

# TravelDesk

## Book it Now: Joan Scales

**IRISH HEART:** Right in the heart of Ireland, the Hodson Bay Hotel invites you to try a midweek two-day spa experience from €199 per person sharing, including dinner one night. Also included is a choice of one spa treatment, either a facial, massage, or ear candling and head massage. Details: 0906-442 055.



**PORTUGAL OFFER:** The Lake Resort at Vilamoura (above) on the Algarve is keen to welcome visitors from Ireland. Located beside Vilamoura marina and on the lake with the beach just minutes away it offers the following package from now until the end of March to *Irish Times* readers. Seven nights accommodation and breakfast, five green fees for Vilamoura golf courses, or four treatments in the Blue&Green Spa and dinner on three nights, from €897 per person sharing. Aer Lingus flies from Dublin and Cork to Faro. Ryanair and Tap Air Portugal fly from Dublin to Faro and the hotel is less than 40 minutes away. Details on 00351-289 329 0728 or [reservas@thelakeresort.com](mailto:reservas@thelakeresort.com)

**ON YOUR TOES:** Here's a good reason to be in London on Saturday December 2nd – it is Very Important Pedestrian day when Oxford and Regent Streets will be closed to traffic making it easier to shop till you drop.

**LONDON CALLING:** Uptown Reservations in London has more than 80 private homes offering bed and breakfast, mainly period homes in the Mayfair, Kensington and Chelsea areas and ideal for shopping and visiting museums and galleries. Prices from £72 (approx €108) single and £95 (approx €142) double/twin per night. Details: 0044-207 937 2001 or [www.uptownres.co.uk](http://www.uptownres.co.uk)

**CHESTER DEALS:** Weekend shopping trips to Chester with Stena Line at €99 per person sharing, including crossing, coach and dinner, bed and breakfast in the Holiday Inn. If you want to take a break from shopping, Chester Zoo will be transformed into a winter wonderland from December 1st with an ice-rink, Santa's grotto and Christmas market selling local produce and crafts. Details: Stena Line – 01-204 7733 quoting Reference A138 or [www.stenaline.ie/shopping](http://www.stenaline.ie/shopping)

**OVERSEAS VOLUNTEERS:** I-to-I, the volunteer travel organisation for TEFL, conservation, teaching, building, community development and humanitarian tours is holding information sessions in Cork on November 11th, and Dublin on November 18th. Details – 053-400 50.

**CANARY CALLS:** Great deals to the Canary Island at the end of the month with Direct Holidays, Gran Canaria from €279, Lanzarote from €269, Tenerife from €319 and Fuerteventura from €189: 01-886 0400.

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[www.ireland.com/travel](http://www.ireland.com/travel)