

Travel



Picture postcard scenery in the Dolomites

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HELPING YOU SAVE WITH LOW-COST GETAWAYS AND FAMILY FAVOURITES



Take a hike!

Treading carefully: A couple of walkers attempt to cross a stream on their way up the Langdale Pikes, which you can walk from the New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel (below).

British Break

By Adrian Caffery

ASCENDING the Langdale Pikes in the Lake District we suddenly realised that we'd have to ford a stream if we were to reach the top.

The family walking ahead of us, including a girl of about seven, managed to negotiate the fast-flowing waters, so it couldn't be that difficult, we thought.

But when we reached the crossing point we were flummoxed. Surely, you would need the legs of Peter Crouch to stride across



the half-submerged 'stepping stones'.

We had resigned ourselves to making a shame-faced about-turn when the little girl up ahead noticed our predicament and urged her father to come to our rescue.

He heroically pointed out the secret of the 'hidden' stones and

reached out a helping hand as we gingerly made our way across.

On days when the water is high, the crossing can be too hazardous and so some rock scrambling is in order to reach a path on the same side of the stream.

The Langdale Pikes is undoubtedly one of the finest one-day walks in the country and was pretty busy even on the dull October day we visited. Along the way, there are a series of impressive waterfalls, a large tarn 1,500ft up and some wonderful views of the Langdale Valley to enjoy.

The walk starts and ends at The New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel, surely one of the best walking hotels in all the Lake District.

The family-owned hotel is the perfect place to both prepare for

your walk with a hearty breakfast and enjoy a well-earned drink on your return.

The hotel offers high quality cuisine, roaring log fires and some of the finest scenery in the Lake District from the extremely comfortable bedrooms.

Best of all, some of Britain's best walks are literally on the doorstep and guests can tackle a different one every day of the week.

Getting There

The New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel, Great Langdale, near Ambleside. From April 2 to July 22, five nights dinner, bed and breakfast costs £279pp in a standard room and £304pp in a superior room. Until October 1, any three-night bed and breakfast break costs £99pp. Tel 01539 437213 or click on www.dungeon-ghyll.com

Holiday Deals

Paris / Budapest, B&B

2 nights from £186

Sample a two-night break to Paris, departing from Luton on April 19. Enjoy B&B accommodation at the 2-star Altona Hotel from £186 per person, based on two adults sharing. Alternatively, try a two-night break to Budapest, departing from Luton on May 4. Enjoy B&B accommodation at the 2-star Bara Junior Hotel from £199 per person, based on two adults sharing. For details call 0845 266 9366 or visit www.co-operativetravel.co.uk

Easter at golfing hotel

Family room, £318

The four-star Vale Golf Hotel and Spa in Wales is offering a family Easter weekend break for £318 per room for two nights. This price includes a free in-room movie, an Easter egg hunt and egg painting for children, an Easter egg in the room upon arrival for each child, a junior golf clinic, junior gym club, dinner each night in the Vale Grill and daily Welsh breakfast. This offer is valid for stays between April 2 and 5. The hotel has no shortage of things to keep the whole family entertained, boasting an extensive health club and crèche combined with championship golf courses and Wales' largest spa, all set in 650 acres of Welsh countryside. For further information and reservations call 01443 667 805 or visit www.vale-hotel.com.

Cairo and Nile cruise

8 days, save £420pp

Book an eight-day trip to Egypt and save up to £420 per person. Departing on April 12 & 19, combine a five-day Nile cruise and three-day stay in Giza close to the Pyramids. Sail from Luxor to Aswan for an overnight rail journey to Cairo. The £499 per person cost is based on two sharing and includes return flights, transfers and cruising on a full-board basis (all cabins have 'step on' balconies). Optional excursion package includes ten visits and costs £139. Shuttle flights available for regional departures.

Beach-side in St Lucia

7 days, save £115pp

Seven nights in St Lucia, departing April 21, costs from £899 per person, saving £115 per person. Price includes accommodation on a room-only basis at the 3-star St Lucian By Rex Resort, return flights from London Gatwick with British Airways and transfers. The hotel is set directly on Reduit Beach. For bookings and information visit www.thomsontailormade.com or call 0871 664 0273.