

Corkboard: our weekly travel news round-up

Our weekly look at the new and fun in the world of travel, including a Hi-de-Hi!-themed weekend in Hampshire and a bargain stay in a Cornish clifftop hotel



Laguna Lodge at Ngapali beach, Burma. Photograph: Alamy

Escapism

No sooner have tour operators started promoting Burma again – now Aung San Suu Kyi is free and in favour of tourism – than they're pushing off-the-beaten-track places, including some of the most stunning beaches in Asia. The white sand, palm-tree-lined beaches of Ngapali are available as an extension (for £295pp for three nights) on Explore's new two-week trip, from £1,922 including flights, transport and guide.

- 0844 499 0901, explore.co.uk

Where's hot now?

Maldives (29C)

Soneva Fushi is a relaxed, eco-friendly beach resort on the Baa Atol. Sixty-five villas are scattered along the white sandy beach, an organic garden supplies both restaurants, and the cocktail bar opens at sunset.

- *Exsus (020-7337 9010, exsus.com) has a seven-night half-board stay for £1,988pp (saving up to £890pp) before 19 December, including flights*

Cheap date

If the thought of a fraught family Christmas is getting you down, book some time out pre- or post-yuletide. The Lugger, a cosy clifftop hotel in Doc Martin country (Cornwall to the uninitiated), is offering couples spending £75 in its restaurant in December and January an overnight stay for £20, saving £130.

- *Excludes 22 December-2 January), 01872 501322, luggerhotel.co.uk*

What's new?



Riad Le Nid, Marrakech

Accommodation

One Off Places curates really special self-catering or sole-use properties such as the new Riad Le Nid in Marrakech. Currently still available for Christmas and New Year, this stunning four-bedroom villa with a courtyard and roof terrace costs £700 a night and sleeps eight (that's £87.50pp), including a 24-hour butler, a maid and the option of a private chef.

• oneoffplaces.co.uk

Website

For an aesthetically pleasing home swap, see new website lovehomeswap.com – as long as you promise to tidy up first, you can trade your home for one of hundreds of stylish properties. Choose from a weekend away or a summer holiday in one of thousands of homes in 70 countries. Sign up for a trial for just £1 and start searching for the perfect pad.

Offer

Many of Scotland's top attractions will throw open their doors to visitors for free this weekend as part of the St Andrew's Day Celebrations.

• scotland.org/culture/festivals/st-andrews-day/whats-on--visit-for-free/

Weird World

Claustrophobics may want to give Northumberland's newest tourist attraction a miss. The Flodden Visitor Centre, which commemorates the Battle of Flodden, when the English defeated an invading Scots army, is actually a telephone box. The battle's 500th anniversary in 2013 is expected to attract thousands of visitors. Form an orderly queue now, folks ...

• flodden.net

Travel trash

Worried about thieves grabbing your jewellery when you're away? Invest in some "travel diamonds", lightweight, fake and dare we say pointless alternatives to the real thing, which cost from £20. As the PR blurb says: "because nobody will know you're not wearing real diamonds apart from you!" ... not even the muggers who will still attack you for them, right?

• traveldiamonds.co.uk

Tweet ur trip

Strangest holiday meal

Had tuna and banana mashed together at a camp in Botswana! Wrong!
[@baileytravels](https://twitter.com/baileytravels)

In Prague, steak and dumplings topped with sliced orange, strawberry jam, whipped cream and a cherry on top! [@littlemumbles](https://twitter.com/littlemumbles)

• **Next week: your oddest travel companion**

Trend alert! ... Retro holidays

Good morning campers! If you thought the heyday of the good old British holiday camp was long over, think again: Mill Rythe Holiday Village is resurrecting a golden age with Hi-de-Hi!-themed weekends next year. The forcibly fun-packed breaks take place on Hayling Island, Hampshire, rather than (fictional) Crimpton-on-Sea, Essex, but the spirit of Maplins remains. Expect wake-up calls from cheery Yellowcoats, prepare to be roped into knobbly knees and glamorous granny competitions, and strike a pose alongside authentic scenery and memorabilia from the hit BBC show. Evening entertainment includes headline act Cannon and Ball plus a special guest appearance from an as-yet unnamed star of the series (fingers crossed for Su Pollard). Go to bed at a decent hour with "Goodnight campers, see you in the morning" ringing in your ears. A retro break for fans of the show and lovers of all things kitsch alike – glamping it ain't.

• From £139pp for a three-night break on 28 September 2012, 02392 460044, millrytheholidayvillage.com