



From chasing the Aurora Borealis to the neon lights of Vegas

DEALS OF THE WEEK

EARLIER this year, I marvelled at the Northern Lights during an amazing Arctic Circle cruise. You can do it too next March with Norwegian shipping line Hurtigruten from €1,285pps with return flights from Dublin to Tromsø, two nights in a hotel and a four-day voyage to Kirkenes and back on half-board. hurtigruten.co.uk

● I had a look yesterday at three ski magazines in Eason's. If I'd bought them, I'd be down €20. But Topflight's new winter 2015/2016 ski brochure-cum-magazine is free, full of money-saving deals and every bit as readable as those expensive glossies — even non-skiers will drool over it. topflight.ie

● Crystal Ski Holidays has seven nights in the Sant Moritz Apartments in Arinsal, Andorra, on a self-catering basis from €565pps, based on four sharing. The price includes return flights from Dublin, departing January 10. crystalski.ie

● Sunway offers a 10-night eastern Caribbean cruise (November 27), including return flights on the Celebrity Constellation, from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, from €1,299pps. sunway.ie

● Midterm break? Seven nights self-catering at the three-star Lanzarote Paradise Apartments costs €489pps, including return flights from Dublin, departing October 26. lowcostholidays.ie

● Five nights (December 9 to 14) in New York, room-only, at the Rodeway Inn with return Aer Lingus flights from Dublin to JFK costs €695 per adult based on two sharing. cassidytravel.ie

● A seven-night all-inclusive family holiday at the four-star Atlantica Akti Zeus in Amoudara, Crete, departing Dublin next May 22, costs €2,099 for two adults and a child (€2,819 for 2+2). The hotel was refurbished earlier this year and added to the popular SplashWorld collection. falconholidays.ie

● Celebrate St Patrick's Day in the sun during a seven-day B&B stay in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, departing Dublin on March 11, from €605pps, based on two sharing, at the Ghazala Beach Hotel. redseaholidays.ie

● Closer to home, the Europa Hotel in Belfast has a fab offer

— €106.40pps for an overnight including dinner and the best (trust me) breakfast fry on this island. Take the opportunity to visit the fantastic Titanic Belfast or enjoy a show at the Opera House next door. discovernorthernireland.com

● Forget the Orient Express — for me, the world's greatest rail adventure is to be had on board the Rocky Mountaineer. Canada's 'Ritz on the Rails' operates from April to September, and while it's not within everyone's budget, it should be on everyone's bucket list. I travelled from Vancouver (I'm moving there after I win the Lotto tonight) to Banff in May and it truly was the trip of a lifetime.

There are five spectacular routes and three levels of service, and you can even add on an Alaskan cruise. See americanholidays.com for details and best prices.

● Everybody wants to walk the Camino de Santiago, or a bit of it anyway. Not everyone has the time or the stamina to hike the whole hog, but a very doable section is the last leg of the French Way, from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela (116km). Caminoways.com has a Sarria-Santiago deal from €560pp that includes accommodation on half-board basis and luggage transfers from hotel to hotel. Flights are not included. See aerlingus.com

● Lionel Richie takes up residence at Las Vegas' Planet Hollywood Hotel from next April 27 (ticketmaster.com/lionel). Tour America has a Vegas offer in May — €799pps based on four sharing for three nights, including return flights from Dublin. touramerica.ie

TOM SWEENEY

