

AITO Know It All – Media Newsletter

As AITO (www.aito.com) turns 42 this year, its 120-plus specialist holiday companies continue to create inspiring trips and experiences designed for travellers of all ages. Here is a selection of exciting new itineraries and member updates for 2018:

Issued on 31 January 2018

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](#).*

Andante Travels invites guests to travel beyond the famous site of Pompeii to discover the less-explored hinterland of Vesuvius in Italy on its **new** seven-day trip, [Campania Beyond Pompeii](#). Dipping into ancient Roman life, uncover the extraordinary subterranean city beneath Naples and explore the ruins of the once-wealthy summer seaside escapes of Baia and Pozzuoli. **Departs 15 May and 18 September 2018.**

Cachet Travel* has further expanded its range of small family-run hotels, apartments and villas with private pools on Crete. Amongst these **new** additions for 2018 is [Blue Oyster Beach Villas](#), based in Platanes near Rethymnon. These family-size villas feature private pools, are conveniently located next to the beach and are within walking distance of local resort facilities. **Departures from April to October 2018.**

Ffestiniog Travel* is launching its first dedicated tour of America's Golden State to appeal to both railway fans and their partners. The **new** [15-day Californian tour](#) combines sightseeing in San Francisco, Yosemite, stays on the Queen Mary ocean liner and Delta King steamboat, plus journeys on Shay steam locomotives, the Napa Valley wine train and Amtrak's scenic Coast Starlight route. **Departs 4 September 2018.**

Fleewinter has launched a **new** holiday destination, the Cayman Islands, ideal for those craving a Caribbean paradise but with something a bit different. Brimming with pristine beaches and endless diving opportunities, guests can experience warm Caymanian hospitality and first-class service during the seven-night [Grand Cayman Getaway](#). **Departs throughout 2018.**

Intravel* introduces a **new** self-guided cycling holiday exploring the [Lagoons and the Silver Coast of Aveiro](#) in north-west Portugal. Known as 'Portugal's Little Venice', Aveiro is a distinctive region, characterised by shallow lagoons and mud flats. Enjoy traffic-free cycling close to the Costa de Prata following a network of dedicated cycle paths. **Flexible departures between April and October 2018.**

InsideAsia Tours* introduces [Wild Cambodia](#): a **new** 15-night wildlife holiday which explores the incredible diversity of Cambodia. Camp out under the stars in safari-style tents, explore birding sites in remote locations, track gibbons and visit an elephant conservation project. InsideAsia recommends that the best time of year for wildlife encounters is December to April. **Departs throughout 2018.**

Llama Travel is offering a special promotion, where guests can save up to £1,000 per couple on the [Galapagos San Jose & Ecuador Cruise](#). Highlights of the trip include visiting the colonial city of Quito, spotting endemic wildlife and exploring the intriguing geology of the Galapagos. (Offer applies to Itinerary A on selected departure dates, subject to availability). **Departures available between July and September 2018.**

Martin Randall Travel presents [Royal Residences](#), a five-day tour based in Windsor and Whitehall, exploring London's rich art and architecture and surrounding royal residences. Led by country house expert and writer, Anthony Lambert, guests will visit the state apartments of Windsor Castle, rarely-open Frogmore House and the John Nash mansion, Clarence House, during private tours. **Departs 14 August 2018.**

Mountain Kingdoms* has added an exciting **new** walking holiday in the unspoiled [Clarée Valley](#) in France. This eight-day holiday is based at a welcoming family-run hotel in the beautiful French Alps and combines

challenging trekking with stunning scenery, with ample opportunities to explore breath-taking mountains, lush meadows and glistening lakes. **Departs in June and October 2018.**

Ramblers Walking Holidays* has launched [Mindfulness in Majorca](#) following the success of its Mindfulness in the Lakes trip last year. **New** for 2018, guests can replenish diminished energy and live in the moment with daily mindfulness practice on coastal and inland walks, with some conducted in silence. Gentle yoga and short mediation sessions are also included. **Departs 1 September 2018.**

The Aurora Zone* has a **new** itinerary, [Saariselkä- Northern Lights](#), which combines innovative Aurora Cabin accommodation with an enticing range of winter experiences. By day, experience a thrilling husky safari, a visit to a traditional Sámi reindeer farm, and an ice-fishing tour via snowmobile. By night, search for the Aurora Borealis by snowmobile, snowmobile-pulled sled, and bus. **Departures until 18 March 2018.**

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

Visit Sweden announces EuroPride Gothenburg: “Two cities, one country – for a united Europe, open to the world”. For the first time in EuroPride history, this international event, which attracts visitors from all over Europe, will be jointly hosted and organised by the Stockholm Pride and West Pride festivals. Welcome to an unforgettable festival for LGBT rights in [Gothenburg](#) from 14 to 19 August 2018.

Visit Portugal launches [Portuguese Trails](#), a brand-new platform for cyclists and walkers. Acting as the pilot region, the Algarve offers more than 140 trails for cycling and walking, run by 11 companies which are "bike and walk friendly", and around 60 programmes aimed at Portuguese and international tourists. Centro de Portugal and Alentejo will soon be part of this platform too, with the remaining regions following later in 2018.

VisitDenmark announces Denmark's hot happenings 2018: World-renowned restaurant [Noma](#) will open at the beginning of 2018 in a new Copenhagen location with an urban farm; the Danish capital will also get its own artificial ski slope, [Copenhill](#), in the autumn of 2018, built on top of Copenhagen's new green waste management centre; and, finally, the new hotel [Herman K](#) will offer a super-cool and modern hotel experience when it opens in June 2018 in the heart of Copenhagen.

Turismo Lanzarote welcomes all to join the new [Jameos Nights](#), held in Jameos del Agua. Experience the beauty and magic of of Jameos through a special evening out which combines music and gastronomy. Taking place every Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday during June through to September 2018, restaurant Jameos del Agua will open from 7pm and offer a special menu. From 10.30pm there will be a timple concert, featuring the traditional five-string instrument from the Canary Islands and performed by the Lake.

The Tenerife Tourism Corporation is excited to announce that the island's highly anticipated carnival, [The Santa Cruz Carnival](#), has a fantasy theme this year. Taking place between 7 and 13 February 2018, this is the island's largest and most anticipated festival and is considered to be the world's second largest carnival after Rio. Expect spectacular parades, fancy dress and non-stop street fiestas!

The Spanish Tourist Office is promoting Murillo and Seville: The 400th Anniversary Of The Birth of a Universal Painter – a multifaceted program of activities put together by the capital of southern Spain and taking place during 2018 to honour the 400th anniversary of the death of celebrated painter, Murillo. [Seville](#) has become a multidisciplinary museum that follows the trail and work of the greatest exponent of the Sevillian School of Baroque.

The Malta Tourism Authority is celebrating Malta's capital city, [Valletta](#), awarded the accolade of European Capital of Culture 2018 in recognition of its role in driving cultural, social and economic regeneration across the Maltese archipelago. Launched on 20 January 2018, the award will be celebrated throughout the year, with over 400 island-wide events and exhibitions.

The Macao Government Tourism Office is celebrating the region's appointment as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, recognising Macao's distinctive 400-year old culinary legacy and unique gastronomic culture, with the [2018 Macao Year of Gastronomy](#), featuring a line-up of special activities and celebrations throughout the year.

The Jordan Tourism Board announces the opening of the [W Amman in Jordan](#), a vibrant, urban hotel located in the heart of the capital's financial district. Opening 28 March 2018, this hotel is the brand's first property in the Hashemite Kingdom, featuring 280 rooms, 44 of which are suites, a heated outdoor swimming pool, state-of-the-art spa and four dining options serving a range of world cuisines.

The Greek National Tourism Organisation invites visitors to two new museums which have recently opened their doors in Athens. The first is [The Benaki Toy Museum](#), featuring a collection of approximately 20,000 Greek toys, books, ephemera, clothing and artefacts of childhood. The second is [The Tourism Museum](#), which showcases the history of Greece's tourism through valuable historical files, documents, posters, publications and objects that have contributed to the Greek tourism sector for the last 60 years.

Czech Tourism welcomes the [Tbex Europe Conference](#) which will be held in the Czech Republic for the first ever time. The three-day event will be taking place 26 to 28 July 2018, in the trendy city of Ostrava. Visitors can also obtain tickets to the famous festival Colours of Ostrava, taking place the week before, meaning that the east of the Czech Republic is the place to be in July!

Ends

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.

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