

travel

Independent Travel

DEALS & STEALS

PÓL Ó CONGHAILE picks the best of the summer holiday sales



€24.99 AIRLINE SALES TAKE FLIGHT

Ryanair's summer sun sale runs to January 15, with sun holiday destinations including Paris (pictured) Lisbon and Nice available from €24.99 one-way. The deals are available for travel in April and May. Aer Lingus's January sale ended yesterday, but SAS has one-way flights to Scandinavia from €54pp, and Emirates is offering economy fares from €474 return to Dubai, €791 to Australasia and €617 to Africa if you book before January 16. Travel is from now to November, with Business Class fares from Dublin to Dubai starting at €1,900.

DETAILS: ryanair.com; flysas.com; emirates.ie

€499pp LA DOLCE VITA IN ITALY & SPAIN

Topflight's seasonal sale has savings of up to €200 on select holidays booked before February 28, with a week at the 4-star Bella Italia resort in Lake Garda (pictured right) from €499pp in May. If you fancy a more active holiday, CaminoWays.com is offering 5pc off all 2015 trips on the Camino de Santiago booked this month. Six nights on the French Way start from €489pp in low season, for example — a price including rooms, half-board and luggage transfers, but not flights.

DETAILS: topflight.ie; caminoways.com



€204pp FERRY HOLIDAYS IN FRANCE

Brittany Ferries is offering 15pc off sailings from Ireland to France, and 20pc off all ferry-inclusive holidays, booked before January 31. A 12-night camping holiday from May 30 starts from €204pp, based on a family of four sharing. Meanwhile, Irish Ferries is offering a free cruise ferry trip to Britain for a car, plus two passengers, for motorists making a return sailing from Ireland to France on either 'Oscar Wilde' from Rosslare or 'Epsilon' from Dublin during June, July and August.

DETAILS: brittanyferries.ie; irishferries.com



€599pp FUN IN FLORIDA

Florida is Ireland's favourite long-haul sun holiday by a country mile, and with Aer Lingus upping its flights from three to four weekly as of May, a raft of early Orlando deals has hit the market this month. The cheapest I've been able to find comes courtesy of Cassidy Travel, which has flights from Dublin plus seven nights at the 3-star Rosen Inn International from €599pp, based on a June 19 departure. Sunway, Tour America, American Holidays and ClickandGo.com are some of the other Irish tour operators doing Florida, where you can take the kids to visit Disney World (pictured above).

DETAILS: cassidytravel.ie; aerlingus.com

€365pp KICK BACK IN THE CANARIES

Irish holidaymakers will take over one million trips to Spain this year — more than France, Italy and Portugal combined. We all have our faves — from Barcelona to Benalmadena, Majorca to Madrid. But for many, the Canary Islands (pictured right) trump the lot, offering solid sunshine, good craic and reasonable prices year-round. Lowcostholidays.ie has seven-day 3-star packages in Lanzarote from €365pp in June, while Budget Travel has a 3-star package in Fuerteventura for a family of four from €1,229. DETAILS: lowcostholidays.ie; budgettravel.ie



€772pp MOROCCO GETAWAY FOR GIRLS

The Irish Travel Agents' Association (ITAA) website regularly posts special offers from its members, making it an invaluable bookmark for anyone looking for cheap and last-minute getaway deals. Departing May 9, it has a seven-night girls' getaway in Morocco including five days of surf lessons and five yoga classes, all meals, and accommodation at Surf Star Morocco from €772pp. The deal was originally posted by JustSplit.com, and there are plenty more where it came from. DETAILS: itaa.ie/offers; justsplit.com



TOP TIP

To save money on holidays, try to travel off-peak (i.e. in school term), in shoulder season (May or September) and fly midweek (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays are best for city breaks) wherever possible. Check hotel websites directly for special offers, too. NB: All prices subject to availability/change

€939pp MAGIC IN MEXICO & MAURITIUS

In long-haul deals, Joe Walsh Tours has seven nights in Mauritius (flights, 4-star accommodation and transfers from €1,109pp in May and June); with Trailfinders offering a 7-night 5-star holiday at the St Regis (pictured right) including half-board and a 55pc early-booking discount from €1,949pp. Meanwhile, ClickandGo.com has seven nights' all-inclusive from €939pp; including flights, transfers and the 4-star Allegro Playacar Hotel in Cancun, Mexico (pictured above) for travel on May 7. DETAILS: joewalshstours.ie; clickandgo.com



€1,779 RED SEA RNR

Sharm El Sheikh (pictured above) is back on the brochures and prices are low. Falcon Holidays has flights plus seven nights all-inclusive at the 4-star Xperience St George resort for two adults and one child from €1,779, departing May 21. That's less than €600pp for five-hour flights, a four-star resort, and all of your meals for a week. The Department of Foreign Affairs says travel to Sharm El Sheikh is currently safe, although Irish citizens are advised to exercise caution and avoid travelling outside the Egyptian resort. DETAILS: falconholidays.ie; dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice



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