



For... AIRCRAFT MIDDLE SEATS
Showcased at Hamburg's Aircraft Interiors Expo, Molon Labe Designs' wider, staggered middle seats have their own armrests and bigger TVs than aisle or window perches. They should appear on planes within two years.
molonlabeledesigns.com

For... GHOULISH CHILDREN
Mercat Tours' new guided Edinburgh walk for families promises tales of stinking streets, spectres, body-snatching and witches. Ghosts, Gore & Grime also visits the Blair Street Underground Vaults.
Adults £13, children £8, mercattours.com



GOOD WEEK



For... ZOOS
Responsible Travel (*responsibletravel.com*) has ceased selling holidays that include visits to zoos. The online travel company says it has 'decided that there is no longer any justifiable reason for keeping animals in captivity'.

For... SWISS SHORT-BREAKERS
The world's shortest flight is being discontinued tomorrow due to poor sales. Only launched in November, the Austrian People's Air Group's 12.5-mile hop from St Gallen in Switzerland to Friedrichshafen, across Lake Constance in Germany, takes just eight minutes.



Standing apart in Paris

Two unique hotels have just opened in the French capital, reveals **Richard Mellor**

STICKING out on the Paris hotel scene is difficult but two renegade arrivals have achieved the impossible. The new, villagey **MOB Hotel**, schemed by the co-founder of the cool Mama Shelter hotel group, Cyril Aouizerate, and located behind the huge Les Puces flea market in Saint-Ouen, northern Paris, is hell-bent on getting its guests to interact. That's why there's quite so much going on. A courtyard hosts film screenings and food trucks, while inside are an all-day organic restaurant, hammocks, swings and a Rwandan textiles shop. Concerts by acts such as Yemeni electro-folk sisters AWA take place regularly, as do yoga workshops. On one roof terrace, a neat vegetable garden is given over to locals.

The aim? A 'tangible utopia', according to Aouizerate, a former philosophy professor who stresses the numerous cooperative projects. 'We have office space for start-ups and a fashion school for designers from deprived Brazilian favelas,' he says. 'Visitors can even join the Bienveillants [Benevolents], an association fighting for positive thinking in society.'

But these noble ideals don't preclude a comfy, quirkily stylish hotel. Bedrooms come with a borrowable iPad and queen-size bed, while the best also boast small tented snugs to hide inside and guitars begging for a strum. Speaking of jams, fancy breakfasts – available all day – feature 15 separate preserves.

While the MOB offers a clutch of distractions, one quiet pastime is key at the **Drawing Hotel** (the clue's in the name). Located centrally, this 48-room affair has a basement gallery hosting art exhibitions.

The first, Strings (until May 20), sees Japanese virtuoso Keita Mori create abstract sketches using only threads of yarn. This is his own singular, delicate style of drawing. Inspired? The hotel's shop sells drawing materials. Further up, each level's hallway has been styled by a dynamic local artist. Ditto the predictably visual rooms, which also feature bold splashes of colour amid otherwise neutral tones.

An art concierge stands ready to suggest other creative haunts, plus the Louvre is very close by. 'We want to become a destination for all art-lovers,' says director Carine Tissot.

Doubles at the MOB Hotel from £77 per night, mobhotel.com. Doubles at the Drawing Hotel from £197 per night, drawinghotel.com



Art attack: The decor at the Drawing Hotel (left) is bold and unusual, while its bedrooms (above) feature artwork on the walls



Screen time: Films are shown to guests in the courtyard of the MOB Hotel



Beach bum heaven: The Plunge Beach hotel, Florida

Take the plunge in South Florida

THE clue is in the name at South Florida's new Plunge Beach hotel, which pitches itself as a laid-back retreat for divers, surfers and general beach bums. The 163-room spot, which opens this month, has taken over the former Florida Beach Hotel in the town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea and is formed of three buildings: Island, Beach and Bungalow. In a bid to entice families and young groups from shiny South Beach, Plunge Beach has the town's first sand-side beach bar (named Backflip), a gastropub called Octopus and a coffee shop serving fresh Bean and Barnacle coffee.
From £159 per night, plungebeachhotel.com



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*Conditions apply. Promotional period runs to the 30th of April for departures from 1st May to 31st October. Price is per person based on flying from London Gatwick to Toronto in May 2017 and to Vancouver in May, June, Sept & Oct. Prices for other routes may vary. Correct at the time of going to print and can change at any time. Flights from other airports available with Air Transat, see online for details and prices.

KOKOMO ISLAND IN NUMBERS



21
Number of barefoot-chic Beachfront Villas at just-opened Kokomo Island, Fiji's most exclusive private isle yet. Each has its own infinity pool.

10,167
Approximate number of miles from London you'll be while relishing the gourmet restaurant, spa, tennis court and idyllic beaches.

65
The length in km of the Great Astrolabe coral reef that surrounds Kokomo. Diving, snorkelling and kayaking are all available.

£1,595
Starting daily rate for two, including full board, mini-bar, a spa treatment and activities.
kokomoislandfiji.com



Corsican dream at half the price

THE Mediterranean island of Corsica is fab in spring: its fragrant scrubland whiffs headily, its sandy beaches are empty and its seas are warm. So heaven knows why Corsican Places is offering savings in excess of 50 per cent on Casa di Sole. Set on sun-snagging hillside, this two-bedroom cottage has a pool and veranda overlooking a pine-peppered massif. An award-winning vineyard is next door. Save £351 per person on a seven-night stay, self-catering, including return flights from Gatwick and car hire. Valid for departures on April 30 or May 7.
From £329 per person for four, corsica.co.uk