standard class rail travel to/from Switzerland, a first-class Swiss Travel Pass, B&B accommodation (in Cologne, Chur, Interlaken and Mainz), one dinner and the services of a tour leader throughout. Call Ffestiniog Travel on 01766 512 400 (www.ffestiniogtravel.com).

Combine sport and culture in Japan this winter - from £2,410 pp with InsideAsia Tours

Enjoy five days of skiing in one of Japan's top winter sports resorts, Hakuba, before sightseeing in Tokyo, Kyoto, Hakone and Nagano with InsideAsia Tours' Japan specialist company, InsideJapan Tours. Bathe in hot springs and dine on Kaiseki cuisine during a traditional Ryokan stay. Catch a glimpse of Mount Fuji, visit the snow monkeys of Yudanaka and stay in Buddhist temple lodgings in Nagano on this two-week, self-guided adventure. **Departing between now and 31 March 2019**, the [Winter Sports & Culture Tour*](#) costs from £2,410 pp (two sharing), including B&B accommodation, Hakuba all-valley ski lift pass, Japan Rail Pass and Hakone Free Pass, two evening meals and airport transfers. Flights extra. Call InsideAsia Tours on 0117 244 3380 (www.insideasiatours.com).

Walk with wolves in the Italian wilderness - from £1,195 pp with Ramblers Walking Holidays*

Venture through the unspoilt National Park in the isolated valleys of the Apennine Mountains, where endangered Marsican bears and Apennine wolves still roam. Donning a pair of snowshoes, explore little visited areas in the Italian wilderness, with an experienced guide, on this week-long break. Follow wolf and lynx tracks in the snow, and catch glimpses of wildlife such as chamois, deer, martens, otters and golden eagles. **Departing between 3 and 17 February 2019**, the [Abruzzo Winter Walking](#) tour costs from £1,195 pp (two sharing), including flights (London), half-board accommodation, one lunch in a mountain refuge and all local transport. Call Ramblers Walking Holidays on 01707 818 268 (www.ramblersholidays.co.uk).

Sail and ski the Arctic next spring in Norway - from £2,985 pp with Scandinavian Travel*

Sail along the Arctic Haute Route, the stunning coastline between Lofoten and Tromsø, with Scandinavian Travel's specialist ski brand, skiNorway, stopping off to sample the region's best ski-touring terrain. Each day a highly experienced guide will pick the best routes through this iconic ski-touring haven. On board, enjoy a live DJ creating the ultimate après-ski ambience with views of the mountain coastline, while dining on locally-inspired cuisine. **Departing between 20 March and 15 April 2019**, the [Arctic Haute Route Sail and Ski](#) trip costs from £2,985 pp (two sharing), including flights (London), transfers, three nights' full-board accommodation on MS Nordstjernen, three days' guided ski-touring, equipment rental, Rib-Boat Sea Eagle Safari and one night's half-board at the Thon Hotel Solvaer. Call Scandinavian Travel on 020 7199 6015 (www.scandinavian-travel.co.uk).

From the country to the city in the North of Norway – from £1,962 pp with Sunvil*

Spend six nights exploring the best of Norway, from the Arctic city of Tromsø to the snow-capped countryside of Alta, both synonymous with spectacular Northern Lights sightings. Visit the University Museum and Arctic Cathedral in Tromsø, before taking a ride on the Fjellheisen cable car, which offers amazing views from its summit. Once in Alta, spot moose and reindeer from your mountain lodge and enjoy a dog sled tour - you will harness your own dogs, and direct the sled. **Departing between 1 December 2018 and 6 April 2019**, [Tromsø & Alta - City and country](#) costs from £1,962 pp (two sharing), including flights (London), B&B accommodation, transfers and excursions. Call Sunvil on 020 8758 4722 (www.sunvil.co.uk).

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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](#) 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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