

THE SUNDAY TIMES

# travel

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magazine

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Special  
section

## Let it SNOW!

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## TRAVEL TOYS

## Building blocks

Ever wish you could have designed Seattle's Space Needle or Berlin's mighty Brandenburg Gate? Mimic your architectural heroes (on a slightly smaller scale) with models from Lego (lego.com; Brandenburg Gate pictured). In fact, there are tons of travel-themed toys to give to kids (or hog for yourself): from Usborne's *First Sticker Book: Paris* (usborne.com; £4.99) to Steve McDonald's *Fantastic Cities* colouring book (Chronicle; £10.99). Get out the crayons and magic up your own metropolis.



## We're excited about...

■ The world's longest-ever direct flight, launching in February. Emirates' Dubai-to-Panama City journey will take 17 hours and 35 minutes. That's a lot of in-flight movies (emirates.com).

■ Breathing in the booze at London's Borough Market. At Alcoholic Architecture (pictured), on the site of a former monastery, punters inhale a boozy-flavoured fog and sip monk-themed cocktails (alcoholicarchitecture.com; 'til Feb 2016).

■ An 'edible golf course' at St Kitts' new sustainability-mad Kittitian Hill resort — sadly no candyfloss shrubs or bubblegum golf balls, but instead delicious fruit bushes with 'pick me' signs dotted around the tees (kittitianhill.com).

■ Snoozing to infinity and beyond in Kameha Grand Zürich's new space suite, with its 'floating' anti-gravity illusion bed,

lunar-styled floor and ceiling, and out-of-this-world artwork (kameha-grandzuerich.com).

■ The return of Mauritius hotel giant Le Touessrok, now a Shangri-La hotel; open from November 1 with a refreshed version of its delicious Safran restaurant (letouessrokresort.com).

■ The tandem 'Sky Bikes' at Ecuador's Mashpi Lodge. Pedal along a high wire to see the exotic cloud-forest canopy at your own pace, with all of the views, but none of the usual zip-wire palpitations (mashpilodge.com).

## AND NOT SO EXCITED ABOUT...

'Mateymoos'. We weren't thrilled about brocations, gaycations, baby moons or flashpacking, either, but this 'revolutionary' rebranding of a holiday with your best pal really takes the biscuit.



## FESTIVAL NEWS

## DESERT BLOOM

Next month sees a first: peaceful retreat-meets-riotous festival at Restival, a 'nomadic gathering' in the Moroccan Sahara. It's fun (live music, yoga, camel rides, sandboarding), but thoughtful (meditation, stargazing and, er, your own Berber name for the weekend). The lack of escape (and wi-fi) may be your idea of heaven or of hell, but you're not roughing it, as a comfy drive brings you from Marrakech to the luxury eco-tents and fully stocked bar (restival.global; November 13-20; five nights from £800pp, all-inclusive, with transfers; flights extra).