

# Travel

sfeat@independent.ie

## Five find bliss on beautiful beaches

A staycation can introduce old holiday favourites to new generations — without any airport stress, says **Madeleine Keane**

**L**AST summer, the word “staycation” started to feature in my conversation. “Why?” cried my children in consternation. Well, Mummy has always liked to stay in touch with the zeitgeist, and it was time to get loyal to the Irish economy (to make up for the guilt at doing the Christmas shop in Lisburn) and she was sick to the back teeth of airports and it was going to be a fabulous summer according to everyone. Also we had a new addition to our household. I don’t have the spine of steel that would have let me put her in kennels — not for her first summer, anyway — and it would prove an interesting experience to book a holiday with a pet in Ireland.

And actually — cue absolute derision from my jet-set daughters — I love holidaying in Ireland. While they may be used to the Hamptons and the Cotes D’Azur and D’Or (only because we have lovely friends and relations with homes in those sunshine havens), my earliest summer vacations were spent various-

cold box and off we went. Our destination was a much loved place of mine — Dunmore East — and the helpful people at Trident had booked us into one of their holiday homes at Fisherman’s Grove, a pleasant development just on the edge of this delightful fishing village. Our house, comprising double, twin and single bedrooms, slept five in comfort and — this was the kicker — was designated pet-friendly. Thankfully “the girls” didn’t wreck the pretty walled garden.

Like most Trident properties, it was well appointed with all mod cons, though we brought the DVD player and our Nespresso machine. There was also a tennis court on site which we used a lot over the week. Best of all was Kim, who managed the property and for whom nothing was too much trouble — phone numbers for vets, restaurant bookings, maps.

The location was a winner. A five-minute walk took us down to the Lower Village and Counsellors Strand (the popular beach) while an eight-minute stroll in a slightly different direction brought us to the livelier Upper Village with its shops, hostellers, adventure centre and harbour. There are plenty of places

to eat there. Our favourite was Azzurro at the Ship. Set in an ivy-clad corner house, this is a busy restaurant where the five of us had a stunning meal for €100, which has to be a record, especially since this included a couple of starters, a decent wine (€25), and minerals for the children. For pub food, the Spinnaker was hard to beat — seafood chowder, crab salad and the like done simply and without fuss. For morning coffee and luscious confectionary, we often repaired to the Lemon Tree Cafe which also does a handy line in pricey but yummy homemade take out. This was very much a beach holiday, and apart from the two strands on our doorstep, we also discovered a tiny gem, Ladies Cove, where it was heaven to swim. A few miles out of town, Woodstown has a very picturesque mile-long beach covered with shells which was lovely for walking “the girls”, as were the flower-strewn woodlands above the village.

For rainy days, Tramore is only a 20-minute drive away and is home to Splash World water park and a honky tonk funfair with rides, carousels, dogdams and slot machines. Both went down a treat with our pre-teens. For smaller



**DESTINATION IRELAND:** The picturesque coastline at Dunmore East is a winning location for those holidaying at home. The area offers great walks, beaches and food

### GETTING THERE

FOR summer 2010 Trident has reduced many of its rates and has special offers available now, for arrivals throughout the year.

For example, book before March 31 to avail of one of Trident’s great-value early-bird offers. You can get €100 off the cost of a week in July and August or get 10 per cent off your stay for the rest of the year. Also, for all arrivals before July 3, Trident will give you a second week absolutely free.

Full details of these offers and more are available on [www.tridentholidayhomes.ie](http://www.tridentholidayhomes.ie) on the Special Offers page. These offers are available in all Trident-managed locations throughout Ireland.

There is plenty of information and recommendations on the website about local amenities, activities and attractions. Or if you would rather speak to a holiday advisor on the reservations team directly then call (01) 201 8475.

### Sunday Independent travel offer

**EGYPT** FROM DUBLIN OR CORK ONLY €1199  
(INCLUDING CAIRO, VALLEY OF THE KINGS, NILE CRUISE & HURGHADA)  
11 MAY 2010 9 NIGHTS 4 \*\*\*\* HOTELS



- This superb price includes:**
- Flights from Dublin or Cork to Cairo (Via London Heathrow).
  - Return airport-hotel transfers by luxury coach with guide assistance.
  - 2 nights in the 4 \*\*\*\* Oasis Hotel, Cairo with breakfast. [www.oasis.com.eg](http://www.oasis.com.eg)
  - Half day excursion to visit the Pyramids of Giza.
  - Half day excursion to the Egyptian Museum and Khan El Khalili Market. Lunch included.
  - Dinner in local restaurant before boarding your overnight train.
  - Transfer to Cairo station for your overnight train journey to Aswan on a single or twin share basis. [www.sleepingtrains.com](http://www.sleepingtrains.com)
  - Breakfast is served before your arrival into Aswan.
  - On arrival you will be met by our local representative for a guided sightseeing tour of the Temple of Philae and the High Dam.
  - Afternoon transfer with guide assistance to Aswan port to commence boarding for your 3 night cruise on the Nile from Aswan to Luxor. Lunch included on board.
  - 3 nights cruising aboard a 5 \*\*\*\* Nile Cruise on a full board basis. Cruise vessel to be advised.
  - Afternoon felucca sailboat excursion around Elephantine Island.
  - Full day excursion including visits to the riverside temple at Kom Ombo and the Temple of Horus.
  - Full day excursion to visit the Valley of the Kings, the Temple of the Queen Hatshepsut, Colossus of Memnon and the Temple of Karnak.
  - Disembark from your cruise ship in Luxor for your luxury coach transfer to your hotel in Hurghada with guide assistance.
  - 2 nights 4 \*\*\*\* villa accommodation at the Hilton Hurghada Resort on a half board basis. [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)
  - Luxury coach transfer to Cairo.
  - 1 night in the 4 \*\*\*\* Shepherd Hotel, Cairo with breakfast. [www.shepherd-hotel.com](http://www.shepherd-hotel.com)

**Notes:** Price is per person and is based on 2 sharing. Single room supplement €219. Optional insurance €45 (conditions apply). Prices are subject to fuel surcharges imposed by the airline. A non refundable/non transferable deposit of €300 (by issuer, cheque or credit card) per person is required to book (no surcharge). Balances due 10 weeks before departure (2% surcharge if paid by credit card). EU Citizens require a tourist visa for Egypt; a cost applies and details will be sent in due course. Prices, taxes, availability and flight times are subject to change. Upgrade to internal flight from Hurghada to Cairo with transfers in place of coach transfer €99 per person. Upgrade to one night accommodation in Cairo, transfers and internal flight from Cairo to Aswan in place of overnight sleeper train €159 per person.

**MORE DEPARTURE DATES AVAILABLE. PLEASE CALL US OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS!**

**THE TRAVEL DEPARTMENT** CALL: 01 637 1600  
or VISIT: [www.thetraveldepartment.ie](http://www.thetraveldepartment.ie)  
LINES OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9AM - 5:30PM, SATURDAY 10AM - 5PM, SUNDAY 1PM - 5PM

**FRANCE/Mobile Home holidays.** 4\* sites, near beaches, great prices 2010. Ph: 0044 1706 355902 [www.questenfrance.ie](http://www.questenfrance.ie)

### TRAILFINDERS THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

WORLDWIDE SEAT SALE WITH AIR FRANCE FROM DUBLIN

- CAIRO €399
- DUBAI €459
- INDIA €549
- BEIJING €555
- SINGAPORE €599

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 7 NIGHTS €1135\* MAURITIUS 7 NIGHTS €1289\*  
All Inclusive 4★ Hotel & Transfers 4+★ Hotel, Half Board & Transfers

MANY MORE DESTINATIONS AVAILABLE

4/5 DAWSON STREET, DUBLIN 40/41 MALBORO STREET, CORK  
WORLDWIDE TRAVEL 01 702 9120 OR 021 464 8820  
FIRST & BUSINESS CLASS TRAVEL 01 702 9112 OR 021 464 8812

[trailfinders.ie](http://trailfinders.ie)

## Canada for less

with **air transat**

Dublin/Shannon to Toronto fr €349 Dublin to Montreal fr €349  
rtm inc taxes

(01) 866 6700 • [airtransat.ie](http://airtransat.ie)

Based on travel May 2010. Fares subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. IATA • ABTA W131X

Government backed holiday protection  
Your Flights & Holiday are fully protected no matter how you pay.

**LOWEST PRICES**  
on Hotels, Car Hire, Train Tours, Cruise etc.  
Plus Great Ski Deals  
**Book Now!**

### ICELAND 2010

**EASTER WEEKEND**  
4 Nights, 1st-5th April  
Only €559.00 + €58.00 (tax)  
Per person sharing, including:  
Return direct flights  
4 nights B+B sharing in 4\* Hotel  
Airport transfers  
Experienced WTG tour leaders

Call Us Now! Tel (01) 8347 888

Wallace Travel Group, 8 Main Street, Finglas, Dublin 11. WTG is fully licensed and bonded. [www.wallacetravelgroup.com](http://www.wallacetravelgroup.com) [www.visiticeland.com](http://www.visiticeland.com)

### SUMMER 2010

Secure yours now!

- 1 bedroom apartments (2+2)
- Check-in any day
- Pay on arrival
- Fantastic family resort

Great value Self Catering BB/Half Board options online

1850 200 712  
[www.sunsetbeachclub.com](http://www.sunsetbeachclub.com)  
The Costa del Sol's favourite 4★ Resort Hotel

**ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS**  
ALTON TOWERS May Bank Hol  
Wend Offer €199pp coach, ferry  
1nt hil & full day admission 01  
629 2000 [celticshorizontours.com](http://celticshorizontours.com)

**FRANCE**  
FRANCE/Mobile Home holidays.  
4\* sites, near beaches, great  
prices 2010. Ph: 0044 1706  
355902 [www.questenfrance.ie](http://www.questenfrance.ie)

**KERRY**  
KILLARNEY OFFERS  
Hotels & Guesthouses  
Hotels & Self Catering  
[www.killarney.ie/specialoffers](http://www.killarney.ie/specialoffers)

**OFFALY**  
LOVE IS IN THE AIR 4\* Kinnitty  
Castle Hotel in the heart of  
Ireland. 2 B&B 1D from only  
€99pps. Ph: 057 913 7318  
[www.kinnittycastlehotel.com](http://www.kinnittycastlehotel.com)

**SCOTLAND**  
Edinburgh Central s/c apts.  
Ph: 0044 131 5568309 [www.apartmentsinedinburgh.com](http://www.apartmentsinedinburgh.com)

**TURKEY**  
TURKEY FLIGHT ONLY  
May €299, June €369, July  
€409, Aug €369 & Sep €359  
[www.skytours.ie](http://www.skytours.ie) 01 836 8677

**WATERFORD**  
4\* FITZWILTON HOTEL  
€299pps & 1D fr. €89pps  
Ph: 051 846900.

# MSC

Special Cruise

## CHOOSE MSC CRUISES AND ENJOY FREE SPENDING MONEY!

UP TO €500 onboard spend per cabin!

SHIP	SAILING SEASON	INSIDE FROM	OUTSIDE FROM	BALCONY FROM	SUITE FROM	ITINERARY
MSC FANTASIA	Apr - Oct 2010 7 nights	€670pp	€800pp	€950pp	€1,510pp	Barcelona, Marseille, Genoa, Naples, Palermo, Tunis, Palma, Barcelona
MSC SPLENDIDA	Apr - Oct 2010 7 nights	€670pp	€800pp	€950pp	€1,510pp	Barcelona, Tunis, Valletta, Messina, Civitavecchia/Rome, Genoa, Marseille, Barcelona
MSC LIRICA	Apr - Oct 2010 7 nights	€670pp	€910pp	-	€1,350pp	Civitavecchia/Rome, Salerno, Tunis, Palma, Toulon, Genoa, Ajaccio, Civitavecchia/Rome
MSC SINFONIA	Apr - Sept 2010 7 nights	€670pp	€910pp	-	€1,350pp	Livorno, Monte Carlo, Valencia, Ibiza, Tunis, Catania, Naples, Livorno
MSC ARMONIA	Apr - Sept 2010 7 nights	€670pp	€950pp	-	€1,350pp	Venice, Dubrovnik, Corfu, Piraeus, Argostoli, Kotor, Ancona, Venice
MSC ORCHESTRA	Sept - Oct 2010 8 nights	€730pp	€880pp	€1,010pp	€1,530pp	Barcelona, Genoa, Malaga, Cadiz, Lisbon, Gibraltar, Alicante, Barcelona
ONBOARD SPEND		€100pp	€150pp	€200pp	€250pp	

TO BOOK YOUR CRUISE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT OR MSC CRUISES.

FOR A TASTE OF YOUR CRUISE VISIT OUR WEB TV [www.msccwebtv.com](http://www.msccwebtv.com)

**CHILDREN CRUISE FREE!**  
Children under 18 cruise free in a cabin with two full paying adults. Registration costs, insurance, flights and transfers (where required) are excluded from the offer.

CALL OUR RESERVATION TEAM:  
**1800 932 499**  
OPENING HOURS:  
MON-FRI 9.00 - 18.30 SAT 9.00 - 17.30 SUN 10.00 - 16.00

**MSC CRUISES**  
The most modern fleet in the world.

[www.msccruises.co.uk](http://www.msccruises.co.uk)

\*The offer applies to new bookings only, cruise only prices quoted per person based on double occupancy. The On Board Credit offer is valid until the 28th of February, applicable to the first two passengers, not cumulative with other offers and can be withdrawn at any time without notice. MSC Sinfonia, MSC Armonia & MSC Lirica do not have balcony cabins.