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time to EXPLORE For holidays in the new normal...

Time travel

BY VICKY LISSAMAN



HISTORIC
Magnificent
Hippodrome
is now 118
years old

Great Yarmouth's Hippodrome

Built in 1903 by the legendary circus showman George Gilbert, Great Yarmouth's Hippodrome is Britain's only surviving total circus.

Dubbed one of the seven wonders of the British seaside, the Norfolk landmark has played host to an incredible variety of entertainments, from amazing water spectacles and stage shows to cinema. It closed only briefly during the Second World War, when it was used as a military practice shooting range!

Lloyd George held his political rallies here and Lillie Langtry, Max Miller and Houdini have all performed at the Hippodrome.

The venue was bought by current owner, Peter Jay and his father, in the late 1970s.

Peter restored the water effects for his first produced circus show in 1981, and water has been a major part of the unique circus performances ever since.

The building even has its very own circus museum, which is home to more than 100 years of memorabilia including signs, posters, costumes and a vintage sound, lighting and microphone collection.

Peter Jay's son and current ringmaster, Jack Jay, presides over the modern vision of circus, which is offering four new thrilling live shows for socially distanced audiences in 2021. The lighting design for the shows is done by Peter's other son Ben.

Each production features a packed line-up of amazing trapeze aerialists, acrobatics, daring stunts and hilarious comedy as well as a mesmerising Water Spectacular.

The aquatic acrobatic showstopper will be performed on the historic central stage that transforms into a giant swimming pool.

hippodromecircus.co.uk, great-yarmouth.co.uk

The Camping and Caravanning Club will open two new pet-friendly sites on May 24. Braithwaite Village Club Site in the Lake District and Sherwood Pines Camping in Nottinghamshire feature quality facilities for families, backpackers and cyclists. campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk



BARK LIFE
Brechfa's
secure
gardens
enjoy great
scenery

Brechfa Forest Barns, Carmarthenshire

You can't beat the views from these three mountain-top retreats, near Pencader. The rustic barns, which sleep two to six, all have secure gardens and miles of forest walks on the doorstep.

Guests can also make the most of a dog park and sensory garden called Scentral Bark. Here, you'll find a splash pool, trampoline and sandpit plus a doggy vending machine where you can buy treats, with all proceeds going to a local dog charity.

Unlimited pets are welcome for £15 each per stay, and they'll be able to hang out with resident beagles, Oscar and Alfie.

Weekend breaks start from £395. brechfaforestbarns.co.uk



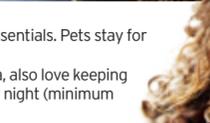
CANINE CHIC
Dogs can
roam freely
at stylish
cottages

Letheringham Mill, Suffolk

For a luxurious home from home, check in to one of the four stylish cottages on the banks of the River Deben. From the moment you drive through the gate, you can unclip your dog's lead and let them roam freely around the seven-acre site, which is surrounded by water.

The picture-postcard cottages, which sleep two to four, all come with a crate containing doggy essentials. Pets stay for free and there are no limits on numbers.

The resident Labradoodles, Teddy, Amber and Lola, also love keeping doggy guests entertained. Prices start from £120 per night (minimum stay of three nights). letheringhammill.co.uk



Pet's the way to do it as Jenny Green finds top spots for animals

Dogs are known for being man's best friend, and our pet pooches have helped many of us get through the pandemic.

In the last 12 months, a record number of families have taken on a new four-legged friend - including mine, who adopted Romanian rescue Stan just before Christmas.

He is loving UK life with his Westie brother Ernie but when

lockdown lifts, we're looking forward to travelling a bit further than our local park.

Most pet-friendly accommodation will happily accept two pooches - but if your furry family is a bit bigger than that, it doesn't have to mean relaxing breaks are off the menu.

Here are some suggestions for multi-pet holidays that are truly dog-friendly, rather than just dog tolerant.



SITTING PRETTY
Stan and his new best friend Ernie



Developing Dogs, Cambs

If you have a reactive dog or one that could do with some extra training, check in to one of these three stylish cottages, near Ely. The Developing Dogs site is owned and run by Sian Ryan, from BBC2's Me and My Dog, and her training centre - where you can book in for one-to-one sessions - is right next door.

All of the cottages, which sleep two to four, have secure gardens and hot tubs, and guests will also have pre-booked access to eight acres of securely fenced fields.

There is no limit on the number of dogs and no extra charge for them. Short breaks start from £575, with discounts for returning guests. developingdogs.co.uk



The paw the merrier

Pawprints Holidays, Lincolnshire

If you're looking for a quiet break by the sea, check out these three bungalows in Sutton-on-Sea and Hogsthorpe, which sleep four to six people.

All have secure gardens, wipe-clean flooring and are within easy walking distance of beautiful sandy beaches.

There is no limit on the number of dogs allowed at the properties - which are only rented to dog owners - and no extra charge, either. The most they've had to stay at once is 15!

Dog crates, steps, towels, bowls and poo bags can also be provided upon request. Week-long stays start from £650. pawprintsholidays.com



LIFE'S A BEACH
Pawprints is ideal for a quiet break by the sea



Boturnell Farm Cottages, Cornwall

If you're looking for somewhere quirky to stay, head to Boturnell, in the heart of the Cornish countryside. It has everything from shepherd's huts to Nissen huts, all of which have secure enclosed gardens.

There is access to eight acres of woodland and you're just a short drive from the coast, too. Unlimited numbers of pets can stay for free - and they don't have to be dogs, either. There are alpacas, goats and pigs onsite but cats, rabbits, parrots and tortoises are also welcome. You can even bring your horse for a small livery charge. Four-night breaks start from £200. dogs-holiday.co.uk

ANIMAL CHARM
All sorts of
pets are
welcome



HOUNDS OF LOVE
Relax in
cosy, gated
community

Balmaghie Dog-Friendly Holidays, Dumfries & Galloway

Relax in one of three cosy lodges, near Castle Douglas, which have 18 acres of fenced-in woodland to explore.

Dogs and their owners can have it all to themselves too, because you padlock the gate behind you when you enter.

The modern lodges, which sleep up to six, all have outdoor decking and secure gardens with 6ft fences.

A free dog-sitting service is also available, upon request.

There is no limit on the number of dogs allowed on-site and no additional charge to bring pets along. Prices start from £70 per night. dogfriendlyholidaysscotland.co.uk

TeamDogs is a brilliant new website where you'll find top recommendations for dog owners by dog owners. Whether you're training your first puppy or you're a seasoned owner, there's something for you. To find out more and sign up, head to teamdogs.co.uk

MORE INFO

For more dog-friendly holiday inspiration, visit ernies-adventures.com Follow Ernie on Twitter @Erniepup, Facebook at Ernie's Adventures and Instagram @erniethestieup



Flower show green light

Five inspiring flower and garden shows are returning this summer.

Blenheim Palace Flower Show, pictured, is back in Oxfordshire on June 25-27, and shows will also run in Chelmsford, Essex (May 21-23), Newbury, Berkshire (July 31-August 1), Norfolk (July 16-18) and Newark, Notts (September 3-5).

The summer shows are the ultimate weekend of outdoor inspiration, with talks, displays, exhibits and more than 100 shopping experiences. aztevents.co.uk/garden-shows

Travelodge has released 1.7 million rooms across the UK for £29 a night or under. Destinations include seascides and cities and the firm is taking bookings for stays after May 17, the earliest date the Government says hotels can reopen. travelodge.co.uk

Buy of the week

BY NIGEL THOMPSON



Lockes are lightweight and breathable hot climate shoes for men and women that flatten for packing. The collapsible NosiLife anti-insect mesh uppers combine with the durable grippy rubber Tread-Lock soles which attach facing together, to save space and ensure any dirt on them doesn't transfer to your bag's contents. Recycled materials used include coffee beans, rubber and foam waste, plus bio-oil from castor plants. **Locke Packaway Shoe, £75, craghoppers.com**