



SHORE LOOKS NICE Win the gift card and you could jet off to island of Kefalonia

Last chance to win dream hol

Take part in the holiday "Oscars" and you could win a £4000 getaway gift card to use against a TUI holiday or river cruise

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

DON'T miss your final chance to be entered into a draw for a fabulous £40,000 travel prize jackpot.

Consumer voting for the UK holiday "Oscars" has been running since July 6 and you could win a fabulous getaway giveaway just for taking part.

But the ballot closes at midnight on Monday, so you need to join in now.

The 2019 British Travel Awards are your chance to say who is the cream of the holiday business.

The UK travel industry regard them as their most coveted prizes as they're voted for by the public, who spend money on the holidays and services they provide.

Categories for voting include airlines, hotels, overseas tour operators, cruise lines, staycation attractions and accommodation specialists, plus add-ons such as travel insurance, airport parking, currency exchange and price comparison websites.

As a thank you for taking the time to join in, everyone who submits a vote is entered into a draw for an Aladdin's cave of superb holiday freebies worth more than £40,000.

Prizes include a Rhine river sailing, a

getaway to Kefalonia, a northern Europe cruise from Southampton, two villa holidays, luxury staycations, airport hotel and parking, a pair of airline return tickets to anywhere in the world bar Australasia and a £4000 travel gift card.

Last year, 334,522 people cast 753,938 votes, making the BTAs the largest consumer voted award programme in the UK.

The 2019 winners will be announced at a gala ceremony in London on November 27.

HOW IT WORKS

Voting is online at britishtravelawards.com where there are 82 award categories. Yes, that's a lot - but you do not have to vote in them all. Just opt for as many or as few as you wish.

And it's really easy too. If, for example, you only want to vote for your favourite long-haul airline and nothing else, that's fine.

There is also an invite to take part in research that looks at the nation's holiday plans for 2020. It's voluntary and you can do much or as little as you wish. But if you do, to reward you there's a bonus go in the bumper prize ballot. Best of luck.



travel WITH SALLY McLEAN

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RESTAURATEUR and sommelier Armando Bisceglia has scoured the globe for the best food and wine to use at his Italian eaterie Trattoria Zooma in Providence, Rhode Island.

But his own "happy place" is close to home.

"There is nothing better in life than sitting on a deckchair on the beach at Ocean House," he said.

My wife Rachel and I had just begun our tour of America's smallest state. And just a few hours before dining with Armando in the bustling Federal Hill area of Providence, we had flown into Boston with Virgin Atlantic, before driving an hour south in our rental car.

Our hotel for the first couple of nights was the landmark Omni Providence.

It is within walking distance of the college campuses, attractions and entertainment in the Renaissance City, a place that inspired the town of Quahog in Family Guy.

On our first morning, we saw Providence from the sunlit water during a River Boat Tour, as Captain Tom pointed out the city's landmarks, including the site of the famous WaterFire celebrations, the Manchester Street Generating Station, Fox Point Hurricane Barrier and The



SUNSET TRIP Rhode Island. Left, beach at Ocean House

Hot Club bar, which may be familiar to movie buffs as a filming location from There's Something About Mary.

Later, we strolled around the RISD Museum, before an al fresco dinner of clam chowder, paella, lobster and crab cakes at Hemenways.

On the second and final morning of our short-but-sweet stay in Providence, we had breakfast at Greek restaurant Kleos in the theatre district, before heading south on the I-95.

From our next base at the new Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott in South Kingstown, we were all set to explore South County, the coastal region centred around Rhode Island's seasonal vacation communities.

After Armando's claim a couple

of days before, there was only one place to start - Ocean House.

Perched high on the bluffs of Watch Hill, with views of Long Island and Connecticut, this quintessential New England seaside guest house and resort is apparently a firm favourite of the Clintons, among others.

Not only is it a Forbes five-star hotel, its OH! Spa and Coast restaurant are five-star rated.

The lavish property was meticulously reconstructed brick by brick in 2003 to reflect its rich turn-of-the-20th-century history.

Some of its quirky touches - the cosy cinema, colourful gelato stall and pale blue striped towels - are reminders of a bygone era.

But, Ocean House's pièce de

résistance is its beach, where the warm waves of the Atlantic lap the golden sand.

Just down the beach is its sister hotel, Weekapaug Inn.

We spent a morning there and embarked on a tour of the salt pond on board electric boat Quonnie Queen.

During our time in South County, we sampled some amazing seafood, in particular, the lobster, calamari and mussels at Coast Guard House on the Ocean Road in Narragansett.

My favourite dishes of the week were at Matunuck Oyster Bar in South Kingstown.

We sat next to Potter Pond, where the restaurant's tasty oysters are cultivated, and the

BY RICHARD JONES

Small yet perfectly formed

What Rhode Island lacks in size, it more than makes up for in attractions, views and fabulous food



facts

Richard and Rachel flew to Boston with Virgin Atlantic, who offer direct flights from Manchester from £467 one way. To book, visit virginatlantic.com or call 0344 874 7747. Car hire from Boston Logan airport with Hertz (hertz.co.uk) starts at £31 a day. For info, see visitrhodeisland.com; goprovidence.com; southcountyrh.com; discovernewport.org.

tourists a peek into some of Newport mansions' manicured grounds.

Later, we walked to the International Tennis Hall of Fame and Audrain Automobile Museum, before driving to Newport Vineyards.

We joined the crew of the 72ft schooner Madeleine for a tour of Narragansett Bay, taking in more jaw-dropping scenery, including Castle Hill lighthouse, island mansion Clingstone and Rosecliff, the setting for the 1974 film version of The Great Gatsby.

However, we saved the best view of the entire trip until the

final evening, when we dined at The Safari Room at OceanCliff. Although the food was delicious, almost every diner wandered on to the lawn at some point to take a snap of the white sail boats returning to Newport harbour as the crimson sun sank into the horizon.

It's not just scenery that makes Little Rhody such a perfect destination for a US vacation.

If delicious food and drink, fascinating history and seafaring adventure float your boat, hit the Rhode for America's smallest but perfectly formed, state.

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For the final couple of days in Rhode Island, we set a course for Newport, the "sailing capital of the world".

From our lodgings at Hotel Viking, we went for a driving tour of Ocean Drive, learning more about Jackie Kennedy's childhood home, Hammersmith Farm - the site of the Kennedys' wedding reception in 1953.

We stopped off at Newport's grandest tourist attraction - the 70-room Italian Renaissance-style palazzo The Breakers.

The next morning, we jogged down the Cliff Walk, the 3.5-mile Atlantic coastal path that allows

late deals

♦ Flying from Glasgow on September 28, seven nights AI at the 3* Club Cala Romani, Calas de Mallorca, Majorca, from £399pp.

♦ Flying from Glasgow on October 1, 14 nights AI at the 3* RIU Lupita, Mexico, from £897pp.

♦ Flying from Manchester on October 14, 14 nights room only at the 3* Midpointe Hotel by Rosen, Orlando, from £598pp.

♦ Flying from Glasgow on November 19, seven nights AI at the 4* Flamingo Oasis, Benidorm, from £419pp.

♦ For these deals and more, visit www.barrheadtravel.co.uk or call 0141 222 2223.

♦ (Adults only) Flying from Glasgow on October 17, seven nights AI at the 4* Hotel Pasha's Princess, Kemer, Turkey, from £479pp.

♦ Flying from Glasgow on October 18, seven nights HB at the 4* Majestic Palace, Sant'Agnello, Italy, from £549pp.

♦ Flying from Glasgow on October 21 & 24, seven nights HB at the 4* Sentido Playa del Moro, Cala Millor, Majorca, from £469pp.

♦ (Adults only) Flying from Glasgow or Edinburgh on October 26, seven nights HB at the 4* Hotel Benidorm Centre, Benidorm, from £379pp.

♦ For these deals and more, visit www.stewarttravel.co.uk or call 0800 091 2757.

travel news

Expert help to clue up on cruises

IF YOU'RE thinking about booking a luxury cruise for 2020, pop along to Barrhead Travel's Luxury River and Ocean Cruise Event in their St Vincent Street luxury store in Glasgow on October 5.

There will be travel experts from some of the world's most luxurious cruise lines including AmaWaterways, Azamara, Viking, Scenic, Emerald and Regent.

The experts will provide information on ships and itineraries - with event-only deals and discounts. Barrhead Travel's own cruise consultants will also be available to talk you through your options.

Barrhead Travel will be hosting two Talk Theatres from renowned cruise writer Gary Buchanan.

His love of cruises dates to September, 1967. As a teenager, he watched on TV the launch ceremony of QE2 by the Queen from John Brown's yard in Clydebank.

In 1984, he embarked the legendary liner for a transatlantic crossing to New York.

The on-board lifestyle sparked an interest that resulted in Gary writing four books about the Clyde-built "greyhound of the seas". He was



LEGENDARY QE2 was built on Clyde appointed as a specialist lecturer and undertook 67 transatlantic crossings extolling the ship's fascinating history.

For 30 years, this Scottish-born writer has written for national newspapers and consumer magazines on cruise topics. He has also been the recipient of several awards for his creative writing.

Gary has sailed the seven seas extensively and now spends almost five months a year aboard ships.

The schedule for the Talk Theatre will be:
♦ 11am - 12pm - Ocean cruising and Q&A
♦ 1pm - 2pm - River cruising and Q&A

There will be refreshments from Thai restaurant Chaophraya.

To keep up to date on event-only deals and offers, visit www.barrheadtravel.co.uk/events where you can book an appointment. You can phone Barrhead Travel's cruise department on 03300 948 353.



Take a walk on the wild side..

LACE up your boots and head off on an inspiring break for 2020 with Ramblers Walking Holidays.

There are 55 new destinations, ranging from Mount Everest base camp and Ethiopia to France and Cumbria.

Just as impressive as Arizona's cousin, the Gorges du Verdon in France is Europe's deepest canyon, plunging 2300ft.

Walk its grand ridges before heading down into the depths. Prices from £1449pp.

In you're an animal lover, you could sign up for a wildlife-rich holiday in Costa Rica.

From traversing the Caribbean coast to immersing yourself in the Monteverde Cloud Forest, the trip will focus on finding the best wildlife in the country. Fifteen days cost from £3150. See ramblersholidays.co.uk, 01707 331133



SUMMIT SPECIAL Stunning Costa Rica