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Imaginative Traveller



[Imaginative Traveller](#) is urging travellers to dust off their backpacks and get creative with colours this summer. The travel specialist has selected 15 vibrant yet affordable adventures designed to stimulate the senses and help holidaymakers better match their next destination to their mood.

"Most of us dream of sprucing up our travel choices and injecting some colour into our holiday style but it's all too easy to stick to the monotony of familiar routines when we plan our breaks abroad," comments Imaginative Traveller spokeswoman Hiedi Hutchinson. "With so many vivid experiences to enjoy around the world, we believe it's time to get bold and for us Brits to add some new shades to our travel palette."

Follow Imaginative Traveller's colour chart below for some holiday inspiration.

AMBER:

- **Amber Fort, India:** Situated high on a hill, the imposing structure known for its artistic style which blends Hindu and Islamic design. Located 11km from Jaipur, the medieval building dating back to 1592 features an underground escape route to the Jaigarh Fort, which is wide enough for a horse and rider. Inside the Amber Fort, paintings, mosaics and delicate mirror-work decorate the walls including a gateway adorned with the images of the elephant-headed god Ganesh.
- [Jewels of the North](#) 11 days from £545pp land only taking in Delhi, Varanasi, Agra, Tordi Garh and Jaipur

BLACK:

- **Black Sea Coast, Turkey:** With a captivating history and scenic landscapes, the Black Sea coast is home to picturesque towns such as Safranbolu, which was originally a centre for growing and trading the spice saffron and Amasya, where the tombs of the Pontus kings carved into the cliffs overhead reflect the city's long history and former wealth. The region is set against the Black Sea

which is just one of four seas named in English after common colours, the others being the Red, White and Yellow Seas.

- [Central Turkey & The Black Sea](#) 14 days from £1195pp land only. Trip starts and ends in Istanbul taking in the Black Sea Coast and Cappadocia.

- **Black Turtle Cove, Galapagos:** A red mangrove swamp sitting on the northern shore of Santa Cruz Island, the cove is a great place to spot the green turtle, the golden ray, the Galapagos shark and birdlife such as the yellow warbler and lava heron. Known locally as Caleta Tortuga Negra and only accessible by dinghy, the area is a refuge for marine life and therefore a highlight for holidaymakers keen to enjoy the flora and fauna for which the Galapagos is famed.

- [Galapagos Explorer](#) 7 days from £2015pp land only. Trip starts and ends in Quito with a 5-day cruise around the Galapagos islands.

BLUE:

- **Agua Azul (Blue-Water Falls), Mexico:** One of Mexico's most beautiful waterfalls, the aquamarine waters flow for hundreds of metres over limestone rock set against a background of lush green jungle. With a strong current, the series of rapids prove popular for kayaking and white-water rafting as well as being just a short journey from the 35m high jungle waterfall of Misol-Ha.

- [Mexico City to Cancun](#) 15 days from £895pp land only taking in Puebla to Cancun **** Save 20% (£180pp) on 11 July departure, making holiday price £715pp ****

EMERALD GREEN:

- **The Emerald Buddha, Thailand:** The Temple of the Emerald Buddha is regarded as the most sacred Buddhist temple in Thailand. Located in the centre of Bangkok and within the grounds of the Grand Palace, the Emerald Buddha is over 2000 years old and made of green jadeite. Remarkably, the 45cm tall statue remains undamaged despite having been moved around the Far East many times over history and, according to legend, it has even been lost at sea before being re-discovered washed up on a shore in Cambodia.

- [Amazing Thailand](#) 9 days from £780pp land only travelling from Bangkok to Chang Mai

GOLD:

- **Gold Coast, Africa:** This golden stretch of Ghana coast is strewn with steamy green forests and sandy beaches. Home to one of the world's largest gold mines, Ghana was originally a British colony known as the Gold Coast until 1957 when it became an independent nation. With over 70 languages spoken around the country, the easy-going locals give this culturally rich nation a laid-back feel with festivals and celebrations regularly held throughout the year.

- [Gold Coaster](#) 10 days from £550pp land only plus \$200 local payment. Trip starts and ends in Accra, taking in Porto Novo and Abomey

- **Golden Triangle, India:** Made up of the country's three most visited cities in the north-west, Delhi, Agra and Jaipur were nicknamed the golden triangle due to the wealth of culture and history on offer. The backstreet bazaars, ancient forts and the iconic Taj Mahal combine to make the region a must-see for travellers with good road and rail links between each city which are between 200 and 250km apart.

- [The Golden Triangle](#) 6 days from £335pp land only which starts and ends in Delhi taking in Agra and Jaipur

JADE:

- **The Jade Museum, Costa Rica:** For the jewel in the crown, the Jade Museum in Costa Rica houses the world's largest collection of American jade with over 6,000 pieces of Pre-Columbian art and jewellery. The sheer quantity and quality of jade, which is the most expensive material in the country, is due to trade as the Costa Rica has no mine of its own. The museum also contains facts on the country's history and, as an added bonus, the view from the 11th floor across the city and to the surrounding mountains is worth the small entrance fee alone.
- [Costa Rican Highlights](#) 10 days from £545pp land only. Trip starts and ends in San Jose, taking in La Fortuna and Cahuita **** Save 20% (£109pp) on 19 July departure, making holiday price £436pp****

PINK:

- **Jaipur (The Pink City), India:** With four famous cities - Jaipur, Udaipur (white), Jodhpur (blue) and Jaisalmer (golden) – tourists are attracted to Rajasthan by the diversity of Indian culture found in its museums, structures and monuments. Highlights of the vibrant and colourful capital of the region, Jaipur, include the Old Bazaar and the Hawa Mahal (the palace of the winds) which has a five storey façade with pink, honeycombed sandstone windows. Travellers can also catch sight of traditionally dressed Rajput men in colourful turbans making their way through streets packed with cars, camel carts, rickshaws, trucks and bicycles.
- [The Taj & Wildlife](#) 8 days from £475pp land only taking in Delhi, Jaipur, Agra & Ranthambore National Park

PURPLE:

- **Purple Forbidden City, Vietnam:** Constructed by hand by tens of thousands of Vietnamese, the Citadel in Hue was built at the beginning of the 1800s. It was within the main structure that the Emperor decided to build a further walled-compound containing a network of palaces, gates and courtyards which is known as the Imperial Enclosure or The Purple Forbidden City. Much of the Citadel and palace was destroyed during the Vietnam War but the buildings that remained have slowly been rebuilt and restored since it was made a UNESCO site in 1993. Bullet holes from the war can still be seen in many of the remaining walls.
- [Glimpse of Vietnam](#) 12 days from £995pp land only from Hanoi to Saigon

RED:

- **Red Square, Russia & Red Hero, Mongolia:** Experience Russia and Moscow on the legendary Trans-Mongolian railway journey, which takes in both the UNESCO World Heritage listed Red Square, in Moscow, and the town of Ulaanbaatar, meaning Red Hero in honour of the national hero who liberated Mongolia. The Moscow square is steeped in Russian history and was the base for many military marches during the Cold War where the Soviets paraded their troops. Further along the track, travellers then reach Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, surrounded by four sacred mountains covered with dense pine forests. Filled with Russian-style apartment buildings, the capital is clearly shaped by the influences of the former Soviet Union.
- [Trans Mongolian Adventure](#) 23 days from £2595pp land only from St Petersburg to Beijing

ROSE-RED:

- **Rose-Red City of Petra, Jordan:** Established more than 2000 years ago as the capital city of the Nabataeans, Petra is one of Jordan's most valuable treasures and attracts millions of tourists each year. Popularised by *Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade*, the city is carved out of the sheer, dusky

pink rock-face which visitors enter through the narrow 'siq' to gain access to tombs, temples, public buildings and an amphitheatre.

- [Road to Petra](#) 8 days from £745pp land only from Cairo to Amman ** Save 20% (£149pp) on the 28 June and 5 July departures, making price £596pp **

TURQUOISE:

- **Turquoise Coast, Turkey:** Cruise along sea so clear that onlookers can view the underwater world without having to don swimsuits and snorkelling gear. The clarity of the water allows explorers to view the sunken cities around Kekova Islands which are located just below the surface of the water. The Turquoise Coast offers more than 300 days of sunshine each year and is brimming with historical sites such as the Simena Castle and the Lycian rock tombs.

- [Turkey Land & Sea](#) 11 days from £575pp land only from Istanbul to Antalya

YELLOW:

- **Yellow Mountain, China:** Known locally as Huangshan, the Yellow Mountain range consists of 72 peaks and is one of the country's most famous natural landscapes. A location famously used in the film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, travellers can choose to head to the top by foot or cable car where they can take in the spectacular views.

- [China Odyssey](#) 25 days from £1695pp land only from Hong Kong to Beijing & Shanghai

WHITE:

- **White Desert, Egypt:** The pure white dust contrasts with the golden sands of Egypt making this an area that could be mistaken for an arctic landscape at night. Full of wind-eroded limestone formations, this has left a layer of fine white particles which cover the desert sands. A phenomenon occurring only in Egypt, the white desert is a great place to set up camp under the stars after a day spent swimming in the natural sulphur springs of the Farafra Oasis or going on a jeep safari in the isolated expanse of the Western Desert.

- [Nile Valley & Western Desert](#) 12 days from £870pp land only. Trip starts and ends in Cairo

For more information visit www.imaginative-traveller.com or call Imaginative Traveller on 0845

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