

**hot spot** **WHETHER** you love the thrill of the Arctic spray against your face, the tranquillity of Burgundy's sleepy canals or the bustle of the Mekong's floating markets, you can get them all for less in the G Adventures' Marine sale. There's up to 25 per cent off Riverboats trips to rivers including the Mekong, Ganges and Burgundy's Saône River. You must book by February 28. Tours deals include Quintessential Burgundy — now £1,387pp for 10 days and touring from Dijon to Paris on select dates between March 1 and August 31. Mekong River Encompassed is Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam to Siem Reap in Cambodia. It's now from £1,087pp for 10 nights. Flights not included in tours. See [gadventures.co.uk](http://gadventures.co.uk)



## SNOW STOPPING YOU

MILLIONS enjoy skiing, but not everyone. But that shouldn't stop you loving the resorts. The team at Les Rives d'Argentiére — a hamlet of luxury 5★ chalets in Chamonix, Mont-Blanc — have a host of non-ski activities. You can sit in a stunning outside hot tub or thermal spa or have a husky sledding tour. Forget London, Paris and New York — some of the most desirable shopping locations are in the heart of ski resorts. Chamonix has a great selection of shops. And the hills really are alive with the sound of music because this year sees the launch of the Musilac Mont-Blanc Festival in Chamonix from April 19-21 — with Texas, Rag'n'Bone Man, and Beth Ditto to name but a few. See [lesrivesdargentiere.com](http://lesrivesdargentiere.com)

**hot spot** **YOU** can't go holiday without your gadgets, but a poll reveals the next big miss for Scots is our PETS. The Teletext Holidays survey — for their Pack Your Perfect Holiday TV ad campaign — asking holidaymakers for their must-have packing priorities. After technology, a quarter of Scots said they would take their pet. In contrast, an equal number of Northerners and Southerners (22 per cent) chose a pillow rather than a pet. When it came to activities, only 15 per cent of Scots said drinking — as against 48 per cent of Northern Irish.



## GET POTTS OF FUN

HARRY Potter fans will love a new experience at Universal Orlando Resort. As night falls in The Wizarding World Of Harry Potter, special effects will wrap the Hogwarts wizarding school in a dazzling light display celebrating the series' four houses — Gryffindor, Ravenclaw, Hufflepuff and Slytherin. The show launches on January 31, running on select nights throughout the year. There will also be a sweet-treats shop with a cult following when Voodoo Doughnut opens at Universal CityWalk. It will feature mouthwatering treats such as the Dirt Doughnut, the Bacon Maple Bar, the Grape Ape and, of course, the Voodoo Doll. **hot spot** **EFTELING** is offering one-day coach trips to the Dutch theme park from just £89pp, with all profits donated to Type 1 diabetes charities. They include return coach travel, sea crossing and a full day in Efteling and will leave on April 7 and August 4 from a variety of UK points. Eleven coaches are scheduled for the April departure and 12 for August date. It is all in partnership with Team Kara Events LTD. The firm was founded in 2016 by husband and wife Chris and Corinne Elwood after their daughter Kara was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at only 19 months old. See [teamkaraevents.co.uk/efteling-theme-park](http://teamkaraevents.co.uk/efteling-theme-park)

## LIGHT UP YOUR VALENTINE'S EYES WITH



### SOUTH AFRICA

IF money and time are no object then head to South Africa. You can spend a week wooing your loved one in spectacular style. Have two nights in Cape Town staying at 12 Hofmeyr, a newly renovated Victorian guest house that mixes modern amenities with old-world elegance. Then have three nights in the Franschhoek Wine Valley stay at L'Ermitage Franschhoek Chateau And Villas — a stunning 34-room hotel just an hour's drive from Cape Town — before finishing up with two nights in the Amakhalala Private Game Reserve at Hillsnek Safaris in the malaria-free Eastern Cape. Your VIP Valentine's dinner will be on a private deck, looking out across the plains of South Africa. This dream costs from £2,386 per person including flights from Glasgow on February 9. See [bestofsouthafrica-travel.com](http://bestofsouthafrica-travel.com) or call 01233 802727.



**LOOKING** for a special place to celebrate another year of love? Yes, it's time to think about Valentine's Day again. Will it be a romantic meal, a night watching a movie or are you thinking of spoiling your other half with a night or two away in a hotel or even a holiday abroad? There's no shortage of romance packages on offer, from weekends in quiet isolation to full on luxury trips in places fit for a marriage proposal if that's your plan. Here's a round-up of just some places to take your sweetheart.

# True Romance



### SKYE

WILDLIFE fans will swoon when they spot whales, dolphins, eagles, seals, otters and deer at An Airligh on Skye. You can take romantic walks through tall grasses sprinkled with bluebells and rare orchids; or stride over stunning hills. You can cycle your socks off, or fish from the shore and then cook up a Valentine's feast. Best of all it's deeply secretive: they leave you alone with a welcome tray of treats and a good bottle of wine and there's a lovely view from the bed for snuggling. costs from £100 a night. See [sawdays.co.uk](http://sawdays.co.uk)



### DURHAM

DURHAM'S glorious Heritage Coast offers an other-worldly, away-from-it-all Valentine's setting. Less than three-hour whizz by train, the 5★ boutique hotel Seaham Hall awaits you. Sip champagne, savour a sharing menu dinner and enjoy a couples massage in the beautiful 44,000 sq ft spa. The Love For Luxury offer costs from £278pp, two sharing a luxurious suite, including breakfast and all the above. Valid throughout February. See [seaham-hall.co.uk](http://seaham-hall.co.uk) or call 0191 516 1400.



### NEW FOREST

DAISYBANK is a boutique B&B in the New Forest village of Brockenhurst. It has teamed up with the local Dancing Cows Distillery to offer a On The Love Gin Valentine Experience weekend. The distillery makes small-batch artisan gins and spirits using local grains, fruits and botanicals from the forest and you will get the chance to mix your own gin to take home. The two-night stay on either February 9-11, 16-18 or 23-25 costs from £180pp, including breakfast. See [bedandbreakfast-newforest.co.uk](http://bedandbreakfast-newforest.co.uk) or call 01590 622 086.

## OUR TOP 10 TRIP TIPS FOR LOVE



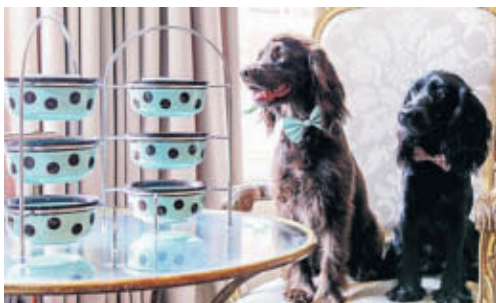
### EGYPT

WHITE sandy beaches and magnificent sunsets are in store for a hot Valentine's at the Kempinski Soma Bay on the Red Sea in Egypt. The 5★ hotel has a Romantic Delights package, starting at around £159 per night for two people, which takes romance to the next level. You'll be whisked by exclusive limousine to the hotel then have a bed of roses and a cake in your room. Take an aroma bath, private in-room breakfast and romantic dinner. Enjoy a couples' massage at the Cascades Spa & Thalasso. Soma Bay also has some of the best kite-surfing and wind-surfing in the world, or dog diving or snorkelling. See [somabay.com](http://somabay.com). Thomas Cook fly to Hurgahda from Glasgow. See [thomascookairlines.com](http://thomascookairlines.com).



### PARIS

YOUR romantic options are not complete until you have considered the capital of love. You could set hearts aflutter with a stay at Villages Nature Paris. It is located just outside the French capital and means you can enjoy this classic lovers' destination with a new outdoors twist. After a day in the city, unwind with a duo massage, a soothing treatment for two, at Villages Nature Paris' new Deep Nature spa. A four-night self-catered stay in a cottage/apartment, sleeping two, from February 12, is from approximately £338pp. Travel not included. See [villagesnatureparis.co.uk](http://villagesnatureparis.co.uk) or call 0845 351 0820.



### DOG-FRIENDLY

IF a trip with your other half wouldn't be the same without your four-legged friend tagging along then The Egerton House Hotel in Knightsbridge, London, is the place for you. They are inviting dog-lovers and their furry friends to enjoy a special "date" to show their ultimate companion in life some appreciation. Those who really wish to pamper their pooch can book a special hotel package including an over-night stay, breakfast in bed, plus a Doggy Afternoon Tea and a Traditional Afternoon Tea. The package is priced from £375 per room per night, dog afternoon tea from £18. See [egertonhousehotel.com](http://egertonhousehotel.com) or call 0207 589 2412.



### LONDON

HEAD to London and stay at the luxury The Waldorf Hilton. They are hosting a romantic five-course Valentine's Day dinner in the beautiful Palm Court from £69pp. It has provided the backdrop to countless proposals, weddings and anniversary celebrations in its 110 years. They will also be doing a romantic twist on their afternoon tea, with Valentine's themed cakes and sweet treats in Waldorf Tea Room from £49.50pp and Good Godfrey's, the hotel's bar, will be serving Romeo And Juliet cocktails. The hotel's guest relations team can arrange flowers, chocolates, rose petals and more. The Astor Suite is available from £525. See [hilton.com](http://hilton.com) or call them on 0207 759 4091.



### CHELTENHAM

IF you can't get to Italy for Valentine's, where the tradition began, then the next best place is an Italian-themed Luxury Suite in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Strozz Palace Boutique Suites by Mansley, are all modelled on important examples of Renaissance architecture in Florence. The stunning hotel is built in an 1894 building with a Palazzo facade and they are chic, boutique and full of Italian flair. A two-night stay, bottle of Prosecco, red rose and Perugia Baci (Italy's "chocolate kisses") costs from £299 per couple between February 9-17. See [strozzipalace.co.uk](http://strozzipalace.co.uk) or call 0207-373 6265 and quote "Sweethearts".



### YORKSHIRE

FORGET the hectic city bars and clubs and get away from it all for the perfect Valentine break. If you fancy getting away from it all and just spending time with your loved one then have a true escape at North Star Club. It is a collection of stunning woodland retreats in the Yorkshire Wolds. The Star Suite has beautiful interiors inspired by North American woodland cabins, where you can just sit back and listen to the sounds of the forest while snuggling under a blanket in front of a crackling wooden stove. Three nights for two costs from £575. See [bluechipholidays.co.uk](http://bluechipholidays.co.uk) for more info or call 0333 331 4275.

## GET A LIFT WITH SKI DEAL

Ski during the Easter holidays in Serre Chevalier, France, from £623pp and buy one lift pass and get one half price, saving up to £115. A week half-board at the 3★ Hotel la Vieille Ferme in Villeneuve is from £641pp leaving Glasgow on March 25. See [crystalski.co.uk](http://crystalski.co.uk) or call 020 8610 3123. ● SAVE 50 per cent on a week in Courchevel in the French Alps, staying at the 3★ Hotel Courchevel Olympic for a week from April 7 from £249.50pp, two sharing on a B&B basis. Walk to the lifts and slopes and explore Les 3 Vallées, the largest-linked ski area in the world, and the resorts of Méribel and Val Thorens. Transfers, ski hire, lift pass and other meals extra. Return flights cost from £58pp with easyJet. See [skifrance.co.uk](http://skifrance.co.uk) or call 0203 475 4756. ● IT'S too late to qualify for the Winter Olympics in South Korea but you can still show off your prowess on the snow. Suvretta House in St Moritz, Switzerland, has a four-day Olympic Experience, with lessons from top instructors, expert skating sessions, a curling masterclass and an optional bobsleigh challenge. Five nights half-board is from £2,085pp, with four days of ski courses with Suvretta Snowsports School, unlimited use of lifts, two 20-minute curling lessons and two one-hour ice-skating lessons. See [suvrettahouse.ch](http://suvrettahouse.ch) ● A WEEK'S chalet-catered skiing at Chalet Hotel Le Cullin in Tignes, France, is from £839pp including flights from Glasgow on March 17, transfers and a buy one, get one free Espace Killy lift passes. See [igluski.com](http://igluski.com) or call 0203 811 6381. ● MOUNTAIN Paradise is offering £100 off seven nights half-board breaks to Slovakia between now and March 30. Prices start at £899pp staying at the 4★ Hotel Lomnica in Tatranska Lomnica in the High Tatras, including seven nights half-board, flights from Edinburgh, six-day lift pass, equipment hire and transfers. The hotel has fine dining, wine tasting and a wellness and spa centre. See [mountainparadise.co.uk](http://mountainparadise.co.uk) or call 0161 408 8988. ● HEAD to the snow-sure resort of Méribel, France, and stay in the Chalet Mira Belum from just £1178pp leaving Edinburgh on February 18. The chalet boasts an outdoor hot tub and a sauna. The price is based on chalet catered accommodation including buffet breakfast, afternoon tea and three course evening meals with complimentary wine. See [skitotal.com](http://skitotal.com) or call 01483 791 935.



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