

sun travel

KIP IN BUNKER BEDS

ONE keen history fan will soon be able to hunker down in a World War Two bunker on Guernsey. The concrete shelter was originally built in 1942 by German forces but has since had a facelift with three renovated bedrooms, ahead of making its debut on the property market. Although no price has been revealed for the potential holiday home, similar properties in the

region tend to go for £1 million. As well as views of the island's Rocquaine Bay, Bunker Six Eighty One also has a rooftop terrace. Brad Ogier, director of BDL developments, which owns the bunker, said: "We wanted to retain the bunker's story while ensuring it felt homey." "Features like the hinges from the steel-armoured gas door have been thoughtfully preserved."



lates

PORTUGAL: Seven nights' self-catering at 4* Paraiso Albufeira is from £177pp including flights from Stansted on November 2. See thomascok.com.
CORNWALL: Three nights' self-catering in a two-bedroom home at Padstow Holiday Village is from £343 in November. Dogs welcome. See lovatparks.com.
CRETE: Seven nights' B&B at the 4* Palmera Beach Hotel & Spa is from £319pp including flights from Manchester on November 2. See loveholidays.com.

RYANAIR ON RISE

RYANAIR is launching several new routes from Birmingham and Manchester this winter with seats from less than £20. Birmingham will operate to Agadir and Marrakech in Morocco, as well as Paphos in Cyprus, and Paris. Manchester will have routes to Memmingen in Berlin and Tangier in Morocco, bringing in 7.6million more passengers. Manchester Airport's managing director Chris Woodroffe, said: "We're proud to connect the north to the world, with a route network unrivalled by any UK airport outside London." Flights for the new routes will go on sale next month.

SOAK UP THE SCENERY ON SPECTACULAR CRUISE



All a-fjord for a Norwegian adventure

WHIZZING along the water holding on for dear life wasn't exactly what I had in mind for a peaceful cruise to the Norwegian fjords.

We boarded the RIB (rigid inflatable boat) just a hundred metres or so from the MSC Virtuosa, our cruise liner home for the week - kitted out in waterproof overalls and goggles as we soaked up the views of the fishing villages and wildlife surrounding the seaside town of Maloy. This is just one of the dozens of excursions MSC Cruises offers on a week-long Norwegian Fjords voyage. I'm one of 6,000 guests on board the sold-out ship - 330 metres long and 19 decks - with Kelly, my wife, and our daughters Savannah, 13, and Scarlett, ten. We are first-time "cruisers" and I have to admit I was slightly overwhelmed when I first boarded as there's just so much to do on and off the enormous ship. The day trips, expertly organised by the cruise team, offer a hassle-free way to see the highlights of the surrounding areas on one of four port stops. And they really do make a Norwegian Fjord cruise the experience of a lifetime. At our first stop, in Haugesund, the breathtaking Langfoss waterfall awaited us, voted one of the top ten most beautiful waterfalls in the world. I had expected a tranquil trickle of water surrounded by tourists posing for Instagram photos. But instead we were greeted by a ferocious torrent of water falling from 600 metres above our heads. For our day-long visit to Flam we jumped on a coach to the Stegastein viewpoint

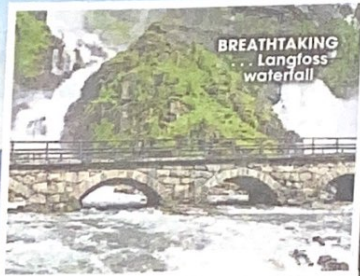
GO: NORWEGIAN FJORDS CRUISE

SAILING THERE: MSC Virtuosa will sail to the Norwegian fjords next year from May 10 with seven-day itineraries from £749pp, departing from Southampton and calling at Haugesund, Maloy, Flam and Kristiansand. See msccruises.co.uk.

where tourists can walk out on a special gangway suspended some 650 metres above the fjord below. Our final stop took us to Kristiansand which is on the southern tip of the country. We hadn't booked an excursion for this stop so were free to explore solo. Picking up a map, we headed to the local nature park. A wrong turn paid off, leading us to most beautiful lake where swimmers were taking advantage of the good weather.

Wide of the mark

Do remember your swimming kit when you leave the boat as there are plenty of beaches and lakes to enjoy a quick dip. The delight of a cruise holiday is that you are taken to the heart of some beautiful spots without the hassle of airports, trains and hire cars. All those preconceptions of cruises being for the retired are wide of the mark. Our fellow holidaymakers were families and couples of all ages and with so much flexibility this is a perfect solution for a multi-generational holiday. Our room on our "home from home" the



BREATHTAKING ... Langfoss waterfall



FLOATING HOME ... MSC Virtuosa



CHILL OUT ... by on-board pool



QUAINT ... Kristiansand's town square



SABEY SELFIE ... Ryan with Kelly and girls Scarlett

MSC Virtuosa had a double bed, bunk beds for the kids and a balcony offering fresh air and incredible sea views. Not that we spent much time there as there were five swimming pools, Jacuzzis and a staggering 21 bars to enjoy - five of them serving tipples outside. If you do want to take full advantage of those bars it's best to purchase a drinks package before you board as it can work out a lot cheaper. For dinner we were assigned to the 11 Campo restaurant and to avoid overcrowding, passengers are offered one of three sitting times. Or you can head to one of the speciality restaurants, including the Butcher's Cut steakhouse. Mexican, Vietnamese, teppanyaki and sushi are also on offer. If you just fancy grabbing food at your convenience, the Marketplace Buffet serves breakfast, lunch and dinner and late-night snacks until lam. Evenings are spectacular with passengers encouraged to dress up for theme nights including White Night and Sunshine Night. Attire is super-smart for the Gala Night with some passengers even donning tuxedos and cocktail dresses. Booking is essential for evening entertainment in Le Grand Theatre where we saw stunning singing and dancing with Abba and Michael Jackson tributes standing out. And special mentions go to stand-up comedian Tucker, who had us in stitches, as well as hypnotist Chris Caress, whose power of persuasion saw several guests lose all their inhibitions. We may have been first-time cruisers this time round - but we will back for more. **RYAN SABEY**