



Now Germans can pre-book holiday sunloungers 德國遊客可預訂日光浴躺椅

German **holidaymakers** no longer need to **stampede** to the pool at dawn to infuriate British tourists by claiming all the sunloungers — they can now do it from home.

Threatening to fuel a long-standing joke in Britain, travel agency Thomas Cook said that German tourists could pay in advance to bag a poolside lounger when they book their package holidays. The offer is only available in Germany.

The *Daily Telegraph* newspaper said three euros (US\$4.25) a day was all it cost to **wind up** British holidaymakers by reserving a sunlounger and an umbrella — without the need for a pre-dawn raid to cover them all with towels.

Thomas Cook's German branch is offering the service, with nine hotels having signed up so far.

The *Daily Telegraph* said the new front in the “beach towel wars” — the origin of which is unclear, but which is a hardy perennial of British media — had opened up in Egypt, Turkey and Spain's Canary Islands.

Thomas Cook was founded in 1841 by a British cabinet-maker, but is now German owned.

“As part of a promotion to holidaymakers in Germany, pre-bookable sun chairs are being offered as part of an upgrade package following positive feedback to a successful **initiative** by a small number of hotels,” a Thomas Cook spokesman told AFP.

(AFP)

德國度假客天一亮就衝到游泳池畔佔日光浴躺椅，令英國遊客反感不已，現在他們再也不必如此——他們可以「在家搶」。

揚言要讓這個英國老笑話更精彩的湯馬士庫克旅行社說，德國旅客訂購套裝行程時，可以事先付款預留一個游泳池畔的躺椅。這項服務僅針對德國遊客。

英國《每日電訊報》報導，每天只要三歐元（四點二五美元），就可以預留一個日光浴躺椅和一把遮陽傘，不用天還沒亮就跑去放浴巾佔位子，這可氣炸英國遊客了。

湯馬士庫克旅行社的德國分公司目前已和九間飯店簽約，提供這項服務。

《每日電訊報》指出，這場「海灘浴巾戰」的新戰線早已在埃及、土耳其和西班牙的加那利群島開打，這場爭奪戰的起源不明，但卻是英國媒體長年來的熱門話題。

湯馬士庫克旅行社創立於一八四一年，創辦人是一位英國傢俱木工師父，但現在的老闆是位德國人。

湯馬士庫克的發言人對法新社表示：「預訂日光浴躺椅是我們針對德國度假客主打的促銷活動之一，和幾家飯店成功合作得到正面迴響後，我們便把這項服務納入升級版的套裝旅遊中。」

(法新社 / 翻譯：袁星塵)

Top: Algerians enjoy their time on Sidi Fredj beach, 20km west of Algiers, on July 28, 2009.

PHOTO: AFP

上圖：七月二十八日，阿爾及利亞民眾在首都阿爾及爾西方二十公里的西迪佛列吉海灘享受美好時光。

照片：法新社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **holidaymaker** /'hɒlədeɪ, meɪkə/ n.
度假客 (du4 jia4 ke4)

例：This resort has seen a drop in holidaymakers as a result of the economic downturn.
(由於經濟衰退，這個度假勝地的遊客數量也跟著減少。)

2. **stampede** /stæm'pid/ v.
蜂擁 (feng1 yung3)

例：As soon as the doors opened, hundreds of shoppers stampeded into the store to grab some bargains.
(店門一開，上百名血拼民眾湧入店裡搶購一些特價品。)

3. **initiative** /ɪ'nɪʃətɪv/ n.
新方案 (xin1 fang1 an4)

例：Arthur's car pool initiative was quickly abandoned due to lack of interest.
(亞瑟的共乘新計畫很快就因為缺乏吸引力而被捨棄了。)

KEY PHRASE 重要片語

wind up
激怒某人

You **wind somebody up** if you deliberately annoy them. The article suggests that German holidaymakers will annoy British holidaymakers by reserving sunloungers online.

Examples: “I don't invite Morgan to my parties anymore. As soon as he arrives he starts **winding up** the other guests,” or “Laura wasn't a very good teacher — the kids find it far too easy to **wind her up**.”

若你「wind up」某人，意思就是你蓄意惹惱他們。文章中說，德國度假客可以在線上預訂日光躺椅，氣壞英國遊客。

例如：「我以後再也不要約摩根來參加我的派對了。他每一來就開始招惹其他賓客」，或是「蘿拉不是個很好的老師，孩子們輕易就可以惹她動怒」。