



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 for all to enjoy. Here is a selection of new adventures, tours and destinations on offer in 2017 and 2018:

2 June 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

Activities Abroad* has a new four-night [Lake District Family Adventure](#) which encompasses a multitude of adventurous activities on Derwentwater and in the Borrowdale Valley. Go mountain walking, climbing, ghyll scrambling, abseiling, canoeing, sailing and even visit a slate mine. Stay in a comfortable local hotel on a bed and breakfast basis. *Departing between now and 22 August 2017.*

Archipelago Choice invites holiday-makers to step back in time to discover Africa's lost islands with a new [11-night São Tomé fly-drive holiday](#). Ideal for the independent traveller, enjoy an off-the-beaten-track experience on the tropical island where there are few visitors, the crime is low and the people charming. Expect spectacular scenery, deserted beaches and a pristine natural world. *Departures and bespoke itineraries are available throughout 2017.*

Artisan Travel* has a new three-night [Cookery Masterclass](#) in La Vendée, France, with renowned Scottish chef Mark Greenaway, who will inspire guests to create tasty summer menus from an idyllic outdoor farmhouse kitchen. Learn how to make mayonnaise, bread, sauces, sorbet, ice cream and delicious rustic dishes. Nearby, there are forests, golden beaches and wineries to explore. *Departs 22 September 2017.*

Chapters Experience Holidays* offers a new one-week half-board cycling holiday, [Algarve on Two Wheels](#), in Portugal's lesser-known eastern Algarve. Combining exhilarating coastal paths with ventures inland, experience tranquil Portugal, cycling through valleys of olive and orange groves, white-washed villages, colourful fishing ports and along lovely stretches of beach. *Departs 14 October 2017, 11 March and 22 April 2018.*

Inntravel* has extended its selection of self-guided hotel-to-hotel walking holidays in the UK. With the country looking its most beautiful in the summer sunshine, there is no better time to explore "our green and pleasant land". Inntravel have three new six-night UK journeys on foot, among them [The Landscapes of The Peak District](#), showcasing Britain's first national park. *Departing between now and 31 October 2017.*

Ffestiniog Travel* has a new festive escorted tour for 2017. [New Year in Romania](#) forms part of its Small & Traditional holiday range and endorses Ffestiniog Travel's position as one

of the UK's leading tour operators to Romania. Few celebrate with tradition and style better than Romanians, and this nine-day tour offers a cultural treat with a backdrop of mountains boasting a crisp white seasonal look. *Departs 28 December 2017.*

Kudu Travel* introduces a new week-long [escorted photography tour](#) in Tenerife, offering an impressive range of locations perfect for seascape and landscape photography. The subtropical island is home to 17th and 18th century Spanish colonial architecture and the impressive Mount Teide volcano – Spain's highest point and a designated starlight reserve. Included are a sunset ride on the Teide cable car and star watching. *Departs 20 November 2017.*

On Foot Holidays offers a new [Devon walk](#) through some of the county's most bucolic countryside, from Dunsford, on the edge of Dartmoor, to the coast at Dartmouth. Visit Widecome-in-the-Moor – 'haunted' by four parishioners from 1639 – the ruins of Buckfastleigh Church, which inspired Conan Doyle's *Hound of the Baskervilles*, riverside village Dittisham and Greenways – Agatha Christie's summer home. *Departures available throughout 2017.*

Pettitts has created a new 13-day private journey to India, inspired by the recent film *Viceroy's House*. [In the Footsteps of Indian Independence – from Delhi to Amritsar](#) is a special historical journey, linking key locations from the latter days of British rule in India, the events surrounding partition and the evolution of modern India in the post-independence period. *Departing between now and December 2018.*

Simply Sweden* offers a new three-night [Christmas market in Jokkmokk escape](#), including a Sami and reindeer excursion, in Swedish Lapland. Indigenous Sami people have been travelling to Jokkmokk for over 400 years to sell their reindeer wares, warm clothing, jewellery, trinkets and crafts. This is an opportunity to visit a unique, authentic and culturally-sensitive Christmas Market. *Departs 7 December 2017.*

The Aurora Zone* has a new [three-night trip](#) in north-western Finland to discover the magnificent Northern Lights under atmospheric autumn skies. With expert guides, learn the secrets of the Lights by campfire, seek the phenomenon by mountain bike through Harriniva's vibrant landscapes, and enjoy tranquil forests and lakes which reflect both the autumn colours and the Lights; a magical setting for an aurora adventure. *Departures from 28 August to 20 September 2017*

Traveleyes* offers a stunning 11-day group adventure to uncover the [mysteries of Myanmar](#), exploring the wonders of Yangon, Inle Lake, Bagan and Mandalay. Traveleyes takes equal numbers of blind and sighted travellers on its trips, with the sighted travellers enjoying a reduced price in return for describing the sights to a different blind traveller each day of the holiday. *Departs 20 September 2017.*

Wilderness Scotland* invites movie fans to visit some of the locations in the new *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword* film, and to take in pristine mountain and sea landscapes on a [mountain biking break](#). Combining Skye with the Outer Hebrides and Torridon, discover the long technical trails which make the single-track riding on the Isle of Skye the best in Britain. *Departing between now and 16 September 2017.*

Departing 2018

Martin Randall Travel has a new four-day art tour, [Rubens & Baroques](#), celebrating the life and work of Peter Paul Rubens. Travelling from Antwerp to Brussels, see the temporary Rubens exhibition at Antwerp's MAS Museum which, in collaboration with the Rubenshuis, examines his intimate commissions and large-scale Baroque paintings. Enjoy first-class

Eurostar travel and a four-star boutique hotel. *Departs 4 October 2018.*

Mountain Kingdoms* launches its new [Lares Trek & Royal Inca Trail to Machu Picchu](#) trip. Enjoy three days camping and trekking in the unspoilt and scenic Lares region – left untouched by crowds and modern life. Guests will join the Royal Inca Trail to discover iconic Machu Picchu through the Sun Gate, tour Cuzco, and enjoy some acclimatisation in the Sacred Valley. *Departures in May, July and September 2018.*

Travel Editions* offers a new [10-night escorted group tour](#) to Cuba. Spend four nights in vibrant Havana, three nights in the tobacco region of Vinales and three nights in Cienfuegos, including colonial Trinidad and Santa Clara – the final resting place of Che Guevara. The island's distinctive culture and fascinating history differentiates this tour from a typical package holiday. *Departing between 12 March and 19 November 2018.*

Latest news from AITO-affiliated Tourist Boards

CzechTourism has announced that the award-winning international music festival, [Colours of Ostrava](#), will be held from **19 to 22 July**, in the city's intriguing industrial area, Lower Vitkovice. In addition to more than 150 bands performing a variety of jazz, world music, rock, pop and alternative genres, the festival will include a splendid supporting programme full of films, discussions, workshops and theatre performances.

Jordan Tourism Board invites all to the opening night of [I AM](#) – an art exhibition organised by CARAVAN, featuring the work of 31 Middle Eastern female contemporary artists. Opening in St Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square, London, from **3 July until 20 August**, the exhibition aims to challenge negative perceptions of women in the Middle East while celebrating their accomplishments in shaping our world into a harmonious and peaceful one. [RSVP by 21 June](#) for a place on the opening night.

The Catalan Tourist Board offers free entry to the new [Taste of Catalonia](#) event, taking place in London from **14 to 16 July**. Highlights will include a Catalan market, with stalls offering tasty local produce, cooking demonstrations featuring Catalan culinary techniques from Michelin-starred chef Xesc Rovira, tastings of Catalonia's renowned wine and cava, a live DJ and more. A grand prize winner will receive return train tickets to Barcelona with two nights of eco-friendly accommodation in Catalonia.

The Macao Government Tourism Office presents [Cinematheque • Passion](#) – a brand-new cinema, film centre and library designed to promote film culture to film lovers around the world. Taking its name from its location in famed *Travessa da Paixão* (Love Lane) and situated next to the iconic Ruins of St. Paul's in Santo António – enjoy different thematic film festivals and programmes every month, plus two local short/feature films two weekends a month, free of charge.

The Malta Tourism Authority announces that [Phoenicia Malta](#) has reopened in Floriana, just outside the capital of Valletta, following an extensive €15-million refurbishment. As well as interior upgrades, a new infinity pool and re-designed grounds, new Café Phoenicia will be unveiled in August, and a health club and spa will open in late 2017. Enjoy views of the Bastian Walls, Renzo Piano's City Gate and the Triton's Fountain from the café's terrace.

The National Spanish Tourist Board announces that 2017 marks the 40th anniversary of the first LGBTIQ pride parade in Spain. [WorldPride Madrid 2017](#) is the global LGBTIQ Pride festival to be held in the neighbourhood of *Chueca* and the main streets of Madrid from **23 June to 2 July**. Expect open air concerts, a range of stages, parties, art, culture, sport and more. This is a great festival to celebrate, discuss and showcase diversity, culminating in the World Pride Parade, which will be the world's largest Pride parade ever.

The Tenerife Tourism Corporation claims that music history will be made on **Saturday 8 July** when American rock band Aerosmith plays its final European concert at the Heliodoro Rodríguez López Stadium in [Santa Cruz](#). Tickets are still available for the *Aero-Vederci Baby!* tour, and this performance is considered to be one of the most important musical events in the Canary Islands in the last three decades.

VisitGuernsey welcomes the return of the Guernsey Food Festival from **16 to 24 September**. Celebrating the quality and variety of island food, local producers and chefs will showcase exceptional produce from Guernsey, Alderney, Herm and Sark. Enjoy special bar and restaurant promotions, gastronomic tours, chef masterclasses, street markets and more. Taste Guernsey will be running a [series of mini-festivals](#) celebrating local food in the lead-up to the festival.

West Sweden Tourist Board invites curious travellers to '[meet the locals](#)' and experience the Swedish lifestyle. It is now easy to find locals who are happy to share a room, a ride, or a cherished part of their everyday life. These mini tours of daily life can range from baking *kanelbullar* (cinnamon rolls) to taking a jog through the woods, or an overnight stay in the archipelago.

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.
- [Anzcro 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).

Issued by Travel PR on behalf of

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