

Edited by
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What's new... ESTTravel



Arctic chic: the dining area at the historic Isfjord Radio; inset, the hotel is reached by boat in summer



Central Park: closer than ever before, thanks to Norwegian's cheap tickets

NORWEGIAN GOOD FOR FLIGHTS TO NEW YORK

Simon **says** 

SIMON CALDER

I am going to New York for a long weekend in August to see a friend who is performing in a play in Central Park. I hear that Norwegian has just started no-frills flights from Gatwick. Is it the cheapest flight I can get? – Name withheld, Southwark

NORWEGIAN started flying last week from Gatwick to New York JFK, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

The fare for the middle weekend of August, going out on Thursday Aug 14 and back on Tuesday Aug 19, is £769. Add another £70 return for in-flight meals, advance seat reservation and one piece of checked-in baggage – total £839 – if you wish.

The alternatives are American, British Airways, Delta, United and Virgin Atlantic from Heathrow to either JFK or Newark (both equally easy, or difficult, in terms of access to Manhattan). On the same dates the cheapest I can find is around £940 return on Delta. It offers many more departure time options than Norwegian, but note that Norwegian flies the state-of-the-art Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

One more thought – if you can stretch your trip by a day and fancy a snapshot of Iceland, Icelandair can fly you from Gatwick (or, for a little more, Heathrow) on Thursday Aug 14. Stay just over 24 hours in Reykjavik then continue on to JFK. The stopover saves a small fortune on air passenger duty. With the outbound legs in premium economy (back in ordinary economy), Icelandair quotes £969.

I assume you will be able to stay with your friend; otherwise, it would be wise to book a flight and hotel together as a package. Not only would this save you money, it would also confer additional consumer protection in case anything goes awry.

■ Email your queries to s@hols.tv

GO WILD THIS SUMMER

DESTINATION NORWAY

NORWAY'S spectacular Svalbard archipelago in the polar north is populated by polar bears and Arctic foxes, along with myriad bird and marine life.

A new tour from Simply Sweden

aims to highlight the remote region's natural wonders during the longer days of the midnight sun with boat and walking trips, mixing stays in characterful hotels, with nights in the capital Oslo and lively Tromsø.

Two nights are spent at the Isfjord Radio at Cape Linne on the Isfjord's southernmost tip, 80 km from Longyearbyen, the archipelago's

main community and the northernmost town in the world. This 23-room historic radio station turned boutique hotel, reached by boat across Isfjorden in summer (by dog sled or snowmobile in winter), was established in 1933. Arctic-chic interiors hold blueish-grey hues, goatskin blankets and driftwood sculptures. For full immersion in the

local culture, raw whale and reindeer and lentils are on the menu.

■ An eight-night *Magic of the Arctic – Svalbard* trip costs from £2,295pp B&B, based on two sharing, including return flights to Oslo and out of Tromsø, internal flights, airport transfers in Longyearbyen and Tromsø, some meals, and boat safari, simplysweden.co.uk

WEEKEND IDEA



The 49-room five-star **Vineyard**, near Newbury, in Berkshire, has a cellar of 30,000 bottles of wine including award-winning Californian varieties. Throughout July and August doubles are from £279 B&B, with use of the boutique spa including an indoor swimming pool and a bottle of sparkling wine from the Schramsberg Vineyards in California. ■ the-vineyard.co.uk

WHAT'S GOING ON IN...

HUNGARY JULY 25-27
2014 Hungarian Grand Prix, famous for its demanding layout, lies just outside historical Budapest, general admission from €90, hungary-grand-prix.com
■ easyJet flies from Gatwick to Budapest, returns from £224, easyjet.com

LAST-MINUTE HOTEL NEWS

■ The 103-room **D-Resort Gocek** in Turkey has just opened. Only 20 minutes from Dalaman, with a Sunseeker speedboat, complimentary bikes, two restaurants and a D-Spa with ESPA treatments. Doubles from £150 B&B, dresortgocek.com.tr
■ The 162-room **Moxy Milan** opens on September 1, with polished concrete floors and floor-to-ceiling art. Doubles from €55 room only (opening rate until October 21) and free wi-fi, mox-hotels.com

AHEAD OF THE PACK

Spanish high-end beauty brand **Natura Bisse** launches a new range of sun protection potions in time for summer.

Diamond White (forget the dry cider connotation) Matte Finish SPF50 (don't gasp: our family is white, mixed race and black, and we all were the same broad spectrum

high factor) is especially formulated for hands, neck and décolleté – the tell-tale areas of sun damage.

Containing de-pigmenting agents, it helps correct skin spots while hydrating and brightening.

Cheap it ain't but a little goes a long way. Oil and paraben free. ■ £83, 50ml, available from Harrods



ROUTE NEWS
easyJet launches a new seasonal route from Gatwick to Brest (July 12 to September 6), returns from £69.98, easyjet.com