



# Holiday ideas for

## JANUARY



While Britain is swathed in January frost, Argentina is basking in mid-summer sun. Visit beautiful Buenos Aires, with its belle époque architecture, or count the cascades at Iguazu in the north. If you don't like it hot, explore the jaw-dropping glacial ice fields of Patagonia.

The climate will vary depending on which area you visit, but generally you can expect pleasant weather, with little rain.

## FEBRUARY

This vast country comprises many regional microclimates, but temperatures in February should remain between 20-30°C. Humidity can be high, and expect rain.

Discover the Amazon rainforest, the tropical savannahs of central Brazil or the Rio carnival.



There are other notable carnivals in Sao Paolo and Bahia, where you could save up to £150 at some of the bigger hotel chains for the week, compared with the cost of Rio.

## MARCH



Unique wildlife and stunning beaches: Australia has both in abundance. The world's smallest continent (but largest island) also sees a mixture of climates throughout its eight territories.

Some southern cities enjoy a year-round Mediterranean-style climate, but the Outback will see extreme heat between December and February. March is a good time to visit Australia's reefs or take on the bush, as most places are warm and pleasant.

## JULY

Some of the world's most incredible wildlife can be found on the Kenyan and Tanzanian plateaus at this time of year.

The wildebeest migration is an exercise in the spectacular. The wildebeest number in the millions and come together with gazelle, zebra and many other herbivores each year in search of fresh grazing land, closely followed by hungry predators. This takes place roughly between late June and September – conditions should be warm with little rainfall in July.



## AUGUST



California has it all – downtown Los Angeles, the glitterati of Hollywood, diverse San Francisco, palm-fringed beaches, the wine-growing valleys of Napa and Sonoma, Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks.

It has around 36m inhabitants, and its size means that the warmth you'll experience will vary from around 20°C right up to 49°C in Death Valley, but August means serious summer sun for California.

## SEPTEMBER

Spain enjoys up to 12 hours of sunlight a day in the south during summer, with an average temperature between 18°C and 32°C. Visit in September and you'll still enjoy some heat, but the crowds will be dispersing.



If you're planning to explore Madrid, get a Zone A Travel Tourist Pass, which allows unlimited travel on public transport. Single tickets cost €1, so if you buy a three-day ticket for €11, you'll save €19 (roughly £15) – enough for a meal out.



# 2009

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## APRIL

China's provinces experience a huge array of climates – from tropical right through to desert.

As a rule of thumb, winters tend to be freezing, while summers are stifling. However, April is a good month to visit commonly bringing agreeable temperatures and little rainfall in most regions.

China boasts some of the most distinctive attractions and World Heritage Sites on earth, including the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and the terracotta warriors.



## MAY



Turkey's biggest lures for tourism are its turquoise waters, chocolate-box harbours and first-rate beaches. Temperatures in the popular south-west region will be a pleasant 15-25°C, or up to 21°C in Istanbul.

**A seven-night stay at the Rixos Hotel in Bodrum on an all-inclusive basis in May is more than £450 cheaper per couple than the same holiday in July.**



## JUNE

With its baroque and neoclassical buildings lining the banks of the Neva, St Petersburg echoes Europe in appearance, yet is wholly Russian in feel.

Between June and July, expect to see 'White Nights' – the sun does not dip below the horizon and darkness hardly falls until after midnight. Temperatures in June tend to be around a pleasant 20°C.



## OCTOBER



The celebrated colour explosion of the New England fall is best seen around this month. But it's not just the phenomenal autumn colours that make this part of the world worth a visit – the metropolis of Boston, the beaches of Cape Cod and the Green Mountains of Vermont all abound with sights and events at this time of year. Expect mild to pleasant temperatures around 12-19°C.

## NOVEMBER

Any monsoon should have huffed and puffed itself into nothing by November, which is the start of Goa's main tourist season. Get in there early to take advantage of the high temperatures, averaging at 27°C, countless unspoilt beaches and lively markets buzzing with Indian culture – before the sunseekers arrive en masse.



### FREE world temperature guide

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## DECEMBER

Summer brings with it long daylight hours in Iceland, but why not opt instead for nature's most spectacular light show? The Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights, are best seen in winter, and your best bet is to leave town and head into the wilds.

Temperatures will be low in December, around freezing, but the chances of a scenic, white Christmas are extremely high. If you can't wait until then, take advantage of the current economic situation for a cheap Icelandic holiday.

