

All for you

Laura French picks out some of the most impressive activities offered at all-inclusive resorts

@laurafrench121

The phrase 'all-inclusive' might conjure up a few stereotypes, but there has been a dramatic change in what it really means over the past few years. Resorts are getting ever-more creative with their all-in packages, bringing culinary experiences, adventurous activities and unique excursions into the mix.

We've rounded up some of the most striking, to help you win big on this lucrative sector.

► PICNIC ON AN UNINHABITED ISLAND: ATMOSPHERE KANIFUSHI

At this postcard-perfect, turquoise-ringed resort in the

Maldives, guests can choose from six excursions, including cultural expeditions and a romantic sunset cruise. But the standout here is a picnic on a secluded, uninhabited island, where colourful fish, snow-white sands and crystal-clear waters form the backdrop to a remote, castaway-style experience only the Maldives can properly pull off.

Sunset fishing trips are also included, as is one à la carte, fine-dining experience at speciality restaurant The Sunset. **Book it:** Caribtours offers a week's all-inclusive from £2,745 per person, based on two sharing a Sunset Junior Suite. The price

includes flights, seaplane transfers and airport lounge access. caribtours.co.uk

► SWIM WITH DOLPHINS: UNICO 20°N 87°W

Riviera Maya's adult-only Unico 20°N 87°W has immersive experiences as its raison d'être with a string of included excursions (subject to a 25% service fee). Among the standouts is a swim-with-dolphins experience that lets guests choose from one of six interactions, including hugging and swimming with these graceful creatures. Others include sailing under the stars with a

three-course dinner, and a zip-lining adventure in the jungle. **Book it:** Funway Holidays offers seven nights from £1,850 per person, flying on February 6. funway4agents.co.uk

► GO QUAD BIKING ROUND A NATURE RESERVE: HERITAGE AWALI

Thrill-seekers need look no further than Heritage Awali Golf and Spa Resort in Mauritius, which offers quad bike, buggy and 4x4 tours round the idyllic Frederica Nature Reserve as part of its premium all-inclusive package. Think towering palms, winding rivers and glistening waterfalls →

Atmosphere Kanifushi,
the Maldives

→ accompanying you as you bump along the grounds of this 1,300-hectare reserve, set on the Domaine de Bel Ombre estate.

Other bonuses include a complimentary tour to the Seven Coloured Earth - a sea of multi-coloured sand dunes undulating in giant ripples - complete with a three-course lunch, and complimentary green fees at the on-site golf course.

Book it: A week in a Deluxe Garden View Room on a premium all-inclusive basis starts at £2,099 with Travel 2 for departures between May 6 and July 7, 2019. travel2.com

▶ **DRIVE A MINI COOPER AROUND CORFU: IKOS DASSIA**

When it comes to going the extra mile, the Ikos resorts know a thing or two, and the newest member of the family, Dassia, is no exception. The Corfu outpost offers a 'Mini Drive Adventure' that lets guests take a Mini Cooper for a spin around the island, taking in highlights such as Paleokastritsa beach - a pool of sparkling jade tucked into a craggy cove - with recommendations from the Ikos mobile app.

Guests also get a free pass granting access to three museums, so they can take in a bit of culture while cruising the open roads. The brand's signature



Dine Around programme means they can even pop into a taverna for a complimentary meal while on the move - Greek salad with a side of sea, anyone?

Book it: Olympic Holidays offers a week's all-inclusive from £1,536 per person based on two sharing and travelling on June 17, 2019, including flights from Gatwick. olympicholidays.com

▶ **GET UNLIMITED ACCESS TO MEXICO'S XCARET PARKS: HOTEL XCARET**
Direct fun-loving clients to

Cancun's sprawling, 6,000-room Hotel Xcaret, which opened last December and offers complimentary access to eight nature parks and tours under a sweeping 'all-fun inclusive' concept.

Attractions include Xcaret, where guests can swim in underground rivers and check out an aquarium, butterfly pavilion, aviary and more; Xel-Ha, home to snorkelling, zip-lining and other adventures set among cenotes, lagoons and caves; and Xoximilco, where visitors board a gondola for a music-filled, floating fiesta featuring unlimited beer, tequila and a Mexican feast. Food and drink is included at every park, and tours to Tulum and Chichen Itza are also complimentary - now that's what you call comprehensive.

Book it: Thomas Cook offers seven nights' all-inclusive from £2,300 per person, based on two adults sharing, including flights from Gatwick on November 26. thomascook.com

▶ **LEARN THE TRAPEZE: CLUB MED OPIO EN PROVENCE**
Wannabe circus acts unite - Club Med's Creative programme, designed in partnership with

Cirque du Soleil, offers adults and kids over four the chance to learn acrobatics skills ranging from the double flying trapeze to the tightrope, trampolining to bungee and everything in between.

Available at the Opio en Provence and Punta Cana resorts, it brings together more than 25 activities, adding to an already wide programme of activities that spans archery, guided walks, a tennis school and more.

Book it: Seven nights' all-inclusive at Club Med Opio en Provence starts at £787 per adult and £474 per child, based on a December 10 departure from Gatwick. clubmedagents.co.uk

▶ **COOK WITH CELEBRITY CHEFS: DIAMONDS THUDUFUSHI**

For clients into their cooking, suggest boutique Maldivian retreat Diamonds Thudufushi, whose unique 'dining with the stars' experience offers guests staying in a luxury Water Villa from January to April a free cooking lesson led by a member of the famous Jeunes Restaurateurs d'Europe. They'll also enjoy a five-course gala dinner afterwards, hosted by a different chef each week.



Those not coming in peak season will still find plenty of other culinary treats - not least a Maldivian corner in the main restaurant, where guests can prepare traditional dishes with the chef, then enjoy them beneath the palms in the tropical garden.

Book it: Kuoni offers seven nights' all-inclusive in a Beach Bungalow from £3,099 in January 2019. The price is based on two sharing and includes SriLankan Airlines flights from Heathrow, plus transfers in resort. kuoni.co.uk

✓ **Best of the rest**

Diving: Sandals and Beaches Resorts offer up to two free scuba trips a day for qualified divers, alongside a host of other above-and-beyond inclusions, not least Rolls-Royce transfers for guests in the top suites.

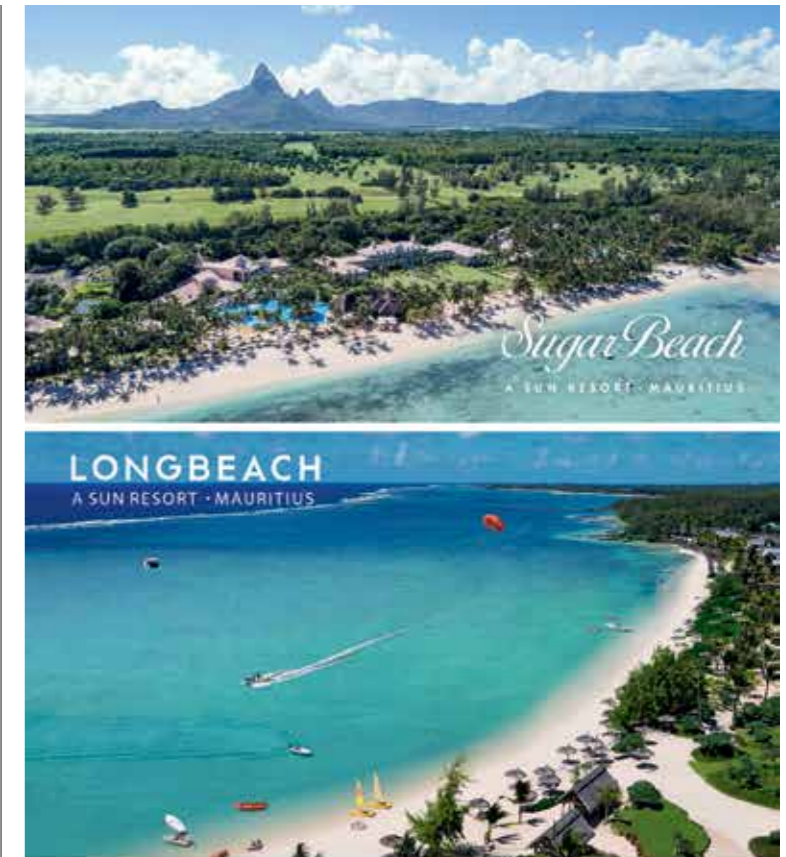
Horse riding: Grecotel's White Palace in Crete offers complimentary horse riding for guests wanting to explore the island from on high.

Photography workshops: Lux Resorts offer a 'Photo Fanatics' programme providing workshops to budding snappers, alongside in-room guides on how to capture the best shots.

Spa treatments: Elegant Hotels' Waves Hotel & Spa in Barbados offers up to four spa treatments per seven-night stay (the number is based on the room type), while Saint Lucia's BodyHoliday offers a daily 50-minute treatment at its Elemis spa.



PICTURES: EMMA TIBBETTS; JULIEN FERNANDEZ



IF ONLY...
TRAVEL MADE BEAUTIFUL

Magical Mauritius... whatever your style.

Cool and laid back piazza-style living at Long Beach, for high energy water sports, chilled-out sundowners and tropical vibes.

Chic and relaxed plantation style ambience at Sugar Beach, where colonial elegance is perfectly balanced with superb dining, activities and kids club facilities.

SAVE £300 PER BOOKING

Choose your 5 Star All Inclusive escape from only £1,542pp.

Includes return flights with Turkish Airlines, 7 nights accommodation, All Inclusive daily, private car transfers and airport taxes.

For more information call 0141 955 4000 or visit ifonly.net

*Some supplements for restaurants and drinks may apply. †Price shown includes £300 saving. Prices are per person and based on 2 adults sharing. Valid for departures from 18 May - 15 Jul and 18 Aug - 7 Sep 19 and must be booked by 15 Oct 18. Subject to availability. All flight inclusive holidays are protected by ATOL scheme.