



March 2021 Newsletter



CREATE INSPIRING JOURNEYS

The advent of spring is a time for anticipation, when we look forward to warmer weather and longer days. So with cautious optimism, let's take a look at Europe's favourite summer holiday destination, the Mediterranean, and go beyond the beach.

The Mediterranean, the cradle of western civilization, offers endless travel adventures: gorgeous mountain and coastal scenery, remarkable historical sights, and an engaging laid-back lifestyle. This I discovered in 2005 when taking my parents-in-law on a journey of discovery to mainland Greece. To complement my story, I have invited some of our travel partners to introduce their own destination. I hope this will inspire you to consider a similar exploration of the Mediterranean countries.



With a roadmap that read like a history book and following road signs which looked like algebra, we set off on a road trip through Greece. Our first stop was Nafplion, an attractive town built by the Venetians and the Ottomans, and the first capital of modern Greece. Set around a port and overlooked by the imposing fortress of Palamidi, this was a fine place to relax and acclimatise while enjoying local wine and fresh seafood.

Then clockwise around the Peloponnese through Sparta and Olympia, across the Gulf of Corinth to Delphi, and on to Athens and the magnificent Acropolis.

We were captivated by the classical ruins, which created a theme for the holiday. The monuments were well preserved, each with a modern museum to explain the history and significance of the site. Like Byron two centuries before us, Delphi captured our hearts, set on a hillside with views down the valley towards the coast.

My parents-in-law enjoyed the scenery, such a contrast to Singapore, the high mountain passes, the verdant olive and orange trees, and the thrill of spending the night in the hillside village of Andritsena listening to sheep bells.

Above all we enjoyed the evening meals. The Greek style of dining, sharing a selection of small plates being similar to the Chinese way of sharing a family meal. The chance to relax over a leisurely dinner, reflecting on the day's adventures made for a happy and memorable family holiday.



Viviana Buscemi - Essence of Sicily.

essence of sicily video

To travel is to gain knowledge through relationships: you come into contact with places, cities, towns and people. Sicily is a story; a tale told by its inhabitants. Let us introduce you to men and women from the island. Your personal discovery of Sicily will be enhanced by their words, and the history of the land will be informed through their recollections.

The profession of the shepherd is handed down from father to son. On the pastures that shape inland Sicily, meet Angelo and hear the whistles, the whispered calls and the Sicilian dialect; a magical and incomprehensible language.



When you enter Franco's workshop-theatre, many stories come to life. Hear about the artisan tradition; the care and attention with which every puppet is crafted. See how the puppets are moved by hands and arms, how the puppeteer accompanies them on stage.

Watch how fishermen use their hands and body to cast the nets while the sun does not stop tanning their skin. Fishing comes with waiting, so stand with Nardo and observe the sound and the scent of the coast, while waiting for the sea to bear its fruit.

Quiz: Can you name the 23 nations which have a stretch of Mediterranean coastline?

Dolores Jakoliš - Calvados Club, Croatia.

Dreaming of a perfect summer getaway? With untouched nature, over a thousand islands and crystal-clear seas, Croatia's sun-drenched shores might be just what you need.

Island-dotted Dalmatian coast is best explored by sea, so hop on a private yacht and explore seascape at its best. Guided by an experienced skipper, weigh anchor and set course for an adventure of a lifetime!



In sunny Hvar enjoy Mediterranean ambiance, vibrant beach clubs and summer stargazing amidst historic settings. But look beyond pretty beaches and glitzy nightlife and hike its ancient trails, explore picturesque villages or chat with the locals over a glass of local wine.

Don't miss the shimmering Blue Grotto off Vis Island or the charming fishermen hamlet of Komiza, with peculiar island-state-of-mind. In historic Korcula walk the roads of Marko Polo and bike the lush forests of Mljet Island, as you cruise towards majestic Dubrovnik. When you set your eyes on its mighty ramparts, kissed by azure seas, you'll find yourself in an ultimate Mediterranean bliss.

Damon and Jason Allan - Exclusively Malta.

[video](#)

Most visitors think of Malta as a great option for a quick sun and sand getaway, but we love to show them the unexpected, culturally rich side. Malta although having been on "the map" for over 7000 years, is still new to many travels or not yet fully explored.

Its charm resides in its people, quaint villages and lovely countryside. As destination experts, we continue to offer more and more experiences that are tied to Maltese in their daily life such as with bakers, farmers, cheesemakers, artisans and more. These experiences are always aligned to the travellers' specific personality and desires.



That's the wow factor – to come away with a true sense of place. Imagine being in the countryside hopping from village to village collecting local delicacies, engaging in conversation with locals, and then enjoying the fruits of your day over a bottle of wine in one of Malta's most idyllic locations.

The sun will always be there and so will the beaches; but we want travellers to have their special moments that will perpetuate a memory least likely to forget.



Alfonso Carvajal - Tailored Spain.

Just an hour inland from the Costa del Sol at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains lies Granada, a city with an unmistakable Moorish essence, due to the fact that it was the last city to be reconquered by the Catholic Monarchs in 1492.

The finest example of Moorish architecture is the Alhambra palace, built within a pleasant garden landscape on a plateau above the city. Visitors wander through elegant courtyards with fountains, running water, and reflecting pools, surrounded by column arcades decorated with beautiful intricate carving and complex geometric patterns.

Cordoba is situated in the interior of Andalusia, where past and modernity blend in together. Amble round the old quarter and discover a beautiful network of alleyways, squares and white-washed courtyards surrounding the Mezquita, the Great Mosque-Cathedral, which reflects the importance of the city in the Middle Ages.

Granada and Cordoba are historic cities with a surprisingly young vibe, boasting broad cultural and leisure programmes of concerts, ballet, flamenco, and an exciting nightlife.

Situated on the banks of the Guadalquivir River, Seville, the capital of Andalusia, is another city with a rich Moorish heritage. The city prospered during the 16th century as the primary port that carried out trade with the Americas.

The landmarks are the Moorish Alcázar castle and the gothic Cathedral of Saint Mary. The streets and squares in the historic quarter are lively and busy and many districts like Triana and La Macarena are full of traditional culture, where visitors can practise one of the most deeply-rooted and tasty traditions in the city: "Going out for tapas".

