

Owl and the Pussycat  
The Sunday Times Travel Magazine  
February 2016

**THE SUNDAY TIMES**  
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And more than 40 destinations inside! Lift flap here to find the full list... ➔

**Hotlist**

**HOLIDAY SHOP**

**MAT TRICK** Sun on your back, surf sighing in your ears and — *drat* — sand here, there and everywhere... Even the best beach holidays have their gritty sides. But not with this clever beach mat, which spirits grains away for good, through a woven underlayer. Simply stretch out and snooze — scratch-free (out-right.co.uk, from £44.99).



**ROOM WITH A VIEW**

**Bubble and chic** Talk about a northern highlight — Iceland is taking glamping to a new level with its first 'bubble hut', a transparent forest dome with a bed (and basics). Around 90 minutes' drive from Reykjavik, it's available from this month. There's no shower (you bathe 4km away in secret pools and lagoons), but who cares, when you're gazing at endless starry skies or the luminous *Aurora Borealis* (buubble.com; doubles from £99, room only).

WORDS: LUCY THORNTON; PHOTO: ANDREW HERRICK; PHOTOGRAPHY: ACCORREBE; PAUL QUAYLE; ALEXANDER HALL; HALLS; H&M

**We're excited about...**

- Meeting the three resident llamas — Domingo, Maximo and Hiero — at Austria's Hotel Aurelio. They'll even join you on hikes around the mountains (aureliotech.com; doubles from £629, full board).
  - Getting our Da Vinci fix between trips to Florence with the *Mechanics of Genius* exhibition at the Science Museum in London, from Feb 10 (science.museum.org.uk; £10).
  - Rumours of a new Soho House Barcelona early this year — Brit cool meets Barcelonan hedonism (sohohouse.com).
  - New overnight camp-outs in the Grand Canyon, with a guided journey in on horseback and an alfresco 'cowboy' feast around a camp fire under the stars (grandcanyonwesternranch.com; from £166pp).
  - The Sri Lanka hotel boom — a tranquil new Anantara (anantara.com), jungly Chena Huts (lugaescapes.com) and quirky boutique Owl and the Pussycat (otphotel.com) will all be pampering-ready next month.
  - WeDubYou's funky VW campervans (below) moving into hippie paradise Ibiza. Or you can already rent one to poolie around France and mainland Spain. Far out, man (wedubyou.com).
- AND NOT SO EXCITED ABOUT:**  
The world's first 'holiday withdrawal helpline', which Oliver's Travels claims will soothe the winter blues with the sounds of crickets from the Med (0800 133 7652). We'd much rather be researching our next trip...

