



Guatemalan border, in the very depths of Belize. A world away — in every sense. So much for the football. Drive up beyond San Ignacio and on towards Guatemala and there lies one of Belize’s greatest architectural gems — the ruined Mayan city of Xunantunich. Until the first load of American cruise ship tourists arrived, there was this wonderful “Raiders Of the Lost Ark” feel to Belize. With just one guide and another family for company, you almost have the place to yourself — no bad feeling given the extraordinary stone temple that’s rising up in front of you. Aside from the country’s “undiscovered” feel, there is another joy to holidaying in Belize. They have, it seems, very little time or interest in anything connected with health or safety. Which is why, a couple hours after clambering up, down and over Xunantunich, our little man — still only five-years-old — was happily sat in the middle of a kayak, life-jacket on, following the course of Barton Creek as it wove its magical way through fields of stalactites and stalacmites, up past ancient Mayan burial sites and on into the pitch darkness for 1,600-metres beneath the vine-clad mountain. All with one guide and one electric light for company. And we never saw another soul.

■ Read next week’s Going Out for part two.



LATE TRAVEL DEALS

FROM NORWICH

May 31. Malta. 14 nights, b&b, Hotel San Pawl, St Paul’s Bay, from £333.
June 1. Cyprus. Seven nights, self-catering, Crystallo Apartments, Paphos, from £284.
June 7. Benidorm. 14 nights, self-catering, Levantelux Apartments, from £359.
June 10. Turkey. 14 nights, b&b, Hotel Alinda, Icmelar, from £424.
June 13. Gran Canaria, seven nights, half-board, allocated on arrival, from £339.
Call Travel Counsellors on (01603) 869045.

UK/IRELAND

COTSWOLDS: Whately Manor (01666 822 888) three-night midweek breaks start at £550 per couple sharing standard room, or £1,300 for a suite, incl service charge and VAT.
BERKSHIRE: Leisure Direction (0870 442 8930) offers overnight B&B at five-star Vineyard at Stockcross for £127 per person per night, from June 1 to Aug 27. Friday arrivals get complimentary spa treatment and third night free.
NORTH DEVON: Woolacombe Bay Hotel (01271 870 388) offers three nights’ half-board (Sun & Tues arrivals) for £148.50, saving £127.50. Guests have free use of extensive range of sporting/leisure facilities.
ISLE OF WIGHT: Wightlink (0870 582 0202) offers three nights’ B&B at Cliff Bay Hotel between June 27 and July 4 for £122 per adult and £61 per child (aged five-13) to enjoy 200th anniversary celebrations of Battle of Trafalgar off Portsmouth, incl free FastCat return crossing back to Portsmouth for one day excursion.
DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK: Great Hotels of World (0800 032 4254) offers three-night stay at Bovey Castle in Devon until June 30 for £290 per room per night (two sharing).

SHORT BREAKS

JERSEY: Modern Hotels (01534 735 511) offers three nights’ B&B at Mayfair or Metropole Hotel in St Helier for £129, between May 14 and 26, incl Fastcat crossing from Weymouth or Poole (free transportation of car if requested).
BRUGES: Great Escapes (0845 330 3434) offers two nights’ B&B in three star hotel from £149 through May & June, incl Eurostar returns.

SHORT HAUL SUN

TUSCANY: Discovery Tours (0845 230 1212) offers apartment sleeping four near Florence for seven nights for total £368, saving £64, from May 14 & 21.
ALGARVE: James Villas Holidays (0870 085 0722) offers villa sleeping six in Lagos from May 14 for £199 per week, saving £320 on brochure price. Extras incl flights ex-Gatwick from £181 and car hire from £119.
ALPINE CHILL OUT: Meribel Tourist Office (00 334 7900 5000) offers seven nights’ B&B at Hotel Marie Blanche in mountain setting from £385 per person from May 27, with activities incl spa treatments, clay pigeon shooting, horse-riding, canyoning, mountain biking, rock climbing and even white water rafting.
TURKEY: My Villa Renters (01664 474 166) offers villa sleeping eight near famous white-sand beach and lagoon at Olu Deniz on Turquoise Coast for £450, from May 14 & 21. Flights, car hire arranged on request.
ITALY: Exclusive Italy (0870 901 4020) offers seven nights’ dinner, B&B at four star hotel in Sorrento from £399, saving £300, with flights ex-Gatwick.

CYPRUS: Medlife (0870 066 7070) offers seven nights’ self-catering for £169, incl flights ex-Gatwick May 15 (based on two sharing studio or 3/4 people sharing one bedroomed apartment). Accom allocated upon arrival.

LONG-HAUL

BARBADOS: British Airways Holidays (0870 2433 406) offers seven nights’ all-inclusive for price of six — from £1,079 — at four-star plus Turtle Beach Resort, incl sched BA flights.
ZANZIBAR: Ultimate Travel (0207 8386 4646) offers six nights’ full-board on “barefoot paradise” on north-east coast through June from £1,865, reduced from £2,135.
MAURITIUS: British Airways Holidays (0870 2433 406) offers seven nights’ half-board at three-star plus Le Coco Beach from £829, saving £265, until June 30. Book by May 21.
CUBA: Cubawelcome (020 7731 6871) offers in July/August incl six nights’ all-inclusive for £767, nine nights for £845 and 13-nights for £899, incl Cubana flights ex-Gatwick on Weds.
EGYPT HIGHLIGHTS: Escapology (0845 0700 602) offers three nights’ B&B in Cairo and four nights’ full-board Nile cruise on departures to May 20 from £1,040, incl flights.
FLORIDA: Ebookers.com (0870 814 6024) offers seven nights’ room-only in Orlando from £549 (Heathrow), for travel May 23-June 30.

THEMED HOLIDAYS

BELGIUM/HOLLAND BY RIVER: Page & Moy (0870 010 6400) offers eight-day full-board voyage on four star MS Serenade I, with Eurostar departure from Waterloo and ports of call including Amsterdam, Antwerp, Delft, Dordrecht and Hoorn. Flight option also available, ex-Gatwick May 23.
WALKING BALTIC CAPITALS: Kudu Travel (01722 716 167) offers seven-day walking itinerary from June 13 via Tallinn, Riga and Volnius. Package incl six nights’ three/four star hotel accom, all meals and wine, private transport, tickets for two perfs of classical music, tour leader and manager throughout.
COACHING CANADA: Cosmos Tourama (0870 264 6012) offers seven-day trip from June 9 to Ontario, via Niagara Falls, village of Niagara-on-the Lake and Toronto for £1,024 . Package incl five nights’ room-only accom.
BODY HOLIDAY IN ST LUCIA: Aspire (0845 345 9096) offers 14-nights at Le Sport for £2,400, incl Virgin flights, transfers, and two people sharing luxury room on all-inclusive basis. Package, valid June 5-Aug 4, incl all sports, beauty and therapeutic treatments.

CRUISES

WESTERN MED: Crystal Cruises (020 7287 9040) offers 11-night luxury cruise from May 26 on six-star Crystal Symphony ex-Barcelona to Cannes, Gibraltar, Seville, Lisbon and Bordeaux and return to Dover. Package from £2,216 incl Deluxe Stateroom.
ATLANTIC: Hebridean Island Cruises (01756 704 704) offers seven-night voyage from Seville to Portland via Spain, Portugal and Western France for £2,035, saving £1,095, from June 1. Price incl all meals, drinks, accom and return flights from Stansted.
EASTERN MED: MSC Cruises (020 7637 2525) offers 11-night voyage around wonders of Egypt and Baroque Messina for Ancient Civilisations cruise dep Nov 12 and 23 and December 4. Prices start at £1,150, incl return airfares from London and full board.