

Thomson's European Holidays Remain Competitive Despite Credit Crunch

Submitted by: TUI UK

Tuesday, 13 January 2009

Despite well publicised changes in the Euro exchange rate, many holidaymakers continue to book European packages, realising that 2009 holidays (<http://www.thomson.co.uk>) in Europe aren't necessarily expensive, says Thomson.

Thomson and other tour operators buy their Euros in advance and for Summer 2009, contract rates were agreed with hoteliers up to two years ago, when the pound was worth considerably more against the Euro than it does today.

"If you reserve a room directly with a hotel, you are either paying the rate of exchange incurred now, or that of the time you check-out in six month's time," said Tim Williamson, Customer Director, Thomson. "How much that might be is anyone's guess."

As tour operators offer guaranteed rates once the package holiday (<http://www.thomson.co.uk>) booking is made (except under exceptional circumstances), more consumers than ever before are aware of the whims of the market encountered when not booking with a package tour operator such as Thomson, whose holidays are financially protected under the government backed ATOL scheme.

In addition, the rise in popularity of half board or all-inclusive holidays reflects the rising number of consumers who demand to know the cost of their holiday 'up front' and budget accordingly.

Concludes Tim: "We predict that with the amount of capacity cuts across the industry, consumers should really be looking to book now while there's still availability and a variety of attractive early booking offers."

Great Value Euro Zone Packages include:

Self Catering

7 night, 3 star Self Catering holidays in Halkidiki from as little as £199 per person

Staying at the 3 star Royal Kostas Studios

(<http://www.thomson.co.uk/destinations/europe/greece/halkidiki/polichrono/apartments/royal-kostas-apartments>)

on a self catering basis. Flights depart London Gatwick on 7th May 2009. Flights, accommodation, transfers, taxes and charges included.

Half Board

7 night, 3 star Half Board holidays in Ibiza from as little as £279 per person

Staying at the 4 star Milord Fiesta

(<http://www.thomson.co.uk/destinations/europe/spain/ibiza/san-antonio-bay/hotels/fiesta-hotel-milord>) on

a half board basis. Flights depart London Luton on 6th May 2009. Flights, accommodation, transfers, taxes and charges included.

All Inclusive

7 night, 4 star All-Inclusive holidays in Rhodes from as little as £409 per person

Staying at the 4 star Kalithea Horizon Hotel

(<http://www.thomson.co.uk/destinations/europe/greece/rhodes/kalithea/hotels/kalithea-horizon-royal>) on an all inclusive basis. Flights depart London Stansted on 6th May 2009. Flights, accommodation, transfers, taxes and charges included.

All prices include fuel levies, air passenger duty and local departure tax and are subject to availability and booking terms and conditions.

For more information or to book visit <http://www.thomson.co.uk>, call 0871 230 3234 or visit your local Thomson retail outlet.

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