

news THE most spectacular way to see the Grand Canyon isn't by helicopter or hiking it — it's to skydive into it.

The Canyon is accessible from Las Vegas, making the extreme adventure a highlight of a Sin City break. Bon Voyage offer a tandem skydiving day-trip to the canyon. The experience includes transfers (with a pit-stop at Hoover Dam), tuition and a scenic flight to jumping altitude, which lies a dizzying two miles above ground, and parachute jump.

Bon Voyage can package the skydive experience with flights from Glasgow, and include three nights at the 5★ MGM Hotel from £1,095pp, two sharing. See bon-voyage.co.uk or call 0800 316 0194.



BEST VALUE PLACES

HOLIDAY experts at Barrhead Travel have revealed where to head to this summer for the best dose of sunshine – and crucially, where offers the best value for money.

Not surprisingly Majorca, above, remains the firm favourite for couples and families alike. Orlando, above, comes in a close second but Mexican hot-spot, Cancun, also features in the top ten, with popular summer-sun destinations such as Alicante and Dalaman in Turkey also appealing to both types of holiday-makers.

Dining out in Sunny Beach in Bulgaria or the Algarve is on average up to 54 per cent cheaper than the UK equivalent while enjoying an ice-cold bottle of beer in a bar or restaurant in the Costa del Sol costs an average £1.80 – that's more than half the price of the UK average of £4.30.

Sharon Munro, president of Barrhead Travel, said: "There is unbelievable value to be had on last minute holidays this year. From all-inclusive cruising in the Med to a family beach-break in Salou, there are plenty of options for every type of traveller.

"If you're trying to budget with the kids in mind, all-inclusive could be the perfect option as you get everything included in the price, plus most resorts have brilliant kids' club facilities on offer. Many cruise lines also offer all-inclusive options, meaning you could visit multiple destinations in one trip this summer without worrying about mounting costs.

Barrhead Travel's late getaways for holidays to Orlando start from £478pp and self-catering trips to the Canaries from £267pp. See barrheadtravel.co.uk or call 0141 222 2223 for more information.



TRAVEL SOLO STYLE

IT can be hard for single travellers to find a place they can be comfortable in on holiday but the gorgeous Mistral Hotel in Crete is a solos hotel, welcoming those who holiday alone.

Set in the quiet village of Maleme, ten miles west of the Venetian harbour town of Chania, it has 35 stylish rooms, two swimming pools and an outdoor jacuzzi surrounded by spacious terraces and mature gardens.

Adding to their appeal is the spa facility, letting guests enjoy therapies and fully relax.

The hotel's menu showcasing the best of Cretan cuisine and the flavours of the Mediterranean diet. See singlesin-crete.com.

bargain THERE are still plenty of deals to be snapped up this summer. A week self-catering in the 3★ Kamari Studios and Apartments in Corfu, leaving Glasgow on July 8, is from £287pp. A week B&B at the 3★ Hotel Korona in Bulgaria is from £347pp, leaving Edinburgh on July 2. Seven nights' self-catering in the 3★ Pantheon is from £347pp, leaving Glasgow on August 27 while a week B&B in the 3★ Parque Vacacional Eden is from £437pp, leaving Edinburgh on September 4. Seven nights' self-catering in the 3★ Portofino-Sorrento Apartments is from £1157 for a family of three, leaving Glasgow on August 18. To book, see barrheadtravel.co.uk or call 0141 222 2223.

ENNISKILLEN RESORT ON LAKE IS PEACEFUL RETREAT

Finn-credible



TRANQUIL... Jean & David



RELAXATION... Jean had a magical time and loved staying at the lakeside lodge

TRANQUILITY really doesn't come much better than this.

My best pal, David, and I enjoyed a few days' break at at Finn Lough Resort in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh.

The resort is built around a lake, and frankly, we took to it like ducks to, erm, water.

And speaking of water, the trip across the Irish Sea to reach our destination couldn't have been simpler.

We drove down from Glasgow to Cairnryan and boarded the P&O Ferry for the two-hour crossing to Larne.

Our tickets included an upgrade to the Club Lounge on-board. It was a real treat to have complimentary magazines, refreshments and WiFi (that actually worked) while we relaxed in the spacious lounge surroundings.

It was so peaceful that I even had a little snooze before we ordered some soup and sandwiches from the food menu before we arrived.

Our lodge on the lake was perfect

There's something soothing about travelling on the sea. Sailing in style definitely beats hanging around a dull airport for hours waiting to board a flight.

The ferry crossing was the perfect start to what was set to be a very relaxing few days.

When we arrived in Larne we disembarked with zero fuss and drove straight off the boat and on to the country road to Enniskillen.

It was a beautiful sunny day and the scenery on the drive was heavenly. We took a short detour to enjoy a seven-mile forest drive to Lough Navar Viewpoint (part of the Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark).

The viewpoint offers a bird's eye view across the water and far into the counties of Fermanagh, Sligo, Tyrone and Donegal and even as far as the Atlantic.

The Finn Lough Resort is nestled among rolling green fields and woodland of Enniskillen. As we drove up to the large iron gated estate, we knew we were in for a real treat. The tranquil lake that the resort is built around had us mesmerised as we sat by its shores, kayaked



GO: FERMANAGH

STAYING THERE: Luxury Suite at Finn Lough start from £150 a night B&B, Lakeside Suite from £160, 5★ Lake House from £135 self-catering, based on a 2 nights minimum; 5★ Waterside Cottage from £225 self-catering, based on a 2 nights minimum; Forest Bubble Dome from £225 including breakfast. All rates for two Sunday-Thursday. See finnlough.com

MORE INFO: See ireland.com



over its surface or just skimmed stones by twilight.

The lodge we booked on the lake was perfect. It had three floors of very tasteful décor and was furnished with the emphasis on space, not clutter.

With not one but three spacious bedrooms the lodge could easily accommodate a family.

After ooh-ing and ah-ing at all the quirky amenities like the

espresso machine, log fire and record player, David and I had a lovely walk by the lake to work up an appetite before dinner.

The lake was so calm and picturesque that we immediately felt relaxed before we dined in the main house at Finn Lough.

The lodge was more than equipped for self-catering but David and I aren't the best

cooks and cheesy pasta each evening would have been depressing to say the least!

So we went all out and got dressed up to dine in the high-class restaurant, where local produce is the main focus of the menu. We were treated like VIPs by the very attentive staff who explained the menu in detail before taking our order.

David had a wild garlic and asparagus soup (grown on site) and I had the scallops with octopus scampi for starter. We both had the beef fillet for main which was cooked perfectly to our desired choice.

And as if that wasn't enough we had a cheeseboard to finish. The dishes were almost too pretty to eat but we did manage to quickly get some snaps for our social media accounts before tucking into food heaven on a plate. After

dinner we took some snacks and a bottle of bubbles down by the lake with some cosies blankets and take in the night air by the fire pit before bed – it was the perfect end to a relaxing day.

Continuing with the relaxation theme the following day, we visited the resort's Element Trail Experience. The forest spa is set among woodland at the water's edge. The two-hour trail includes a salt room with float pool, lakeside sauna, aromatherapy cabin, hot tub looking over the bay and a fireside relaxation room.

It was definitely a unique spa and walking around the forest in our bathrobes and slippers enjoying all the different experiences was magical. Feeling refreshed from unwinding at the spa, we borrowed the resort's mountain bikes and headed on the woodland trail to the

small island of Lusty Beg for lunch. Whether it's a refreshing pint of Guinness (like us) or a dish of fresh local produce you fancied, the Island Restaurant has it all and offers a warm Fermanagh welcome.

We were lucky enough to see a beautiful bridal party have their photos taken on the island in the bright sunshine with a stunning

back drop of greenery and water.

The trail we took was about five miles and was packed with wildlife and beautiful spring flowers. We were even greeted by some baby lambs that came right up to us to say hi although I think David was slightly concerned for our safety when their mammy came thundering over to chase them away.

Ireland has always been a favourite of mine to visit and enjoy the outdoors but there was something extra special about Fermanagh.

I think the peacefulness, the lake and the idyllic setting won it for us.

David and I have made a pact to make this an annual trip but next time we will stay a bit longer to let the Irish spoil us even more with what they have on offer.

JEAN YOUNG



DISCOVER SANTA BARBARA

SANTA Barbara in California has been nicknamed the American Riviera with a twist, due to its Mediterranean year-round temperature and iconic Spanish colonial revival architecture.

And like the Med's most popular destination, you can enjoy Santa Barbara without the need for a car – very unusual in the USA. Santa Barbara Car Free has teamed up with Amtrak to give visitors exclusive discounts to multiple attractions throughout the city.

All you need to do is show your train tickets (paper, e-ticket or mobile device) and you get perks at participating attractions, restaurants and hotels, including the Santa Barbara Adventure Company, the Santa Barbara Zoo and Eat This, Shoot That! food and wine tours. Book train tickets through Santa Barbara Car Free's website and save up to 20 percent on fares. So fly into LA and get the train there. See santabarbaracarfree.org

The city has plenty of hotels, inns, private apartments and condos to stay in. The Fess Parker: A Doubletree by Hilton Resort, is one of Santa Barbara's iconic resorts in the waterfront area.

Built in 1986, the hotel was originally named after the late Fess Parker, the Hollywood TV and film actor known for his portrayal of Davy Crockett but since the 360-room property recently had a \$15million interior renovation and rebranding, it is now known as Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort.

Or you could opt for a stay at the Harbor View Inn, Santa Barbara's premier four diamond boutique hotel, which will complete an expansion this month, adding 34 guest rooms and suites to the family friendly resort. See harborview-innsb.com

Throughout the summer, events celebrate everything from polo to the city's cocktail scene, with a programme of concerts including Jack White – to enjoy at Santa Barbara Bowl to raise funds to help those affected by the Montecito mudslides. See sbbowl.com

Polo season at Santa Barbara Polo Raquet Club runs until October at the Engel Völkers Polo Stadium with matches open to the public (tickets are \$12).

The club has a happy hour on Fridays throughout the season and on Sundays, hosts Polo After Hours, a party with dancing to music by DJ Fab. See sbpolo.com

And then head to any of the many bars throughout Santa Barbara to enjoy its cocktail culture. For more info, see santabarbara.com



Buy One, Get One FREE!*

BOOK BY 30th June 2018

Canada in the Fall Cruise

33 days from £4,169 for two, sailing from Rosyth on board Marco Polo, departs 30th August 2019

Discover the majestic Eastern Seaboard and cosmopolitan Quebec and Montreal on this very special cruise.

Cruise highlights

- Journey through the Canadian Maritimes, including Halifax and Prince Edward Island
- Cruise the length of the St Lawrence, calling at Québec, Montréal and Sanguenay
- Explore Newcastle, Glengarriff, St John's, Baie-Comeau, Havre St Pierre, Corner Brook, Sydney (Nova Scotia) & Cobh
- Traditional British & International cuisine, stylish entertainment, guest lecturers & on-board leisure facilities
- 32 nights' full board accommodation on board Marco Polo

Call 0330 331 0871 quoting code **TSU**

www.thesuntravel.co.uk/newmarket-canada

These holidays are organised & operated by Newmarket Holidays Ltd. ABTA V7812. Subject to availability. Single supplements apply. Fares exclude gratuities. Standard phone charges. Prices above are per person for the lowest available cabin type. A selection of cabin types is available at ranging prices. All prices are extremely limited & may be withdrawn without notice. Prices correct at time of going to print. Please check online for latest prices and availability. *Book by 30 June 2018. The first person pays the price shown and the second passenger travels free. Offer subject to availability & may be withdrawn at any time.

