

5 PAGES OF HOLIDAYS



Edited by LISA MINOT

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CO-OP CATER FOR DISABLED HOLS

HIGH Street travel agents have been slammed for not catering for disabled people. A survey found 93 per cent of disabled travellers say their holiday choice is restricted because of their disability. Now the Co-op have launched a new tailored service aimed specifically at disabled travellers. The service is available at 40 shops UK-wide with plans to extend to all 410 branches. Employees are up-to-speed with all aspects of holidays for people who require specialist travel. The branches also carry a guide containing information on airport facilities and details of key travel partners in the UK and abroad. Call 0845 266 9228 or see co-operative-travel.co.uk/specialist-travel. NOW iPhone owners can cut down on forward planning for a day out. The AA's new app contains 14,000 entries and 5,000 images showcasing the best of entertainment in Britain.

The app is available for £4.99 at the iTunes store. RYANAIR have launched a holiday home website. The no-frills company now promise "guaranteed best price" holiday accommodation having secured more than 1,000 properties across Italy, France, Spain and Portugal. RyanairLettings.com is aimed at those looking for a value getaway and allows home owners to register their properties on a pay-on-results basis, thus avoiding the usual joining fee. UK holidays are set to become "bite-size" in 2010 as Brits look to the UK for more frequent shorter breaks, according to research from Hoseasons. Their survey found a third of Brits are more likely to do a quick UK trip in 2010 than 2009. Boss Richard Carrick says: "Last year had a big impact on peoples' views of the UK as many rediscovered Britain's fabulous countryside."

VISIT LOCATIONS FOR BEST PICTURE OSCAR HOPEFULS

Academy abroad



THE Oscars ceremony is just three weeks away and while many think James Cameron's Avatar will take the Best Picture gong, there are nine others on the shortlist. These days, an Academy Award-

winning movie's location can be as big a star as the actor in the leading role. So if you've been inspired, why not plan a trip to see the setting? JAMES ELLIS checks out a few of the contenders . . .



LAS VEGAS



UP IN THE AIR GEORGE CLOONEY plays a corporate hatchet man who travels the US, ending up in Vegas. You can try to win big at the dozens of casinos on The Strip. Not a gambler? The shopping is amazing, the nightlife top-drawer. Five nights' room-only at the 5* Hotel At Mandalay Bay costs from £849. Call 0844 573 2460 or see vphhotels.co.uk. Four nights room-only at the 4* Planet Hollywood are from £629 with Gatwick flights before May 5. Call 0871 664 0273, see thomsonairline-made.com.

VENEZUELA



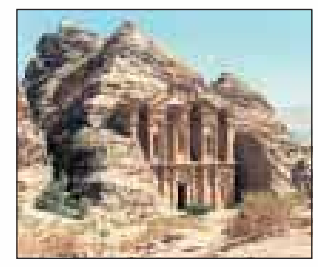
UP YOU don't have to tie balloons to your house to get to South America's Paradise Falls – the ones in this film were based on Venezuela's stupendous Angel Falls. The falls, in the Canaima National Park, are the highest in the world and a Unesco World Heritage site. Sixteen nights in Venezuela including visits to Caracas, the Orinoco River, Indian settlements and Angel Falls costs from £2,349 including flights and some meals. Call 0845 863 9600 or see exodus.co.uk.

SOUTH AFRICA



DISTRICT 9 A SPACESHIP hovers above Johannesburg, the inhabitants are forced to Earth and confined to the District 9 ghetto – a reminder of the apartheid era. In real life, the shopping is amazing and there is a buzz around townships like Soweto and Alexandra. The Cradle Of Humankind is an amazing World Heritage site. Seven nights' B&B in Johannesburg at the 4* Protea Hotel cost from £1,140 including flights from Heathrow. Call 0844 557 3859 or see virginholidays.co.uk.

JORDAN



THE HURT LOCKER THIS Kathryn Bigelow film about a US Army bomb disposal unit in Iraq was filmed in Amman, capital of Jordan. The most westernised city in the Middle East, it is a hotbed of culture and arts with fabulous restaurants and nightlife. Take a trip to the old city, home to souks selling everything from traditional carpets to smoky spices. Four nights' B&B, taking in Petra, Wadi Rum and nights under the stars with Bedouins, costs £938 including Heathrow flights. Call 0844 499 0901 or see explore.co.uk.

GERMANY



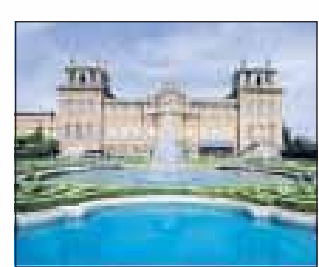
INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS THE dramatic scenes from Quentin Tarantino's World War Two tour de force where Brad Pitt's motley crew hunt Nazi patrols were filmed in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains. The area straddles Germany's Saxony and Bohemia in the Czech Republic. Hikers will love the climbing routes (there are more than 14,000) while the less active can chill in the spa town Bad Schandau. Cities Direct have two nights' B&B at 3* Air hotel from £199. See citiesdirect.co.uk or call 01242 536900.

NEW ZEALAND



AVATAR YOU won't find the blue-skinned Na'vi of James Cameron's sci-fi epic running round in New Zealand, where much of Avatar was filmed. The Lord Of The Rings trilogy and King Kong were also filmed in the country – directors love the fact the landscape bears hardly any sign of mankind in the form of telegraph poles or pylons. The cafes and bars of Wellington – home to Kiwi director Peter Jackson's Weta Workshop – are where movie stars hang out. Fourteen nights in New Zealand (three nights at the 4* Rydges in Auckland, a nine-day self-drive tour and two nights in Wellington at the 3* Mercure) cost from £1,629 per person including flights for departures from May 15. Call 0800 8407 802 or see travelmood.com.

OXFORD



AN EDUCATION JOURNALIST Lynn Barber's autobiographical tale of a young woman who falls for an older man was shot partly in London and around the dreaming spires of Oxford. Visit the Modern Art museum in Oxford, stroll the botanical gardens or head to Blenheim Palace in nearby Woodstock. Nights at the Barcelo Oxford are from £141 per double including breakfast and one dinner. Call 0871 222 3055 or see superbreak.com.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA



THE BLIND SIDE THIS true story of American football star Michael Jerome Oher could help us Brits warm to the game, especially given Sandra Bullock's recent Golden Globe for her performance as his adoptive mother. Scenes were shot in Atlanta where the Martin Luther King Historic Site and World Of Coca-Cola are tourist attractions. Four nights' room-only at the 3* La Quinta Inn cost from £381 including flights from Heathrow on March 9. See ebookers.com.

AMERICAN MID-WEST



A SERIOUS MAN THE Coen brothers filmed in Minneapolis and St Paul – the coolest part of the US Midwest. It has more than 10,000 lakes and the nightlife is great. Nearby Bloomington is a shopper's paradise thanks to the world famous Mall Of America, a shopping complex that even has a theme park. Five nights at the 3* Radisson Hotel Bloomington is from £675 per person for bookings made by March 25. Includes flights from Heathrow. Call 0800 316 0194 or see bon-voyage.co.uk/spotlight.

NEW YORK



PRECIOUS THIS harrowing tale of an obese girl raped by her father is set in late 1980s Harlem – a time when the New York neighbourhood was fraught with drugs, guns and petty crime. Today, it is much more vibrant with top shopping centres, cool restaurants and funky bars. Three nights' room-only at the 3.5* Affinia are from £481 per person in March with flights from Heathrow. Call 0844 493 0758 or see bacom/newyork.

FLORIDA & Caribbean FUN & SUN SAVERS

EASTER 2010 EXTRA SEATS ADDED FROM MANCHESTER DEPARTING GOOD FRIDAY

EASTER 2010 GREAT 14 NIGHT DEALS

Baymont Inn and Suites KISSIMMEE, ORLANDO
FLIGHTS from £699*
14 NIGHTS FROM £495pp**
FLYDRIVES from £749*
HOLIDAYS from £799*

DEP: 02-Apr '10 only based on 2 adults & 2 children with transfers
 2 NIGHTS FREE!

4 bed villa with private pool KISSIMMEE, ORLANDO
14 NIGHTS FROM £619pp**
 DEP: 09-23 Nov '10 based on 4 adults, 4 children + car + insurance
 INCLUDES CAR HIRE & INSURANCE

The Palms Resort BARBADOS
7 NIGHTS FROM £489pp**
 DEP: 30-Apr '10 based on 2 adults with transfers
 BOOK BY FEB 28TH 2010

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BA FIRST IS MORE CLASSY

BRITISH AIRWAYS have revamped their first class offering – which is looking more luxurious than ever. The airline invested £100million in the project and it shows. The beds are 60 per cent wider at the shoulders, passengers now get their own wardrobe, blinds, 15in TV screen, leather bound writing desk that converts into a dining table and an Anya Hindmarch washbag. The revamped first class appeared for the first time last week on board a Boeing 777 bound for Chicago. Actress Rachel Weisz, who was on the flight, said: "For style, service and luxury, it doesn't get better."

BMIBABY have launched a scheme which allows children aged seven to 15 to travel unaccompanied on their flights. See bmibaby.com.

CHIEFS – March 1 is Beer Day in Iceland. It's a celebration of the lifting of an ale ban that lasted from 1915 to 1989. And low cost airline Iceland Express is joining the fun by giving away a free Viking Beer to passengers travelling to and from Reykjavik on the day. All you have to do for your free beer is to spend a fiver on food. See icelandexpress.com.

TRY THIS SNOW MOBILE

THE Ski Club of Great Britain have launched an iPhone app. It features snow reports from 250 resorts, snow depths, on and off piste conditions and skiing and snowboarding news. Download the app from iTunes.com/app/skiclubsnowreports.

IF you want to keep on top of your ski skills with a weekend break, see IGOSKI.co.uk. The site has offers for three nights at 2* hotels in Les Gets, Méribel and Chamonix for two people starting at £343 per person from February 21. Prices include flights from Luton to Geneva and transfers. For more info go to IGOSKI.co.uk or call 0844 770 4074.

THERE are plenty of other ski bargains to be had. Here are a couple.

BULGARIAN BREAK: Seven nights for two people at the 3* Bor Edelweiss Hotel in Borovets is from £199 per person, departing February 20. Price includes return flights from London Gatwick and return resort transfers. Call Inghams Reservations on 020 8780 4447 or see inghams.co.uk

LAPLAND LATE . . . seven nights' half-board at the 4* Holiday Club Spa Hotel in Saariselka is from £399 per person departing February 21. Price includes return flights from Gatwick and transfers. Call Inghams Reservations on 020 8780 4447.