

**app** **LIFTSHARE**, free, Google Play and Apple App Store THIS one has been around for a few years as a website, but it now comes as an app. The idea is simple enough – find a lift, or offer one, from A to B and either save on the train fare or make a few quid from your passenger. It's like Airbnb for hitchhiking. A test from my address to an obscure spot in Wales with two days' notice got a seat to Cardiff for £14.90. Not bad.



## TAKE NEXT STEP WITH SANDALS

SANDALS has always been known for its picturesque wedding locations and romantic honeymoon escapes – and now couples will be able to celebrate their love at the firm's newest gem, Sandals Barbados.

Located on Dover Beach where the Caribbean meets the Atlantic, it will be the only resort on the island exclusively for couples, making it the perfect destination for an exotic WeddingMoon in 2015.

Designed exclusively for Sandals Barbados, couples can choose to exchange vows in the tailor-made wedding garden, or alternatively couples can also personally handpick their ceremony locations.

Armed with a dedicated Sandals wedding planner to help, couples can choose a romantic spot that suits them, at any time of day.

An intimate reception on the white sand beach at sunset is the perfect way to take in Barbados' breathtaking romantic scenery.

And afterwards what better way to celebrate married life than in the opulent Beachfront Butler Suites located in the exclusive Ocean Village?

The bedroom features a four-poster king-size bed, a separate living room with fully-stocked bar and a private balcony with romantic tranquility soaking tub, chaise longue and mesmerising views of the ocean.

These impressive suites are available with both Club Sandals' concierge service and exclusive Butler Elite service for the ultimate in pampering.

Couples staying at Sandals Barbados will also be able to enjoy the resort's newest facilities which include 11 dining options, including Sandals' first Indian restaurant.

For more information on Weddingmoons at Sandals Resorts visit [sandals.co.uk/weddingmoons](http://sandals.co.uk/weddingmoons) or call 0800 022 3331.

**SPIDERMAN**, Batman and Superman are kids' favourite superheroes, according to a new poll released by Novotel hotels.

But more than a third of children believe their parents are superheroes.

All 33 Novotels in the UK have launched Super Heroes Day.

Jonathan Shard, from the company, said: "At Novotel we put families at the heart of everything which is why we rolled out an event designed to celebrate superheroes both big and small. We are delighted to hear that kids recognise that parents are superheroes."

Kids get a free gift at Novotel and they can stay and eat breakfast for free. See [novotel.com](http://novotel.com)



**gadget** **Ned Kelly Jackaroo boots**, £170, [gummies.co.uk](http://gummies.co.uk) CALL me a prissy fashionista, but I hate wearing clumpy walking boots anywhere other than on a trail. These Jackaroos are as tough as, er, new boots and perfect for heading out into the back of beyond. They're waterproof but smart enough to wear to the pub without looking like a obsessive rambler. They will last for years, and there is a £120 version without the steel toe or waterproof lining.

# Angkor Wat a stunner

**STUMBLING** through the darkness I felt like a real-life Tomb Raider.

I hauled myself up another step and I was finally there. Deep inside the world's largest temple.

And I was just in time. The first rays of sun were bursting through the ancient stone putting on a spectacular light show.

Welcome to Angkor Wat, the incomparable temple complex that hides deep in the Cambodian jungle. I'd wanted to visit for years.

You just don't forget your first sight of UNESCO World Heritage listed Angkor Wat.

## GO: CAMBODIA

Bespoke travel experts Experience Travel Group (0203 468 6268; [www.experiencetravelgroup.com](http://www.experiencetravelgroup.com)) offers a seven night Cambodia holiday from £1119 per person, including four nights boutique accommodation in Siem Reap; three nights boutique accommodation in Phnom Penh; daily breakfast; a private Angkor Wat temples tour; a private guided tour of Phnom Penh; private airport transfers; return international flights and taxes.

How could you? It rises from a massive jungle-shrouded moat, its trio of elegant giant corn cob-like spires vaulting high into the heavens.

It was the numbers as much as anything that kept blowing me away.

The ancient capital of Angkor boasts not one, but over 200 temples strewn over a massive area. They are hulking stone reminders of the grand, largely wooden, city that once thrived here deep in the jungle.

The next day it was time to continue on the Tomb Raider trail and follow in the footsteps of Lara Croft (played by Angelina Jolie) at nearby Ta Prohm, where scenes from the movie were shot.

The ruins here looked like they were losing a spectacular battle with the jungle. In between the statues sprouted lush vegetation, tree trunks and gnarled roots.

My third temple complex was Bayon. Here I hiked up scores of steep stone steps into a world of giant Buddha faces. There are over 200 faces in total, each with their own unique expression, each staring

## FALL IN LOVE WITH ANCIENT AND MODERN CAMBODIA



**What costs what?**  
Beer: £1.  
Entrance to museum: £3.  
Three course meal: £12.

**Do** Visit as many of Angkor temples as possible.  
**Don't** Bring up Pol Pot era unless someone brings it up with you.

out over the lush jungle. "Even if you spend days exploring the temples of Angkor you are just scratching the surface," Roland Fletcher told me later at my hotel over dinner.

He should know as he is an Angkor specialist who has just worked on the BBC's brilliant Jungle Atlantis documentary.

It created a complete and spectacular picture of what the old city would have liked.

Almost everyone who visits the Angkor temples stays at the adjacent resort town of Siem Reap. In the Swinging Sixties, Siem Reap was a favourite of the international jet-set.

Jackie Kennedy and Charlie Chaplin are said to have breezed through its trendy bars, restaurants and sipped a cooling cocktail on the terrace by the river at the Foreign Correspondents' Club.

The club still stands on the banks of the Siem Reap River. I headed there for a delicious dinner of Khmer specialities as the club still stands on the banks of the Siem Reap River. I chatted to Douglas Moe, who has worked here for over a decade. In recent years he has witnessed the boom times return for Siem Reap.

"The town is buzzing again

with people flocking here from all over the world," he beamed about Cambodia's more recent story.

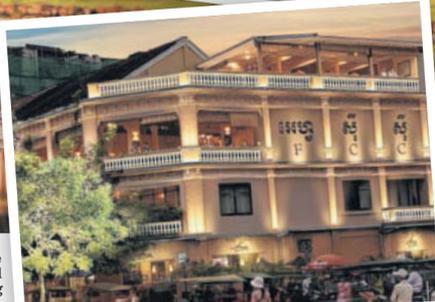
I caught a 45-minute flight to the capital Phnom Penh and found a booming Asian city. Behind the brash new facades and skyscrapers, though, lies the horror of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge. His brutal regime is said to have murdered at least two million people.

I visited one of the old Killing Fields. Afterwards I had another sobering experience by visiting Tuol Sleng, the former Khmer Rouge prison that echoes with the ghosts of those who suffered there.

The trauma of those years is starting to ease and Cambodia is now a safe and peaceful country to visit. The Royal Palace was

## MODERN CAMBODIA

**YES WE CAM . . .** Angkor Wat, main pic, temple, right, Robin and pals, and Foreign Correspondents' Club



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next. The king still plays a big role in Cambodian life.

The centuries peeled back in this lavish oasis as the thrum of motorbikes roared along outside the high walls.

The youthful population of Phnom Penh is keen to move on rather than dwell on the past and I joined them for a night in the wave of buzzing bars that ripple along the river banks and found the optimism of one of the region's youngest countries.

On my last day I was reminded that nature and the jungle are never far away in Cambodia.

I caught a ferry across to Arey Khsat Island. There I set off on

a mountain bike ride that took me by the mighty Mekong River. Easing through little villages in the jungle kids ran out to wave hello.

I ventured too to a local school where I could not have been more welcome.

Cycling through the rice paddies and spending time among people whose friendliness was contagious I thought of the determination and dedication that must have been needed to build the Angkor temples.

*I put my puny effort climbing to the top to shame.*

**ROBIN MCKELVIE**



## PARTY IS MIAMI NICE

MIAMI Beach is marking its 100th anniversary with a massive ocean-front musical celebration starring Andrea Bocelli, Gloria Estefan and Barry Gibb.

Hard Rock RISING is on March 26 on Miami Beach and is a free all-day oceanfront music festival located on the sand at Eighth Street and Ocean Drive.

The headliners will be joined by the official DJ of the Miami Heat, DJ Irie, Grammy award-winning musician Jon Secada, Jamaican reggae and hip hop artist Ky-Mani Marley and reggae band Third World.

Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine said: "This is how we celebrate! The historic

centennial events celebrate our legacy and mark the start of the next 100 years by increasing awareness for a global climate initiative with Miami Beach, not only rising above but leading the way."

For more information see [MiamiAndBeaches.com](http://MiamiAndBeaches.com)

GOOD news for travellers who like to take lots on holiday with them – Turkish Airlines has announced a free baggage allowance of 40kg from Edinburgh.

The airline, voted the Best in Europe in 2014's Skytrax World Airline Awards, currently operates seven flights weekly from Edinburgh, which will increase to nine during the summer period.

## HOLS FOR UNDER...

**£100:** Get the X Factor with a stay in London from £80pp and join the latest crop of talented X Factor contestants live at the O2. Includes two nights at the 3★ Ibis Styles London ExCel including breakfast, plus evening tickets to the show. Valid for arrival March 20. See [superbreak.com](http://superbreak.com) 01904 71 73 59 OR take a walk through time on Dorset's Jurassic Coast with a stay at the Alexandra Hotel from £90pp/pn B&B. The 155km coast from Devon to Dorset is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the pretty town of Lyme Regis will be your base. See [hotellalexandra.co.uk](http://hotellalexandra.co.uk) or call 01297 442010.

**£250:** Stay for a week at the one-house in Kilmakilloge/Collorus harbour in Ireland from £238 from March 7-April 24. See [holidaylettings.co.uk](http://holidaylettings.co.uk) (Home ID 25779). OR Three nights' B&B at the 4★ Dellarosa Hotel Suites & Spa in Marrakech, Morocco, is from £199pp leaving Glasgow on March 4. See [lowcostholidays.com](http://lowcostholidays.com) or call 0800 1116271.

**£500:** Al Fresco Holidays has 30 per cent off a seven-night Easter break to La Croix du Vieux Pont in Berry Rivière in Champagne, France. A stay in a Rossini mobile home, sleeping up to six people, from April 4, is now £274. La Croix du Vieux Pont is within striking distance of Paris (approx. 1.5 hours' drive) and Disneyland Paris. Day trips can be arranged from the site, a great way to

indulge in some Disney magic without staying at the theme park itself. See [afrescoholidays.com](http://afrescoholidays.com) or call 0843 636 2282 OR Pineleigh Cottages is set between the clear waters of Loch Venachar and the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park in the Trossachs. It sleeps four in two bedrooms and is available from February 25 for three nights from £359 (dogs cost £20). See [holidaycottages.co.uk](http://holidaycottages.co.uk) or call 01237 426 256.

**£750:** Seven night all-inclusive at the 3★ Hotel Britannia Excelsior in Lake Como, Italy, is from £529pp leaving Edinburgh on March 4. See [barrheadtravel.co.uk](http://barrheadtravel.co.uk) or call 0141 222 2223. OR get some Disney Magic with two weeks in Orlando at the 4★ Bahama Bay Resort in a two-bedroom apartment from £698pp (two adults and four children sharing) with flights from Edinburgh between April 9-June 17. Book by February 28. See [dealchecker.co.uk](http://dealchecker.co.uk) or call 020 3542 8888 and quote 'dealchecker.'

**£1000:** Let Blue Bay Travel help you escape the cold this December with a week all-inclusive at the 4★ St James' Club Morgan Bay, St Lucia, from £899pp with flights from Manchester on December 10. Book by February 28. See [caribbeanwarehouse.co.uk](http://caribbeanwarehouse.co.uk) or call 0844 371 4004 OR seven nights' all-inclusive at the 4★ plus Platinum Lifestyle Club-Hotel Riu Gran Canaria in Meloneras from £787pp leaving Glasgow on March 7. See [thomson.co.uk](http://thomson.co.uk) or call 0871 230 2555.

Snorkel with a ray.  
Swim with a dolphin. Meet a marmoset.  
Chill on the white-sand beaches...  
And that's just the start.

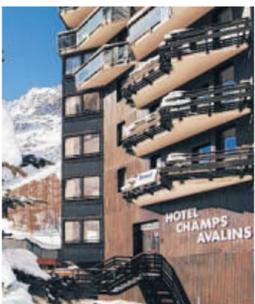
DISCOVERY COVE ORLANDO

Packages from only **£153\***

Your day at Discovery Cove® includes food, drinks and snacks – plus admission to SeaWorld® and Aquatica™ SeaWorld's Waterpark. And for just £17 more\* get Busch Gardens® too!

Call **0808 231 4482** or visit [seaworldparks.co.uk](http://seaworldparks.co.uk)

All Discovery Cove® Packages include one full day at Discovery Cove with a dolphin interaction experience. \*The Discovery Cove package includes unlimited admission to SeaWorld® and Aquatica, SeaWorld's Waterpark® for 14 days from first use. The Ultimate package price is £170 and includes unlimited admission to SeaWorld®, Busch Gardens® and Aquatica, SeaWorld's Waterpark® for 14 days from first use. Guests must be at least 6 years old to swim with dolphins. Children aged 6 – 12 must be accompanied by a paying adult who also is participating in the dolphin swim experience. Guests aged 3 – 5 must purchase the non-swim package. Prices shown are based on visits 8 Sept - 30 Sept 2015, 1 Dec - 13 Dec 2015 and are subject to change. © 2015 SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



## SLOPE OFF AT EASTER

LOOKING for a snowy Easter retreat? Ski Total has the Chalet Hotel Champs Avalins, left, in iconic Val d'Isère, France for £599pp (was £878pp) for a week on March 29. Includes return flights from Edinburgh to Geneva, transfers, and seven nights' catered accommodation. See [skitotal.com](http://skitotal.com) or call 01483 791933.

● Four nights' half-board at the 3★ Hotel Ladinia in the Italian Dolomites is £575 (was £695) including flights from various airports on March 11. See [skisolutions.com](http://skisolutions.com) or call 020 7471 7749.

● A week's catered skiing in Kitzbuhel, Austria, at the 3★ Chalet Linda, including transfers, breakfast, afternoon tea, evening meals and wine, is from £459pp (saving £250pp) leaving Edinburgh March 28. See [crystalski.co.uk](http://crystalski.co.uk) or call 020 8939 0726.

● Get three nights free on a ten-night Easter break to the Canadian ski resort of Big White and stay at the 3★ White Crystal Inn, from £1,229pp, including flights. Departures March 30. Book by March 1. See [skisafari.com](http://skisafari.com) or call 01273 224 060.

● Ski in Switzerland at Zermatt for a week at Chalet Furi (sleeps four) from £799pp (flights extra). Arriving March 8, includes full-chalet board and champagne reception on arrival. See [supertravel.co.uk/ski](http://supertravel.co.uk/ski) or call 020 7962 9933.

**bargain** ENJOY Umbria during the Jazz Festival from under £600pp! Citاليا is offering a seven nights' B&B in the 4★ Hotel Relais Il Canalicchio from £569pp. Includes one complimentary meal per person and return flights from Glasgow with Jet2. Based on departures on July 12. See [citalia.com](http://citalia.com) or call 01293 731 753.