

Winter destinations with guaranteed sunshine

November 2015

Nick Trend selects eight winter sun destinations where you are virtually guaranteed clear blue skies, and our experts offer hotel recommendations to match.



Looking a bit grey out there? Slightly chill and gloomy perhaps? Forgotten the feeling of some warmth on your back? This is an excellent time of year for a fix of winter sun. You just need to pick your destination carefully to be sure you get the weather you expect.

The key question is, how do you like it? Hot enough to lie immobile on the beach all day, or just pleasantly warm? Below, I have selected eight destinations where you are virtually guaranteed to find plenty of sunshine: some where the temperatures hover in the 80s, others where it is a little milder but where you can still expect clear skies and a warm breeze.

In each case, I have included a hotel recommended by our expert on the destination concerned. For more details and suggestions of other places to stay in all price brackets, follow the link to our [online hotel guides](#).

Do you have a specific departure date in mind? For a month-by-month guide to the best beach holidays, follow our winter sun seeker expert guide to: [November sun](#); [December sun](#); [January sun](#); [February sun](#); and [March sun](#).

Rates vary hugely depending on the exact dates you want to travel. January is usually a good time to get good-value rates and airfares, but as long as you avoid half term week, which in 2016 is the week beginning February 15, there is a good chance of finding late offers on flights, packages and hotels - with many hotels and operators offering free extra nights as a booking incentive.

Price guide:

Double rooms from:

£££ - £300+

££ - £180-£300

£ - under £180

26C+

Barbados

The classic Caribbean destination for excellent beaches, a sophisticated social life and some first-class restaurants, Barbados is at its best at this time of year. The thermometer peaks at



30C until the end of March and you won't be holding your breath as you wade into the water: the sea temperature is a steady 26C.

Our expert, Fred Mawer, recommends: [The Coral Reef Club](#), on the west coast. It has the atmosphere of a country-house hotel in the tropics. Spread over 12 acres of glorious gardens, it delivers graceful, old-school

luxury in a way no other Barbados hotel can. **££**

Flight time: Eight to nine hours

Getting there: Flights with [British Airways](#) and [Virgin Atlantic](#) for more information and advice on booking a holiday to Barbados see [our expert guide](#).

St Kitts

St Kitts has all the staples of the small island Caribbean holiday – with splendid plantation houses, rainforest hikes, ramshackle rum shacks and blissfully warm swimming.

The climate here is similar to Barbados, but slightly cooler with average daytime highs consistently hitting 28C until the end of March.

Our expert, Nigel Tisdall, recommends: [Ottley's Plantation Inn](#) a smart and characterful 18th century, luxury hotel with bags of Caribbean charm, and the most luxurious place to stay on St Kitts. **££**

Flight time: ten hours

Getting there: Flights with [British Airways](#) via Antigua; for more information and advice on booking a holiday to St Kitts see [our expert guide](#).

Dubai

Dubai is booming as a holiday destination and, while it doesn't appeal to everyone, the hotels are first-class and there is an upbeat vibe which few winter sun destinations can match.



The desert city maintains an appealing temperature in the mid-20s Celcius throughout the winter months, with little rain, passing 30C only in April. Catch it before it gets too hot - from June to September, temperatures are typically well over a scorching 40 degrees Celsius.

We recommend: [The Grosvenor House](#), a cosmopolitan hotel that is on the beach but has a big-city feel: colossal lobby, plush rooms, sophisticated bars, and plenty of fine-dining restaurants. **£**

Flight time: Seven hours

Getting there: Flights with [British Airways](#) and [Emirates](#); for more information and advice on booking a holiday to Dubai [see our expert guide](#).

Cape Town

Basking in one of the most stunning settings of any port, Cape Town enjoys that rare distinction of being a true resort city, with both immaculate white beaches, a glorious rural hinterland with grazing zebra and wildebeest on Table Mountain, and a bustling urban centre.

It's high summer in South Africa during our winter, and Cape Town enjoys a long, golden autumn with nine or 10 hours of sunshine a day. Daily maximums don't start to drop below



27C until the end of March.

Our expert, Pippa De Bruyn, recommends: [The Mount Nelson hotel](#), with its English colonial décor, dating originally from its opening in 1899. Charming, discreetly glamorous, the Nellie is a class act (unless you like

only minimalist modernism). **£££**

Flight time: 13 hours

Getting there: Flights with [British Airways](#) and [Virgin Atlantic](#); for more information and advice on booking a holiday to Cape Town see [our expert guide](#).

21-25C

Miami

America's hippest, most design-conscious and intriguing resort is adorned by an eight-and-a-half-mile stretch of white-sand beach.

It isn't a place for dreamy peace and quiet, but there is a great buzz to Miami, especially at weekends and around South Beach (SoBe), the Art Deco district popular with New Yorkers on short winter breaks.



Expect daytime temperatures to peak in the low twenties until April, when the mercury starts to rise over the 26C mark. You may see the odd shower, but with an average of eight or nine hours a day of steady sunshine, you almost certainly won't mind too much.

Our expert, Shayne Benowitz, recommends: the [Betsy Hotel](#) (formerly the Betsy Ross) in the Art Deco district. It's small enough to feel intimate, but super-stylish and right on the ocean front in South Beach. **££**

Flight time: Nine hours

Getting there: Flights with [British Airways](#), [Virgin Atlantic](#), and [Continental Airlines](#); for more information and advice on booking a holiday to Miami, see [our expert guide](#).

Tenerife

The largest and most varied of the Canaries, Tenerife offers the full gamut of winter sun holidays, from brash busy resorts, to chic five-star boutique hotels, historic ports and lush green mountains.

The weather is pretty good too, peaking at around 20C in January and February, and warming up steadily after that. The south of the island tends to be warmer and drier than the north.

Our expert, Andrea Montgomery, recommends [The Abama Golf & Spa Resort](#), which offers a choice of 10 restaurants, two with Michelin stars, private villas and a non-stuffy atmosphere, on the island's south-west coast. **£**

Flight time: Four-and-a-half hours

Getting there: Flights with [Monarch Airlines](#), [British Airways](#), [easyJet](#), [Ryanair](#), [Jet2](#), [Thomas Cook](#) and [Thomson Airways](#); for more information and advice on booking a holiday to Tenerife see [our expert guide](#).

Marrakesh

One of the nearest reliably warm destinations to the UK in winter, with some excellent boutique hotels and riads, Marrakesh is also a fascinating and historic desert city.

The setting is lovely, too: even though you may be basking by the pool, or sweating in the souks, you may see snow capping the Atlas mountains in the distance. Winter temperatures in this desert city rarely fall below a daily peak of 18C. They start to pass 21C in February - a lovely time of year to come.

Our expert, Paula Hardy, recommends: [the Ksar Char-Bagh hotel](#) - a thoroughly modern castle, with architect-designed ramparts, organic gardens, moats meandering through marble floors, and all the 21st-century amenities hidden behind carved cedar panels. £££

Flight time: four hours

Getting there: Flights with BA, Ryanair and EasyJet; for more information and advice on booking a holiday to Marrakesh see [our expert guide](#).

Warming up nicely

Cyprus

Cyprus is the warmest island in the Mediterranean, and the only one to offer reliably decent weather all year round.



If you want to sunbathe on the beach, you would do best to wait until April. However, if you like the idea of long, dry, sunny days with temperatures of around 18C, you won't find a many better bets so close to home, especially in the more attractive side of the island to the north and west of Paphos.

Our expert, Marc Dubin, recommends: [the Almyra hotel](#) on the seafront in Paphos, the nicest of the larger resorts. It's a smart, stylish, revamp of a former package hotel in an excellent location. **££**

Flight time: Four hours

Getting there: Flights with BA, easyJet, Jet2, Monarch, Ryanair, Thomas Cook and Thomson Airways; for more information and advice on booking a holiday to Cyprus see [our expert guide](#).

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/travel-advice/9821604/Winter-destinations-with-guaranteed-sunshine.html>