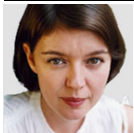


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Travel tips: stay in a Martello Tower or a double-decker bus, plus deals of the week

A bolthole on the Suffolk coast, and automotive accommodation



Joanne O'Connor
The Observer, Sunday 10 March 2013



'A contemporary and quirky home with circular rooms, 13 ft-thick walls and a light-filled kitchen-diner': Joanne O'Connor on the Martello Tower in Suffolk.

Take me there: Martello Tower, Suffolk

If sea views, big skies and splendid isolation rank high on your holiday wish list, this new bolthole on the Suffolk coast should be just the ticket. With spectacular 360-degree views from its roof

terrace, the Martello Tower is being offered as a holiday let for the first and only time this summer, as the family who own it take an extended trip. One of a chain of fortresses built along England's east coast during the Napoleonic Wars, it's been converted into a contemporary and quirky home with circular rooms, 13ft-thick walls and a light-filled kitchen-diner opening on to the balcony. The tower sleeps eight, plus four in an adjacent boathouse. It's available between June and October, with prices from £1,650 per week (suffolk-secrets.co.uk).

It's a good time to... go on a busman's holiday

"We're all going on a summer holiday..." The double-decker bus may have been Cliff Richard's chosen method of transport, but for today's holidaymakers in search of novelty and adventure, it's the destination. Train carriages, boats and helicopters have been called into service as quirky "glamping" accommodation, but now it's the turn of the humble bus to enjoy a new lease of life. Cool campsite Blackberry Wood (blackberrywood.com) led the way with the addition of a 1964 London Routemaster which had been "pimped" to include a downstairs kitchen/diner and cosy upstairs sleeping area. Since its arrival on the Sussex site last summer, it's been pretty much booked up for weekends and school holidays.

Hot on its heels is a beautifully converted 1960s Bedford Panorama single-decker which has pitched up in a field near Hay-on-Wye and is taking bookings from this month (from £103 per night, canopyandstars.co.uk). Boasting a wooden floor, handcrafted kitchen, soft linens in pastel colours, a wood-burning stove, solar heating and separate wooden bathhouse with rolltop bath, it's the bus equivalent of Babington House. Sort of. And it's still got the original driver's seat and steering wheel if you want to play bus driver. Ding ding!

Give me a break: the week's best deals



'Celebrate the

end of winter at Hell Bay Hotel on the island of Bryher': Joanne O'Connor visits the Scilly Isles. Photograph: Alamy

Spring in the Scillies Spring comes early to the Isles of Scilly, with tropical flowers blooming, whales basking and seals sunbathing.

Celebrate the end of winter at Hell Bay Hotel on the island of Bryher, saving 25% on normal rates. Guests staying four nights between 16 March and 1 April pay £720pp for half-board accommodation, return travel from [Cornwall](#) and transfers to the hotel (hellbay.co.uk)

Skiing in Lapland March and April are the best months for skiing in Finnish Lapland, with longer daylight hours than the rest of [Europe](#) and great snow conditions until mid-May. A week's stay at the self-catering Villa Armas Cabins in Yllas, with the highest skiing in Finland, costs £560pp, and includes return flights from London Gatwick to Kittilä. The offer is valid from 24-31 March (ingham.co.uk)



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Readers' tips

London: [Palmers Lodge \(Boutique Hostel\)](#)

Lovely boutique hostel in Swiss Cottage.

Old Victorian building full of history and nice little touches such as suits of armor and floor length paintings

Posted by apollo252 26 Jun 2013

Melvich: [Halladale Inn](#)

Think surfing in Scotland and everyone thinks Thurso. But head out west for an array of great, empty beaches and breaks for all levels. On a small swell...

Posted by rustopher 25 Jun 2013

Nottingham: [The Harley Gallery](#)

This creative oasis is just a short drive from the A1 and M1, and a great place to break up a long journey - plus it's free entry! Set in the woodlands...

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Sennen: [The Summer House](#)

The most gorgeous, basic accommodation with everything you could need to rest tired muscles after a day of hard surfing in one of the best surf spots

Posted by nhg123 23 Jun 2013

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