

GETAWAY GUIDE

SHORT HAUL SUN

■ **CORSICA:** Corsican Places (0845 330 2113) offers seven nights' self-catering from £199 (four sharing) on deps until June 3, incl flights ex-Manchester, transfers and welcome pack.
 ■ **ANDALUCIA:** Vintage (0845 344 0420) offers four bedroomed, two bathroomed house sleeping eight near Costa de la Luz for seven nights rental from June 1 for £695, saving £200. Flights, car hire extra.
 ■ **WESTERN FRANCE:** Brittany Ferries Holidays (0870 536 0360) offers seven nights' self-catering in Normandy in August for £600 for four people, incl return Portsmouth-Caen crossings with car.
 ■ **SLOVENIA:** Crystal Lakes & Mountains (0870 403 0543) offers seven nights' half-board in three star hotel ex-Birmingham, Gatwick, Bristol, Newcastle from May 30 for £399, saving £157. Manchester supp £20.
 ■ **ITALIAN LAKES:** Thomson Lakes & Mountains (0870 606 1470) offers seven nights' half-board in three star hotel in Limone ex-Gatwick from May 23 from £425, saving £167. Supps incl Manchester (£90).
 ■ **NEAPOLITAN RIVIERA:** Citalia (0870 909 7554) offers seven nights' B&B from June 1 from £599, ex-Manchester, Gatwick, East Mids, Glasgow and Bristol.

LONG-HAUL

■ **THAILAND:** Hayes & Jarvis (0870 850 8551) offers 14-nights' room-only from May 28 in four star Evason Hua Hin & Six Senses Spa Resort, with

Qatar Airways flights, from £659, saving £404.

■ **CALIFORNIA BY MAXJET:** Bon Voyage (0800 316 0194) offers nine night fly-drive in Southern California from £1,375, incl business class return flights into LA with Maxjet, four star accom in Palm Springs, San Diego and Santa Barbara, all-incl Alamo car hire. Book by June 5 for travel Aug 30-Oct 30.
 ■ **BAHRAIN:** Tropical Locations (020 7229 9199) offers six nights for price of five at Ritz-Carlton Bahrain for travel until June 30 and through Sept. Prices from £730 incl B&B accom in seaview room, econ Gulf Air flights and transfers.
 ■ **SRI LANKA:** Kuoni (01306 747 008) offers seven nights' B&B at five star Lighthouse Hotel & Spa from £699 until June 30, incl Sri Lankan Airlines flights. Tour ref: N10085.
 ■ **MALDIVES:** Kuoni (01306 747 008) offers seven nights all-inclusive until Aug 26 at three star Kuramathi Village from £599, incl Monarch flights ex-Gatwick.

THEMED HOLIDAYS

■ **GALAPAGOS EXPERIENCE:** South American Experience (0870 499 0683) offers seven night Galapagos cruise, plus two nights in Quito at start and one at end, Continental Airlines flights via Houston to Quito, plus full board on cruise and breakfasts in Quito from £3,116, saving £200, on July 1 departures.
 ■ **CYCLING IN SLOVENIA:** Explore (0870 333 4001) offers seven nights' cycling through

countryside and canyons from May 27 from £749. Package incl flights, transfers, B&B, cycle hire, tour leader.

■ **WALKING AUSTRIAN ALPS:** Page & Moy (0800 043 0234) offers eight day break from June 9 for £699, incl return flights to Munich, seven nights half-board at four star hotel, four guided walks, excursion to Innsbruck by mountain railway and local walking guide.
 ■ **CULTURE/HISTORY OF PYRENEES:** Andante Travels (01722 713 800) offers guide lecturer to explore prehistoric art and culture from June 4 in quiet area of gastronomic south-west France. Package at £1,400 incl flights into Toulouse, transfers, six nights full-board.
 ■ **WALKING DOLOMITES:** Inntavel (01653 617 755) offers four night walking break from May 26 for £434, incl four nights half-board, two picnics, rail/taxi transfers, detailed walking maps, daily notes, and luggage transfers between hotels. Flights extra, preferably into Verona.
 ■ **TUSCANY FOOD & WINE:** Contiki (020 8290 6422) for 18-35s offers eight day gourmet's paradise tour from June 2 from £529, saving £60, starting and finishing in Rome. Flights extra.
 ■ **KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH:** Trek America (0870 444 8735) offers 28-day trip, departing June 2 & 26, from Seattle to Midnight Sun of Alaska via British Columbia, Yukon territory, Vancouver, Fraser River Canyon, Dawson City, Anchorage and Tok. Package from £1,298.

Let the good times roll

Steph Elmore puts Eurovision disappointment behind her to sing the praises of the Serbian capital, Belgrade, which is quickly reinventing itself as the city that likes to party

SHOCKED as I was to learn that Scooch didn't come last in this year's Eurovision Song Contest, I was even more surprised when I visited the homeland of this year's winners, Serbia.

The break-up of the former Yugoslavia led to one of the most bloody and horrific episodes in recent European history and Serbia endured civil war, UN sanctions, economic collapse and a NATO bombing campaign. No wonder it is one of the last undiscovered tourism destinations in Europe.

But tourism is on the up here and Serbia is known for its beautiful countryside, national parks and an abundance of spas respected for their medicinal and vitality programmes. It really is an undiscovered treasure for many Brits.

The capital, Belgrade, nestled between the Danube and the Sava rivers, is where it's really happening. If New York is the city that never sleeps, Belgrade is the city that never goes to bed! Techno and dance music is big in Belgrade. The clubs, bars, restaurants are as swanky as you'd expect in any European city, yet nowhere near the cost.

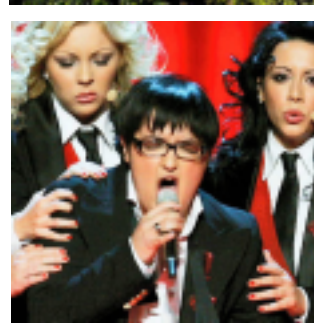
The first bar our coach driver whisked us off to looked like a derelict building, and as he herded us through the heavy iron door I started to fear the worst. We were taken down a few corridors until we were greeted by two burly men who opened the door to a room which was much like the Living Room or Panacea in Manchester. The venue was Ben Akiba, one of Belgrade's swanky cocktail bars - bellini and mojito heaven for a third of the price you'd pay back home.

Underground bars in converted apartments like these are the norm in Belgrade and a product of its turbulent past - secret havens and drinking dens for people to retreat to. I followed a few bellinis with a visit to Magacin, one of Belgrade's newest nightclubs. This club is huge, with swanky décor, dazzling chandeliers, very good looking Serbian men (and women), and great music.

Belgrade attracts lots of internationally renowned DJs and the bars are open well into the



➤ **CHANGING TIMES** Belgrade's club scene is thriving, above, but the city has more historic attractions, such as the mighty Kalemegdan fortress, below, and its monument to The Victor, right, protector of the city



SHOCK Serbia's Eurovision winner Marija Serifovic

early hours of the morning, as I discovered after stumbling out at 6am, nearly missing my flight. If you don't want the night to end here you tour the

river boat bars to drink and dance until dawn.

By day, it is evident that Belgrade has withstood the challenges of history for thousands of years. The target of various conquerors, it has been destroyed 50 times and built again from ruins. Driving into the city you can see the former government buildings destroyed in 1999 by the NATO bombing and it is the rawness of its recent past that makes the experience even more unique.

The scars of history are fading, however, and Belgrade is poised for a facelift. The former state buildings are soon to be converted into a hotel and com-

COACH AND SELF DRIVE HOLIDAYS

					Only a few minutes level walk to the Promenade and Riviera Centre.
Panoramic view down the beautiful Clyde past the tree capped hills of Argyll towards Isles of Arran, Bute & Cumbrae. Inclusive Excursions are included in the price	65 en suite bedrooms.	80 yards from Promenade and Cliff Railway, down to the famous Spa Centre and beach. Inclusive Excursions are included in the price. Also new for 2007 FREE daily resort Shuttle Service	South Bay, Opp. Victorian Gardens. Only	En suite rooms, McColl's famous 5-course buffet meals. Inclusive Excursions are included. Also new for 2007 FREE daily resort Shuttle Service	

July 1st	6 days	5 nights	£206pp
Sept 2nd	7 Days	6 Nights	£221pp
Novr 4th	7 Days	6 Nights	£177pp Jinglebells
Aug 19th	7 Days	6 Nights	£237pp
Oct 14th	7 Days	6 Nights	£185pp Jinglebells
Dec 9th	7 Days	6 Nights	£169pp Jinglebells
Dec 28th	7 Days	6 Nights	£269pp New Year
SCARBOROUGH			
June 10th	7 Days	6 Nights	£239pp
Aug 12th	7 Days	6 Nights	£249pp
Oct 7th	7 Days	6 Nights	£192 jinglebells
Dec 2nd	7 Days	6 Nights	£176pp Jinglebells

THEMETASTIC HOLIDAYS
SHERWOOD HOTEL, TORQUAY
BROOKLANDS HOTEL, SCARBOROUGH
DURING JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH

PICK UP POINTS
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STOCKPORT BOLTON
OLDHAM BURY
ROCHDALE

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FRI-SAT, 2 NIGHTS DB&B FR £69 INC. SUNDAY LUNCH

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