

Angela Gaillard; Pierre Jacques/Hemis/fr

# SUMMER 100

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## 32 Escape the Brits

£££££

It often seems that we've discovered every square foot of France by now, but there is a choice little titbit British tourists haven't colonised: the wild Allier gorges, in the Massif Central. Heady uplands, lost villages, terrific walking, riding, rafting and canoeing down the foaming Allier itself (Tonic Aventure can fix up trips; tonic-aventure.fr). It also hides the excellent Haut-Allier (00 33 4 71 57 57 63, hotel-lehautallier.com), with Michelin-starred food and a dramatic gorge-side setting. Doubles start at £79, room-only, making a week a pretty reasonable £278 each — though allow the same again to do the food justice. Fly to Lyons with EasyJet or British Midland International.

## 33 The peak of the Pyrenees

£££££

Question: how good a mountaineer do you have to be to scale the highest mountain in the Pyrenees? Answer: you don't have to be a mountaineer at all. Yes, you've got to rope up, use crampons and carry ice axes to reach the spectacular 11,168ft summit of Pico Aneto, but there's no technical climbing



Rumble down Alpine slopes (28) or roll with it in Provence (34), left

involved — just good fitness and a head for heights. The scenery can take on the best of the Alps and win. Go on, you can do it. The mountain-walking specialist KE Adventure (01768 773966, keadventure.com) will coach you up there on a week's trip, with two demanding warm-up walks, for £795 in June or August, including five nights in a chalet, two in a mountain refuge and almost all meals. Fly to Toulouse with Jet2 or EasyJet.

## 34 Chic in Provence

£££££

If you've enjoyed a stay at one of the establishments in Britain's Hotel du Vin chain, you might wonder if there's anything

similar abroad. You should relish this. Crillon le Brave (00 33 4 90 65 61 61, crillonlebrave.com) is the brainchild of Peter Chittick — the co-founder of HdV — and the comfy-chic vibe, Frette linens and Farrow & Ball colours may feel familiar. The location, however, is something else: a jumble of mellow stone buildings in a classic Provençal hilltop village, with views stretching over Côtes du Ventoux vineyards to the Alps, best admired from the lovely terrace pool. For somewhere this romantic, it's not *that* pricey, at £741/£860. Fly to Marseilles with EasyJet or Ryanair.

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## CAN'T WAIT TILL SUMMER? INDIAN OCEAN NOW!

half-board, a saving of £392. Nearer the budget end, Hayes & Jarvis (0871 664 0246, hayesandjarvis.com) has taken a hefty £466 off the three-star Merville Beach, where a week, departing on February 23, now costs £829, half-board.

Even Le Prince Maurice — arguably the best hotel on the island, a palatial Relais & Châteaux place with a Guerlain spa, a top golf course, a floating restaurant and wall-to-wall flunkys — is doing deals. With Exsus (020 7337 9010, exsus.com), a week, half-board, is £1,800 — a saving of £1,000.

There are big reductions in the **Maldives**, too. A week at the celebrity-strewn Soneva Gili is going for £3,500, B&B, with Scott Dunn (020 8682 5075, scottdunn.com). Hardly bargain-basement, granted, but that is £1,550 off the previous price — February rates in the Maldives can be stratospheric.

The five-star Constance Halaveli costs £2,140, B&B,

a saving of £1,235, with Bailey Robinson (01488 689700, baileyrobinson.com), if you book before Tuesday. And you won't find much cheaper here than an all-inclusive week at the Adaaran Select Hudhuranfushi for £1,520, a saving of £100, with British Airways (0844 493 0758, ba.com/maldives) — again, book before Tuesday.

Of all the Indian Ocean destinations, **Kenya** throws up the friendliest prices. Tropical Sky (0844 332 9349, tropicalsky.co.uk) has the four-star Sarova Whitesands, on Bamburi beach, for £899, half-board, for two weeks, departing on February 7.

If that's still too much, you could go three-star at the Reef Hotel, on Nyali beach, departing on February 7. Monarch Holidays (0871 423 8642, monarch.co.uk) has a week from £530, B&B.

All prices are per person for departures in February, and include flights and transfers

# EXTENDED OFFER!

## SUPER SALE TO SCANDINAVIA!

### Book by 25 January 2011.

London →	From	London →	From
Bergen	£49	Helsinki	£62
Copenhagen	£62	Stavanger	£62
Stockholm	£62	Göteborg	£62
Oslo	£62	Lulea	£89

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