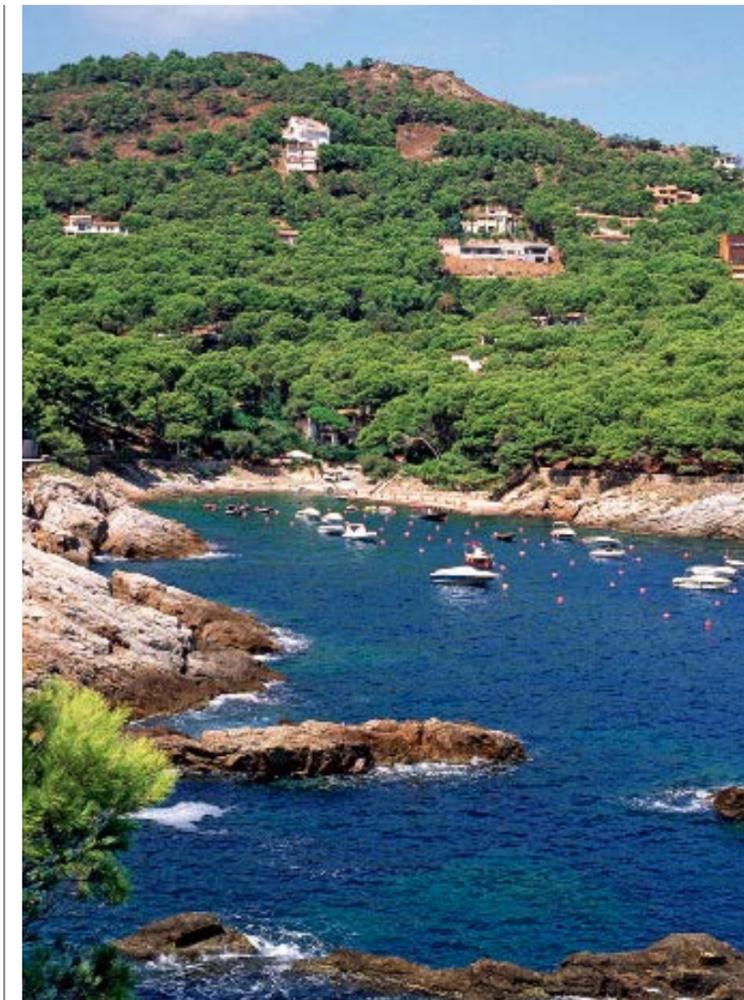


SUMMER  
ESCAPES FOR  
SOLOS

# Six of the best

He travels fastest who travels alone. And it can be more relaxing to look after Number One. Here's our pick of fun solo hols. By **Amanda Hyde**



## 1 The intrepid one Morocco

**Single status:** You probably wouldn't attempt a North African cross-country trip alone, but a new type of tour op has seized on Morocco as brilliant for group holidays. Now, it's home to some of the most exciting breaks from specialist companies.

**How:** Don't expect fusty cruises or dodgy hotels from new operator Flashpack. If you don't mind sharing a twin room, it has a 12-night 'Bask in Bucket-List Morocco' trip: camel-trekking and hiking in the Atlas Mountains, tasting Marrakech's best dishes on a secret foodie tour, and hanging out in the tranquil blue-hued city of Chefchaouen (pictured). The tour costs from £2,149pp, B&B, excluding flights, but including activities, accommodation and some extra meals (flashpack.com).

Intrepid Travel has a longer trip for individuals that also includes a Berber homestay and time in coastal Essaouira. Trips start at £845pp, B&B, excluding flights, but with accommodation, some extra meals and activities (intrepidtravel.com). Intrepid also runs holidays for solo parents with children in tow. Cox & Kings has a Mystical Morocco week-long tour for solo travellers, including Marrakech, the Atlas Mountains and Essaouira, from £1,405pp, with accommodation and some meals (coxandkings.co.uk).

**Independent advice:** Head off in June or September and you'll beat the heat and the school holidays.

**Get me there:** EasyJet flies to Marrakech and Agadir from Manchester and Gatwick, from £90 return.

## 2 The foodie one Singapore

**Single status:** Long-haul doesn't come safer than Singapore, one of the best destinations for first-time solo travellers to southeast Asia — with fab cuisine, too. Good day-tours, English-speaking guides and user-friendly public transport make it easy-breezy to go it alone.

**How:** Tantalising for foodies, Singapore is packed with eating options — from hawker centres and night markets to Michelin-starred restaurants — and they're easily explored on food tours that are anything but awkward for solo travellers. Get your bearings on a walking Kampong Glam tour with Food Tour Singapore (foodtoursingapore.com; £45). Popular with lone travellers, it explores the old Malay Muslim quarter, where rainbow-coloured facades are gateways to Indian and Indonesian

restaurants. Hello Singapore's night tours are also worth a look, and include dinner in a hawker centre and a Singapore Sling in a rooftop bar (a must-do that works better in a group; hello.singaporetours.com; £83).

**Independent advice:** Spare an afternoon for Siloso Beach on Sentosa Island. Stalls under the palms sell wontons and noodles on the sand, and lockers mean you can swim without worrying about your stuff.

**Get me there:** Singapore Airlines flies from Heathrow, from £530 return. Hotel Nuve Heritage has 'quaint queen' rooms that are small for two and priced accordingly. Solo travellers like its friendly atmosphere. From £80, room-only (hotelnuveheritage.com).

## 3 The beachy one Costa Brava, Spain

**Single status:** A surprising number of adults-only hotels have sprung up on this scenic stretch of coast 40 minutes' drive east of Girona, so it's easy to pack in all the Med dips and pine-scented seaside hikes you can handle — without the screaming kids to ruin it all.

**How:** Costa Brava's best grown-up hotels sit by its loveliest bays. Basking under pines, restaurant-with-rooms Hostal Sa Rascassa is perfect for solos, thanks to a solicitous host, comfy, good-value bedrooms, and a location a couple of minutes' walk from Aiguafreda Bay (pictured) and the cliff-hugging path that connects the area's prettiest coves. Its sister beach cafe, which sits right on Aiguafreda's sliver of sea, is the perfect place to lose yourself in a good book, cerveza beer in

hand. Hotel Eetu is a smarter affair, a short walk from the tiny cove of Fornells and the great sweep of Playa Fonda (family-free and uncrowded, even in peak season). From here, you're well placed for popular Aigua Blava Beach and 15 minutes' drive from the medieval, hill-straddling dollop that is Begur town.

**Independent advice:** Book the smallest hire car you can and you'll squeeze smugly into tiny spaces in busy beach car parks, while people carriers desperately circle and circle the area.

**Get me there:** Ryanair flies from Stansted to Girona, from £150 return. Hostal Sa Rascassa has doubles from £62, B&B (hostalsarascassa.com). Eetu's rooms cost from £90, B&B (hoteleetuocostabrava.com). >