

GLOBETROTTER WITH ROSLYN DEE



Spain for late summer Luxury

SOME late summer 'specials' from the Luxury Lifestyle Hotels people offer good value for those looking for a short break in the Spanish sunshine before the autumn kicks in – and all of them in a hotel that's a bit of a cut above the norm in terms of style and distinction. How about the Casa Romana boutique hotel in Seville, for example, where, for €230, you'll get a night for two in a superior double, breakfast, and fruit and wine provided in your room. And they'll even throw in a horse-drawn carriage tour of the city.

Or the Duquesa de Cardona hotel in Barcelona, with its views of the waterfront and easy access to Las Ramblas, the Gothic cathedral and all of the city's many attractions and with special offers available into September.

Or, for the golfers, there's the Villa Cortes, a Mexican-style resort in Tenerife where (for August and September) you'll pay €560 per person sharing for five nights in a room with a sea view including breakfast, spa treatments and green fees.

With Aer Lingus flights available to all three of these locations, check out prices at www.aerlingus.com. For a closer look at what the hotel group has to offer, or to book any of the above offers, log on to www.lhotels.com.

New Aer Lingus baggage policy

FOR all Aer Lingus bookings made after this Tuesday (8 August) for travel after 17 January 2007, a new baggage policy has been introduced which means that checked-in baggage will now incur a charge of €4 per bag (if checked in in advance online) or €8 if checked in at the desk in the airport. This applies to short-haul routes only.

Meanwhile, the weight allowance for checked-in bags stays put at 20kg while for long-haul it has been increased to 36kg – this comes into operation for all travel after 5 September.

If you want to avoid the new charges however and are prepared to travel with only carry-on luggage, then the limit remains at just 6kg per person.

Additionally, from early December all Aer Lingus passengers will be able to check in online up to 24 hours before departure and will also be able to select their seat at the same time.

Checked-in baggage can also be paid online from December so if you book in say, October, to fly short-haul in, say, February you'll be able to go back into your booking after the December facility has kicked in to check in luggage and to book your seat.

Europe is your winter playground

INGHAM'S, the ski specialist, has released its '06/'07 World Class Ski & Snowboard programme with a good choice of apartments, chalets and hotels in more than 30 different resorts throughout Europe. There's also a family-friendly programme with special discounts and with selected resorts offering special deals for kids such as free boot and ski hire and the like.

New resorts for the upcoming season include Grindelwald in Switzerland, Niederau and Oberau in Austria and the Italian resort of La Thuile. A self-catering package here, in a four-star apartment complex, starts from €564 per person for seven nights inclusive of direct flights from Dublin. To book, or to find out more, contact 01 6611377, www.ingham.ie.

Top deals for autumn at Topflight

TOPFLIGHT'S August sale continues with €100 per adult off brochure prices and some great value to be had in resorts throughout Europe. Half-board in a two-star hotel in Italy's Lido di Jesolo, for example, is down from €729 to €469, a self-catering week in Tenerife is reduced from €575 to €269 and a three-star hotel package in Dubrovnik is now €599 – down from €839. All offers are subject to continued availability so check out the details fast on www.topflight.ie or by ringing 01 2401700.



Top left: the Duquesa de Cardona hotel in Barcelona, with views of the waterfront and easy access to Las Ramblas; Above: winter snowboarding