

# Thomson and First Choice introduce new twin-centres, double capacity in Cuba, and unveil a 35% increase in demand for weddings abroad

Submitted by: TUI UK

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Thomson (<http://www.thomson.co.uk>) and First Choice (<http://www.firstchoice.co.uk>) news in brief  
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## Introducing Thomson's New Twin Centres

When it comes to twins, Thomson certainly has the X Factor in 2010! We've added two new twin centre breaks to add variety and choice to the traditional holiday experience. New for summer 2010 is the Samana twin centre in the Dominican Republic - it is now possible to combine a week in the north of the island with a week in Samana

(<http://www.thomson.co.uk/destinations/caribbean/dominican-republic/dominican-republic-samana/samana/holidays-samana.html>)  
In addition they have also added the Maldives

(<http://www.thomson.co.uk/destinations/indian-ocean/maldives/holidays-maldives.html>)/Kerala  
(<http://www.thomson.co.uk/destinations/indian-ocean/india/kerala/holidays-kerala.html>) twin centre which will consist of a week absorbing the Highlights of Kerala tour in India, before a weeks' stay at a choice of Maldivian properties.

## First Choice – Introducing The Brand New 5 SUN Premier Families Resort In The Maldives

First Choice has extended its Maldives programme by introducing its first Premier Families hotel in the Maldives at the (5 SUN) Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa  
(<http://www.firstchoice.co.uk/holidays/maldives-holidays/south-ari-atoll/centara-grand-island-resort-and-spa>).

Staying on this island will be like a fantasy come true. You can stay in a luxurious villa over bright blue waters and have your every whim looked after. Kids are sorted with their own pool and plenty of activities, so mum and dad can indulge in spa treatments, a good book or work their way through a long list of water-sports. If that's not enough, there's a house reef to explore the amazing underworld of the Indian Ocean and plush open-air bars and restaurants to enjoy.

As this property is included in the First Choice Premier Families collection, families can also benefit from a number of added extras including 3kg more baggage allowance (and 10kg for infants), complimentary in-flight meal, priority transfers and discount on your chosen excursion. Customers also have the chance to upgrade to our Premium cabin on-board Thomson Airways, making this the ultimate treat for any deserving family.

First Choice offers holidays to the Maldives (<http://www.firstchoice.co.uk/holidays/maldives-holidays>) staying 7 nights all-inclusive at the 5 Sun Centara Grand from £2411 per adult, £1258 for the first child and £1875 for the second child. Price based on 2 adults and 2 children sharing and departing from London Gatwick on 28th February 2010.

For further information or to book please call 0871 200 4455 or visit [www.firstchoice.co.uk/premier](http://www.firstchoice.co.uk/premier)

## Thomson and First Choice Double Capacity in Cuba for Next Summer

Thomson and First Choice have responded to the popularity of Cuba as a long haul holiday destination with a 100% increase in capacity to the country famed for its rumba beats, daiquiri cocktails and an endless choice of white sandy beaches.

For summer 2010, Thomson and First Choice have doubled capacity to the resorts of Varadero and Guardalavaca compared to summer 2009, with flights from both Manchester and Gatwick Airports.

Thomson and First Choice have a variety of accommodation options in Cuba to suit both couples and families alike. For an exciting break for couples, look no further than the NEW Paradisus Varadero (<http://www.thomson.co.uk/destinations/caribbean/cuba/cuba-varadero/varadero/hotels/paradisus-varadero.html>). As a luxurious beachfront hotel, it benefits from 5 fine dining restaurants and a choice of activities.

Thomson offers seven night holidays in Cuba (<http://www.thomson.co.uk/destinations/caribbean/cuba/holidays-cuba.html>) at the NEW 4T+ (Paradisus Varadero|<http://www.thomson.co.uk/destinations/caribbean/cuba/cuba-varadero/varadero/hotels/paradisus-varadero.html>), in Varadero part of Thomson's Chic & Unique Collection, on an all-inclusive basis from £1056 per person based on two sharing. Departing on 5th May 2010 from London Gatwick Airport, the price includes return flights, accommodation, transfers and all taxes and charges. To book visit [www.thomson.co.uk](http://www.thomson.co.uk) or call 0871 231 5595.

Cuba also makes for a fantastic family destination and with options to keep all the family entertained. For upbeat nights and unwinding days, the Sol Rio de Luna (Sol Rio de Luna Resort|<http://www.firstchoice.co.uk/holidays/cuba-holguin-holidays/guardalavaca/sol-rio-de-luna-and-mares-resort>) has plenty going on the evening, while relaxation comes in the form of a spa and a romantic beach restaurant, where you can enjoy special meals while soaking up tropical views of the Bahia Naranjo National Park.

First choice offers seven night holidays in Cuba (<http://www.firstchoice.co.uk/holidays/cuba-havana-holidays>), staying all-inclusive at the 4 Sun Sol Rio de Luna Resort (<http://www.firstchoice.co.uk/holidays/cuba-holguin-holidays/guardalavaca/sol-rio-de-luna-and-mares-resort>) from £769 per adult and from £509 per child based on two adults and two children sharing, departing from Manchester on the 10th July 2010. For further information or to book this holiday go to [www.firstchoice.co.uk/cuba](http://www.firstchoice.co.uk/cuba) or call 0871 200 4455.

## Weddings Abroad Increase by 35%

In the past year, Thomson (<http://www.thomson.co.uk>) and First Choice (<http://www.firstchoice.co.uk>) have seen the bookings of weddings abroad increase by 35%. Whether due to couples trying to save a bit of money or the unreliable British weather, the choice of destination and venue abroad offered by Thomson and First Choice is certainly a deciding factor.

From beach weddings in Jamaica to an old monastery in Sorrento, Thomson and First Choice Weddings offer something for everyone, with a host of new and exciting venues added for 2010. The latest Thomson brochure features Ibiza as a brand new ceremony destination, offering a selection of religious, beach front or sea view venues around the 'white isle'. Another new addition to the brochure is Sensatori Crete; Thomson's flagship 5T hotel is a beautiful option for a wedding and honeymoon.

2010 will also see First Choice enhance its Weddings programme further with a number of new venues including a castle in Lake Garda and a private villa in Ravello, Italy – where Gary Linekar recently got married – as well as new venues in Cyprus and the Caribbean.

Donna Russell, Product Executive – Weddings & Renewal of Vows, says: "The great thing about having your wedding abroad is that once the big day is over, you're already on your honeymoon. Whether a civil ceremony on a stunning beach or a religious ceremony in a chapel, reached by a sleigh through snow-white Lapland, if you can imagine it, we can take you there. There's no need to worry about legal paperwork, organising the venue and reception, or booking rooms for your guests. In fact, your very own Wedding Coordinator will be at the destination to make sure everything goes exactly to plan. All you need to do is relax and enjoy your special day."

The Thomson and First Choice Weddings brochures are available now. For more information visit [www.thomson.co.uk](http://www.thomson.co.uk) or [www.firstchoice.co.uk/weddings](http://www.firstchoice.co.uk/weddings)

For further press information please contact:

Thomson Press Office

Tel: 01582 645367

Email: [pressoffice@thomson.co.uk](mailto:pressoffice@thomson.co.uk)

First Choice Press Office

Tel: 01582 645152

Email: [pressoffice@firstchoice.co.uk](mailto:pressoffice@firstchoice.co.uk)