

The perfect weekend

Ideas on where to get away this Easter

A romantic getaway for two, a relaxing break with the children or a tour round historic sites – we all have an idea of our perfect weekend. *Holiday Which?* experts have come up with places to stay across Europe to suit different tastes and budgets.

We stayed in or inspected all our recommendations. Prices (except where stated) are for B&B, for two people in a double room, on Easter Saturday, 22 March. Prices and exchange rates checked on Friday 4 January: £1=€1.339; £1= 121.821 Icelandic krona.

FAMILY BREAK/WORN-OUT PARENTS

Bedruthan Steps Hotel

Mawgan Porth
Cornwall TR8 4BU
Tel 01637 860555
www.bedruthan.com

This child-friendly spa hotel overlooks the fantastic Mawgan Porth Bay. There are kids' clubs for babies to teens, indoor and outdoor play areas and pools. A baby-listening service lets you move round the hotel while keeping a check on the children back in the bedroom – all rooms have a sound-activated monitor, which links to a pager that the parents carry. The food and wine excels, the spa is pure indulgence and there are child-free lounges, bars and terraces.



Price: £100 an adult a night for a standard family room (with dinner, bed and breakfast). Children aged 13+ pay full adult rate, seven to 12-year-olds pay 67 per cent; three to six-year-olds pay 50 per cent; one to two-year-olds pay 25 per cent.

A ROMANTIC GETAWAY

Les Hospitaliers

Le Poët-Laval, Drôme, France
Tel 0033 4 75 46 22 32
www.hotel-les-hospitaliers.com

The ruined medieval village of Le Poët-Laval is almost impossibly romantic, and right in the centre is the wonderful Les Hospitaliers. This luxurious, slickly run small hotel is the sort of place you don't want too many people to hear about.



Stylish bedrooms blend textured colour-washed walls, modern pale oak floors, plush fabrics and dark wood furniture. If that's not enough, foodies beat a path here for the inventive modern French cooking in its top-notch restaurant.

Wine lovers will note that the Rhône valley vineyards are within easy reach. The rest of us will be happy to savour the value-for-money room prices.

Price: €80 (£60)

GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL

Man of Aran Cottage

Inishmore (Inis Mór)
Aran Islands, Ireland
Tel 00 353 99 61301
www.manofarancottage.com

The Aran Islands are one of Ireland's most attractive places to visit. Set off the west coast, in Galway Bay, they can be reached by foot-ferry and plane. Man of Aran Cottage, with its idyllic setting on a remote and treeless hill, can be found on the largest of the three, Inishmore. The cottage, with its thatched roof and narrow corridor, was built for



the 1934 film *Man of Aran*. The six bedrooms are simple but full of character. The garden, a riot of colour in summer, produces organic vegetables and herbs for the restaurant. Price: €80 (£56)

LUXURY

Hostal dos Reis Católicos

Santiago de Compostela
Praza do Obradoiro, Spain
Tel 0034 981 582200
<http://tinyurl.com/2vndt7>

Staying here is one of the most memorable hotel experiences, though it isn't cheap. The building started life as a 16th-century hospital for Christians walking the famous Camino de Santiago, a pilgrimage that still draws hundreds of thousands of people from all over Europe. The cloistered courtyards and



chapel are a reminder of its former use. The building became a luxury hotel in 1954, and there are oil paintings and antiques as far as the eye can see. Rooms are small but immaculately furnished. Price: €246 (£184)



SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Hostel Celica

Metelkova 8
Ljubljana, Slovenia
www.hostelcelica.com

Some believe this town's name comes from the Slovenian word for 'beloved'. It's a word that springs to mind as you amble through storybook streets or sip drinks under drooping willows by the emerald-green river. Slovenia is increasingly popular

with tourists, so it's surprising how few good hotels there are in this town.

Celica is called a hostel but that does it an injustice. Each room is decorated by a local artist, making a virtue out of the cramped spaces of the former prison cells in this ex-military building. Celica's slightly grungy location won't be to everyone's taste.
Price: €50 (£37)

DESIGN

Tigerlily

Edinburgh, Scotland
Tel 0131 225 5005
www.tigerlilyedinburgh.com

A Georgian townhouse in the city's New Town is home to Tigerlily, which has won awards for its interior design.

You'll understand why as soon as you walk through the doors. All the 33 bedrooms have a fully-loaded iPod (catering for all music tastes), surround-sound entertainment and plasma screen TV, together with a huge bed, toiletries, GHD straightening irons,



board games and, of course, some fluffy dressing gowns.
Price: £195

SINGLE TRAVELLERS

Center Hotel Klöpp

Klapparstígur 26
Reykjavik
Tel 00354 595 8520
www.centerhotels.com

Reykjavik's chatty bars and cafés make it great for single travellers. Stylish and modern Center Hotel Klöpp is in the thick of the action just off Laugavegur high street, so all the eating, drinking and shopping venues are on your doorstep. The open-plan lobby is a sociable place, with oak floors and black leather bench seating. You can have breakfast and help yourself to free tea and coffee there all day. The



smart bedrooms are done out with pale oak floors, doors and furniture, chocolate brown curtains and walk-in black-slate showers.
Price: 12,900 Icelandic krona (£106)

BUDGET TRAVELLERS

Qbic Hotel

Strawinskylaan 24
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Tel 0031 43 321 1111
www.qbichotels.com



Book early and you can get rooms from €39 (£29) a night at this clean, modern and stylish hotel, which is a 15-minute tram ride from Amsterdam city centre (pictured). Qbic calls itself a pod hotel, but these 'pods' are spacious. Each cube-shaped living area comes complete with a big, comfortable bed and all the amenities you need in a hotel room. You can change the lighting colour to suit your mood. However, you get to the hotel through the World Trade Centre and may find it eerie walking through its huge corporate lounge after hours.
Price: €99 (£74) but breakfast is not included.

WALKERS

Clachaig Inn

Glencoe, Argyll
Scotland
Tel 01855 811252
www.clachaig.com

The whitewashed stone Clachaig Inn is a popular bolthole for hikers in this misty, mountainous and wild area. Rooms are somewhat squashed in the main building, but more spacious in the timbered outbuildings. Eat in the smarter bar-lounge with the monocled reindeer or



in the more atmospheric, rough-and-ready main bar, sitting at barrel tables. Price: £42 a person a night if staying one or two nights, £39 if staying three or more nights.

GOING ORGANIC

Il Frantoio

Ostuni, Puglia, Italy
Tel 0039 0831 330276
www.masseriaailfrantoio.it

You enjoy a rich abundance of home-made and home-grown produce at breakfast and dinner in the atmospheric vaulted dining room of this country retreat. If you want to take their goodies home, the 6th-century underground oil press room is a cavern of treats from Armando and Rosalba Balestrazzi's 150-acre estate of olive groves and citrus orchards – including four types of olive oil,



liqueurs, jams, preserves, olives, almonds and sun-dried tomatoes. Gorgeous rustic-chic rooms are set around the courtyard of the ancient masseria (farming estate). The estate is a short drive from the cobbled streets of Ostuni. Price: €176 (£123)

ISLAND HOPPING AND SEALIFE TRIPS

The Old Library Lodge

Arisaig, Scotland
Tel 01687 450651
www.oldlibrary.co.uk

The 200-year-old lodge is an ideal base for exploring Scotland's remote and rugged Small Isles. Take the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry from nearby Mallaig (eight miles north), or, from April onwards, sail from Arisaig on the smaller Sheerwater ferry. Experienced skippers will go out of their way en route to Eigg, Muck and



Rum to show you seals, dolphins and, if you're lucky, a minke whale. Crossings can be bumpy. Back on dry land, enjoy comfortable surroundings in one of six en suite rooms – the two in the main building have spectacular sea views. Price: £90

CITY BREAK

Kálvin Ház

Gönczy Pál u. 6
Budapest, Hungary
Tel 00361 216 4365
www.kalvinhouse.hu

Good-value Kálvin Ház is brilliantly located for access to both halves (Buda and Pest) of this splendidly diverse city, tucked just behind the colourful Central Market and over the bridge from the art nouveau spa at Hotel Gellert. A central staircase sweeps up to rooms, which are modestly but tastefully furnished in period style, with polished parquet flooring. The



nearby street of Ráday utca brims with pavement cafés for eating. There's a minimum three-night stay over Easter. Price: €89 (£66)

Also try

■ **City break** The Grand Hôtel d'Orléans is perfect for train travellers. It's 400 yards from Toulouse-Matabiau station and a quarter of a mile from Toulouse centre. Bedrooms are comfortable, if small. It's €55 (£41) a night. Breakfast extra. The Grand Hôtel d'Orléans, 72, rue de Bayard, 31000 Toulouse, 0033 5 61 62 98 47, www.grand-hotel-orleans.fr

■ **Luxury** The Pand, close to Bruges town centre, has designer bedrooms and a champagne breakfast served by waiters. Minimum two-night stay over a weekend. For Easter, it's €185 (£138) a room a night. Breakfast is €19 (£14) a person a day. Pand Hotel, Pandreitje 16, 8000 Bruges, Belgium, 0032 50 340 666, www.pandhotel.com

■ **Go green** Moss Grove Hotel has bedrooms with features such as amethyst chandeliers. Everything, from butter to bathrobes, is organic, Fairtrade or locally sourced. Minimum three-night stay at Easter. The cheapest room is £179 a night for two with breakfast. Moss Grove Hotel, Grasmere, Lake District, 015394 35251, www.mossgrrove.com

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