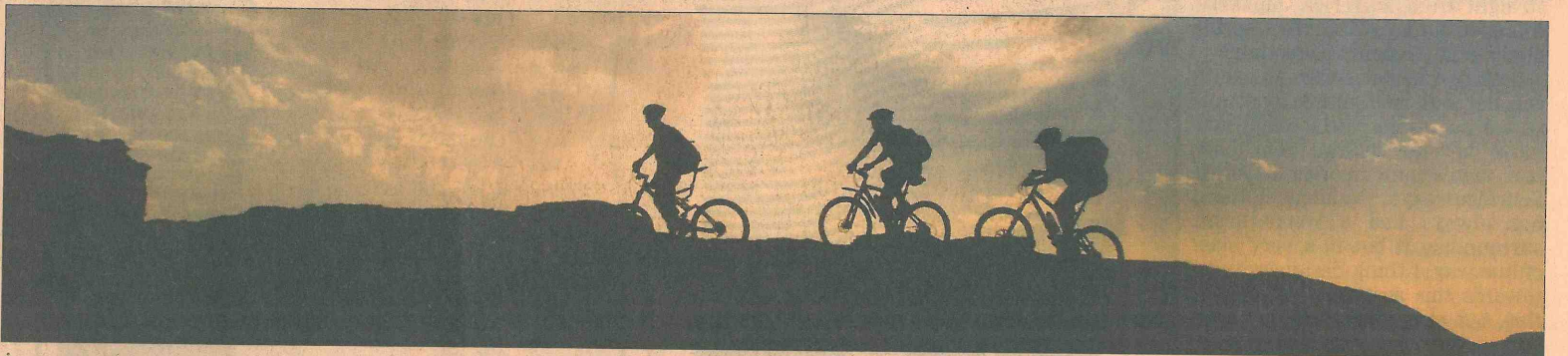
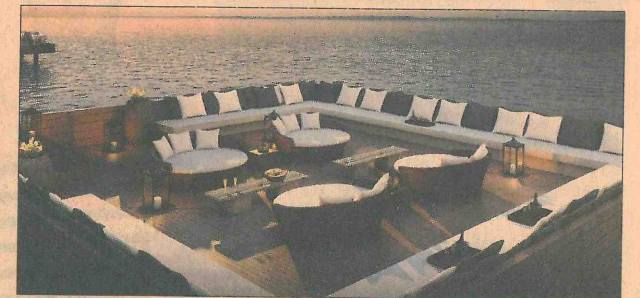
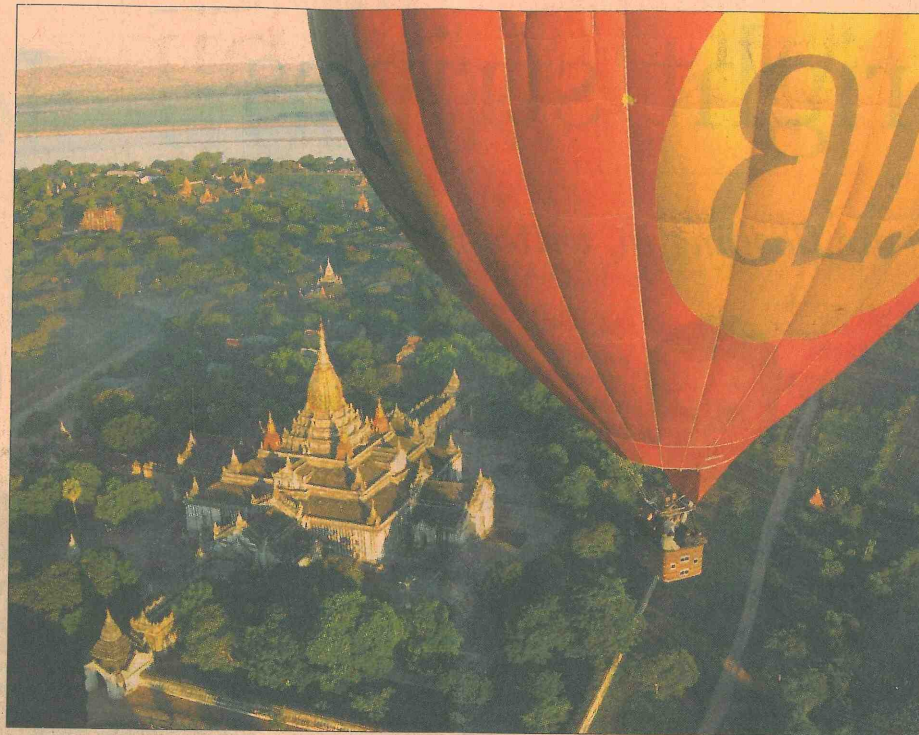
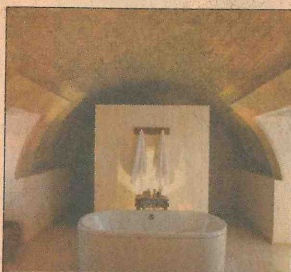
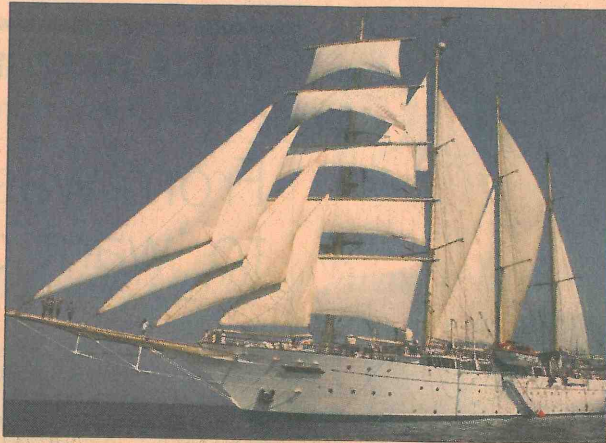


Travel



Horizons
Clockwise from top left: the Star Flyer yacht; balloons over Bagan in Burma; David Lean's former villa in Provence; a lounge bar at Song Saa, Cambodia; cycling in Jordan; the dining car of El Transcantabrico; Sveti Stefan, Montenegro, and one of its refurbished rooms

Dreamstime

The hottest new trips for 2011

Bike from the Red to the Dead Sea, drive a Jaguar in the Scottish Highlands or luxuriate on a mega-yacht in Monaco. By Tom Robbins

Cambodia's private island resort

A decade ago Cambodia was a destination almost exclusively visited by adventurous backpackers, but now its unspoiled coastline and fascinating villages are attracting a far more upmarket traveller. November brings the opening of Song Saa, the country's first private island resort, in the Koh Rong archipelago. It will have just 25 villas, some on the beach, some in rainforest and others on stilts over the sea (complete with their own swimming pools).

Villas for two from \$700; www.songsaa.com

The perfect Provence villa

Sir David Lean, the late filmmaker behind classics such as *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Doctor Zhivago*, described his 15th-century French retreat as somewhere he could simply "lie down in the grass under an olive tree and look up through its silver green leaves and gaze at the sky". This year you can do the same – the house, a converted

A Grand Prix cruise

During Grand Prix weekend in May, Monaco becomes home to many of the world's most lavish mega-yachts, but turning more heads than any other ship in the harbour will be the Star Flyer. The classic 360ft sailing vessel, with four masts up to 226ft high, will be in Monaco as part of a new two-week cruise itinerary, calling at 11 of the Mediterranean's most glamorous ports, and also taking in the Cannes Film Festival. The ship sleeps up to 170 guests, catered for in high style by 72 staff.

From £3,399; www.starclippers.co.uk

Art tours with the Royal Academy

Cox and Kings, the world's oldest travel company, has formed a new alliance with Britain's Royal Academy of Art to offer a range of art-themed holidays. The itineraries range from a three-night tour to study the 6th-century mosaics of Ravenna, to 11-night trips to Uzbekistan, Rajasthan

INSPIRATION AND ASPIRATION

Emerging destinations

After a cautious 2010, tour operators and travellers are once more in search of unique experiences and good value. The destinations to watch are those that offer both.

Firmly ticking those boxes is the kingdom of **Jordan**, long a favourite of independent travellers but increasingly a flag-bearer for mainstream tourism to the Arab world. With luxury hotels springing up in the Red Sea resort of Aqaba, eco-tourism flourishing in the country's nature reserves, and low-cost airline Easyjet launching direct flights from the UK in March, the

Peru, home to equally impressive hikes, historical sites and a new cultural tour, the Moche Route.

For wildlife enthusiasts, 2011's hottest ticket is **Zimbabwe**. Two years ago the country seemed near collapse: cholera was claiming thousands of lives and hyperinflation was churning out trillion-dollar-bills worth £20. But a coalition government, a dollar economy and improved public health have resulted in a queue of tour operators keen to rejuvenate tourism in what was once southern Africa's adventure capital. And the prospects for visitors are improving.

hills by foot, horse or elephant, or travelling down the river on bamboo rafts.

From \$200 per person per night; www.buffalotours.co.uk

Kayaks and a castle on Loch Ness

Kayak through Scotland's most famous loch, then retire to your own castle on its shores, on this new week-long trip from Wilderness Scotland. As well as kayaking you can visit local distilleries, ride horses, fly-fish and walk in the mountains. Your base is Aldourie Castle, which sleeps up to 30, many in sumptuous four-poster beds.

From £2,490 per person; www.wildernessscotland.com

Cruising Japan

The perfect trip for cruise fans looking for a change from the tried-and-tested Caribbean and Mediterranean routes. Inside Japan Tours has launched an 18-night itinerary