TRAVEL

beach, Cornwall







Set sail on Lord Jim

SAIL away to the beautiful Western Isles of Scotland.

Departing from Stornoway Oban and Mallaig (all easily reached by flying to Glasgow Airport) on selected dates in May to September, Lord Jim Sailing Holidays offer all inclusive. five-star sailing and cruising holidays for small groups around the Scottish Western Isles.

The Western Isles itineraries offer options such as the Whisky Sail, where "tasting and discovery" visits to a number of leading local distilleries, at various locations, are part of the holiday, as well as sails to St Kilda, Mull and Skye, to explore

Lord Jim can also be privately chartered to accommodate a small group, offering the ultimate bespoke itinerary.

Also new for the 2015 summe season is a range of more flexible, all inclusive pricing options, including a five-night option, from £2095 per person. Go to www.lordiimsailing.com for more details.

An Aussie bargain

AUSTRAVEL (0800 988 4834. www.austravel.com) is offering an eight-day trip stopping in Melbourne and Sydney – giving travellers the chance to experience the wine-producing region – from £1079 per person saving up to £220pp.

two-night stopover in Melbourn staving at the three-star Quality



Batman's Hill on Collins, four nights at the three-sta **Ibis Sydney** Harbour, Opera House & Captain Cook

Harbour Cruise, one night at four-star The Sebel Kirkton Park, Hunter Valley, and five days flights with Etihad Airways is also included. Based on selected travel in September 2015.

ADRIAN CAFFERY

enjoys a family break in Cornwall, where there's a different beach for every day of the week

HE trouble with planning a family holiday in Cornwall is there are just too many fantastic eaches to choose from Every couple of miles, it seems, there's either a cosy little cove or a wide expanse of golden sand just perfect for kite flying or castle building.

I couldn't make up my mind when organising a midweek autumn break and ended up booking accommodation in the very heart of Cornwall.

The holiday cottage was within a 15-minute drive of several great beaches on the north coast and Catch the the plan was to visit a different one

Now you might think

logic was flawed, considering the unreliable nature of the British weather - but I wasn't pinning my hopes on a heatwave.

It can be blowing a gale or as dull as ditchwater and my daughter Cerys wouldn't bat an eyelid with bucket and spade in hand and sand between her toes.

We were staying at a conversion called Unity Cottage, near Chacewater, which was booked through Marsdens Cornish

A delicious, freshly made cream tea was waiting for us on arrival and all of us, except baby Owen, tucked in on the decked area, which has glorious views of the Poldice Valley.
There you will find the remains

of Poldice Mine, once the most productive mine in the parish of Gwennap, which was described as

the "richest square mile anywhere on

You can explore the lunar-like landscape of the former tin. copper and arsenic mine, which closed in 1930, by downloading an audio trail from the website cornishmining.org.uk

Alternatively, you can play "chimney stack spotting" - there are loads dotted about the area, including one called Wheal Busy where, presumably, the miners never had a moment's rest

at home in the cosy cottage, with its little knick-knacks, beamed ceilings, exposed stonework and a wood-burning stove in the open-plan ivin-dining room.

Furnished and equipped to high modern standards, there are also plenty of thoughtful little touches such as tourist maps, information

leaflets and games, toys and books for younger guests.

The cottage makes an ideal touring base. Cornwall's capital city, Truro, s six miles away and its Georgian streets are home to art galleries, a cinema, a theatre, a museum and, of course, a cathedral.

CURE LOUG

A little further away on the south



NEED TO KNOW

■ ADRIAN CAFFERY and family visited Unity Cottage in Cornwall as a guest of Marsdens Cornish Cottages. The three-bedroom, semi detached property sleeps five The kitchen has a dishwasher and washer/dryer. Linen and towels are provided and there's a complimentary first basket of logs. It has wi-fi and parking for two cars. Weekly rental costs from £358 in winter, up to £893 in August. The village of Chacewater, one mile away, has a choice of two traditional pubs, a small selection of shops and a chippy.

coast is Falmouth, where there are four great beaches plus the National Maritime Museum and one of Henry VIII's impressive fortresses.

The popular coast-to-coast cycle track from Devoran Creek to Portreath's harbour passes within half a mile of the cottage and there's a cycle hire shop three miles away.

As it happens, we struck pretty lucky with the weather so mum and dad were just as happy as Cerys during our three full days at different beaches.

First up was Trevaunance Cove, seven miles away and just beyond the quaint village of St Agnes, where steep hills on three sides provided us with shelter from a stiff breeze.

Thankfully, the pretty beach huts, shop and cafe survived the battering they took during Cornwall's devastating storms in early 2014.

When the tide's out, two neighbouring caves - both big enough to be the lair of a dragon if you let your imagination run wild dare you to enter.

Torch in hand, Cerys was brave enough to explore the deepest, darkest regions of one of the caves and was ewarded when she discovered a small

10% OFF CORNISH BREAKS

Cottages is based in Cornwall, so local staff are on hand to provide visitors with price-less insider info. The new agency is a sister company of Devon specialist Marsdens Devon Cottages, which has been operating for more than 40 years. It offers almost 200 high quality properties across Cornwall, with more coming on stream

every week. They include quaint old fishermen's cottages smart seafront apart ments and character

All boast a Visit England grading standard of cleanli and are available year round, with many accepting pets. Short reaks can be booked

readers an exclusive 10 per cent discount on cottage rentals this year. The discount applies for seven-night ange of more than 60 Cornish cottages booked by February 28, Holidays can be booked for any time of the year.
To claim the discount, readers must quote the code BP15 on the payment page when booking on the Marsdens website reservations staff when booking by phone. The offer cannot be used in **Contact Marsdens** Cornish Cottages at cornish-cottages.co.ul



Above the beach is the remarkable Minack Theatre carved into the granite cliff and

set in tropical gardens, looking like it belongs in Ancient We watched a play there

iconic Wheal Coates engine house. some years ago and I'll admit For our final day, we put some miles on the clock by returning to my favourite we were more engrossed in the Cornish beach - the small but perfectly basking sharks in the bay than formed Porthcurno, near Land's End. the actors on the stage.

playground right on the beach.

At low tide the beach stretches nearly

one and a half miles to include Chapel

Porth beach and the cliffs below the

miles... After the show, we looked down on Porthcurno beach with envy as a pod of dolphins played just vards from paddlers. On our recent visit, we kept

At low

beach

stretches

nearly

one and

a half

tide the

praying for a close encounter of the nornoise kind. But no such luck. Life's a beach, eh? Well, it certainly is in Cornwall.

watch from the shoreline,



late

breaks

VEGAS AND LA

ENIOY a five-night, four-star stay at the Aria, Las Vegas and a two-night, four-star stay at the Garland, Los Angeles, including flights, from just £979pp with Cheapflights.co.uk.

Las Vegas is a city that could never disappoint - with its erupting volcanoes, replicas of ancient Rome and the Eiffel Tower plus, of course, the all-nigh

The Aria is situated right in the centre of the Las Vegas strip with direct access to The Crystal Shopping centre, one of the newest places for shopping in the city.

LA meanwhile, is a mixture of community, cuisine and culture. The Garland Hotel is a perfect choice for a relaxing holiday with the comforts of home and more

The price includes return flights from Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow and Edinburgh (or from London for an additional £89 per person), and seven nights accommodation for departures on selected dates until 29 March

Visit www.Cheapflights.co.uk

JERSEY

CHANNEL Islands Direct (jersey.com; 08444 937 486) offers three nights at the five-star Grand Jersey Hotel (B&B) from £179pp (two sharing).

Price includes return ferry travel from Poole or Weymouth. Öffer valid until March 17, subject to availability.

VIRGIN Holidays (virginholidays. co.uk; 0844 557 3870) offers seven nights at the five-star The Laguna Resort & Spa (B&B) from £1,075pp (two sharing), saving up to £319pp.

Includes flights from Heathrov

For travel on March 10.

Reader Offers

MAIL

I'll never forget the laugh-out-loud

adjacent cave and gave a burly bloke the

fright of his life, making him scream like

Porthtowan, another north coast resort

which boasts shops, cafes, a pub and a

The next day, we drove the six miles to

moment when we emerged into the

passage to the other.

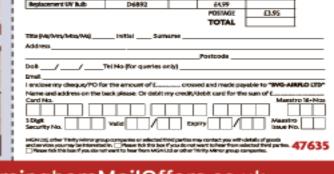
3-in-1 UV Bed Vac Just £39.99 plus p&p

Over time our beds and homes can become a breeding ground for dust mites and bed bugs that can leave behind allergens that leave you feeling tired and congested. Keep beds, uphoistery and floors spotlessly clean.

- A powerful 4V UV light, as used to keep hospital equipment clean, will zap surfaces with ultraviolet light killing the bacteria that helps them to feed.
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