TRAVEL SECTION OF THE YEAR

The Daily Telegraph

Our experts reveal the world's greatest travel experiences p 10

TRAVEL

All-inclusive August escapes – for less than £700

Whether it's hammam time in Turkey or family fun in Fuerteventura, it's still not too late to bag a bargain summer break, says Natalie Paris



Think the package holiday belongs to a bygone era? Think again. With geopolitical uncertainty, inflation, a surge in travel costs and a flurry of other obstacles facing British holidaymakers this summer, the humble hotel-and-flights holiday bundle is seeing a marked resurgence: and, better yet, the concept is no longer characterised by coach transfers, peppy reps and stale buffets. "In the era of value-first travel, we are seeing the quiet comeback of the package holiday," a spokesman for Thomas Cook says, "providing certainty, value and greater control over costs."

According to the travel agent, all-inclusive holidays sold in June made up nearly 50 per cent of its total bookings, an increase on the figure for June last year. That's not only due to the ongoing cost-of-living squeeze (knowing exactly what your holiday will cost from start to finish has surely never been more attractive), it's also because package holidays are always Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (ATOL) protected, meaning travellers are financially protected against unforeseen cancellations, too.

So, is it too late to find a week's holiday for less than £700 per person in August? Certainly not. Here are 20 of the best deals still available.

Continued on page 2

Kick back: your last-minute summer holiday awaits



Beat the heat at these cool Scandi hotels

Design-led stays in less sweltering climes are drawing tourists north, says Anabelle Thorpe



White-sand beaches, world-class spas, suppers of freshly caught fish and seafood: as summer temperatures in the Med – and here at home – soar higher each year, increasing numbers of us are realising that Scandinavia offers much more than just plunging fjords and the northern lights.

Norway and Finland both had record-breaking years in 2025, welcoming 7.2 million and 5.1 million visitors respectively, while 8.2 million visitors touched down in Sweden over the summer months alone.

Temperatures rarely top the mid-20s in high summer, even in the southernmost regions, where there are beaches to rival anything the Med can offer – although the waters of the North Sea are invariably considerably chillier.

It's no surprise that new hotels are springing up, from budget farm stays to design-led boutique retreats, all with that inimitable Scandi style and a sense of holidaying somewhere new.

NORWAY

Ytri island retreat, Traena

Ytru opened in April and is one of Norway's most remote hotels, on the Traena archipelago, 37 miles off the Norwegian coast. A traditional fishing village has been reimagined as a luxury retreat, with glass-walled rooms set along a sheltered harbour featuring glorious coastline views. Neutrals dominate in the bedrooms; taupe and butterscotch linens, furnishings and décor, while Alma, the wooden-framed, light-filled restaurant, offers a 12-course tasting menu Thursday-Saturday, alongside a four-course seasonal menu. For glorious isolation, this is the place.

Doubles from £401, B&B; ytri.no

Stokkøya Strandhotell, Trondelag



It's worth the journey – a ferry ride and two trains – to reach Stokkøya. This chic but budget-friendly escape is set directly on the beach, with simple cabins (some even built into the dunes), glamping and houses. The beach sauna is ideal after a dip in the chilly North Sea, and there are lovely coastal trails leading away from the hotel. The restaurant leans towards small plates, with most dishes cooked on an open grill or in a wood-fired oven.

There's a simplicity to proceedings here that gives the place a lovely, barefoot feel.

Doubles from £160, B&B; stokkoy.no

Elva Hotel, Voss



Elva comprises five angular houses and a stark glass-and-timber main building housing the hotel's fine-dining restaurant. With giant windows overlooking Lake Lundarvatnet, there's a wonderfully tranquil feel, although some of the rooms can be a touch small.

For those after an active holiday, the Voss Adventure Centre is right next door, offering rafting, canoeing and riverboarding, although a long summer evening simply soaking in one of the hot tubs on the decking may well be action enough.

Doubles from £430, half-board; elva.no

Union Øye, Norangsfjord



For a more classic stay, Union Øye hotel has been welcoming guests – from royalty to writers and mountaineers – since 1891. Behind the half-timbered frontage, elegant lounges filled with gilt-edged mirrors, antiques and deep leather armchairs channel old-school glamour.

Bedrooms in the main house retain the vintage feel, while the 13 cottages scattered in the grounds are more contemporary, with exposed stone and a palette of muted creams and soft greens.

Evenings can be formal in the grand Conservatory or Dining Room, or more relaxed in the sun-drenched Palm Room.

Doubles from £378, B&B, unionoye.no

SWEDEN

Sibbjäns, Gotland

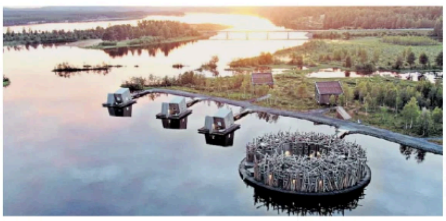


Sibbjäns also opened in April and is Sweden's first luxury farm stay, spread over 123 acres of meadow and woodland. It's all run on regenerative principles, from vintage bedroom furnishings and water-saving showers to banks of wildflowers framing each building, but there's no skimping on comfort.

Choose from yoga classes in the pavilion, nearby hiking and cycling trails, or simply lazing by the natural pool, before tucking in to a farm-to-fork supper using ingredients harvested that day from the gardens and local farms.

Doubles from £230, B&B; sibbjans.se

Arctic Bath, Harads

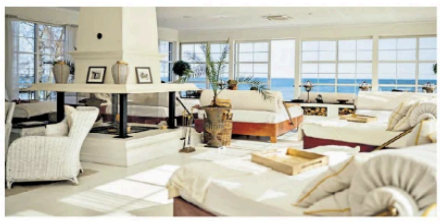


This hotel is best known for its extraordinary-looking spa: a giant, circular birds' nest surrounding a cold pool (which gives the hotel its name). Six angular cabins float above the crystalline waters of the Lule River, each with a private deck and steps leading down to the water, alongside more spacious (sleeping up to five) and more luxurious cabins on land.

Even the restaurant is afloat, where Michelin-style dishes focus on the Arctic, with the option of a "Fireside Table" experience – an alfresco dinner with a traditional lavvu tent if things turns chilly.

Doubles from £555, B&B, arcticbath.se

Ystad Saltsjöbad, Ystad



Set on the glorious, 4km-long Ystad Sandskog beach, this is the Swedish equivalent of a Med fly-and-flop: a neat line of sun loungers alongside three glimmering pools, four restaurants to choose from in the evening and a world-class spa.

The spa's signature is its "Creek" experience, combining a Dead Sea salt mask, Turkish hamam and Moroccan rasul mud treatment in a rainforest-themed area dotted with pools.

Ystad Saltsjöbad is a great choice for families, with rooms sleeping up to four comfortably.

Doubles from £256, B&B; ysb.se

FINLAND

Järvisydän, Rantasalmi



Järvisydän has been in the same family for 12 generations, developing from a medieval inn into a sizeable resort offering everything from futuristic glass pods tucked into the forest to wooden cabins with kitchenettes and luxury hotel rooms.

The main building – constructed entirely from wood, with hand-carved fixtures and fittings – feels straight out of *Grimms' Fairy Tales*, while afternoons on Lake Saimaa offer the chance to spot rare ringed seals and ospreys.

The spa is child-friendly and features six separate saunas.

Doubles from £154, B&B; jarvisydan.com

Aino Private Island Hotel, Rovaniemi



Soak up the midnight sun at this gloriously isolated escape, surrounded by Arctic waters, with just 11 country-chic rooms and suites and one villa dotted among the trees. It's quirky: the Library pavilion feels straight out of a stately home, with navy walls, family portraits and a chocolate-brown chesterfield, while Vuo restaurant is traditionally Lappish, with tables set around an open fire.

This is an adults-only bolthole, a place to bring plenty of books; there is little to do beyond dipping into the sauna and drinking in the views.

Doubles from £413, B&B; ainoprivateis.landhotel.com

DENMARK

Cori Hornbæk Hotel, Hornbæk



The Cori Hornbæk opens in September, upping the style ante for Danish seaside hotels. The spa is set to be a big draw, with fire-lit relaxation rooms and a "Longevity Lounge" focused on new technologies including compression boots, LED masks and SmartGoggles.

The beach is an absolute stunner: white sand and shallow waters, perfect for kayaking or paddleboarding.

Meanwhile, the light-filled dining room, dotted with potted shrubs and trees, will serve up Scandi-Mediterranean fusion dishes, with a strong focus on local fish and seafood.

Doubles from £407, corihotel.dk

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