



## **AITO Know It All – Media Newsletter**

AITO's ([www.aito.com](http://www.aito.com)) 120-plus specialist holiday companies are true innovators, run by people who create inspiring trips and exciting experiences for travellers of all ages. Here is a carefully-chosen selection of new trips, distinctive itineraries and exciting updates from AITO members:

**Issued on 5 December 2017**

### **New tours and news from AITO members for 2018 - in alphabetical order by destination**

*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 Agent](#).*

**Authentic Adventures** has introduced a new toe-tapping singing holiday to **America's** rich Deep South, the birthplace of Jazz. Join in with acapella singing groups and experience the stories, culture and cuisine that embody Louisiana, as well as celebrating New Orleans' 300th anniversary on the seven-night [Jazz in New Orleans](#) break. **Departs 31 October 2018.**

**Cachet Travel(\*)** continues to expand its range of holidays in lesser-known areas of the **Canary Islands**. Focusing on rural cottages and smaller hotels and apartments in quieter resorts, guests can book tailor-made holidays to all seven islands. Amongst the new additions are the adults-only [Idyll Suites](#) in the small resort of Playa del Cura in Gran Canaria. **Departing between now and 31 October 2018.**

**Peter Sommer Travels(\*)** has launched [A Gastronomic Gulet Cruise in Croatia](#). New for 2018, guests will spend a week discovering the delights of **Croatian** cuisine travelling on an elegant hand-built gulet (traditional boat), enjoying cooking classes, sampling wines at selected *konobas* (traditional Dalmatian wine cellars) as well as visiting UNESCO World Heritage sites, medieval towns and more. **Departs 29 September 2018.**

**The Aurora Zone(\*)** welcomes [Nangu](#) to its fantastic array of Aurora-hunting destinations in **Finland**. Guests can design their own Arctic adventure on a tailor-made holiday and experience bucket list activities such as husky sledding, snowmobiling and Northern Lights hunts at the brand-new adult-only boutique hotel on the shores of Lake Inari in Finnish Lapland. **Departing between 1 January and 26 February 2018.**

**Veloso Tours** has created a new private [12-night deluxe tour of Ecuador](#), encompassing the colonial gems of Quito, two nights at the renowned Mashpi Lodge, located in the heart of the cloud forest, plus six nights of island hopping in the **Galápagos**, staying at deluxe hotels, with a night of glamping. The Latin America specialist offers a varied itinerary to showcase the archipelago. **Departing throughout 2018 and 2019.**

**Discover the World** is offering a four-night [Orcas and Aurora](#) small group tour, travelling along **Iceland's** dramatic Snaefellsnes Peninsula coastline, where large pods of orca feed on herring during February and March. Led by cetacean specialists, guests can witness this wildlife spectacle and, with luck, have the chance to see the Northern Lights, far from light pollution. ***Departing in February and March 2018.***

**Pettitts Travel**(\*) has created an exciting 14-day tailor-made trip: [Culinary Journey through Rajasthan](#). Led by an expert guide, sample **India's** street food, join food walks through Delhi and Jaipur, learn how to cook delicious authentic Indian cuisine, and visit a Camel Conservation Centre in Ranakpur to learn about camel milking and to taste this delightful delicacy. ***Departing between now and December 2018.***

**McKinlay Kidd**(\*) has introduced a new self-drive touring holiday, taking in two of the most enthralling regions of **Ireland's magnificent Wild Atlantic Way**. The six-night adventure, [Clare and Connemara](#), features excursions to outlying islands and a guided walk on the stunning landscape of The Burren. ***Departing between March and October 2018.***

**Andante Travels** has added an extra departure date due the original launch dates for the new 2018 [Prehistoric Ireland](#) tour all being sold. Led by archaeological and cultural tour experts, discover a passage tomb predating both Stonehenge and the Pyramids of Giza and over 50 monuments of mythological heritage on the island of Inis Mor. ***Departs 4 September 2018.***

**Fleewinter** has just launched its new **Italy** Food & Wine programme, featuring tailor-made tours around the gastronomic heartland of Piedmont, northern Italy. Activities include truffle hunting, cycling, wine tasting, cooking classes, historical walking tours, hiking and much more. Why not try the seven-day [Ultimate Foodie tour](#), best enjoyed between the months of April and November? ***Departures available throughout 2018.***

**Ramblers Walking Holidays**(\*) has just launched its 2018 summer brochure, featuring a selection of new tours to some of the hottest destinations for 2018. Experience the [Best of Namibia](#) on an 18-day walking holiday wandering through an amazing land of strange, otherworldly beauty with vast dunes and desert landscapes supporting an array of spectacular wildlife. ***Departs 20 April and 3 August 2018.***

**Silver Fern Holidays**(\*), the **New Zealand** specialist, has introduced Wanaka to its 2018 programme, including a 14-day [South Island Spectacular](#) holiday. Wanaka is a favourite with New Zealanders, with fantastic thrills and scenery, from a challenging via ferrata waterfall-climbing experience – the newest development – to white-water adventures, hiking and eco-friendly experiences. ***Departs throughout 2018.***

**Llama Travel** has introduced a new extension to its **Peru** holidays: [Mancora Beach](#). Spend four days relaxing at the chic Arennas Mancora Hotel, located in the seaside town of Mancora, on Peru's north coast. Enjoy spectacular sunset strolls on the beach, cocktails by the pool and whale-watching. ***Departing between May and November 2018.***

**Intravel**(\*) has introduced several new self-guided trips to its 2018 Walking & More programme, including the [Manor Houses of the Minho](#) trip through **Portugal's** verdant Minho region. Explore manor houses, sample the famous Vinho Verde, visit Ponte de Lima, Portugal's oldest town, and enjoy a stay at the home of a local Count, with wine served from

his own estate. **Departing between 1 April and 31 October 2018.**

**Ffestiniog Travel**(\*) has added [Trams & Trains of Portugal](#) to its programme of Connoisseur Tours, aimed at clients with a specific passion for railways. Amongst its highlights, this nine-day escorted itinerary features a historic steam train ride through the Douro Valley, a scenic rail journey along the **Portuguese** coast and travel on the seasonal narrow gauge Sintra Tram. **Departs 22 June 2018.**

**Kudu Travel**(\*) introduces a new cultural walking tour, [Walks and Prehistory in the Orkneys](#), based around **Scotland's** Orkney archipelago and visiting UNESCO sites in the Neolithic Heart of Orkney, recently featured on BBC 2's *Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney*. See the Standing Stones of Stenness, the stone Ring of Brodgar and Skara Brae – an original Stone Age village. **Departs 28 May 2018.**

**Martin Randall Travel** has added [Archaeology at the Castle](#) – the latest addition to its renowned series of symposia trips, based at the charming Castle Hotel in Taunton, **Somerset**. Spend the weekend with some of Britain's most eminent archaeologists, who have excavated worldwide. No less than 12 stimulating talks will cover a huge variety of subject matter, from Greek Temples to Maya Kingship. **Departs 16 February 2018.**

**Mountain Kingdoms**(\*) has introduced an [exciting new walking safari](#) in **South Africa**. Explore the spectacular landscapes of the Kingdom of Swaziland and enjoy supreme walking through the remote wilderness of Kruger's far north, with the opportunity to spot the big five. Visit these beautiful locations for an unforgettable walking safari experience. **Departures available in June and August 2018.**

**Casas Cantabricas**(\*) has added seven new independent self-drive itineraries to its Portuguese programme, which now covers Lisbon and the Alentejo and, in the case of its new [Camino Portugues tour](#), Santiago in Galicia, **Spain**. Book a bespoke tour to travel at a leisurely pace and to stay in hand-picked hotels. **Departures available throughout 2018.**

#### **Latest news from AITO-affiliated Tourist Boards - in reverse alphabetical order**

**The West Sweden Tourist Board** announces that the 2019 Adventure Travel Trade Association's international conference, the [Adventure Travel World Summit](#), will be held in Gothenburg, West Sweden. From 16 to 20 September 2019, 850 delegates from around the world will meet to create networks, share their knowledge and find out what's new in the world of adventure tourism, as well as try out nature experiences all over Sweden in a tailor-made activity programme.

**Visit Sweden** invites travellers to visit the new Absolut Vodka Visitor Centre, now open for the 2018 season in Åhus, [Skåne](#), southern Sweden. Visitors can enjoy guided tours, tastings and a meal in the restaurant at the centre, which is attached to its factory and 1906 distillery. Discover the meaning behind Absolut's motto: *"One Source, One Community, One Superb Vodka"*.

**Visit Norway** suggests visiting the charming town of [Flåm](#) by the Aurlandsfjord this winter to experience the majestic Norwegian Fjords dressed in snow. Enjoy excursions through frost-covered fjords and a scenic ride on the celebrated Flåm Railway. In winter the fjord is particularly breathtaking, when the air is crisp and the light changes through the day, with many different shades of blue reflected in the fjord.

**VisitGuernsey** is [preparing for the release](#) of the film adaptation of the much-loved novel *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, which will be shown in cinemas across the UK from 20 April 2018. During 2018, literary fanatics and film buffs can experience Guernsey as depicted in both the novel and the film on themed tours in locations featured in the story.

**Visit Denmark** welcomes visitors to the rural charm of northern Denmark, on [Best Served Scandinavia](#)'s newest trip to [North Jutland](#) – a region where shifting sands and pretty fishing villages have inspired artists for centuries. From Viking heritage and cutting-edge creativity in Aalborg to the idyllic seaside town of Skagen, North Jutland will take visitors back in time, the Danish way. This five-day tailor-made trip is available to book from now until 30 September 2018.

**The Tenerife Tourism Corporation** reports that, at the recent launch event for the Michelin Star Spain and Portugal Guide 2018 – held at the Ritz-Carlton, Abama – it was announced that the restaurant Nub de la Laguna has been awarded its first Michelin star, bringing the island's Michelin Star count up to six. The news emphasises [Tenerife](#)'s growing reputation as a gastronomic haven.

**CzechTourism** is preparing for a year of celebrations as 2018 marks 100 years since the new state of [Czechoslovakia](#) emerged in the heart of Europe. Named as a country of two nations – Czechs and Slovaks – both nations remember the wonderful era of economic growth, cultural boom, thriving Czech brands and vibrant cafés full of intellectuals discussing the latest topics. 2018 will be celebrated in honour of this time, when the Czechs took their first steps as an independent and confident nation.

**The Austrian National Tourist Office** is promoting the celebration of [200 Years of Silent Night](#). The most famous of all Christmas carols, having travelled the world since originating in Austria in 1818, Silent Night's reputation as an international peace message has been cemented by its inclusion within UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list. The anniversary will be marked across SalzburgerLand, Tirol and Upper Austria with museum openings, special exhibitions, a new stage play and numerous events.

## Ends

Note to Editors:

AITO, [www.aito.com](http://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 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 Jackie Franklin ([j.franklin@travelpr.co.uk](mailto:j.franklin@travelpr.co.uk)), Charlotte Osborn ([c.osborn@travelpr.co.uk](mailto:c.osborn@travelpr.co.uk)) or Sue Ockwell ([s.ockwell@travelpr.co.uk](mailto:s.ockwell@travelpr.co.uk)).

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