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Simon Barnes' winter wildlife guide



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Travel doctor



Q My husband and I are based in Yorkshire, one of my brothers lives in Cape Town with his wife and young daughter; the other brother lives in Fiji with his wife and two teenage daughters. We want to meet up next summer for a week somewhere easy for us all to get to. Ideally we'd stay in a villa with a pool not too far from points of interest. So far, San Francisco or Mexico seem to be the preferred options. Gill Barker, via e-mail

Q My wife and I would like to visit Expo 2012 in South Korea. Can you suggest travel arrangements and a follow-on tour of Japan? Keith Jones, via e-mail

A Wexas Travel (0845 6436568, wexas.com) recommends that you start with a tour of Seoul, followed by a trip to South Korea's Demilitarized Zone. You'd then take a high-speed train to Yeosu and have two days to explore Expo before taking the train back to Incheon Airport and flying on to Tokyo. Your Japanese itinerary would include a private tour of Tokyo, a stay in a traditional ryokan in the hot springs resort of Hakone and nipping down to Kyoto on the Shinkansen Bullet train. A 14-day itinerary, including two nights' accommodation in Yeosu and nine days travelling around Japan, would cost about £4,800pp, including flights with Korean Airways. Transindus (0844 8793960, transindus.co.uk) could also arrange this sort of itinerary.

Q I would like to experience a typical French new year in the Camargue. Just one night — as we want to stay near St Tropez — in a small hotel or good B&B that's not too expensive, but where you can eat or have a good restaurant near by. What can you suggest? Heather Holgate, via e-mail

A Sawday's (sawdays.co.uk) is a good place to start. Some hotels specify a two-night minimum over the new year period, but one that doesn't is Le Mas Saint-Florent, an 18th-century grandiose mansion close to Arles whose claim to fame is that it housed France's first telephone. It has a restaurant and double rooms start at £156 per night, including breakfast. In Arles itself, try Hotel Spa Le Calendal (00 33 4 90 96 11 89, lecalendal.com) in a prime position between the Roman amphitheatre and the arena, which has double rooms from £108.

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