

Tui Travel has likened the impact of the eurozone crisis on the Greek holiday market to that of the Arab spring, as the UK's biggest tour operator by customer numbers said British tourists were shunning the country for other destinations.

The company, which owns the Thomson and First Choice brands, said its late-market deals, which are booked six weeks or less from the departure date, were dominated by hotels in Greece.

Peter Long, chief executive, said it was not surprising people were choosing to travel elsewhere.

"This year there is more capacity in the late market in Greece — that's no surprise. Last year there were great deals to Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt."

Tui said other destinations such as Spain had benefited from the trend.

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