

Word Of Mouth

Edited by Lisa Scott travel@ukmetro.co.uk

The week in numbers: From March, visitors to the Greenwich Meridian Line will be charged **£10** to straddle it. About **1.6million** people visit the south-east London site each year, a four-fold increase since **2001** when it became free

Cosmo chic is a Vegas treat



Picture: Thomas Hart Shelby

Also check out...

Our new crush on Atlantis
Whatever happened to faking your ID and sneaking into foreign nightclubs underage? Today's teenagers don't even have to try. At the epic Atlantis Paradise Island resort in the Bahamas, a slick new £8million, 14,000 sq ft club, Crush (pictured), has been built specifically to cater for the valuable teen market. Between 5.30pm and 1am, 13 to 17-year-olds can dance, play video games, eat, drink, flirt and embark on a heartbreaking holiday romance or two, with no pesky parents around to cramp their style. Entry £18, Tel: 001 954 809 2100. www.atlantis.com



A wilder side of Scotland
Go wild (and, yes, potentially get a bit wet) over the border this summer, with three new adventure courses on offer from Wilderness Scotland. Fans of fleeces – and the great outdoors – will enjoy sailing and walking around the spectacular Isle of Skye, family sea kayaking in the Great Glen and exploring the Scottish sea kayak trail, which is the longest in Europe. Overnight accommodation, in tents and local inns, is included; fans of high-thread count sheets and creature comforts need not apply. Prices from £445 for four days. Tel: 0131 625 6635. www.wildernessscotland.com

Showtime in Las Vegas

Subtlety is a dirty word in Las Vegas, with big and brash being the watchwords of style. The Cosmopolitan, the city's latest high-end hotel, was never going to open with a low-key drinks party.

The 50-storey behemoth houses 2,995 bedrooms, designed by the esteemed Rockwell Group, many of them with balconies that overlook the Las Vegas Strip.

'The rooms feature imaginative touches such as Phaidon coffee table books, Fornasetti wallpaper, and provocative artwork,' says the hotel's brand marketing manager Lisa Marchese.

'We want guests to feel at home but, at the same time, creatively charged. The resort's aim is to attract those who might have overlooked Las Vegas as a destination in the past.'

Our weekly page looks at launches around the world, from accommodation to tours to hotel bars. This week: a new Las Vegas hotel, a nightclub for teenagers in the Bahamas and going wild in Scotland

It might be arty but it's still Vegas, and eating, drinking and gambling are unavoidable. The hotel's numerous restaurants include outposts of US greats such as Comme Ça, STK and Scarpetta.

There are also plenty of casino spots at which to work up an appetite and lose a fortune – 1,774 slot machines, 83 gaming tables and seven private gambling cabanas. Roped off from the main room with tassled curtains, you can risk everything at the roulette table in absolute privacy.

The big noise on the opening weekend, just before Christmas,

came from The Killers' frontman Brandon Flowers, who belted a handful of numbers out in the vast Chandelier Bar.

On new year's weekend, you could have thrown a pair of dice and hit at least one A-lister, as Jay-Z, Beyoncé, Kanye West and Coldplay all performed, and a phalanx of film stars including Cameron Diaz, Blake Lively and Gwyneth Paltrow saw 2011 in at The Cosmopolitan's star-studded party.

Jane Mulherrins
Rooms from £88 per night.
Tel: 001 702 598 7000.
www.cosmopolitanlasvegas.com

Travel Doctor

Do you have a travel dilemma? Email travel@ukmetro.co.uk

Q I'm keen to do a shark dive in South Africa but have been told they aren't a good idea as the dives encourage sharks to see humans as food. Is this true?
Pete, 30, London

A The best place for shark-cage diving is from Gansbaai, a small fishing village an hour and 45 minutes from Cape Town. Local experts Marine Dynamics have operated a very slick and environmentally aware cage-diving project there for 16 years. Sharks are not fed during the trips and feeding them is, in fact, illegal – fish products are used to attract them but the sharks show no interest in the humans in the cage and are entirely focused

on the fish present. We would recommend staying at Grootbos (www.grootbos.com), which is a short drive from Gansbaai, with glass-fronted suites offering 180 degree views of the beautifully dramatic Walker Bay.

Alice Agar, co-founder of Sally and Alice (www.sallyandalice.com)



Q I'd like to combine a holiday with a music festival abroad this year but Burning Man and Exit are a bit too popular for me. Can you suggest any destinations that would be good for a break, where the festivals are still a little undiscovered?
Emma, 26, Bristol

A The lesser known Soundwave at Petrcane in Croatia (July) is ideal. It has a great mixture of music such as dub breaks, reggae and hip hop. Airwaves in Iceland (October) has great headline acts and line-ups of upcoming local and international bands, and you can cool off between sets by diving between tectonic plates or quad biking through Iceland's rough terrain. Alternatively, try Lake Of Stars (October), on the shores of Lake Malawi. It's a three-day festival with a fusion of local Malawian music and British bands, and is great to combine with a safari.

Tom Marchant, co-founder of Black Tomato (www.blacktomato.co.uk)



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