

● AUSTRIA'S Tyrol Valley is the unlikely inspiration for Center Parcs' hotel at its new Woburn Forest resort.

The 75-room property is at the heart of the resort, which opens on June 20 and is perfect for couples and friends wanting a weekend or short break.

As the picture shows, the

company has not cut any corners on the décor. Rooms are clean and modern with a nod to the outdoors – typical of a quality Alpine resort. As well as doubles and family suites, some rooms have self-catering facilities.

Three-night breaks are from £359; see centerparcs.co.uk/woburn or call 08448 266 266.



● HOW much do you spend abroad? If you're like most people, it's probably more than you think.

Research by the Post Office has found only a third of people on holiday stick to their budget.

Average UK travellers allow for £552 – but then overspend by £242 – nearly 44 per cent more.

But that doesn't make us a nation of spendthrifts.

Brits look for value in a holiday, with more than a quarter booking destinations they've previously found to be good value. Spain, Turkey and Bulgaria were considered best value. France, Dubai and Italy were deemed too pricey by more than half surveyed.

HOT SPOT

TURKEY is 21°C – a seven-night all-inclusive stay at the 5★

Kusadasi Golf & Spa Resort is from £408pp, including flights from Gatwick on May 29. Visit onthebeach.co.uk or call 0871 474 3000.

HOT SPOT

IT'S 31°C in JAMAICA – seven nights' all-inclusive at the 4★ Club

hotel Riu Ocho Rios is from £671pp, saving £523pp. Includes flights from Gatwick on May 12 and transfers. Book at holidayhypermarket.co.uk.

Edited by
LISA MINOT



travel

4 pages
of holidays

... **LAS VEGAS:** Five nights' room-only at the 4★ Planet Hollywood is from £975 pp – saving up to £271pp. Includes Virgin Atlantic flights from Gatwick on May 29. virginholidays.co.uk or call 0844 557 3870.

... **DEVON:** A seven-night self-catering break over the Spring Bank Holiday at Woolacombe Bay Holiday Parks is from £399 for a family of four staying in a Bronze apartment arriving May 23. 0843 208 0368, woolacombe.co.uk

... **TUSCANY:** Seven nights' self-catering at the 4★ Le Cellole near San Gimignano is from £379pp including return flights from Gatwick on May 17. 0843 770 4443/citalia.com.

... **GRAN CANARIA:** Seven nights' B&B at the 4★ BlueBay Beach Club in San Agustín is from £291pp, flying from East Midlands on June 4. 0800 111 6271 or lowcostholidays.com

LATES FOR...

THAILAND: Save nearly 40 per cent on a two-week trip to Cha Am. Prices are from £699pp for 14

nights' room-only at The Regent Cha Am Beach Resort, including flights from Heathrow on selected dates in June when booked by May 19. Visit tropicalsky.co.uk or call 0843 249 5361.

... **LA GOMERA:** Three nights' B&B over the May Bank Holiday at the 4★ Hotel Jardin Tecina on this small Canarian island is from £499pp, including flights from Gatwick on May 23 and land and ferry transfers. Go to fredholidays.co.uk or call 0808 250 7755.

... **BATTLEFIELDS FLANDERS:** A five-day tour from Great Rail Journeys is now from £495pp, including train travel from St Pancras on June 15. With guides, visit Commonwealth cemeteries, explore trenches, witness the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate and explore Talbot House, the Hooge Crater Museum and Bayernwald Trenches. Includes standard-class rail and coach travel, four nights' B&B, two dinners and entrance fees. See GreatRail.com or call 01904 521 980.

... **NORTHUMBERLAND:** Three nights' self-catering at Haven's Berwick Holiday Park over the May Bank Holiday weekend is from £199 per family (saving £110). Based on six sharing standard accommodation arriving May 23. haven.com or call 0871 230 1900.

The Welsh whizzards

LIVING HIGH LIFE IN SNOWDONIA



LEAP OF FAITH ... Ellie and brother at Tree Top Adventure, doing the Powerfan Plummet and, right, on zipwire

I'M standing on the edge of a 100ft drop into Welsh countryside and I don't want to jump.

But I'm on an adventure weekend in Snowdonia with my younger brother and there's no way I'm letting him call me a wuss.

Harnessed and helmeted, I've already survived wobbling over the high ropes course at Tree Top Adventure with him heckling me from behind.

I've even shrugged off the embarrassment of holding up a group of seven-year-old girls as I clambered over hanging tyres.

But the warm-up doesn't prepare me for the Powerfan Plummet – the world's highest parachute simulator.

I'm already out of breath from climbing 100ft to the platform, but I'm now expected to jump off with nothing but a rope to save me.

If it weren't for the sibling rivalry, I'd have chickened out long ago.

I go against my body's instinct for self-preservation and step into thin air.

Plunging for what feels like minutes, I'm suddenly afraid the rope isn't attached to me after all.

Then – finally – my stomach lurches as it catches me and lowers me to the ground. Take that, little bro!

The last time my brother and I went on holiday we argued over a toy and I emptied a carton of milk over his head.

Feeling like Superman

Twenty years on, our manners have improved enough to behave at our home for the night, the Royal Oak Hotel in Betws-y-Coed. In Victorian times this beautiful stone building was a coaching inn. Now walkers and thrill-seekers make up the bulk of its guests, with Mount Snowdon a ten-minute drive away.

We prepare for the next day's action with a dinner of juicy scallops, lamb and a raspberry pavlova in the hotel's plush Llugwy River Restaurant.

The next morning, we drive 15 minutes up the road to our next stop – Zip World. This mile-long zip wire across Penrhyn Quarry is the longest in Europe and the fastest in the world.

It involves flying head-first at up to 100mph down a mountain, over a cliff and across a lake, before crashing into a shock absorber a few feet above ground.

On the launch pad, my brother and I are helped into a press-up position and clipped in to the cable side-by-side.

Hanging there with arms locked behind our backs, we wait for the countdown.

And we're off – dark slate rushes beneath me as I soar over the bright blue lake, feeling like Superman. The whole thing lasts only a minute – but I feel the furthest thing from a wuss. I'm elated and my brother's grin tells me he is too.

We may have grown up since our last holiday, but this has shown we're still big kids.

ELLIE ROSS

GO: WALES

TREE Top Adventure prices start from £28 for adults and £23 for kids. See theadventure.co.uk or call 01690 710 914. Zip World starts from £50 per person. See zipworld.co.uk. Double rooms at the Royal Oak Hotel start from £95 on a B&B basis. See hotel-snowdonia.co.uk or call 01690 710 219.

