

ESCAPES

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS

After a tricky 2020 when many travel plans were thwarted, we are delighted that the arrival of vaccines and a promising new programme for testing means that 2021 will be an excellent time to travel on a Kirker holiday. The Brave New World may take a little time to settle down, but there is no doubt that this year will become a great year for those of us who are keen to catch up on holidays they were unable to take last year. I sense that many of us who took travel opportunities for granted in the past will now relish every journey abroad, every great hotel experience, every delicious dinner, each magical museum visit and every sublime opera as an extraordinary privilege to savour.

Whilst some may be longing for a few days of winter sunshine at the earliest opportunity (see below and overleaf for ideas) – there are others who need a beacon of hope to look forward to in the spring or summer, and we have selected the best destinations and our favourite hotels for short breaks from April onwards – including Easter, summer and autumn.

Remember that Kirker holidays include safe and comfortable private car transfers from the airport direct to your hotel, and we can also arrange self-drive itineraries with ferry or Eurotunnel crossings (see page 8), Eurostar and rail holidays (including the legendary Venice Simplon-Orient-Express – perfect for a special birthday or anniversary) – see pages 7 and 8 – as well as a range of exclusive private hire accommodation, from private luxury barges to Andalucian ‘casitas’, and lakeside cottages in Austria – see page 9 for suggestions.

Wherever, and however you choose to travel this year, our expert team is here and ready to help. We take full responsibility for the smooth running of every aspect of your holiday – before, during and after you travel, and look forward to hearing from you very soon. Please call our Travel Agency Partner MALVERN WORLD TRAVEL

Ted Wake
 Ted Wake – Joint MD & Director of Sales & Marketing



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TRAVEL NOW

Our top three destinations you can escape to right now for winter sunshine (please speak to your independent travel agent and check the latest FCDO advice at the time of booking for the latest information about travel restrictions).

MADEIRA

Reid's Palace ***** Deluxe

Located on the cliffs overlooking Funchal Bay, surrounded by 10 acres of landscaped gardens, Reid's Palace has **three swimming pools** and 163 bedrooms with balconies or terraces.

7 nights for the price of 6 and a complimentary upgrade to a Deluxe Ocean View room for stays from 1 November 2020 to 28 February 2021 - price from £1,698 per person, saving £680

TENERIFE

Gran Hotel Bahia Del Duque

***** Deluxe

Located on the Costa Adeje, the Bahia Del Duque has 299 rooms, 52 suites, and 40 villas. Facilities include a spa, eight restaurants, nine bars, and **five swimming pools** (two heated).

5 nights for the price of 4 until 30 April - price from £1,298, saving £230

LA GOMERA

Parador de La Gomera

Overlooking the town of San Sebastian, this parador has magnificent views across to Tenerife and Mount Teide. There are 60 bedrooms and an **outdoor swimming pool** in the gardens.

3 night price from £876, including ferry crossing from Tenerife and transfers

TRAVEL LATER

Three of our favourite destinations to book now and travel in the Spring, PTO for more offers.

BERLIN

Hotel De Rome ***** Deluxe

The Hotel De Rome is located just off the Unter den Linden. It has 145 bedrooms, an Italian restaurant, a bar, and the jewel vault has been transformed into an **indoor swimming pool**.

3 nights for the price of 2 for weekend stays until 30 April - price from £698, saving £175

Includes a 72hr Museum Card

VENICE

Baglioni Hotel Luna ***** Deluxe

Ideally located close to the entrance to the Grand Canal and Piazza San Marco, the Luna is the city's most historic and oldest hotel. There are 118 bedrooms, a wonderful gastronomic restaurant and Harry's Bar is around the corner.

4 nights for the price of 3 all year - price from £1,197, saving £255 during April

Includes Doge's Palace and water taxi transfers

PARIS

Castille **** Deluxe

Located on Rue Cambon, with interiors inspired by Coco Chanel, the Castille is a stylish boutique hotel with 108 bedrooms, restaurant 'L'Assaggio', a popular bar and an elegant Salon de Thé.

3 nights for the price of 2 for weekend stays until 9 May - price from £775, saving £206

Includes a 48hr Museum Pass, Seine cruise and carnet of metro tickets

Prices are per person and include flights or Eurostar, transfers, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

To make a booking or request a brochure please speak to your independent travel agent Malvern World Travel.

All prices shown are per person sharing a double room, include special offers as applicable and are subject to availability. Prices are correct at time of publication: December 2020. For booking conditions please see www.kirkerholidays.com.



WINTER SUNSHINE

The islands of Madeira and the Canaries remain the perfect destinations for a much-needed dose of warm winter sun, and remember that Kirker also offers tailor-made holidays to Gibraltar, Dubai and the Maldives. The fascinating nature and history of the Canary Islands belie their reputation, and Kirker clients will relish the opportunity to discover the unspoilt north coast and the volcanic interior of Tenerife, as well as its sister island, La Gomera. Madeira meanwhile, offers world-class gardens and a year-round sub-tropical microclimate.

Prices are per person and include flights, private transfers, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

TENERIFE

San Roque **** Superior

Built in the 18th century, this former private residence has been lovingly transformed into a beautiful boutique hotel. Located in the north of the island within the pretty town of Garachico, the San Roque offers guests a relaxed ambience and striking contrast to larger tourist hotels of the south. There are just 20 comfortable rooms, each beautifully decorated with its own unique style. Other facilities include a small **heated outdoor swimming pool**, rooftop terrace and an excellent restaurant serving local produce.



3 night price from £898

TENERIFE

Hotel Botanico *****

The Hotel Botanico is surrounded by six acres of impeccably maintained gardens, and has 252 rooms, with balconies and views either to the sea or inland to Mount Teide. In addition, the hotel has spacious lounges, a bar, four restaurants, **indoor and outdoor swimming pools** and an extensive spa.



3 night price from £1,097

LA GOMERA & TENERIFE

A ten night tailor-made holiday

To discover the enormous diversity of the islands, the best way to visit is with a tailor-made holiday combining the lunar landscapes and spectacular star-gazing on Mount Teide, with sea views and lush gardens on the north coast of Tenerife, as well as a few days on her unspoilt sister island of La Gomera. We recommend flying to Tenerife and starting with a ferry to La Gomera where you will stay for three nights at the perfectly-situated Parador, with its glorious views over the National Park. Returning to Tenerife and heading up to the Teide National Park you will then stay for two nights at the unique Parador Las Canadas del Teide, on the high slopes of Spain's tallest mountain and with some of the clearest skies in the world above. Finally, descend to sea level for a five night stay at the Hotel San Roque in Garachico, one of the north coast's attractive colonial towns, where you can enjoy the excellent local cuisine and relax on the roof terrace or by the **heated swimming pool**.

Price from £1,279 per person for a ten night holiday including flights, transfers and accommodation with breakfast



MADEIRA

Jardins Do Lago *****

This charming Madeiran country house was built in the 18th century and overlooks Funchal. The house is decorated with great style and the emphasis is on friendly service in a peaceful environment with many areas to relax, including a library, a billiard room as well as the tranquil botanical gardens. There are 40 bedrooms, a restaurant, a bar and a covered **heated swimming pool**.



7 nights for the price of 6, one complimentary bistro lunch and one complimentary dinner with wine for stays until 31 March 2021 - price from £998, saving more than £150

MADEIRA

Quinta Da Bela Vista *****

Just a mile from the centre of Funchal, this hotel sits in beautiful gardens and is surrounded by towering trees. Two garden wings have been added to the original house and there are now 89 elegant bedrooms with garden, bay, ocean or mountain views. The gastronomic restaurant serves delicious local produce. There is a **heated outdoor swimming pool**, a tennis court, a fitness centre, jacuzzi and a large sun terrace overlooking the bay.

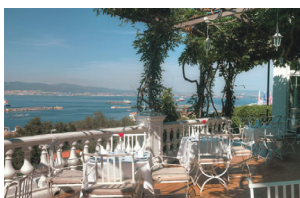


5 nights for the price of 4 - price from £778, saving £100

GIBRALTAR

The Rock **** Deluxe

Dating back to the 1930s, the Rock is as much of an institution today as it was then and with its renovation in 2014, it has retained its stylish colonial interior, timeless decoration and relaxed Mediterranean feel. There are 104 bedrooms, a restaurant with a wisteria-adorned terrace and a light and spacious lobby lounge bar. The hotel's large outdoor summer swimming pool is located below the hotel in its own secluded garden and has a pool bar and restaurant.



3 night price from £539

DUBAI

Jumeirah Mina A'Salam ***** Deluxe

With guaranteed winter sunshine, Dubai could be the perfect solution for those in search of a cure for the January blues. The Jumeirah Mina A'Salam is the more intimate part of the sprawling Jumeirah resort and offers 292 opulent rooms with an enormous range of facilities – from dozens of bars and restaurants to a private sandy beach and the famous Wild Wadi Water Park.



3 night price from £1,370

SPRING CITY BREAKS

As travel rules return to a form of normality this spring, we hope to return to many of our favourite cities. Here are some of our recommendations for an April or May short break before the masses return, from spring sunshine in Nice, Oporto, Naples or Seville, to world-class museums and galleries in Milan, Florence, Madrid and Amsterdam, as well as the perfect mediaeval old towns of Prague and Stockholm.

Prices are per person and include flights, private transfers, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

SEVILLE

Las Casas De La Juderia ****

Made up of 18 restored original Seville townhouses connected by archways and set around no less than sixteen courtyards, Las Casas De La Juderia is built in the typical Andalucian/Moorish style. The hotel is located close to the cathedral and Alcazar Palace and there are 118 bedrooms, a delightful lounge and a **summer swimming pool**.



3 night price from £696

Includes entrance to the Cathedral & Giralda and the Alcazar Palace

OPORTO

Infante Sagres *****

Almost 70 years after its original opening, this prestigious hotel reopened in 2018 as a member of 'Small Luxury Hotels of the World'. The hotel is in the heart of the city, just around the corner from the imposing Avenida dos Aliados. There are 85 bedrooms, a bar and a restaurant serving cocktails and elegant light dishes in the stylish dining room.



3 night price from £685

Includes entrance to Taylor's Port House

MADRID

Orfila ***** Superior

A member of Relais & Châteaux, this elegant hotel is located in a residential area, five minutes from the Plaza de Colon. There are 32 bedrooms, an excellent restaurant and a charming courtyard garden.

4 nights for the price of 3 until 31 May
- price from £948, saving £200

Includes entrance to the Prado, Thyssen & Reina Sofia

PRAGUE

Hotel Paris *****

In the heart of the historic Old Town, the Paris is one of Prague's best known traditional hotels and one of the few where all the public rooms are still in the original Art Nouveau style. These include a magnificent restaurant, a grand staircase, lounge and the famous Café de Paris. There are 86 bedrooms. Ask the Kirker Concierge about tickets for the opera.

3 nights for the price of 2 all year
- price from £696, saving £188

Includes a 3hr walking tour

NICE

La Pérouse **** Superior

Located a short walk from the Flower Market and Nice's old town, La Pérouse stands in a secluded position one block back from the waterfront and nestling into the rock face above. This most attractive hotel has 63 comfortable bedrooms, a bar, flowered terraces and wonderful views of the town and the Baie des Anges.

4 nights for the price of 3 in April
- price from £796, saving £179

Includes a 24hr Museum card including entrance to the Musée Matisse

AMSTERDAM

Ambassade **** Deluxe

Rated as 'one of the 100 best hotels in the world', the Ambassade consists of 10 beautiful 17th century Dutch houses, overlooking the Herengracht and Singel canals. There are 58 bedrooms, a brasserie serving French cuisine and a Library Bar. Highly recommended.



3 night price from £988

Includes entrance to the Rijksmuseum or Van Gogh Museum

MILAN

Rosa Grand **** Superior

This stylish hotel is ideally located overlooking Piazza Fontana, a short walk from the Duomo. It is decorated in a contemporary style reflecting Milan's fashion roots and has three contrasting restaurants, a wellness centre and 330 bedrooms.



3 night price from £699

Includes entrance to the Brera Gallery

FLORENCE

Antica Torre di Via Tornabuoni (a boutique residence)

This beautiful 13th century 'tower house' is set in the heart of the city. The Antica Torre 'hotel' has just seven rooms in the Palazzo Gianfigliuzzi, where Kirker clients are accommodated and these are some of the most stylish and comfortable in town.

4 nights for the price of 3 from 1 April -
6 June - price from £1,089, saving £221

Includes entrance to the Uffizi Gallery

NAPLES

Grand Hotel Parker's **** Deluxe

Located at the start of Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 20 minutes' walk from Piazza Plebiscito, the Royal Palace and San Carlo Theatre for opera, this elegant hotel has a spa and 82 bedrooms. 'George's' rooftop restaurant and 6th floor 'Bidder's Bar' both have spectacular views over the Gulf of Naples.

3 night price from £939

Includes a Naples Art Card

STOCKHOLM

Victory **** Deluxe

This beautiful 17th century residence is located in the heart of the Gamla Stan. The owners have a real passion for nautical history and there is a terrific collection on display, including parts of Stockholm's 14th century city wall in the excellent restaurant. There are only 48 bedrooms, and each one has a portrait of a naval captain, one of his wife and a painting of his ship.

3 night price from £828

For reservations please contact your independent travel agent

TO BOOK CONTACT MALVERN WORLD TRAVEL ON 01684 562406 or email malvernworldtravel@hotmail.co.uk

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Easter provides the perfect excuse for a long weekend escape in early April, whether you are taking advantage of the bank holidays to enjoy Easter concerts in Vienna or the religious festival in Rome, indulging in Belgian chocolate in mediaeval Bruges, Italian cuisine in Bologna or fine wines in Bordeaux, or perhaps whisking the family away for an educational escape in Venice, Copenhagen or Budapest.

Prices are per person based on departures on 1 or 2 April 2021, subject to availability at the time of booking and include flights, transfers, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

ROME

Dei Mellini **** Superior

The Dei Mellini is very well located in a quiet street a few steps from the river; the Vatican is 20 minutes' walk away, whilst you can reach the Piazza Navona and the Pantheon in 15 minutes. Facilities include a bar which also serves light meals, lounge and a large rooftop terrace. The 80 bedrooms are comfortable and stylishly furnished.



3 night price from £766

Includes entrance to the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel

BUDAPEST

Párisi Udvar ***** Superior

Located in Pest, the Párisi Udvar was built in 1817 as Budapest's first shopping arcade. The arcade forms the heart of the hotel, where you will find the Párisi Passage Brasserie and the Patisserie & Café. The 110 rooms and suites are modern, light and spacious with elements of Art Nouveau and Moorish design, while the Zafir Spa offers a selection of beauty treatments.



3 night price from £899

Includes a three hour private walking tour with an expert local guide

COPENHAGEN

71 Nyhavn **** Superior

This famous hotel is located right on the waterfront of the historical Nyhavn harbour, a few minutes' walk from the Royal Theatre, the Royal Palace and the Stroget (the city's main shopping street). The hotel is housed within two former warehouses which are connected on the ground floor by the lobby. There are 130 rooms, many have excellent views to the harbour and all have recently undergone a full renovation. There is a cosy lobby bar and a new South-east Asian restaurant.



3 night price from £866

VENICE

Nani Mocenigo **** Deluxe

We are delighted to introduce this wonderfully restored hotel located in the local neighbourhood of Dorsoduro. Occupying a beautiful 15th century palazzo, an impeccable example of Gothic Venetian architecture, it has just 26 bedrooms, each beautifully decorated with rich fabrics and period furniture. The peaceful garden is a welcome haven and is the perfect spot to relax and enjoy an aperitif.



3 night price from £997

Includes private water taxi transfers and entrance to the Doge's Palace

VIENNA

Konig von Ungarn **** Deluxe

One of our favourite hotels in the centre of mediaeval Vienna, the Konig von Ungarn dates back to the 17th century and the building has remained unchanged for 300 years. Built around a beautiful panelled atrium bar/lounge with trees and plants, the hotel has 33 individually furnished bedrooms and an atmospheric restaurant with vaulted ceiling.



3 night price from £749

Includes entrance to the Leopold and Kunsthistorisches Museums

BORDEAUX

De Sèze **** Superior

This elegant mansion is located five minutes' walk from the river Garonne and is in the city's 'Golden Triangle'. Dating back to the 18th century, it has been lovingly restored with contemporary touches added to the classical style. There are 55 bedrooms, a restaurant, lounge bar and a small spa.



3 night price from £659

Includes entrance to the Cité Du Vin

BRUGES

The Pand **** Deluxe

This beautifully restored 18th century mansion is just two minutes' walk from the Market Square. The Pand has 26 bedrooms, a cosy bar, a stylish lounge and an attractive breakfast room where champagne breakfast is served and hot dishes are prepared on the AGA.



3 night price from £679

3 nights for the price of 2 for arrivals on Easter Monday - price from £529, saving £151

Includes a 72hr museum pass

BOLOGNA

Novecento **** Superior

Run and owned by our good friends the Orsi family, the Novecento is located on Piazza Gallilei, a pretty square near to the Piazza Maggiore and the Basilica di San Petronio. Behind the traditional façade lies a distinctive contemporary interior in Viennese Secession style with a lounge, a bar and just 25 bedrooms. On the same square the Orsi family also own two self-catered apartments; please ask for more details.



4 nights for the price of 3 all year - price from £798, saving £145

Includes a 72hr Bologna Welcome Card

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Now is the perfect time to take advantage of excellent value for money summer holidays in some of our favourite Mediterranean destinations, as prices are sure to rise in the spring and availability will be limited. Whether you are looking for a tranquil rural retreat in Umbria, Provence or Mallorca's Tramuntana Mountains, authentic Italian hospitality on the Amalfi Coast or the Lakes, or a luxurious resort in Turkey or Greece, we would be delighted to help.

Prices are per person and include flights, transfers or car hire, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

LAKE MAGGIORE

Grand Hotel Majestic **** Deluxe

The Grand Hotel Majestic is located ten minutes' walk from the centre of Pallanza. The hotel has 80 comfortable bedrooms, many of which overlook the lake, and it is surrounded on three sides by private gardens. There is an **indoor swimming pool** and a small private beach from which you can swim in the lake itself, as well as an excellent restaurant.



*7 nights for the price of 6 all year
- price from £1,298, saving £150*

ANDALUCIA

La Bobadilla ***** Deluxe

Located in the heart of the Andalusian countryside, 60 kilometres north of Málaga and just two hours from Seville, this fabulous hotel is set in a private 1,700 acre estate. Built in the style of a typical Andalusian pueblo blanco, this unique hotel has courtyards with fountains, tennis courts, and a large **outdoor summer swimming pool**. There are 70 bedrooms and two excellent restaurants.

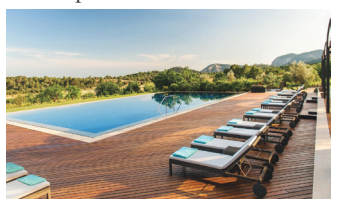
*7 nights for the price of 6 staying in a Junior Suite with private garden, for bookings confirmed 60 days or more prior
- price from £1,978, saving £256*



MALLORCA

Castell Son Claret ***** Deluxe

Set amid the unspoilt Tramuntana Mountains in the north of Mallorca, this 18th century castle is the perfect romantic retreat. The highlight is Fernando Arellano's two Michelin-starred restaurant 'Zaranda' which serves spectacular modern cuisine using the finest local seafood. There are 38 traditional rooms in the castle and its grounds.



*4 nights for the price of 3 for Sunday arrivals all year, for bookings made by 31 March
- price from £1,097, saving £245*

BODRUM

Kempinski Barbaros Bay ***** Superior

Situated in its own private bay, nine miles from Bodrum city centre, the Kempinski provides a peaceful retreat complete with views of the Aegean Sea. All 173 bedrooms are decorated to give a light and airy feel. Facilities include an **outdoor infinity swimming pool** and a heated indoor pool, a private beach and an extensive spa. There is a choice of seasonal restaurants.

7 night price from £2,476



UMBRIA

Villa Monte Solare (a superior country house hotel)

Located close to Lake Trasimeno, Monte Solare is an ancient patrician villa and farmhouse that sits amongst olive groves, vineyards and woods. The 28 rooms are situated in the villa itself as well as in the outhouses which surround the beautiful



Italian garden. The hotel's restaurant serves excellent cuisine and its cellar has the largest collection of Umbrian wines in the world. There are two **outdoor swimming pools**.

3 night price from £649

MOUGINS

Le Mas Candille **** Deluxe

This beautiful hotel and spa, converted from a Provençal farmhouse, is located close to the centre of mediaeval Mougins on a hill above Cannes. It is set in a tranquil park, with 46 rooms, wonderful views and exceptional cuisine. The Michelin-starred 'Le Candille' serves delicious Provençal dishes in the sumptuous dining room or in the shade of the orangery. There are two **outdoor swimming pools**.

7 nights for the price of 6 in July & August - price from £1,994, saving £253



CRETE

Elounda Mare ***** Deluxe

Owned and run by the charming Kokotos family, the Elounda Mare is located with views over the Mirabello Bay, and set amongst lush gardens. There is a large **outdoor pool** and private sandy beach and a selection of restaurants. As a member of Relais & Châteaux, cuisine is superb. All rooms, suites and bungalows offer sea views.



*5 nights for the price of 4 for bookings confirmed by 31 January
- price from £1,498, saving £250*

POSITANO

Poseidon **** Superior

Built into the hillside of Positano, the Poseidon is an extremely comfortable and stylish hotel. There is a fabulous terrace with a **swimming pool** overlooking the town and the sea, a spacious bar and lounge, a restaurant and an extensive fitness and beauty centre. This hotel is ideal for families and all 50 air-conditioned rooms have balcony or terrace and partial sea view.

3 night price from £1,299



For reservations please contact your independent travel agent

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RIVER CRUISES

One of the most relaxing ways to explore a destination is from the deck of a river boat as you gently glide between fascinating ports of call – whether that is on the Danube, Seine or Rhone with our AmaWaterways holidays this summer, on the canals and rivers of Venice and the Veneto on board the boutique vessel La Bella Vita, or perhaps on the mighty Nile, from Luxor to Cairo, pausing to explore ancient tombs and temples en route.

ESSENCE OF BURGUNDY & PROVENCE

A TEN NIGHT HOLIDAY | 4 AUGUST 2021

Burgundy is at the heart of French cuisine and one of the country's most important wine regions, and this cruise will include much delicious local food and wine as well as spectacular history, art and architecture. Begin with a couple of days in Dijon, before boarding your vessel in the Roman city of Chalon-sur Saône. You will visit Tournus, a number of elegant châteaux, Lyon and the Papal Palace in Avignon. En route, you will enjoy wine-tasting in Macon, Beaujolais and the Côtes du Rhône. Disembarking the ship in Arles, you will then have a couple of days to enjoy the Camargue delta where wild horses roam beside flamingoes.



Price from £3,847 per person for a ten night holiday including one night's accommodation with breakfast at the Sofitel La Cloche in Dijon, a seven night cruise on board AmaCello including all meals and excursions as well as most drinks (wine served with meals and a daily 'Sip and Sail cocktail hour') and a two night stay in the Camargue.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE SEINE & PARIS

A TEN NIGHT HOLIDAY | 4 & 10 AUGUST 2021

Normandy was where the great Impressionists honed their art *en plein air* – including Monet, Sisley and Pissarro. This gentle cruise between Le Havre and Paris takes in Monet's gardens at Giverny, mediaeval Rouen, and visits to Bayeux and Caen. Boarding your vessel in Paris you will disembark in Le Havre on the Normandy coast and stay for a further couple of days at a charming converted farmhouse above picturesque Honfleur before crossing the channel by ferry.



Price from £4,195 per person for a ten night holiday including one night's accommodation with breakfast at the 4* Hotel Royal St Honore, a two day Paris Museum Pass, a seven night cruise on board AmaDante or AmaCello including all meals and excursions as well as most drinks, two nights' accommodation with breakfast at Le Ferme de St Simeon in Honfleur and ferry crossing from Caen to Portsmouth. Itinerary reversed on 19 August.

ROMANTIC DANUBE

AN ELEVEN NIGHT HOLIDAY | 12 AUGUST 2021

The Danube is Europe's most majestic and strategically important river, passing from Central Europe as far as the Black Sea and travelling through ten countries and four capital cities. Stay for three nights in Prague before boarding your cruise in Vilshofen in Germany,



from where you will cruise through three of the four capital cities: Vienna, Bratislava and Budapest. Highlights of the journey include the Benedictine Abbey at Melk, the Wachau Valley wine region, and the historic cities of Linz, Passau and Salzburg.

Price from £3,662 per person for an eleven night holiday including three nights' accommodation with breakfast at the 5* Hotel Paris in Prague, a seven night cruise on board AmaBella including all meals and excursions as well as most drinks, a one night stay at the 5* Superior Hotel Parisi Udvar in Budapest and private walking tours with expert Kirker guides in both Prague and Budapest.

PARIS & NORMANDY

NINE NIGHT HOLIDAYS 17 & 24 AUGUST 2021

This holiday combines a stay in Paris with a round trip cruise down the Seine and back, travelling as far as Le Havre on the Normandy coast. En route through the countryside of Normandy you will sample the delicious local cuisine, as well as Calvados and cider, and have an opportunity to visit Monet's home and gardens at Giverny and Van Gogh's last home at Auvers-sur-Oise. There will be time to explore mediaeval Rouen and UNESCO-protected Le Havre. You may also choose to spend a day discovering the still visible traces of the British sector of the D-Day landings.



Price from £3,568 for a nine night holiday including two nights' accommodation with breakfast at the 4* Hotel Royal St Honore, a two day Paris Museum Pass and a seven night cruise on board AmaDante or AmaLyra including all meals and excursions as well as most drinks.

LA BELLA VITA

A BOUTIQUE VENETIAN RIVER CRUISE

Enjoy a taste of 'la bella vita' on board this charming small river boat which glides between Venice and Mantua on the Venetian lagoon, the Canal Bianco and the River Po. On board you will enjoy fine Italian cuisine and delicious regional wines, as well as visits to historic towns including Chioggia, Ferrara and the elegant Renaissance city of Mantua. Departs Venice every Sunday from April to October – call for a tailor-made quotation including flights and a stay in Venice.



Price from £3,785 for an eight night holiday including flights to Venice, six nights on board La Bella Vita and two nights in Venice.

NILE CRUISE

ASWAN TO CAIRO

The 7,000 year history of Egyptian civilisation is inextricably linked to the Nile and there is no better way to experience this than from the deck of a stylish river boat. The Movenpick MS Darakum is a comfortable modern vessel with 44 en-suite cabins and 8 suites, all with panoramic views. It offers the relatively rare opportunity to cruise from the ancient capital of Thebes, modern Luxor and downriver to Cairo in a ten day itinerary, including a visit to Amarna, the city of Akhenaten and Nefertiti.

Price from £3,984 for a ten night holiday including flights from Heathrow, nine nights on board MS Darakum and one night in Luxor.



VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS

TRAVEL IN STYLE ON BOARD THE LEGENDARY LUXURY TRAIN

For those who have a special occasion which demands a celebration, perhaps a 2020 birthday or anniversary which went unmarked, there is no better way to treat yourself than an unforgettable journey on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express.



EUROPE

There has never been a better time to travel on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, now fully air-conditioned and with three exquisite new Grand Suites, the train transports you back to a bygone era when discerning travellers travelled in elegant style. Guests experience the highest levels of personal service, with delicious cuisine served in the three restaurant cars – see below for details of our new special offer

including wines – combined with accommodation in the elegantly restored private sleeper cabins and suites (prices based on twin cabins, supplements for cabin suites and Grand Suites on request). The handsome livery of its sister train, the Belmond British Pullman and the immaculate carriages of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, provide you with a unique and unforgettable experience.

Northbound trains depart from Venice at approximately 11am, arriving into London Victoria the following evening at approximately 6pm.

4 night holiday price from £3,198 per person including 3 nights in a Venice hotel and 1 night in a private cabin on board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- One way flight between London and Venice
- One night on board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express from Venice to London in a private cabin
- An exquisite lunch and dinner served on board
- Afternoon tea aboard the Belmond British Pullman en route to London
- Water taxi transfers on arrival and departure to/from hotel
- 3 nights' hotel accommodation with breakfast
- Entrance tickets to the Doge's Palace, Accademia or Guggenheim
- Our unique Venice Guide Notes
- The services of the Kirker Concierge to book concert and opera tickets, arrange a private walking tour or reserve a table for a delicious dinner.



SPECIAL OFFER

Book any northbound Venice Simplon-Orient-Express journey this year by 31 January and we will include a **complimentary sommelier's wine selection with both lunch and dinner on board** – the perfect accompaniment to the exquisite cuisine served in the historic dining cars.

Valid for new bookings only made between 26 December 2020 and 31 January 2021.



ISTANBUL TO LONDON ON THE VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS

A nine night holiday departing 25 August 2021

A unique opportunity to traverse Europe in style, we are delighted to be able to offer a limited number of places on this very special five-night journey from Istanbul to Paris in Autumn 2021 – combined with a stay in both cities and first-class Eurostar from Paris to London. The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express makes one journey each autumn across Europe on this historic route – and while places are normally reserved years in advance, recent cancellations mean that there is a rare opportunity to treat yourself to this magnificent travel experience.

Flying from London to Istanbul you will stay for two nights at the landmark Hotel Pera Palace (5*), the official hotel for guests on the original Orient-Express journey in the 1920s, and a favourite with Agatha Christie. Step aboard the gleaming blue-and-gold carriages of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express and enjoy dinner and the first night onboard as you travel through Bulgaria and Romania. The second night is spent at a luxury hotel in Bucharest where there will be time to explore before rejoining the train to travel onwards through Transylvania. You will visit Sinaia and Peles Castle, then cross into Hungary overnight and spend a day in Budapest. Enjoy a final night on board with a celebratory dinner before waking to breakfast as the train travels through the Swiss Alps. Arriving after lunch in Paris, you will enjoy two nights in the French capital before returning to London by Eurostar.

Price per person for the above itinerary: £18,989

Price includes flight from London to Istanbul, private car transfers throughout, two nights' accommodation with breakfast at the 5 Hotel Pera Palace, Istanbul, a half day walking tour with an expert private guide in Istanbul, a five night journey on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express including all meals (two nights are spent in hotels in Bucharest and Budapest and three nights are spent on board the train), two nights' accommodation with breakfast at the 5* Grand Hotel Powers, Paris, two day Paris Museum Pass, Standard Premier class Eurostar from Paris to London.*



For reservations please contact your independent travel agent

TO BOOK CONTACT MALVERN WORLD TRAVEL ON 01684 562406 or email malvernworldtravel@hotmail.co.uk

SELF-DRIVE HOLIDAYS

Self-drive holidays offer the flexibility and convenience of travelling with your own vehicle, and Kirker can arrange a tailor-made holiday to include Channel crossings by ferry or Eurotunnel (including our special rates for the open 'flexi-plus tickets'). Our experts will also provide detailed driving directions and Michelin road maps to make the experience completely hassle-free, and the Kirker concierge can assist with recommended restaurants and day trips, and arrange for wine-tasting, chateaux tours or expert local guides to meet you on the D-Day beaches of Normandy.

Prices are per person and include ferry or Eurotunnel crossing, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

NORMANDY

Château La Chenevière **** Deluxe

30 minutes from Caen, the 18th century Château La Chenevière had a major role to play as a forward command post for the German and subsequently British armies in World War II, due to its location on the main road from Bayeux to Arromanches. A hotel since 1988, there are now 29 rooms, a heated outdoor swimming pool in the gardens, the Colonial African styled 'Le Zanzibar' downstairs and various



comfortable lounges with antique marble fireplaces. Ask about one of our expert private guides to meet you on the D-Day Landing beaches.

3 night price from £798

IRELAND

Ballymaloe House **** Superior Country House

Located 20 miles from Cork and just 2 hours from Rosaveal harbour, Ballymaloe House is owned and run by the Allen family who have been offering wonderful hospitality for over 40 years. The food at Ballymaloe is renowned; lovingly prepared seasonal dishes are sourced from the best local produce – our rates include breakfast only, supplement for dinner is £75 – a must for at least one night. Set within its own 400 acre farm and gardens, Ballymaloe offers a delightful escape with an outdoor summer swimming pool, five hole golf course, tennis court, massage and beauty treatments.



3 night price from £744

THE GRAND TOUR OF SWITZERLAND

This self-drive itinerary takes you from Geneva through some of the most spectacular scenery in Switzerland – the views are dramatic and the roads are immaculate. Fly to Geneva and hire a car, or cross the Channel by Eurotunnel with your own car and take the opportunity to stop for a night en route in the Champagne region (and where better to pick up a bottle or two as a souvenir). Spend one night each in Geneva, the smart mountain village of Gstaad, the elegant lakeside town of Luzern, Zermatt at the foot of the Matterhorn and Montreux, between vineyards and mountains on Lake Geneva.



Price from £1,468 for a seven night holiday including five nights in Switzerland and two nights in Champagne and Eurotunnel crossing.

Price from £1,398 for a five night holiday including flights to Geneva and car hire.

ÎLE DE RÉ

Hotel De Toiras ***** Deluxe

An uncut jewel off the west coast of France, joined to the historic fishing town of La Rochelle by a causeway, the Île de Ré is one of our favourite places to recommend for a civilised short break. La Rochelle can be reached in four hours from Saint Malo and this former 17th century boat owner's house is located in the island's main town of St. Martin. A member of Relais & Châteaux, it is classically and elegantly furnished and its 20 bedrooms all give a wonderful feeling of space. There is a gastronomic restaurant overlooking a pretty courtyard garden. Guests are free to use the outdoor swimming pool and gardens of its sister hotel, Villa Clarisse.



3 night price from £698

LA RIOJA

Eguren Ugarte **** Deluxe

The overnight ferry from Portsmouth to Bilbao is an extremely civilised way to travel to Spain, and just over an hour from the port you will be in foothills of the Sierra Cantabria mountain range. This family-run winery has passed through six generations since its beginnings in 1870, and is one of the most well respected in La Rioja. The hotel has an unusual exposed brick design complete with a fairytale lookout tower and has a 2,000 metre network of underground cellars. All Kirker clients will receive a



complimentary wine tour (including tastings). Furnished in a modern style, there are 21 spacious rooms and two restaurants, including the gastronomic 'Victorino Eguren'.

3 night price from £685

LOIRE VALLEY

Château de Noirieux **** Deluxe

Situated about 2½ hours from Caen in a pretty countryside location, the Château de Noirieux is a lovingly restored castle and manor house dating back to the 15th century. The 19 elegant bedrooms are located in the castle itself, and in the manor house located within the beautifully manicured 19 acres of grounds. A delicious breakfast is served in the glass covered veranda or on the terrace and fine French cuisine is offered in the hotel's gastronomic restaurant. A heated outdoor swimming pool is available from mid-May to mid-September.



4 nights for the price of 3 all year - price from £540, saving £105

PRIVATE HIRE

For the ultimate in peace and privacy, private hire of a villa, cottage or even a hotel barge, can provide the ideal solution. We have selected some of our favourite properties which are available for exclusive use – from one bedroom cottages and bungalows to larger properties which would be perfect for a family or group of friends, perhaps if you have a special occasion to celebrate in 2021, or simply feel that life is too short not to enjoy time away with your loved ones this year. We can recommend a range of options, including full hotel services, private chefs and maid service or completely self-catering – speak to your independent travel agent for advice.

Prices are per person based on two sharing and include flights, transfers or car hire, accommodation as described and the services of the Kirker Concierge. Prices for larger parties available on request.

ANDALUCIA – Casitas at Hacienda de San Rafael

One of our favourite hotels in Spain, this charming converted Hacienda, just half an hour south of Seville, offers three separate 'casitas' within its extensive gardens. Each can accommodate a family of four in comfort and guests have use of a private pool not open to other hotel guests. This is the perfect base from which to explore the surrounding Andalusian white villages, visit the spectacular Coto Donana national park, or sample sherry at a bodega in Jerez.



3 night price from £1,588 staying in a one bedroom Casita

LUXURY HOTEL BARGE

Combine the exclusivity and privacy of a private villa with the added benefit of gently travelling to a new destination each day as you traverse the picturesque waterways of France. Each vessel accommodates between six and twenty guests in private en-suite bedrooms, and you will have a captain, staff and private chef on board for the six night duration.

Private hire packages start from approximately £5,000 per person based on six passengers sharing a three bedroom barge including all meals, drinks and tailor-made excursions.



TUSCANY – Casa Earth

A number of our favourite Tuscan hotels offer private accommodation options, and this wonderful apartment is located adjacent to the historic Castello La Leccia, a castle and wine estate dating from the 11th century and overlooking the hills surrounding Siena. There are five en-suite bedrooms and a large open-plan kitchen and dining room, and guests



can enjoy the hotel's extensive grounds and swimming pool, as well as delicious locally-sourced cuisine paired with Chianti wines.

3 night price from £1,286, staying in a Private Apartment

CRETE – Thalassa Villas

Adjacent to the St Nicolas Bay Resort, these exquisite villas offer complete seclusion with private swimming pools and terraces, and spectacular views over the Aegean Sea. There is a range of accommodation options from suites and studios for couples, up to two, three and four bedroom villas for larger parties, and all have discrete private access to the sea. Guests also have full access to the extensive facilities at the St Nicolas Bay Resort.

4 nights for the price of 3 for bookings made by 31 January - price from £1,885 staying in a one bedroom villa, saving £484



BODRUM – Amanruya ***** Deluxe

On Turkey's Aegean coast, this exclusive and secluded resort offers 35 individual pavilions, each of which has a large private garden and its own heated swimming pool. Guests can enjoy facilities including four restaurants and a wine lounge, a library, yoga studios, tennis courts and a tranquil spa – as well as a 50-metre infinity pool and a private pebble beach. The ancient ruins of Ephesus, Priene, Miletus and Didyma can all be visited on a day trip from here.



4 nights for the price of 3 until 31 October, staying in a one bedroom Pool Suite with private pool & garden - price from £1,728, saving £464

AUSTRIAN LAKES – Schloss Fuschl ***** Deluxe

Surrounded by the majestic Austrian Alps, but just half an hour from Salzburg, this grand castle sits on the shores of the Fuschlsee and has six private cottages in its grounds accommodating up to four guests each. Enjoy the extensive private parkland, enjoy boating and fishing on the lake or a round of golf at the adjacent 9-hole course, or relax in the opulent spa with indoor swimming pool. The hotel has a fine restaurant and serves delicious cuisine on the lake terrace during the summer months.

3 night price from £2,979, staying in a one bedroom Lake Cottage



GOZO – Ta Cenc ****

Malta's unspoiled sister island of Gozo is the perfect destination for a spring or summer escape, and the Hotel Ta Cenc offers a collection of unique Trullo Suites – detached suites with their own private terraces, designed in the shape of a traditional round Trullo with beehive-style roof. The resort has two swimming pools, a spa and restaurant, and during summer you can swim in the sea from the rocks at Mgarr ix-Xini, where the hotel's private beach club and grill restaurant is located.



3 night price from £972, staying in a Trullo Suite

KERRY – Sheen Falls Lodge **** Deluxe

Situated on the banks of the River Sheen, this elegant hotel has a collection of two to four bedroom thatched cottages in the extensive grounds – each beautiful and well-equipped. You can self-cater, book a private chef, or dine at the hotel's excellent Relais & Chateaux restaurant with views of the falls. Guests can try their hand at falconry, archery, kayaking and horse riding on the estate, or visit the famous Ring of Kerry.

3 night price from £985, staying in a two bedroom Garden Cottage



For reservations please contact your independent travel agent

TO BOOK CONTACT MALVERN WORLD TRAVEL ON 01684 562406 or email malvernworldtravel@hotmail.co.uk

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

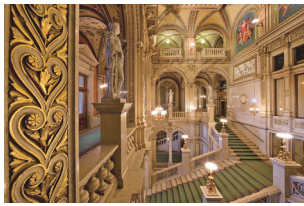
2020 was a year to forget for the arts, but 2021 offers an overdue return to live performances and landmark exhibitions. The Kirker Concierge is constantly monitoring the latest news regarding major cultural events, so remember to call 020 7593 2286 for first-hand advice if you have a particular query about a destination or a favourite museum. There are several events in particular that we are looking forward to, including the return of the Verona Opera Festival – one of the most impressive spectacles of the summer – and the opportunity to return to some of our favourite smaller museums, which need our visits more than ever.

Prices are per person and include flights, transfers, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

OPERA

VIENNA 2021

The Vienna State Opera is scheduled to return on 7 January (at the time of writing), with a performance of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. The season runs through to the end of June with a vast repertoire of productions new and old, of which highlights include Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*, *Carmen* by Bizet, *Tosca* by Puccini and Verdi's *Macbeth* starring Anna Netrebko as Lady Macbeth – not to mention ballet productions such as *Swan Lake* and *Giselle*.



Price from £598 for a three night short break - speak to the Kirker Concierge for opera prices and availability

VERONA OPERA FESTIVAL

The 2020 Festival was postponed in its entirety to the summer of 2021, so there will be a great deal of demand for this year's season, which runs from 19th June to 4th September 2021. Tickets are now on sale and peak dates will be sure to sell out so book now to secure your seats. Highlights include *La traviata*, *Nabucco* and the spectacular *Aida* by Verdi as well as special gala concerts featuring Plácido Domingo and Jonas Kaufmann.



Price from £726 for a three night short break - speak to the Kirker Concierge for opera prices and availability

EXHIBITIONS

There are sure to be announcements regarding major exhibitions coming soon, as well as openings such as Berlin's much-anticipated Humboldt Forum, and Cairo's new Grand Egyptian Museum, but here are a couple that we are already looking forward to.

FONDATION LOUIS VUITTON, PARIS

'The Morozov Collection. Icons Of Modern Art'
from 24 February - 25 July 2021

Originally scheduled to open in autumn 2020, this exhibition presents the collection of French and Russian modern art compiled by the Morozov brothers, great early 20th century Muscovite patrons and collectors. It will feature works by Matisse, Gauguin, Van Gogh, Degas, Monet, Renoir, Cézanne and Chagall, many loaned from The State Hermitage Museum, the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts and the Tretyakov State Gallery.



Price from £598 for a three night short break including exhibition tickets

GEMÄLDEGALERIE, BERLIN

'Late Gothic - The Birth of Modernity'
from 19 February - 27 June 2021

Berlin's Gemäldegalerie hosts a rare exhibition on late Gothic art in the spring, with around 130 objects – including outstanding loans and key works from the collection of the Berlin State Museums. This period, inspired by developments in the Netherlands from the 1430s onwards, brought artistic depictions into the realms of expression, realism, and, with advances in printing techniques, mass distribution.



Price from £649 for a three night short break including exhibition tickets

PRIVATE HOUSE MUSEUMS

Some of our favourite museums remain the smaller, less well-known establishments formed from private collections in unique settings. Not only is the visitor experience more intimate and personal in these museums, but your visit will also help to support them in a time when funding is desperately needed.

MUSÉE JACQUEMART-ANDRE, PARIS

This former private home is now a fabulous art gallery with a wonderful collection spanning Mantegna, Bellini and Botticelli to Canaletto, Tiepolo and the Dutch Masters. The works are displayed in the grand salons of this elegant Haussmann mansion and include not only paintings but also sculpture and objets d'art such as the 14th century mosque lamp brought back from Syria by Nellie Jacquemart.



3 night short breaks from £775, staying at the 4* deluxe Hotel Castille

CASA LIRIA, MADRID

Built in the 18th century, the Liria Palace is the official Madrid residence of the House of Alba. Following a restoration project in 2019, the palace now offers guided tours which take in some of the magnificent interiors, an art collection with important works by Goya, Velázquez, Murillo, Zurbarán, El Greco, Ribera, Rubens and Titian (including his portrait of the Duke), and a library which is home to more than 18,000 books, including the first edition of *Don Quixote*.



3 night short breaks from £669, staying at the 4* Hotel Emperador (10 minutes' walk from the Casa Liria)

CULTURAL TOURS & MUSIC HOLIDAYS

Our escorted Cultural Tours & Music Holidays consist of small exclusive groups in the company of an expert lecturer and are designed for those with an interest in history, art, gardens, architecture and music.

For a copy of our dedicated brochure please speak to your independent travel agent.

Prices are per person based on two people sharing and include flights and transfers (excluding UK holidays), accommodation with breakfast, meals as described, a full programme of sightseeing, entrance fees and gratuities and the services of the Kirker Tour Lecturer.

THE KIRKER MUSIC FESTIVAL IN TENERIFE

A SEVEN NIGHT HOLIDAY | 28 FEBRUARY 2021

Escape from the rigours of the British winter for a week of music-making in the sub-tropical Canary Islands. Joining us for our sixth festival will be the Navarra String Quartet, Benjamin Appl, baritone and pianist Tim Horton. Our base for the duration is the splendid Hotel Botanico surrounded by lush gardens in Puerto de la Cruz.

We will present a series of six concerts in the hotel and the nearby Casa Abaco, a grand 18th century Canarian mansion, as well as an organ recital in a local church. Our tour will show you the island's unspoilt volcanic landscape, well-preserved colonial villages and lush gardens, including a visit to the Mount Teide National Park.



Price from £2,885 (single supp. £398) for seven nights including six dinners and six concerts.

THE KIRKER CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL IN ALFRISTON

A THREE NIGHT HOLIDAY | 12 APRIL 2021

In 2021 we will be presenting our ninth consecutive season of chamber music concerts at Deans Place Hotel, joined by The Karski String Quartet and Simon Rowland-Jones, viola.

Alongside the three concerts, Simon Rowland-Jones will give two musically illustrated talks at Deans Place Hotel in the heart of this historic and picturesque Sussex village, with superb views of the South Downs. You can enjoy gentle walks along the banks of the River Cuckmere, visit the 14th century Clergy House, and in nearby Berwick, you can see the once controversial church murals by Duncan Grant.

Price from £1,040 (single supp. £159) for three nights including three dinners and three talks.



LA SERENISSIMA:

Italian Baroque Music In Eastbourne

A THREE NIGHT HOLIDAY | 26 APRIL 2021

Our first holiday with La Serenissima in Eastbourne has already sold out for February, so we have persuaded them to join us again in April for a second weekend of Baroque music at the elegant Grand Hotel.

Founded by violinist Adrian Chandler in 1994, La Serenissima is an award-winning Baroque ensemble who perform works by an array of composers from the 18th century, particularly those with links to Vivaldi and Venice. Based at the splendid Grand Hotel, which has hosted Debussy, Elgar, Dame Nellie Melba and many others, we will enjoy a spring escape in comfort and style.



Price from £1,298 (single supp. £180) for three nights including three dinners and three concerts.

THE GRANDEUR OF ROME

A SEVEN NIGHT HOLIDAY | 22 MARCH 2021

The 3rd century AD saw Rome at its Imperial peak, a densely populated city spreading out over its seven hills, a testament to the power and wealth of the vast Roman Empire. Many of the glorious buildings and sites survive today but added to these, are the great architectural and artistic achievements of the Renaissance and Baroque periods.

We start our holiday with a visit to the Pantheon, before going to the Campo de' Fiori, the Theatre of Marcellus, the Piazza del Campidoglio and the Capitoline Museum. There is also time for the art collections at the Doria Pamphilj, the Borghese and the Vatican, as well as Hadrian's Villa and the fabled gardens of the Villa d'Este. Crowning all this, is a visit to the Sistine Chapel.

Price from £1,998 (single supp. £398) for seven nights including one lunch and four dinners.



RAVENNA, URBINO & FERRARA

FIVE NIGHT HOLIDAYS
19 APRIL & 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

Our holiday focuses on three historic cities in the western part of Emilia-Romagna and Le Marche.

Ravenna was the last capital of the Western Roman Empire, and remains a treasury of some of the world's most dazzling mosaics and Byzantine architecture – memories of the final glowing embers of imperial glory.

In Urbino we discover an idealised city state created by the Duke of Urbino and in Ferrara we will learn more about the powerful d'Este family whose court was based here.



Price from £1,848 (single supp. £398) including one lunch and three dinners.

GARDENS OF THE RIVIERA

FIVE NIGHT HOLIDAYS
24 APRIL & 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

There are many great gardens dotted along the Côte d'Azur between St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat and the border with Italy. Along with artists, many gardeners were drawn to the Riviera, attracted by both its climate and its beauty.

Based at the 4* Hôtel Napoléon in Menton, we visit the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild in St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat and the Villa Kerylos. In Menton, we visit the Val Rahmeh garden, as well as Lawrence Johnston's garden, Serre de la Madonne, and in Monaco we see the collection of succulents at the Jardin Exotique. Across the border in Italy, we visit the famous Hanbury garden at La Mortola and Ursula Piacenza's private garden, the Villa Piacenza Boccanegra.

Price from £1,795 (single supp. £298) including two dinners and one lunch.



For reservations please contact your independent travel agent

TO BOOK CONTACT MALVERN WORLD TRAVEL ON 01684 562406 or email malvernworldtravel@hotmail.co.uk

HOLIDAYS BY RAIL

There has never been a better time to travel by rail – whether you are seeking to reduce your carbon footprint, avoid airports, or simply enjoy the convenience of gliding from city-centre to city-centre with a glass of wine in one hand and your Kirker Guide Notes in the other. Eurostar's gleaming new trains connect London St Pancras not only with Paris and Brussels, but now also Amsterdam direct in less than four hours, and with a change of trains, you can reach a host of European cities the same day.

Prices are per person and include return standard class rail tickets (first class supplements on request), transfers, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

AMSTERDAM

Pillows Anna Van den Vondel **** Superior

From November 2020 direct return Eurostar trains have linked London with Amsterdam in less than four hours. This stylish boutique hotel, made from three 19th century townhouses, is located in a quiet residential area just 15 minutes' walk from the Van Gogh Museum and Rijksmuseum via the Vondel Park. The 30 light-filled rooms are decorated in pale fabrics, and guests can enjoy a daily changing table d'hôte dinner prepared in the open kitchen.



3 night price from £739

Includes entrance to the Rijksmuseum or the Van Gogh Museum

PARIS

Victor Hugo *** Superior

A family-run hotel located 10 minutes' walk from the Arc de Triomphe, the Trocadero Gardens and the Champs Elysées, the Victor Hugo has been welcoming Kirker clients for over 30 years. It has a comfortable lounge, a bar and 76 well furnished, recently renovated bedrooms.



4 nights for the price of 3 until 28 February
and 11 July - 23 August
- price from £698, saving £100

Includes a 48hr Museum Pass, Seine cruise and a carnet of metro tickets

BRUSSELS

Hotel Amigo ***** Deluxe

This famous property has an unbeatable location just behind the Grand'Place and City Hall. There are 173 beautifully designed and recently renovated modern bedrooms, a bar, a wonderful Italian restaurant and a comfortable lobby lounge.

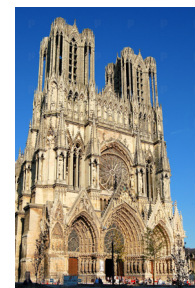


3 nights for the price of 2 in July &
August - price from £540,
saving £160

REIMS

Grand Hôtel des Templiers **** Superior

Just 45 minutes' connection from Paris, Reims is the gateway to Champagne. Once a 19th century residence, the Grand Hôtel des Templiers is now a charming hotel located in the centre of Reims, just a short walk from the cathedral. It is tastefully decorated throughout with antiques, ornate ceilings and hand-carved woodwork which all help to create a homely atmosphere. There are 17 bedrooms a lounge bar and an indoor swimming pool with sauna and hammam.



3 night price from £593

BARCELONA

España **** Superior

Change in Paris and a high-speed TGV will whisk you all the way to the Catalan capital in just over six hours. The España is located in a narrow, semi-pedestrianised street just off the 'Ramblas', around the corner from the famous Liceu Opera House. The Gothic cathedral, Plaza Real, Boqueria covered market and the revitalised harbour are all just a few steps away. There are 82 bedrooms, a cocktail bar, a restaurant, and a roof-top terrace with bar and small summer plunge pool.



3 night price from £967

Includes entrance to the Sagrada Família

MILAN

De La Ville ****

Daily trains connect Paris with Milan in around 7 hours, making it within reach for a short break. With its position midway between the Duomo and La Scala, the Hotel De La Ville has the perfect location. The 108 bedrooms, lobby and bar have been fully renovated and the restaurant serves Mediterranean cuisine. The top floor heated swimming pool with its transparent dome offers views of the cathedral's spires.



3 night price from £892

Includes entrance to the Brera Gallery

COLOGNE

Excelsior Hotel Ernst *****

Just four hours from London via Brussels, the Excelsior Ernst is perfectly situated in the heart of Cologne, in the tall shadow of the iconic cathedral and opposite the train station. All 140 bedrooms are individually decorated and some overlook the cathedral. There are two restaurants, including the Michelin starred 'Taku', an intimate piano bar, a health spa, a beauty salon and a fitness room.



3 night price from £773

THE HAGUE

Hotel Des Indes ***** Deluxe

The new Eurostar service to Amsterdam stops first at Rotterdam, just 30 minutes from The Hague. Located on a leafy square in the heart of the city, this famous hotel was built in 1858 for King William III's personal advisor. There are 92 bedrooms, a lounge bar and restaurant, and a spa with an indoor swimming pool.



3 night price from £669

Includes entrance to the Mauritshuis

UK & IRELAND

For those in search of a short break closer to home this year, we can create a tailor-made holiday to include some of our favourite destinations in the British Isles – from the south of Ireland to the north of Scotland. Speak to your independent travel agent about a tailor-made itinerary, perhaps including domestic flights, self-drive and ferry crossings, or sleeper trains to and from Scotland. See page 11 for some of our upcoming UK-based Music Holidays.

Prices are per person and include flights, transfers or car hire, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

DUBLIN & CORK

Enjoy two of Ireland's best luxury hotels with this itinerary combining the two great cities. Spend the first three nights at the Hotel Merrion in the Irish capital, where you can explore Trinity College and the National Museum of Ireland, the literary and music pubs of Temple Bar, and the elegant Georgian squares and terraces. Then head south to the 'Rebel City' of Cork, located on one of the world's largest natural harbours. It was at nearby Cobh that the Titanic made its final passenger stop before the doomed Atlantic voyage, and the excellent museum here is worth a visit. Stay in Cork itself at the impeccable Hayfield Manor and visit the famous English Market, with its tempting array of local produce.

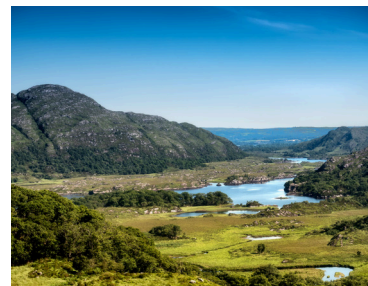


Price from £1,299 for 5 nights
(3 nights at the Merrion and 2 nights
at Hayfield Manor)

IRELAND'S WILD SOUTH WEST

Riven with dramatic cliffs interspersed with golden beaches and charming fishing villages, the south-west coast of Ireland, including the famous Ring of Kerry, is one of the world's most scenic drives. The gateway to the south is Cork, a lively university town with a growing gastronomic reputation. Enjoy delicious local cuisine at Ballymaloe just outside the city before driving the coast road as far as the Ring of Kerry, Killarney National Park, and the spectacular Dingle Peninsula, staying at our favourite country house hotels, where you will receive the warmest of welcomes and delicious local cuisine.

Price from £967 for 5 nights
(2 nights at Ballymaloe and
3 nights at Carrig Country
House)



THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

Thirlestane Castle (a historic private castle)

Located just half an hour south of Edinburgh, Thirlestane is an impressive 16th century castle. The estate has remained in the possession of the Maitland family since 1260 and current residents Edward Maitland-Carew and his wife Sarah have recently refurbished the South Wing in great style to accommodate guests. The eight elegantly-furnished apartments are decorated with portraits and furniture from the castle collections and offer views of the parkland and estate – and guests can either self-cater or enjoy chef-prepared meals delivered to the door, perhaps with a bottle of wine from the castle cellar.



3 night price from £674
Ask for tailor-made prices for
self-drive or rail from Euston to
Edinburgh

PERTSHIRE

Gleneagles ***** Deluxe

Opened in 1924, Gleneagles has been a landmark destination for almost a century with its unique combination of superb service, luxurious accommodation and outstanding facilities. Located just over an hour's drive from both Edinburgh and Glasgow, the hotel is set in 850 acres of spectacular countryside, including three Championship Golf Courses, and it offers an impressive array of outdoor sports. For those in search of relaxation, The Spa offers 20 treatment rooms, sauna and steam rooms, and there are outdoor and indoor swimming pools. There are several restaurants, including fine-dining at Andrew Fairlie, Scotland's only two-star Michelin restaurant.

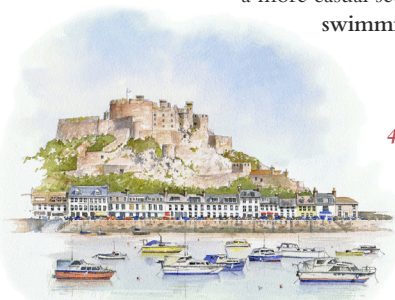
3 night price from £1,265
Ask for tailor-made prices for
self-drive or rail from Euston to
Gleneagles



JERSEY

L'Horizon Beach Hotel & Spa **** Superior

Overlooking the sandy beach of St. Brelade's Bay, L'Horizon has 106 rooms, the majority of which have private balconies and panoramic views of the bay. The 'Grill' fine dining restaurant is renowned for its seafood and the lounge bar and 'Atlantic' room serve lighter meals in a more casual setting. The spa has an indoor swimming pool.



4 nights for the price of 3 from
1 April - 21 May and
1 September - 31 October
- price from £599,
saving £100

GUERNSEY

Old Government House ***** Superior

Located a short walk uphill from St. Peter Port's picturesque town centre, the Old Government House is Guernsey's only five-star hotel and is part of the luxury Red Carnation group of hotels. Dating back to 1796, it has operated as a hotel since 1858. The OGH, as it is affectionately known, has 63 rooms, a 'Brasserie' restaurant overlooking the garden with views over the port, a terrace for outside dining and an outdoor swimming pool. The intimate 'Curry Room' is Guernsey's finest Indian restaurant and there is an atmospheric bar.

4 nights for the price of 3
until 30 April and
1 October - 31 December
- price from £557,
saving £80



For reservations please contact your independent travel agent

TO BOOK CONTACT MALVERN WORLD TRAVEL ON 01684 562406 or email malvernworldtravel@hotmail.co.uk

FURTHER AFIELD

If your wanderlust requires a more exotic remedy, remember that Kirker's team of long haul specialists can help with tailor-made holidays to far flung destinations from Southern Africa to India, Sri Lanka and the Middle-East, as well as Mauritius and the Maldives in the Indian Ocean, and Cuba and the USA – all with the usual Kirker service, carefully-selected hotels, resorts and lodges, and welcoming local guides. We have selected some ideas to inspire your next journey below, but it is crucial to discuss your travel ambitions with your independent travel agent.

SRI LANKA – TRINCOMALEE & THE CULTURAL TRIANGLE

In the summer months, Sri Lanka's untouched north-east coastline enjoys its warm, dry season, and this is the perfect time to enjoy some of the island's most glorious sandy beaches. Explore the ancient city of Trincomalee, which has been an important trading settlement on the Indian Ocean for more than two thousand years, as well as the ancient sites of Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura, and then enjoy time to relax on the sandy beaches of the northeast coast.



Price from £3,955 per person for a fourteen night holiday including flights, all transfers with an English-speaking driver-guide, and accommodation for two nights in Kandy, three nights in Sigiriya, seven nights in Trincomalee and one night in Negombo.

SOUTH AFRICA – THE EASTERN CAPE: KWAZULU NATAL

This circular exploration of KwaZulu-Natal takes in the best of the south-east, from Durban and the 'Dolphin Coast', to the Drakensberg Mountains and the Boer War Battlefields. Enjoy walking and horse riding in the foothills of the Drakensberg, learn about the Zulu and Boer Wars at Rorke's Drift and Isandlwana, and then seek out the 'Big 5' from the comfort of a tented lodge at Thanda Private Game Reserve.



Price from £4,679 per person for a thirteen night holiday including flights, car hire and accommodation for four nights at the Oyster Box, three nights at Hartford House, three nights at Fugitives Drift and three nights at Thanda's tented camp.

THE MALDIVES

Anantara Dhigu ***** Deluxe

Added to the UK Travel Corridor in October, the Maldives offer idyllic island escapes at any time of year but we still have last minute availability for late winter sunshine this March. Lying within the South Male Atoll, Dhigu is just 35 minutes from the airport and offers luxurious beach villas on a private white sand beach – some with private swimming pools – as well as over-water villas with their own sun decks and open-air infinity bath tubs. For those who can muster the energy to leave the comfort of the accommodation, you can choose from a day out on the catamaran, diving, surfing, sailing or deep-sea fishing – or relax in the Elemis spa.



Price from £4,198 per person for a seven night holiday including direct flights, speedboat transfers and accommodation on a half board basis in a Sunrise Beach Villa.

OMAN'S ARABIAN SEA COAST

Probably the destination with the most fascinating history and culture in the Middle-East, Oman offers the perfect combination of guaranteed sunshine, exceptional hotels and astonishing landscapes. This tailor-made itinerary includes four nights in Muscat to enjoy one of the best sandy beaches in the region as well as the new Royal Opera House and the winding alleys of the atmospheric Muttrah Souq. Heading out of the city you will follow the Arabian Sea as far as the historic maritime city of Sur, where Oman's traditional wooden dhows are constructed. You will then stay for two nights at the Turtle Beach Reserve in Ras Al Jinz, one of the only places in the world which is home to nesting sites for three species of endangered turtle.

Price from £2,898 per person for six nights, including flights, accommodation with breakfast (4 nights at the 5 deluxe Shangri-la Al Bandar Muscat, 2 nights at the 4* Turtle Beach Reserve), private transfers and the services of an expert Kirker driver-guide throughout.*



CUBA

Cuba is an astonishing travel experience and, for those who have not yet had the good fortune to visit, you have a rare treat in store. The only advice we must offer is to book now to avoid disappointment! Start in Havana, where we recommend the 5* superior Hotel Saratoga, a stylish contemporary hotel that first opened in the 1930s and has become an Art Deco icon. After exploring the art, architecture, ballet and music of the capital, relax with a mojito on the white sand beaches of Varadero, bathed in Caribbean sunshine.



Price from £2,698 per person for a seven night holiday including flights, transfers, accommodation with breakfast staying for four nights at the Saratoga in Havana and three nights at the Melia Las Americas in Varadero, a Cuban tourist visa and a half day private Havana walking tour.

INDIA

Now is the perfect time to plan an autumn or winter 2021 holiday to India. For first time visitors to India, we would recommend an itinerary to 'The Golden Triangle', including the classical Rajput city of Jaipur, the magnificent splendour of the Taj Mahal in Agra and Edward Luyten's New Delhi. For those who have a little longer to spend or are perhaps returning to the subcontinent, continue on through Rajasthan to the blue city of Jodhpur and the stunning lake city of Udaipur.

Price from £1,890 per person for a seven night Golden Triangle itinerary including flights, private transfers and 4 hotel accommodation – ask for a tailor-made quotation.*



AUTUMN SUNSHINE

Autumn is one of the best times of year to escape for a short break – summer crowds and temperatures both give way to a more relaxed ambience from September and many destinations in the southern Mediterranean offer warm sunshine well into October and November. Now is the perfect time to book to take advantage of excellent early booking offers and we have selected some of our favourite hotels in cities such as Seville, Tel Aviv and Valletta, Malta, as well as resorts in Cyprus, Egypt and Sicily, all of which are just minutes from magnificent ancient ruins.

Prices are per person and include flights, transfers, accommodation with breakfast, Kirker Guide Notes and the services of the Kirker Concierge.

SEVILLE

Corral del Rey (a deluxe bed and breakfast)

This small boutique hotel has 17 bedrooms (11 of which are across the road) and is located in the heart of the old Barrio Alfalfa quarter of the city, just five minutes' walk from the cathedral. It is an original 17th century townhouse that has been meticulously restored and converted into an immaculate small luxury hotel. The architectural highlights are the atrium patio, Roman marble columns and original carved beams combined with striking contemporary features. There is a rooftop patio, plunge pool and terrace, which gives spectacular views of the cathedral.



3 night price from £778

Includes entrance to the Cathedral & Giralda and the Alcazar Palace

SICILY

Villa Belvedere ****

This delightful hotel is owned and run by the charming Pécaut-Bambara family. Located close to the Botanical Gardens and a short walk from the centre of Taormina, it has been sympathetically renovated to retain its character and most of the 47 rooms overlook the terraced gardens. It has a **swimming pool** overlooking the Bay of Naxos with Mount Etna in the distance. This is the perfect hotel if you are looking for good value, character and a relaxing atmosphere.



3 night price from £985

CYPRUS

Almyra **** Deluxe

Overlooking the Mediterranean, set in eight acres of landscaped gardens, the Almyra is located close to the centre of Paphos. There are 190 bedrooms, an **indoor swimming pool** and **two outdoor pools**, one of which is located by the newly built spa complex. The four restaurants at the Almyra emphasise that food is a real highlight of any stay here.



Early booking offer: 7 nights for the price of 5 and complimentary half board for bookings made by 28 February - price from £1,068, saving £350

MALTA

The Phoenicia, Valletta **** Deluxe

Situated at the gateway to Valletta, The Phoenicia has a majestic setting overlooking Marsamxett Harbour. Guests are footsteps away from St. John's Cathedral, with its Caravaggio masterpiece, the Grand Master's Palace and the War Museum. The 136 bedrooms are pleasantly furnished and some have harbour views. The Phoenicia has a wonderful Colonial feel about it with its large domed Palm Court lounge, fine dining restaurant, brasserie and veranda bar overlooking the lush terraced gardens and **outdoor heated swimming pool** below.

Early booking offer: 3 night price from £798 for bookings made by 28 February, saving £80



EGYPT

Sofitel Winter Palace *****

This Victorian style hotel was built in 1886 and is located in the centre of Luxor on the banks of the Nile, in the heart of lush tropical gardens with a large **outdoor swimming pool**. The 92 bedrooms in the Palace are decorated in an elegant colonial style which is in keeping with the original architecture of the property and have views of either the gardens or the Nile. Surrounding the gardens is the separate Pavilion with a further 102 rooms in a more contemporary style with views to the garden. International cuisine is served in the 'Corniche' restaurant whilst the elegant '1886' restaurant specialises in fine French cooking.



5 night price from £1,396 including private tours of Karnak and the Luxor Museum

TEL AVIV

The Norman ***** Deluxe

Reflecting the youthful Bauhaus charm of 1930s Tel Aviv and the sophistication of the modern city, The Norman has been lovingly restored. Two adjacent houses hold 50 elegant rooms with modern comforts and artwork. Attentive personal service gives the feeling of staying in a luxury serviced apartment in the city centre with Rothschild Boulevard and Tel Aviv's cultural highlights within walking distance. The rooftop views over the city towards the sea are enjoyed from the **swimming pool**, Japanese restaurant and bar. Mediterranean dining, featuring local seafood, can be enjoyed all day in the main dining room or al fresco.



3 night price from £1,898

For reservations please contact your independent travel agent

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TIME OUT WITH TED



After a year of being trapped at home, the idea of a precious few days away is a mouth-watering proposition – and, I don't know about you, but, whilst it is certainly a privilege to be able to travel, I feel family Wake deserves a carefully-planned short break where every minute counts. That doesn't mean that every moment needs to be scheduled, indeed the best short breaks include time to reflect – a relaxed lunch with a glass of wine, followed by a well-deserved siesta, can be the most sublime interlude after a busy morning's sightseeing – and the perfect precursor to an evening concert, ballet or opera. 'Down-time' is particularly crucial on multi-generational trips where the itinerary needs to be tailor-made to ensure younger members of the party have time for a mid-morning sugar-fix (I can certainly recommend the café at the Prado Museum, where our charming guide, Carmen, managed to continue the discussion on Velasquez and El Greco so that our children could now almost be mistaken for enthusiastic experts...) not to mention gin for Granny at 6pm (sharp) so that the evening flows seamlessly in a way that only the older generation knows best.

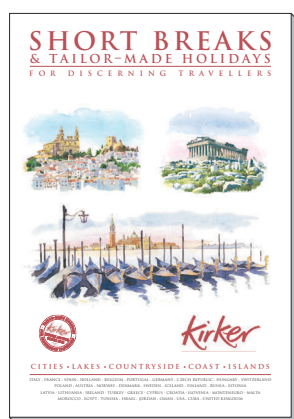
So, where to next? For me it will have to be Vienna, staying at either the charming 4* Deluxe Konig von Ungarn or the stylish 5* Deluxe Sacher. Vienna has something for everyone, with world-class music and opera at either Staatsoper or Volksoper, extraordinary art from modern masters such as Klimt and Schiele to Old Masters including Dürer and Bruegel at four of the finest museums in Western culture: Kunsthistorisches, Leopold, Belvedere and Albertina. A stroll along the Ringstrasse must include a stop at Palais Ephrussi, which featured prominently in the best-seller 'The Hare with the Amber Eyes'. We will need to make certain that the Kirker Concierge books tickets for the Spanish Riding School, not to mention the Vienna Boys' Choir and of course a private guide for a walking tour – with a stop for Sachertorte and coffee – and why not a lunch reservation at a carefully-selected local restaurant where we can reflect over a delicious glass of Austrian white and debate Grüner Veltliner vs Riesling?

I really can't wait to get going.

Ted



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BROCHURES

Whilst our normal paper Short Breaks brochure is a work in progress as we await more comprehensive clarification of the new travel rules for 2021 and updates from each of our hotel partners, our full range of destinations and hotels can be found on the Kirker website, including pictures, descriptions and the latest special offers. Nonetheless, if you would like further details by post, or first-hand advice, please speak to your independent travel agent who would be delighted to send something to you.

TRAVEL IN STYLE

Escaping the madding crowd has never been more appealing, and to help you get away in style and comfort we have negotiated some exceptional value for money special upgrade fares with our key partners including British Airways and Eurostar. Ask for the latest upgrade prices for **British Airways' Club Europe** including fast-track check-in, airport lounge access, priority boarding and more spacious seating on board – as a couple you can choose to sit in a pair of seats with no other passengers adjacent – or **BA Club World** for long haul flights including lie-flat beds. When travelling by Eurostar we highly recommend upgrading to **Standard Premier**, from as little as £50 per person, which offers spacious dedicated carriages with the option to reserve a table for two by the window.

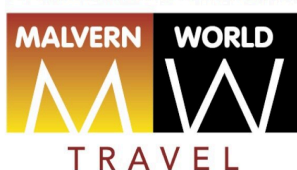


"Florence was great! We had lovely weather and it was quiet... we had all the time we wanted to admire "David" at the Accademia and were the only people for the first half an hour or so at the Museum San Marco. The restaurants were great... the hotel was lovely, we were upgraded to a junior suite and didn't have to check out until 4.30pm when the car came. All in all, a lovely trip, so nice to get away, a real tonic and brilliantly organised. Thank you!"

Mrs J, travelled to Florence in autumn 2020

This is just a small selection from the wide range of special offers available, speak to your independent travel agent for more information.

For more information or to book contact :



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