

'SOLO' HOLIDAYS

I thought there might be some interest in an article on 'Solo' holidays as, sometimes, when people have been used to going on holiday with a spouse or partner, they find it quite difficult to find an alternative when, for whatever reason, they are on their own. If you are lucky you can find a friend or relative to holiday with you but if that is not possible the normal 'package' type of holiday can be quite daunting as most of the people there may well be in couples and you might be the only single.

I know of the few companies which specialise in holidays for single people and there are others where they will always be a good mix of couples and singles. This article is not meant to be exhaustive but at least it might give some of you a few ideas.

Two companies I have used several times are over the last 15 years are HF Holidays and Ramblers Holidays. HF Holidays is quite an interesting company as it owns 17 houses, called Country House Hotels, around the UK and is well-known for walking holidays. Most of the bedrooms are en-suite and there is no single room supplement. The company also uses several hotels in other areas of the UK. The holidays are generally full board with a good choice of food available. If you go a classic walking holiday there is a choice of 3 walks a day for five days with one day free per week. Depending on the terrain the walks vary from 4 miles to over 10 miles. There are easier half day walks as well as long-distance ones. If you are not interested in walking, HF Holidays has many other holidays to consider. Using the same country house hotels as the walking holidays there are many special interest holidays available varying from Bridge and Golf through Photography and Yoga, to Folk Dancing, Art and Music. Rover Tours are also available where mini-coaches are used to explore villages, market towns etc and gentle strolls are also included.

Guided walking, and walking and sightseeing holidays are also available in Europe and Worldwide where modern hotels are usually used for accommodation and two leaders enable both short and long walks to be undertaken. Unfortunately single room supplements have to be paid on these holidays. Cycling holidays are also available in Europe.

Various grades of walking, walking and sightseeing, and skiing holidays are available in Europe and Worldwide with Ramblers Holidays. These are mainly hotel based and therefore single room supplements are payable. Ramblers Holidays now owns Countrywide Holidays where leisurely, moderate, energetic, and challenging walking holidays are available throughout the UK. Accommodation is mostly in rooms with en-suite facilities but single room supplements are payable.

Travelsphere have a 'Just You' brochure especially for single travellers and holidays are available in the UK, Europe and Worldwide with no single room supplements. A few of the holidays are walking holidays but most are not and flying from Bristol Airport is possible on some of the European Holidays. A few of the European holidays involve coach travel instead of flying to the destinations.

If you are looking for something a bit more adventurous 'Explore' is a possibility. Explore take small groups worldwide, sometimes walking, sometimes camping, staying in hotels, gites, guesthouses, huts etc. According to the brochure, typically 50% of travellers will be individuals travelling alone.

Solo's Holidays is another company specialising in holidays for singles. I haven't seen their brochure for some time but as I remember they used to separate various age ranges on some holidays. Holidays are available both in the UK and Worldwide.

Most people have heard of Saga Holidays. Although again not specifically for single people, the company has no single room supplements on a limited number of single rooms. Holidays, including special interest ones, are available in the UK and Worldwide and they also have two cruise ships that seem to be very popular.

As I said earlier, this article is not meant to be exhaustive but is intended to give a taster of the type of holidays that are available for people who have to holiday on their own or, perhaps, not holiday at all!

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'Just You'	0800 9158000	www.justyou.co.uk
Explore	0870 3334001	www.explore.co.uk
Solo's Holidays	0870 4998 800	www.solosholidays.co.uk
Saga Holidays	0800 300456	www.saga.co.uk/travelshop

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