

## DESTINATIONS

MIDDLE EAST | WINTER SUN

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BEST

### WINTER-SUN BREAKS

From adventure-packed escapes to city breaks, **Natalie Marsh** rounds up what to book right now

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#### ABU DHABI

Clients will find winter a more comfortable time to visit Abu Dhabi, when temperatures sit in the mid to high 20s. The city is bursting with culture – the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is one of the most impressive sights in the region – while Yas Island is home to exciting family attractions such as Warner Bros Abu Dhabi and Ferrari World.

**Book it:** Tui has recently introduced Abu Dhabi as a city-break destination. Seven nights at the Radisson Blu Hotel Abu Dhabi Yas Island starts at £878 per person, based on two adults on a B&B basis, departing January 6.

[tui.co.uk](http://tui.co.uk)

#### RAS AL KHAIMAH

Stepping into the spotlight is lesser-known emirate Ras Al Khaimah, home to beautiful coastline and dramatic landscapes. The world's longest zipline, on Jebel Jais mountain, should be on every bucket list. John Poulton, Gold Medal's assistant product manager for the Middle East, Indian Ocean and Africa, says: "It's full of surprises and is the perfect destination for those who want serenity, thrills and to connect with nature."

**Book it:** Gold Medal offers three nights' half-board at the DoubleTree by Hilton Resort & Spa Marjan Island, from £399 per person, for departures between February 6-27, including flights. [goldmedal.co.uk](http://goldmedal.co.uk)

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#### DOHA

From Unesco-listed Al Zubarah fort to man-made Pearl-Qatar island, Doha blends old and new. The Museum of Islamic Art is worth a visit, while the desert offers adventure. "It's a diverse destination, with guaranteed winter sunshine, decadent dining and a wealth of sightseeing options," says Susan Greenhorn, If Only assistant product manager for Arabia and the Indian Ocean.

**Book it:** If Only offers five nights at the W Doha Hotel & Residences for £1,039 per person, if booked by December 8, flying from Gatwick on January 8, 2020. [ifonly.net](http://ifonly.net)

#### AQABA

Lesser known in the region, but no less deserving of attention, is the Red Sea resort of Aqaba in Jordan. Visitors can take advantage of incredible diving, while those who don't want to venture below the surface can see the marine life from a glass-bottomed boat. The beaches are full of family activities, with plenty of restaurants, watersports and beach clubs.

**Book it:** Cyphon offers two adults and one child under 10 a seven-night stay at the Mövenpick Resort & Spa Talan Bay for £1,475 on a B&B basis, departing February 6, including flights. [cyphon.co.uk](http://cyphon.co.uk)

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#### OMAN

For couples seeking romance, Oman is an idyllic escape. From the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque and National Museum of Oman to awe-inspiring souks and traditional villages, Oman is full of culture. For somewhere a little more remote, recommend swapping the city for its incredible mountain ranges. "The mountainous landscapes are an exciting place for adventurers to explore with a hike and for a more low-key holiday," says Carrier's reservations manager, Deborah Matthews.

**Book it:** Five nights at The Chedi Muscat starts at £4,055 per person with Carrier, based on two adults sharing a Chedi Club Suite including breakfast, flying on March 9. [carrier.co.uk](http://carrier.co.uk)

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PICTURES: Shutterstock; Nicolas Dumont