



CHECK IN...
CHECK IT OUT

The Pilot
Greenwich, SE London

WHAT'S IT LIKE? It's a lovely Fuller's boozer with a great restaurant on the site, a fantastic beer garden and some rooms on the top.

The pub has been there for more than 200 years but was renovated last year.

It's now a traditional pub with quirky, modern details.

ROOMS ANY GOOD? Yes. They're beautifully put together by a designer with a sense of humour and an eye for the amusing and useful.

EAT HERE OR GRAB A PIZZA? Definitely eat here. The chef has a grasp of all the things that have made English grub so much better over the past 20 years or so.

Fresh, modern, seasonal

dishes ranging from pub favourites to classical dishes.

Most mains come in at around the £14 mark so you'll get a restaurant experience at (London) gastro pub prices.

WHAT ELSE? The Pilot featured in top band Blur's video for Park Life. It's very handy for the O2 centre and a great antidote for its chain bars and restaurants. It's the perfect place to stay if you're going to a gig and don't want to spend too much time in the O2's shopping mall atmosphere.

SO YOU'D GO BACK? I already have – I popped in for Sunday lunch a few weeks after my stay.

WHAT'S THE DAMAGE? Double rooms start at £90.

PETE BELL

HOT SPOT

IT'S 30°C in the CARIBBEAN right now – seven nights' B&B at the 3★ Blu

St Lucia is from £839 per person – a saving of up to £311pp. Price includes Virgin flights from Gatwick on September 16 and transfers. Details at virginholidays.co.uk, or call 0844 557 3870.

HOT SPOT

TUNISIA is a sizzling 37°C – seven nights' all-inclusive at the 5★ El Mouradi

Mahdia Hotel starts from £584 per person, including return flights from Gatwick, leaving on July 23. For further information or to book, take a look at lastminute.com or phone 0800 231 5526.



NO PLACE LIKE HOME
... city's pantheon



ON TRACK
... travel by tram in Lisbon



The appy traveller

“WHAT is the meat in your balls?”

I feel slightly awkward saying these words into my smartphone in a busy Portuguese restaurant.

I am reading the menu and want to ask the waiter what is in the “croquetes de carne” – rolls of meat and mash.

But I do not speak the local lingo so voice the question into my phone to get it to translate for the waiter.

“Boi,” he replies. Again, I translate to English with the help of my phone – and learn his answer is **BEEF**. Great, I love beef.

I may have got some funny looks from the locals but the phone did the trick.

I am a traveller who usually refuses to turn on my phone abroad. Roaming is expensive

IT'S A SMART WAY TO SEE LISBON

and I would rather save the money for holiday cocktails. And I am not alone. A quarter of us turn off when leaving Britain to avoid data charges, says a European Commission survey.

But that may now change. From this month, charges for downloading internet data or making a call in another EU country will more than halve.

Some providers, such as Three, have started to let customers use home plans in selected countries abroad.

By December next year, mobile data use should cost the same all over Europe as it does at home.

With that in mind, I visited Portuguese capital Lisbon for the first time – with just my

phone as guide. I had no clue what to do in town, how to get around or how to speak Portuguese. I would need all the help I could get.

So armed with a Google Nexus 5 phone – loaded with travel apps and a limitless SIM card – I roamed free as a connected tourist.

It was just me and my phone

My journey got off to a smooth start thanks to Google Now, which works like a digital personal assistant.

Because my flight and hotel reservations were emailed to my Gmail account, as soon as I landed in Lisbon, Google Now told me which metro line

to take, where to get off and gave directions to the hotel. I checked into the chic and central Beattique Hotels Figueira, where my room had a view of the River Tagus on one side and some of the city's seven hills on the other.

Then it was time to explore with my smartphone as guide. The great thing about this is it's much lighter than a bulky guidebook, which also makes you stand out as a tourist. It was just me and my phone, like at home.

I switched on the free Field Trip app to see some of Lisbon's sights.

It is a great tool for ad-hoc exploring but works best as a supplementary city guide. Guidebooks are much more

detailed and better for researching before a trip. After walking into a bollard with my eyes on the screen, I plugged in some headphones and used the app in “speak” mode.

Running in the background on my phone, it told me when I was near a place of interest and gave me details.

As I walked towards the Santa Justa Lift, my phone told me the 147ft elevator was built to connect the lower streets to the higher ones.

It was originally powered by steam and designed by one of French engineer Gustave Eiffel's apprentices.

At the top, I snapped the panoramic views of terracotta rooftops, the Castle of São Jorge and the glittering River Tagus and posted them to Instagram and Facebook. The Nexus was set to back up shots to

my Google+ account. So even if I lost my phone, the photos would be saved.

Back home, I'd use the Auto Awesome function to make a video using my pictures.

The clever tool stitches together your snaps in seconds, and you can set it to the music and length of your choice.

Next it was time to test my navigational skills using Google Maps in a GoCar.

My battery was draining and I had to plug in a portable charger. Like a bright yellow

Wacky Racer. I bumped along towards Pastéis de Belém, where they make 40,000 of the most delicious custard tarts each day. Inside, I watched one of the bakers lay hundreds of the sweet pies into trays.

Noticing a sign outside the kitchen, I took a photograph, highlighted the words I didn't understand with my finger and pressed “translate”.

It was a food-safety certificate but it also came with an odd translation: “Manipulations of crayons Bethlehem is most effective with clean hands eh.”

My phone made much of my trip quick and easy but I could not forget it is still just a robot. I look forward to the new laws and might even switch on my phone when abroad.

But I'm still keeping hold of my guidebook for now.

ELLIE ROSS



CUT THE COSTS OF ROAMING

TOO many of us have come home to a hefty phone bill after having fun in the sun.

Supplier Three has just introduced a tariff that lets you use your phone in 16 foreign countries for the same rates you get in the UK.

But how are other companies shaping up?

Since 2007, the EU has been chipping away at rip-off rates. Texts are now capped at 5p, while calls will cost no more than 15p a minute, or 6p a minute to receive.

The price of browsing the internet is also falling to 16p per megabyte – but these charges only apply to countries in the EU.

So what else can you do to slash costs?

Start by contacting your service provider and seek out low-cost packages for using your phone overseas.

Turn off roaming before you take off from the UK and use free wi-fi wherever you can to connect.

If you need to phone home, consider using services such as Skype, and if you are going to be away for a while, use a SIM sold in the country you are travelling to.

Sun SNAPS!



Win
£150

SMALL medium or large? Cruising is all about choice, and that's before you even get on board. Eileen Robinson's pic of ships coming into dock in the Caribbean highlights how big these things are. No wonder they manage to fit theatres on board, or even a full street of shops or a mini waterpark.

Eileen's shot makes us want to sail away somewhere hot and sunny, so she wins the £150 hotels.com voucher this week. But you don't have to go halfway around the world to get one. For a chance to win send your favourite hot snap – from home or abroad – to sunsnaps@thesun.co.uk and don't forget to tell us where you were.

Hotels.com

HOT SPOT

IT IS 37°C in DUBAI – three nights' B&B at the 4★ Landmark Grand Hotel is

from £415. Leaves Heathrow from September 16-20. See netflights.com.

● MARMARIS is 32°C and seven nights' self-catering at the 3★ Sincerity Apartments is from £246. Leaves East Midlands on July 23. See cooptravel.co.uk or phone 01922 234415.

AIR NEWS

FROM the high-end offerings in First Class to the high-priced Pringles sold out the back, plane food can be a minefield.

FlyBe, though, is shaking up its onboard offerings with a new snack menu. Deli-style might be pushing it a bit but there is a nice tapas selection for £7, with olives, hummus, chorizo, paté and a Pimm's, or a selection of patés and bruschetta for £4.

The airline says it wanted to offer healthier food, from recognised brands including Heinz and The Food Doctor. We say it is a good effort, though they

could be a little cheaper. Try the new treats on one of FlyBe's sale fares. Book by July 28 for Manchester-Paris from £49 one way or Birmingham-Newquay from £25 (FlyBe.com).

● If you dread taking your kids on flights, this should warm your heart.

Of all the toys we ply them with in the air, it could be the cheapest – that occupy them the longest.

BA did some research with kids aged two to ten years and Play-Doh and Loom Bands fared best, with Lego, Top Trump cards and stickers doing well.



HOT SPOT

IT'S 29°C in MEXICO. A week all-inclusive at the 4★ Plus Rio Vallarta is from

£1,041. Leaves Gatwick on August 16 (thomson.co.uk or call 0871 230 2555).

● SRI LANKA is 32°C – seven nights' B&B at the 4★ Avani Bentota Resort and Spa is from £829, from Heathrow September 1 to October 24. Call 0844 556 6060 or see dialaflight.com.

WAVE OF SHIPS ON THE HORIZON

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has unveiled plans to build two new ships for delivery in 2018 and 2019.

The 4,200-passenger liners will cost a combined 1.6BILLION euros to build.

The two new additions will be based on the successful Norwegian Breakaway and Norwegian Getaway vessels that joined the NCL fleet in May 2013 and January this year.

The Norwegian Getaway boasts 28 dining venues, including seafood restaurant Ocean Blue by Geoffrey Zakarian and a branch of Carlo's Bake Shop by Buddy Valastro, star of the TV series Cake Boss. The fabulous entertainment line-up includes Broadway

CRUISE NEWS

show favourites Legally Blonde and Burn The Floor.

● SETTING out to sea with children in tow just got easier with MSC Cruises – following a tie-up with childcare giant Chicco. The deal will see strollers, bottle warmers and baby backpacks available.

And Chicco will collaborate on developing purpose-built kids' areas aboard six ships, while families with youngsters will also receive a “baby globetrotter” guide – containing information about onboard services and mini-club activities, game ideas and tips for family excursions specific to the ship's itinerary.

DISCOVERY COVE in Orlando has been named the world's No1 amusement park for the second year running.

The all-inclusive site topped the 2014 TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Awards' Amusement Parks And Water Parks category.

The awards – based on reviews and feedback from TripAdvisor users – rated Discovery Cove for its animal encounters and idyllic tropical setting.

Guests also raved about the park's all-inclusive offering of everything from food and drink all day to animal-friendly sun cream.

The Discovery Cove Ultimate Package includes a day at Discovery Cove (with a 30-minute dolphin swim experience, all meals, snacks and drinks) as well as 14-day unlimited entry to SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Aquatica. Prices start from £169 per person. See seaworldparks.co.uk.

Seven nights' B&B at the 3★ Residence Inn Orlando at SeaWorld is from £775 per person. Leaves Gatwick on September 7. See travelcitydirect.com or call 0844 557 6965.

DON'T CRY – EVITA IS BACK ON STAGE

EVITA is making a comeback to the West End – but this time for a much shorter season than its original London run of more than seven years.

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's smash hit will be playing at the Dominion Theatre from September 16 until November 1.

It will star West End favourite Madalena Alberto in the title role as Argentina's political heroine Eva Peron – who gets to belt out the classic Don't Cry For Me Argentina.

Marti Pellow, the lead singer of Wet Wet Wet, will play her husband, President Juan Peron.

Get a night at the 3★ Royal National Hotel with breakfast from £147.50 per person including top

price theatre tickets to Evita. Details from superbreak.com or call 01904 717 359.

● MEGASTAR DJ David Morales is playing for free in Croatia.

He will performing at the Santos Beach Club on the island of Rab on Friday to celebrate the club's 10th anniversary.

The event coincides with the opening of the island's annual Rabaska Fiera Festival, which runs from Friday until Sunday.

So visitors can enjoy falcons, folklore and fireworks in Rab town and then head on down to Santos for a world-class chill-out. Seven nights' B&B at Rab's Hotel Carolina is from £825. Flights leave Stansted on July 23 (01425 480 400 or online at prestigehighdays.co.uk/croatia).



GO APE WITH GIB ROCK STARS



VISITORS to Gibraltar can now get up close to The Rock's famous apes.

The two-hour Gibraltar Macaque Experience, run by Monkey Talk and Blands Travel, will run year-round on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The tour will give visitors unique commentary from a primatologist and the chance to see the animals in their natural habitat.

See facebook.com/MonkeyTalkGibraltar.

● KIDS have never had it so good – at least when it

comes to travelling overseas. A Post Office Travel Insurance survey found that twice as many under-fives have been abroad compared to their parents at the same age.

More than half (52 per cent) have spent time out of the country, compared with little more than a quarter (26 per cent) of their parents' generation.

The poll also found that more than a quarter (26 per cent) of five-year-olds children have travelled abroad three times or more.

FUN AND GAMES EN SUITE

PLAYMOBIL has teamed up with London's famous Waldorf Hilton Hotel to create a suite dedicated to the figures.

The collaboration launches Playmobil's Birthday Tour, during which 40 fans' favourite characters from 1974 to the present day will be popping up across the country.

Keep an eye on Playmobil's Facebook page to find out more about what fun and games will be going on, and where and when.

The Waldorf suite will let parents relax and enjoy room service while the little ones play with their much-loved figures. See playmobil.co.uk

What's not to like?

● FAMILIES face price hikes of up to 145 per cent when they head off in the summer holidays according to research from Santander.

The report found a holiday in the US was £5,165 in the summer compared to £2,105 out of peak. The hikes average out at more than £3,060 per family.

