



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 9 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](#).*

Abercrombie & Kent's* new sample itinerary, [Discover Vietnam](#), combines carefully-chosen boutique accommodation with authentic experiences to create a holiday which appeals to travellers looking for local interaction, freedom and flexibility, supported by A&K's expertise and customer service. The best time to visit is between November and April and trips can be adapted to suit personal interests. **Departs throughout the year.**

CICERONI Travel is featuring two Russian tours in 2018, including the new [Kremlins & Cathedrals: Moscow & the Birth of Russia](#). Led by expert Tom Duncan, explore the Kremlin with its cathedrals, museums and Imperial halls, and trace the history of Russia over many centuries. Travel on the celebrated Moscow Metro and sample the very best of contemporary Russian cuisine. **Departs 8 November 2018.**

Cox & Kings* has launched its new collection of expert-led 'Arts & Culture' tours, where visitors can meet fascinating locals, such as designers, wine-producers, artisans and perfumers, to gain a real sense of place and culture. [Venice: Art & Artisans](#) reveals Venice's lesser-known gems, hidden beyond the regular tourist trail, meeting producers of gondolas, Venetian mirrors and Dorona wine. **Departs 21 March 2018.**

Explore!* has announced a new two-week trip to Kazakhstan, [Across the Kazakh Steppe](#), featuring a visit to the Cosmodrome in Baikonur, with a chance to witness a rocket launch at the spaceport. Explore the leafy streets of Almaty, discover Silk Road history in Turkestan and uncover eerie rusting ships in the middle of the desert where the Aral Sea once was. **Departing between 19 May and 30 September 2018.**

Geodyssey* offers small group trips and tailor-made holidays to Bolivia, which was named the 'World's Leading Cultural Destination' in 2017 for its rich culture and traditions, marked by its many fiestas and parades which occur throughout the year. Discover the best of Bolivia on the 12-night [Bolivian Odyssey](#), designed by Geodyssey's own Bibiana Tellez-Garside, who is from La Paz in west-central Bolivia. **Departs 19 October 2018.**

Intravel* has introduced a [new self-guided cycling holiday](#) to Slovenia's Julian Alps, which showcases the region's cherished tradition of bee-keeping. Visit during May to witness the first ever [World Bee Day](#), and cycle past brightly painted beehives, finishing in Radovljica, home to a charming museum dedicated to Slovene beekeeping traditions. **Departing between May and October 2018.**

InsideAsia Tours* has introduced [Cambodia in Style](#); a 10-night trip which combines visiting temples with accommodation based in some of Cambodia's most exclusive resorts. Explore the ancient temples of Angkor before journeying south by private boat for a few days of rest and relaxation on beautiful Koh Rong; one of the most tranquil islands in Asia. **Departs throughout the year.**

Kirker Holidays* has two Music Festivals at Sea in 2018, both sailing from Liverpool, including [Spitsbergen & the Arctic Circle: a Kirker Music Cruise](#), featuring some of the most dramatic scenery in the world. As well as fascinating ports of call, Kirker passengers will enjoy a series of chamber music concerts featuring world-class musicians who accompany the holiday throughout. **Departs 27 June 2018.**

Kudu Travel* has introduced a new seven-night [cultural walking tour](#) which explores the heart-shaped peninsula of Istria in Croatia. This trip offers guests a delightful journey, discovering Croatia's Roman, Venetian and Italian heritage, with opportunities to visit ancient ports and fishing villages along the coast as well as medieval hilltop villages and fresco-filled churches inland. **Departs 2 May 2018.**

McKinlay Kidd* has launched a new [car-free holiday](#), taking in highlights of Scotland's diverse and enthralling islands. This 10-night self-guided trip visits Islay, the Outer Hebrides, Orkney, Inverness and Skye, combining whisky, culture, history and superb accommodation with some of the country's most breath-taking scenery. **Departing between April and October 2018.**

Oasis Overland* has introduced a new overland adventure, [Cape Town to Victoria Falls Southern Explorer](#), a 35-day journey through South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. Travel along the Garden Route to the Drakensburg Mountains and from the ancient city of Great Zimbabwe to the mighty Victoria Falls. **Monthly departures available from October 2018.**

On Foot Holidays has added a new self-guided walking holiday in the Italian Lakes. Exploring magnificent [Lake Maggiore](#) and the smaller lakes of Orta and Mergozzo, this holiday brings the glory of the Alps to walkers of modest abilities. Other delights include an ascent of Mottarone (cable car option available!) and a visit to the World Heritage Site of Sacro Monte. **Departing between March and November 2018.**

On The Go Tours* now offers escorted group tours to the remote Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan, with four itineraries featuring the mesmerising [Thimphu festival](#) as well as the highlights of neighbouring India and Nepal. Led by local English-speaking guides, these tours include a hike to the spectacular Tiger's Nest Monastery and a night at a premium camp in Punakha. **Departs 19 September 2018.**

Pettitts Travel* is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2018 and has introduced a range of new destinations, including South Africa. [The Battlefields of South Africa](#) is an exclusive nine-day guided tour in the company of eminent storyteller and historian, Rob Caskie, predominately focusing on the important events of the Anglo-Zulu War on the battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift. **Departs 20 October 2018.**

Undiscovered Destinations* has launched '[Baltic Explorer](#)' – a new guided tour through the enchanting Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Guests will visit major sites as well as going off the beaten track to see some spectacular national parks and the stunning Curonian Spit. There is also the option, after the tour, to visit Kaliningrad, the exclave also known as little Russia. **Departs in May, June and September 2018.**

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.

For further information on AITO, please contact Travel PR on 020 8891 4440 or email Sue Ockwell (s.ockwell@travelpr.co.uk), Jackie Franklin (j.franklin@travelpr.co.uk), or Charlotte Osborn (c.osborn@travelpr.co.uk).

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