

DISCOVER

WORLDWIDE

Telegraph online The latest travel news  
telegraph.co.uk/travelnews66  
YOUR SAY

If you would like to comment on any of the articles in this week's Discover, please email us at [yoursay@telegraph.co.uk](mailto:yoursay@telegraph.co.uk) or post your comments on our website at [telegraph.co.uk/travel](http://telegraph.co.uk/travel). Below is a selection of the comments you made about last week's issue.

"Further to Nicky Holford's article on the Lycian Way last week, there is a good website at [www.lycianfederation.co.uk](http://www.lycianfederation.co.uk) which gives detailed information on Lycia."

David Pointer

"When we go to this part of Turkey, we stay at Yakamoz Hotel (0090 252 616 6238; [www.yakamozhotel.com](http://www.yakamozhotel.com)), in the countryside near Ovacik. Our favourite trip is to the deserted Greek-Christian village of Kaya, above Fethiye."

Paul Franklin

"Maggie O'Sullivan's article on the Moroccan coast last week brought back pleasant memories of Essaouira. However, I would have included a visit to the city's charming port and fish market. Also, we found the most comfortable, cheapest and fastest way to get there was by coach from the main bus station in Marrakesh."

Tom Smith

"Essaouira is a wonderful town. As you drive in, you'll notice men standing at the side of the road waving bunches of keys. They're advertising flats for rent and you can bag a bargain for the weekend."

Stewart Herring

## Baubles or beaches: the joy

A cruise is a great way to make the most of the festive season - or escape it entirely, says Gabriella Le Breton

Whether you love Christmas and its trimmings, or would prefer to avoid it altogether, the cruise companies provide a huge choice of ships and facilities over the festive period. Destinations can be overtly Christmassy - Europe's traditional Christmas markets, say - or beautifully wintry: spotting polar bears from a quiet, adult-only ship, for example. Below is my selection of the best seasonal cruises. Prices are per person, unless stated.

## CLASSIC CHRISTMAS CRUISES

**THE DANUBE** Tauck's Christmas river cruises sell out every winter, thanks to the little touches the company is known for, such as exclusive tours and visits to markets not accessed by other cruise lines. There is limited availability on the seven-night Danube itinerary, departing Nuremberg on December 4 for Vienna on the MS Swiss Jewel.

Mundy Cruising (020 7292 2385; [www.mundycruising.co.uk](http://www.mundycruising.co.uk)) offers the week-long Danube itinerary from £1,475, including flights.

**NORWAY** There can be few better places to celebrate Christmas than the Arctic, under the Northern Lights. Hurtigruten's MS Polarlys will sail north from Bergen in southern Norway to Tromsø in six days, over the course of which passengers will be immersed in Norwegian traditions and can enjoy activities such as dog-sledding and snowmobiling.

Hurtigruten (0844 448 7601; [www.hurtigruten.co.uk](http://www.hurtigruten.co.uk)) offers the six-night "Venture into the Arctic" voyage departing December 22 from £1,295, with flights.

**THE BALTIC** Indulge in last-minute Christmas shopping and soak up the festive atmosphere in Oslo, Copenhagen, Amsterdam and Bruges or Ghent. Sailing on P&O's mid-sized, adult-only Artemis, passengers can unwind before returning to celebrate Christmas at home.

The seven-night Baltic itinerary is available from P&O Cruises (0845 678 0014; [www.pocruises.com](http://www.pocruises.com)) from £692, departing Southampton on December 14.

**ANTARCTICA** Snow, icebergs, polar bears, penguins - Antarctica is the perfect Christmas landscape, with none of the rampant consumerism. The fortnight-long Christmas cruise on the



MS Expedition takes in Buenos Aires, Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic peninsula, and includes fascinating lecture programmes and unique wildlife and scenery.

Gap Adventures (08444 101030; [www.gapadventures.com](http://www.gapadventures.com)) offers the 14-day Christmas cruise from £5,919 per person, including flights, nine nights on board and four nights' hotel accommodation. Departs Buenos Aires on December 21.

**ROUEN** Perfect for those short on time, this four-day cruise departs Portsmouth on Christmas Eve, sailing up the Seine on Christmas Day to arrive in Rouen shortly after lunch. Enjoy the festivities in the beautiful historic city and on board MV Bretagne before spending Boxing Day in Paris and returning to Portsmouth on December 27.

Travelsphere (0844 567 9961; [www.travelsphere.co.uk](http://www.travelsphere.co.uk)) offers the four-day Rouen Christmas Mini-Cruise from £229.

## CHRISTMAS ESCAPE

**THE CARIBBEAN** Swap frosty walks and open fires for caviar and champagne in the surf and sleeping under the stars in the Caribbean on board SeaDream's twin yachts. Each ship has 95 crew to attend to

112 guests: eat Christmas lunch bobbing off Nevis's Coconut Grove.

SeaDream Yachts (0800 783 1373; [www.seadream.com](http://www.seadream.com)) offers seven-day Caribbean Holiday Voyages on SeaDream I and II departing December 19 and 21 from \$2,999 (£1,890), cruise only.

**NEW ZEALAND** The five-star Orion will offer all the traditional Christmas trimmings this winter (carols, egg nog, mince pies, crackers) in the spectacular setting of New Zealand's Fjordland. Departing Dunedin on December 21, Orion will spend a week in the region, visiting Jackson Bay, Milford Sound, Doubtful Sound, Dusky Sound and Stewart Island.

Orion Expeditions (020 7399 7620; [www.orionexpeditions.com](http://www.orionexpeditions.com)) offers the seven-night Fjordland voyage from £3,045, cruise only.

**THE SPICE ISLANDS** Find Christmas cinnamon and cloves in the Spice Islands of the Far East. Departing Singapore on December 20, passengers on board Seabourn Spirit will spend Christmas Eve cruising the Java Sea, Christmas Day in Bali, Boxing Day sailing the Flores Sea and see in the New Year in Borneo.

Seabourn Yachts (0845 070 0500; [www.seabourn.com](http://www.seabourn.com)) offers the 16-day Spice Islands itinerary from £4,099, cruise only.

**COSTA RICA** Wind Star's week-long voyage is for you if you like the idea of spending Christmas Eve peering into a Nicaraguan volcano but Christmas Day feasting on traditional roast turkey on board a beautiful four-masted yacht and Boxing Day riding in Costa Rica.

Windstar Cruises (020 7292 2369; [www.windstarcruises.com](http://www.windstarcruises.com)) offers the seven-night Costa Rica itinerary from £1,219, cruise only, departing December 19.

**SOUTH CHINA SEA** French cruise line Ponant will provide passengers with all the sophistication of a French Christmas celebration on board Le Diamant, while exploring the fascinating coastline, cities and culture of Vietnam.

Compagnie du Ponant (0808 234 3802; [en.ponant.com](http://en.ponant.com)) is offering the 12-night Hong Kong to Ho Chi Minh City voyage, departing December 16 at the special rate of £1,555, cruise only.

## NO-FLY CRUISES

Airports can be chaotic at the best of times, so these cruises sail from home turf, avoiding the busy Christmas period:



There can be few better places to celebrate Christmas than the Arctic

## Advertisement feature

## Life in the fast lane...

Emilia Romagna will delight anyone with a taste for the high life and fabulous motor cars

This beautiful region of Italy is a real paradise of the world's most legendary marques of performance cars, celebrated fashion labels and a venerable design heritage.

Those with a love of Italian automotive design may be less likely to take a purchase home with them, but there are plenty of places in the region to see the world's most exotic cars at close quarters.

The supercar industry is centred on the corridor - the ancient Via Aemilia - from Piacenza, Modena and Bologna to the Adriatic coast, an area known as Motor Valley.

Among the famous companies to have their headquarters here are Ferrari, Lamborghini and Maserati, as well as Ducati, Moto Morini and Bimota motorcycles. Each has an extraordinary museum. Maranello near Modena is home to the Galleria Ferrari, the marque's



Sleek and stylish: Maseratis at the Panini Museum and shopping in Modena

museum and a place of pilgrimage for petrolheads. The permanent exhibition is the world's greatest collection of Ferrari cars. At Lamborghini's museum, 20 miles away at Sant'Agata Bolognese, a window over the factory allows visitors to watch the cars being lovingly built.

For information on all car and motorcycle museums, private collections and motorsport events, see [www.motorvalley.com](http://www.motorvalley.com). For example, the Bologna Motor Show - December 4-12 - is where all the Italian manufacturers showcase their new creations.

From sophisticated car design to alluring catwalk creations, Emilia Romagna is a powerhouse of Italian fashion. Reggio Emilia is where fashion giant MaxMara was founded in 1951 by Achille Maramotti

and its headquarters remains in this historic city.

Designer Alberta Ferretti, who counts Uma Thurman and Sarah Jessica Parker among her many celebrity fans, has her studio in the coastal village of Cattolica.

The region also boasts the elite shoemakers Sergio Rossi, Pollini and Bruno Magli.

Bologna is the equal of Milan or Turin for high-class shopping. Stroll along Via Farini or Via d'Azeglio and you'll pass a string of independent boutiques. For the big designer names, including Armani, Gucci and Versace, there's Galleria Cavour, one of Italy's glitziest shopping arcades.

Bargains can be found in out-of-town outlets such as Fidenza Village near Parma, comprising more than 100 luxury boutiques. Castel Guelfo is a similar discount complex near Bologna. Emilia Romagna is the

## Win a holiday

Here's your chance to win a superb short break for two people in Emilia Romagna, on which you can sample the Italian "high life" for yourself!

The prize includes two nights' B&B in a three-star superior hotel plus return Ryanair flights to Bologna. Ryanair ([www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)) flies from London Stansted, London Gatwick and Edinburgh to Bologna.

The prize is valid from November 2010 to March 2011. To enter, and for full terms and conditions, visit [telegraph.co.uk/emilia](http://telegraph.co.uk/emilia)

ideal destination if you are seeking not just great beaches, fantastic food and lots of history but a high degree of style, too.

● For more details, visit [www.travelemiliaromagna.com](http://www.travelemiliaromagna.com)

Vælg.

Or **choose** as you say in English. Choose an airline that doesn't charge you extras. We'd rather offer you value, such as free check-in, free baggage allowance, and an unrivalled network to Scandinavia.

Scandinavia from £64

Always with SAS  
No hidden fees  
Free 23kg baggage  
Free online check-in  
EuroBonus points  
3 service classes  
25% child discount



Welcome onboard Europe's most punctual airline.\*\*

flysas.co.uk



Scandinavian Airlines

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Example fare from London Heathrow to Copenhagen, one-way including taxes and charges, correct as of 19.10.2010.  
\*Free City Cards valid for Copenhagen (for travel up to 31.12.2010) and Stockholm (for travel up to 30.11.2010), with return tickets only. See website for details. \*\*Source: Flightstats.com. SAS in 2009.

Go to [telegraph.co.uk/emilia](http://telegraph.co.uk/emilia) or visit the Emilia Romagna stand, EM1000, at World Travel Market, ExCeL London, November 8-11

emiliaromagna  
TAKE WITH A FEEL