

2019 Festive Party breaks

FESTIVE BREAKS FROM **£69 pp***



ROOM UPGRADE FROM **£10pp***

FAB-YULE-LOUS

HOW ABOUT MAKING THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON THE ONE FOR A BIT OF 'YOU' TIME WITH WARNER?

We've got some of the best addresses in the country, and we're throwing them open for a rare one or two-night Festive Party break with all the Christmas trimmings.

Included in the price of 2019 Festive Party breaks:

- Fantastic accommodation
- Mince pie and welcome drink
- Fun afternoons and pre-dinner shows
- Use of leisure facilities
- Complimentary access to pool and leisure club
- Three-course festive dinner with all the trimmings
- Party band
- Late breakfast
- Late checkout

Location	1 night, price per person, per break	
	Friday 20 December	Saturday 21 December
Corton Coastal Village, Suffolk	£69	£69
Gunton Hall Coastal Village, Suffolk	£69	£69
Lakeside Coastal Village, Hampshire	£69	£69
Alvaston Hall Hotel, Cheshire	£79	£99
Cricknet St. Thomas Hotel, Somerset	£79	£79
Holme Lacy House Hotel, Herefordshire	£79	£79
Nidd Hall Hotel, North Yorkshire	£79	£99
Littlecote House Hotel, Berkshire	£89	£89
Studley Castle Hotel, Warwickshire	£99	£99

Location	2 nights, price per person, per break	
	Friday 20 December and Saturday 21 December	
Lakeside Coastal Village, Hampshire	£138	
Bodelwyddan Castle Hotel, North Wales	£158	
Sinah Warren Coastal Hotel, Hampshire	£158	
Thoresby Hall Hotel, Nottinghamshire	£189	

WARNERLEISUREHOTELS

*Small print: Prices are 'from' per person per break based on two people sharing a Standard room with Simply Dine. Studley Castle is based on two people sharing a room on a Dinner, Bed & Breakfast basis unless specified. Bed & Breakfast also available. Offer applies to new bookings only and is subject to promotional availability which is reviewed daily and is only applicable on bookings up to 19 people. Balance payments are due 10 weeks before the start date of your break. Savings cannot be used on bookings with Group benefits or bookings made through Coach Operators. Supplements apply for additional attributes such as upgrades, spa treatments and fine dining. Full terms and conditions apply as stated online. All persons in your booking must be over 21 years old. Calls (including calls from any type of line including mobile, BT, other fixed line or payphone) cost no more than calls to (01 or 02) geographic numbers. Bourne Holidays Limited (trading as Warner Leisure Hotels) is a company registered in England and Wales with company number 01854900 whose registered office is 1 Park Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 4YL. 79108W

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BIG DEAL

Portugal from £189pp: seven nights' self-catering at the five-star Grand Muthu Oura View Beach Club in Albufeira, Algarve, comes with Stansted flight on November 4, or £215pp from Manchester on November 2. Visit travelrepublic.co.uk or call 020 8974 7200.

Air update

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

From Russia with fares you'll love - no-frills carrier Wizz Air has launched bargain services departing Luton for Moscow and St Petersburg.

One-way tickets with the low-cost Hungarian airline start at £25.99, with daily flights to both cities.

St Petersburg is the cultural heart of Russia with iconic palaces and churches, and the fabulous Hermitage Museum.

The capital Moscow offers sights such as the Kremlin, Red Square and St Basil's Cathedral, pictured.



Ever-expanding Wizz now has 107 routes to 30 countries from 11 UK airports, and 63 routes from Luton where it is now the largest operating airline.

An airline spokesman said: "Wizz Air is delighted to continually offer our customers more opportunities to discover new and exciting destinations across Europe and further afield." wizzair.com

■ Virgin Atlantic is expanding its Manchester services for the winter season. It will also open a new luxury Clubhouse lounge next spring, alongside a refurbished Virgin Holidays v-room.

Highlights of the enlarged flying programme - which offers 30,000 additional seats year on year - include more services to New York, Barbados and Orlando.

The Clubhouse will host Upper Class passengers and Gold Card members and offer a la carte dining, a bar and spa.

In the new look v-room, customers will get buffet food and play areas for younger travellers. virginatlantic.com virginholidays.co.uk

BIG DEAL

UAE from £591pp: soak up the sun on a week's B&B at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Ras al Khaimah. Departs from Newcastle on October 16. Go to onthebeach.co.uk or call 0871 474 3000.

TRAVEL



UP AND AWAY Brian enjoys a tippie and a trip aloft with Flo

WRIGHT AT THE START

Brian Hancill explores the coastline of North Carolina and hears stories of the first English settlers and aircraft pioneers

Drive across North Carolina to the islands of the Outer Banks and it feels more like you're heading for the Outer Limits.

US Highway 64 crosses a 40-mile stretch of forest where the largest black bears in the world roam wild.

Then there's a three-mile bridge over the Alligator River, a five-mile bridge to Roanoke Island, and finally a two-mile bridge to the chain of islands known as OBX. It's all breathtakingly scenic.

One of the first things you notice is that someone called Virginia Dare is a big name.

A whole county, that five-mile bridge, a small airport and even a brand of vanilla extract are named after her.

Why? Because on August 18, 1587, Virginia became the first child born to English parents on American soil. But no one knows what became of her. On her third birthday, her grandfather John White returned from a three-year mission to England to find the pioneer settlement he had established on Roanoke's north-eastern shore silent and deserted.

In one of history's most enduring mysteries, all 117 settlers, including his granddaughter and her parents, had vanished. Most of the buildings had been flattened but there were

no graves, no bodies and no signs of a struggle.

More than 400 years later, the woodland where the settlement stood has an eerie calm. A short film at the visitor centre explains the story and every day in summer a play called The Lost Colony is performed at an open-air theatre down by the waterfront.

Five miles across the water is the region's other main claim to fame. On December 17, 1903, a pair of bicycle mechanics from Dayton, Ohio, made the world's first aircraft

flight above a stretch of windswept sand at Kitty Hawk. North Carolina number plates still carry the words First in Flight to honour brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright.

At the Wright Brothers National Memorial an impressive granite monument stands on the small hill where they began their trials.

Four marker stones show you how far their biplane flew on each attempt that day. A visitor centre tells the story and there's a full-size replica of the Wright Flyer in the glass-sided hall next door.

On the spur of the moment the next day we took our own flight in a little Cessna from OBX Airplanes at Dare County Airport. Just me, girlfriend Flo and Carl the pilot, who let me take the controls for a few

Four marker stones show how far their plane flew on each attempt

TOMORROW **SUNDAY Mirror**
Berlin, Long Island, PortAventura Halloween, holiday sleep tips, Hotel of the Week, top deals, Set Jetting



World's 10 most expensive beaches for daily sunlounger and parasol hire from brand marketing site We Are Promotional – 1) Waikiki, US, £40.06 2) Miami, US, £28.04 3) Tropea, Italy, £22.49 4) Nazare, Portugal, £18.89 5) Lloret de Mar, Spain, £17.99 6) Bondi, Australia, £16.65 7) Coney Island, US, £16.02 8) Copacabana, Brazil, £12.23 9) Spiaggia Grande, Italy, £11.24 10) Haad Rin Nok, Thailand, £10.39

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Sorry, we cannot answer all individual queries

BRIDGE OF SKIES
Historic
Corolla Park



minutes after we passed directly over the flight monument. For only \$69 it was a memorable way to see the Outer Banks on a beautiful sunny day.

The night before we had visited a bar called Poor Richard's in the Roanoke town of Manteo. A young man called Grant Tate heard our accents and insisted on buying drinks. He turned out to be descended from the brother of William Tate, the Kitty Hawk postmaster who encouraged the Wright Brothers to go there and hosted them when they arrived.

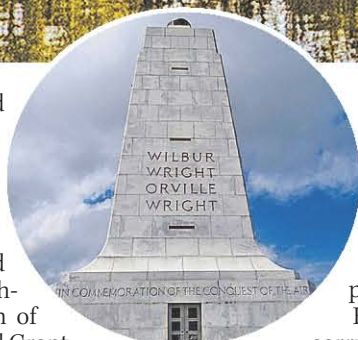
"They wrote to 101 postmasters all over the US and Bill was the only one who replied," Grant told us proudly.

You need to rent a car to get around the Outer Banks and north of the Roanoke bridge there are 36 miles of road. The first 12 are a four-lane highway and, although everywhere is bright and clean, you could be anywhere in America as the strip malls, discount stores and diners roll by.

Breaking the pattern on the western side is an immense system of dunes called Jockey's Ridge State Park.

We spent an hour traversing its shifting sandy slopes but had to abandon our mission to reach the distant sea as rain clouds gathered and lunch beckoned, so we pulled into the Outer Banks Brewing Station, billed as America's first wind-powered brew pub.

After a nature reserve at Kitty Hawk Woods, the main road veers off to the mainland and the route north becomes quieter, greener and more upmarket. Huge villas with manicured lawns back on to a never-ending sandy beach with openings for public access. The



HISTORIC Honouring the flight pioneers

pleasingly named town of Duck has quirky shops on a waterfront boardwalk. It's also worth taking a long walk around Historic Corolla Park, with its redbrick lighthouse and picture-perfect village.

Beyond Corolla, 4x4s can carry on north to a stretch of beach and woodland where wild horses roam. They are said to be descended from animals that swam ashore from Spanish shipwrecks in the 16th century.

We'd hoped to drive 60 miles through the sparsely developed southern strand and rejoin the mainland via two small car ferries and the tiny island of Ocrakoke. We did make a short detour south to climb up the 214 steps of Bodie Island lighthouse, but the island-hopping route would have taken a whole day and we just didn't have the time.

Anyway, it's a good excuse to go back.

Get there

American Airlines flies daily from Heathrow to Raleigh Durham, fares from £731 return aa.com. Rooms at Guest House Raleigh from \$199 a night guesthouseraleigh.com. B&B at The Tranquil House Inn in Manteo from \$109 a night tranquilhouseinn.com. Rooms at The Jarvis at 220 in New Bern from \$149 a night. thejarvisat220.com.

Tourist info: visitnc.com visitraleigh.com visitnewbern.com outerbanks.org



Freewheeling Raleigh is just capital

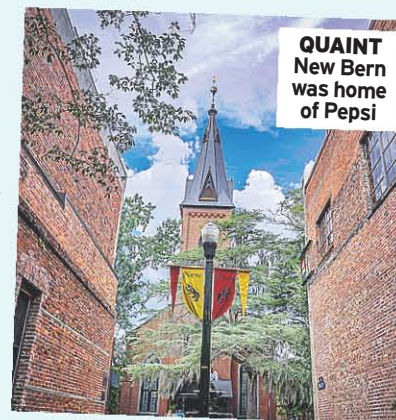
Our trip to North Carolina was topped and tailed with stays in Raleigh, the state capital, and New Bern, a small town near the coast.

Raleigh is by no means a small town but it feels just like one. Everyone you meet seems to know everyone else and nearly everything is within walking distance.

After flying in we ate at the Garland, a pan-Asian restaurant owned by husband-and-wife musicians Paul and Cheetie, who play in the rock band Birds of Avalon. After an excellent meal Paul took us to a local bar, greeting nearly everyone we passed by name, and he knew Matt and Nicole, owners of our hotel, the wonderful Guest House Raleigh.

Next morning we had breakfast in City Market, an area of quaint cobblestoned streets, before hitting the North Carolina Museum of History, then the Museum of Art. Set in a vast park with outdoor exhibits, the latter was huge, uncrowded, and has everything from Old Masters to modern sculptures.

Back in town at the multi-storey Beer Garden, we met owner Niall Hanley, a genial giant from County Mayo who has built up a chain of 10 food and drink venues since opening the city's first Irish pub 20 years



ago. His Beer Garden holds the world record for the most ales on tap – an incredible 366.

Along the way we lunched at Brewery Bhavana and Beasley's Chicken & Honey, both tastily typical of a town where local owners are the rule, not the exception.

New Bern, around 110 miles south east, was Raleigh's predecessor as state capital until 1792. It was hit hard by Hurricane Florence in 2018 but has bounced back so well that we didn't notice any effects until we took a river cruise and saw cabin cruisers stuck in trees.

On our Cruise The Neuse trip we also passed an osprey's nest (complete with egg-sitting female) and the palatial home of Nicholas Sparks, author of weepy bestseller *The Notebook*.

New Bern is also the

birthplace of Pepsi-Cola, invented in a local drugstore in 1893 as Brad's Drink. The building is now a Pepsi shrine and even though I'm fizzy-pop phobic, a huge float with ice-cream proved irresistible.

Pepsi apart, this is another town that thrives on unique local businesses, from quaintly traditional stores such as Mitchell's Hardware (motto: if we don't have it, you don't need it), to first-class restaurants like the Persimmon Waterfront, new Cypress Hall, plus lunchtime favourite Captain Ratty's.

We took a trolleybus tour and found the jewel in New Bern's crown – streets full of antebellum homes lovingly preserved and restored. Like those in Savannah, Georgia, they escaped the destruction of the civil war.

We stayed in one such building brought back to life by husband-and-wife owners Michael and Denise, who retired early to create luxury B&B The Jarvis at 220.

Denise, an Anglophile former flight attendant, even serves PG Tips tea.

Both towns were great places to visit and we thought they'd be wonderful places to live, too. If I were young again I'd be looking for a job in Raleigh right now.