

Double S Travel

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Double S Travel Worldchoice - Celebrating Twenty Four Years of service to residents and businesses in the South Bedfordshire area 1985 – 2009

Holidays offering best value in 2009 by currency.

I have made a factsheet which is available on request to anyone who wants one!

Don't forget:

- Slovakia joined the Euro on 1st Jan this year.**
- You need an ESTA to travel to the USA now. You can't go without one now!**

Iceland

2h:45m flying from London, go in our Summer! The pound is worth 40% more this year than last making it far less expensive to buy things than it was. A good short-break destination.

Iceland is a natural haven for geologists, ecologists, bird watchers, walkers and hikers. Reykjavik has a fashionable club scene.

Not for those on a tight budget but better value than it has been for years!.

Reykjavic is the gateway to The full day excursion to the Gullfoss waterfalls, Geysir's hot springs and geysers, and Thingvellir National Park.

A shorter trip is to the Blue Lagoon (short day) to bathe in the curative, warm, mineral-rich water produced by the nearby geothermal power plant.

Do the "South Shore Adventure" to see waterfalls, glaciers, sea birds, seals and the south coast scenery.

Do the Westman Islands to see the latest volcanic island, Surtsey, which erupted from the sea in only 1963 and Heimaey, the main island which last had an eruption in 1973. .

Reykjavik is the world's most northerly capital and remains one of the least polluted cities in the world. Steam rises from hot springs in the bay. Although the local economy is traditionally reliant on fishing, tourism is the country's biggest growth industry and Reykjavik increasingly features on many 'must see' lists. Some are attracted to its vibrant nightlife, some by clean, rugged and spectacular scenery.

Proprietor: SJ Pattenden TD BA(Hons). VAT Number 449 3040 53.

Nominated Travel Agent of the Year 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005

Finalist Travel Agent of the Year 2005, 2006, Finalist Business Travel Agent of the Year 2006

Runner-up, Corporatechoice Business Travel Agent of the Year 2005,

Runner-up, TIPTO Agent of the Year 2005

The compact old town – about 1 square mile – is easily covered on foot and contains most of the historical places of interest. At the centre is the attractive Austurvollur Square where the diminutive Parliament House and small Lutheran cathedral are located.

North of here, old narrow residential streets with colourful wooden and corrugated-iron-clad houses lead down to the old and new harbours. To the south lies the picturesque artificial lake complete with resident wildfowl and surrounded by walks, gardens and modern civic buildings. Go east for shopping, restaurants and nightlife.

Cruising

If you book a cruise with a cruiseline whose on-board currency is Sterling – there is no loss of money due to exchange rates!

Cruising is fantastic value for money, your board, and entertainment is already included. You sail from place to place overnight, waking up to a new destination every day without living out of your suitcase!

There are some real bargains to be had this year. The cruise industry launched 8 new ships in 2008 and a further 13 will be launched this year – that's an extra 46000 passengers. They will all be chasing your booking. Some have halved fares for early booking, some are offering fares of under £700 for a transatlantic cruise including a flight back to London (but USD is the onboard currency!).

P&O, Fred Olsen, Silversea, Ocean Village are among those whose on-board currency is sterling.

South Africa

The pound has lost only 1.16% and prices are cheap anyway when you are there. Coupled with the fact that South Africa shares our time-zone means no jet-lag either! However – do remember that it is in the Southern Hemisphere so our Winter is their Summer!

Capetown is a must, it is one of the most beautiful parts of South Africa and is normally a 3-7 day part of a larger itinerary, often the Garden Route (Capetown to Port Elizabeth)..

Attractions. Plenty of city sightseeing including V&A Waterfront, Table Bay harbour, museums and galleries, castle, Parliament building, Tuynhuis (State President's mansion) and Groote Kerk church (oldest in SA); Table Mountain cable car; brewery tours; Robben Island, the maximum-security prison where Nelson Mandela was held; cricket and rugby at Newlands Stadium. Nightlife: bars, discos and nightclubs congregate around Sea Point area.

The central commercial area of the city is good for upmarket shopping as well as playing host to a number of museums, churches, street markets and guided historic walks. The pleasant beach suburbs to the W resemble smart British seaside resorts.

Local excursions include: Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Various spectacular coastal or mountain drives. Beautiful scenery of Constantia Valley wine region. Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. The West Coast National Park, with its flora and fauna. Nearby "Wine Route" towns, such as Paarl and Stellenbosch.

Cape Town is considered one of South Africa's safer cities.

UK

The pound has lost nothing! Northumbria is very underrated part of the UK, castles (eg Alnwick), long sandy beaches, forests and plenty of wild countryside and some

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large towns and cities as well. There are even horse-holidays! This is where anyone can ride, from complete beginners to accomplished riders. Children and adults alike can have fun.

Canal or narrowboats are a great way to see the countryside and are located prettymuch all over the country from the Broads to the Thames.

Canada

The pound has lost 10.26% but Canada is still fantastic value especially when compared to the USA.

My favourite places are:

Nova Scotia which is only 6½ hours from London – only 2 hours further than the Canary Islands!

Halifax is a beautiful seaport. Sightseeing in historic downtown and the resored waterfront wharves. Impressive Citadel Hill fort with guided tours and military pageantry. Lots of maritime museums – including one for the Titanic; art galleries. Various harbour pleasure boats; ferries to and from Dartmouth. Nightlife: lively and cosmopolitan. Everything from friendly pavement cafes to dozens of well-established, atmospheric European-style pubs and bars.

A favourite tour is Vancouver to the Rockies. Vancouver is another impressive city. Shopping for all tastes, especially around Robson Street, Visit Gastown, Stanley Park, museums, planetarium and the cruise-ship terminal area. This is also the terminus for the famous Rousky Mountaineer train. Excursions include Vancouver Island, Victoria and it's famous Buschart Gardens.

The most impressive city is French speaking Quebec on the St Lawrence river – the only fortified walled city in North America and a UNESCO world heritage site. A maze of cobbled, hilly and quaint streets with grand colonial architecture ranging from 17th – 19th century (the most famous being the Chateau Frontenac) overlooking the river.

Currencies in detail*

Seychelles	+46.00%	Czech Rep	-24.63%
Iceland	+40.00%	Eurozone	-25.22%
UK	00.00%	Denmark	-25.42%
South Africa	-1.16%	Thailand	-25.42%
New Zealand	-3.56%	Kuwait	-26.87%
Turkey	-6.43%	Taiwan	-26.96%
Norway	-6.78%	Trinidad & Tobago	-27.33%
Australia	-7.71%	Latvia	-27.44%
Mexico	-8.24%	Jordan	-27.54%
Canada	-10.26%	USA	-27.55%
Kenya	-11.45%	Bahrain	-27.60%
Philippines	-16.79%	Saudi Arabia	-27.62%
Fiji	-17.81%	Qatar	-27.63%
Jamaica	-19.09%	Barbados	-27.64%
Mauritius	-19.60%	UAE	-27.65%
Dominican Rep	-22.29%	Oman	-27.68%
Croatia	-24.60%	Egypt	-27.79%
Malaysia	-24.52%	Singapore	-27.98%

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Our aim is to be your most trusted dream provider

Hong Kong	-28.16%	Switzerland	-32.23%
Hungary	-29.62%	China	-32.32%
Israel	-31.84%	Japan	-42.26%

*The exchange rates are 31/12/08 compared to 31/12/07 and are based on tourist exchange rates.

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