

## DESTINATIONS

### SHORT BREAKS | BEYOND THE CITY

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## SHORT BREAKS BEYOND THE CITY

City breaks aren't the only way  
to enjoy a weekend away,  
writes **Katie McGonagle**



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### HAVE AN IRISH ADVENTURE

Fancy getting the gift of the gab – courtesy of a kiss of the ol' Blarney stone – then filling your Instagram feed with snaps of the Cliffs of Moher, kicking back on the Dingle Peninsula's windswept beaches or dancing a jig in Ennis, all in a long weekend? Shamrock's Southern Rocker Tour – ranked as the world's best multi-day tour by TripAdvisor – packs all this into just three days. Add the Burren's lunar-like landscape, a night in Killarney and stops in Dublin and Galway City, and you've got the makings of a true Irish experience.

**Book it:** The three-day trip starts at £209 including two nights' B&B hostel accommodation and transport. [shamrockadventures.com](http://shamrockadventures.com)

### SEE NORTHERN LIGHTS IN ICELAND

Skip Reykjavik and head to the lesser-known north, where the wild scenery is interrupted only by the occasional fishing village or lighthouse. Super Break runs the only direct charter flights to Akureyri, from where clients can view the northern lights and visit boiling mud pools at Namafjall. If they have time, suggest driving the Arctic Coast Way, a new 560-mile route across northern Iceland.

**Book it:** Super Break's three and four-night Incredible North Iceland trips operate from 11 airports from February 3-March 16. Prices start at £699 including flights, accommodation, transfers and activities. [superbreak.com/agents](http://superbreak.com/agents)



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### FEEL FESTIVE IN FRANCE

Short sailings offer a taste of life on the water. Cruise & Maritime Voyages' December mini-cruise on the Seine calls at Rouen for its famed cathedral, Honfleur to wander through cobbled streets, and Zeebrugge for last-minute shopping in Bruges' Xmas markets.

**Book it:** Fares for the four-night French Festive Getaway on *Magellan* start at £319, based on two sharing an inside cabin, including entertainment and all meals. Departs Tilbury on December 8. [cruiseandmaritime.com](http://cruiseandmaritime.com)

### RELAX ON THE MOROCCAN COAST

Looking for a quick beach fix? Lauren Ross, product and commercial manager at Simply Luxury by Travel 2, recommends Mazagan Beach & Golf Resort on the Moroccan coast, an hour from Casablanca. She says: "The best thing about this hotel is its fantastic activities, including a links golf course, paintballing, go-karting, quad biking on the beach, horse riding and a beautiful spa."

**Book it:** Four nights in a pool-view room at the five-star Mazagan Beach & Golf Resort, with flights from Gatwick, transfers and breakfast, starts at £629 for travel on May 1, 2020. [travel2.com](http://travel2.com)



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### TAKE A SCENIC STAYCATION

If clients are short on time, forget the flight and make a beeline for the British countryside instead. The Lake District is big on epic landscapes, vast glassy lakes, and charming towns such as Windermere, which is a good base for scenic walks.

**Book it:** Shearings' Highlights of the Lake District starts at £274 in May 2020, including four nights' half-board at the Windermere Hotel, coach travel from a UK pick-up point, plus a full-day rail and cruise tour, and half-day visit to Keswick and Grasmere. [shearingsagent.com](http://shearingsagent.com)



PICTURES: Ernie Dorfer; VisitBritain/Dave Willis; Alyssa Lehman