



**The Grand Hotel, Eastbourne**

**WHAT'S IT LIKE?:** Lives up to its name. This 5★ hotel, nicknamed "The White Palace", is situated on Eastbourne's seafront but a screen of tall trees gives the feeling of a country house. Inside, gilded columns and chandeliers create an atmosphere of classic style with faultless service. Famous guests have included Winston Churchill, Charlie Chaplin, the emperor of Ethiopia and the Queen of Thailand.

**ROOMS ANY GOOD?:** The 152 large and airy rooms, range from deluxe bedrooms to penthouse suites. They fuse Victorian elegance with all mod-cons including TVs, free wifi and luxury Molton Brown toiletries. Many have sea views and balconies.

**EAT HERE OR GRAB A PIZZA?:** The Grand has two

**hot spot**

IT IS 25C in sunny CYPRUS: Seven nights' self-catering at the 3★ Kefalonitis Apartments is from £232, departing Manchester May 6. See [thomascCook.com](http://thomascCook.com) or call 0844 412 5970.

**hot spot**

TURKEY IS 21C: Escape to the sun from £311. That's all-inclusive at the 5★ Green Nature Resort in Marmaris, departing Gatwick on May 14. See [ontheseach.co.uk](http://ontheseach.co.uk) or call 0871 474 3000 for details.



**SunSNAPS!**

WE always say get closer to nature but we didn't mean this close!

It's hard to say what's more alarming here, the blowfish's surprised look or the fact his captor seems to have gone fishing in his pants.

Either way, Bill Stenzel, from Marlow in Bucks, gets the £150 hotels.com voucher this week for his impressive angling shot.

He was in the Dominican Republic and promises us he put the fish back.

Be in the running for a voucher by sending your top holiday shot to [sunsnapsthesun.co.uk](mailto:sunsnapsthesun.co.uk).

You don't have to badger any animals but don't forget to tell us where you were.

**Hotels.com**

# JUDGE OUR DAFTEST LAWS AT DUNGEON

THE London Dungeon is marking the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta with a show about Britain's silliest laws, all through June.

Judge Lord Wendy Farquhar's London Dungeon Court will put some visitors on trial in a show where guests will be left wondering whether the judge's zeal is more disturbing than the loony

- news**
- laws defendants are accused of breaking.
- Here are a handful of the madcap rulings:
- 1 It is illegal to enter the Houses of Parliament in a suit of armour (1313).
  - 2 It is illegal for any person to fly a kite or slide on ice or snow while in the street (1839).
  - 3 Any dead whale or sturgeon found on the British coast automatically becomes the property of the Monarch (1322).
  - 4 It is an offence for a pub landlord to allow drunkenness in their pub – in other words it is illegal to be drunk in a pub! (1872)
  - 5 No person shall import into England potatoes which he knows or has reasonable cause to suspect to be Polish (2004).
  - 6 It is against the law to carry a plank along a pavement (1839).



# FORM AN ORDERLY CU

CUNARD'S 175th celebrations start in earnest tomorrow when Queen Mary 2, Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria form a sailaway procession.

The ships will sail into home port Southampton together and depart in formation.

At 4.30pm, Queen Mary 2 will lead out Queen Elizabeth

**cruise news**

and Queen Victoria. After the three-ship meeting, Queen Victoria will depart on her seven-night "Lusitania Remembered" voyage.

Queen Mary 2 is bound for New York, while Queen Elizabeth will embark on an eight-night cruise calling at Hamburg and Amsterdam.



# SAY HI TO DUBAI LIKE CORRIE'S MICHELLE

CORONATION Street star Michelle Keegan, pictured, held her hen party in Dubai this week.

She was celebrating her last days of freedom before marrying ex-Towie star and TV presenter Mark Wright.

Michelle invited 30 friends and family along for the trip – but you don't need to take that many people when you go with Virgin Holidays.

It offers three nights' half-board in a luxury sea-view room at the 5★ Sofitel The Palm Dubai from £625. Leaves Heathrow on June 20. Call 0844 557 3859 or go to [virginholidays.co.uk](http://virginholidays.co.uk).

IS he Canadian or British? Get yourself tickets to the Tennis Classic next month and you can ask him yourself.

Greg Rusedski is among the stars at the Hurlingham Club – along with current world number

11 Grigor Dimitrov, a semi-finalist at last year's Wimbledon Championship.

The BNP Paribas event is a great place to spot the star players of tomorrow.

The action is from June 23-26 and tickets cost from £195. See [bnpparibas.tennisclassic.com](http://bnpparibas.tennisclassic.com) or call 020 8233 5854.

OR if rugby is more your thing, the Rib Room restaurant in London is celebrating the World Cup coming to England in September by hosting an evening with Lewis Moody MBE.

"Mad Dog" Moody will entertain diners on September 3 with a few anecdotes that are sure to cover how the name came to stick.

The four-course dinner with half a bottle of wine and other treats costs £100 a head.

See [theribroom.co.uk](http://theribroom.co.uk) or call 020 7858 7250 for further details.

MONARCH has introduced a new in-flight "British Comfort Food" menu.

Dishes include a full English breakfast and a slow-braised Kentish ale beef casserole with parsley dumplings and roasted carrots. All the meals within the new menu come with a free PG Tips tea or Kenko coffee, which normally costs £2.50.

RYANAIR has changed its prices for checking in sports equipment.

There used to be a £50 flat rate, but now there are five categories: bike (£60); large sport including surfboards, canoes and kayaks (£60); skis (£40); golf bag (£30); and small sport including fishing rod, bowling ball, racquet and hockey stick (£30).

FLYBE has launched a route from Cardiff to Dusseldorf. It will start as a weekly service on Saturdays and then fly four times weekly from August 31. Fares start at £44.99 each way. See [flybe.com](http://flybe.com).

**air news**



# Grecian yearn

## BEAUTIFUL SIGHTS AND TOP FOOD IN HALKIDIKI

**SPLASHING TIME . . .** the spectacular coastline which also offers mountain views, below. Inset, top right, a local church and tempting cuisine



### REMEMBER unspoilt Greece, the fresh food, clear seas and friendly locals?

A trip to the Mount Athos coast is a delicious trip back in time.

This is Greece pre all-inclusive, and beyond. Aristotle wandered and wondered here – and Alexander the Great rampaged through. It's easy to see why. Naturally, it's stunning. The pine-caked mountains with roaring waterfalls and clear streams roll into emerald green seas.

Wild tortoises, no doubt as old as the hills, walk the mountain paths where great philosophers pondered. Bees drone through the land making the finest honey, while locals still batter octopuses on the sea rocks like the forefathers before them.

Eat the food and it's easy to see why Greeks are so proud. Whether it's traditional grilled sardines or octopus cooked in honey-glazed figs, nut-caked pastries or lamb with truffle potatoes, it's sublime.

Shhh. A few well-off powerful people are keen to keep this area their own little secret.

Russian president Vladimir Putin visits a nearby spot where only men are allowed, where monks make his very own Kremlin wine. Our own Prince Philip has a soft spot for Halkidiki too.

Explore from the picturesque fishing village of Olympiada. There are no giant hotels here scarring the coastline, just friendly tavernas and family-run hotels.

Hotel Germany has balconies overlooking the beach. All food is hand-made with local produce by smiling Loulou and served on wooden decking on overlooking the coastline.

All balconies look out to sea and the small pretty island of Capri – it's where Alexander the Great banished his wife for being adulterous.

Whether you're in this hotel or its sister one Liotopi, Loulou's charm and food will bowl you over.

And for those wanting to learn the secrets of her crispy baclava, she runs cookery classes throughout the summer.

Owner Dimitri Sarris pours the tasty local wine and explains how proud they are to keep Olympiada free from the ravages of all-inclusive.

He gives free tours of the local monuments – including the birthplace of Aristotle.

How's this for the best breakfast ever? Spooning thick Greek

### GO: ATHOS

**GETTING THERE:** A seven-night walking holiday in Eastern Halkidiki with Ramblers Worldwide Holidays is from £899, with flights leaving Gatwick on October 17.

Includes airport transfers and accommodation at the Hotel Liotopi [hotel-liotopi.gr/en](http://hotel-liotopi.gr/en). Plus a guided walking along the routes – ramblers holidays.co.uk/page/olympiada.

Rooms at Hotel Germany start from £57 hotel-germany.gr.

For more on Eastern Halkidiki and the Mount Athos area, see [mountathosarea.org](http://mountathosarea.org).

yoghurt and honey into a fixed-grin gob, watching the sea wash up to the restaurant steps, while hearing the swallows busy themselves above. Then come the pastries . . .

We took a fishing boat to the island to help fisherman Marios cast his nets, before exploring a local mussel farm.

Halkidiki mussels are famous for being as fat as plums and as tasty as the plankton green seas they feast on.

They tasted so much better steamed in their own seawater and drizzled with lemon washed down with healthy slugs of the firewater tsipouro.

And no trip on a boat would be complete without launching off the back into the crisp (read springtime freezing) Aegean for a swim under the sun.

It's the simple things that make Greece so special. Clear skies and driving sun ripen the juiciest tomatoes and

seem to attract the tastiest fish. With bargain airlines flying into Thessaloniki this area is opening up to visitors.

The pretty mountain village of Arnea makes a scenic stopover on the way to the coast.

Fresh spring water pours through a hole in a tree in the central square – rumour has it, that if you drink it you'll marry a local and stay for ever.

The honey shop is run by a man who's allergic to bees. He gives great tasting sessions.

You must try the excellent pies, cakes and jams from the Varvaro village.

Keeping traditional food and techniques alive, while producing knockout treats to take home or scoff during a picnic while exploring the local waterfalls.

You don't need a brain the size of Aristotle's to know this is cracking place.

This food, this untouched corner of Greece, is too good to ignore any longer.

WILLIAM SPENCER

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