

TRAVEL JOANNE O'CONNOR



Take me there

White nights in Paris



You don't really need an excuse to visit Paris. But if you are looking for one then October's Nuit Blanche festival is hard to beat. This quirky all-nighter sees the streets brought to life for one night with spectacular light installations, multi-media performances, cultural "happenings" and dusk-til-dawn gallery openings. The 10th running of the event is the biggest yet, with more than 30 artists taking over venues including churches, gardens, hotels and libraries, all linked by four nocturnal walking trails (nuitblanche.paris.fr). Eurostar (eurostar.com) has returns from £80. And if you can't make it to Paris, check out some homegrown "White Night" events in Leeds on 7 October (lightnightleeds.co.uk) and Brighton on 29 October (whitenightnuitblanche.com).



Joanne's travel clinic

Baby-friendly getaways

My girlfriend and I have always enjoyed indulgent weekends away. We are having a baby in November. Please tell me we aren't doomed to spend our holidays in Butlins. Daniel B, London

I can't lie to you, Daniel – babies and boutique hotels go together like carrot purée and cream carpets. While some country-house hotels bend over backwards to accommodate smaller guests (go to luxuryfamilyhotels.co.uk), having to wash out a babygro in your Philippe Starck sink will take the shine off your mini-break. But a new breed of self-catering properties recreates the ambience of a boutique hotel, but with a list of baby kit that would put Mothercare to shame. Babyfriendlyboltholes.co.uk has dozens of mouthwatering holiday homes. Friends with nippers rave about Lower Mill Cottages in the Cotswolds (lowermillestate.com), a collection of luxurious lakeside villas with a spa and concierge service, while Dairy Cottage in the New Forest (dairycottagenewforest.co.uk), offers proof that style and stairgates are not mutually exclusive. Oh, and do check out Butlins' boutique hotel in Bognor (butlins.com/accommodation/hotels/ocean-hotel.aspx). It's not Babington House, but it's really not bad at all. ■

ON THE WEB

If you have a travel dilemma, email Joanne O'Connor at magazine@observer.co.uk. For more travel suggestions, go to guardian.co.uk/travel

Three of the best **Cosy cabins**

The leaves are falling and the nights are drawing in. Here's our pick of three appealingly homey hideaways for autumn



1 Love Shack, Ambleside, Cumbria

Cabins don't come cooler than this eco-friendly retreat with views of Lake Windermere. From £400 for three nights (lakedistrictloveshack.com)



2 The Hide, Portesham Vineyard, Dorset

A simple, stylish shepherd's hut with wood burner in a bucolic vineyard setting. From £95 a night (canopyandstars.co.uk)



3 Caban Casita, Teifi Valley, Wales

This funky retro cabin for two is set in a peaceful woodland holiday camp. From £142 for two nights (underthethatch.co.uk/casita)