

### Tom Hall, travel editor at Lonely Planet, rounds up this month's travel news



#### Inflight Wi-Fi

Scandinavian budget airline Norwegian is rolling out Wi-Fi on its aircraft. The service is free but a fee is expected to be introduced once it is established. Smartphones set to flight mode will be able to connect but phone calls and SMS messaging will not be possible. [www.norwegian.com](http://www.norwegian.com)

#### Epic journeys

Bespoke travel company Black Tomato has launched a range of epic adventures to remote locations. Tours include jungle training in Papua New Guinea and hiking to Kangshung Face, the lesser-visited east face of Mount Everest. [www.blacktomato.co.uk](http://www.blacktomato.co.uk)

#### Yves Saint Laurent retrospective

Fashionistas should be heading to Paris. The first retrospective of Yves Saint Laurent is on until August 29 at the Petit Palais Museum of Fine Arts. Along with 300 examples of his haute couture and ready-to-wear collections (pictured), there are photos and films of his work. [www.yslretrospective.com](http://www.yslretrospective.com)

#### Wedding woes

If you're still without a bed for the royal wedding on April 29, don't panic. Hotels in central London may be pricey but roomshare site Airbnb has good-value rooms across town. Or opt out of the capital but within easy reach, such as Brighton or

Oxford, to help bring costs down. [www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com)

#### Liquids on planes

From April 29, duty-free liquid purchases at non-EU airports carried in 'tamper evident bags' will be screened and allowed into cabins. This is great news for anyone changing planes in the EU after flying from outside the Eurozone who were previously not allowed to bring booze and perfumes into the country.



This article appears in the April edition of the Lonely Planet Magazine, on sale now (£3.70). [www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com)



# Champagne

Imagine your own superyacht moored in a Caribbean bay, pleasure craft bobbing out of a marina at its stern with waiters wading through the surf to bring you champagne and caviar on a private beach.

After a day riding banana boats, lounging in the sunshine, dancing salsa and eating freshly cooked food, you return on board to dine in luxury, be pampered in a spa, be served generous amounts of free alcohol and dance to live bands.

Well, unless you're a close friend of Roman Abramovich, the nearest you are likely to get to achieving that dream is on the elegant Seabourn Sojourn. You might have to share this beautiful ship with 450 other passengers but the 350 attentive staff make everyone feel like a VIP. This isn't some stuffy cruise liner but a sleek, Italian-built vessel with spacious, upmarket restaurants, roomy cabins – 90 per cent of them with balconies – and ornate furnishings.

The size of the Sojourn allows it to visit the smaller islands larger liners cannot reach. Embarking from Fort Lauderdale in Florida, we spent a couple of days at sea before arriving in Puerto Rico, with its rainforest, mountain lakes, waterfalls and forts. Then we visited five more islands in five days, with the chance to do everything from horse riding on the beach to snorkelling, exploring on quad bikes or kayaking.

On the beautiful celebrity haunt of St Barts, we took an exciting 'stand-up' powerboat ride before stopping at a remote beach to swim in the azure sea.

On St Kitts, we trundled along a narrow-gauge railway across giddy bridges in a gently swaying double-decker carriage, enjoying the stunning coastline as children waved us past.

At Cruz Bay, on St John in the Virgin Islands, we hiked through the woods to the beautiful Honeymoon Beach. St Martin, shared between the French and Dutch, offers a chance to race a 12m America's Cup yacht but we decided to stay on board and have the ship almost to ourselves.

Finally, we reached tiny Isla Catalina, located just off the Dominican Republic, where our waiters served us champagne and caviar on the beach, before the ship headed back to Fort Lauderdale. Think

**Ship shape:** Cruising doesn't have to be about tacky bingo and dodgy discos. **DAVE MONK** finds a classier way to island hop through the Caribbean

this dream can't get better? Well, all the food, drink and tips are included in the price so you can relax, enjoy yourself and concentrate on making new friends.

Since the Sojourn, launched by Twiggy in London last June, is a relatively small 32,000 tonnes, it is easy to find your way around. There are four main eating places: The Restaurant, boasting gourmet food in a chandeliered setting; Restaurant 2, offering an innovative tasting menu, booking only; The Colonnade, which serves different themed fare such as Indian or Chinese every night; and the Patio Grill, with its salads, pizza, meat and fish, situated next to the pool. There is also free room service, so you can enjoy a romantic dinner for two on your balcony as you watch puffy clouds slowly turn blue and red while the sun sets over the waves.

Sojourn's owner, Seabourn, aims to attract couples and families who would normally choose to holiday in a luxury hotel – so there's none of the tacky cruise ship bingo, photocalls, art auctions or touting for tips. There are, if you want, a spa, lectures, dance classes and nightly entertainment by a talented group of singers, dancers and performers.

Of course, all this indulgence comes at a price but that includes accommodation, food and drink – even a well-stocked minibar. If you think you don't do cruising but want to experience the best of the Caribbean and the luxury of a superyacht, this could be the ship for you.

*Getting there:* Sister ship Seabourn Quest embarks on a 13-day Caribbean round trip from Fort Lauderdale on December 9, stopping in Puerto Rico, St Kitts, St Barts, Grenadines, Barbados and St John. Prices start from £2,999pp fully inclusive (cruise only) based on two sharing a suite. Tel: 0845 0700 500. [www.seabourn.com](http://www.seabourn.com) Dave stayed at The Atlantic Hotel, Fort Lauderdale. [www.atlantichoteiff.com](http://www.atlantichoteiff.com)



The difference...

...is clear.

Invisalign® aligners are nearly invisible and removable. They won't impact your looks or your life during treatment, which is why over 1 million people have chosen to improve their smile with Invisalign.

**Invisalign.**  
The clear alternative to braces.



For more information, or your nearest Invisalign practitioner, visit [www.invisalign.co.uk](http://www.invisalign.co.uk) or call **0845 644 5486**.

**invisalign**  
The clear alternative to braces.



is surfed, sir



**Shore to ship: Cruise in style on the Seabourn Sojourn. Above: With 350 staff, you'll be knee-deep in waiters**

### Bruges by ship

If you fancy a girls' trip with a difference, or just a fun weekend away, why not head to Bruges – home of chocolate, beer, chips and waffles – by ship? You leave Southampton on a Friday, spend the next day in the historic Belgian city and return on Sunday morning. P&O Cruises' Ventura has great bars and clubs, and the cruise we went on was packed with thirtysomethings dancing to the Four Tops and George Michael tributes. But if you want a more gastronomic trip, Ventura has 12 restaurants, including one endorsed by Marco Pierre White, and an Asian eaterie, East. If you're still hungry, there's always the 24-hour buffet. Bars include Metropolis (pictured), whose video wall shows a different city skyline every night. You can also bring the children along as there are



clubs, including a circus school, to keep them busy. And, because you're travelling by ship, there are no airport-style restrictions on the amount of luggage, you can take – or shopping you bring back. Ventura's next weekend Bruges trip departs on March 23 in 2012, starting from £199pp but, if you can't wait, there are six weekend excursions this year doing the same itinerary, leaving on a Friday or Saturday, on other P&O vessels. [www.pocruises.com](http://www.pocruises.com)



**Our new 2 year Fixed Rate ISA**  
**3.20%** AER/Gross Tax-free interest  
 Minimum deposit £1,000

If you're looking to save for longer, simply deposit a minimum of £1,000 and leave it untouched, with no partial withdrawals or extra deposits during the fixed term. The fixed term starts on 23 May 2011, before then your funds will attract an interest rate equivalent to the variable Cash ISA rate.

This Fixed Rate ISA is a limited offer, may be withdrawn at any time and an interest charge for early closure will apply. The closing date for account opening is 20 April 2011.

**Come and see us in branch today, call us on 0800 408 2379** (Minicom 0800 404 6160) or visit [rbs.co.uk/fixedisa](http://rbs.co.uk/fixedisa)



Here for you

There are 114 Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays this year. So why go abroad when you can enjoy every minute of them in England. For hundreds of great ideas visit [enjoyEngland.com](http://enjoyEngland.com)

**ENJOY EVERY MINUTE, [enjoyEngland.com](http://enjoyEngland.com)**

Interest is paid annually. Tax-free interest means that interest payable is exempt from UK income tax. Annual Equivalent Rate (AER) illustrates what the interest rate would be if paid and compounded each year. Gross is the interest rate paid before the deduction of tax. Early closure charge is 180 days' gross interest. All rates correct at time of going to print. RBS Registered address: St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YB. Lines are open Monday to Friday 8am-8pm, Saturday 9am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. Calls may be recorded.