



Sean Bean: 'Turning 60 was a relief'

Plus Gennaro Contaldo's easy pasta recipes

Weekend

Travel Starts on page 25



Empty nest

Can your marriage

survive without the kids?

At last! We can do that trip around the world

Maybe I could do that trip on my own

The 50 best autumn breaks



The perfect time for a trip to Rome



Cosy hotels in Scotland



Explore the Georgian hills

Travel tips



New Pig at Hariyn Bay

The next Pig hotel in the litter opens in June in Hariyn Bay, Cornwall, and you can book one of its 30 bedrooms from next month. The most-coveted accommodation will likely be the hotel's four Shepherd's Huts, situated en route to its kitchen gardens. Other rooms are in the stables and the main house, the origins of which date from the 16th century. Rooms cost from £155 a night (thepighotel.com). The Pig will open a new property in the South Downs in spring 2012.

Wow Air returns

Abruptly declared bankrupt in March — stranding thousands of passengers in the process — Icelandic low-cost carrier Wow Air is being revived by American company USAerospace Associates. It will relaunch with just two planes in October, running from Washington DC to Keflavik, with the aim of having more than ten aircraft by next summer. While its new owners are collaborating with a three-star Michelin chef on inflight meals and plan to offer all passengers airport-lounge access, they have pledged that fares will remain low.



Fall in New England — at a price

The US state of Vermont is almost 80 per cent woodland and, for those who want to get the best of the autumn colours, has its own "fall foliage forecaster". You can see the leafy spectacle in style at the Twin Farms, left, in the town of Barnard, which is set among 300 acres of forest. It's all-inclusive, and so exclusive that there are no menus — you simply order whatever you want at any time. The downside? It costs from £1,100 a night (twinfarms.com).

Pioneering snow leopard expedition

Silk Road Adventures (017 427 0129, silkroad-adventures.com) is the first tour operator to offer expeditions tracking snow leopards in Central Asia. Split evenly between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, the 11-night tour also allows visitors to set and analyse camera traps for conservation groups. The inaugural departure, on January 29, 2020, costs from £6,750pp full board, including all transfers, guiding and some lectures, but not UK flights. **Jane Knight**



Leiden, the Netherlands

Travel doctor



it doesn't have to be luxurious.
Jennifer Marks, via email

A Pack your wellies and head for the Fox and Hounds Country Hotel in Eggesford, north Devon, which has private rights on a five-mile stretch of the River Taw, as well as two practice lakes stocked with trout where you could take a half or full-day fly-fishing course at a school on site.

Fishing breaks, which run from March to the end of September, start at £268pp for two nights, including half-board, a fishing guide with beat maps and tips, a boxed selection of flies and a packed lunch on one day. Add £120 for half-day private tuition or guiding, or £175 for a full day (foxandhoundshotel.co.uk).

Alternatively, the Meikleour Arms (meikleourarms.co.uk) is a stylish boutique hotel and pub in Perthshire, in the middle of the Meikleour Estate, known as one of the best salmon beats in Scotland. It runs fly-fishing courses a few times a year (dates for 2020 have yet to be finalised), or you can book a one-day session for £360pp from January to May

with Tay Salmon (taysalmon.co.uk).

A double room with a super-king bed would cost £250 B&B for two nights in April; it also has one-bedroom cottages in its walled garden from £290.

Q My husband and I will be celebrating our tenth wedding anniversary next month. Our wedding was outside in beautiful autumn colours, so we are keen to find similar and spend a week hiking. We don't fly, so need to be able to get there by train from Essex.
Laura Webster, via email

A Saxon Switzerland would be a glorious spot for hiking among autumn foliage. On the German and Czech border, it is Saxony's only national park (saechsische-schweiz.de) and full of hiking trails; one of its highlights is Bastei Bridge, hidden among sandstone rocks above the Elbe River. It's easily accessible from Dresden, which you could reach in less than 12 hours by rail via Brussels and Frankfurt, or Prague with an overnight journey.

Julia Brookes is the Travel Doctor

Q It is our 40th wedding anniversary on April 12 next year and this happens to be Easter Sunday. We'd like a five-day holiday in a European city that we can reach by rail in a day and where we can visit art galleries, but we want to avoid the crowds. Is this possible?
Robert Charlton via email

A Head for Leiden, a lovely quiet city in the south of the Netherlands which is the birthplace of Rembrandt. Its Museum De Lakenhal (lakenhal.nl), full of Dutch golden age paintings, has recently reopened after a two-year, multimillion-euro makeover. It is one of a clutch of great museums here; there's also a wonderful botanic garden, the oldest in the country, where tulips were first grown in the Netherlands.

Stay at De Barones van Leyden (boutiquehotelsvanleyden.nl), a cosy 400-year-old hotel with only five rooms; a double with a view of the canal would cost £688 for four nights from April 10. The train journey to Leiden takes about four hours from London St Pancras International with Eurostar, with a change of platforms in Rotterdam.

For other ideas of great rail breaks in Europe, see thetimes.co.uk/trains. And be sure to check out the website seat6l.com, which gives plenty of tips and ideas on train travel.

Q We are a retired couple who would like to learn to fish on a river somewhere in the UK. We live in the southeast but would travel anywhere in the country to experience beautiful countryside and stay somewhere nice;

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Don't put up with this

Overcharged by airline after a late arrival

We booked flights to St Barts with Air France, but were late setting off for Heathrow and arrived in the nick of time for the deadline for checking in bags. We had checked ourselves in online. We found nobody manning the check-in desks and the lights were turned off. We were told that our tickets couldn't be changed and the only way to get to St Barts was to buy new ones from KLM (although we were still Air France passengers, according to the new tickets). We'll be away for a month and will take the flight home that we originally booked, but our existing club reservations are now void and we're going back economy. Is there any way that we can get at least a partial refund?
Adam Sweeting, via email

You're very lucky. You were marked as a no-show because you arrived too late

for the baggage drop, but it seems that mistakes were made in booking your new tickets, which cost an extra £561.40 each. An Air France spokeswoman said: "Both passengers are entitled to a refund of £120 due to an overcharge at the airport. As a gesture of goodwill in view of the handling of the flight-rebooking service we are happy to offer travel vouchers to the value of £561 each, and we have reissued both tickets to reflect the original business-class booking."

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