

FIVE SUMMER BREAKS FROM MARINER TRAVEL



Italy

No amount of superlatives can even begin to describe all that Italy has to offer – fabulous climate, enviable gastronomy, fantastic wines, spectacular scenery, magnificent architecture and rich history is just a start! There are so many wonderful possibilities it really is difficult to know where to choose. Certainly, the well known trio of cities - Venice, Rome and Florence are best discovered in spring or autumn when temperatures are pleasant and the crowds are less. The stunning Italian Lakes with gorgeous scenery and laid back lifestyle are perfect in the height of summer. The spectacular Amalfi Coast is one of the most photographed coastlines in the world. There is a wealth of amazing sights from the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, Mount Vesuvius to chic and glamorous Capri. July and August are very hot, so best times to visit are May, June and September. Classic Tuscany with delightful rolling countryside, historic cities and towns famed for Renaissance art and architecture is so popular with British visitors for summer holidays that it has been nicknamed Chiantishire in the colour supplements! **Top Tip – Sardinia has fabulous soft sandy beaches and is perfect for summer family holidays**



The Algarve

We are often asked about where it is least hot in Europe in the summer months and a good choice is the Algarve, where the Mediterranean type climate is tempered by the cooling breezes of the Atlantic. The Algarve is a great family summer holiday choice, with mile upon mile of golden sands and whilst parts of the coastline have been highly developed, there are still a large number of desirable resorts. There is an excellent choice accommodation from apartments to world class hotels, many with superb children's facilities. The Algarve also has some of the most luxurious and desirable villas to be found in the whole of Europe. The Algarve is renowned for golf with numerous superb championship courses. Many of the best hotels have their own courses and offer special golfing deals to guests and for non-golfers there are extensive leisure facilities to while away the hours. **Top Tip – Mild winters also make the Algarve an ideal winter golf**



Bali

Unlike so many long haul destinations, the weather in Bali is at its best during the summer months and with an average temperature of 30C, ten hours of sunshine and virtually no rainfall, July August and September are the ideal times to travel. Bali is where two worlds meet - the realm of gods and myths on one hand and luxurious hotels, designer boutiques and fantastic nightlife on the other. With palm fringed beaches, lush green countryside, good sightseeing and watersports plus wonderful friendly people, Bali is without doubt one of the magical places on earth. For those summer weddings, romantic Bali is a popular honeymoon destination and the best accommodation sells out early. **Top Tip – Add a stopover in Singapore, Hong Kong or Bangkok for a true taste of the Orient**



Canadian Rockies

One of the 'must-see at least once in a life time destinations' – the Canadian Rockies are truly breathtaking. Majestic mountains, rushing rivers, turquoise lakes and some of the best wildlife viewing in the world, the Rockies are awash with natural wonders. One of the most popular trips, especially for first time visitors is to either drive or join an escorted tour through the Rockies from Calgary to Vancouver. Pretty Banff with its delightful boutiques, bars, restaurants and galleries is an excellent base to explore the most famous of the Canadian National Parks. Nearby Lake Louise is not to be missed - fed by a glacier, the icy lake water is a stunning turquoise and the surrounding mountains add to a breathtaking scene. Heading north to Jasper, the Icefield Parkway weaves up and around the mountains separating the Banff and Jasper National Parks. You could opt for one of the rail tours through the Rockies for one of the most spectacular train trips in the world - ending in Vancouver, a cosmopolitan and vibrant city with its backdrop of ocean and mountains. The summer season runs from May to October and the ideal months to visit are June, July and August. **Top Tip - Complete a Rockies tour with an Alaskan Cruise, combining two of the world's most memorable travel experiences.**



European Cruise

During the summer months many of the worlds' cruise lines move their cruise ships to Europe – providing us with an exciting choice of cruise holidays. Mediterranean Cruises enable you to unpack, sit back, relax and be transported to the wonders of the Med, giving you a taste of superb beach resorts, historical cities, ancient monuments and sophisticated yacht-filled marinas. Even in the height of the summer, high temperatures are not a problem as your floating hotel carries you to your next destination in air conditioned luxury. A Baltic cruise is a cost effective way to experience the traditionally expensive cities of northern Europe and many feature a two day stay in St Petersburg, with its imposing grandeur, lavish palaces and cathedrals offering a glimpse into Russia's past. Cruising is certainly the best way to see the stunningly beautiful Norwegian Fjords, as you glide by some of the world's most dramatic and breathtaking fjords and remote villages. June is perfect for a Norwegian Fjords cruise, the Land of the Midnight Sun truly lives up to its name – with almost 24 hours of daylight and is the most popular time to explore this magnificent coastline. **Top Tip – Cruising offers outstanding value for money and from traditional sailing ships to state of the art mega liners, there really is something to suit everybody.**

