

FARE DEAL TO U.S. WITH NORWEGIAN

LOW-COST airline Norwegian has a huge sale on its flights to the US for next year — with fares from as little as £149 one-way.

They have 360,000 transatlantic seats available for next summer from Gatwick to Boston from £149, New York from £179 and Los Angeles from £199pp. From October 31. There will be winter-only flights from Gatwick to Las Vegas and Puerto Rico from November 2. See norwegian.com or call 0330 8280854.

EasyJet has topped the table of Europe's most preferred low-cost airlines in a poll by travel agent eDreams.co.uk

More than six in ten UK travellers backed the airline in a league of European carriers. See eDreams.co.uk. EasyJet put its spring schedule from Scotland on sale with 12,200 flights available to and from Scotland between March 26 and June 27, providing seats for more than 2 million passengers. Fares includes Glasgow to Palma from £40.49pp one-way. See easyjet.com

Latvian low-cost airline Air Baltic will fly from Aberdeen three times a week to Riga from May to September next year. See airbaltic.com

There will be a new Delta One business cabin in the airline's upcoming Airbus A350 aircraft. The Delta One suite will offer each customer a private space, headphones and laptops, and an 18-inch, high resolution in-flight entertainment monitor. See delta.com.

air news

BOOK UP A BRIDGET GETAWAY

THE Post Office Travel Money ski report is in — and it has come to its traditional conclusion: Bulgaria's Bansko and Kranjska Gora in Slovenia rate as best-value resorts for skiers.

More surprising news is that prices in certain Italian resorts have either fallen or stayed on a par with last season, making them better value than Austria or France.

The report, prepared with tour operator Crystal, surveys prices for extras: lift pass, kit hire, lessons and living costs. You get more for your cash in eastern Europe. But among the traditional big four — Austria, France, Italy and Switzerland — look to Italy. Sestriere and Livigno are the third and fourth cheapest.

MAKE the most of festive deals. Peak Retreats has Tuesday-to-Tuesday breaks for New Year which include Eurotunnel crossings for £1. Have a week in La Rosiere, on the French-Italian border, from £464. That's for the 4★ Les Cimes Blanches self-catering apartments for December 27 arrivals. See peakretreats.co.uk.

CHECK out this 31-year-old clip online — bit.ly/2dvv089. It shows skiers who are furious at a weird new sport called snowboarding.

ski news

FOUR-LEGGED PAL HEADS WESTIE ON ISLES ADVENTURE



Ocean collar scene



Sun-sit!



Hair of the dog

Ruff guide to Scilly

COMFY bed, good food and daily pampering sessions — the perfect break, right?

Our Westie pup Ernie certainly thought so. He was spoilt rotten on the Isles of Scilly, with all of the above on offer at our luxury hotel Karma St Martin's.

Morning walkies, off-lead, along a pristine white-sand beach was just the icing on the cake.

"So you're going to Scotland?" said a friend when I told her about our dog-friendly adventure. "Don't be Scilly," I wanted to reply — but it's a common mistake people make about the islands. They've all heard of them but don't know quite where they are.

So let me clear that up: They're 30 miles off the coast of Cornwall.

Real Poldark country. Day trips are do-able but the best way to connect to island life is to stay, for as long as possible.

After taking the train from London and stopping overnight at the Hotel Penzance, we gave Ernie a taste of the "jetpet" lifestyle and flew over to Scilly.

It's just a 15-minute hop from Land's End — which has one of the nicest airports I've ever been to — but not many people know you can take your pets on the plane.

Each 19-seater Skybus flight has room for one dog, stowed safely in the travel crate provided — and you can even sit next to it. I liked the fact Ernie could see my husband Nick and I throughout the journey and it was a great, hassle-free experience.

Check-in closes half an hour before your flight and, within ten minutes of being on board, you will be pup, pup and away.

For a townie like me, arriving on

GO: SCILLY

GETTING THERE: Great Western Railway trains run between London Paddington and Penzance. Fares start at £23 each way. See gwr.com. Skybus flights to St Mary's run year-round from Land's End and Newquay, and between March and October from Exeter. Prices start at £140 return from Land's End. Dogs cost £40 each way.

STAYING THERE: B&B at Hotel Penzance is from £79 per room per night. See hotelpenzance.com. A B&B stay at Karma St Martin's starts from £185 per room per night — see karmagroup.com.

MORE INFO: Travelling between the islands with Tresco Boat Services costs £5.50 per journey, £11 return. See tresco.co.uk. For more about Scilly, see visitislesofscilly.com.

Scilly is a bit like stepping back in time — in a good way.

People say hello to each other in the street, everyone leaves their bikes outside unchained and they buy homemade jam, eggs and local produce from neighbours by leaving cash in honesty boxes.

It's all very safe, wholesome and, well, nice. Of course, nice can be boring — but not here. Whether you're jumping on a boat to go island-hopping, or just admiring the ever-changing scenery, every day is

different. Like many of the other canine explorers, Ernie was in his element, trotting along miles of well-maintained coastal paths and secluded beaches and growling at wild seals from the clifftops.

Some days, we walked for hours without seeing another soul.

There are five inhabited islands to check out, each with its own charm, independent shops and idyllic stone houses.

During our long weekend, we managed to pack in one a day — the main island of St Mary's; Tresco, with its sub-tropical Abbey Garden which was visited by Wills and Kate; and St Martin's, where our hotel overlooked the jetty at Lower Quay.

We arrived laden with beds, towels, toys and food bowls from Creature Comforts — an awesome service offered by the Isles of Scilly Vet Support Group and providing all the doggy essentials you will need for your break in exchange for a small donation.

Ernie soon settled in to the pampered-pooch lifestyle, lapping up fuss from the Karma staff, endless treats and stunning sea views from our honeymoon suite.

He even had his own doggy menu to dine from — favouring the Royal Dog's Dinner of steak, rice, vegetables and gravy.

We humans certainly didn't go without, though. We enjoyed a lovely

meal at the hotel's Cloudesley Shovell restaurant, tucking in to freshly caught crab, Cornish steak and delicious Scilly ice cream.

Make time to visit the nearby Seven Stones Inn, too. The views from the pub garden are simply sublime and a few tots of rum and "shrub" — a traditional Cornish mixer — is a must.

It's easy to bounce from island to island, sampling the local produce. The Polreath Tea Rooms on St Martin's does a mean cream tea, while Badcock's Cornish pasties, with their thick, buttery crusts, are well worth queuing for in Hugh Town, St Mary's.

Look out for the little white van parked by the harbour on the stroke of midday, four days a week.

We were lucky enough to visit Scilly during one of the rare Low Tide Experiences, where the water recedes so much you can walk between two of the islands — Tresco and Bryher.

Local farmers lead the way, using tractors to clear seaweed from the sandbanks and putting down picnic tables and flags for a two-hour party before the tide comes back in. Hundreds of locals and tourists turned out for the bash, where pots of seafood chowder, lobster paella and Tresco beef rolls were on sale.

Our plan was to walk to Bryher but when we discovered the Prosecco bar, we didn't make it much farther.

Hours later, we arrived back at Karma slightly sunburnt, our feet glittering from the ground-down granite in the Scillys' unique white sand. "We call it our magical fairy dust," said hotel worker Fynn, smiling proudly.

I don't know about the fairy bit, but the islands are magical.

JENNY GREEN

