

# THE DETAIL



# Welcome...

...to The Detail. The next few pages are about the thoughtful little Original Travel touches that make a big difference to your holiday; and about our efficient, friendly service and expert destination knowledge.

We're constantly trying to improve our service, so we're particularly excited to introduce our one-of-a-kind local Concierges - a global network of destination insiders on hand to take your holiday experience to the next level.

Back in the Original Travel office, our expert team take great pride in planning your holiday. We go the extra mile to find out what might make your trip extra special, then sprinkle on our own original little details to help create the dream itinerary.

We're here to take the stress out of planning your holiday. You can be as hands off as you want to be, but you're always in control of the process. Everything is tailored to your exact needs and tastes, and we will keep tweaking and adapting until it feels just right.

*After all, life is in the detail.*



# Contents

CHAPTER 1	Our Service .....	06
CHAPTER 2	Tailor-Made Travel ...	18
CHAPTER 3	Time Comparison .....	28
CHAPTER 4	Our Collections .....	32
CHAPTER 5	About Us .....	48



## CHAPTER 1

# Our Service

We're called Original Travel for a reason. It's because we're constantly looking for innovative ways to make your holiday even better, from the way we plan the trip to the authentic experiences you'll enjoy while away. These additional services include several that really stand us apart from the competition.

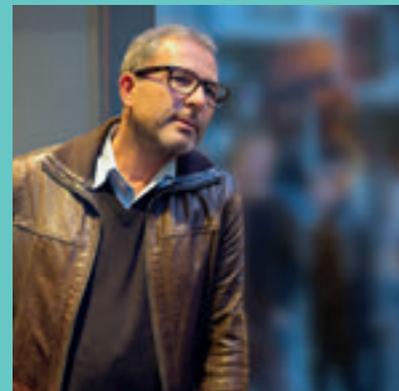
We like to call it Original Thinking.

# Local Concierges

Our global network of Concierges are always on hand to take your holiday experience to the next level. The Concierges live locally, know their destinations inside and out and are a phone call (or WhatsApp etc...) away to arrange additional activities. They can:

- ◊ Make any last minute changes to your itinerary
- ◊ Recommend the hottest restaurants (and secure that elusive table)
- ◊ Tip you off about the local haunts most travellers never know about
- ◊ Generally anticipate your every need while away

**Original Travel is the only travel company in the UK to offer this service** - we believe our local Concierges add another dimension entirely to your trip.



## Denis

OUR AUSTRALIA CONCIERGE

After visiting over 60 countries I finally laid my hat in Australia. Over the past 20 years living here I've enjoyed some of my most memorable moments; from racing alongside emus in a 4x4 in the Gawler Ranges to snorkelling with baby seals zipping around me in Baird Bay and sampling fine Shiraz wines in McLaren Vale.

How Denis helped...

**10:00**

The Greenwood family are celebrating Archie's 14th birthday. They set off on a 45 min seaplane flight taking in the Harbour Bridge, the Opera House, and the Northern Beaches including Manly, Curl Curl, Avalon and Palm Beach, returning via Pittwater.

**12:30**

After a short transfer to Bondi, they walk to Coogee along the coastal track that hugs the coastline, offering spectacular views of surf and cliffs, ending up at the Coogee Pavillion for lunch.

**15:30**

Returning to Bondi Beach, Archie and his younger brother enjoy an intro surf lesson. After both boys have managed to stand up on their boards the Greenwoods leave Bondi an hour late.

**18:05**

Rushing back to the hotel to make their dinner reservation, they are relieved to read Denis' note saying, "I hear your surf lesson overran so I moved dinner back by an hour. I thought you might like a bit more time to celebrate standing up on those surfboards!"

**19:30**

Boat trip to Watsons Bay for Archie's 14th birthday dinner at the Watsons Bay Beach Club.

## How Hizra helped...

**11:00**

It is the last day of the Hutton family's holiday in Oman. Wanting to make the most of it, they ring Hizra for recommendations on what to do on their final evening in Muscat. Knowing that the family are all keen music lovers, Hizra tells them about a fantastic modern jazz concert featuring a well-known local band happening that night.

**11:30**

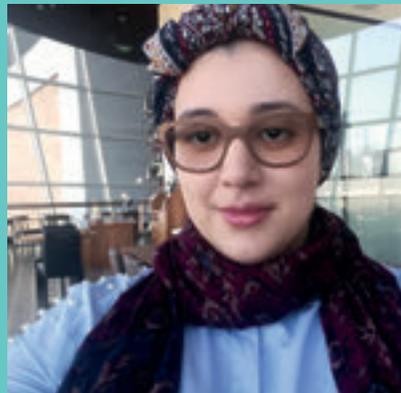
Hizra manages to reserve a table with a great view of the stage, and pushes back their evening's dinner plans so that the family can eat after the concert.

**12:00**

Hizra contacts the family, updating them on their final evening plans, and sending them the simple five minute walking directions from the concert to dinner, but taking them along a specific scenic route with a great view of the Royal Opera House.

**18:00**

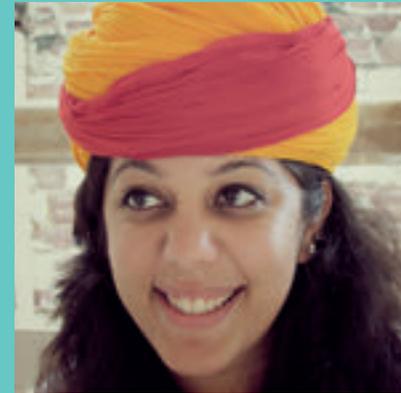
A pre-booked taxi arrives at the Hutton's hotel to take them to the concert.



## Hizra

OUR OMAN CONCIERGE

Before moving to Muscat, Hizra travelled all over Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and India in between studying in France and Luxembourg. Fluent in English, Arabic and French, Hizra is on-hand at all times to help with anything from making restaurant reservations in Muscat and chartering a private dhow cruise to revealing the whereabouts of a secret stone village in the Hajar Mountains and booking a last-minute dolphin-spotting boat trip.



## Alisha

OUR INDIA CONCIERGE

Alisha was born and raised in New Delhi and graduated with a Masters in Marketing, but her love of travel and an interest in hospitality lured her into the travel industry and she hasn't looked back. Alisha is passionate about India, and her favourite place is the blue city of Jodhpur, where she loves exploring fascinating hidden corners of the Old City and the majestic Mehrangarh Fort, and uncovering the city's musical heritage.

## How Alisha helped...

**10:30**

Mr and Mrs Evans are huge Bollywood fans, and are getting ready for their privately guided visit to a Bollywood film set, organised by Original Travel as part of the holiday.

**11:00**

A pre-booked private transfer arrives at the Evans' hotel to take the excited couple to the Bollywood film set in Mumbai.

**13:00**

After their private tour, the couple receive an unexpected phone call from Alisha who has arranged a surprise opportunity for them to act as extras during an upcoming scene in the film shoot. Ecstatic, the couple are shown to the dressing room to get into costume.

**17:00**

Alisha emails Mr and Mrs Evans to let them know that she'll organise a copy of the film to be sent to their home address once it has been released.

Book with Original Travel and these services come as standard...

## UK DEPARTURE ASSISTANCE

Our team will meet you at the airport and fast track you through



## FAST TRACK UK CHECK-IN

We'll speed you through check-in



## FAST TRACK UK SECURITY

We'll whisk you through the security queues\*



## UK AIRPORT LOUNGE

Enjoy the comfort of an airport lounge with free drinks and snacks



## PRE-BOOKED SEATS

Avoid airlines' random seat allocation



And these...



## ONE POINT OF CONTACT

Our destination expert creates a perfectly tailor-made itinerary for you



## BORROW A GOPRO

Borrow one of our GoPros on selected trips



## HOLD SEATS

While fine tuning your trip we'll be holding airline seats



## EXPERT GUIDES

Our expert guides help you really get under the skin of your destination



## OUR APP

Access your itinerary, destination dossier and live updates on the Original Travel app



## FUN, FUN, FUN PACKS

Tailored destination info, challenges and games for every child (aged 3-10)



## PERFECT PICKS

We provide you with a destination specific reading list and music playlist



## 24 HOUR HELPLINE

Things can go wrong; we're on call 24/7 to offer assistance if required



## FULLY PROTECTED

Your holiday is fully protected

\*Where service available

To view more about The Detail and relevant Terms and Conditions, visit [originaltravel.co.uk/why-choose-us](https://www.originaltravel.co.uk/why-choose-us)

# 100% CARBON OFFSETTING

We are proud to be offsetting 100% of our clients' flight carbon footprint. For further information see: [originaltravel.co.uk/carbon](http://originaltravel.co.uk/carbon)

## The Original Travel Foundation

We believe travel and tourism should positively affect the people in the destinations we visit. Our Foundation, created in 2009, supports a number of humanitarian projects in developing countries in Africa, Asia and South America. Since 2009, nearly £800,000 has been invested in the support of nearly 100 humanitarian projects in 30 countries.

Our Foundation Committee meets annually to select the programmes we will support, focusing on five key areas:

- ◊ Child protection
- ◊ Vocational training
- ◊ Economic development assistance
- ◊ Preservation of cultural and natural heritage
- ◊ Safeguarding the lifestyles of indigenous peoples

We also support emergency relief efforts in large natural and humanitarian disasters. We spend almost 14% of our budget each year on emergency humanitarian aid.

### CASE STUDY:

## Sundarbans, West Bengal

India's Sundarbans is the largest estuarine forest in the world but the mangroves are rapidly disappearing due to climate change. Our project (verified by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) aims to plant more than 16 million mangrove trees to protect the local communities' homes and farmlands from flooding and to restore local biodiversity.



16m

trees planted

11,110

acres replanted

250k

people impacted

700k

tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> offset

“

In the internet era one might think that travel companies are superfluous, but Original Travel turned that assumption on its head for us. You guys reignited our excitement for exploring and confirmed our hope that there are still new places and experiences to discover; that the world has not yet become completely homogenised into a Starbucks-style one-size-fits-all answer. Thank you.

*Georgia, Los Angeles*

”

## Our Treat...

If you recommend us to a friend,  
we will reward you both:

**£100 for you,  
£100 for your friend**

For more details visit:  
[originaltravel.co.uk/refer](https://originaltravel.co.uk/refer)  
(Terms and Conditions apply)





## CHAPTER 2

# Tailor-Made Travel

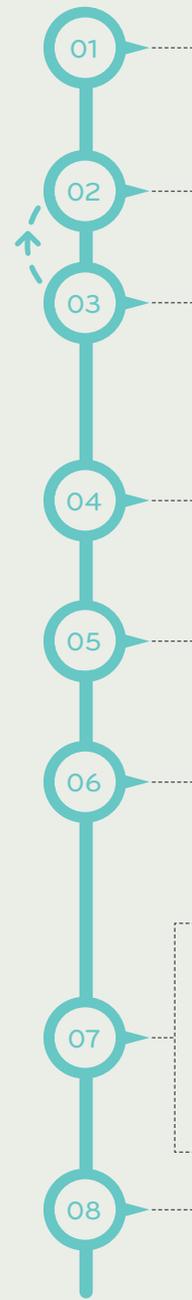
Much as a tailor might make you an item of clothing, Original Travel create bespoke trips that perfectly fit our clients' needs. We do this by combining our personal insights and exceptional knowledge of destinations around the globe to create truly memorable holidays and experiences.

## Tailor-Made

*adjective*

Made, adapted, or suited for a particular purpose or person.

# The Holiday Planning Process

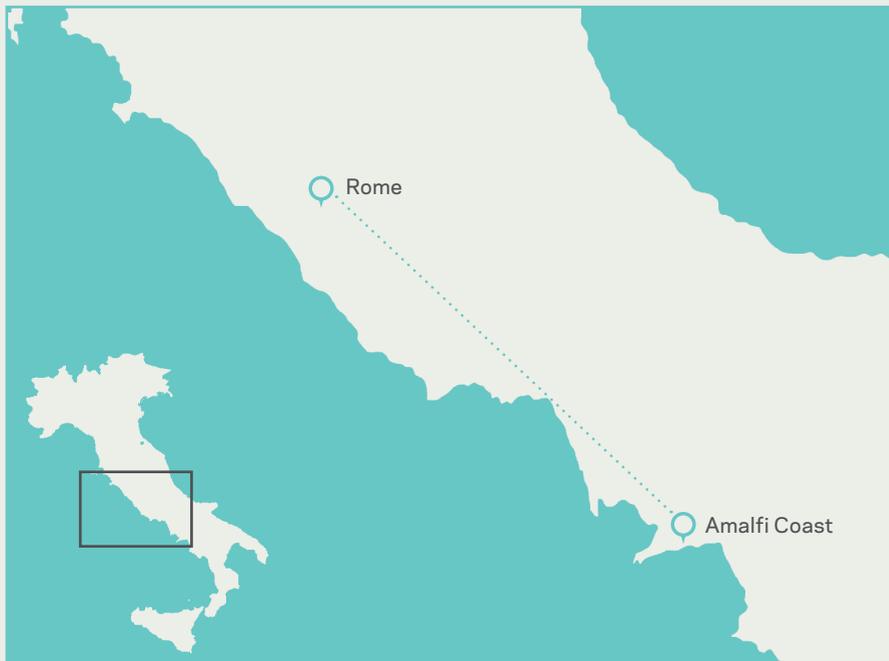
- 
- 01 **Discovery call or face-to-face meeting**  
Discuss your specific holiday wishes with one of our expert travel consultants so we know exactly what you want and can create a personalised itinerary for you.
  - 02 **Itinerary and quote**  
We will then send you a detailed itinerary and quotation, perfectly tailored to your requirements. See page 22 for an example.
  - 03 **Client feedback**  
While we hold airline seats for you, tell us your thoughts on the suggested itinerary. We can ensure your guide is a professor in local architecture; arrange dinner under the stars at your desert camp; organise private cooking classes and guided hikes, and repeat the process again and again until every detail is perfect.
  - 04 **Book**  
To book your holiday and flights we require a deposit; usually of 20%. This will lock in the price, safeguarding you from any currency fluctuations and financially protecting the holiday with our ABTA and ATOL bonding.
  - 05 **Pre-departure**  
We will send you all the information you need, including our up to the minute dossier on what to see and do in your destination, all delivered via our smartphone and tablet-friendly app, or in the post, or both.
  - 06 **Airport**  
Our team will meet you at the airport at your pre-arranged meeting point and fast track you through check-in and security. Once through, you can enjoy the comfort of an airport lounge with complimentary drinks and snacks.
  - 07 **On holiday**  
If you want to make any changes while away, we'll get cracking while you continue to enjoy your holiday. In addition, we have an emergency number that's manned 24/7 to offer assistance if required.
  - 08 **Local Concierges**  
Our local Concierges are always on hand with insider tips on the best local events, recommendations about off the beaten track cultural curiosities or to get you on the guest list of the go-to nightspot.
  - 08 **Welcome home**  
We welcome and act on honest feedback, and we're so confident you'll want to recommend us to friends and family we offer you both £100 off your next holiday.

# Sample Itinerary

## Edward's brief

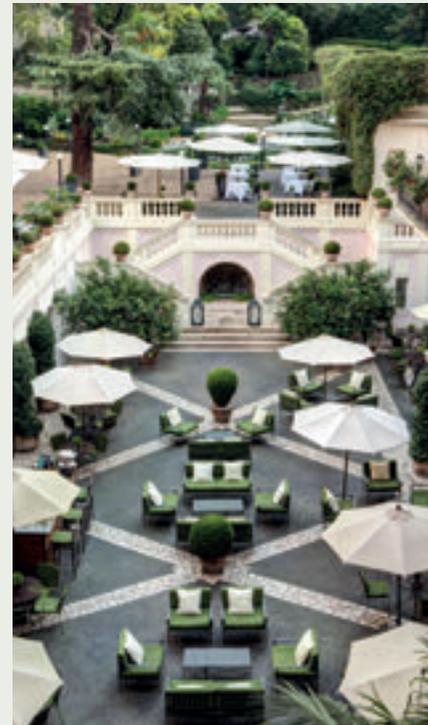
“It's my partner Emma's birthday and I want to surprise her with a week in Italy. Emma loves art, history and design and I am going to need some help knowing what I should take her to see and the very best boutique hotels to inspire her. I am a total foodie who can't think of anything better than spending a week indulging in the very best pasta, coffee and wine! How can you help me plan a week with serious wow-factor for Emma, as well as including some rest time for us both?”

*Edward, Original Travel client*



**DAY 1 AM** **Arrive & Ancient City**  
One of our team members will meet you at the airport and fast track you swiftly through check-in and security before you can both enjoy the comfort of a complimentary airport lounge.

On arrival, Sophia our Italian Concierge will call to welcome you to Rome. Sophia is on-hand throughout your holiday to provide local recommendations that most travellers never know about and to help make any changes whilst you're away. For your stay in the Eternal City we have chosen the gorgeous Hotel de Russie. Emma will love the courtyard gardens that adjoin the so-called green heart of Rome - the Villa Borghese Gardens.



**DAY 1 PM** After you've unpacked, a 30-minute stroll takes you along Rome's famous Via di Ripetta to Piazza Navona - one of the city's most spectacular squares. Stop to gawp at the beautiful trio of fountains before, appetite piqued, arriving at Grappolo d'Oro restaurant, where chef Simone serves up the best spaghetti carbonara in Rome - Edward you'll love this one!

Feeling fully refuelled it's time for an afternoon of exploration. We will arrange for a private history professor guide to really bring the sites to life and impress Emma with fantastic insights and impressive historic details.

Before dinner, an aperitivo is a must, and you can't go wrong with the hotel's world-famous bar, the Stravinskij. Then, take a taxi to Antico Arco in the hip area of Trastevere. This part of town has many great places to eat but Antico Argo's fun atmosphere and modern take on Italy's fabulous cuisine gets our vote.

## DAY 2 AM

### Vatican City

When in Rome... start your morning with coffee and pastries at fashionable Caffè della Pace, near to Piazza Navona. Then spend the morning exploring the Vatican in the company of your art historian private guide. While keeping half an eye out for the Pope, you will visit St Peter's Basilica, the enormous but perfectly proportioned church (surprisingly, it's not technically a cathedral) and, of course, the Sistine Chapel, home to Michelangelo's masterpiece ceiling. Even better, your guide can skip the queues and slip you into less well-known corners of the Vatican to see more of the stunning art collection.

## DAY 2 PM

Feeling suitably culturally enriched, we suggest a quick lunch at Fa-Bio which serves up delicious organic sandwiches, salads and fresh juices, before a wander towards the Tiber and Gelateria La Romana - possibly the best gelateria in Rome. You can then sit, ice cream in hand, in the gardens of Piazza della Libertà and look out across the river. From here it's only a short walk back across the bridge to your hotel.

For dinner and drinks, start with a prosecco or two at Terrace Bramante Bar at Hotel Raphael, which is a magical rooftop bar overlooking Piazza Navona and Vatican City. If you can drag yourself away, head down to the piazza and grab a cab to the uber-cool, uber-Roman Il Sorpasso for a delectable dinner and late night drinks. Let Sophia your Concierge know if you would like her to reserve a table.



## DAY 3 AM

### Galleries & Transfer

Today is your last day in Rome so it's time to pack in any missed sights. We thought Emma might like to visit one of the galleries on the doorstep of your hotel so, after breakfast, choose from the National Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art, or the Borghese Gallery and Museum - let Concierge Sophia know if you want to opt for the latter as we will need to book tickets for you in advance.

Once you've had your fill of art, enjoy a leisurely stroll around the Villa Borghese Gardens and then head back to your hotel for lunch in the Secret Garden.



## DAY 3 PM

Now it's time to experience the remarkably efficient and excellent value Italian railway system on the hour or so journey to Naples. You will be met at Napoli Centrale train station for the transfer on to the incomparable Amalfi Coast.

For your stay in Amalfi we have chosen Monastero Santa Rosa, a 17th Century monastery which was lovingly restored and turned into a luxurious boutique hotel in 2001. We thought Emma would really like the fact that the hotel is steeped in history and maintains many of its original features, such as a large bell to welcome guests. It also helps that the hotel has one of the finest clifftop infinity pools on the Amalfi Coast - the perfect place for you to relax together after the hustle and bustle of Rome.





#### DAY 4 AM Relax

Happy Birthday Emma! Start your day with a long lie in - you deserve it after your action-packed stay in Rome. We will arrange for breakfast in bed and if you let us know what Emma's favourite breakfast is, we can arrange for this to be prepared by Chef Christoph and served alongside a glass of birthday prosecco.

Once you're up, head down to the pool for a day of relaxing in the glorious Italian sunshine (we'll try to arrange that, too). Take a refreshing dip or three in the pool before you explore the beautiful cascading gardens to choose a romantic spot where the staff can set up a table for lunch.

After a post-lunch snooze in the sun, we have booked you both into the spa for a birthday treat. The spa at Monastero Santa Rosa is something very special with its vaulted ceilings and monastic heritage, and it's somewhere we think Emma will love as much for its historic charm as its pampering treatments.

Come evening, a cab will take you into Positano, about half an hour's drive away. We have booked you a table at Michelin-starred La Sponda Restaurant and Sophia the Concierge has rung ahead to make sure you have the perfect table reserved to make Emma's birthday dinner extra special. The candlelit terrace and flower-filled pergola make this the most romantic restaurant on the coast.

#### DAY 5 AM Pompeii

Recover from a possible over-indulgence of lovely Italian wine the night before with a leisurely breakfast and lots of coffee on the beautiful dining terrace at Monastero Santa Rosa.

By mid-morning it's time to hit the road with a private transfer one hour north to the ancient ruins of Pompeii. Completely buried under burning ash following Mount Vesuvius' eruption in 79AD, this is a remarkably well-preserved ancient town and now a protected UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Emma will love the fact that you can still walk down intact Roman streets and wander into what were once temples and shops, while your archaeological guide will add further colour about day-to-day life in Roman times.

Leaving the ruins, head into modern day Pompeii for a casual dinner. Sophia your Concierge can recommend some of her favourite local haunts and book a table in advance for you if you wish.



#### DAY 6 AM Path of the Gods

Today we've planned a spectacular walk for you, which means an early start to avoid the midday sun.

The walk in question is along the Sentiero degli Dei, or Path of Gods, which offers some of the most dramatic panoramic views in Europe. It's also almost always blissfully quiet, so chances are you will be taking in the cliff-top ocean views alone. We've arranged a half hour private transfer from the hotel to the start of the trail, which is on the outskirts of Bomerano. From here it is an easy three-hour walk to Nocelle, where your driver will be waiting to meet you and take you back to the hotel - after a long leisurely lunch, naturally! If you would like any local recommendations from Sophia she's only a phone call or email away.

For your last night in Italy, head to Monastero Santa Rosa's Restaurant Il Refettorio for dinner, where Chef Christoph and his team will ensure that your last Italian supper is a great one, made with fresh local ingredients and precision-perfect flavours. The fusilli with baby squid, Piennolo's tomatoes and basil scented aubergine comes highly recommended and the sommelier will be on hand to recommend the perfect bottle of wine to accompany the food.

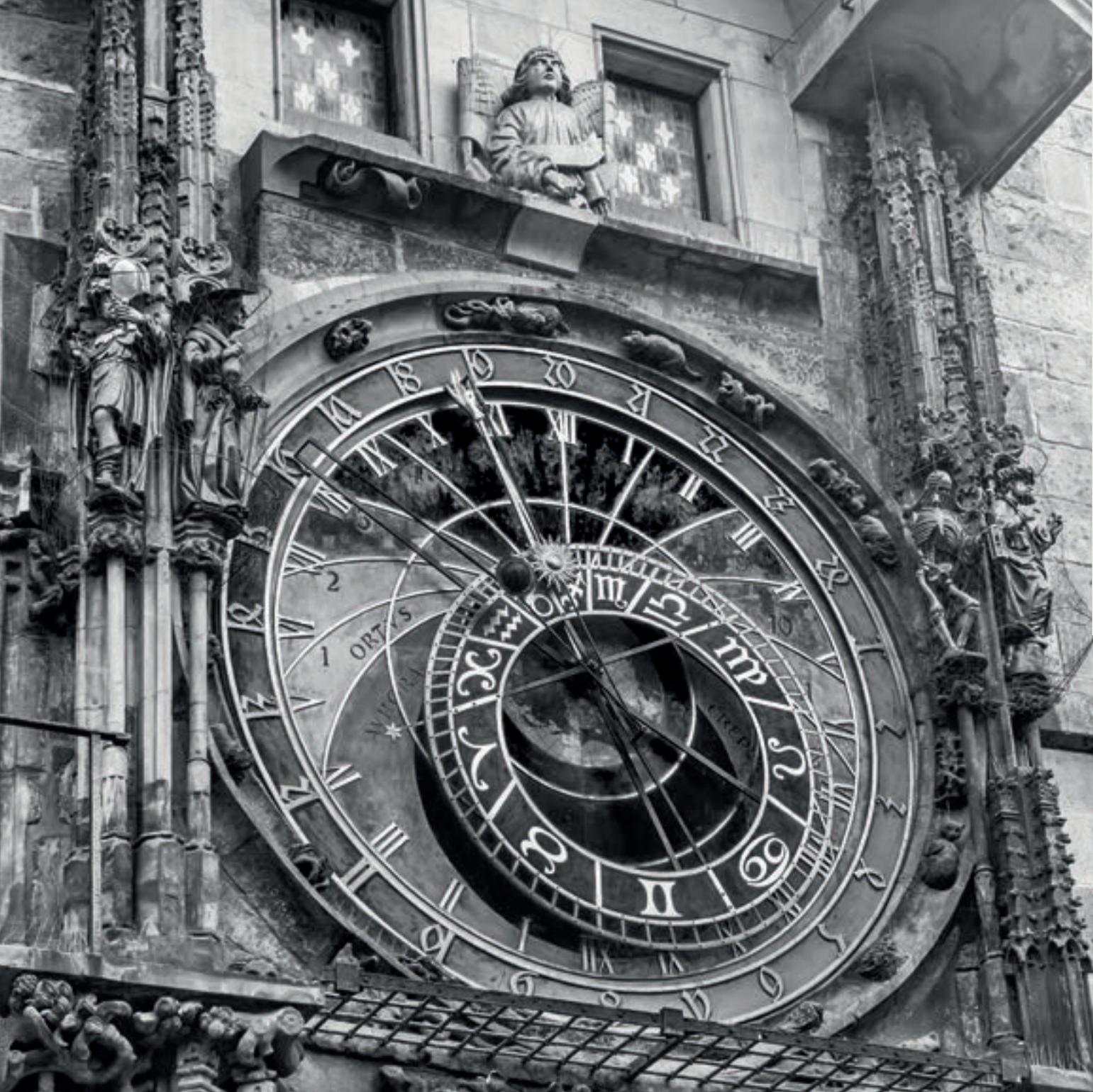
Today is your final day in Italy, which means sadly the time has come to pack up your things and check out of Monastero Santa Rosa.

Once you've enjoyed a last breakfast on the terrace your private transfer will take you on the scenic hour and a half journey to Naples airport.



Amalfi Coast





CHAPTER 3

# Time Comparison

Planning a holiday can be a daunting task; especially if you're considering a complicated trip, having to contend with a seemingly endless stream of options, exchange rates, logistics and multiple payments.

Cut through the noise and come to the experts and not only will you receive award-winning service from destination experts, but you will save a serious amount of your precious time.

We're so confident that our booking process will leave you feeling totally zen that we put one couple to the test. Turn over to find out how William and Nicola's experiences compared.

# DIY vs. Original Travel

MEET **WILLIAM** AND **NICOLA**



William and Nicola, a young couple from London, were hoping for the honeymoon of a lifetime. William loved planning things himself while Nicola was in the 'leave it to the experts' camp. For the full details on what happened next, visit [originaltravel.co.uk/pricing](https://originaltravel.co.uk/pricing) (spoiler alert: Nicola saved over 50 hours of her time).

Here's how their booking experiences compared...

## What they wanted

- A tailor-made itinerary full of authentic Brazilian experiences
- Return economy class flights
- Accommodation at three different properties
- All in-country transfers and local guides



PLANNING	WILLIAM D.I.Y.	NICOLA WITH US
Hours spent planning	16	2
Websites visited	27	4
Calls made	10	1
Calls received	0	6
Emails written	13	5
Points of contact	7	1

BOOKING		
Confirmation emails received	12	2
Payments required	11	2
Hidden extra costs	On the ground payments	0
Printouts required for travelling	14	0
App with all travel documents	0	1

ON THE GROUND		
Dedicated support for duration of trip	X	✓
24/7 emergency helpline	X	✓
Protected by UK travel regulations	X	✓
Protection from exchange rate movements	X	✓
Financial protection	X	✓
UK departure assistance	X	✓
Fast track UK check-in and security	X	✓
UK airport lounge access	X	✓
Local Concierge service	X	✓

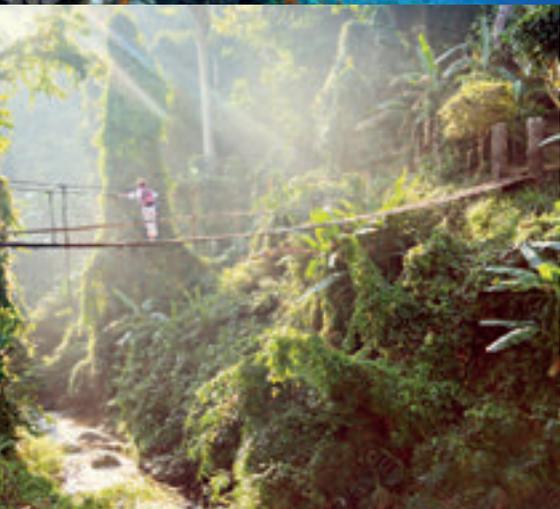


CHAPTER 4

# Our Collections

Now you know how we hone your holiday to perfection, but we haven't really touched on the subject closest to the Original Travel team's collective hearts: our extraordinary planet and the glorious destinations within it.

Our travel consultants have visited over 80% of the world's countries (to the other 20% - please pull your socks up) and they're here to help organise your next holiday, whether the key consideration is visiting a specific destination, or you have a particular plan in mind such as a honeymoon or family holiday.





## Safari

The beautiful savannahs of Africa (and the majestic beasts therein) are the obvious starting point, be that on horseback in South Africa, on foot in Zambia, or by dugout canoe in Botswana.

But Africa isn't the only place on earth to see extraordinary wildlife in spine-tingling surroundings – consider tiger tracking in India, riding safaris in Transylvania or exploring the national parks of Costa Rica.



Order our Safari brochure:  
[originaltravel.co.uk/brochure](http://originaltravel.co.uk/brochure)



## Honeymoons

Of all the holidays you ever take, this is the one you want to get most right. Our dedicated honeymoon planners will work with you to curate your perfect post-wedding wonder, and thanks to our vast network of contacts around the world we work hard to get you all the upgrades and VIP treatment you deserve as newlyweds. Best of all, our honeymoon gift list service allows your friends and family to contribute to the overall cost of your Original Travel honeymoon.



Order our Honeymoon brochure:  
[originaltravel.co.uk/brochure](http://originaltravel.co.uk/brochure)



## Families

Since Original Travel's own arrival into the world in 2003, we have sent parents and their offspring off to destinations as diverse as the jungles of Borneo (to see orangutans) and the Wahiba Sands desert in Oman (to camp under the stars) to the bucket and spade classics like the Mediterranean, Mauritius and the Caribbean.

Wherever you go, we know that family holidays should be as much fun for the parents as they are for the children. That's why we've teamed up with much-loved children's party organisers Sharky & George. Together we provide each child (aged between three and ten) with a personalised pack containing fun games and educational facts about their destination to keep them inspired throughout the trip, even including the boring bits like airports and transfers.

 Order our Family brochure:  
[originaltravel.co.uk/brochure](https://originaltravel.co.uk/brochure)



## City Breaks

Think of a holiday destination and palm-fringed beaches may spring to mind, but don't rule out the good old fashioned city break. You can expect short transfers from the airport; a delicious distillation of the country in question's cultural highlights in one conveniently accessible destination, and more than likely some seriously slick hotels, excellent restaurants and top shopping that our local Concierges can help unlock.



## Diving

At Original Travel we've got the seven continents pretty well covered, but what of the 70% of the planet beneath the waves? That's where Original Diving comes in, with our crack team of Dive Masters, Instructors and Marine Biologists on hand to create the perfect tailor-made dive trip for you. We are able to create a dream holiday for the most devoted divers, those looking to learn, and those who prefer to relax on the beach while their partner explores beneath the waves.

Visit our dedicated Diving website: [originaldiving.com](http://originaldiving.com)

 Order our Dive brochure:  
[originaltravel.co.uk/brochure](http://originaltravel.co.uk/brochure)

“

Exceptional. We were beautifully looked after. My two teenage children and I went to Mafia Island to do our advanced diving course. The long journey from Scotland went without a hitch. The recommendations made by Original Diving were spot on for our needs and we had a holiday of a lifetime, and got our advanced diving qualifications.

*Family diving holiday in Tanzania, 2018*

”



## Boats

Rat and Mole were drifting lazily along the river in *The Wind in the Willows* when Rat turned to Mole and came up with one of literature's most profound observations. 'There is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.' We couldn't agree more. Whether you're bobbing and weaving your way through a floating market in Bangkok in a traditional long boat, sunning yourself on the deck of a yacht off an idyllic Caribbean island, diving from a luxury liveaboard in Indonesia's Raja Ampat or on the lookout for game from a mokoro canoe in Botswana's Okavango Delta, the boat is surely one of the best ways to travel.



## Winter Sports

Want to ski on virgin powder down to the water's edge in a Norwegian fjord before a boat pick up? Or ski in the shadow of a Japanese volcano? Well, both are available through Original Travel, along with excellent family resorts and our pick of the ski spots offering not only the best conditions and scenery, but also the best places to stay and party. And winter isn't just about strapping on a pair of planks; dog-sledding through the snowbound forests and mountains of Swedish Lapland will leave even the hardest 'been there, done that' traveller with an indelible memory.



## Big Short Breaks

Back in 2003 we developed The Big Short Break, a collection of long weekend trips to extraordinary destinations in Europe, Africa and the Middle East based around the concept of 'Maximum Experience and Minimum Time'.

The concept proved incredibly successful and while we now cover a host of other holiday types, we still organise huge numbers of Big Short Breaks from dog-sledding trips in the snow-clad forests of Swedish Lapland to a helicopter trip to the finest luxury desert camp in Oman.



## Road Trips

A road trip is something that many travellers have on their bucket list, be that driving the iconic Highway One in a vintage Ford Mustang, caravanning (luxury caravanning, that is) through the Uyuni salt flats in Bolivia or eating, drinking and culture-ing (technical term) your way through Europe in a convertible.

An Original Travel road trip will involve the very best luxury pit-stops available, from chic boutiques to opulent resorts, depending on your requirements. And then we help with the details (we love a bit of detail) from meticulously planning your route to organising the car hire and all-important sat nav.

“

Original Travel are one of the world's best kept travel secrets — nothing is too much for their team of experts. Their knowledge of the world is phenomenal and their planning capabilities are immense; especially in planning a sabbatical with all its intricacies.

*PF, 18-month sabbatical*

”



## Sabbaticals

Want to spend six months chasing the sun around the globe, staying at the finest luxury hotels and becoming a bona fide beach bum? We've got you covered. Or, like one recent client, you might prefer learning to photograph snow leopards in Ladakh, diving to see South Africa's famous Sardine Run and exploring Chilean Patagonia aboard a private luxury charter boat (with helipad, natch) as part of an 18-month long adrenaline-fuelled grand tour of the globe that weaves together 92 itineraries?

We even designed a website for the same client so his friends could track where he'd be and join him on the trip. Just ask – anything is possible.

# Small Group Tours

Take one incredible destination; add a charismatic authority with expertise on said destination; sprinkle into the mix a small group of like-minded and discerning individuals; leave to marinate in extraordinary experiences, and then serve memories to last a lifetime. Welcome to our Small Group Tours.

“

This was definitely one of the best and most interesting trips I have been on. Beautifully organised, an excellent local guide, great activities and a fascinating itinerary. Amelia is a star team leader and I would have no hesitation recommending others to sign up for a similar trip.

*Albania Small Group Tour, 2017*

”



## CHAPTER 5

# About Us

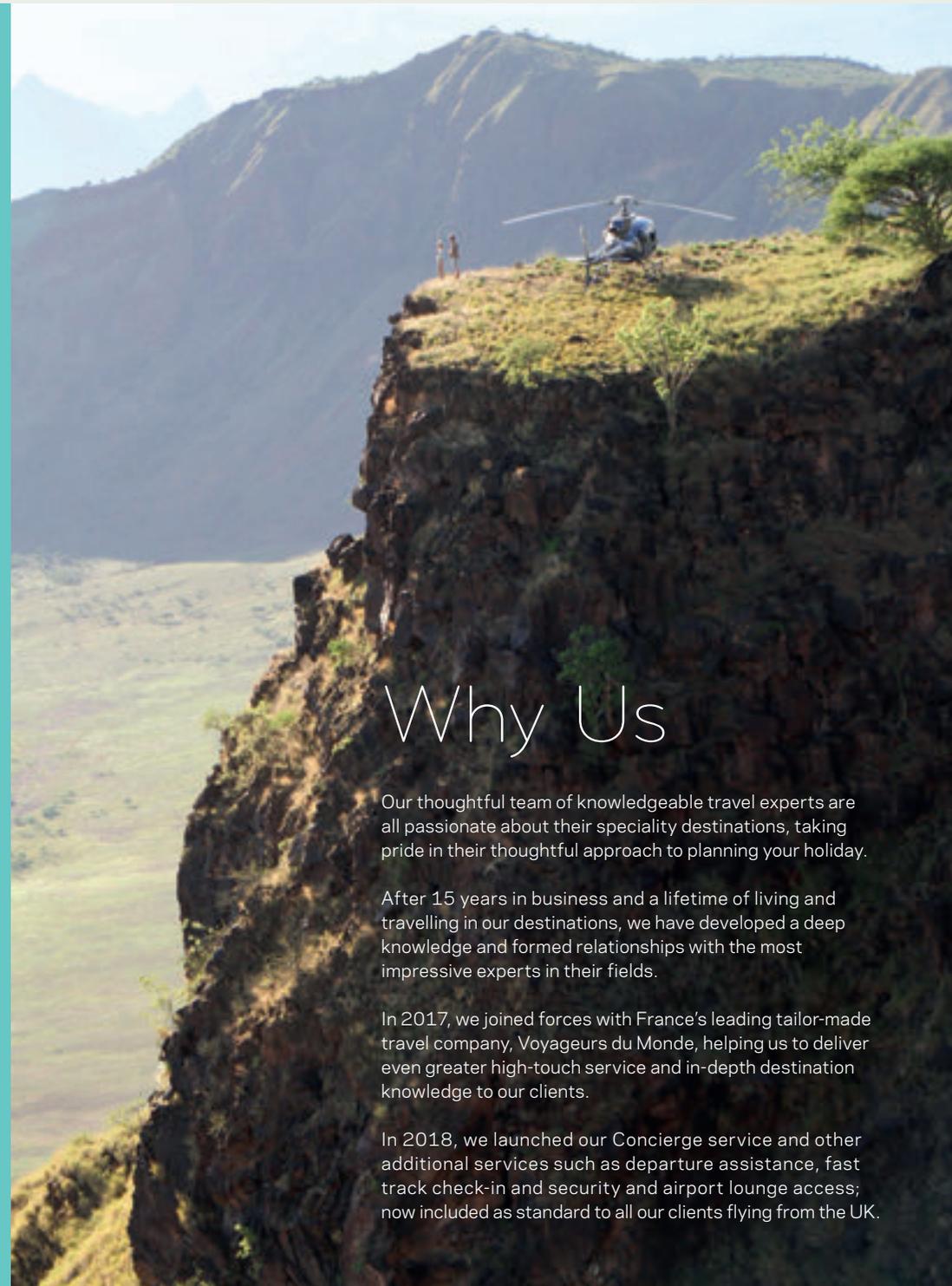
The Original Travel team has visited over 160 countries on fact-finding missions and created over 51,500 bespoke itineraries since we were founded back in 2003. The team is made up of 17 different nationalities who speak 15 different languages and who have 35 Original Travel children between them. Find out what sets us apart from the rest.

“

I have used Original Travel almost since the inception of the firm and have travelled numerous times with their help on both long and short haul trips. I have always dealt with consultants who have visited the regions and done the activities in question, so they are able to talk about them authoritatively during the planning phase. I find them a friendly, knowledgeable and very easy company to deal with, and have recommended them to demanding travellers on numerous occasions.

*James, travelling with us for over 10 years*

”



## Why Us

Our thoughtful team of knowledgeable travel experts are all passionate about their speciality destinations, taking pride in their thoughtful approach to planning your holiday.

After 15 years in business and a lifetime of living and travelling in our destinations, we have developed a deep knowledge and formed relationships with the most impressive experts in their fields.

In 2017, we joined forces with France's leading tailor-made travel company, Voyageurs du Monde, helping us to deliver even greater high-touch service and in-depth destination knowledge to our clients.

In 2018, we launched our Concierge service and other additional services such as departure assistance, fast track check-in and security and airport lounge access; now included as standard to all our clients flying from the UK.

# Our Story



The three founders leave Fleet Street, the Army and the City and the Big Short Break is born



The Original Travel baby boom begins with Tom's twins, and - not entirely coincidentally - we launch our new family portfolio



We launch Original Diving with Tim Simond, author of the best selling Dive in Style books, and Dive Master Neill Ghosh



One loyal client organises his mega-sabbatical that encompasses 66 countries in 18-months, covering 195,000 miles



Thanks to our growing international client base, we launch in the States, starting with the launch of our US website



2003

Our second brochure picks up the Best Brochure gong (again) at the Guardian Observer Travel Awards



2005

We acquire Tim Best Travel, luxury long-haul travel experts specialising in Africa, Latin America and India.



2008

With the acquisition of Simoon Travel, founder Amelia Stewart brings the finest Middle Eastern and desert culture expertise



2009

2010

2012

2013

We join forces with much-loved children's party people Sharky & George to enhance our family holidays. Meanwhile the Original Travel baby count hits 21



2014

We partner with France's leading tailor-made travel company, Voyageurs du Monde, which delivers the highest levels of service and in-depth destination knowledge to its clients. Sound familiar? We thought so too



2017

2018

We commit to offsetting 100% of our clients' flight carbon footprint, launch a global network of local insider Concierges and provide UK airport departure assistance, fast track check-in/security and lounge access; all as standard



2018

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theguardian TheObserver

**WINNER**  
BEST SHORT  
BREAK OPERATOR

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