

# From €10 to €10,000

WHETHER YOU'VE WADS OF CASH OR JUST A FEW EUROS TO SPEND, GETTING AWAY FROM THE HUMDRUM IS NOW EASIER THAN EVER. **KATIE WOOD** OUTLINES TEN OF THE BEST USES OF YOUR SPARE TIME, FROM THE BUDGET TO THE BLOW-OUT IN EASYJET DESTINATIONS

## €10 GIFT OF THE GAB— CORK, IRELAND

There's no denying it—Cork's a cracker. It's one of the most atmospheric and charming of all Ireland's cities and, whether you want a weekend of culture, or just some excellent dining, craic, live music and nightlife, Cork won't disappoint.

THE thing to do in Cork though is to kiss the Blarney Stone. Situated high in the battlements of the castle, the stone is thought to be half of the Stone of Scone, an ancient Scottish stone believed to have special powers. Those that kiss the stone are said to inherit the gift of eloquent speech.

Once in Cork there's a regular bus service to Blarney from Cork Station. Only 10 euros will get you there and back—cheap for the gift of eternal patter! [www.blarneycastle.ie](http://www.blarneycastle.ie)



## €250 EASTERN PROMISE— BRATISLAVA, SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Bratislava, the historic capital of the Slovak Republic, has long-since established itself as one of Europe's foremost tourist destinations, offering a mix of fascinating culture, vibrant nightlife and incredible value for money. Largely owing to the latter, it is no surprise that UK Stag Weekends have caught the Bratislavan bug and are heading there to enjoy some of Europe's most unusual activities. easyJet partner, Brilliant Weekends, offer a fantastic Stag Weekend in Europe from just €250 that includes two night's in the Old City Hotel, a hair raising 4X4 off-road driving session, and a massive pub crawl by night...

## €300 SOME CURIOUS CULTURE— BONN, GERMANY

Travel to the former German capital and you will find some of the best—and wackiest—museums in Europe. 'Museum mile' begins at the Alexander Koenig Museum and, using the visitors pass—the Bonncard, you can claim free admission to seven of them. In a show of political correctness matched by no other city, the Frauenmuseum (Woman's Museum), fosters interactive art and culture by women only. There's even a Yoko Ono room, for a bit of pop culture. By contrast there is the Arithmeum—a museum for bean counters, which shows the strange workings of mechanical calculation. [www.bonn.de](http://www.bonn.de). Fly to Cologne/Bonn.





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## €330 **BECOME BOND— NORTHAMPTON, ENGLAND**

(easyJet airport: Nottingham East Midlands) Harbouring 007 fantasies? Unleash the hidden spy in you by signing up for an intensive introduction to the subversive intelligence world. This all-inclusive experience will let you loose to carry out defensive driving techniques, use state-of-the-art covert surveillance cameras and equipment, and teach you the basics of armed and unarmed combat. Afterwards, all your drinks will be shaken and not stirred. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is provided by the experience-experts at Red Letter Days. [www.redletterdays.co.uk](http://www.redletterdays.co.uk)

## €500 **AN EYE FOR DETAIL— RIGA, LATVIA**

Billed as 'the new Prague' Riga, the stunning Latvian capital, is a brilliant place for arts and crafts lovers. You'll also be blown away by the architecture: an eclectic mixture of Parisian art nouveau, Russian onion-domes and vernacular Latvian style. The varied architecture includes 800 historic wooden houses from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A hidden gem near Riga is Rundale—a stunning Baroque palace built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century as a summer residence for the future Duke of Kurzeme. Designed by Rastrelli—who built the Winter Palace in St Petersburg. One thing though girls—this may be one not to take the fella on. The Latvian girls are among the tallest, blondest, slimmest and prettiest in Europe. Model talent scouts regularly approach them in the streets and trawl Riga for the next big thing. [www.latviatravel.com](http://www.latviatravel.com)



## €600 **SCOTTISH SNOW—INVERNESS**

Piste off with all the snobbery and expense of foreign ski resorts? Bored with boarding costing you a small fortune? Then head for Scotland, Inverness specifically, and take to the Scottish slopes. There's a veritable smorgasboard of great-value restaurants and hotels, and lift passes cost only £26 per day. There are three main ski areas in the Cairngorms National Park, Britain's largest at 1,400 square miles, the Lecht, Cairngorms and Glenshee. Cairngorm has everything you'd expect from a modern winter resort including equipment hire and instruction, but more than that it offers a great adventure in some of the most spectacular scenery in the Highlands. [www.snowsport-highland.com](http://www.snowsport-highland.com)

## €1,000 **SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP— MILAN, ITALY**

No matter what time of year, there's only one place for the serious fashionista to head. Not only is the variety of couture unbeatable, but the prices are considerably lower in Milan than at home. Don't miss Il Salvagente, via Fratelli Bronzetti 16—the best known stock house in Milan. But, if you're not a label freak, stroll over to via Torino, corso Vercelli, and corso di Porta Romana. [www.italyheaven.co.uk](http://www.italyheaven.co.uk)





## €2,500 SLOPE OFF TO LUXURY— CHAMONIX, FRANCE

Want to push your skiing to the limits? Then fly to Geneva and take the helicopter transfer to Chamonix. There you can attend a two-day off-piste course and for the rest of the week enjoy the Mont Blanc ski area. Chamonix has fabulous skiing, nightlife and is ideal for non-skiers as it has tennis and squash courts, an indoor heated pool with waterslides, a fitness centre with sun beds, sauna and a Turkish bath, plus an ice rink.

Take in some daredevil heli-skiing, and if that's not dangerous enough, try paragliding—also available in the resort. The package includes the helicopter transfer, seven nights half-board accommodation, two-day off-piste course, six-day lift passes and six days superior skis/board and boots. [www.crystalski.co.uk](http://www.crystalski.co.uk)

## €7,000 THE CELEBRITY TREATMENT— MONACO

(easyJet airport: Nice) Sample the finer things in life in Monaco, the playground of the planet's rich and famous. Hopp off your easyJet flight in Nice and straight into your own helicopter, which will be waiting to transport you to the helipad of the opulent five-star Hotel Columbus in downtown Monaco. With champagne awaiting you on arrival you can then relax in the hotel's incredible spa facilities or head out into the principality for some serious celebrity spotting. The break includes VIP access to one of Monaco's top Casinos, ensuring immediate admission when you arrive, and after you've made your millions you can head out on the yacht chartered exclusively for you, relaxing and sunning yourself while your dedicated skipper and crew prepare an exquisite feast. Back at the Marina you'll be met by a chauffeured limousine that will take you along the Cote d'Azur to one of Monte Carlo's finest restaurants for a feast with all the champagne trimmings. (see footnote)



## €10,000 DRIVE OF YOUR LIFE— LUC EN PROVENCE, FRANCE

(easyJet airport: Nice) Live life in the fast lane with Brilliant Weekends' ultimate driving experience at the Ferrari F1 Race School near Nice! As well as use of a Modena F1 Ferrari in full race trim for a whole day you get exclusive access to the Circuit du Var racetrack, a full support crew, highly proficient tuition and full medical backup and insurance. The cars themselves weigh a mere 505Kg, and with 650 BHP and a top speed in excess of 180 mph it's comforting to know the tuition and support crews are second to none. As well as the track day, you will enjoy two nights in luxury five-star accommodation on the Cote d'Azur, dinners in luxurious French restaurants and fine wine to celebrate the Speed Demon within you! (see footnote)



easyJet partner Brilliant Weekends provides a whole host of budget to bank-breaking trips. For all the details and information about the full range check out [www.brilliantweekends.co.uk](http://www.brilliantweekends.co.uk)