

MercuryHolidays

OFFER CODE: MJAL13

4★ MAURITIUS
A week All-Inclusive
FROM £949* £49
LOW DEPOSIT*

4★ JALSA BEACH HOTEL & SPA

This superb hotel overlooks the Indian Ocean and the stunning sandy lagoon on the beautiful east coast of Mauritius.

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- All Inclusive includes: All meals daily, plus selected snacks and local alcoholic and soft drinks*
Air-conditioned en suite room offering a balcony/terrace
Return flights from London. Other regional flights available at a supplement
Return transfers and representative service

PLUS:

- Upgrade to a deluxe seaview room from just £7 per person daily

2019-2020 PRICES

Table with columns: All Inclusive, 1 wk, 10 nts. Rows for months Jul to Jan/Feb with prices in GBP and USD.

OTHER DURATIONS & DATES ARE AVAILABLE

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ABTA 30 YEARS OF AWARD WINNING SERVICE

MALTA

MercuryHolidays

OFFER CODE: MSOA13

4★ MALTA
2 weeks All-Inclusive
with a 3rd week FREE
FROM £439*

4★ SOREDA HOTEL

This popular hotel boasts a range of fantastic guest facilities and is located in a peaceful part of Qawra.

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- All-Inclusive includes: All meals daily, snacks, tea and cakes, selected local alcoholic and soft drinks*
Air-conditioned/heated en suite room with a balcony
Return flights from London. Other regional flights are available at a supplement
Return transfers and rep. service in resort

PLUS:

- Upgrade FREE 3rd week to All-Inclusive for £20pp daily

2019/2020 PRICES

Table with columns: All-Inclusive (3rd wk on B&B if FREE), 2 wks, 3rd wk. Rows for months Aug to Feb with prices in GBP and USD.

OTHER DURATIONS & DATES ARE AVAILABLE

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Identify the location of our monthly mystery travel picture and you could win three superb DK guide books worth up to £19.99 each. For July, it's a world-famous scenic train. Enter online and name the country it's in at mirror.co.uk/travel

Travel test

BY ADAM ASPINALL

WHAT: Norwegian Flex economy flight D17173 from Gatwick to San Francisco, from £304 return norwegian.com.

EXPERIENCE: I was a little unsure about what to expect when I realised I would be flying 11 hours in economy on a low-cost airline.

Like most people I had only crossed the pond in economy with more expensive carriers and saved the low-cost trips for short hops to Europe.

So I was interested to see what the difference was and I was pleasantly surprised to find that, at least in terms of comfort, there was no difference at all.

If anything I found the crossing a more relaxing experience than usual with ample legroom and excellent service.

No doubt part of that was because I was flying on a brand new state-of-the-art Boeing 787 Dreamliner.



This craft boasts large windows, mood lighting and is pressurised to 6,000ft instead of the 8,000ft on conventional aircraft. The theory is this makes for a more comfortable flying experience and in my opinion it did seem to reduce the effects of jetlag.
QUIBBLES: As comfortable as it was there is a reason Norwegian is a low-cost airline and the devil is in the detail.

There is a myriad of information on their website about what type of ticket you can buy across different categories such as LowFare, LowFare+ and Flex in economy as well as Premium and EconomyFlex.

It pays to do your homework in advance to ensure you know what your baggage allowance is and whether a meal is included, for example.

Also, in economy, remember to bring earphones as they are not included in the ticket and you'll have to pay for them on board.
VERDICT: You cannot argue with the price of an economy flight to San Francisco. I found the journey as comfortable as any I have ever been on and, as long as the prices remain this competitive, I see little reason not to fly with them again.

8/10

TRAVEL
edited by NIGEL THOMPSON Great getaway ideas and travel tips you can trust at mirror.co.uk/travel

All par for the course

Nic Brook is in awe as he heads back to the golfing wonderland of Northern Ireland ahead of The Open



Is it possible to have unrequited love for a golf course? If it is, then I think that would sum up my relationship with the Dunluce links at Royal Portrush, on Northern Ireland's Antrim coast.

I've made a dozen or more pilgrimages to the venue of this year's Open Championship, which starts on July 18, and while I really like the place, I sense it doesn't feel the same way about me.

Three. You see a pattern here? It's been so frustrating to endure such torment on such a majestic golf course. The layout is fair, but always seems just too demanding for my amateur game. You think I'm going to quit? Not a chance!

I do get the impression that I'm not the only one to struggle here. The 16th is called Calamity Corner, and at 236 yards of raw carry, usually into the prevailing gale, is one of the most exhilarating challenges you're ever likely to find on a golf course.

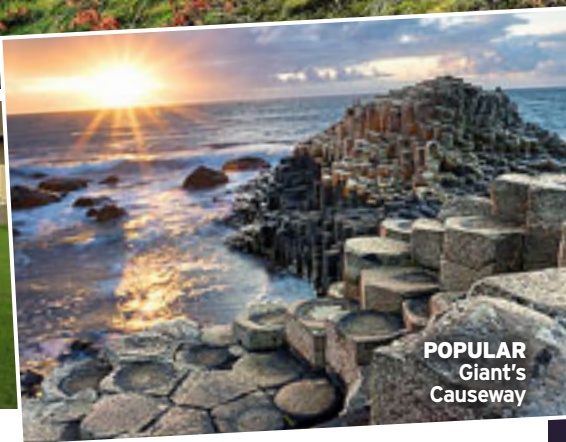
It is easily the hardest links course I've ever played and I just can't get enough of the place. One golfer who hasn't suffered such demons is local favourite Rory McIlroy. He famously knocked it round Royal Portrush in 61 shots when he was just 16, and will be one of the favourites for this year's Open. The 2014



CONFIDENT NIC First tee at Royal Portrush

champion, from Holywood, Co Down has this to say about golf in his homeland: "For me, Northern Ireland really is made for golf. I'd urge anyone who hasn't played on one of our many superb courses to give it a go. It really is one special place to play the game."

Calamity Corner is one of the most exciting challenges you'll ever find



POPULAR Giant's Causeway

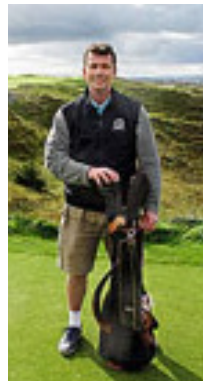


COSY The Bushmills Inn

Portstewart's front nine holes career naturally through some of the most fabulous dunes, making it crazy golf on a grand scale.
Castlerock is less renowned, but no less worth a visit. The clubhouse is smaller and somehow more intimate, the welcome is warm and genuine -

this is great golfing land. These two seaside courses, the Strand course at Portstewart and the Mussenden links at Castlerock, straddle adjacent banks of the River Bann, and are both superb. If you visit the region in the summer, take advantage of the Lough Foyle ferry operating between Magilligan and Greencastle in neighbouring Co Donegal. Ballyliffin, host to The Irish Open last year, isn't far away, and is one of the friendliest and most welcoming clubs you'll ever find. Two courses there, the Glashedy and Old Links make the journey worthwhile.

In the old days, one of the problems visitors faced in Northern Ireland was the fact that tourist facilities were pretty basic. That's no longer the case. Tourism is booming and the province has plenty to show off. The Causeway Coastal Route from Belfast to Derry is regarded as one of the world's best roads to drive, and Northern Ireland has really upped its game when it comes to welcoming not just golfing pilgrims.



EXHILARATING Calamity Corner

Get there

- Flights to Belfast are available from airports across the UK; ferries from Liverpool and Cairnryan and also Cairnryan to Larne. Castlerock GC green fees from £100 (Mussenden Course, castlerockgc.co.uk). Portstewart GC green fees from £60 (Strand Course, portstewartgc.co.uk). Royal Portrush GC green fees from £120 (Dunluce Course Nov-Dec, £220 Jul 25-Oct 31, royalportrushgolfclub.com).
Golf packages available at golfbreaks.com and yourgolftrip.com
Rooms at the Bushmills Inn start at £170 a night B&B. bushmillsinn.com
Tourist info: ireland.com



Northern Ireland. And there's a great pride in the rich variety of local produce in this rich agricultural region, so you'll find some fine dining to complement some great apres-golf.

Bushmills village is home not only to the world's oldest licensed whiskey distillery, but also two excellent restaurants - The Bushmills Inn and Tartine. Both worth booking well in advance of any trip.

And when you're at Portrush don't leave without a walk down to Willie Gregg's Harbour Bar for the finest pint (or three...) of Guinness in Co Antrim.

So if you enjoy golf and you've never played in Northern Ireland, sign up soon. Once the TV cameras pan across its raw and rugged rippling dunes during The Open, Portrush is set to become the hottest ticket in golf travel. Just make sure you've enough balls!

Royal Portrush reopens for visitors on Thursday, 25th July.
travel.saga.co.uk/cruises



Picture CHRIS ISON

Cruise news

BY DAVE MONK

From its bright yellow funnel to dark blue hull, Spirit of Discovery heralds a whole new era of sailing for the over-50s.

Until now, passengers with Saga Cruises had to put up with older, but much-loved, ships. Spirit of Discovery - named yesterday by Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, in Dover - is the first vessel built to appeal to older Brits. But don't go thinking this is some kind

of floating retirement home. The 999-passenger ship is stylish and bright like a boutique hotel with some stunning public areas, such as the soaring atrium staircase, the impressive two-level grand dining room and the spacious Britannia Lounge with its sweeping views of the sea. Spirit of Discovery even looks good from the back, with layers of terraces leading up to an open-deck dining area. Cruise traditionalists will love the wide, wrap-around promenade deck and central lido pool. Lively shows are performed

nightly in a 440-seat theatre. Britons, who make up the vast majority of Saga's passengers, will appreciate the familiar three-pin sockets and the London registry proudly displayed on the hull - as well as the choices of back bacon, fried bread and black pudding for breakfast and a kettle to make tea in their cabins. The ship carries 1,000 works of art - 400 of them by British painters, craftspeople and sculptors - and suits

are named after eight areas in the Radio 4 shipping forecast. In a first for Saga, every cabin has a balcony. Guests can dine at seafood and Asian speciality restaurants, attend a Jools Holland club where the man himself will occasionally play, and enjoy a choice of lounges and bars. All-inclusive fares mean not having to worry about tips, wi-fi charges or buying drinks. Kent-based Saga will even provide a chauffeur-driven car to pick you up for your holiday and drop you back afterwards. I was the first journalist on board the £300million Spirit of Discovery when it arrived in Dover last Friday, June 28, and rejoined the German-made ship as it was due to sail to Zeebrugge in Belgium

on a two-day mini cruise the following Tuesday. A "slight technical hitch" meant the crossing was cancelled and instead we sailed along the Kent coast but I'm assured all will be well for the first public voyage - a cruise round the British Isles departing on Wednesday, July 10. Innovations aren't always welcomed by baby boomers. But energetic over-50s who enjoy good food, relaxed travel and elegant surroundings are bound to enjoy getting into the Spirit. travel.saga.co.uk/cruises



Disney's new hulla-Baloo

Two of Disney's best-loved movies have been brought to life at Disneyland Paris.

The Lion King and Jungle Festival opened last week, with exclusive new shows, parades and merchandise.

The plains of Africa get the full Disney treatment in The Lion King: Rhythms of the Pride Lands, which tells the legend of Simba, Nala, Rafiki, Mufasa, Scar, Timon and Pumba.

Singers, dancers, acrobats and drummers add a new dimension, with original routines and costumes, as well as songs from the movie celebrating the Circle of Life. The show will also be performed in sign language every weekend.

And in The Jungle Book Jive, the magic of India will delight fans of the classic movie.

Baloo and King Louie will be accompanied by artists from India, inviting guests of all ages to swing along to the sound of The Bare Necessities and I Wanna Be Like You.

Both shows will be running until September 22. A two-night/three-day package starts from £1,746.63 based on two adults and two children sharing a Cars Standard Room at Disney's Hotel Santa Fe, including three-day park hopper tickets with unlimited access to Disneyland Park and Walt Disney Studios Park, and return travel with Eurostar, departing July 22. disneylandparis.co.uk

TOMORROW SUNDAY Mirror Caribbean paradise Dominica, Greek islands cruise, wild family break at Port Lympe, Hotel of the Week

Holiday pound table with columns for currency and rate. Includes Euro, Australian Dollar, Bulgarian Lev, Canadian Dollar, Croatian Kuna, Czech Koruna, Egyptian Pound, New Zealand Dollar, Polish Zloty, South African Rand, Swiss Franc, Thai Baht, Turkish Lira, UAE Dirham, US Dollar.