

LATE DEALS



■ **ITALY:** If there's anywhere to shake off the January blues it's Sauze d'Oulx in Italy. It's a lively, fun and great-value resort, offering access to 400km of fantastic pistes, stretching all the way across to France! A great option for intermediate skiers and groups, the nightlife will not disappoint – it's the perfect choice for a ski break with friends. Inghams is offering a seven-night ski holiday on a half-board basis at the three-star Hotel Villa Cary, Sauze d'Oulx, from £499 per person based on two sharing. Price includes return flights from Gatwick to Turin and airport transfers, valid for departure on January 25. To book, visit inghams.co.uk/ski-holidays or call 01483 938 047.

■ **FRANCE:** Stay in the heart of the world famous Plagne Centre at the cosy Chalet Lily, next to the Plagne Centre piste and ski school meeting point. Was £989pp, now £699pp, saving £290pp (30%). The price includes the services of chalet hosts to prep, cook and serve three-course evening meals with wine, breakfast and homemade cakes with afternoon tea. The price also includes return Gatwick flights (Manchester + £60) and transfers on February 1. Visit skibeat.co.uk, 01273 855100.

■ **AUSTRIAN TIROL:** Combine great music, gourmet food and epic winter sports in the beautiful resort of Söll this season, as a variety of musicians perform at the new Ski and Rock from January 15-18. Gigs will take place on and off the mountains with Irish bands, The Academic and The Blizzards headlining the festival. After dancing to the music, click on some skis or snowboard and explore the 280 km of slopes in the SkiWelt, where Söll is based. A week's stay, at the three-star Hotel Feichter, in Söll, costs from €1,113 / £939 total for two adults sharing a double room, on a half-board basis. Concerts are free to attend. See visittirol.co.uk



■ **THAILAND – PHUKET:** Get a taste of Thailand on this one-week holiday staying at the four-star Kantrary Bay Hotel. Price from £916pp (based on two people) includes direct return flights with British Airways from London Gatwick Airport on January 25 and seven nights' accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis. Book online at kenwoodtravel.co.uk or call 0207 749 7216.

THE TRAVEL REVIEW

France will rock you

ADRIAN CAFFERY is in the pink on a family holiday in a part of France famous for its boulders, beaches and wartime intrigue

La vie en rose! The surreal Pink Granite Coast is as beautiful as it is rugged and must be one of France's best-kept secrets.

Miles of colourful, misshapen boulders, some up to 20m in height, are stacked on top of each other, often balanced at seemingly impossible angles.

Three hundred million years in the making, it is one of only three coastlines in the world made from pink granite – the others are in Corsica and China.

This stretch of northern Brittany is just a short hop across the English Channel, yet appears to remain mostly undiscovered by Brits.

There's no guide book to speak of, little information online and we seldom came across more than a handful of our countrymen each day.

We were staying with Eurocamp at Le Ranolien holiday parc, just a stone's throw from the start of the most scenic stretch of the coastal path.

Take the right hand path and a 20-minute clifftop stroll brings you to a wide, family-friendly beach – one of two in the bustling town of Perros-Guirec.

Go left and you start to explore the mysterious Pink Granite Coast in all its glory, the like of which you've probably never seen before. There are plenty of strange rock formations to look out for, including those that resemble a shoe, skull, rabbit, dragon, bottle, witch, mushroom and pile of pancakes.

One of the most sought-after is 'Napoleon's Hat', which has a place in history. On August 3, 1944 the BBC broadcast the cryptic message



"Is Napoleon's Hat still in Perros Guirec?" to warn the Breton Resistance that the second D-Day invasion had begun.

You can also have fun letting your imagination run wild. We

'spotted' a squirrel and a Muppet's head along the path, whilst elsewhere on the coast was a shark, a turtle and an elephant drinking from the sea!

A lighthouse, reached by a

bridge, blends in perfectly after it was rebuilt in pink granite following its destruction during the Second World War.

The coastal path also offers views to the Seven Isles, which are home to France's largest seabird colony – 27 different types including puffins.

One of the islands is named Bono, like the singer in U2, which amused me as the band once recorded an album called Live At Red Rocks.

After about 40 minutes, the coastal path brings you to the beautiful cove at Ploumanac'h, which in 2015 was awarded the title of France's Prettiest Village.

A 12th century shrine on the beach marks the spot where the Welsh evangelist St Guirec first set foot in Brittany, and at high tide it's surrounded by water.

With hydrangeas in abundance, the picture postcard look is completed by a Disney-esque mock medieval castle on an islet

across from the cove.

It's where the Polish author Henryk Sienkiewicz wrote Quo Vadis, the saga of Ancient Rome which won him a Nobel Prize.

From Ploumanac'h, it's a 15-minute walk back to the holiday parc, passing an interesting sculpture park featuring abstract and figurative works in granite.

The granite boulders are also scattered across inland areas, and Le Ranolien is designed around – and takes advantage of – the geological features.

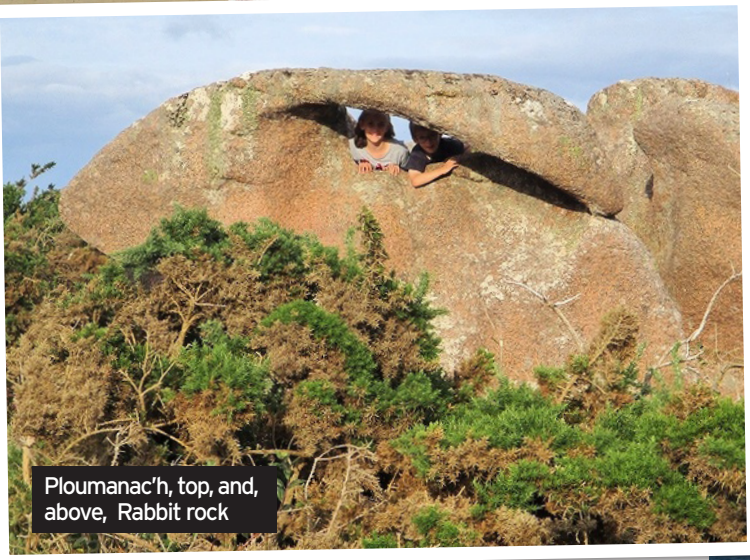
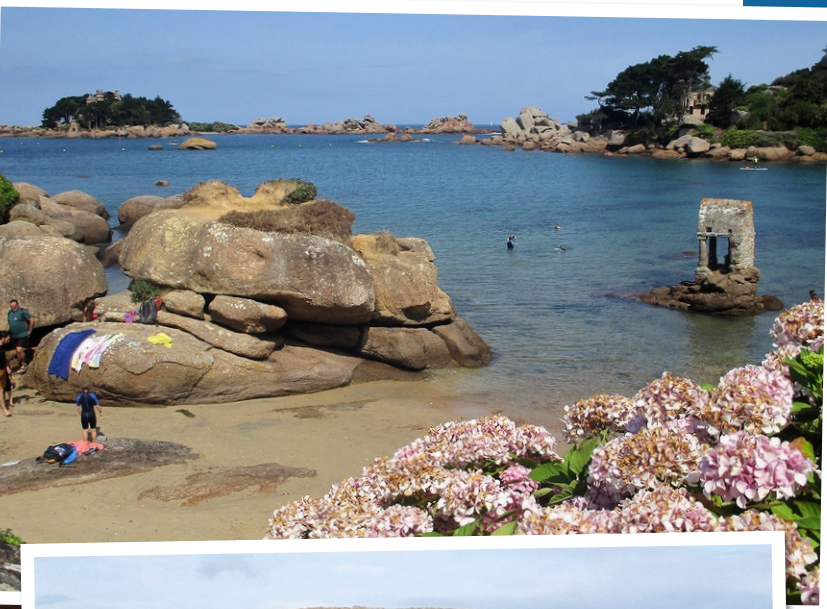
This is most evident at the fabulous pool complex where piles of rocks are used to support the two water slides as well as the staircase leading to the top. And

play equipment has been installed around, inside and above another jumble of rocks (which, by the way, also resembles an elephant).

In both cases, it is so cleverly done that you imagine the rocks aren't real.

There are four outdoor pools of different depths plus a large hot tub in case you get chilly, although they were always mercifully warm during our August break. There are also two covered pools and an indoor splash zone, making for very happy children whatever the weather.

Other family-friendly facilities include multi-sports pitches, table tennis courts, a games room, a cinema, a bouncy castle and kids'



Ploumanac'h, top, and, above, Rabbit rock



The lighthouse at Ploumanac'h

clubs.

But when not at the pools we preferred to explore the stunning coastline some more.

Besides the beaches in Perros-Guirec and at Ploumanac'h, there are several Mediterranean-style ones at Tregestel, a 10-minute drive from Le Ranolien.

Gently shelving, almost wave-less and surprisingly warm, this is where my eight-year-old daughter got her first taste of 'wild' swimming.

There are islets to wade across to at low tide and plenty of granite features to explore, plus the remains of a 1960s shack built under a huge overhanging boulder.

Another fine beach can be found

a little further down the coast on Ile-Grande, an island village connected to the mainland by road.

A memorial next to Pors Gelen reveals that Royal Navy officers secretly collected intelligence documents from the crescent beach during the Second World War.

On returning to La Renolien each evening we enjoyed dining alfresco, taking our pick from the two restaurants, the pizzeria or the takeaway.

There was always a family-friendly atmosphere and after clearing our plates Mum and Dad sipped wine while watching the children play.

And our choice of wine? Why, rosé, of course.

party. Visit eurocamp.co.uk

■ Le Ranolien is a 90-minute drive from the port of Roscoff. Brittany Ferries operates services there from Plymouth. Daytime sailings take six hours and an overnight crossing eight hours. The cruise-ferries offer comfortable cabins plus restaurants, shops and entertainment. April fares start from £340 return for a family of four and a car. Book online at brittany-ferries.co.uk or call 0330 159 7000.

■ Founded in 1973, Eurocamp is the largest operator of premium outdoor holidays in Europe, with more than 180 parcs across 13 countries, in beachside, lakeside, countryside, mountainous and city locations. There are many accommodation options and you can arrive and depart any day of the week, with no minimum stay. Kids' clubs cater for all ages.

■ Adrian Caffery and family were guests of Eurocamp at Le Ranolien, Brittany, where all of the holiday homes have plenty

of personal space, among the soaring trees and the granite boulders. His Space self-catering mobile home had a spacious central living area with French doors leading to a huge decking area with furniture and a canopy. There were three bedrooms – one double, one twin and one with bunk beds – plus a double sofa bed, full size fridge freezer, good-sized shower and a barbecue. The price for seven nights from April 11, 2020 in a two-bedroom Classic holiday home is £261 per



ALL-STAR LINE UP FOR BUTLIN'S 2020 STARS from TV talent shows in Britain and America will be taking to the stage at Butlin's this year. Winners of Britain's Got Talent, America's Got Talent, The X Factor and Britain's Got Talent: The Champions will be performing live during selected school holiday breaks at the seaside resorts in Bognor Regis, Minehead and Skegness.

Diversity, who were Britain's Got Talent champions in 2009, make a welcome return during school summer holiday mid-week breaks with a new show as well as the chance for your youngsters to be taught the moves by the boys themselves in the Diversity Dance Academies.

Ventriloquist Paul Zerdin – America's Got Talent Winner in 2015 – brings his hilarious show to weekends during February half-term and school summer holidays.

The winners of X-Factor in 2017, Rak-Su are appearing live at Butlin's for the first time, and Twist and Pulse, who were recently crowned winners of Britain's Got Talent: The Champions, will also be performing. For more see butlins.com

