

# the waves



## GETTING THERE

British Airways (ba.com) offers return flights from Gatwick from £721. Room rates at the Fairmont Southampton start at £223 (fairmont.com/southampton-bermuda). For further information, visit [gotobermuda.co.uk](http://gotobermuda.co.uk).

Britain discovered the island when they were shipwrecked on the way to the United States.

It reminded us of Britain from another time: slow-moving traffic on country lanes; hidden coves, an old disused railway line that is now a nature trail, and people who are courteous and smiley.

British Airways is the only European airline to have a direct flight to Bermuda and the flight home was just over six hours, making it closer to London than the Caribbean. Hire cars are banned in Bermuda, which means you have to use taxis, buses or ferries to travel the 21 miles from the north to the south of the island.

Bermuda has a population of 63,000 and the locals do not pay

income tax. The average income per capita is \$80,000 (£62,000), one of the highest in the world. However, the cost of living is not cheap: a one-bedroom flat costs £350,000, a loaf of bread is £5.50, a pint of beer in a hotel can cost £11 and I paid £77 for a bottle of unremarkable red wine from California.

This summer the tourist board is hoping the lure of the America's Cup will provide a fly-on-the-wall commercial for the island. 'Our calculations project the Cup could be worth \$400million (£310million) to Bermuda,' says Winfield.

Ainslie's team will compete in qualifying races against New Zealand, Sweden, Japan and France from May 26 to win the right to meet defending champions Oracle

Team USA in the 35th America's Cup Match beginning on June 17.

Sir Ben has the pedigree and the experience to make his competitors anxious. Four years ago, Oracle Team USA was trailing 8-1 to New Zealand in San Francisco; then Ainslie was brought aboard and he steered the Americans to an incredible 9-8 triumph. Now he is plotting to find a way to rip the America's Cup from their grasp, and remind a global audience of the days when Britain ruled the waves.

If he succeeds, he has pledged to defend the Cup in Portsmouth.

● *Malcolm Folley's latest book, Monaco - Inside F1's Greatest Race, is published by Century on May 18, price £20.*

## For the height of romance, try a honeymoon in Peru's treetops

**Q** I'M GETTING married this year and we're looking for a honeymoon destination with a difference - somewhere offering adventure, escapism and romance.

Penny, by email

**A** HOW about Peru? With its 'cloud forests', rich history and snow-capped mountains, it's ultra-romantic. Eco and sustainable tourism pioneers Inkatererra can host honeymoon adventures in their luxury Peruvian properties, from the heart of the Amazon to Machu Picchu. You can even spend the night in a 'canopy tree house', suspended 90ft above the rainforest floor. You'll have a private butler, dinner under the stars and a canopy night walk

ASK  
**FRANK  
BARRETT**



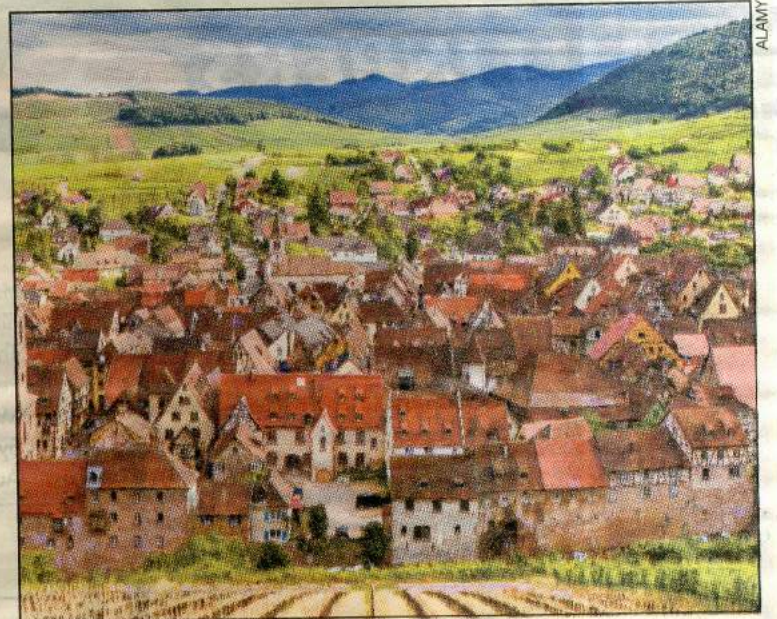
through the treetops before heading to the city of Cusco to enjoy the best of Andean culture and cuisine. Cox & Kings (coxandkings.co.uk, 020 3642 0861) organises tours and tailor-made travel to Peru, staying at Inkatererra hotels. An eight-day/six-night private tour of Peru costs from £2,495pp, including British Airways flights, internal flights and transfers.

**Q** MY MOTHER does yoga classes at a local leisure centre. As a treat, I want

to take her to a country-house hotel for a proper yoga retreat. What can you suggest?

Marie, by email

**A** HIDDEN in a glorious stretch of the Sussex countryside, Ockenden Manor combines modern spa facilities with elegantly traditional accommodation. The spa has an indoor/outdoor pool, a hot tub, gym and treatment rooms. It also offers highly rated three-day yoga retreats with resident yoga teacher Sal Jefferies. The packages, costing from £453pp, include two nights' half-board, a programme of yoga classes and Nordic walking. For details, go to [tinyurl.com/mxynvuk](http://tinyurl.com/mxynvuk) or call 0800 0893929.



BELLE VIEW: Riquewihr, in France's Alsace, inspired the Disney tale

## Beauty and the boat... and other themed cruises

By Simon Heptinstall

IT'S set to be one of this year's biggest family blockbuster films, and now Disney is offering special Beauty And The Beast cruises for a chance to visit the sights that inspired the famous story.

The River Rhine cruise will take in France, Holland, Germany and Switzerland, with excursions to medieval villages full of cobbled lanes and half-timbered houses that look just like the backdrops to the film. You'll expect to bump into Belle or Gaston around every corner.

Disney's all-inclusive eight-day river cruises use the upmarket boats normally operated by AmaWaterways.

One of the main attractions will be a tour of Riquewihr in north-eastern France, the historic village that was the inspiration for French novelist Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve's original 1740 tale.

There will be six Beauty sailings in 2018 which will also include visits to German fairytale locations the Black Forest and Heidelberg Castle.

Expect on-board film screenings and themed dinners, too. Adult fare starts at about £3,500. For details, go to [tinyurl.com/l8vty32](http://tinyurl.com/l8vty32).

● If you can't wait that long for a floating Beauty And The Beast experience, Disney's own Disney Dream cruise ship will be staging the first ocean-going live musical stage show of the story from November 6 this year on its itineraries in the Caribbean. Expect Disney's renowned Broadway-style quality. Visit [disneycruise.disney.go.com](http://disneycruise.disney.go.com).

● Disney's announcement followed news that this year's Star Trek cruise on the NCL Norwegian Pearl was a complete sellout. It was another example of

modern travellers' appetite for film-themed cruises.

The Star Trek cruise organisers quickly arranged two repeat cruises for January 2018. Book quickly - this year's cruise sold out in just two months.

Captain James Kirk, or actor William Shatner, was the star figure on board this year's trip. Next year's six-day cruises from Miami on the 2,400-passenger Norwegian Jade will feature Mr Sulu, actor George Takei. Single cabins are from £1,740pp. Go to [startrekthecruise.com](http://startrekthecruise.com).

● If your heroes are of a more sporting nature, Princess Cruises has just announced big-name speakers on Crown Princess sailing from Southampton between April and September this summer.

Celebrity speakers include former Tottenham football boss Harry Redknapp, former England cricketers Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, snooker player John Virgo and goalkeeper Peter Shilton.

Prices start at £799pp for seven nights. Visit [princess.com/holiday](http://princess.com/holiday).

● The ultimate luxury sports holiday is offered by Azamara - a World Cup cruise to Russia in June next year. The 12-day trip on a boutique ship sails from the heart of London,

through the Baltic Sea to Scandinavia and Russia. The highlight will be a visit to St Petersburg's Zenit Stadium to watch a World Cup game.

Cruises cost from £6,998 for a two-berth cabin. Go to [azamaracruises.co.uk](http://azamaracruises.co.uk).

## FAIRYTALE:

Disney's new version of Beauty And The Beast

