



AITO Know It All – Media Newsletter

After 41 years, AITO's (www.aito.com) 120-plus specialist holiday companies continue to create innovative itineraries and wonderful travel experiences. Here is a selection of new tours and destinations on offer in 2017 and 2018, as well as exciting updates from AITO members:

Issued on 4 August 2017

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](#).*

Departing 2017 and 2018

Activities Abroad* has a **new** holiday based in a new destination: [Saariselkä, Finnish Lapland](#). Sleep under the Arctic stars in a glass-roofed Aurora Cabin for the perfect tailor-made winter family adventure, hunting the Northern Lights. Bespoke activities include husky sledding, cross-country skiing, Aurora snowmobiling, a reindeer sleigh ride and much more. *Departing between December 2017 and March 2018.*

Artisan Travel* offers a **new** [nine-night tour](#) of the Azorean archipelago, exploring the stunning islands of Faial, São Jorge, and Pico in the Azores. Spend three days on each island, discovering mighty volcanoes and craters on Faial, visiting a coffee plantation and enjoying lush forest walks on São Jorge, and experiencing wine tasting at a World Heritage vineyard on Pico. *Departing between now and 23 October 2017.*

Classic Collection Holidays* is now featuring **new** [luxury hotel holidays](#) to the Caribbean island of Grenada – affectionately known as the ‘Spice Island’ – for the first time. Guests can choose from five properties in the most southerly region of Windward Islands, with various pricing and board options from which to choose: room-only, bed and breakfast or all-inclusive. *Departing between now and April 2018*

Inntravel*, the ‘Slow Holiday’ specialist, has released its 2017-2018 Winter Walking and Snow programme, featuring a **new** four-night break to Spain's [Costa de la Luz](#). Explore Vejer de la Frontera's Moorish past, walk through pine forests and stay in the atmospheric town of Tarifa for opportunities to spot whales and dolphins. *Departing between 18 September to 15 December 2017, and between 2 January to 31 May 2018.*

Kirker Holidays* has six **new** escorted [Cultural Tours for Christmas and New Year](#) to Vienna, Venice, Baden-Baden, Dresden, Rome and St. Petersburg. Travel with like-minded companions and enjoy a leisurely programme of sightseeing, with delicious Christmas meals served in spectacular settings, plus opera and ballet performances. *Departs between 21 and 29 December 2017 for 5 or 6 nights.*

Kudu Travel* offers a **new** 17-day trip to Peru, [Exploring the Incas' Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu](#), which explores both Inca and colonial sites in the Andean highlands. The tour includes an overnight journey to Cusco on South America's first luxury sleeper service, the Belmond Andean Explorer, a boat trip on Lake Titicaca, plus visits to Arequipa and Colca Canyon. *Departs 18 April 2018.*

Llama Travel now offers a **new** three-night [extension to Panama City](#), which can be combined with a Costa Rica and/or Guatemala holiday. It includes a half-day city tour of the old town and the famous Panama Canal – which has significantly influenced the city's economy, history and culture – plus free time to explore Panama City before flying on to Costa Rica. *Departing between now and November 2018.*

McKinlay Kidd* offers an additional night at no extra cost on its popular [West Highland Line Experience](#) holiday, **for the month of October 2017 only**. This unique holiday combines a fabulous day trip spent in first class on the Jacobite Express steam train with a stay at a small, family-run hotel in the highland village of Spean Bridge. *Departing between 1 and 26 October 2017.*

skiLapland* offers a **new** [Skiing and Northern Lights Holiday](#) in Finnish Lapland. The three, four or seven-night packages combine the highlights of Lapland to create a unique skiing and adventure holiday in either Ruka or Saariselka. It's a fantastic chance to see the Northern Lights whilst also having time to ski and enjoy other activities in this iconic region. *Departing in December 2017 and February 2018.*

The Aurora Zone* introduces [Betwixmas](#) – a **new** four-night festive break to Finnish Lapland. Fill the gap between Christmas and New Year with experiences including hunting the Northern Lights, spending a night in the Lainio Snow Village and then visiting Torassieppi Reindeer Farm. Try cross-country skiing, plus two Aurora hunts, a traditional Finnish cookery class, and a husky and snowmobile safari. *Departs 26 December 2017.*

Andante Travels, the archaeological travel expert, has launched a **new** eight-day [Corfu & Islands by Gulet](#) itinerary. Explore the northern coast of Greece and discover the archaeology of the Ionian islands. Travel easily from island to island, staying on a traditional wooden Turkish gulet sailing boat, with plenty of opportunities for swimming, relaxing on deck and enjoying delicious on-board dinners. *Departs 23 and 31 May 2018.*

Martin Randall Travel has a **new** one-off tour to mark the centenary deaths of Klimt, Schiele, Moser and Otto Wagner. [Vienna 1918](#) offers an intensive study of architecture, design and the art of the Vienna Secession, Art Nouveau and more. An expert lecturer will lead visits across the city, including several special commemorative exhibitions, and guests will enjoy five-star accommodation. *Departs 21 March 2018.*

Ramblers Walking Holidays*, the original walking expert, has introduced its exciting 'Cruise & Walk' brochure for 2018, which includes the **new** 15-night [Voyage to Greenland](#). Combining the best of small-cruise experiences, based on Fred Olsen Cruise Line's award-winning ships, with exceptional walks, the new 'Cruise & Walk' portfolio offers a choice of 47 inspirational itineraries. *Departs 17 August 2018.*

Wild Frontiers*, the adventure tours operator, has just launched a **new** campaign to encourage travellers to use filtered water bottles whilst on holiday to help reduce plastic bottle waste. The [Tap and Recap](#) campaign aims to raise awareness of the ever-growing problem of plastic waste which blights the world's landscapes and litters oceans.

Latest news from AITO-affiliated Tourist Boards

CzechTourism and the City of Pilsen invite all to celebrate the 10th [Festival Sun in Glass](#) with an authentic Czech beer. Taking place in the microbrewery *Purkmistr* in Pilsen, Černice, from **15 to 17 September 2017** the event features beer competitions, music performances and introduces visitors to famous microbreweries from the Czech Republic and around the world. **If you are a beer or food writer and would like to take part in a press trip (limited places remain)**, or for more information, please email hobbs@czechtourism.com.

The German National Tourist Board's (GNTO) Annual Press Conference will be held at the Goethe-Institut, Exhibition Road, London, SW7 2PH, from 9 am on **Wednesday 13 September 2017**. Find out about the GNTO's main travel campaigns and **news for 2018**, including new hotel openings, flight routes, major celebration events, plus everything from sport to food, sustainable travel and cultural happenings. To attend, please contact Stephanie Mueller at Stephanie.Mueller@germany.travel.

The Macao Government Tourism Office announces that the sixth annual [Macao Grand Prix](#), the most internationally prestigious event in Macao's sporting calendar, will take place from **16 to 19 November 2017**. See the world's best motorcycle, WTCC and Formula 3 racers compete for the coveted titles. Considered one of the world's most challenging street circuits due to its narrow lanes and limited number of overtaking opportunities, the 6.2km long Guia Circuit always delivers a great show.

The Spanish Tourist Office has hundreds of different experiences involving music, wine and gastronomy, which are waiting to be discovered in the '25 Wine Routes of Spain'. Taste some of the best wines, sherries and cavas, accompanied by a delicious menu for each occasion, plus enjoy excellent live music and art performances. Find out more about festivals, concert programmes, and other gastronomy and oenology (the science of wine making) events at wineroutesofspain.com.

The Tenerife Tourism Corporation welcomes the exciting arrival of Carnival House: a new space aimed at promoting the island's colourful [Santa Cruz Carnival](#). The 1,052 sq m venue is a great starting point for visitors wishing to discover the behind-the-scenes secrets of this significant festival. As well as housing temporary exhibitions and activities, the Carnival House is home to a permanent collection of iconic items, including the very first poster of the Santa Cruz Carnival. **Free entry until September 2017**.

Ends

Note to Editors:

AITO, www.aito.com, is an alliance of over 120 of the best specialist holiday companies. 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 their customers, 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.

Recent additions to the AITO membership portfolio include:

- [All Saints Travel Ltd](#) – specialists in the arrangement of Christian pilgrimages for groups and individuals.
- [Chalfont Holidays](#) – creating bespoke holiday experiences for the discerning naturist traveller in resorts around the world.
- [Ancro UK Ltd](#) – the experts for all holiday arrangements to New Zealand, Australia and the South Pacific.
- [Bamboo Travel](#) – creating tailor-made holidays in the Far East.
- [Silver Fern Holidays](#) – travel specialists with over 30 years' experience creating dream holidays to New Zealand.
- [Personal Touch Holidays](#) – providing tailor-made group travel through highly-personalised service.
- [Travel Editions](#) – offering cultural and escorted tours to discerning travellers for over 23 years.

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 Rebecca Milne (r.milne@travelpr.co.uk).

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