

● THIS is the coolest London crash pad we have seen in a very long time – a mini-apartment in the clock tower of St Pancras Station.

And it doesn't cost a king's ransom to book, either. The charge is £210 a night for four people or £150 for two. Minimum stay is three nights.

The apartment has an en-suite bathroom, kitchen and sitting area.

For further details and to book, see airbnb.com



● DOES this sound like your kind of scene? Thomson is breathing new life into "yoof" holidays with exciting new breaks for 18-to-35s.

Dubbed Thomson Scene, it is split into two brands – Hub and Style.

The former is familiar short-haul, the latter a bit more glamorous – and pricey – testing out the likes of Thailand, Goa

and Mexico. Made In Chelsea stars Lucy Watson, Oliver Proudlock and Binky Felstead, inset, helped launch the brand this week – and you can guess which of the two brands is their favourite. Book before Jan 31 and you can get £50 off: use code 49196 at thomson.co.uk/holidays/scene. It'll save you enough for a couple of cocktails.



HOT SPOT

IT'S 23C in the UAE. And you can get a week in Dubai from £443 this month. On the Beach offers bed and breakfast at the 3★ Hyde Park Hotel, leaving from Gatwick on January 29. Visit Onthebeach.co.uk or phone 0871 474 3000.

HOT SPOT

IT'S 20C in Tunisia, where you can soak up the sun with Skyscanner. Seven nights' B&B at the Alhambra Thalasso in Hammamet costs from £184, including Thomson Airways flights. Leaves Glasgow on February 1. See Skyscanner.net

Edited by
LISA MINOT



travel

4 pages
of holidays

LATES FOR...

TURKEY... save up to £300 on a sporty week in Bodrum with seven nights' all-inclusive at the

Mark Warner Sea Garden resort from £599. Sports and childcare are included. Departs Heathrow on May 30. See markwarner.co.uk or call 0844 2736 182.

FLORIDA... save £349 on two weeks in Kissimmee. Travel City Direct has room-only at the 3★ Baymont Inn from £505, departing Gatwick on March 17. See travelcitydirect.com or call 0844 557 6965.

HUNGARY... two nights' room-only at the 4★ Gold Hotel Wine and Dine in Budapest is from £104 with easyJet Holidays. Departs Gatwick on February 24. See easyjet.com/holidays or call 0843 104 1000.

MALTA... On the Beach has seven nights at the 3★ Bayview Hotel in Sliema from £122. Departs Stansted on January 29. See onthebeach.co.uk or call 0871 474 3000.

THAILAND... save £300 on a week room-only at the 5★ Dusit Thani resort in Phuket with Destinology from £759. Flights from Heathrow in June and July. See destinology.co.uk or call 01204 821 419.

JERSEY... enjoy the Channel Islands with three nights' B&B at the 5★ Grand Jersey Hotel from £185 with Channel Islands Direct. Ferries from Poole or Weymouth from February 15 to March 17. See jersey.com.org or call 08444 937 486.

SPAIN... spend Valentine's Day in Seville. Lowcost Holidays has two nights at the 4★ Silken Al-Andalus from £298. Departs Stansted on February 13. See lowcostholidays.com or call 0800 111 6271.

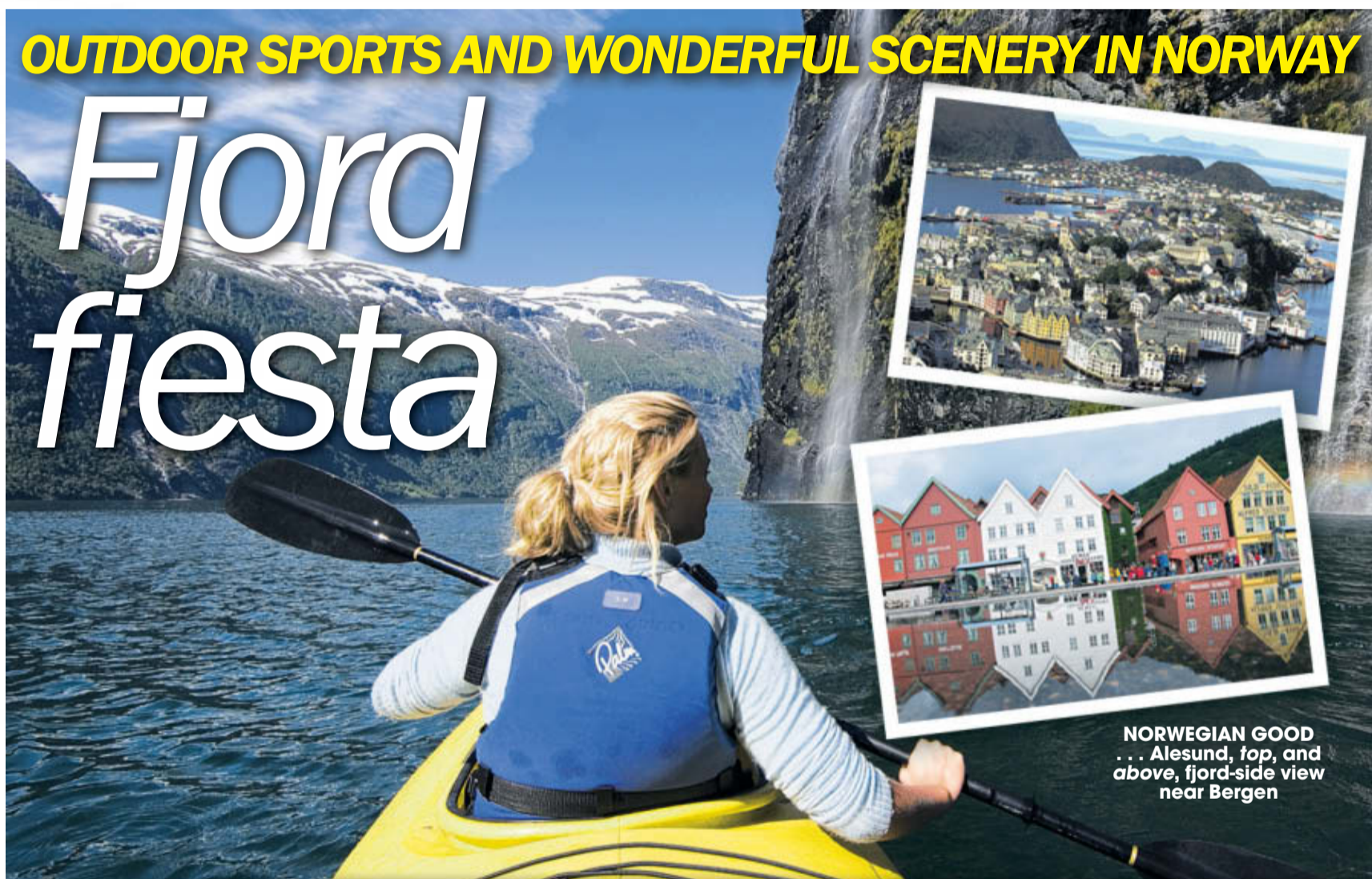
THAILAND... save up to £240 with three nights' B&B at Anantara Bangkok Sathorn and seven at Evason Hua Hin from £799. Book by January 31 for dates from April. Departs from Heathrow. See dealchecker.co.uk or call 020 8588 9909.

MADEIRA... save up to £130 on a week in Canico De Baixo. First Choice has all-inclusive at the 4★ Riu Palace Madeira from £532. Departs East Midlands on January 26. See firstchoice.co.uk or call 0871 200 7799.

DOM REP... seven nights' all-inclusive at the 5★ Bahia Principe Esmeralda is from £859 with Thomas Cook Signature. Departs Gatwick on June 1. See thomascook.com or call 0844 412 5970.

OUTDOOR SPORTS AND WONDERFUL SCENERY IN NORWAY

Fjord fiesta



NORWEGIAN GOOD ... Alesund, top, and above, fjord-side view near Bergen

"I'VE got a massive one!" Peering over the edge of the boat, just off Norway's fishing capital Alesund, I start to reel in my catch.

My first angling adventure was shaping up nicely – the mirror-smooth fjord flanked by mountains, a perfect blue sky and not another boat in sight.

With such stunning scenery, it is easy to see why so many come to Norway for its great outdoors.

You can hike up a hill and paddle a kayak in the same day before refuelling on freshly caught seafood. It's an adventure-junkie's dream.

I started my trip in Bergen, a two-hour flight from London but a world away thanks to its quaint harbour and small-town feel.

Even the McDonald's here is set in a listed building dating from 1710, and comes minus the garish red and yellow logo. Dubbed "the gateway to the fjords", Bergen is Norway's second city and the jumping-off point for Arctic cruises. I

got my bearings by taking the Floibanen funicular railway for a bird's-eye view. Seven minutes after pulling away from the station, I was at the top of Mount Floyen, with Bergen spread out 100ft below.

There were colourful buildings, cobbled streets, hills carpeted in evergreen trees and the jewel in the crown, the Byfjorden fjord.

For a taste of Bergen's fine dining, I took a cable car up to Sky:Skraperen restaurant, with its epic views of the city and fjords.

The food is gourmet. I feasted on salmon sashimi, duck and vanilla tart, complete with edible flowers.

But it's not stuffy. There is a downstairs shower for hungry hikers and the dress code gives a thumbs-up to fluorescent Lycra.

Noisy goats

The next morning, I boarded a four-hour ferry north to Balestrand, on Norway's longest and deepest fjord, Sognefjord.

At our next stop, the Unesco world heritage site of Geirangerfj-



BIG CATCH ... Ellie's seaweed

jord, I clambered into a kayak. We then spent a few hours paddling past waterfalls, the odd cruise liner and herds of noisy goats before lacing up our walking shoes for a mountain hike.

Our guide, Ove, seemed to bounce up the hills, pointing out wild strawberries with his walking stick.

It's not unusual to catch a glimpse of royalty on the mountains. Queen Sonja of Norway is 77, but

still an active walker. Ove told me: "I met her up here once and she said hello."

The trip wrapped up in Alesund, which is known for its art-deco style as well as its fishing.

The sea is key to the town's attraction and even the hotels have got on board. The Bryggen gives its ground-floor guests fishing rods to use from their windows, while a small lighthouse has been made into a luxury boutique room by Hotel Brosundet.

Back on the boat, I was feeling smug as I reeled in my catch. It was so heavy, it had to be a cod.

As the line wound up, it revealed a brilliantly juicy, fat, slithery... piece of seaweed.

The cod may not have bitten but I flew home well and truly hooked.

ELLIE ROSS

● SAS flies from London, Manchester and Edinburgh to Norway from £140 return – see flysas.co.uk. Scandic Strand Hotel, Bergen, costs from £120 a night for B&B – see scandichotels.no. Also, see visitbergen, visitnorway.co.uk and fjordnorway.com.