



AllWays

# The AllWays traveller bulletin

Providing independent travellers with an equally independent view of the world

Issue No 7 : September 2012

[www.allwaystraveller.com](http://www.allwaystraveller.com)

Welcome to the September issue of the *AllWays traveller* bulletin.

As always, many thanks for all your contributions to the bulletin.

Please keep them coming through.

And please pass on the bulletin to your family, friends and colleagues and get them to request it direct from [www.allwaystraveller.com](http://www.allwaystraveller.com).

Many thanks

**Ashley Gibbins**

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Chief Executive  
**The International Travel Writers Alliance**  
[www.itwalliance.com](http://www.itwalliance.com)

AllWays traveller to ....

## The Isles of Scilly, UK

It's the people that makes Scilly the place it is

**AllWays Traveller**  
Isles of Scilly, UK [www.allwaystraveller.com](http://www.allwaystraveller.com)

### People make places and what a place this is

Scilly (or the Isles of Scilly) are a string of islands forming an archipelago some 28 miles off Lands End, the south-western tip of the UK's Cornish peninsula.

With a total resident population of just over 1,600 - and given all the friendly waving, smiling and nodding that takes place - everyone seems to know everyone else.

From a visitor perspective, it also means almost everyone is involved with, or benefits from, tourism - the economic mainstay of the Isles.

This goes a long way to explaining the genuine welcome visitors to Scilly receive.

And why so many of those visitors return again and again and again.

This issue of AllWays takes a look at some of the people who make Scilly the great place it is.

**Ashley Gibbins**  
The International Travel Writers Alliance  
[www.itwalliance.com](http://www.itwalliance.com)

**Outstanding natural beauty**  
Designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Isles are known for their bird life, particularly Puffins and Storm Petrels, and the number of rare migrants that have ornithologists flocking to Scilly.

While its Gulf Stream location makes for a temperate climate with frost and snow rare it is also exposed the Atlantic winds, which can see spectacular winter gales lashing the islands.

**Ashley Gibbins writes :**

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

**Download :** <http://www.allwaystraveller.com/newsletter/AT%20Isles%20of%20Scilly.pdf>

**Read online :** [http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao\\_eur\\_UK\\_Scilly.html](http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_eur_UK_Scilly.html)

## AllWays online

Our correspondents are passionate about travel and not content to go with the flow. They prefer to delve a little deeper to discover what really makes the destination worth a visit.

Hers is just a small selection. Others can be found at : [www.allwaystraveller.com](http://www.allwaystraveller.com)

### Look back in Angers



**Roger St. Pierre writes :**

After the working week's pressures and bustle, it was a perfect way to spend a Sunday morning – pedalling gently along the traffic-free dedicated cycle route that runs along the tranquil banks of the broad Loire, France's longest river.

And, thanks to BA's new twice-weekly (Tuesday and Saturday) service into the historic city of Angers it was little more than an hour's flight away from London City Airport. It's a perfect short break opportunity.

Read more : [http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao\\_eur\\_Angers.html](http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_eur_Angers.html)

### Alberta's Banff, Lake Louise and Columbia



**Indra Chopra writes :**

The snow clad and aloof jagged peaks snuggle the open lands, trees and water bodies in a white blanket, often frayed at ends.

We are on the Trans-Canada Highway to Banff, Lake Louise and Columbia Ice fields, the winter adventure towns located within the Banff National Park way up in the Rocky Mountains, Alberta.

The winter panorama of miles and miles of whiteness, the dips and turns of an endless road cutting through stony wilderness and forested areas punctuated occasionally by passing vehicles is a flashback to 'Life is old there, older than the trees.. younger than the mountains, blowing like a breeze... (John Denver's Country Roads).

Read more : [http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao\\_an\\_Canada\\_Banff.html](http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_an_Canada_Banff.html)

### The sophisticated charm of Boca Raton



**Ashley Gibbins writes :**

Millions flock to Florida - the 'Sunshine State' - each and every year. And yet, while the routes to Orlando, Miami, St Petersburg and Fort Lauderdale are well trodden, the independent traveller can still unearth nuggets of lesser well known - but equally rewarding - Floridian destinations.

Boca Raton, on the east coast of Florida between West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale, is a great example in this respect.

It is an affluent community that welcomes visitors, has with five miles of golden beaches, many fine dining opportunities and a select number of very rewarding visitor attractions.

Read more : [http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao\\_an\\_USA\\_Florida\\_BocaRaton.html](http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_an_USA_Florida_BocaRaton.html)

## AllWays news

### The Champagne Pass

The Champagne Pass, which offers visitors to this region of France the chance to explore the world of champagne, from cellar visits and tastings to cultural and heritage sites connected with champagne.

[www.oenopass.net](http://www.oenopass.net)

### Metro link Lisbon International Airport and city centre

Lisbon Airport is now even closer to the city centre with the opening of a direct link to the city via the red line of the metro system.

[www.visitlisboa.com](http://www.visitlisboa.com)

### Lisbon Half Marathon, Portugal

30 September 2012

The Lisbon Half Marathon crosses the Vasco da Gama Bridge, one of Europe's longest bridges, during the 13 mile run.

The race begins on the Vasco da Gama Bridge and ends at the Parque das Nações, next to the Pavilion of Portugal.

The popular 8km mini marathon takes place at the same time, where everyone can proceed at their own rhythm.

[www.maratonclubedeportugal.com](http://www.maratonclubedeportugal.com)

### Travel Indochina

Leading Asia specialist, Travel Indochina, has launched a DVD to help customers make their holiday choice.

The DVD features video clips of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, China and India.

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

### Key West's Fantasy Fest



Friday 19 to Sunday 28 October 2012



Key West's Fantasy Fest is an annual 10-day spectacular similar to Rio's Carnival or New Orleans' Mardi Gras attracting more than 60,000 visitors.

[www.fantasyfest.com/schedule.cfm](http://www.fantasyfest.com/schedule.cfm)

### Copacabana Palace, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The Copacabana Palace reopens in November following a six months renovation.

The hotel, which overlooks Copacabana Beach first opened in 1923 and has welcomed guests including from Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers to the Rolling Stones and Nelson Mandela.

[www.copacabanapalace.com](http://www.copacabanapalace.com)

### Elvas, Portugal, designated UNESCO World Heritage Site

A small Portuguese city has been declared a new UNESCO World Heritage Site bringing the country's total to 13.

The garrison border town of Elvas and its fortifications were added by the World Heritage Committee due to it being an 'outstanding example of a garrison town and its dry-ditched bulwarked defence system, which developed in response to disruptions in the balance of power within 17th Century Europe'.

[www.unesco.org/en/list/1367](http://www.unesco.org/en/list/1367)

### London Hilton on Park Lane

The London Hilton Park Lane has created a James Bond style 'Spies the Limit' package, which includes an overnight stay in the Penthouse Suite, the epitome of style and indulgence, topped off with an evening at Whisky Mist and exclusive access to the Executive Lounge.

[www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)

## A place to stay

### Conrad Algarve Resort

The Conrad Algarve Resort opens Autumn 2012 in Quinta do Lago.

The resort is a luxury development spanning over 1,400 square metres with the grounds including themed gardens, swimming pools and a luxurious 1,500 square metre spa and health club.

[www.conradhotels3.hilton.com](http://www.conradhotels3.hilton.com)  
**Kett Country Cottages, Norfolk UK**

Kett Country Cottages, Norfolk's holiday home specialist offers everything from large converted barns, sleeping up to 14, to luxurious cottages and manor houses with swimming pool or game room facilities.

Opting for a larger holiday home, when the rental rate is split, is a cost effective way to travel .

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

### Botanique Hotel & Spa, Brazil

The Botanique Hotel & Spa, which is located within hills the and mountains of Campos do Jordão, Brazil, inbetween Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, will open in November 2012.

[www.botanique.com.br](http://www.botanique.com.br)

### The Cloudy Bay Forager Weekend

Partnering with the Driftwood Hotel in Cornwall, UK, Cloudy Bay wines has launched The Cloudy Bay Forager Weekend.

The adventurous package includes a guided tour of the surrounding area, foraging for local ingredients and experiencing Cornwall fishing.

There is an interactive dining experience with a Michelin starred chef, and an endless supply of Cloudy Bay Wine.

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

### Hotel Splendido, Portofino, Italy



Set on a hillside overlooking the harbour of Portofino, the Hotel Splendido is one of Italy's most glamorous retreats.

This year the hotel unveiled three new Executive Suites and two new Deluxe Junior Suites

[www.hotelsplendido.com](http://www.hotelsplendido.com)

### Hotel Cipriani, Venice



Situated in one of Venice's most enviable locations, four minutes by private launch from San Marco, on the tip of Giudecca Island, Hotel Cipriani is known for its classic cuisine and having one of the best swimming pools in the city.

[www.hotelcipriani.com](http://www.hotelcipriani.com)

### The Royal Scotsman



The Royal Scotsman, the UK's only luxury sleeper train, offers rail voyages right through the heart of the Scottish Highlands and its rugged landscape.

Accommodating just 36 guests, the atmosphere, service and cuisine onboard The Royal Scotsman is like that of a country-house, with changing landscapes.

[www.royalscotsman.com](http://www.royalscotsman.com)

## A place to stay (cont)

### Hilton French Polynesia

Two resorts of Hilton French Polynesia have been ranked among the Top 10 resorts in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific US travel magazine, Travel and Leisure.

The Hilton Bora Bora Nui Resort & Spa is ranked #8 and the Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa ranked #9

[www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com) and  
[www.travelandleisure.com](http://www.travelandleisure.com)

### The Oceanside Inn Daytona Beach

SunStream Hotels & Resorts has added the Oceanside Inn Daytona Beach to its unique collection of Hotels & Resorts.

The Oceanside Inn is a beachfront hotel offering double and king-bedroom accommodations as well as a limited amount of premium and penthouse suites.

[www.oceansidedaytona.com](http://www.oceansidedaytona.com)

### The Sherwood, Taipei,

The Sherwood Taipei has been named Taiwan's Leading Hotel and Taiwan's Leading Business Hotel by the World Travel Awards. The five star property is located in the heart of Taipei and is a member of The Leading Hotels of the World.

[www.sherwood.com.tw/en](http://www.sherwood.com.tw/en)  
[www.taiwan.net.tw](http://www.taiwan.net.tw)

### Hilton Bogota

Hilton Hotels & Resorts has opened the Hilton Bogota, in Colombia. The hotel is located near to El Dorado International Airport in the city's bustling financial district and an area known as the "new" downtown.

[www.bogota.hilton.com](http://www.bogota.hilton.com)

### Destination Resorts, Malaysia



Desaru Beach, Malaysia

**Destination Resorts was formed by the Malaysian Government to develop premier resorts and hotels to enhance Malaysia's tourism portfolio.**

Desaru Coast, a beach-front integrated resort development that spans across 17 kilometers, located at the Southern region of Malaysia in the state of Johor, has luxury resorts amidst a retail shopping arcade, convention centre, attractions and two golf courses designed by distinguished golfers, Ernie Els and Vijay Singh.

[www.destinationresorts.com](http://www.destinationresorts.com)

### Park Hyatt Saigon, Vietnam



Park Hyatt Saigon is a luxury hotel, located in the heart of Ho Chi Minh City. The residential feel of the hotel is enhanced with the feature of 244 wooden-floor guestrooms, white marble baths with rain shower, sumptuous beds with feather duvets and classic ceiling fans.

[www.saigon.park.hyatt.com](http://www.saigon.park.hyatt.com)

### Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico has embarked on a development programme that will see 15,000 new bed spaces on the island during the next two years.

New hotels include the Ritz-Carlton Reserve Dorado Beach Resort & Spa, set to open in late 2012 in Dorado Beach. Fairmont Hotels & Resorts will open a 500-room property on the site of the former Hyatt Regency Cerromar, also in Dorado, in 2013.

There will also be major upgrades to the San Juan Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino; the Condado Vanderbilt; the Hilton Ponce Golf & Casino Resort with the Ramada Ponce Hotel and the Caribe Hilton also receiving facelifts and renovations.

Visit : [www.seepuertorico.com](http://www.seepuertorico.com)

## AllWays worth considering

The International Travel Writers Alliance works with travel and tourism partners worldwide. Here are just a section.

### Harley Davidson through the Swiss mountains



The Grand Resort Bad Ragaz is offering a 'Harley Davidson Emotion Package' to allow guests who possess a motorcycle licence to experience a taste of biker's paradise while enjoying the stunning surroundings of the Swiss Mountains.

With the 'Harley Davidson Emotion Package', guests will receive exclusive use of their very own Harley Davidson motorbike to ride over the resort's surrounding 14 Alpine passes; which include some of the most scenic roads in Europe.

[www.resortragaz.ch](http://www.resortragaz.ch)

### Cruise and stay in Dubai with Swan Hellenic

Swan Hellenic's Passage to Oman cruise enables travellers to cruise the Red Sea in Egypt, discover the history of the frankincense trade in Oman and explore Dubai.

There is also the chance to opt for a three night independent city stay in Dubai.

[www.swanhellenic.com](http://www.swanhellenic.com)

### Silversea world cruise 2013

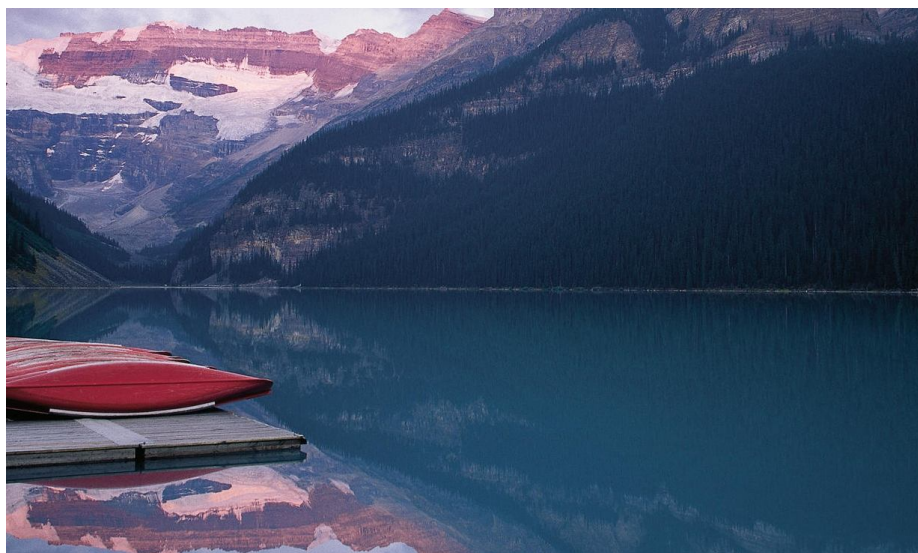
Cruise operator Silversea has announced complimentary events during its World Cruise in 2013.

The 115-day journey departs from Los Angeles on 5 January 2013 and calls at 52 destinations in 28 countries.

Fares start at £32,264 (per person, double occupancy) for the full voyage.

[www.silversea.com](http://www.silversea.com)

### Banff, Lake Louise and Banff National Park (Canada)



**Adventure is calling you to Banff, Lake Louise and Banff National Park! As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Banff offers rugged beauty, unspoiled landscapes, and pristine mountain ranges.**

Experience an unrivaled alpine escape at The World's Finest National Park". You can also drink in nature's wonder at Lake Louise – one of the Canadian Rockies' most beloved destinations, with turquoise waters sparkling underneath the towering Victoria Glacier.

[www.banfflakelouise.com](http://www.banfflakelouise.com)

### Utah Valley (Provo, Utah)

Utah Valley (Provo, Utah) is home to Robert Redford's Sundance Resort, BYU, Thanksgiving Point, mountain recreation and more.

The Utah Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau provides various information regarding Utah County and its venues, lodging and dining.

[www.UtahValley.com](http://www.UtahValley.com)

### Aurora Expeditions (Australia)

Aurora Expeditions is an Australian-owned adventure company specialising in Expedition cruises to wild and remote places.

Aurora keeps the number of participants on each departure small, allowing more intimate encounters with wildlife and cultures, and lessening its impact on the regions visited.

Each voyage is led by a team of expert naturalists, geologists, historians, staff and crew who help to unlock the wonders of these special places with the use of flexible, innovative itineraries.

[www.auroraexpeditions.com.au](http://www.auroraexpeditions.com.au)

### Nimpo Lake Resort, British Columbia, Canada

A tiny community in BC's wild West Chilcotin boasts a beautiful lake and opportunities for outdoor adventure.

Located on the doorstep of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park, Nimpo Lake Resort is the ideal jumping off point for wilderness experiences and exploration.

So remote is Nimpo Lake that its called The Floatplane Capital of BC, as much of the region beyond the resort is inaccessible by road.

The area is home to an abundance of wildlife including bears, caribou, mountain goats, eagles and moose.

[www.nimpolakeresort.com](http://www.nimpolakeresort.com)

### Barkerville Historic Town, British Columbia

A rough-and-tumble gold rush town, Barkerville boomed in the late 1800s, thanks to a historically rich discovery by prospector Billy Barker.

The resulting fervour laid the groundwork for the flourishing Cariboo Chilcotin Coast community, and today, it's as if little has changed.

A stroll through Barkerville's streets, bustling with horse-drawn wagons and friendly townsfolk, offers a glimpse back some 150 years.

[www.barkerville.ca](http://www.barkerville.ca)

### Exploratorium (USA)

The Exploratorium is a museum of science, art, and human perception located in San Francisco, California.

The Exploratorium believes that following your curiosity and asking questions leads to amazing moments of discovery, learning, and awareness, and can increase confidence in your ability to understand how the world works.

The Exploratorium also believe that being playful and having fun is an important part of the process for people of all ages.

[www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu)

### Grenada, the spice island of the Caribbean.



Famed for its warm welcome to travellers and offering a myriad of holiday experiences. Get active in the rainforest, trek our lakes, snorkel and dive some of the most intriguing life size statues and wrecks in the region. Indulge your senses at our spice plantations and historic rum factories.

Taste authentic Caribbean food; from haute cuisine to the Fish Fridays outdoor street party.

Grenada's hotels are almost all owner managed and boutique in style, and to make sure the authentic experiences does not change no building can be taller than a palm tree.

[www.grenadagrenadines.com](http://www.grenadagrenadines.com)

### The Finger Lakes Region, New York State



The Finger Lakes Region of New York State is the perfect getaway with more than 100 wineries, 11 lakes, charming bed and breakfasts and romantic hotels.

Visitors to the area enjoy the scenic views, extensive culinary scene and the abundance of outdoor recreation offered in and around the lakes.

[www.visitfingerlakes.com](http://www.visitfingerlakes.com)

### Birding Ecotours



Birding Ecotours provides small group and custom-made birding and wildlife tours worldwide.

The company donates a minimum 10% of profits to conservation and local communities.

[www.birdingecotours.co.za](http://www.birdingecotours.co.za)

## From our correspondents

The International Travel Writers Alliance is the world's largest association of professional travel journalists.

Here are some postings from our journalists :

### The Barcelona of Antoni Gaudí



**Jim Ferri writes :**

Perhaps more than any other person, architect Antoni Gaudí made Barcelona the tourist magnet it is today.

His almost surreal style of art made him a leader in the Spanish Art Nouveau architectural movement, also known as Modernisme.

Although there are several other well know architects of the period whose works grace the streets of Barcelona, for the most part it's Gaudí's creations that draw the oohs and aahs of travelers.

Read more : [www.neverstoptraveling.com/the-barcelona-of-antoni-gaudi](http://www.neverstoptraveling.com/the-barcelona-of-antoni-gaudi).

### Learning New Things in Chinatown

**Carla Rupp writes :**



In New York City where I live, I had some business on the Lower East Side earlier today.

While down there I visited Chinatown and had an interesting encounter at a shop on Grand Street, GTW Tea & Water, that was giving out free tea samples in front.

Inside I got into a conversation with Alice Liu, the boss's daughter. Alice told me she thought Manhattan's Chinatown was an endless adventure.

"It's comfortable and convenient because anyone can find anything they need, including inexpensive fruits of all kinds and souvenirs, within a three-block radius!" she told me.

Read more : [www.neverstoptraveling.com/learning-new-things-in-chinatown](http://www.neverstoptraveling.com/learning-new-things-in-chinatown)

### Rappelling the black hole drop in Belize



**Nick Kontis writes :**

When the Belize Tourist Board asked me to come to Belize to get a taste of their "slice of paradise," I gladly accepted.

As a scuba diver I was well aware that Belize is the world's second largest barrier reef, only Australia's Great Barrier Reef in Queensland is larger.

I figured a beach vacation would be a dream come true. But, I would begin my "Belizean Adventure" in the jungles of Belize.

The Caves Branch Jungle Lodge and Tree Houses would be my home for my first three nights in Belize.

Read more : <http://trip.worldtravellist.com/2012/06/rappelling-the-black-hole-drop-in-belize-not-your-every-day-rush/>



## Tips when travelling

### Visa wavers for the USA

Natasha-Rachel Smith writes :

**Travellers who are planning a holiday or to do business in the United States of America are being warned about the unnecessary costs they could face if they don't check their eligibility to enter the country.**

The Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA), which assesses a person's eligibility to enter the USA under the rules of its Visa Waiver Program (VWP), was introduced on a voluntary basis in August 2008 as a further layer of security measures implemented since the 11 September 2001 terror attacks.

It became compulsory for non-visa-issued travellers from the UK, and other qualifying countries, in January 2009.

Although initially free, a charge was introduced in September 2010, causing hoards of people to rush to register in the summer of that year to beat the cost.

As the ESTA lasts a maximum of two years, hundreds of thousands of people will now have ESTAs that are due to lapse, so must get a new one online before they intend to visit America.

The US authorities are strict. Those who don't have the right documentation, and it's a particularly shady area for those with criminal records, won't be allowed through.

Planning ahead and using the official Department for Homeland Security's site () will save money and misery.

Natasha-Rachel Smith is Consumer Affairs Editor for TopCashBack : [www.topcashback.co.uk](http://www.topcashback.co.uk).

<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/esta.html>

### Tips for Women Traveling Solo

Harriet Lewis writes :

When I was 20 years old, I bought an Army surplus backpack and went off with three girlfriends to tour Europe.

The backpack wasn't very large—but I used valuable real estate to carry two rolls of toilet paper, because I had been told that the toilet paper in Europe was horrible.

I haven't stopped travelling since then, and have been to more than 100 countries—some with my girlfriends, some with my husband and family, and some on my own. It's an out-and-out addiction; I'm ready to go any place, any time.

Read Harriet's tips for travelling solo : [www.neverstoptraveling.com/tips-for-women-traveling-solo](http://www.neverstoptraveling.com/tips-for-women-traveling-solo)

### Tips when driving in Europe

**Tesco Bank is warning drivers to check the small print of their car insurance policy before they go abroad to make sure they are fully covered when driving on the Continent.**

In addition to checking your insurance cover, Tesco Bank also offers drivers the following top tips for the road:

Take a warning triangle sticker with you so you're prepared for any incidents. The sticker is obligatory in certain European countries.

If you're travelling in France, make sure you have a breathalyser on you at all times.

Due to new laws introduced on 1st July this year, it's now compulsory for people driving in France to carry one with them. But don't worry – single-use breathalysers come in at approximately one Euro.

In many EU countries - including France, Italy and Austria - it's now compulsory for drivers to carry a high-visibility jacket with them, so keep one in the boot just in case.

Be careful where you park, especially in Greece where traffic wardens have the right to confiscate your number plates until you pay the fine owed.

For drivers who wear glasses, make sure you carry an extra pair with you if you're driving in Spain – it's the law!

[www.tescobank.com](http://www.tescobank.com)

## Duty free on arrival

Most of us consider purchasing duty free good before leaving a destination for home.



But did you know that there are many destinations around the world where you can also buy your Duty Free on arrival, as well as on your departure?

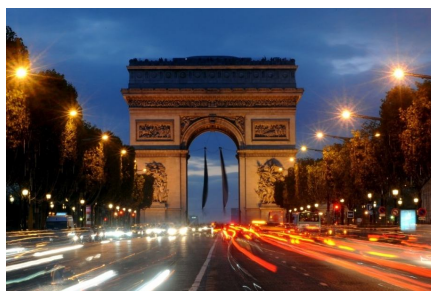
You can also obtain a sales tax refund on your tax-free shopping, when travelling around the world.

In some locations, you cannot take the Duty Free liquids you purchased with you if you are in transit and changing flights and on some cruise ships you are not allowed to drink your duty free on board.

[dutyfreeonarrival.com](http://dutyfreeonarrival.com) provides information about arrivals shopping, duty free shops on ferry boats, cruise ships, frontier crossing border stores and tax refund shopping.

[www.dutyfreeonarrival.com](http://www.dutyfreeonarrival.com)

## Get involved



We will be delighted to receive your tips for trips and travel features.



[Ashley@allwaystraveller.com](mailto:Ashley@allwaystraveller.com)



[@allwaystraveler](https://twitter.com/allwaystraveler)



[AllWays traveller Facebook](#)

## The International Travel Writers Alliance



The International Travel Writers Alliance is the world's largest association of professional travel writers, editors, broadcasters and photographers.

[www.itwalliance](http://www.itwalliance)