



AITO SUMMER SALE:

Last-minute holidays from the specialist experts

Here are some of the best last-minute summer holidays available for August and beyond, with members of the Association of Independent Tour Operators* (AITO, www.aito.com).

SERENITY HOLIDAYS, THE GAMBIA EXPERIENCE (0945 330 4567)

[Seven nights at Ngala Lodge](#)

Departure Date: 1, 8 & 15 August 2014

Enjoy a week's stay in The Gambia this summer at the magical Ngala Lodge. From its magnificent elevated setting, the atmosphere at the Lodge is extremely friendly, with a highly-personalised service to help guests truly relax. The main building was formerly a colonial mansion and houses the ten original suites. Each is unique, extremely comfortable and spacious with many individual features and little touches.

SPECIAL OFFER: The seven-night holiday now costs from £749 pp.

For more information, [click here](#).

BRIGHTWATER HOLIDAYS (01334 657155)

[Islay and Jura](#)

Departure Date: 4 August 2014

Islay represents the southern extreme of the Inner Hebrides. Once the ancient home of the Lord of the Isles - who ruled the Hebrides from two islets on Loch Finlaggan - the Islay has always been popular with archaeologists and historians. Today, the island is perhaps better known for its distinctive malt whiskies, its sandy beaches and its diverse birdlife. There's also an opportunity to visit the Bowmore Distillery, the oldest distillery on the island, and the Loch Gruinart RSPB Nature Reserve.

SPECIAL OFFER: The four-night trip now costs from £595 pp.

For more information, [click here](#).

ARBLASTER & CLARKE WINE TOURS (01730 263111)

[Venice to Athens Wine Cruise on Sea Cloud](#)

Departure Date: 6 August 2014

Experience a sailing trip on the 'Sea Cloud' - an authentic square-rigger with four masts supporting twenty-nine sails. When fully unfurled in all their billowing glory, she is majestic. On this voyage, between Italy, Croatia, the Greek Islands and mainland Greece, Sea Cloud anchors off the islands of Susak and Elafonisas, and visits the harbours of Korcula, Kyllini and Astros. The journey illustrates the excellent, diverse wine varieties from Veneto, Croatia, Puglia and Greece, with expert-led tastings accompanied by superb meals. Ashore there's a plethora of visits at top wine estates, plus sandy beaches and seaside villages. Experience the exhilaration of crewing Sea Cloud - climbing the masts and rigging to help secure her vast sails so that she can calmly cruise into the small, lesser-known harbours on this unique and very special small party wine cruising holiday.

LATE AVAILABILITY: The eight-night cruise now costs from £5,849 pp.

For more information, [click here](#).

PRESTIGE HOLIDAYS (01425 480400)

[Savings in Madeira](#)

Departure Date: 6 August 2014

Enjoy seven nights at the Quinta da Penha Hotel in Madeira. Just a ten-minute walk from town, this Quinta, set in beautiful mature tropical gardens, is a real delight. Owned and managed by the Ribeiro family, the emphasis here is on something a little different. There are two seawater pools plus a children's pool, both surrounded by ample sun terraces. The delightful main house has a lounge furnished with antiques whilst the games room offers snooker/ billiards and bridge.

SPECIAL OFFER: The seven-night holidays now costs from £786 pp (including a free night).

For more information, [click here](#).

KUDU TRAVEL (01225 436 115)

[An Opera Weekend in Stockholm & Drottningholm](#)

Departure Date: 8 August 2014

Attend a rare performance of Mozart's opera "Mitridate, Re di Ponto" in the Baroque Court Theatre at Drottningholm on this guided tour. Staying in a five-star historic hotel on the waterfront, explore the waterways, lakes and green spaces of Stockholm with boat trips and gentle walks. Visit Royal palaces, galleries, fine Gothic churches and the famous Vasa Museum displaying the restored warship that sank in 1628, and enjoy delicious "new Nordic" cuisine.

LATE AVAILABILITY: The four-day trip now costs from £1,590 pp.

For more information, [click here](#).

SERENITY HOLIDAYS, SARDINIAN PLACES (0845 330 2056)

[Seven nights in North East Sardinia](#)

Departure Date: 9 August 2014

Located in the sought-after resort of Cannigione, Casa Rosa is only a few minutes' walk from sandy beaches, bars, restaurants and the local market. A perfect option for couples and families looking for a traditional summer holiday by the sea.

SPECIAL OFFER: The seven-night holiday now costs from £599 pp.

For more information, [click here](#).

DISCOVER THE WORLD (01737 214291)

[Sailing Scoresby Sund](#)

Departure Date: 13, 20, 27 Aug; 3, 10 Sept 2014

This itinerary provides the chance to experience the beautiful and remote Arctic aboard the traditional schooners 'Opal' or 'Hildur'. These elegant **two-masted wooden schooners** allow for a more intimate exploration of the spectacular Greenland coast, with a maximum of just 10-12 passengers travelling under billowing sails for a true sense of polar adventure. The great fjord system of East Greenland's Scoresby Sund is the world's longest and widest fjord, extending 350km inland and boasting truly spectacular scenery.

LATE AVAILABILITY: The seven-night trip now costs from £3,550 pp.

For more information, [click here](#).

BRIGHTWATER HOLIDAYS (01334 657155)

[The Irish Rover: Tour around Ireland's Finest Gardens](#)

Departure Date: 15 August 2014

This tour around Ireland promises a rich feast of horticultural excellence, with memorable and beguiling gardens, enthusiastic and skilful owners and an ever-changing backdrop of lush green hills, fertile fields and glittering seascapes. The north to south journey is packed full of gems, yet relaxed and unhurried, taking in the very best that the Emerald Isle has to offer.

SPECIAL OFFER: The seven-night holiday costs from £995 pp.

For more information, [click here](#).

WILD FRONTIERS (020 7736 3968)

[Journey to Ladakh](#)

Departure Date: 16 August 2014

Explore the highest, most inaccessible and least populated of India's regions on this fascinating group tour, 'Journey to Ladakh'. Explore Shimla, Dharamsala and Manali in northern India, before travelling on one of the world's most incredible road journeys to explore the stunning scenery and Buddhist culture of Ladakh. Traverse spectacular passes - including the highest road in the world - walk through villages and see how the Nubra people live, and spend time exploring the gompas and palaces of Leh.

SPECIAL OFFER: The 16-day trip now costs from £1,985 pp.

For more information, [click here](#).

WILD FRONTIERS (020 7736 3968)

[Silk Road: Wild Mountains Fabled Towns](#)

Departure Date: 16 August 2014

Combine the two Central Asian countries of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. In Uzbekistan explore the stunning architecture of the Silk Road cities of Bukhara, Khiva and Samarkand. In Kyrgyzstan discover the breathtaking scenery of mountains, turquoise lakes and grassy steppe. Stay with a

nomadic family in traditional felt tents and visit eagle hunters, discovering a way of life that has changed little over the centuries.

SPECIAL OFFER: The 16-day trip now costs from £1,975 pp (was £2,195 pp).

For more information, [click here](#).

BRIGHTWATER HOLIDAYS (01334 657155)

[Scotland's Transport Heritage](#)

Departure Date: 19 August 2014

This extended tour begins in Glasgow at the excellent new Riverside Museum of Transport and Travel on the banks of the River Clyde - which celebrates Scotland's rich industrial heritage with an extensive collection of more than 3,000 objects. Then sail 'Doon ra Watter' on the world's last seagoing paddle steamer, the PS Waverley, still elegantly plying her trade on the Clyde. There can be no better way to enjoy the gentle beauty of the Argyll hills and the Kyles of Bute than from the deck of this grand old lady. There is a similar majesty to the SS Walter Scott, one of the last surviving screw steamers, which has graced the calm waters of Loch Katrine since 1900. Next is a unique boat journey on the Falkirk Wheel, the world's first rotating boat lift, a fine example of modern engineering which links the Union and the Forth & Clyde canals.

SPECIAL OFFER: The three-night trip now costs from £545 pp.

For more information, [click here](#).

WILD FRONTIERS (020 7736 3968)

[Kashmir: Garden of the Moghul Kings](#)

Departure Date: 21 August 2014

Take a three-day water journey from Dal Lake to Manasbal Lake, on a beautiful watery trail first plied by the Moghul rulers in the 17th century. Stay in homely mountain camps, and walk amongst the Himalayan foothills. Visit the mountain village of Gulmarg and spend four nights relaxing on one of Srinigar's famous houseboats. This relaxed tour of Kashmir is perfect for anyone seeking to unwind and see this amazing destination at a slow and steady pace.

SPECIAL OFFER: The 11-day trip now costs from £1,665 pp (was £1,850 pp).

For more information, [click here](#).

DISCOVER THE WORLD (01737 214291)

[A Taste of Iceland](#)

Departure Date: 21 August 2014

This short itinerary has been designed to provide a taste of this magnificent island.

Accommodation for the entire stay is at the well-appointed and comfortable Hotel Glymur, in an ideal setting on the 'whale' fjord just north of the capital. See the volcanoes, waterfalls and geothermal wonders that make Iceland so unique and spectacular, with the added benefit of having a knowledgeable guide by your side.

LATE AVAILABILITY: The three-night trip now costs from £765 pp.

For more information, [click here](#).

OASIS OVERLAND (01963 363400)

[Kyrgyzstan Overland, Bishkek to Bishkek: Save 20%](#)

Departure Date: 21 August 2014

Join this ultimate expedition and venture off the tourist trail to Kyrgyzstan, taking in the stunning scenery in one of the last great untouched wildernesses on earth. Swim in the mighty Lake Issyk-Kul, hike to the edge of glaciers and stay in a Yurt by the banks of Lake Song Kol. Finally, travel towards the border with China and visit an ancient Silk Road Caravanserai, Tash Rabat.

SPECIAL OFFER: The 15-day tour now costs from £511 pp + USD425 (mandatory local payment)

For more information, [click here](#).

OASIS OVERLAND (01963 363400)

[Peaks and Plains - Buenos Aires to Quito trip: Save £200](#)

Departure Date: 27 August 2014

From the Amazon Jungle to Argentinian Vineyards and the mysterious ruins of Machu Picchu high in the Peruvian Andes - this trip has it all. Stay with the local Uros Indians on Lake Titicaca, experience the vastness of the Bolivian Salt Flats, visit vineyards by bicycle in Argentina and take in a Tango Show in the metropolitan city of Buenos Aires. Whatever your tastes, this trip has something for everyone.

SPECIAL OFFER: The 53-day trip now costs from £1,285 pp + USD1,180 (mandatory local payment)

For more information, [click here](#).

DISCOVER ADVENTURE (01722 718444)

[Coast to Coast Lakes and Dales Cycle](#)

Departure Date: 28 August 2014

This cycle challenge takes participants from the West Coast, over the Cumbrian Mountains and southwards through the Lake District National Park, then into Yorkshire, through the heart of the famous Dales and finally on to the East Coast. The route takes participants 'up pass and down dale' as they traverse the country: gruelling climbs, magnificent descents and stunning scenery await.

LATE AVAILABILITY: The four-day trip now costs from £519 pp.

For more information, [click here](#).

PETER SOMMER TRAVELS (01600 888220)

[Cruising to Ephesus](#)

Departure Date: 30 August 2014

Beginning in Bodrum, cruise from some of the prettiest and most interesting sites in Turkey to the stunning and monumental ruins of Ephesus. Each day the wonders of the timeless coast build and build; from the small harbour of Myndos to the ancient, wealthy port of Iasos, once celebrated for its stunning blood-red and vivid white ornamental marble and splendid and intricate mosaics. Inland, see two soaring temples. The elegant shrine to Zeus at Euromus sits peacefully amid groves of olive trees and at Didyma, the gargantuan oracular temple - once adorned with carvings of griffons and medusa - remains a stunning monumental site sacred to the god Apollo. Our final destination is Ephesus, capital of Roman Asia. The site is magnificent - marble streets, agoras, villas, a theatre for 28,000 and an extraordinary library.

LATE AVAILABILITY: The eight-day trip now costs from £2,125 pp.

For more information, [click here](#).

EXPERIENCE TRAVEL GROUP (020 7924 7133)

[Sri Lanka: East Coast Special: Save £550](#)

Departure Date: Selected dates in September 2014

Visit Sri Lanka's east coast during the best time to travel to this exciting up-and-coming region - September. This 2014 special combines a stay at five of Sri Lanka's top boutique hotels that are luxurious, but authentically Sri Lankan and culturally-sensitive places. There will also be a chance to take a seaplane journey and see Sigiriya, Anuradhapura and Minneriya National Park, along with other exclusive experiences along the way.

SPECIAL OFFER: The 12-night trip now costs from £2,456 pp.

For more information, [click here](#).

***AITO is a highly-respected travel organisation that provides an unrivalled collection of exciting, specialist holidays from award-winning tour operators. Its 120-plus members are all focused on quality of customer experience and personal service, and aim to offer sustainable travel options.**

Ends – 22 July 2014

Press: For more information about AITO (www.aito.com) please contact Sue Ockwell, Rebecca Milne or Laura Manning at Travel PR (020 8891 4440, s.ockwell@travelpr.co.uk, r.milne@travelpr.co.uk or l.manning@travelpr.co.uk).