

Seven great trips to book for spring

UK

Scottish camper van trip

The motorhome provider CamperDays is offering £80 off any bookings of £850 or more made between today and May 4. How about tackling Scotland's North Coast 500 driving route, a scenic circuit from Inverness? It can be done in a three-bed Family Standard camper van with a shower, toilet and kitchen. If you collect from Edinburgh on May 30 — when you should get mild weather, limited traffic and no midges — seven nights' self-catering for four costs from £1,019 using the code "SPRING80" (camperdays.co.uk).

Wild swimming in Cornwall

Few activities are as invigorating as wild swimming. Try it out, or perfect your technique, during an expert-led retreat during May 9-12 at St Michaels Resort in southern Cornwall. Near sandy Gyllyngvase beach and 15 minutes' walk from Falmouth's buzzy town centre, the hotel pairs contemporary rooms in coastal colours with an indoor pool and sea-facing brasserie. Discounted by 20 per cent, the wild-swimming retreat throws in yoga sessions as well as a hydrotherapy spa experience. Three nights' half-board starts from £712pp (stmichaelsresort.com).

EUROPE

Resort on Santorini, Greece

It's been months since Santorini's series of

small-magnitude earthquakes yet bookings remain slow. That means two things for tourists this summer: a chance to experience this especially picturesque Greek island's soaring cliffs, blue-domed

churches and sunsets with fewer crowds than normal; and discounted hotel rates. For instance, Magma Resort — 59 minimal, earthy-coloured guest rooms around a sleek infinity pool, rooftop bar, large spa, restaurant and vineyard in the secluded northeast — is knocking 25 per cent off most summer dates. Seven nights' B&B now starts from £1,024pp; book by Thursday (hyatt.com). Fly to Santorini.

France's Vendée for families

Yet to sort your summer holiday? Pas de problème: the rental provider Summer France is still offering some chunky peak season savings. There is 50 per cent off Les Mas de Saint Hilaire's cottages in the Vendée region — characterised by dune-backed beaches, sardine-fishing villages and the history-themed Puy du Fou theme park — south of Brittany. Each simple cottage has a private terrace plus access to communal swimming pools. Starting on July 26, seven nights' self-catering for four costs from £652 (summerfrance.co.uk). Fly to Nantes or take the train to Saint Hilaire de Riez.

Escape to Sardinia

An existing Sardinian Places offer already saves you up to £264pp at the Gabbiano Azzurro Hotel & Suites; use the code "APRIL100" before Wednesday, however, and another £100pp will come

off the bill. In Golfo Aranci, a well-to-do town in Sardinia's northeast close to Olbia's museums, the longstanding hotel has direct access to a narrow sandy beach and a sea-facing pool. Modern white furnishings lend its 81 bedrooms and two excellent restaurants an airy feel. Seven nights' B&B in mid-May from £993pp, including flights and private transfers (sardinianplaces.co.uk).

LONG HAUL

Tour lesser-visited Japan

If you're able to travel to Japan's less-touristy southwest late in May, 35 per cent savings are available on a small-group tour. Visiting the likes of Beppu and Nagasaki on the island of Kyushu, the trip combines modern art and bullet trains with rural village homestays and dips in hot springs. Departing on May 27, 11 nights' room only now costs from £2,864pp, including transport, some activities and five meals (intrepidtravel.com). Fly to Osaka.

New York state fly-drive

Still happy to travel to America and keen to take advantage of the so-called Trump slump? Book no later than Wednesday and you'll save at least £250 on any booking of £2,500 or more with American Affair. Consider a fly-drive that starts in New York City, then visits the Hudson Valley for quaint towns and hiking trails, and Long Island's vineyards and mansions. Nine nights' room only costs from £1,641pp,

> 26 April 2025 at 0:00

... including flights, a train transfer and car
... hire (americanaffair.com).
... **Richard Mellor**



Nagasaki in Japan



St Michaels Resort, Cornwall