

Middle Eastern Style



Dead Sea shore, Jordan



The Nile at Aswan

FACT FILE

A two week trip to any of these destinations incorporating one of these luxury stays and including return flights would start from £1,900 per person. Please contact Donna, Daniel, Mark, Sarah or Katherine on 01993 838 400 to discuss the travel options.



Think of North Africa & Arabia and one of the defining images will be of hardy camels picking their way across an arid landscape through simmering heat hazes. So it is no surprise that more often than not, pushing the boat out during your stay will bring you private pools and jacuzzis, your own oasis to escape the heat and unwind after your sightseeing. Reasonable prices and a strong pound mean that often, the ultimate luxury experience is more attainable than you might imagine. Our specialists offer a few suggestions for splashing out on your next visit to the region.

Egypt

Sonesta have recently launched the Sonesta St George I, the latest addition to their Nile cruising fleet. Certainly one of the best boats cruising these legendary waters, an upgrade to the Presidential or Royal suites gives you a bathroom with a difference. In front of your full picture window is nestled a large jacuzzi bath, so you can sit back and be soothed as you watch riverside scenes glide past that have changed little in centuries: water buffalo yoked to ploughshares tilling fields irrigated by the Nile and mudbrick houses in the shade of soaring palm trees. If that isn't enough, then perhaps make use of your private sauna and steam room! Meanwhile, on the shores of the Red Sea, the Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh is undoubtedly the best beach hotel in Egypt and arguably in the whole Middle East. Set in green landscaped gardens, the white domes of the hotel are supported by elegant Ottoman-style arcades and none is more than a short walk down to the private beach. For those staying in the Grand or Royal Suites, not even this walk is necessary for a refreshing dip, as your private walled courtyard will boast its own pool for your exclusive use.

Donna Piccini: 01993 838 419

Jordan

Whilst the Red Sea resort of Aqaba is definitely coming on in leaps and bounds, for those who prefer their relaxation to be a bit more discreet the Dead Sea is the place to head. Kempinski's Hotel Ishtar is the latest hotel to open here and offers the most luxurious Dead Sea experience. The Ishtar Royal Villa combines with two of the Ishtar Beach Chalets to provide the ultimate retreat for families and small groups. As you relax in your personal infinity pool admiring the endless view over the Dead Sea to the shores of the Holy Land, or ease yourself into your outdoor jacuzzi, allow your personal butler to bring you a drink from your complimentary minibar whilst you listen to your favourite music on the CD player.

Daniel Seton: 01993 838 421

Morocco

Oualidia, on the Atlantic coast about halfway between Essaouira and Casablanca, has been, until recently, the preserve of Moroccan holiday-makers and bird-watchers. The lagoon that attracts the birds is ideal for swimming – placid and sheltered from the Atlantic rollers that pound this coast of Morocco, and on its edge, La Sultana have opened a sister property to their Marrakesh riad. Traditional décor combined with wonderful views



Royal Suite, Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh

over the lagoon and an outstanding restaurant make La Sultana worth the journey. And what better way to enjoy the view than slipping into the jacuzzi on your private terrace?

For those who want to relax but not be too far from the action, just outside Marrakesh the Palmeraie offers an alternative way to unwind in Morocco. A vast palm plantation, the hotels here feel far more remote and exclusive than their actual location a mere 15 minutes by taxi from the heart of the medina. The Caravanserai is styled as a traditional Moroccan village with smooth earthen walls and lush green courtyards. At its heart is a deep, cool swimming pool, but for those who want more privacy, two of the suites come with their own private pools, set in secluded courtyards, beautifully decorated in true Moroccan style.

Donna Piccini: 01993 838 419



Main pool, Caravanserai