

Peak time travel

60
SECOND
GUIDE TO
MORZINE,
FRANCE



FESTIVE GETAWAY...Egypt

'Tis the season to go travelling

Get away from it all this festive season with On The Go's Christmas cracker trips to Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Russia, India or Africa. Six-day tour of Egypt starts at £369 or enjoy The Snow Ball in Russia, spending Hogmanay in Red Square for £469 for six days. Flights are extra. Transfers included. Visit www.onthegotours.com/Xmas-and-New-Year.

Hot deals

- COSTA DEL SOL**
November 3, 10, 17, 24. From Prestwick. 7nts all-inclusive at 3* Gardenia Park, Fuengirola from £319pp.
Also, December 1, 8, 15 from £309pp.
- ALGARVE**
November 3, 10, 17, 24. From Prestwick. 7nts all-inclusive at four-star Sol Aqua, Albufeira from £269pp.
Also, December 1, 8, 15 from £269pp and January 5, 12, 19, 26 from £269pp.
Call 01698 425444 or contact www.holidayandflightcentre.com.
- CYPRUS**
October 31. From Glasgow. 7nts half-board at 3* Arsinoe Beach, £389pp.
- FUERTEVENTURA**
November 17. From Glasgow. 7nts self-catering at 2*+ Villa Florida, £247pp.
- TUNISIA**
November 21. From Glasgow. 28nts half-board at 3* Residence Golf, £339pp.
- ALGARVE**
November 25. From Edinburgh. 7nts self-catering at 2*+ Parque Mourabel Oasis, £197pp.
- MOROCCO**
November 30. From Edinburgh. 4nts B&B at 3* Hicham, £179pp.
Also December 14, £187pp.
See www.barrheadtravel.co.uk.

BY BRIDGET MCGROUTHER

Slope off to Morzine

In the heart of the Alps and one hour's transfer from Geneva, Morzine is a charming ski in/ski out resort. At 1000m high, there is usually plenty of snow. On Pleney's mountainside, the pine tree-lined pistes lead to pretty Les Gets while on the other side, the Super Morzine ski-lifts whisk you up to high-altitude Avoriaz and beyond.

Piste of the action

Morzine is part of the Portes du Soleil, one of the most exciting and extensive ski areas in the world. Criss-crossing France and Switzerland, 650km of pistes link 12 resorts. A choice of 26 black, 100 red, 106 blue and 34 green ski runs means there is something for everyone – plus snow parks where freestyle enthusiasts can get up to their own tricks.

Give yourself a lift

Lift passes, equipment and lessons can be pre-booked with directski.com whether you're a beginner, intermediate or advanced. Choose between the restricted Les Gets/Morzine lift pass (ideal for novices) or more extensive and expensive Portes du Soleil area. Equipment is provided by Caribou Sports where there is also storage facilities.

Sno' so easy!

ESF (Ecole du Ski Français) provide qualified, English-speaking instructors who will teach beginners how to hit the slopes or improve the technique of more seasoned skiers or snowboarders. It's also a good way to make friends if

you're skiing alone or not able to keep up with your partner or friends!

Wooden it be lovely?

Savoyard-styled four-star Chalet Eira has 18 cosy rooms suitable for singles, couples and families. Breakfasts, afternoon tea and delicious dinners with wine are included and served in a dining room with valley views. The loft bar is the place to chill with picturesque panoramas, TV, free wifi, pool and hot tub below.

Haute Cuisine

The four-course dinners with French cheese and wine at Chalet Eira are mouth-watering for those lucky enough to stay in the catered accommodation. On Pleney's slopes, Chalet du Nabor and Le Vaffieu are atmospheric, though busy, so book ahead, while Morzine La Chamade and Le Clin D'Oeil are great when the chalet maid is on a day off.

Snow fun

If you don't ski or snowboard there's paragliding and quad bikes, snow-snow treks or the spa. A family-friendly resort, children will love the merry-go-round in the village centre as well as ice skating, the ski train, horse-drawn sleighs or joining in the many organised events.

Lighten up!

Night skiing is popular under the Pleney floodlights, as well as twilight sledging – though it's only for big kids over the age of 16. The ESF instructors make regular torch-lit descents in spectacular shows, with fireworks and mulled wine afterwards. Then carry on drinking or

dancing till dawn at the many clubs and bars.

P-p-p-pick up a penguin

Support the local ice hockey team – the Morzine-Avoriaz Penguins at the Palais des Sports. Children can search for Ouin-Ouin the penguin or join in other games at the Mardi Gras Carnival every Tuesday during school holidays. Or dress up as penguins with make-up sessions and costume hire on sale at the Tourist Office.

Shop 'til you drop

There are plenty of shops and markets to browse. Savoyard pottery is popular along with café-style curtains, hand-carved ornaments and heart-shaped decorations that make the wooden chalets look so pretty.

So a-moo-sing

Visit the cowshed at Nants and learn the A to Z of cheese-making. Delve underground to dig out the history of slate mining in Morzine which is over two centuries old or take a guided tour of the Old Town with a Savoie heritage guide. More info at the Tourist Office or www.morzine-avoriaz.com.

Make tracks

Online ski holiday specialist Directski.com (www.directski.com) has a week's stay at four-star Chalet Eira in Morzine from £789pp, including return flights from Manchester, transfers, and catered accommodation, based on two sharing.



N-ICE DIGS...
the chalets in Morzine are spacious yet cosy



TRAVEL UPDATE ..

National Trust for Scotland have conjured up some Halloween treats with Holmwood House in Glasgow becoming Holm of Halloween until next Sunday. Brodie Castle near Forres will host a Hocus Pocus haunted walk on October 30 and many more. Visit www.nts.org.uk/. Events for more spooky treats.



SPOOKY...Brodie Castle

Redworth Hall, set in 150 acres of woodland near Durham, is offering one-night spa breaks for just £89pp. Dinner and breakfast and use of the health club with a choice of two treatments are part of the package. Two-night spa breaks are available until December 30 for £149.50. Visit www.visitteesvalley.co.uk.

See Northern Lights in Iceland

Experience the best of the dazzling natural wonder, the aurora borealis, courtesy of Icelandair. Their Northern Lights City Breaks are running until March 2011 with flights from Glasgow, Manchester or London Heathrow. Three nights and a Northern Lights tour costs from £269. Book at www.icelandair.co.uk by October 31.



Family holiday specialist Travel City Direct has launched www.floridababy.co.uk, a brand new website to help parents discover the magic of the Sunshine State and Walt Disney World. Containing dozens of hints and travel tips, an interactive customer forum and entertaining information videos, the advice will be useful for anyone flying with babies and toddlers.

Experiences to thrill you

Warner Leisure Hotels' short-stay half-board Experience Breaks invite you to try digital photography on the Isle of Wight, Nordic walking in North Wales or hot air ballooning over the Yorkshire Dales. Experience activities incur a supplement. Visit www.warnerleisurehotels.co.uk.