

**AITO Know-It-All newsletter**

AITO ([**www.aito.com**](http://www.aito.com)) turned 38 years old this year. Its 120-plus specialist operators continue to innovate, as will be clear from the selection of new programmes and itineraries below.

**New tours and announcements from AITO members**

**Arblaster & Clarke Wine Tours** has launched a brand new ‘Gourmet Luxury Whisky Tour’ for 2015. Taste your way around the magnificent Scottish Highlands, experiencing the world-famous whisky ‘appellations’ of Speyside and the Isle of Skye, as well as trying an array of gastronomic Scottish delights and taking part in a blending masterclass. For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/scotland/gourmet-luxury-whisky-tour).

**CICERONI Travel**’s 2015 programme includes an exciting new tour led by Shakespearian actor James Howard, discovering Shakespeare’s Way via a journey from London to Stratford-on-Avon. For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/united-kingdom/discover-shakespearess-way).

**Expressions Holidays**’ new Spanish programme includes a Spanish art and architecture tour which visits Bilbao, Barcelona and Madrid: home to iconic Spanish buildings and outstanding art collections. For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/spain/spanish-art-and-architecture-tour).

**Ffestiniog Travel** has added a number of new departures to its popular programme of escorted tours to Switzerland, enabling clients to enjoy its many attractions year-round. Several of the itineraries also incorporate onward travel to Italy and France, adding an extra dimension to the classic Swiss rail tour, including The Rhône from Sea to Source, which travels from the Camargue Delta to its source in the Swiss Alps. For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/france/the-rhne-from-sea-to-source).

**Frontier America**'s new programme of holidays to the USA includes the enticingly titled Brew New England, where guests will quench their thirst and sate their appetite on tastings tours of New England’s micro-breweries and visits to venues serving favourite local fare. For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/united-states-of-america/brew-new-england).

**Inntravel** is offering three-night festive breaks to Prague, Copenhagen, Salzburg, Lucerne and stylish Gothenburg, where the spectacular Christmas markets are guaranteed to get visitors in the Advent mood. Alternatively, for low-key charm, opt for one of the handsome villages on the shores of Austria’s Wolfgangsee that hold traditional markets every bit as captivating, while staying in neighbouring Fuschl. For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/austria/fuschl-christmas-market-breaks).

**InsideVietnam Tours**, the Indochina specialist, has launched a brand-new brochure which includes a new selection of tailored itineraries with a bigger focus on Cambodia and Laos. The brochure itself is combined, in 'flip-flop' style, with the new InsideBurma Tours brand – a new venture for the destination specialists. For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/insideasia-tours/insidevietnam-tours/1).

**KE Adventure Travel** has created a new eight-day walking holiday on Gozo, which circumnavigates the entire island via spectacular coastal paths before returning to an idyllic four-star harbour-front hotel each night. For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/malta/go-gozo-the-walkers-malta).

**Kirker Holidays** has launched its 2015 brochures to Italy, India and Morocco, as well its latest Cultural Tours & Music Holidays selection. New destinations in Italy are Faenza, Genoa and Modica, whilst Cultural Tour highlights include Imperial Morocco, An Andalucian Discovery and, in Poland, the History of the Teutonic Knights, plus a new Exclusive Kirker Music Cruise to the Canary Islands, Madeira & Lisbon. For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/kirker-holidays).

**Kudu Travel** is introducing a new winter sunshine tour to Panama & the Dutch Antilles, book-ending Panama’s cloud forest, coral reefs and canal with a pair of UNESCO World Heritage Sites – 17th century Dutch Curaçao in the Caribbean and the Spanish colonial quarter of Casco Viejo in old Panama City. For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/curaao/panama-and-curacao-cultural-tour).

**Journey Latin America** has launched a pioneering one-off small group tour to Nicaragua based on feedback from tour leaders and clients, plus its staff’s local knowledge. The trip visits Granada and Ometepe Island as well as the lesser-known Solentiname Islands in Lago Nicaragua and the Río San Juan. For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/nicaragua/off-the-beaten-track-nicaragua).

**Martin Randall Travel** is offering two new destinations in 2015: Japan and Peru. In Japan, participants will discover Japan across the ages, sampling excellent works of art from many periods, genres and styles. In Peru, visitors will journey through the Andean heartland and seek to understand the country’s key pre-Colombian civilisations: Moche, Chimu and Inca. For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/peru/peru).

**McKinlay Kidd**has revealed a list of the ultimate tailor-made gift experiences – ranging from a journey by Ferrari to stay in a Scottish castle, to experiencing the outstanding natural beauty of the Highlands by steam train – which are designed to make shopping for an extra special Christmas gift much more enjoyable. For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/united-kingdom/west-highland-line-experience).

**Pure Crete** has introduced its new autumn special interest holiday for 2015: a guided week-long tour in Western Crete which includes wildlife photography, local seasonal gastronomy and wine tasting, visits to vineyard and olive oil producers, a Chestnut festival and the Imbros Gorge walk.  For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/greece/a-taste-of-autumn-in-crete).

**Ramblers Worldwide Holidays** is offering a new two-week guided walking holiday, savouring India’s Royal Heritage and the opulence of the Maharajahs. Highlights include Agra and the Taj Mahal, the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri *en route* to Bharatphur, the Keolodeo bird sanctuary, Ranthambore and the National Parks of North India and the ‘Pink City’ of Jaipur. For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/india/the-majesty-of-rajasthan).

**Scandinavian Travel** has launched a new programme – Cloudberry Journeys – providing luxury and tailor-made holidays throughout the year across stunning Scandinavia, from the Arctic wilderness to vibrant capital cities. For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/scandinavian-travel-ltd/cloudberry-journeys/1).

**Undiscovered Destinations** has launched new 16-day escorted tour, combining South East Asia’s best kept secret, Laos – where guests will go well beyond the tourist trail – with a journey to neighbouring Cambodia and the must-see site of Angkor Wat. ‘A Journey To Forever Mountain’ also includes a visit to The Lone Buffalo Foundation, a special project in Xieng Khouang offering young people free English courses taught by a native speaker. For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/cambodia/a-journey-to-forever-mountain).

**Wilderness Scotland** has introduced an easy winter walking adventure, complemented by classic Highland hospitality. Explore the beautiful lochs, glens and ancient Caledonian pine forest of the Cairngorms National Park and keep fingers crossed for a sighting of the Northern Lights. For more information, [click here](http://www.aito.com/scotland/the-winter-highlands-cairngorms).

**News from AITO-affiliated Tourist Board members**

**The Belgian Tourist Office** is celebrating the appointment of Mons as the European Capital of Culture 2015 with an exciting calendar of exhibitions, music festivals and much more. The great artist Vincent van Gogh lived near Mons in the 1870s and now, 125 years after his death, the exhibition *Van Gogh au Borinage* – bringing together his early paintings and sketches along with letters to his family – will run from 25th January until 17th May at the Beaux Arts Museum (BAM). For more information, [click here](http://www.mons2015.eu/en).

**The German National Tourist Office** will be offering the opportunity to attend inspiring [events](http://freegermanyguide.com/eventsandfamtrips.pdf) and to participate on [fam trips](http://freegermanyguide.com/eventsandfamtrips.pdf) in 2015. Please contact [Charles Wilson](mailto:charles.wilson@germany.travel) for further information.

**Saint Lucia** invites travellers to experience new levels of rejuvenation and adventure this November during the island’s annual Health & Wellness Month. Inspired by the vast array of wellness-related activities, Saint Lucia’s leading hotels will offer value-added packages and discounted rates. For more information, [click here](http://www.stlucia.org).

**Visit Malta** anticipates increased interest in the fabulous rural island of Gozo, where Academy Award winning couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are currently filming their new blockbuster film *By the Sea*. For more information, [click here](http://www.visitmalta.com/).

**Visit Portugal** is happy to announce that the archipelago of the Azores has become the world’s first destination to be awarded the Platinum Quality Coast Award 2014-2015, by the largest international certification programme for sustainable tourism destinations, Quality Coast. For more information, [click here](http://www.qualitycoast.info).

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