

SEPTEMBER 2019

# Uera

virgin atlantic 

## THE RING MASTER

Exploring the weird  
and wonderful worlds  
of JRR Tolkien

## WATCH THIS SPACE

On the lookout  
for aliens in the  
Nevada desert

The salvation  
of an American  
sweetheart

# MANDY MOORE





Quote VERA for 20% off + free delivery and returns at [boden.com](https://boden.com)\*

\*TERMS & CONDITIONS: The 20% off plus free standard UK delivery and returns is valid until 11:59pm on 30th September 2019. Exclusions apply, including gift vouchers, clearance, the Harry Potter range and other selected items (visit [boden.com/exclusions](https://boden.com/exclusions) for a full list). Free returns applies to UK orders that do not solely contain clearance items. This offer is only valid for use at [boden.com](https://boden.com) or at a Boden stand-alone store, and cannot be redeemed in any Boden concessions within John Lewis stores or online at John Lewis or Next Label. This offer is not for resale or publication and cannot be applied to orders retrospectively. This offer is only valid on personal orders and cannot be used in conjunction with any other J.P. Boden & Co. Ltd offer.

UK269463



# Join the JOY ride

*Who said Great British style  
should be sensible?*



Boden









THE SOFA & CHAIR COMPANY  
L O N D O N



**Exclusive offer - 20% off new orders**

[www.thesofaandchair.co.uk](http://www.thesofaandchair.co.uk)

Terms and conditions apply - [www.thesofaandchair.co.uk/-vera-offer](http://www.thesofaandchair.co.uk/-vera-offer) - Ends 30.10.2019





BANANA REPUBLIC

[bananarepublic.com](http://bananarepublic.com) | [bananarepublic.co.uk](http://bananarepublic.co.uk)



**Editor**  
Claire Bennie

**Art Editor**  
Harry Winfield

**Associate Editor**  
Matt Glasby

**Photo Director**  
Tracey Griffin

**Deputy Picture Editor**  
Katie Byrne

**Assistant Picture Editor**  
Gemma Roberts

**Publisher**  
Alice Temple-Latter  
+44 (0)20 7625 0822

**Brand Partnerships**  
Louise Tilley

**Sales Executives**  
Lily Hassell  
India Jacobs  
Roxy Rochford

**Creative Solutions**  
**Director**  
Simon Kurs

**Commercial Creative**  
**Director**  
Mat Wiggins

**Creative Solutions team**  
Jack Carter  
Kai Maaack  
Annabelle Martin  
Joe Holyoake

**Acting Production Manager**  
Martin Dunphy

**Print and Logistics**  
Pete Murphy

**Pre-Press**  
KFR Repro

**Communications and**  
**PR Manager**  
Daniel Bee

**Chief Executives**  
Michael Keating  
Simon Leslie

**Chief Operating and**  
**Financial Officer**  
Jim Campbell

**Editorial Director**  
Kerstin Zurnstein

**Creative Director**  
Jamie Trendall

**Chief Commercial Officer**  
Steve Rowbotham

**Business Development**  
**Director**  
Jonny Clark

**Head of Finance**  
Phil McIlwaine

**For Virgin Atlantic**  
**IFEC Manager**  
Sharon Noyau

Vera is published on behalf of Virgin Atlantic by Ink. All correspondence should be addressed to: Vera, Ink, Blackburn House, Blackburn Road, London, NW6 1RZ. [ink-global.com](http://ink-global.com)



© All material is strictly copyright and all rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission of the copyright holder. All prices and data are correct at the time of publication. Opinions expressed in Vera are not necessarily those of Virgin Atlantic and Virgin Atlantic does not accept responsibility for advertising content. Any pictures or transparencies supplied are at the owner's risk.

Printed on Roto Green Silk 100% recycled certified paper



## WHAT'S IN THIS A-LIST ISSUE

# Trailers



50



34



24

## Shorts

- 9 The lowdown**  
Superhero meditation, suit up like Men in Black, Maren Morris speaks up and more.

## On location

- 17 Suite life**  
Check in to LA's Hollywood Roosevelt hotel.
- 18 Action sequence**  
Dancing on air with Hong Kong Ballet.
- 19 Reel to real**  
A smashing time at London's Wreck Room.
- 21 Good taste**  
Star Wars snacks at Orlando's Disney World.

- 22 Be an icon**  
Holiday like Audrey Hepburn in New York.

- 24 Hello, Tel Aviv**  
Our cinematic guide to Israel's vibrant city.

## Features

- 34 Mandy Moore**  
From MTV to the Emmys, a life in the spotlight.
- 41 Ringing the changes**  
How Tolkien founded the fantasy genre.
- 50 Close encounters**  
On the hunt for aliens in Nevada.
- 56 Sense and sensibility**  
Meet the modern couple who live like Victorians.

## Onscreen

- 68 Movies**  
*Brightburn*, *The Hustle*, *Rocketman* and more.
- 74 TV**  
*Big Little Lies*, *The Planets*, *Claws*, *LA 92* and more.
- 80 Music**  
Kate Tempest, Mark Ronson, The Black Keys and more.
- Credits**
- 85 Virgin Atlantic news**  
Our shiny new A350, wellness while flying, Secret Cinema discounts and more.
- 90 Sustainability**  
How packing lighter is better for the environment.





# We do things *your way.*

Experience the freedom of a perfect villa holiday.

With over 45 years' experience, we know exactly what it takes to create the perfect villa holiday, just the way you like it. Hand-picked properties, selected for their location, quality and facilities are coupled with first-hand knowledge and support, both in the UK and in location.

At CV Villas, we do things your way.



020 3944 4566 | [cvvillas.com](http://cvvillas.com)



GREECE • ITALY • FRANCE • SPAIN • PORTUGAL • CARIBBEAN • CYPRUS • MOROCCO • TURKEY • CROATIA • AMERICA



**Jean Grey**

X-Men: Dark Phoenix begins with Grey breathing deep to harness her super-powers.

**Bruce Banner**

The Hulk's mild-mannered alter-ego uses meditation and Hatha yoga to keep his anger at bay.

WORDS: MATT GLASBY ILLUSTRATION: JANA NICELY

**The trend****MASTER MINDS**

Meditate like **X-Men: Dark Phoenix's** Jean Grey

What do Jean Grey, Dr Strange and Rey from *Star Wars* have in common? They all rely on meditation to weave their magic. When Jean Grey uses concentration to control her powers, that's meditation. When Dr Strange studies Buddhism to access his, that's meditation. And when Rey invokes the Force – well, you guessed it. So why is the word only used twice in the entire MCU? The truth is that “meditation” sounds elitist, which might scare people off. But if the characters can open their minds, why can't the filmmakers?

Clockwise from centre  
Rey; Kung Fu Panda; Wonder Woman; David Haller; Jean Grey; Bruce Banner; Eleven; Doctor Strange





## The tweet

Kid wastes electricity, saves world #Shazam!

## The look

# BACK IN BLACK

Take some tailoring tips from **Men in Black: International**

"A black suit is a black suit," thought costume designer Penny Rose before she signed on for the new *MiB*. But not when it's by fashion legend Paul Smith. He contributed custom suits for Agent M (Tessa Thompson) and H (Chris Hemsworth) and off-the-peg versions for the rest of the cast. Try them yourself (including these shoes and tie) – the collection launched this (light)year.

# 1

### Material

The fabric is crease-resistant – whether you're travelling internationally or intergalactically.



# 2

### Shades

As in the previous films, the sunglasses are by Police and neuralizer-resistant.

# 3

### Trousers

Thompson chose a suit over a skirt because M "can do all the stuff the boys can do".

Above  
Sunglasses  
motif tie, £65  
Below Chester  
flexible travel  
shoes, £375



## The timeline

How Fyre Festival went up in flames

### LATE 2016

Billy McFarland dreams up the ultra-lux Fyre Festival in the Bahamas using influencers to spread the word.

### MID 2017

Fyre relocates from island paradise to crappy vacant lot. Bands cancel. Nobody tells the punters.

### APRIL 2017

Guests arrive to "Hunger Games conditions": disaster relief tents and soggy cheese sarnies. Fyre is cancelled.

### 2017 TO 2018

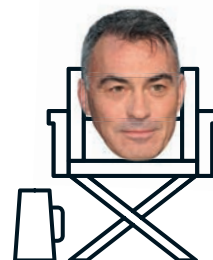
The lawsuits start flying. McFarland is sentenced to six years in prison and ordered to forfeit millions of ill-gotten dollars.







"If I'm the  
smartest guy  
in the room,  
I'm in the  
wrong room"



## The crew CHAD STAHLSKI

The *John Wick: Chapter 3* director on almost killing Keanu Reeves

As stuntman-turned-director Chad Stahelski watched Keanu Reeves galloping through the streets of Brooklyn on horseback while filming *John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum*, he tried not to let on that he was terrified. "I was like a duck," he recalls. "On the surface I was calm, but underneath I was paddling like crazy and thinking: 'Oh god, please don't kill Keanu Reeves!'"

Stahelski's concern for the daredevil action star went far beyond a filmmaker fretting over his most valuable commodity. The director and star have been close ever since Stahelski acted as a stunt double for Reeves on 1999's sci-fi game-changer *The Matrix*.

"Keanu is just a good human being and one of the hardest-working people I know," says Stahelski, who did such a great job, he was made the stunt coordinator for *The Matrix* sequels. "Those films opened the door, career-wise and inspirationally. It showed me the level of precision and creativity that was possible," he adds.

Stahelski soon became one of the industry's most sought-after stunt coordinators, working on blockbusters such as *The Expendables* and *The Wolverine*. "I was a very fortunate stunt guy," he says. "I got to hang from helicopters, got blown up, flipped cars – everything a stuntman could do, including choreographing and being part of the filmmaking process."

In 2014 Stahelski took the biggest leap of his career, directing Reeves in *John Wick*, a film that has spawned two sequels so far. He admits the transition has been challenging, especially when, while filming *Chapter 3* in Essaouira, Morocco, he had to deal with an unexpected set invasion. "Because of the fishing boats they have thousands of cats in the city and we didn't want them distracting the dogs we have in the film," Stahelski explains. "So we hired 35 cat wranglers to remove the kitties and put them in temporary 'kitty condos' while we filmed. That took a bit of patience."



## The brainteaser

Can you guess these **Pokémon**  
**Detective Pikachu** characters?

(A)



(B)



(C)



(D)



Answers (A) Psyduck,  
(B) Ludicolo, (C) Lickitung,  
(D) Cubone



One  
part gin.  
Three parts  
you.



BOMBAY  SAPHIRE  
*Stir Creativity*  
with your Gin & Tonic





## The one-liner

"Tom Cruise is the same age as me. He gets to fight the Mummy. I am the Mummy!" Katherine Newbury (Emma Thompson) in *Late Night*



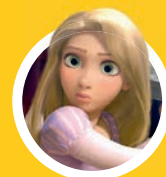
## The hot take

Disney Easter eggs to watch out for in *Aladdin*



### Cinderella

The magic carpet makes a sandcastle that looks very familiar indeed.



### Tangled

During the credits we glimpse the floating lanterns from *Tangled*.



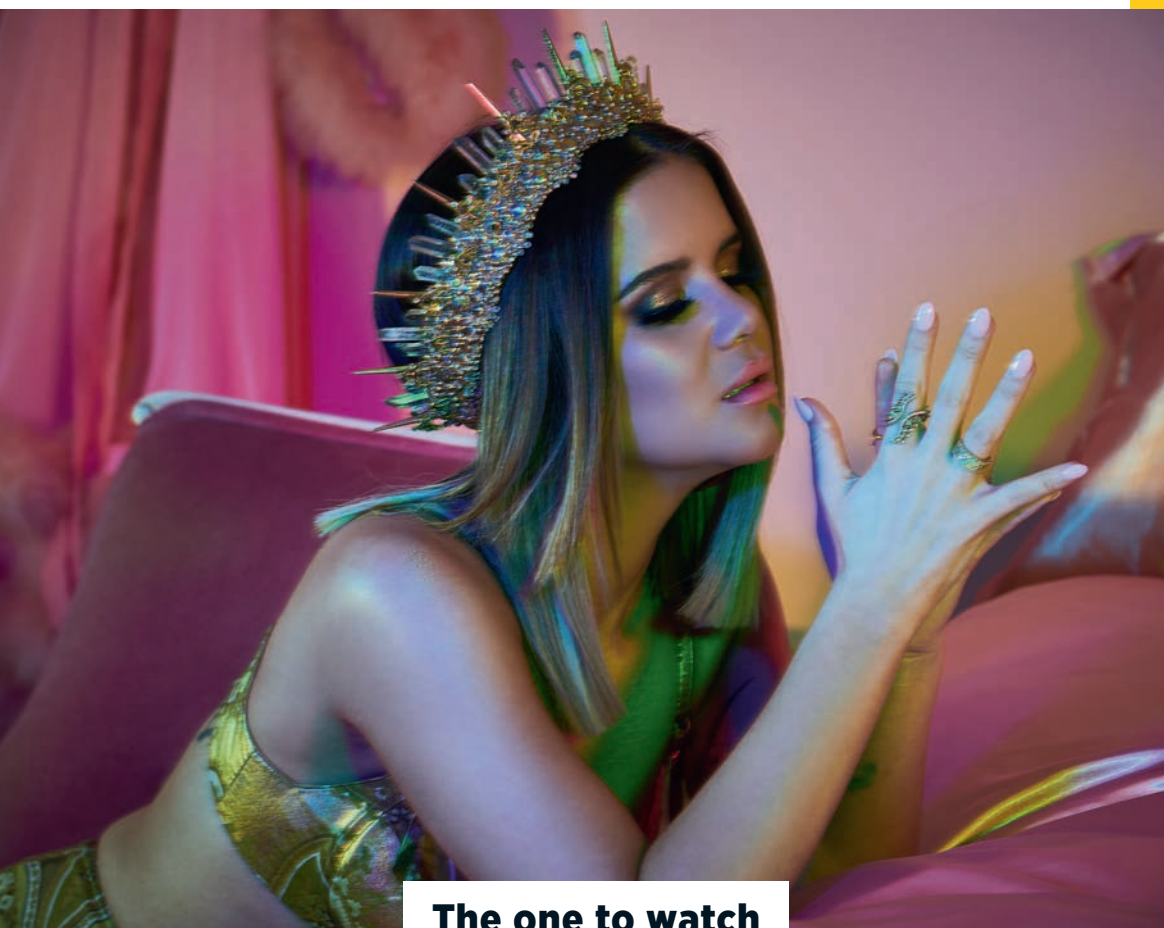
### Dumbo

Recognise those dancing elephants at the end of *Friend Like Me*? Thought so.



### Robin Hood

A replica of the villainous Sir Hiss sits atop Jafar's serpent staff.



## The one to watch

# LONE STAR

Texan **Maren Morris** – country-pop's hot new singer – is not to be ignored

"Little but loud," is the description on Maren Morris's Instagram feed. And, frankly, who's arguing? Although she stands a wholly respectable 163cm tall, Morris is making a big noise in the music world, following in the footsteps of crossover queens like Kacey Musgraves.

Growing up in Arlington, Texas, Morris spent her childhood trying to make herself heard at her parents' hair salon. Her father bought her a guitar aged 12, and her fate was sealed. Since then, she's worked as a songwriter for Kelly Clarkson, released two highly successful albums, sung on the electro-pop single

*The Middle* and performed with Dolly Parton and Miley Cyrus at the Grammys.

"I'll always be rooted in country music," she told the *Evening Standard*. "Being from Texas, it's in my blood. When I sing, there's a twang there that I can't hide. But I am going to write and sing whatever I want."

Her new album, *Girl*, was co-written with Adele collaborator Greg Kurstin, and it should see her profile increase dramatically. Just don't expect her to go quietly. As she says on new song *Flavor*, "Shut up and sing? Well, hell no I won't!" We wouldn't have it any other way.



The lowdown

# TALL ORDERS

Who's *Big Little Lies*' biggest star?

## Laura Dern

At a lofty 178cm, Dern is used to being looked up to by her peers.

## Nicole Kidman

A towering screen presence who stands 180cm tall. Co-stars beware.

## Shailene Woodley

The 173cm-tall actor is a force to be reckoned with.

## Meryl Streep

The 168cm-tall actor's Hollywood stature couldn't be higher.

## Zoë Kravitz

At 157cm, this rising star hasn't quite risen all the way – yet.

## Reese Witherspoon

Oscar-winning Reese stands at just 156cm.



## The Playlist

Four cuts from the **Rocketman** soundtrack

### The Bitch Is Back

When Elton John was in a mood, lyricist Bernie Taupin's wife would reportedly say, "Oh god, the bitch is back!"

### Your Song

Taupin called this hit "one of the most naive and childish lyrics in the repertoire of music". John wrote the melody in 20 minutes.

### Take Me to the Pilot

Nobody knows what this B-side is about. Taupin suggested it could be Pontius Pilate or an actual pilot.

### (I'm Gonna) Love Me Again

This new song, a duet with actor Taron Egerton, is the only time John appears. Egerton sings the rest.



# Houseology

Search. Discover. Shop.



[www.houseology.com](http://www.houseology.com)

+44 0330 0949 412





# FARFETCH

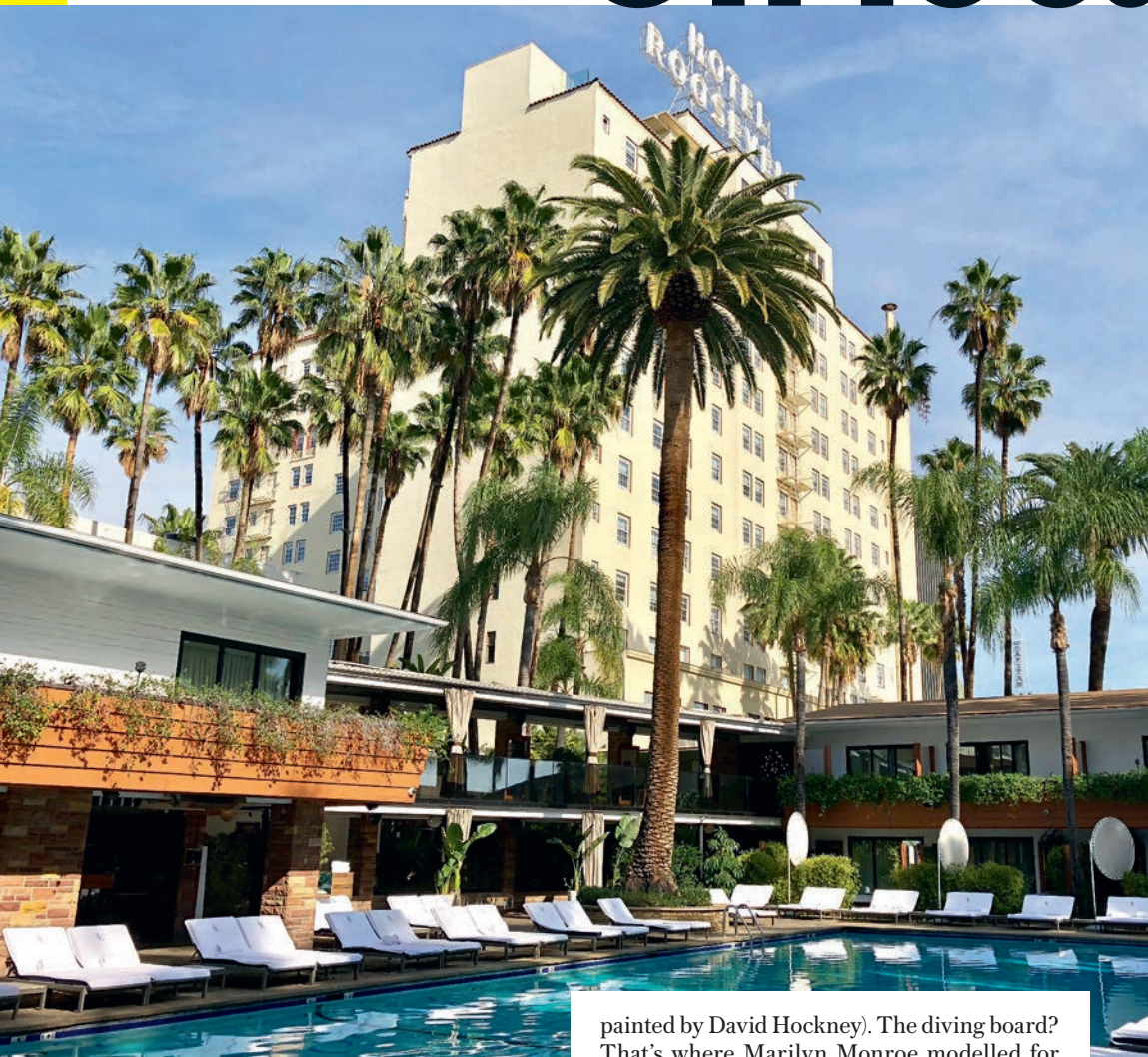
SHOP THE BIGGEST EDIT OF LUXURY FASHION

ENJOY 12% OFF WITH CODE: **VERA12\***



TRAVEL LIKE A MOVIE STAR

# On location



## Hollywood ROOSEVELT

This storied Los Angeles stopover is no stranger to A-list attention

It's always a thrill knowing that you're staying in a hotel favoured by the great and good. And in LA there's nowhere more glamorous, more iconic or with more star power than the Hollywood Roosevelt. The lobby you walked through earlier? It's where Bill Robinson taught Shirley Temple to tap dance. That pool you're about to jump in? It's piece of art valued at more than \$1 million (the blue squiggles were

painted by David Hockney). The diving board? That's where Marilyn Monroe modelled for a suntan lotion commercial way back in the day.

Open since 1927, and next to the Hollywood Walk of Fame, walking through the Roosevelt's doors feels like stepping into a bygone era where you might bump into Clark Gable or dine next to Marilyn. And if there's one icon's presence that lingers, it's hers. It wasn't just one of her favourite haunts then – she stayed in suite 229 for two years while her modelling career was taking off – it's also one of her favourite haunts now. Legend says her ghost still roams the hotel corridors.

For a less spooky celebrity spot, swing by The Spare Room, a speakeasy-style bar where you might catch A-list actors putting The Dude to shame on the mini bowling lane or sipping mezcal cocktails in the corner.

✦ *Book with Virgin Holidays*  
✦ *Fly to Los Angeles*

### Staying power

More Marilyn-connected hotels

1

#### The St Regis New York

Marilyn occupied suite 1105 while shooting *The Seven Year Itch*, the film where her dress billows over a subway grate.

2

#### Hotel del Coronado, San Diego

This 19th-century beach resort was the location for *Some Like It Hot*. Marilyn ordered a cold vanilla soufflé every day.

3

#### Fairmont Banff Springs

Marilyn twisted her ankle while filming *River of No Return*. The bellhops would flip coins to have the chance to push her wheelchair.







## Leaps and BOUNDS

Hong Kong Ballet is forging ahead for its 40th anniversary

What do you get when you cross a classical art form with a fashion-forward aesthetic and one of the world's most visited cities? The answer, if this bright and breezy photograph is anything to go by, is Hong Kong Ballet (HKB), which turns 40 this year. And far from letting this milestone signal a comfortable period of settling

down, the company is in the process of staging its biggest, boldest season to date.

"Hong Kong Ballet is one the premier companies in Asia, but it's also the most dynamic and forward-looking," says HKB artistic director Septime Webre. "So we had to make its 40th year special."

But what does that mean in real terms? This year's repertoire of classic and contemporary works will include a world premiere of the timeless *Romeo + Juliet*, as well as *Hong Kong Cool*, a mash-up of ballet and high fashion, but HKB will also be staging a series of accessible stunts called *Ballet in the City*. Events include *Friday Night Barre*, where passers-by can watch the company perform ballet exercises in the business district, and *Dance Unites*, where those who fancy themselves as prima ballerinas (and those

who don't) can limber up alongside the pros in a series of masterclasses.

"Hong Kong as a city is all about fusion," Webre explains. "It's important that the ballet is an integral part of the cultural and social fabric. It's not enough to connect with audiences in the theatre. By presenting great art for free in locations across the city, we can help thousands of people see themselves as ballet lovers, and the city as a place of creativity and art."

So don't be surprised if you find yourself busting out a pirouette along Victoria Harbour, or a grand jeté in Kowloon City. Just don't blame us if you pull a muscle.

✕ *Fly to Hong Kong*



## Next steps

Fusion ballet troupes worth travelling for



### Hip-hop

Hiplet ("hip-lay") is where hip-hop and classical dance meet at Chicago's Multi-Cultural Dance Center.



### Punk

New York's Armitage Gone! Dance troupe uses punk-rock soundtracks – don't forget your ear plugs.



### Breakdance

Los Angeles' groundbreaking Jacob Jonas The Company brings together ballet, breakdancing and aerobics.



### Heavy metal

Dark, moody and sometimes scary, New York's Ballet Deviare uses heavy metal to create a new form of ballet.

# Point, BREAK!

Stop! It's hammer time at this smash-hit attraction

Whether you're a Marvel super-fan who's aching to get their Thor on, or you've just had a really, *really* bad week, Wreck Room is the place to let rip. A pop-up specialising in wanton destruction, it's situated in a derelict-looking building in east London. Walking down the dark corridor, I hear The Prodigy's *Firestarter* in the distance – indeed, the music video could have been shot here.

After a safety briefing, I'm kitted up in protective gear and asked to choose some tunes. I go for Rage Against The Machine and, for a change of pace, Britney Spears. Then I'm ushered into the Wreck Room itself, which contains loading pallets, a selection of weapons, a defunct laptop and a box of rather chintzy crockery.

*Killing in the Name* throbs to life and I pick up the heaviest baseball bat, set a crocodile ornament on the edge of the pallet, swing back

and – kaboom! – atomise it into a million pieces. Adrenalised, I pick my next target: a 1970s plate about to say hello to Mr Sledgehammer. As I pound it into dust, it's not anger I feel, but an illicit sense of joy.

As a writer, I've been had by plenty of cheap laptops, so when *Toxic* begins, it's payback time. I pick the smallest hammer then – crack! – the screen explodes – bang! – the keys fly out like broken teeth – crunch! – the hard drive disintegrates. That'll teach it and its brethren for crashing when I've got a deadline looming. I go back for the baseball bat, and it all comes flooding out.

By the time Britney stops, I'm sweaty, smiling and sore. I've learned I prefer the baseball bat because the power comes from within; whereas a hammer's heavier so it does the job for you. Basically, Thor's a wuss.

✧ Fly to London







*Your holiday.  
Your time.*

SAME DAY CONNECTIONS VIA MIAMI

**CAYMAN ISLANDS**   
GRAND CAYMAN / CAYMAN BRAC / LITTLE CAYMAN  
[visitcaymanislands.com](http://visitcaymanislands.com)

Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman





## Beyond the MILKY WAY

Eat and drink like a Jedi at Disney

Ever since Luke Skywalker poured himself a tall glass of blue bantha milk in *Star Wars*, fans have speculated what the bizarre beverage would taste like. Imagine, then, the weight of expectation on the food and beverage team at Galaxy's Edge – two *Star Wars*-themed areas at Disneyland Park in California and Walt Disney World Resort in Florida – tasked with making the drink a reality. “Yeah, no pressure on this one!” laughs Brian Koziol, food and beverage ace at Walt Disney

Above Luke Skywalker tucks in. Left breakfast at Docking Bay 7. Below drinks at Oga's Cantina



### Space barred

Three foods that astronauts aren't allowed

- **Salt**
- Gets everywhere
- in zero gravity.

#### Bread

No shelf-life. They use tortillas instead.



#### Fizzy drinks

The carbon causes digestive discomfort.

World Resort. “We learned the recipe for blue milk was never really defined so we established a few guiding principles: the colour needed to be like in the movie; it needed to be accessible to as many as possible (so gluten-free); the flavours needed to be a touch peculiar; and it needed to taste delicious.”

The level of care and attention that went into coming up with a recipe for blue milk – essentially a frozen smoothie made from rice milk infused with berry and melon flavours – is indicative of all the creative menu options at Galaxy's Edge, an immersive world on the planet Batuu. Visitors can try a chicken dish called fried Endorian tip-yip at Docking Bay 7 Food and Cargo, sip a Jedi Mind Trick cocktail at Oga's Cantina, or order a grilled pork sausage wrap at Ronto Roasters, where a pod-racing engine fires the barbecue pit.

“Because there aren't many food references in the films, we could be creative and have fun,” says Brian Plasecki, culinary director at Walt Disney World Resort. “At the end of the day, the offerings needed to look and even feel different – not like anything our guests would expect.”

Much like the *Star Wars* movies themselves, the food at Galaxy's Edge is colourful and exciting. “When we created the dishes, we wanted to make certain components stand out – like they might do in the *Star Wars* universe,” explains Plasecki. “So here on Batuu, it's perfectly normal to have green gravy, translucent noodles and purple carrots.” May the fork be with you.

✖ Fly to Orlando





## On location

### Breakfast at Tiffany's

Inspired by the 1961 film, you can now eat at the legendary jeweller's. Its Blue Box Café serves all kind of upscale edibles, but try the buttermilk waffle in honour of the sweet-toothed actor.



### A star is born

Hepburn was plucked from obscurity to play the lead in the 1951 Broadway hit *Gigi*. To get cheap tickets to a show during your stay, try a TKTS booth or joining an in-person lottery.

### Roman holiday

Hepburn would have been too modest to visit this Little Italy mural by Tristan Eaton, but it's a great photo opportunity. She also loved pasta, so head to nearby Aunt Jake's to refuel.



### Animal kingdom

Hepburn adopted a deer called Pippin from 1959's *Green Mansions*. For mere mortals, Central Park Zoo is the place for all things doe-eyed and fluffy, from red pandas to a snow leopard.



### Sweetest thing

It may be hard to reconcile with her figure, but Hepburn wrote cookery books and loved home-made Madeleines with quince jelly. Head to Miss Madeleine for all kinds of baked goods.

### Secret garden

Hepburn made a 1990s TV series called *Gardens of the World with Audrey Hepburn*. Take a leaf out of her book at the gorgeous New York Botanical Garden.

### ✕ Fly to New York



# Audrey Hepburn's NEW YORK

Follow the screen icon's lead in the Big Apple

WORDS MATT GLASBY. PHOTO SAM BUTLER/UNSPASH, PASCAL BERNARDON/UNSPASH, ALAMY, GETTY IMAGES





**LONDON**

# STORIES YOU'LL NEVER FORGET

See war through the eyes of the people who lived it.  
Be moved. Be inspired. Be transformed.

**VISIT IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM LONDON**  
FREE ENTRY TO ALL | [IWM.ORG.UK](http://IWM.ORG.UK)

📍 Lambeth North 📍 ➡️ Elephant & Castle and Waterloo



# Hello, TEL AVIV





Take a cinematic tour of  
Israel's coolest city, from the hectic  
shuk to the heavenly sands

Words MELISSA TWIGG





# T



## Need to know

### Country

Israel

### Currency

Shekel

### Dialling code

+972

### Population

450,000

Tel Aviv is a small town with big ideas. With a picturesque beach, fabulous restaurants and a happening nightlife scene, it's enough to make you feel like you've stepped into a movie – but what kind? From romance to epic, action flick to arthouse hit, there's something for everyone in our insider's guide.

### The romance

If *When Harry Met Sally...* had been set in Tel Aviv rather than New York, it would never have taken them 12 years to get together. Why? Because the city exudes a playful sexiness that's utterly infectious, with bars and restaurants spilling out of the terraces and on to the streets.

One of the hottest spots is the art-deco Norman Hotel, which was named after the filmmaker Norman Lourie, the owner's late father. Sip on a Pink Vesper martini at the Library Bar, take a lingering evening dip in the rooftop pool, or savour dinner in the courtyard at Alena, where black-and-white films are projected on one wall while good-looking bar stewards whip up cocktails against the other.







If that wasn't trendy enough, chef Gabriel Israel used to be a tattoo artist. After sampling his indelible dishes such as shishito peppers seasoned with zaatar, or charred beef tartare with Persian lemon dust, go for a midnight dip at Hatzuk Beach. Swimming costumes? Optional, of course.

### The historical drama

With 3,000 years of history, Jaffa is the oldest part of Tel Aviv. Take a stroll through the maze of golden-stone alleys, past domed mosques and saffron-scented markets, and you'll feel like you've been transported into a Ridley Scott epic. But it's also one of the city's coolest spots. Set in a dramatic neo-gothic hospital for >

Above The Jaffa Hotel. Left the Bauhaus buildings at the White City

The next day, wander hand in hand around Saron Market, with its piles of olives and neatly stacked falafels. Walk back through the Bauhaus buildings of the White City and grab a seat at HaBasta, an intimate restaurant/wine bar with candlelit corners that are perfect just for two.

When it's time for dinner, those in the know head straight to L28 Culinary Platform. This sleek venue founded by tech start-up types opened earlier this year. If you were in any doubt of its hipster pulling power, the vertical garden, suspended timber panels and rooftop farm should set you straight.

**If Harry had met Sally in Tel Aviv, it would never have taken them 12 years to get together**

PHOTOS TOLLA, AMIT GERON, GETTY IMAGES



## On location

Christians visiting Jerusalem, The Jaffa Hotel features Damien Hirst artworks on the walls. With its plush golden chairs, vaulted sky-blue ceiling and original stained-glass windows, The Chapel Bar is one of the city's most Instagrammed spots.

Beit Kandinof, a warren of Ottoman-era rooms around a fairylight-filled courtyard, is Jaffa's most creative space. There's a restaurant, bar and gallery and – from dusk – DJs spinning house beats. In the summer you can feast on Mediterranean-style mezze under a canopy of stars.

But it's not all Shoreditch on sand. Head to Carmel Market, the largest *shuk* (market), on a Friday when locals are stocking up for *shabbat* (sabbath). If you can hear yourself think over the cacophony of vendors and overwhelmed tour-

ists you'll be rewarded with some of the city's best food: huge watermelons, towers of dried fruit, falafel, spicy lamb and aubergine pittas, *halva* (sweets), baklava and more. Take your time – there's a lot to take in.

### The arthouse hit

Crouching in a ball over your hands, desperately trying to get your feet in the air as you attempt your first handstand since primary school may not be a classic holiday activity, but at Bascula – Tel Aviv's first urban circus – it's practically mandatory. Whichever way up you're standing, prepare to be caught off-balance by the mixture of graffiti classes, drag nights, Pink Floyd tribute concerts and ballet performances.

Head towards the beach and you'll find Beit Romano, a cluster of bars set in one bougainvillea-filled courtyard. Get past the door staff and you'll find huge pizzas,

beautiful people, and pulsing Arab and African house that lasts until dawn.

Prefer your creativity a little more curated? Hop on a bus to Holon, where you'll find the Design Museum. From the outside it looks like a giant, ribbon-cut orange peel, but inside it houses a tremendous collection, ranging from butterfly sculptures that transform into fighter jets in shadow to a seesaw that emits colourful sparks and music.

### The action movie

At the beach good-looking locals roller-blade along the waterfront in barely there swimming costumes, and tanned students play strenuous games in skin-tight Speedos. Other than taking a pair of >



Above  
Machneyuda  
in Jerusalem  
Below the  
Design Museum

**From the outside the Design Museum looks like a giant, ribbon-cut orange peel**



PHOTOS SIVAN ASKAYO, YAHAV YAAKOV





EDWARDIAN  
HOTELS  
LONDON

*Be*  
**FABULOUS.**  
*Be Mayfair.*



THE MAY FAIR  
HOTEL

Book a stay with us and discover the finer things in life before you even leave the hotel.

Stratton Street London W1J 8LT [themayfairhotel.co.uk](http://themayfairhotel.co.uk)





# YARDHEAD



## NO BOUNDARIES

WE SEE WHISKY A  
LITTLE DIFFERENTLY:  
YARDHEAD IS  
THE SINGLE MALT  
DESIGNED FOR MIXING.  
DISTINCTIVE YET  
VERSATILE, IT'S  
BOTTLED FOR TODAY'S  
WHISKY DRINKER.

WE ONLY HAVE ONE RULE  
- NO BOUNDARIES -

## WHISKY DESIGNED FOR MIXING





shears to your wardrobe, the best way to feel like a true Tel Avivian is by stripping off and diving in.

Start your day like Keanu (Reeves) or Kate (Bosworth) with a surf class on Ha'Chof Hamaravi beach. Next to a line of bars that pump out encouraging electro is the Topsea Surfing Centre. Here, at Tel Aviv's oldest surf club, you will find patient instructors who will get even wobbling no-hopers on their feet for a second or two.

Too hungover to face the embarrassment of a wipeout? Coax out your inner Aquaman on a snorkelling trip with the Octopus Diving School on Gordon Beach. Afterwards, why not try Tel Aviv's most popular beach sport? *Beten gav*, the act of lazily bronzing under the Israeli rays, is beloved by locals of all ages, and translates as "stomach-back", because that's the only movement you'll make.

## The roadtrip

As everyone from Thelma and Louise to the Griswolds knows, there's nothing like hitting the open road. In Israel one car journey is virtually obligatory: a trip to Jerusalem. The Holy City is about an hour outside of Tel Aviv. Start in the Old City. From the Western Wall to the Dome of the Rock and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, every site in this single square kilometre has shaped the lives of billions of people today. Booking a good guide to help navigate the crowds is a must, so try Pomegranate Travel.

PHOTO SIVAN ASKAYO



Away from the bustle is Yad Vashem, Israel's official Holocaust memorial and museum. On top of a wooded hill, it's a powerful, poignant monument to the genocide. Allow at least four hours for the exhibition and the moving memorials. From there, take a taxi to the Israel Museum, home to the Dead Sea Scrolls: the foundation of modern Judaism and some of the most important religious texts on earth.

Restaurant-wise, nowhere rivals Machneyuda. With pumping music, queues around the block and chefs dancing while they cook, this Jerusalem institution is as famous for its raucous atmosphere as it is for its food, which includes polenta ragout and oxtail with Jerusalem artichoke. Book ahead – and if you don't like noise, maybe bring some earplugs. ■

✖ *Fly to Tel Aviv*

Above head to the beach for some beten gav. Left Library Bar at The Norman

## Tel Aviv in numbers

# 8.7

Miles of beaches

# 9<sup>TH</sup>

Best beach city in the world (according to Nat Geo)

# 300

Days of sunshine every year

# 1909

The year Tel Aviv was founded

# 1,500

Tech companies in the city

# 4,000

Restored Bauhaus buildings in the White City

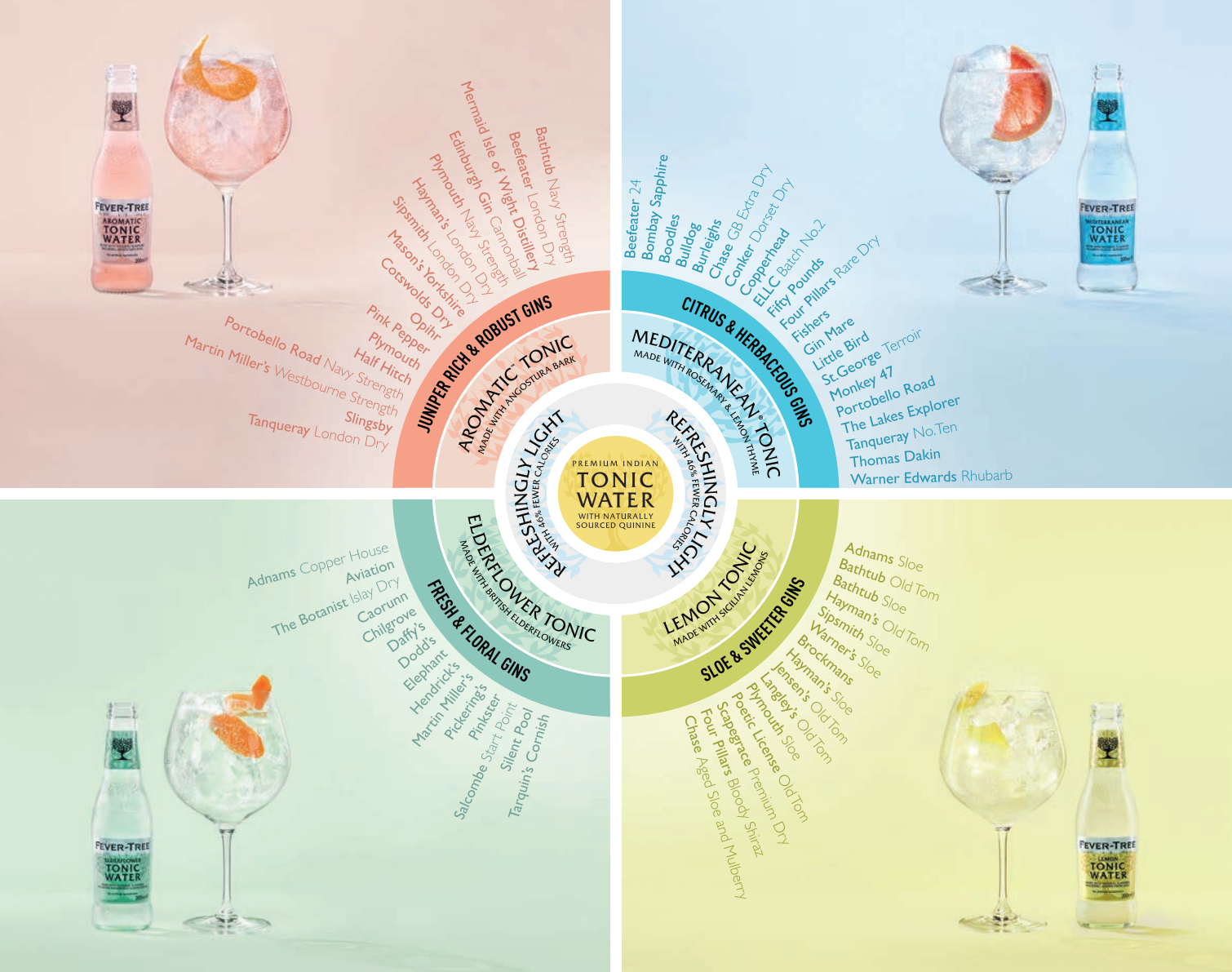
# 200

Miles of beaches

# 45

Km of cycle paths





# DISCOVER THE PERFECT TONIC FOR YOUR GIN

Visit our Gin & Tonic Pairing Wheel at [Fever-Tree.com](http://Fever-Tree.com)

IF  $\frac{3}{4}$  OF YOUR DRINK IS THE MIXER, MIX WITH THE BEST

  
**FEVER-TREE**

for the facts  
[drinkaware.co.uk](http://drinkaware.co.uk)



# Chasing the sun

Swap your seasonal blues for blue skies at Sandals' Caribbean resorts

With the warmth of summer now beginning its slow fade into autumn, you're faced with two choices: you can either resign yourself to months of scarves and ever-shortening days or start planning a trip to more exotic climes for when it really gets cold. Frankly, we prefer the sound of the latter. Don't you?

But where to shake off that seasonal slump in style? Well, with its balmy winter temperatures and dreamy beaches, the Caribbean is a pretty great choice; and one that can only be made better by staying at a Sandals resort while you're there. The go-to name for Caribbean holiday experiences, it has 15 Luxury Included resorts dotted across six different islands – Jamaica, Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, Saint Lucia and the Bahamas. Each comes with an unrivalled selection of amenities included in the package, delivering a level of hospitality that will leave you singing its praises to anybody who'll listen. Just as the World Travel Awards has done in naming Sandals the world's leading all-inclusive resort for 23 years on the trot.

Why has it been showered with accolades? The sheer variety of experiences you can have on a single trip most likely has something to do with it. The beachfront locations give you the opportunity to just lie back with a book; or alternatively, try your hand at a range of water sports, with guidance from trained instructors and the use of top-quality equipment. Ramp up the relaxation at the Red Lane Spa or go on a culinary adventure at the multiple 5 – Star Global Gourmet restaurants located in each resort. The endless premium brand liquors and



Robert Mondavi Twin Oaks wines are a fine accompaniment. That's without even mentioning the rainforests, volcanos and mountains ripe for exploration outside the resorts' gates.

If you've never been much of a winter person, a well-timed trip to one of Sandals' standout resorts will leave you with a glow that will carry you through to next summer.

**To book your next Sandals holiday, call 0800 742 742, head to [sandals.co.uk](http://sandals.co.uk) or visit your local Virgin Holidays store**

*Sandals*

There are 15 Sandals Luxury Included resorts spread out over six Caribbean islands



**From her Emmy-nominated acting, to releasing her first new music in ten years, Mandy Moore is letting it all out**

Words JANE MULKERRINS  
Photography RAMONA ROSALES







This  
is  
her





all of the challenges that she faces. She's a complete badass."

The final episode of season three left fans reeling as Rebecca was shown elderly, bed-ridden and frail, clearly in the last portion of her life.

"It was six hours of hair and make-up that day," says Moore. "It was the last thing we shot for this season and walking on set, people kind of avoided my gaze, avoided eye contact. I understood – it was jarring to look in the mirror for me, too. There's something really humbling about being in that moment, but also utterly heart-breaking. I won't say it's the final moments of her life, but the end is definitely near and that's hard, for the audience and the actor."

Playing a woman from her twenties to her sixties isn't something many actresses get the chance to do. Has it made her more aware of her own mortality?

"I'm excited about ageing," she says. "The big major themes in life are starting to crystallise. I'm not saying that I have it all figured out by any means, but in my thirties things have started to make sense in a way that I just don't think I would have understood a decade or even five years ago. I'm embracing everything that comes along with age – feeling more comfortable in my skin, where I am, the choices I'm making, and the power I have that I've never really acknowledged or felt."

Part of her acceptance of ageing might be due to having started out in the business so young. She was born in New

It makes you cry, and it makes you think about the important things in your life," says Mandy Moore. "It's like pushing on a bruise. We're conditioned to walk through life stoically, compartmentalising and not feeling our feelings. There's something lovely and cathartic about being given the excuse and the permission to do the opposite."

After decades of dark material, amoral antiheroes and bingeable boxsets, today's TV audience is demanding, sophisticated and often cynical. But *This Is Us*, the fourth season of which begins this month, is nothing like that. An unapologetically earnest, sentimental drama, it focuses on the Pearson clan, a white, middle-class family from Pittsburgh. Flashing back and forth across 40 years, the show follows Jack and Rebecca (Milo Ventimiglia and Moore) and their three offspring (played, as adults, by Chrissy Metz, Justin Hartley and Sterling K Brown) – one of whom, Randall, is black and was adopted at birth. Every week, its millions

## "Playing Rebecca in *This Is Us* has been the privilege of my career thus far. She's a complete badass"

of viewers – including celebrity fans from Nicole Kidman and Reese Witherspoon to Bill Gates and J-Lo – tune in with tissues at the ready because the show is notorious for prompting mass weeping, as heart-strings are tugged in every direction.

The 35-year-old Moore can also be seen in *The Big Break*, a short film about an office drone (Paul Lieberstein) holding out to be a hero, which is playing onboard. But *This Is Us* remains the headline story, having been nominated for four Emmy awards, including one for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series for Moore. "It's so lovely to get that acknowledgement," she says now. "It's been the privilege of my career thus far, portraying this woman and every different iteration of her life and

Hampshire but grew up in Florida, where, she says, she caught the performing bug hard and fast aged just six years old.

"I remember watching a production of *Oklahoma!* and the girl who sang *Oh, What A Beautiful Mornin'* was supremely talented and everybody was captivated by her," she says. "Everybody was spell-bound and I thought, 'Oh my god, I want to do that. I want to make people feel that way.'" She got her parents to pay for singing lessons. "I had it firmly lodged in my brain that I was going to be on Broadway and there was no plan B," she laughs. "No one in my family is remotely creative, so it was a very odd choice for me with my life."

Odd, perhaps, but the universe delivered. At the tender age of 13 she was >



Coat by **Mulberry**.  
Earrings by **Marco  
Bicego**. Rings by  
**David Yurman**

Opposite dress by  
**Missoni**. Shoes  
by **Casadei**. Earrings  
and bangles by  
**Marco Bicego**

Previous dress by  
**Blumarine**. Shoes  
by **Weitzman**. Earrings  
by **Sylvie**. Bangles by  
**UNode50** and **Tembo**.  
Rings by **Vhernier**.  
Glasses by  
**Garrett Leight**





Dress by Ulla Johnson.  
Bangles by Marco  
Bicego

Opposite dress by  
Pucci. Earrings  
by Djula. Rings  
by Vhernier

Stylist Cristina Ehrlich  
for TheOnly.Agency  
Make-up Kindra Mann  
using Chanel at  
TMG-LA  
Hair Garnier  
consulting stylist  
Ashley Streicher





recording music in a studio in Florida when a FedEx delivery man, impressed by what he was (over)hearing, handed a demo on to a friend at a music label.

Said friend flew to Florida to meet Moore. “I sang for him and that was it,” she says, simply. “I signed a record deal at 15, and started making an album. I went on tour with NSYNC and Backstreet Boys. It’s insane to think about now, but in the moment it was like, ‘OK, yeah.’ I never felt overwhelmed, but that’s also the trick of being a young person. I was like, ‘Oh, I’m going to London now and I’m doing *Top of the Pops*? OK. Now I’m going to New York and I’m on MTV.’ I was fearless. Now, that schedule would feel so gruelling, and I would be a nervous wreck, but all of that just didn’t compute when I was young.”

So how much creative input was she allowed back then? “Oh, zero,” she laughs. “Which is probably smart, because I was 15 and I had maybe French-kissed a boy, but I had no experience of love, no idea what I was even singing about anyway, so making any decisions whatsoever – besides maybe what I wanted to wear – was probably best left to the adults in the room.”

When she was 15, she says, letting other people take control was fine. “But as I got older and grew into myself, had some life experience under my belt and discovered music that I really loved, then it became a bigger conundrum. I wanted to be a part of the creative process and that wasn’t an easy solution to find.”

## “I had it firmly lodged in my brain that I was going to be on Broadway and there was no plan B”

She was also tied into the image of a clean-cut, wholesome teen star, very much “America’s sweetheart”. “That actually wasn’t too far from who I was,” she shrugs. “I am a bit of a goody two-shoes. I didn’t go to college or have that exploratory phase like most people my age were having. I just jumped right into an adult world and took my job really seriously.” She pauses. “Honestly, if it’s up to me, I’ll go to bed at 8 o’clock. I skipped out of being a fun, exciting young person and just went right to geriatric status. So, when people described me as the girl next door, or America’s sweetheart, I was flattered. It only became more of a problem, I think, as an actor trying to break out of that box and show people that I contain multitudes.”



Moore’s musical career was not helped by her 2009 marriage to country-rock singer Ryan Adams, whom she met at the age of 23. Last year, she spoke to the *New York Times* about the relationship, which she now describes as abusive. “It was an entirely unhealthy dynamic. I had no sense of self. I was imperceptible, I was so small in my own world,” she said, adding, “It was so lonely. I was so sad. I was lonely with him.” She filed for divorce in 2015.

Moore was, she says, “in the midst of this really awful, acrimonious divorce”, when

she heard a song on the radio by the band Dawes, and posted about it on Instagram.

“I just put up a picture. I didn’t tag them. I didn’t do any of the things you’re supposed to do if you’re trying to get someone’s attention. I was newly on Instagram and I didn’t understand the rules,” she laughs. Yet, somehow, the universe stepped in again.

Someone alerted the band’s singer/songwriter Taylor Goldsmith, who suggested they meet. “I was trying to say yes to things I would normally have passed on, and I thought, ‘You know what? I should meet this stranger. I should meet some new people in the music industry,’” Moore recalls. “And, of course, I walked into the restaurant and I just was like, ‘Oh goodness, he’s so handsome.’ We had an epic three-hour-long dinner, and that was it.”

The couple got married last November, and have recorded lots of new music together in the meantime, which Moore will begin releasing this autumn. So how does this relationship compare to Rebecca’s journey in *This Is Us*?

“I’m excited about hopefully having kids and grandkids one day,” she says. “I’m excited about living all of the lives that Rebecca lives. Being part of this show has really deepened my appreciation for what our definition of family is and what’s really important in life. And it’s the big universal things. When you strip away all the madness that happens in the world nowadays, the only thing that’s really important is family and friends.” Rebecca, you feel, would approve. ■



Above with onscreen husband Milo Ventimiglia in *This Is Us*

📺 **Watch The Big Break**





THE OFFICIAL BEER OF





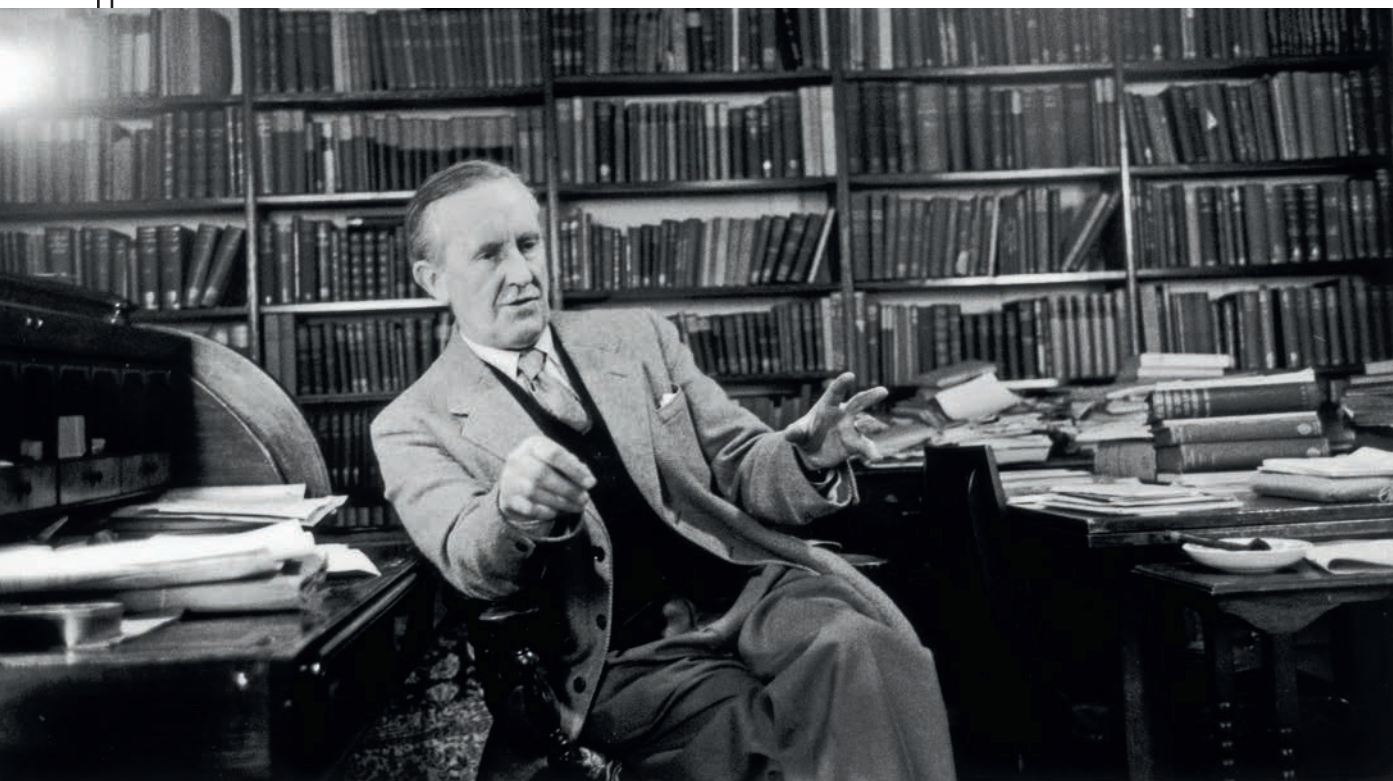


# MORDOR, HE WROTE

A magical guide to  
JRR Tolkien, the father  
of Middle Earth

Words  
ANDREW DICKENS  
Illustrations  
OWEN DAVEY





Above  
JRR Tolkien  
Top left  
Nicholas  
Hoult (right)  
as Tolkien in  
the movie

# THE MAN AND THE MYTH

The life and times of JRR Tolkien

**S**ay the name JRR Tolkien and two things are guaranteed: 1) nobody will know what the JRR stands for and 2) everybody thinks of wizards.

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien's famous stories – *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* – are the most influential fantasy books ever written and were turned into one of cinema's biggest ever franchises. But who was the creator of Middle Earth?

Born in 1892 in South Africa, but raised in Birmingham, Tolkien didn't

have an easy start in life. Indeed, if there was a *Fantasy Idol* TV show, his tragic backstory would win hands down. Aged 12, he was orphaned. His mother, Mabel, who taught him Latin, French, botany and art, and inspired his love of languages, was a particularly crushing loss.

By his mid-twenties, he'd also lost Geoffrey Bache Smith and Robert Gilson in WWI. Alongside Tolkien and Christopher Wiseman, they had been part of the Tea Club and Barrovian Society (TCBS). This group of four pals, from

King Edward's school in Birmingham, was Tolkien's first "fellowship".

"This frivolous little group basically bonded into something very profound and tight when the war broke out," explains John Garth, the author of three Tolkien books, including *Tolkien and the Great War*. "They decided that they had a mission to bring light into this dark world through art."

Tolkien truly succeeded in that mission. These great thuds of reality didn't, in fact, kill his imagination – even the

## Tolkien timeline

1882

JRR Tolkien is born in South Africa.

1895-1904

Returns to Birmingham, loses parents.

1916

Marries Edith Bratt, sent to fight in WWI.

1925

Becomes a professor at Oxford University.

1937

Publishes *The Hobbit* to great acclaim.





war fired his creativity. In *The Lord of the Rings*, for example, Frodo Baggins clearly shows signs of PTSD after his great journey.

"For Tolkien to go on and have a successful family life, become a great academic and transform an entire literary genre is quite incredible," says Garth. "I think his creativity helped him through, by turning tragedy into art." But then, "Tolkien was imaginative on a whole other level. He didn't just pull a hobbit out of a hat, he worked incredibly hard, taking elements of the things he loved and adding his own ideas."

Tolkien was sent home from the war early with trench fever, going to professorships at the universities of Leeds and Oxford. His wife Edith Bratt, who he'd met after his mother died, was another great influence on his work. He later struck up a friendship with *Narnia* creator CS Lewis, with whom he ran the legendary Oxford pub-dwelling literary discussion group the Inklings.

But it's Tolkien's influence on his readers that's truly inspirational. Upon its release in 1937, *The Hobbit* was an instant success, triggering demand for a sequel, which wouldn't arrive until 17 years later. The worlds, real and imagined, literary and cinematic, were changed forever.

"He was a genius who saw things in a different way," summarises Garth. "He reinvented and reinvigorated fantasy literature, making it relevant to our world."

PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES, ALAMY

**1954**

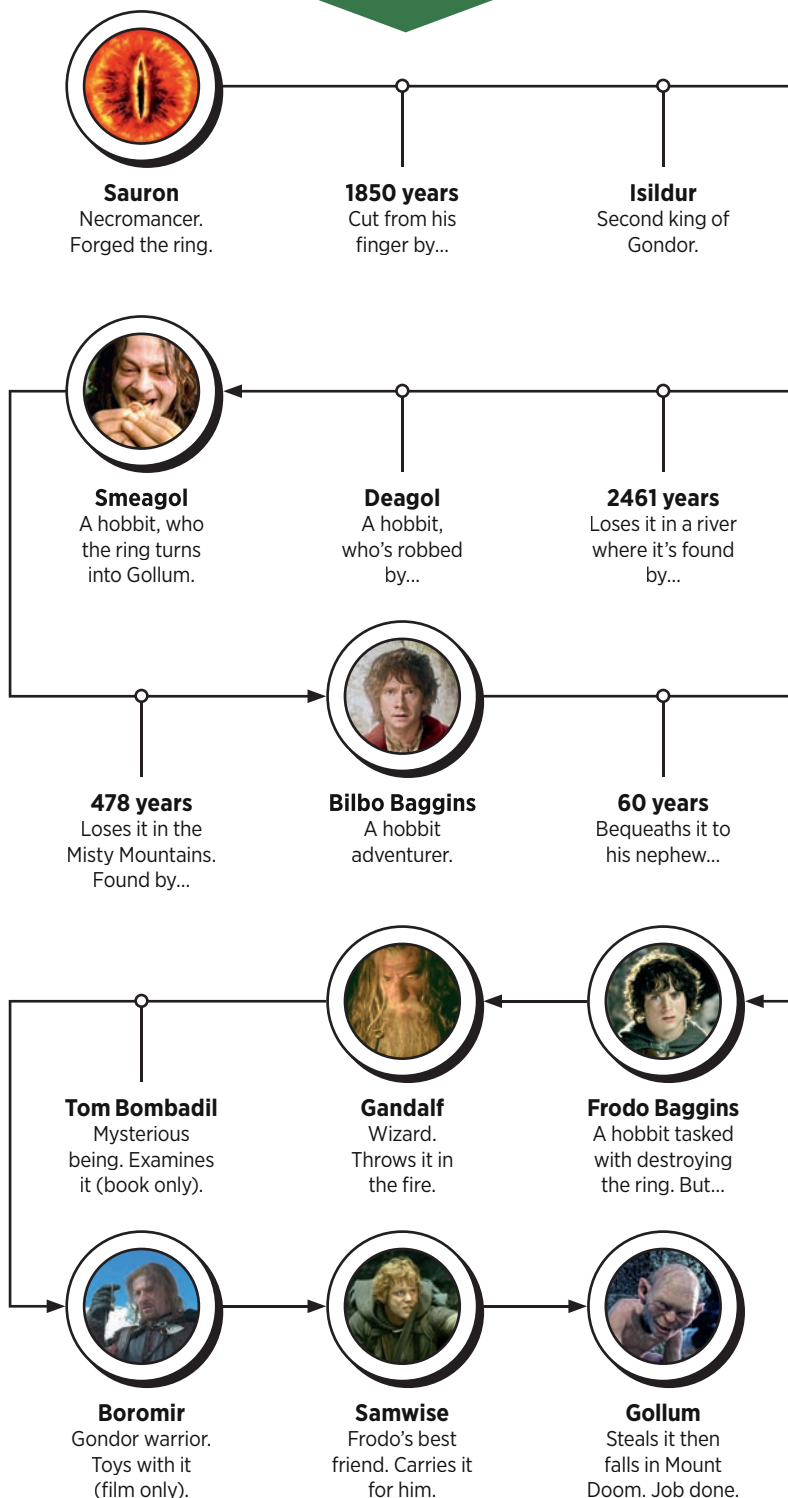
Publishes *The Lord of the Rings* in three volumes.

**1973**

Dies of a stomach ulcer in Oxford, aged 82.

# RINGING THE CHANGES

A complete history of the One Ring







## WHERE EAGLES DARE

Why didn't Frodo just fly to Mordor? The truth about that plot hole

**A**t the end of *The Return of the King*, once the One Ring has been smelted in the fires of Mount Doom (spoilers), it looks very much as if Frodo and Sam's goose is also cooked. However, as they cower on the mountain-side, molten rock pelting down, giant eagles appear and pluck them to safety.

This last-gasp rescue has led to a much-discussed and seemingly obvious question: why make the wee hobbits go on an epic and arduous journey to destroy the ring when they could just fly over the volcano and drop it in?

Some argue that the eagles would have been spotted by the Eye of Sauron (which only crumbled once the ring was destroyed) and zapped en route. Others say the ring would have corrupted the eagles, the way it corrupted Smeagol and turned him into Gollum.

Tolkien expert John Garth has two explanations. The first, he says, is fairly basic. "Tolkien wanted a sense of realism in his worlds," he says. "But he was also a great poet and writer, so he knew there needed to be an element of trouble."

The other has more to do with Tolkien's message. "Thematically, it makes sense," says Garth. "If you summon the eagles, you turn them into machines, and the whole story is against using machines to enhance your power: that's what the One Ring is. *The Lord of the Rings* is a tale of weaknesses overcoming strength. So an eagle might well be corrupted: it needed a gentle hobbit with no ambition to take the journey."

# THERE AND BACK AGAIN

Plan your very own Lord of the Rings adventures with our handy map of Middle Earth

## THE HOBBIT

1

### The Misty Mountains

In the labyrinthine tunnels below the mountains, Bilbo finds the One Ring and then encounters Gollum by an underground lake.

2

### The Shire

The journey first begins in Bag End, Bilbo's house, when Gandalf and some dwarves persuade him to come on an adventure with them.

3

### Lake Town

South of the Lonely Mountain, this lakeside settlement (real name Esgaroth) is in the flightpath of the dragon Smaug.

## THE LORD OF THE RINGS

4

### Celebdlil

Gandalf the Grey defeats the Balrog here, but dies in the process. Luckily, he's resurrected a few days later as Gandalf the White. Phew.

5

### Dead Marshes

Before Frodo, Samwise and Gollum reach Mordor, the unlikely threesome wade through the Dead Marshes, haunted by fallen warriors.

6

### Mount Doom

Frodo and Samwise have to battle their way to the top of the volcano, destroying the One Ring in the Sammath Naur (Chambers of Fire).

Key

— — — — —  
Bilbo's journey

— — — — —  
Frodo's journey







# THE TOLKIEN TRAVEL GUIDE

If you're wondering where on Middle Earth to go for a JRR jolly, here are three Tolkien-linked tourist hotspots



## Holiday like a hobbit

Staying in a hobbit hole isn't as niche as you might think – there are round-doored underground residences all over the UK. Try the Hidden Hollow in Suffolk, a 2.5m-tall home built into a mound of earth. Surrounded by tangled roots and tall pine trees, this cosy eco home looks just like Bag End. Bookable through Quality Unearthed, it sleeps up to four people, and starts at £100 a night. There are also plenty of good walks in the area for anyone after an unexpected journey.

## Mental elf retreat

Everyone knows that the most idyllic part of Middle Earth is the valley of Rivendell, home of the Elves. It was inspired by Lauterbrunnen in Switzerland, where Tolkien went on a hiking trip in 1911. This Alpine village and valley has 72 waterfalls, including some of the highest in Europe, and – being Alpine – offers winter sports, summer trails and all-year-round beer drinking in quaint inns.

## No gloom on Doom

The films were shot all over New Zealand, which might be the only place on Earth with a landscape big enough to match the author's imagination. If you're going to visit just one location, then check out Mordor, aka Tongariro National Park. It has volcanic peaks, waterfalls, lakes, the river where Gollum goes fishing, and the slopes of Mount Doom – which you can ski down (orc-free).



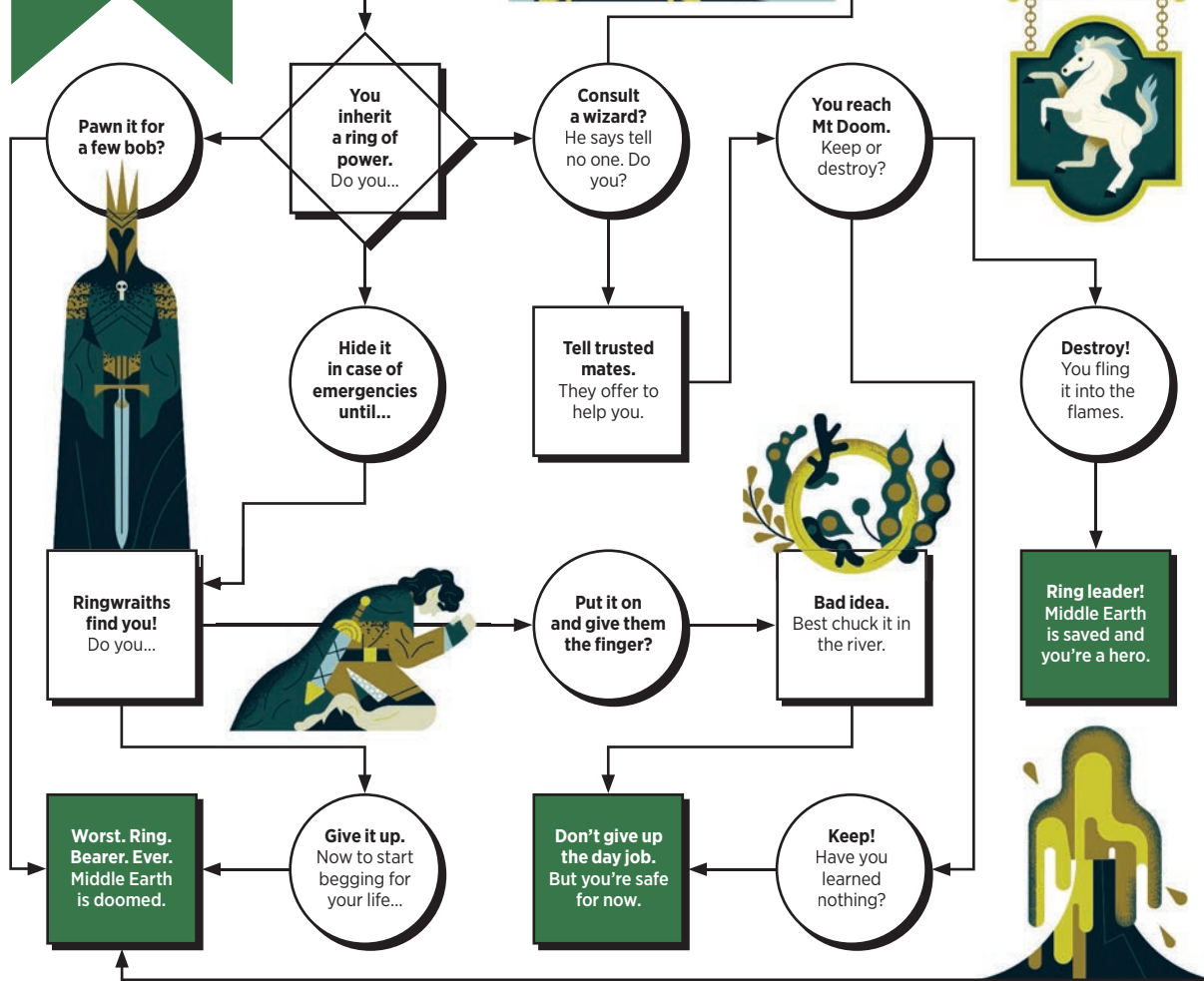
PHOTOS: ALAMY, GETTY IMAGES



## Vicious circles

How good a ring bearer would you be? Try our quiz and find out

**START**



## Eat like a hobbit

Hobbits eat six meals a day – seven in the films. Here are some Tolkien-inspired dishes to try

### DAWN

**First breakfast**  
Upon waking, power up like the bearish baddie with Beorn's Honey Nut Cake.

### 9:00AM

**Second breakfast**  
Try some Bag End Apple Bread, a loaf named after Bilbo's hobbit hole.

### 11:00AM

**Elevenes**  
Elven Lembas Bread will magically keep you feeling full all day long.

### 1:00PM

**Luncheon**  
Bamfurlong Mushroom Soup – inspired by Farmer Maggot's mushrooms.

### 3:00PM

**Afternoon tea**  
Bilbo's tea cake. This delicacy is best consumed – if possible – beside a fire.

### 5:00PM

**Dinner**  
Balin's Spiced Beef. A dwarf speciality that's been marinated for 12 hours.

### 7:00PM

**Supper**  
Mrs Maggot's Cottage Pie – the farmer's wife makes one hell of a pie.



## Fact or fiction?

Three times the Tolkien movie was slightly less than truthful



### Love and war

Tolkien and Edith Bratt met when he was 16 and married in 1916, before he went to war. For dramatic reasons the film delays the marriage until he returns.



### Play it again, Sam

The film implies that Samwise Gamgee was inspired by Private Sam Hodges. The hobbit was based on an officer serving with Tolkien, but Hodges is fictional.



### Here be dragons

Suffering from trench fever, Tolkien has hallucinations of dragons that inspired his stories. In reality, he began writing when he was bored grading papers.

Watch  
Tolkien



# ELVISH PHRASEBOOK



Some useful sayings for your Middle Earth adventure

**IM ANÍR ROCH  
NA MORDOR**

*I'd like a horse to Mordor.*

**Im sorrui, im ceri-  
ú- ped- edhelen**

*I'm sorry, I don't speak Elvish.*

**NA- HI NEAR  
CURUNIR-  
FRIENDLUI?**

*Is this place wizard-  
friendly?*

**Na ennas  
a ant bo orod  
plual ered  
manadh?**

*Is there a gift shop on  
Mount Doom?*

**BAW, IM  
AM SORRUI,  
IM GAR Ú  
GLINTH-  
CÍN ECHOR**

*No, I'm sorry,  
I haven't seen  
your ring.*

**CIN TUR-'T  
AGLON**

*You shall not pass!*

**Ceri cin gar redhi aes?**

*Do you have a vegetarian menu?*



PHOTOS: ALAMY



More time to  
perfect that pitch



# The fastest way from Heathrow Central\* to London Paddington

Heathrow Express is the fastest and most convenient way to travel between Heathrow Central\* and London Paddington. Our service offers a non-stop journey, comfortable seats, plenty of luggage space and complimentary Wi-Fi.

Buy your tickets in the arrivals hall

\*Heathrow Terminals 2 & 3.  
For terms and conditions visit [heathrowexpress.com](https://www.heathrowexpress.com)



**Heathrow  
Express**  
Get there sooner



# COWBOYS AND ALIENS

Nevada's Extraterrestrial Highway - 98 miles  
of nothing in the desert - is a magnet for  
close encounters and conspiracy theorists











Not long after buying the Rachel Bar and Grill in 1988, Pat Travis-Laudenklos saw the light. She and her late husband, Joe Travis, were alone one night after closing, in the diner they'd bought beside a long, straight highway through the vast Nevadan nothingness. "There was this powerful bright light from outside, and suddenly the lights inside started to flicker," says Pat. "There was a strong sense that something was there, this strange presence. We offered it milk and cookies like it was Santa."

If Pat and Joe's encounter sounds a bit like a Spielberg movie, that's partly the result of Hollywood's obsession with extraterrestrial life – seen most recently in *Men in Black: International*. But it was another alien blockbuster, 1996's *Independence Day*, that changed the fate of Nevada State Route 375, a lonely 98-mile road starting two hours north of Las Vegas. The movie was partly set at the tiny

town of Rachel, and Area 51 a few miles away. This US Air Force base is a magnet for conspiracy theories. Indeed, such is its association with aliens that 500,000 people have signed up to storm the facility on 20 September and find out the truth. In the wake of *Independence Day*, SR 375 was rebranded the Extraterrestrial Highway, with retro-futuristic signs added along the road. Overnight, it became a kind of anti-tourism destination: a place to come and see almost nothing.

Inspired by their visitation, Pat and Joe renamed their diner the Little A'le'Inn. It already had trailer rooms to house drivers who'd hit cows or run out of gas on the road. Now, they began selling bug-eyed alien mugs, Area 51 number plates and other extraterrestrial ephemera. Soon, Joe was building a rocket with flickering lights, and a child-sized alien holding a sign saying "Earthlings



Welcome". It's now the only real establishment in Rachel, a settlement of 50 or so people, most of whom are cattle ranchers; a place that was named in 1977 after Rachel Jones, the first baby to be born here.

While the Little A'le'Inn has quietly become iconic, appearing in the *The X-Files* and *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas*, not much has changed over the years. The rooms are still basic, and Pat's "world-famous alien burger" has been on the little laminated menu for close to three decades. Joe died in 2003, and Pat's second husband Bill passed away in 2015, but the inn's main appeal is still the warm welcome offered by Pat and her daughter, Connie. "This is a calm, quiet place," Pat, now 75, tells me, standing behind the bar in her alien apron, under a ceiling blanketed in dollar bills signed by guests from across the world. "People come for the aliens, but it's really a bit of fun. We always say to people: don't make up stories to promote our business."

I'd driven north from Las Vegas the day before, quickly finding myself in one of America's strangest, emptiest quarters, where almost a thousand atomic tests were carried out between the 1950s and early >



Above Pat, owner of the Little A'le'Inn.  
Far left the Extraterrestrial Highway





1990s. At Crystal Springs, a ghost town at the start of the Extraterrestrial Highway, I stop beside a home-made, sign advertising ET Fresh Jerky. I buy a packet of sickly, teriyaki-flavoured dried meat from the trailer-park shop, but resist the sign's invitation to "drop your toxic waste in the cleanest restrooms in Area 51".

Just up the road, the Alien Research Center is a gift shop selling space novelties from a corrugated iron shed. Out front is a three-storey metal alien, gazing across the empty shrub land. Behind the till is Malcolm Harris, a mustachioed man in a cap, and the kind of guy you'd expect would do OK come the alien apocalypse. His brother, George, a Vegas restaurateur and amateur ufologist, built the place in 2001, creating the highway's only real attraction other than the Little A'le'Inn.

Malcolm, a welder for the mining industry, says he often sees things in the skies around here, and he's not talking about flying saucers. On the office computer in a little side room, he brings up a photograph he'd taken of a long, almost perfectly rectangular cloud. "I was watching geese, and this thing appeared from nowhere," he says. "It must have been a thousand feet long, moving silently. The military are testing all sorts round here."

Very few people know exactly what happens at Area 51, but its primary purpose is said to be the development of experimental aircraft and weapons. A series of game-changing stealth fighters have been developed around Area 51's Groom Lake, and sonic booms are so common that local ranchers barely notice them. As for the theories that the base harbours aliens and studies UFOs, which have lingered since the Roswell Incident in 1947, the US government revealed in 2017 that it had a \$22 million programme – thought to be based at Area 51 – to collect and analyse "anomalous aerospace threats".

When I drive up to Area 51's dusty entrance later that day, it's still very much active. At the first of two barricades, there are at least ten warning signs, promising fines and prison sentences for taking photographs or trespassing. I turn around in haste, and take off back to Rachel, where the Comic Sans town sign ("Population. Humans: Yes. Aliens: ?") is much more welcoming.

There's not, it has to be said, much to do along the Extraterrestrial Highway. Back at the inn, I simply buy a few naff fridge magnets and settle in at a table next to three sad-looking alien mannequins to try the \$6.75 alien burger. Later, I chat to Chris Bickel, a retired local



schoolteacher who passes her time by knitting ET quilts. She has seen strange things in the sky – craft moving "faster than anything you've seen, and doing 90-degree turns" – but tells me the best person to speak to about that stuff is Ken, the inn's chef, who sometimes refers to himself as Agent 0051.

Around 9pm Ken appears after his shift wearing his Chicago Cubs cap backwards. As we speak outside on plastic chairs under a dark desert sky, it turns out that he's not your average burger flipper. The disowned son of a wealthy industrialist family, he claims he was "the hottest chef in Atlanta" from the mid-1970s, cooking at Elon Musk's 40th birthday, and "for every branch of the military and intelligence services", sparking a life-



## WE COME IN PEACE

But do these aliens really mean well?

FRIENDLY



**Paul (Paul)**  
Just wants to get stoned.





long interest in the CIA and other agencies. He claims a Native American shaman in New Mexico told him to put his finger on an atlas to determine where his destiny lay. His finger alighted on Rachel, Nevada.

I follow Ken's car to his bungalow by the highway, where he feeds me Jack Daniel's and scarcely believable tales. He's Rachel's unofficial spokesperson for what really happens at Area 51, and he "sees things up in the sky all the time. One time, I saw four planes circling. They were dissected by a huge single beam of white light, and then suddenly they disappeared, leaving only little flickers of light."

He tells me about the technology being developed "over the hill": gravity manipulation, cloaking technology, vibrational frequencies that can make aircraft vanish. "If you've seen it in a sci-fi movie, they can do it," he says. A few weeks later, I'll listen to a radio interview of him claiming he was abducted by aliens. We don't quite get round to that. Besides, my brain is scrambled enough, and I'm weirded out by Ken's assertion that, "They can see us and hear everything we say." Who "they" are remains unsaid.

The next morning, after breakfast, Pat is keen to point out that, "Ken's views are his own... we like to keep things light here." Soon I'm driving up towards Tonopah – best known as the home of the haunted Mizpah Hotel and the Clown Motel, a nightmare of clown dolls and swirly carpets. Crucially, it also has the first gas in 160 miles.

But as I will the car up the final hill, the accelerator finally gives up, and I trundle to a halt. After 15 minutes of forlorn thumbing, a truck turns round on the dusty road, and a gentleman wills me to jump in. He's the retired sheriff of Tonopah, and he has a spare stash of gas back home. As we drive, he asks about my trip, possibly jokingly: "You see some strange stuff down there, did you?" Yes, I say. Very strange indeed. And, as the words come out of my mouth, I realise I'm not joking. ■

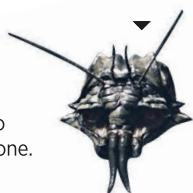
📺 **Watch *Men in Black: International***  
✈️ **Fly to Las Vegas**



PHOTOS ALAMY



**ET (ET)**  
Just wants to borrow a phone.



**Prawns (District 9)** Just want to get home.



**Boris (MiB 3)**  
Just wants to kill Agent K.



**Predator (Predator)** Just wants your skull.

UNFRIENDLY



# Age of

Inspired by the Victorian police sitcom *Year of the Rabbit*, we

Words ROB CROSSAN Photography KYLE JOHNSON





# innocence

meet the upstanding couple turning the clock back to 1899







**Right** Gabriel winds up the gramophone. **Below** out and about on vintage bikes

tury bank clerk who's about to turn me down for a loan. Sarah is in a floor-length, seaweed-patterned cotton dress she made herself. She looks like she could give an impassioned speech about the suffragette movement at any minute. Instead I'm offered a glass of homemade lemonade in the quiet of their living room where it's time to ask some tough questions about their lifestyle choices. The Victorian era was a time of child poverty, Jack the Ripper and rampant colonisation. Why not live in a happier time – or, at least one where there was less cholera?

"Slavery was over by late Victorian times and it wasn't this terrible time for women that's often made out," says Sarah. "People think everything is black or white, and that the past was a certain way. In the 1880s people in America were cooking with lemons and the banana was more popular than the apple! It wasn't as different to today as you might think."

As fun as their lifestyle seems, it's not been the smoothest ride. "My family don't really understand what we're doing at all," Sarah admits. "I had a woman run me off the road in an SUV not long ago. She told me I shouldn't be riding my bike in my skirt!"

So why did they choose to live like Victorians in the first place? "Gabriel and I met at university, and quickly we realised we had this shared passion for Victorian times," says Sarah. "It was an era where incredible things were achieved, great books were written and advancements were made that we're still benefiting from today." It was only after dating for 10 years that the immersion began when Gabriel bought Sarah a Victorian-era corset for her 29th birthday. A corset as the portal to time travel? "It just happened to be around the time that we began engaging in a deeper way and, a decade on, we're still finding ourselves getting deeper into the Victorian era," says Sarah.

# W

hisper it so Marty McFly doesn't hear, but it turns out that you don't actually need a souped-up 1985 DeLorean and some stone-washed denim to travel back in time. A ticket to Seattle and car to take you two hours further to the very tip-top corner of the Pacific Northwest will do the trick just as well.

That's because in Port Townsend, a paper mill town that, with its creaky wooden houses and deserted winding roads, feels like the set of a David Lynch movie, you'll find a couple who have done more than nip back to the recent past. For Sarah and Gabriel Chrisman, the tail fins and cowlicks of the 1950s aren't nearly old enough. Nor are the Prohibition bars and ragtime jazz of the Roaring Twenties. For this couple, the clock stopped somewhere around the 1890s.

"Oh yes, it's all absolutely real," Sarah insists as she ushers me into their home past three penny farthing bicycles, a cooking range and an ice box. There's a notable absence of iPads, flat screens or even cassette decks. "Trust us, there's no 'breakout' box of trainers and mobile phones which come out when visitors leave," chuckles her husband Gabriel.

Librarian Gabriel is dressed in checked breeches and a prim-and-trim white shirt with cardboard collar. His facial hair gives him the look of an exceptionally dapper 19th-cen-

**"I had a woman run me off the road in an SUV. She told me I shouldn't be riding my bike in my skirt!"**





The adjustment was different for them both. Gabriel grew up in a house without TV and was home-schooled. Sarah was raised in a more conventional home with a TV which, as she puts it, “was a glowing box blaring commands at me”.

“We never had a burning of our modern possessions,” says Gabriel. “But we did get rid of a lot of stuff when we moved to this house. We got rid of a lot of the technology as well.”

But something’s amiss. The freshly baked loaf of bread in the kitchen, alongside the vintage egg whisk and saucepan, is a testament to their authenticity – but hold on a second, isn’t that a 21st-century car parked outside? Sarah and Gabriel happily admit to owning the car, alongside a laptop, which Sarah uses for email, to write novels and to maintain a blog called *This Victorian Life*. “And I still use a modern razor,” adds Gabriel. >







# Childs Farm<sup>®</sup>

THE UK'S NO. 1 SENSITIVE TOILETRIES  
BRAND FOR BABY AND CHILD\*

COOLER FOR  
SWIMMING POOLERS

be happy  
in your skin





"Sarah bought me a Victorian straight razor, but I haven't got the knack of it yet. I'm working on it though!"

"We believe in modern dentistry too," adds Sarah. "And I dream of visiting London to go to the Victoria and Albert Museum. I think I would fly if we could afford to get over there."

So where exactly does the Victoriana end and the age of Viagra and Vin Diesel begin? I can't resist asking how much modern culture seeps into their lives – for example, do they know who Stephen Colbert and James Corden are? "Are they politicians?" asks Sarah.

The couple don't read newspapers and have no interest in current affairs. Gabriel does have health insurance through his job, but he is as true to the Victorian era as possible while working. "I'm allowed to dress exactly as I am now at the library," he says. "I just have to put a name badge on my shirt. Everyone is fine with it. People who read a lot tend to be more open-minded I find, so the library is a great place to work."

"It's virtually impossible to live completely in Victorian times," says Sarah as the three of us take a bike ride. "But we go as far as we can with it all the time." And so, with Gabriel on his penny farthing and Sarah and I lagging slightly behind on more conventional – but still pretty ancient – bicycles, we decide to hit the town, 1890s style.

After 20 minutes of furious pedalling we arrive at Fort Warden, a little-known complex built to protect the area from potential invasion in the 1890s. Gabriel usually takes a vintage bike (sometimes even the penny farthing) on his daily commute. Cycling 12 miles per day means he's able to eat a Victorian-style diet that's heavy on meat and generous in size.

"Cornflakes and things like that were coming in at the end of the 19th century," he informs me. "But we can eat bacon and lots of protein because we burn it all off. The Victorian way of life is very active!"

But is it more expensive? "In the summer we spend about ten dollars a day on ice to keep the perishable foods from going off," says Sarah. "But in other ways

living a Victorian life in 2019 is very cheap. We have no cell phones or TV for a start. And our water, gas and electric bill is so low that the companies essentially only charge us a connection fee and nothing else."

Back at their house, I take a peek in Sarah's writer's den where vintage wolverine, otter, skunk and fox furs rest on the back of the rocking chair where she writes her novels. In their bedroom everything from the feather mattress and the antique pitcher and bowl for washing their faces date back to the Victorian era, or are very faithful reproductions.

"There were only two dreams I had in life. I wanted to be a writer and I wanted to live in Victorian times," says Sarah, as I bid adieu. "They've both come true!"

Driving away from the house, I silently abandon my own secret plans to build a time machine – it turns out all I need is to get the right clothes and to

forget everything I ever knew about James Corden. Suddenly living in the past has never seemed so appealing. ■

For more about Sarah and Gabriel go to [thisvictorianlife.com](http://thisvictorianlife.com)

✂ Fly to Seattle

📺 Watch Year of the Rabbit



Top downtime, Victorian style. Above Sarah's writing desk

**"It's virtually impossible to live completely in Victorian times, but we go as far as we can with it all the time"**



# BODYISM

World leader in wellness • 8 locations globally • Flagship club in Notting Hill  
Personal training • Group classes • Healthy cafe • International membership options

[www.bodyism.com](http://www.bodyism.com)





# Drive film's most iconic motors

It's now easier than ever to emulate your favourite big-screen drives with Turo's car-sharing platform

Sometimes, the right set of wheels can add as much to a movie as the lead actor or the script. If you've always dreamed of replicating cinema's most memorable drives, Turo can make it possible.

The peer-to-peer site has a huge range of cars, SUVs and vans available to borrow for a couple of days, listed by users who are looking to earn a little extra cash. Founded in San Francisco in 2009, it has since spread to Canada,

Germany, and now, the UK. It's a simple set-up for both host and guest, avoiding paperwork and queues at the rental office, while insurance is taken care of by Turo's various insurance partners. Get started by enjoying £25 off your first UK trip using the promo code VERA25 before 31 December 2019 (terms apply).

[turo.com](http://turo.com)

**TURO**

## CARS OF THE BIG SCREEN

*Just a few of the movieland vehicles you can take for a spin on Turo*

### Spectre

JOURNEY London to Rome  
VEHICLE Aston Martin DB10



After being relieved from his duties, James Bond absconds to Italy in (but what else?) a spruced up Aston Martin. The model used was made especially for the film, but it was based on the Vantage, one of which you can borrow from Lawrence in Bristol.



### Little Miss Sunshine

JOURNEY New Mexico to California  
VEHICLE Volkswagen T2 Microbus

Turo has its own selection of vintage SUVs that, thankfully, don't require a push-start. Check out John's Volkswagen bus in Yakima, Washington – it's not yellow, but it's close enough.



### The Italian Job

JOURNEY London to Turin  
VEHICLE Mini Cooper S

There are plenty of Mini Coopers on Turo, whether you want a vintage model similar to the one Michael Caine drove in the original, or the beefed-up model used by Mark Wahlberg in the remake. Just don't go blowing the bloody doors off.







# live the journey

Built for the journey, the RHA TrueConnect features 25 hours' battery life, water and sweat resistance to and IPX5 standard and Bluetooth 5.

Compatible with all OS and phone brands, intuitive call, track and digital assistant controls keep you connected, whatever you're doing.

All of this packaged into comfortable, stylish and understated earbuds - and protected by RHA's signature three-year warranty.



**RHA**

**TrueConnect**

[rha-audio.com](https://rha-audio.com)



A WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

# Onscreen



## Vera loves

Here at Virgin Atlantic, we're proud to be one of the few airlines that selects their own movie and TV. We've got lots of new content onboard each month, and it's all chosen by us, just for you. Look out for anything labelled with a heart – that means we think it's the best of the best. Each month we champion the biggest blockbusters, quirky shorts, binge-worthy boxsets and ace docs. Read on for our top picks for September.

Due to different entertainment systems on our aircraft, the programming line-up may vary

## Tiny dancer

Taron Egerton limbers up for the larger-than-life Rocketman





# WORLD-CLASS EXPERIENCES IN THE HEART OF MAYFAIR

The Palm Beach Casino, 30 Berkeley Street, Mayfair, London W1J 8EH  
+44 (0)20 7493 6585 | [thepalmbeach.co.uk](http://thepalmbeach.co.uk)



BeGambleAware.org



SENSE



Over 18 only



# What TO WATCH

Tune into Vera, our award-winning world of entertainment



## Spoilt for choice

Our What's on Vera show profiles the best onboard this month

Sometimes having too many options can be overwhelming. So, to guide you through the huge array of entertainment onboard, check out *What's on Vera*. This monthly show, hosted by film critic Jason Solomons, highlights the best TV, documentaries and movies to watch right now. Each episode is shot in a glamorous London location, and this month it's the Wes Anderson-inspired restaurant Sketch. As well as profiling our top 10 onboard entertainment picks, we've also got in-depth features on films and filmmakers to keep an eye on. This month we caught up with Matt Berry, the offbeat funnyman who stars in the Victorian police spoof *Year of the Rabbit*. Tune in now!

## Screen play

Onboard this month we have

**100<sup>+</sup>**

MOVIES

**360<sup>+</sup>**

ALBUMS  
& PODCASTS

**300**

HOURS OF  
TV SHOWS

**23**

DESTINATION  
GUIDES

**45<sup>+</sup>**

HOURS OF KIDS  
CONTENT



## Handset pairing

As well as being one of the sleekest planes in the skies, our new A350 is also one of the most technologically advanced. The new entertainment screens on our A350 aircraft are all touchscreen, but you can also choose to navigate our awesome selection of movies, TV and music with your own device, too. All you need to do is pair your phone or tablet and hey presto, it turns into a remote control. Here's how:

- On your device, select the "Virgin Atlantic" WiFi network.
- Open your web browser and type <https://virgin-atlantic-wifi.com>
- Select "control your screen".
- Select "remote" and enter the four digit code when it asks you. Ta-da! Use can now use your device as a remote.

## Parental blocking

If you want to block by rating or specific content, please talk to a member of the cabin crew.

## Headphones

Using your headphones? Our PAs are recorded at levels that work with the headphones we provide onboard, so be prepared if you use your own.

## Viewing guide



Not suitable for nervous flyers



Unsuitable for children



Audio descriptive title



English subtitles



Vera Loves

## Language key

Most movies have several language options available. To find them, pick a movie, select the dropdown language box, choose your language and enjoy! We also have a selection of Hindi and Chinese movies onboard.

CH = 中文字幕

FR = Français

DE = Deutsch

ES = Espanol

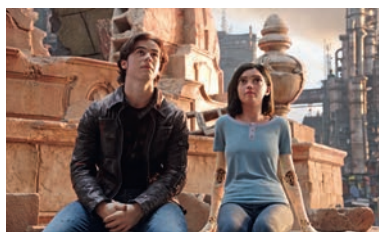
IT = Italiano

HEB = עברית



# Movie highlights

## Sci-Fi



### Alita: Battle Angel

12

Cast	Runtime	Languages	
Rosa Salazar, Christoph Waltz	121 mins	FR, DE, ES, HEB	

Robert Rodriguez's dazzling sci-fi follows reactivated cyborg Alita (Salazar), who has no memories of her past life. She's on a quest to find her destiny, and the answer will be disastrous.



### Men in Black: International

12

Cast	Runtime
Chris Hemsworth, Tessa Thompson	115 mins

Not the best-received film in this or any other world, but the latest *MiB* has lots going for it, not least the chemistry between Hemsworth and Thompson. Together, they face an alien threat.



### X-Men: Dark Phoenix

12

Cast	Runtime	Languages	
Sophie Turner, James McAvoy	112 mins	FR, DE, IT, ES, HEB	

*Game of Thrones* star Turner plays Jean Grey in this latest star-studded superhero adventure. As her incredible new powers threaten to corrupt her, the other X-men must make an impossible decision.

## Action



### Avengers: Endgame



12

Cast	Runtime	Languages	AD
Robert Downey Jr, Chris Evans	181 mins	FR, DE, IT, CH	

The *Avengers* series reaches an epic and, at times, devastating climax, as our heroes battle the mighty Thanos (Josh Brolin). You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll gasp – and that's just in the first five minutes.



### John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum



15

Cast	Runtime	Languages
Keanu Reeves, Halle Berry	130 mins	FR, IT, ES

It's fair to say that this installment in the fast-growing *John Wick* franchise isn't too different from previous episodes in that it sees ice-cool hitman John Wick (Reeves) dispatching all manner of bad guys with his customary flair. Look out for a jaw-dropping knife fight and, of course, Reeves being his usual steely and

fantastically watchable self. The film begins less than an hour after the previous effort, with Wick on the run in Manhattan with a \$14 million bounty on his head. But can he make his way to safety in Casablanca before he's caught and killed? The title comes from the Roman phrase, "*Si vis pacem, para bellum*," which translates as, "If you want peace, prepare for war." And Wick always comes prepared.



### Shazam!



12

Cast	Runtime	Languages	AD
Zachary Levi, Mark Strong	132 mins	FR, DE, ES, CH, HEB	

Young Billy Batson (Asher Angel) discovers that he can transform into an adult superhero (Levi) by shouting, "Shazam!". But, he has a enemy in the form of demon-possessed Dr Sivana (Strong).





## Captain Marvel

12

Cast	Runtime	Languages	AD
Brie Larson, Samuel L. Jackson	128 mins	FR, DE, IT, ES, CH	

The 21st film in the MCU is a cracker, with Larson playing the superhero whose search to learn her true identity involves different planets, warring alien races and, of course, Nick Fury (Jackson) of Shield.



## Aladdin

PG

Cast	Runtime	Languages	AD
Will Smith, Mena Massoud	128 mins	FR, DE, ES, CH	

This is the latest in Disney's highly lucrative series of live-action remakes, which includes *Cinderella*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Dumbo*, and lets unusual directors loose on much-loved material with surprising results. Continuing that tradition, *Aladdin* sees London geezer Guy Ritchie taking on the tale

of street thief Aladdin (Massoud), who falls for Princess Jasmine (Naomi Scott) when she sneaks out of the palace to explore Agrabah. Tricked by the evil Jafar (Marwan Kenzari), Aladdin enters the Cave of Wonders, finds a magic lamp and releases a smooth-talking genie (Smith). Boasting great songs and a brilliant, scenery-chewing performance from Smith, the result is a feast for the eyes.

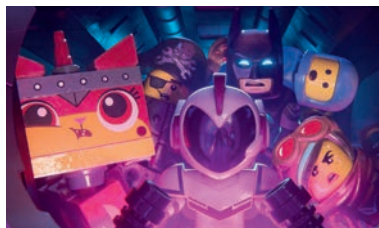


## The Secret Life of Pets 2

U

Cast	Runtime	Languages	AD
Patton Oswalt, Jenny Slate	86 mins	FR, DE, IT, ES	

Ever wondered what your pets get up to when you're out? This sequel answers that question as pooches Max and Duke get to grips with a new arrival in the family and have a nasty encounter with a dog cone.

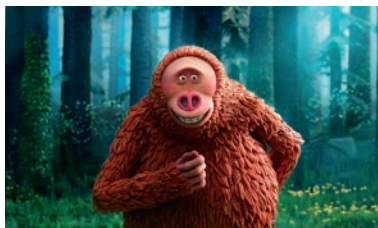


## The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part

U

Cast	Runtime	Languages	AD
Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks	106 mins	IT, ES, CH, HEB	

Could this sequel possibly be as much fun as the original? Well, as Bricksburg's citizens take on the Duplo invaders from outer space, the answer is a big yes.



## Missing Link

PG

Cast	Runtime	Languages	AD
Hugh Jackman, David Walliams	95 mins	FR, DE, ES	

A star-studded animated treat. When Sir Lionel Frost (Jackman) travels to America's Pacific Northwest, he hopes to prove the existence of a legendary creature: the Missing Link.



## Pokémon Detective Pikachu

PG

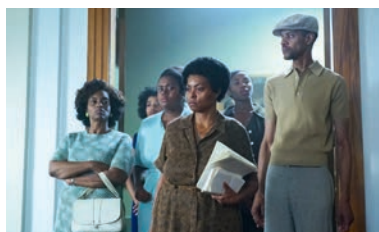
Cast	Runtime	Languages	AD
Ryan Reynolds, Justice Smith	104 mins	FR, DE, IT, CH, HEB	

Tim (Smith) teams up with Pikachu (Reynolds) to search for his dad. What could have been a cash-in is elevated by a sparkling script and Reynolds' wisecracking performance.



# Movie highlights

Drama



## The Best of Enemies

12

**Cast**  
Taraji P. Henson,  
Sam Rockwell

**Runtime**  
132 mins

**Languages**  
FR, DE, IT

Henson shines in this true story of the rivalry between civil-rights activist Ann Atwater (Henson) and Ku Klux Klan leader CP Ellis (Rockwell). Thrown together, they develop a certain understanding.



## Breakthrough

12

**Cast**  
Chrissy Metz,  
Tophir Grace

**Runtime**  
116 mins

**Languages**  
FR, DE,  
ES, IT

Based on a true story, this is the tale of a boy (Marcel Ruiz) who nearly drowns in an ice-covered lake, then miraculously wakes up again. Meanwhile, his parents (Metz and Josh Lucas) pray for his recovery.



## Tolkien

12

**Cast**  
Nicholas Hoult,  
Lily Collins

**Runtime**  
111 mins

**Languages**  
FR, DE, ES,  
IT, HEB

A biopic exploring the *Lord of the Rings* author's early years. As a young orphan, JRR finds friendship among the outcasts at school, but the outbreak of WWI threatens to tear this fellowship asunder.



## Rocketman

15

**Cast**  
Taron Egerton,  
Jamie Bell

**Runtime**  
121 mins

**Languages**  
FR, DE, ES,  
CH, HEB

**AD**

Hot on the heels of the smash-hit Queen biopic *Bohemian Rhapsody*, which won a surprise Oscar for Rami Malek's lead performance, comes *Rocketman*, aka the Elton John story. Also directed by Dexter Fletcher, it's received a similar treatment, only with an off-kilter, fantastical edge that makes it even more wildly

entertaining. Egerton (*Eddie the Eagle*, the *Kingsman* films) is a revelation as Elton, and Bell (*Billy Elliot*, *Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool*) is superb as his musical foil Bernie Taupin, who wrote the lyrics for John's greatest hits. Factor in the brilliant songs, from *The Bitch Is Back* to *Saturday Night's Alright (For Fighting)*, and this is the musical event of the year. Fun fact: Egerton sings most of John's vocals himself.



## Stan & Ollie

PG

**Cast**  
Steve Coogan,  
John C. Reilly

**Runtime**  
98 mins

**Languages**  
FR, ES, CH

This introduction to Laurel & Hardy, Hollywood's greatest comedy duo, is set during their declining years as they take a farewell tour of Britain and Ireland. A lovely evocation of a bygone era.



## The Sun Is Also a Star

12

**Cast**  
Yara Shahidi,  
Charles Melton

**Runtime**  
100 mins

**Languages**  
FR, DE, IT

**AD**

Based on a YA novel. While her family faces deportation, pragmatic Natasha (Shahidi) falls for high-flying Daniel (Melton). Many possible destinies lie before them – but which will they choose?





Thriller



## Escape Room

15

Cast	Runtime	Languages	
Deborah Ann Woll, Tyler Labine	100 mins	FR, DE, ES, IT	⚠️

It was only a matter of time before somebody made a movie like this. Six strangers are trapped inside a deadly attraction, and must use their wits to survive. Nervous flyers steer clear.



## Glass

15

Cast	Runtime	Languages	
James McAvoy, Bruce Willis	129 mins	FR, DE, IT, ES, CH, HEB	AD

The final part of M Night Shyamalan's superhero series finds *Unbreakable*'s David Dunn (Willis) locked in a mental hospital with Mr Glass (Samuel L. Jackson) and creepy Kevin Crumb (McAvoy).



## Us

15

Cast	Runtime	Languages	
Lupita Nyong'o, Winston Duke	116 mins	FR, DE, IT, ES, CH	🗨️

Jordan Peele made the awesome *Get Out*, and *Us* sees him back in the thriller genre. It's the chilling tale of a family whose vacation peace is shattered when four strangers break into their home.

Horror



## The Curse of La Llorona

15

Cast	Runtime	Languages	
Linda Cardellini, Raymond Cruz	93 mins	FR, DE, ES, HEB	AD

This supernatural horror set in *The Conjuring* universe is based on a Mexican legend, and stars Cardellini as a troubled mother in 1970s Los Angeles who must save her children from a malevolent spirit.



## Brightburn

15

Cast	Runtime	
Jackson A Dunn, Elizabeth Banks	91 mins	⚠️

You know how, in *Superman*, a child from another world crash-lands on Earth and turns out to be the planet's saviour? Well, what if the child wasn't quite such a goody-two-shoes? Turning traditional superhero tropes on their head, the chilling and very gruesome *Brightburn* asks what would happen if that

kid were, in fact, an agent of evil. Tori (Banks) and Kyle (David Denman) Breyer are a childless couple from Brightburn, Kansas, who adopt a baby boy they find in the debris of a spaceship. They bring up young Brandon (Dunn) as their own, but things start to get freaky when he reaches puberty. It's produced by James Gunn, who made *Guardians of the Galaxy*, so you're in safe hands. Nervous flyers steer clear.



## Ma

15

Cast	Runtime	Languages	
Octavia Spencer, Diana Silvers	99 mins	FR, DE, IT, ES	🗨️

From the producers of *Get Out*, this psychological horror stars Spencer as a woman who invites a bunch of local teens to a party in her house. But is she stranger than she first appears?



# Movie highlights

Indie



## Eighth Grade ♥

**Cast**  
Elsie Fisher,  
Josh Hamilton

**Runtime**  
93 mins

Coming-of-age comedy *Eighth Grade* is the feature film debut of comedian, musician, actor, director and poet Bo Burnham, whose catalogue of his own adolescent insecurities became a YouTube sensation. Who better, then, to tell the story of awkward teen Kayla Day (Elsie Fisher), who turns to YouTube in order to

express herself? In her final week of middle school, Kayla is invited to a pool party by her classmate, Kennedy (Catherine Oliviere). It's a big deal for Kayla, who has an anxiety attack in the bathroom, but manages to enjoy herself and meet Gabe (Jake Ryan), Kennedy's cousin. What follows is a smart, sensitive film that gives a voice to the concerns of Generation Z regarding sex, social media and everything in between.

15



## The Clovehitch Killer ♥

18

**Cast**  
Dylan McDermott,  
Charlie Plummer

**Runtime**  
109 mins

Steel yourself for some proper nail-biting as a small-town US teen (Plummer) makes a shocking discovery at home. Could someone close to him be connected to a series of unsolved murders?



## Fisherman's Friends

12

**Cast**  
Tuppence Middleton,  
James Purefoy

**Runtime**  
112 mins

**Languages**  
FR

A big-hearted UK comedy telling the true story of a record company exec (Daniel Mays) who, while on a stag weekend to Cornwall, is pranked into signing the local sea-shanty singers, with surprising results.

Shorts



## The Big Break !

**Cast**  
Paul Lieberstein,  
Mandy Moore

**Runtime**  
13 mins

A favourite on the festival circuit, this short is about a loser called Ted (Lieberstein). When the opportunity to be a hero arises, will he be able to take up the challenge and triumph?



## Wale ♥

**Cast**  
Raphel Famotibe,  
Jamie Sives

**Runtime**  
20 mins

This Bafta-nominated short is a treatise on the barriers facing young, black men in London today. Determined to start over after prison, Wale (Famotibe) finds himself framed for a crime by a white man.



## Weekends

12

**Cast**  
Trevor Jimenez,  
Chris Sasaki

**Runtime**  
16 mins

A beautiful, hand-animated short set in 1980s Toronto, *Weekends* mixes dream-like moments with grim reality to tell the heart-breaking tale of a boy shuffling between his recently divorced parents.





## Family

15

**Cast**  
Taylor Schilling,  
Kate McKinnon

**Runtime**  
86 mins

Sharp comedy which sees the brash, career-focused Kate (Schilling) forced into babysitting her troubled niece Maddie (Bryn Vale). But as Kate's life spins into chaos, the pair form an unlikely bond.



## Late Night

15

**Cast**  
Emma Thompson,  
Mindy Kaling

**Runtime**  
102 mins

**Languages**  
ES

**AD**

Timely comedy starring Thompson as a long-in-the-tooth talk-show host who hires Kaling as her first female writer. Can the ambitious but inexperienced newbie make her boss relevant again?



## Little

12

**Cast**  
Regina Hall,  
Issa Rae

**Runtime**  
109 mins

**Languages**  
FR, DE,  
IT, ES, CH

**AD**

From the *Girls Trip* team comes this side-splitting yarn in which tech mogul (Hall) is transformed into her younger self and goes back to school. What goes around comes around, or so they say.



## The Hustle

12

**Cast**  
Anne Hathaway,  
Rebel Wilson

**Runtime**  
94 mins

**Languages**  
FR, DE, ES

**AD**

A remake of the Steve Martin and Michael Caine con-man comedy *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. This time Wilson and Hathaway play grifters who set out to take down an internet millionaire.



## Long Shot

15

**Cast**  
Charlize Theron,  
Seth Rogen

**Runtime**  
125 mins

**Languages**  
FR, DE, ES

**AD**

A winning comedy powered by two great performances from its leads, as out-of-work reporter Fred (Rogen), reunites with his former babysitter (and first crush) Charlotte (Theron), only to join her presidential campaign. But when the two grow close, the question arises: will romance triumph over political ambition?

Rogen has been mooning over way-out-of-his-league women since his breakthrough role in 2007's *Knocked Up*. But the real revelation here is Theron, who combines a knack for knockabout comedy with the kind of gravitas expected (but rarely found) in a White House candidate. Watch out for Andy Serkis as an evil media magnate, and Bob Odenkirk as a rapid TV star-turned-Potus.



## Isn't It Romantic

12

**Cast**  
Rebel Wilson,  
Liam Hemsworth

**Runtime**  
88 mins

**Languages**  
DE, ES,  
IT, CH

**AD**

A rom-com that spoofs the genre, with Wilson playing an architect who, after getting hit on the head, wakes up in a world where everything plays out like a romantic comedy. Very funny and satirical.



# TV highlights

Boxsets



## Big Little Lies ♥

Episodes 7 | Runtime 60 mins each

Meryl Streep has joined the amazing ensemble cast for this second helping of dark secrets and murder set in the moneyed environs of Monterey, California. The new season finds the “liars” (that’s Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon, Shailene Woodley, Zoë Kravitz and Laura Dern) attempting to get on with their lives after the events of season

one, which was based on the novel by Liane Moriarty. Expect more deft and beautifully performed intrigue, this time overseen by the ace English director Andrea Arnold (*American Honey*, *Fish Tank*). Originally, the show was only going to run for one season, but after its Emmy nomination, the network wanted another. Once you’ve binge-watched this lot, you’ll feel exactly the same.

15



## The Case Against Adnan Syed !

Episodes 4 | Runtime 60 mins each

Based on the true-crime podcast *Serial*, HBO’s *The Case Against Adnan Syed* tells the story of Syed’s conviction and subsequent life term for the murder of his ex-girlfriend. But is he really guilty?



## Chernobyl !

Episodes 5 | Runtime 60 mins each

This acclaimed miniseries tells the story of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster in fist-gnawing, forensic detail, focussing not just on those responsible but those who responded. Shocking but essential TV drama.



## El Chapo !

Episodes 9 | Runtime 39-55 mins each

Mexican criminal Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán was once the world’s most powerful drugs kingpin. This Spanish-language series charts his blood-soaked progress, from his ascent to power during the 1990s to his downfall in 2016.



## Hypothetical !

Episodes 8 | Runtime 47 mins each

A comedy panel show in which Josh Widdicombe and James Acaster pose absurd theoretical situations to two teams and then award points for the best answers. Guests include Romesh Ranganathan and Rachel Parris.



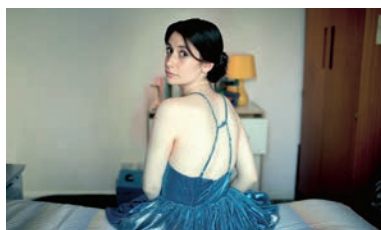
## Punk !

Episodes 4 | Runtime 50 mins each

This documentary series traces the history of punk from its US origins in the 1960s to its UK explosion in the mid-1970s. Told by the participants themselves, it features interviews with pioneers such as Iggy Pop, who’s also the executive producer.

PHOTOS © 2019 HOME BOX OFFICE, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. HBO AND ALL RELATED PROGRAMS ARE THE PROPERTY OF HOME BOX OFFICE, INC., WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT, BBC, JAGUAR, ALL3MEDIA, HATTRICK, FOX, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PARTNERS, UNIVERSAL TELEVISION, SKY VISION, AVALON, STUDIO CANAL.





## Pure !

Episodes 6 | Runtime 45 mins each

Looking for the next *Fleabag*? Meet Marnie (Charly Clive), a young woman plagued by unwelcome sexual thoughts. When she jumps on a coach to London, she begins to get some answers, and her life changes radically. Funny and moving.



## Year of the Rabbit ♥ !

Episodes 6 | Runtime 25 mins each

Matt Berry stars in this police sitcom set in Victorian London. Berry plays Detective Inspector Rabbit, a hardened booze-hound who joins forces with the UK's first female copper (Susan Wokoma) to catch a Jack the Ripper-style killer.



## Years and Years ♥ !

Episodes 6 | Runtime 56-59 mins each

Russell T Davies (*Queer as Folk*, *Doctor Who*) is the brains behind this comedy-drama, which follows a Manchester family as they navigate life in a society ruled by climate change, economic shifts, political instability and technological upheaval.



## Safe Harbour !

Episodes 4 | Runtime 49-57 mins each

A timely thriller set in Australia, *Safe Harbour* concerns a group of friends who come across a boat full of asylum seekers while on a sailing holiday. They decide to tow the vessel back to Australian waters, but things don't quite go to plan.



## Claws ♥ !

Episodes 10 | Runtime 50 mins each

This wickedly funny and often decidedly dark comedy-drama series follows the fortunes of five totally badass manicurists as they launch a daring money-laundering scheme from their south Florida salon. Critics have described it as being like *Breaking Bad* meets *Widows*, and that's not too far from the truth – only with awesome nails and

lots more attitude. Desna (Niecy Nash from *Reno 911!*) is the owner of Nail Artisans in Manatee County. Together with her loyal staff (including Carrie Preston from *True Blood*, Judy Reyes from *Scrubs* and Karrueche Tran from *The Bay*), she takes on her mafia paymasters – a decision she soon lives to regret. We've got the entire first season onboard for you to work your way through.



## This Time with Alan Partridge !

Episodes 6 | Runtime 30 mins each

After a 17-year gap, Alan returns to his spiritual home, the BBC, to co-host the magazine show *This Time*. Needless to say, he's soon creating fabulously funny, cringe-worthy comedy.



# TV highlights

Documentary



## Fyre Fraud

Runtime 92 mins

Roll up, roll up, and get a good old dose of *schadenfreude* right here. Billed as a “true-crime comedy”, this eye-opening documentary tells the story of the ill-fated Fyre Festival of 2017, an Instagram-driven event that promised never-ending glamour but delivered only misery for its attendees. The brainchild of entrepreneur Billy McFarland and rapper

Ja Rule, Fyre was supposed to be a luxury festival to promote a new app – hence the early involvement of influencers such as Kendall Jenner, Bella Hadid and Emily Ratajkowski. But that was the only thing the organisers got right. Having lost their location, caterer and bands, they decided to keep going to try to break even. What emerges is a salutary tale for the ages – not that anyone will bother learning from it.



## LA 92

15

Runtime 115 mins

A hard-hitting, Emmy-winning documentary about the 1992 Los Angeles riots, which were sparked by the acquittal of the police officers accused of beating up Rodney King. Includes previously unseen footage and interview material.



## Make Us Dream

12

Runtime 104 mins

Steven Gerrard joined Liverpool FC aged eight. Twenty-six years later he left having won tons of silverware and become a Merseyside legend to rival Kenny Dalglish and John Barnes. This superb, feature-length doc tells his amazing story.



## Apollo 11



U

Runtime 93 mins

Experience the moon landings as you've never seen them before. Making brilliant use of restored archival footage, it employs a bare-bones, cinema-verité style in order to take an in-depth look at the Apollo 11 mission.



## Far From the Tree

12

Runtime 93 mins

This moving doc examines families with huge differences between the parents and the children – in outlook, sexuality or otherwise – and how they manage to accommodate each other with “love, empathy, and understanding”.



## Westwood: Punk, Icon, Activist

15

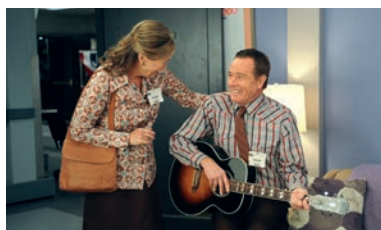
Runtime 83 mins

Dame Vivienne Westwood helped invent punk then spent the next 40 years at the cutting edge of British fashion. This film blends interviews, reconstruction and archive footage to tell us how.





Comedy



### 30 Rock

Episodes 2 | Runtime 22 mins each

In season seven, the final run of this beloved, behind-the-scenes TV sitcom, Liz (Tina Fey) battles with Jack (Alec Baldwin) over the schedule, and James Marsden appears as her new boyfriend Criss. Talk about going out on a high.



### Michael McIntyre's Big Show

Episodes 2 | Runtime 60 mins each

Comedian/host Michael McIntyre offers a smorgasbord of entertainment, with music by Emeli Sandé and Gary Barlow, comedy from Joe Lycett and Russell Kane, and Danny Dyer handing over his phones for Celebrity Send To All.



### My Dad Wrote a Porno

Runtime 60 mins

The hit British podcast *My Dad Wrote a Porno* comes to HBO in this outrageous comedy special, with friends Jamie Morton, James Cooper and Alice Levine reading a chapter in Jamie's father's "erotic" book series.

Entertainment



### Celebrity 5 Go Caravanning

Episodes 4 | Runtime 44 mins each

Actors Colin Baker, Sherrie Hewson and Todd Carty, radio DJ Tony Blackburn plus pop legend Sonia enjoy – or rather "endure" – the many trials and tribulations of a caravanning trip. Will they all last the distance? Of course they won't.



### Russell Howard & Mum: Globetrotters

Episodes 2 | Runtime 44 mins each

We're not sure exactly who started it, but TV commissioners clearly can't get enough of comedians appearing alongside their parents (hello, Jack Whitehall, Romesh Ranganathan et al) – and if they're travelling somewhere together then all the better. Now entering its third series, *Globetrotters* sees comedian Russell Howard and

his mum Ninette embarking on a trip across the world, meeting an array of weird and wonderful characters and participating in their unusual hobbies and obsessions – with predictably hilarious results. Episode one sees them hitting the hippy trail on the Thai island of Koh Phangan, where they experience a mass love-in and get very drunk indeed. Episode two sees them studying sumo wrestling in Japan.



### Flirty Dancing

Runtime 44 mins

Old-school romance reigns supreme as couples discover if they're compatible on the dancefloor. Choreographer Ashley Banjo teaches would-be lovers a routine which they must then perform with a total stranger to see if sparks fly.



# TV highlights

Factual



## The Planets ♥

Episodes 5

| Runtime 50 mins each

Don't miss this breathtaking new documentary series presented by our very own Professor Brian Cox, the former D:Ream keyboardist and current national treasure. In it, Cox uses new and advanced technology in order to examine theories and hypotheses about the formation and evolution of the solar system gained by unmanned missions to other

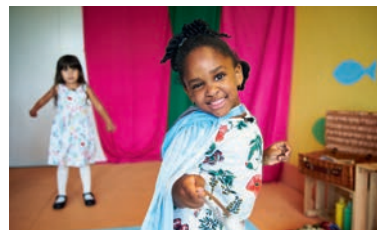
worlds. Studying each of the eight planets in turn, he presents the show from different locations around the globe, offering some truly eye-opening discoveries interspersed with dazzling CGI inserts. Episode one looks at volatile Mercury and Venus; two explores Mars and Earth; three and four look at Jupiter and Saturn respectively; and five wraps up with Uranus, Neptune and the dwarf planet Pluto. Phew.



## Inside the Internet: 50 Life-Changing Years

Runtime 50 mins

The internet might be the most important invention since the wheel. This is the story of how it connected billions of people around the globe, told by pioneers, tech entrepreneurs and viral stars.



## The Secret Life of 4 Year Olds

Runtime 47 mins

If you know it, you love it – it's the award-winning series featuring toddlers in their element. With all the tears, tantrums and triumphs of the playground, the show explores how children find their place within their social groups.

Factual entertainment

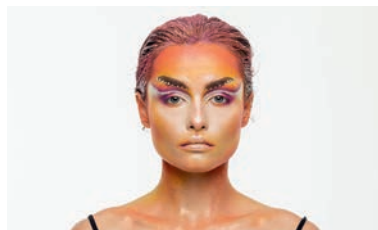


## Extreme Cake Makers

Episodes 2

| Runtime 23 mins each

Forget *Bake Off*, this is extreme cake-making, where specialists up and down the country think of ever more elaborate ways to satisfy the nation's sweet tooth. No commission is too big, no cake too wacky – including a 6ft Stonehenge.



## Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star

Episodes 8

| Runtime 60 mins each

Hosted by *Strictly*'s Stacey Dooley, this new show sees ten aspiring make-up artists taking various challenges in order to be crowned Britain's next make-up star – a glittering prize indeed.



## Video Killed the Radio Star 15

Episodes 3

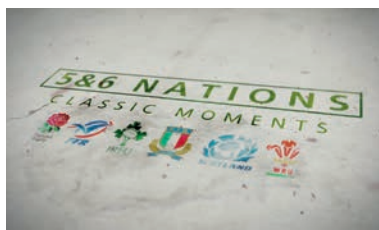
| Runtime 22 mins each

This enlightening series highlights the visual style and musical impact of artists who made their names in the 1980s, from their pioneering video work to their iconic visuals and, of course, their era-defining songs.





Sport



## 5&6 Nations Moments, Legends and Tries

Runtime 30 mins

If you're a fan of the game played by men with funny-shaped balls, you're sure to appreciate this timely look back at memorable moments from Europe's most prestigious rugby competitions.



## Free Solo

12

Runtime 99 mins

Vertigo-inducing doc following climber Alex Honnold as he becomes the first person to ever "free solo" climb Yosemite's vertical 900m El Capitan – a feat he achieved with no safety gear. Nail-biting doesn't begin to cover it.



## What's My Name: Muhammad Ali

!

Episodes 2

Runtime 83 mins each

This two-part HBO Sports documentary chronicles the extraordinary life of one of the 20th century's biggest icons. From the Rumble in the Jungle to his conversion to Islam, no stone is left unturned.

Music



## Biggie & Tupac

15

Runtime 107 mins

Nick Broomfield's documentary introduces Russell Poole, an ex-cop with evidence to suggest the LAPD deliberately fumbled the investigation into the murders of Tupac Shakur and The Notorious B.I.G. But why?



## Queen: Live at Wembley

Runtime 60 mins

Way back in 1985 when they were arguably at the height of their creative powers, the legendary British rock band Queen played an extraordinary, history-making set at Live Aid – a gig that many fans believe was their best ever. A year later they returned to Wembley Stadium for this almost-as-epochal show, which is captured

in all its glory in this incredible documentary and was released as a live double album in 1992, reaching No.2 in the UK charts. From *Under Pressure* and *Another One Bites the Dust* to *Crazy Little Thing Called Love* and, of course, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, all the hits are represented here. If the latter doesn't have you showing off your best *Wayne's World* moves in your seat – well, then you're truly not worthy.



## Gregory Porter, One Night Only

Runtime 94 mins

Concentrating on songs from his recent album, *Nat King Cole & Me*, as well as earlier fan favourites, this film of Porter's sell-out run at London's Royal Albert Hall sees the jazz singer at his very best.



# Music highlights



## Bruce Springsteen

**Album** Western Stars | **Genre** Rock

It's been five long years since the last Springsteen album, 2014's well-received *High Hopes*, but the wait – as ever – has been worth it, with his Royal Brueness channelling the spirits of Jimmy Webb and

Glen Campbell for what many are saying is his best effort since *Devils & Dust* in 2005. The Boss has called this, his 19th album “a return to my solo recordings featuring character-driven songs and sweeping, cinematic orchestral arrangements”. What more do you want?



## The Black Keys

**Album** “Let's Rock” | **Genre** Alternative

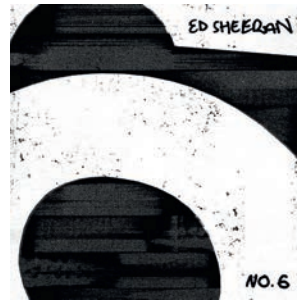
The bluesy rockers' ninth album promises to be “a homage to the electric guitar”. Frankly, resistance is useless.



## The Comet Is Coming

**Album** Trust in the Life Force of the Deep Mystery | **Genre** Dance & Electronic

After a barnstorming Glasto set, these sci-fi jazzers are the band you need to hear right now.



## Ed Sheeran

**Album** No.6 Collaborations Project | **Genre** Pop

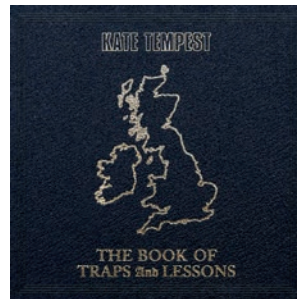
Stormzy, Eminem and Justin Bieber appear on this album of team-ups from the flame-haired Framlington troubadour.



## Madonna

**Album** Madame X | **Genre** Pop

After a fallow period, Madge returns with a mix of dancefloor bangers and trippy ballads – her best album since *Ray of Light*.



## Kate Tempest

**Album** The Book of Traps and Lessons | **Genre** Dance & Electronic

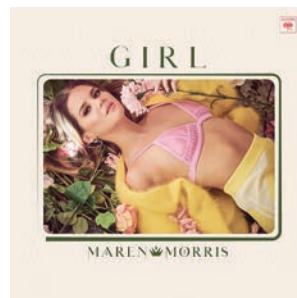
Tempest's mix of performance poetry and rap is beautifully observed, thought-provoking and musically accomplished.



## Matt Berry

**Album** The Playlist | **Genre** Various

The comedy star has compiled a playlist exclusively for Vera. Check out our exclusive chat with him on *What's on Vera*.



## Maren Morris

**Album** Girl | **Genre** Country

For her second outing, Morris adds a dash of pop, dance and alternative rock to her country formula. Great vocals too.



## Mark Ronson

**Album** Late Night Feelings | **Genre** Dance & Electronic

“The best thing I've ever done,” says Ronson of his fifth album, heralded by the chart-topping *Nothing Breaks Like a Heart*.

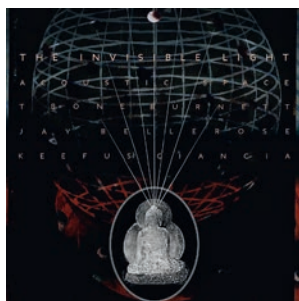




## Prince

Album Originals | Genre Pop

Prince was a prolific writer for other artists. These and other songs are featured here, performed by the man himself.



## T Bone Burnett

Album The Invisible Light: Acoustic Space | Genre Jazz

A departure from Burnett's usual roots-rock, venturing into experimental territory. Treat yourself and take a listen.



## whenyoung

Album Reasons to Dream | Genre Alternative

Sweet, ear-wormy songs from indie-pop's next big thing. Is the Irish trio's debut album actually any good, then? Don't doubt it.



## Virgin People Playlist

Chosen by Scott Denholm | Genre Rock

Get ready to rock with Scott's playlist: "It's a blend of classic/heavy rock, including Metallica, Slayer, Megadeth and Anthrax."



## Rukhsana Merrise

Album Child O' Today | Genre Alternative

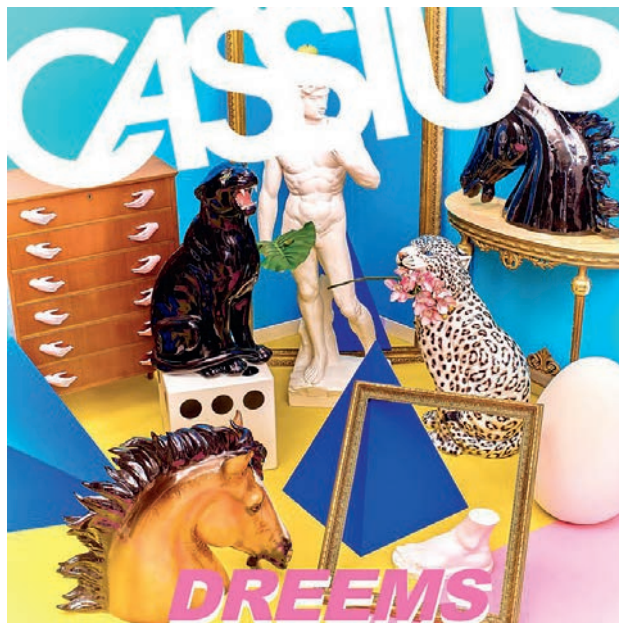
You know Rukhsana's vocals from guest spots, but her debut shows them off better, backed by her keen songwriting ability.



## Tears for Fears

Album Seeds of Love | Genre Cult Classics

Few albums are as ambitious, epic and expansive as this 1989 psychedelic pop masterpiece from the mercurial duo.



## Cassius

Album Dreams | Genre Dance & Electronic

Cassius mainstay Philippe Zdar died tragically from a fall just two days before the release of the duo's fifth album. As ever with Cassius, it's a delightful, housey confection custom-made

for dancefloors across the world, and a fitting testament to an enormous talent. Over the years, Zdar and his Cassius partner Hubert Blanc-Francard (aka Boom Bass) produced for acts such as the Beastie Boys, Franz Ferdinand and French hip-hop star MC Solaar.



## Skepta

Album Ignorance Is Bliss | Genre Urban & RnB

Having snaffled the Mercury Prize with 2016's *Konnichiwa*, Skepta's back, his famed flow more liquid than ever before.



## Tyler Bryant & The Shakedown

Album Truth and Lies | Genre Rock

After supporting AC/DC and Aerosmith, the Nashville rockers return with their third LP.





## 11 CADOGAN GARDENS, CHELSEA'S MOST FAMOUS ADDRESS

Receive a 15% discount on your next stay, complimentary breakfast and  
Champagne afternoon tea for two when you quote 'Vera'.

Promotion applies to Best Available Rates. Offer expires on 31st October, 2019.

T: +44 (0)20 7730 7000 | [reservations@11cadogangardens.com](mailto:reservations@11cadogangardens.com)

[11cadogangardens.com](http://11cadogangardens.com)





# Packing a smile

There's a simple way to care for your teeth while you treat yourself on your travels

**W**hether you're jetting off to a luxurious location for some R&R, hopping across the Atlantic for an important business meeting, or treating yourself to a quick weekend break, heading abroad brings an undeniable sense of excitement. In amidst all the fun (and the occasional glass of bubbly), it can be easy to let your self-care regime fall by the wayside. After a few big dinners and late nights, the idea of spending an extra half an hour in bed tends to triumph over a session in front of the bathroom mirror.

With the right products, however, keeping your teeth healthy can still be

an effortless part of your holiday routine. REGENERATE Enamel Science Advanced Toothpaste future-proofs teeth against acid attacks caused by those indulgences by reversing the early, invisible stages of enamel erosion and regenerating it with exactly the same mineral enamel is made of. Meanwhile, REGENERATE Enamel Science Advanced Foaming Mouthwash is the perfect complement. Powered by FOAM technology, it releases micro-bubbles for long-lasting freshness.

With these trusty companions in your luggage, it's easier than ever to maintain that winning smile on your adventures. [regeneratenr5.co.uk](http://regeneratenr5.co.uk)

## Keep on shining

*Harley Street hygienist Megan Fairhall's advice on looking after your teeth while traveling*



There's nothing more exciting than sipping that first cocktail by the pool. After a while, however, they can start to take their toll on your teeth. Continual exposure to acids from fizzy drinks can have a long-lasting effect, so try and enjoy them through a straw and alternate with water to help rinse your mouth. It'll also help keep you hydrated throughout the day.



Those who suffer from sensitive teeth know that the change in air temperature at colder destinations can make the sensation considerably worse. To help combat the pain, use a fluoride toothpaste and mouthwash. Make sure to schedule them both at separate times to give yourself added protection throughout the day.



Health retreats can be beneficial for mind, body and soul.

However, some of the foods and drinks associated with wellness, like lemon water and juice diets, can have a detrimental effect on your teeth. It's not to say you can't enjoy these detoxifying rituals, but if you want to help protect your teeth, ensure you brush before your morning juice with a fluoride toothpaste.



celebrating 5 years of  
bringing people together



Up to 37 transatlantic flights per day.  
Where can we take you next?

Visit [virginatlantic.com](http://virginatlantic.com) to book now

virginatlantic 

 DELTA





## A taste of the future

Have your cake and eat it with Red Velvet, the first of our innovative A350 aircraft

There are new planes and then there are new Virgin Atlantic planes, and this month sees the latest addition to the Virgin Atlantic fleet. Red Velvet is the first of our 12 new A350-1000 aircraft (we'll have three more arriving later this year), and it will be flying for the first time from London Heathrow to New York JFK this month. Built for the future, the planes are packed with thoughtful features and the unmistakable flair that makes Virgin Atlantic the most exciting airline there is.

Upper Class customers can chill out in the Loft (*pictured*), an exclusive, unique space in which to gather, chat, grab a drink or dine with friends, before retreating to the reimagined Upper Class suite. Every seat

faces towards the window and comes with enhanced privacy (thanks to higher walls), plenty of storage and an 18.5-inch screen.

For our Premium customers, custom leather seats and high-end finishes welcome you into the Premium cabin of the A350. You can enjoy a lot more storage and a generous 13.3-inch screen.

And Economy customers, don't think we've forgotten you. Things are awesome in Economy too, with six-way adjustable headrests, and 11.6-inch seatback screens showing our next-generation entertainment system, controlled by personal devices.

Tickets start from just £279 return in Economy, so get yours fast – they're sure to sell like hot cakes.





# For your eyes only

Virgin Atlantic is teaming up with Secret Cinema for an exclusive experience

**H**ow do you fancy going deep undercover at an undisclosed London location for a night of sleuthing, sneaking around and sipping cocktails? Well, of course you do. Then get ready for a truly unforgettable experience: Secret Cinema Presents *Casino Royale* is the latest blockbuster event from the immersive movie experts.

Secret Cinema aims to bring iconic films to life with actors re-enacting favourite scenes, and audiences joining in the fun as characters from the films. In this live-action version of *Casino Royale* how the story plays out is down to you: follow the trail, gather intelligence and

become part of the chase. Just don't miss out on the Virgin Atlantic sales suite where you can learn more about our latest aircraft, the A350. And remember: not everything is what it seems.

We are delighted to offer our customers 25 per cent off tickets to the final two weeks of shows. But hurry, this is only while they're still available! Visit [tickets.secretcinema.org/casino-royale/](https://tickets.secretcinema.org/casino-royale/) and select a date from between 25 September and 6 October. Use the discount code 2019TWENTYFIVE, and you'll soon be earning your very own licence to thrill as a member of our all-new Secret Service.



Top game on at Secret Cinema. Above the Virgin Atlantic sales suite





## Why I love my job

Alex Shales, Talent Experience Specialist, on working for Virgin Atlantic

"I started in the Swansea Contact Centre in 2010 as a Customer Service Advisor before going to Crawley in 2014 to be a Premier Service Team Leader. This year I became a Talent Experience Specialist. I look after recruitment in the Contact Centre, Clubhouses and Airports. I love meeting new people, and finding new talent is important to me.

"I've had so many incredible travel experiences in the last nine years – I've visited Dubai, Antigua, South Africa, Las Vegas, Jamaica and Barbados.

"I just didn't anticipate the passion the company drew from me. If you get an interview with us, just relax, be yourself and let your personality shine."

To find your dream job with us, visit [virginholidays.co.uk/careers](http://virginholidays.co.uk/careers) or [careersuk.virginatlantic.com](http://careersuk.virginatlantic.com)



## Air of calm

Our new Wellness programme is designed to keep you healthy and relaxed before, during and after your flight

Long-haul travel can take its toll, which is why we're encouraging our customers to make wellness a part of their journeys. How? Well, here are three things to consider.

The fitness gurus at Team Body Project have designed an inflight, in-seat workout. It's made up of simple moves to increase circulation, reduce muscular tension and prevent

aching legs upon disembarking. But if it's your mental flexibility you're worried about, why not try some of Headspace's mindfulness exercises or sleep programmes to make the most of your downtime? We also have ASMR (Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response) tracks that use soothing sounds to help you relax.

Meanwhile, we're rebranding our Clubhouse Spas as Wellness spas and introducing clean and naturally derived haircare brand Aveda to compliment our current brands Dr Hauschka and de Mamiel. This is just the beginning, so keep an eye out for our Wellness logo and plenty more initiatives over the coming months.

## The motorcycle diaries

How Vera's Hollywood-style idents inspired this biker chick

Passenger Sara Blacow was on a Virgin Atlantic flight to Antigua when one of our movie trailers fired up her imagination. "I thought: wow, those bikes are so cool *and* they're being ridden by women," she says.

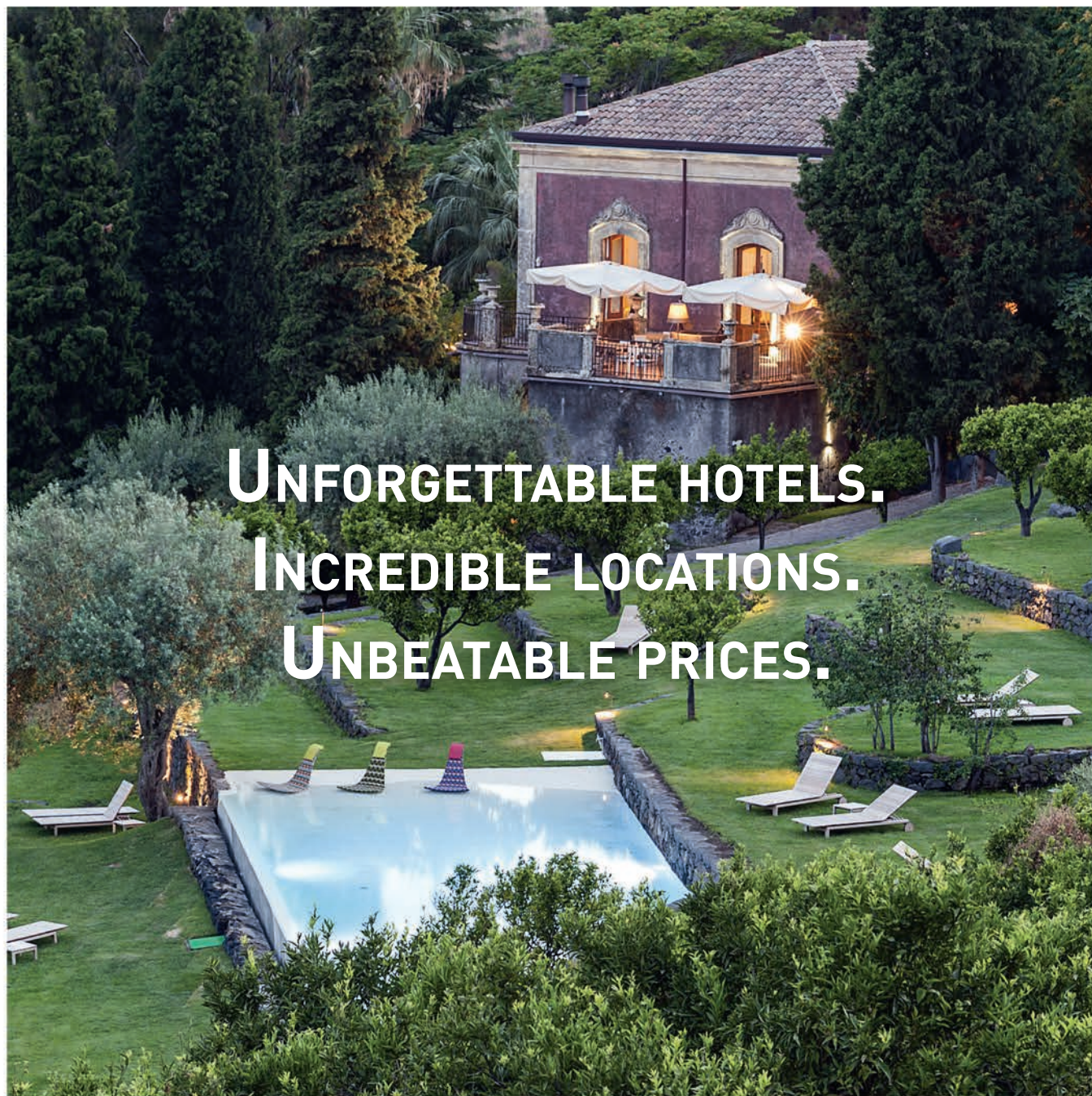
She took a snap of the trailer so she could see what bikes were featured, and as soon as she got home she applied

for a licence and bought a Triumph Bonneville. "It was love at first sight," she says.

She named it Vera, of course, and now she rides the South Downs at weekends with her husband, who also caught the bug, and her fellow female bikers. Her dream? "California's Pacific Coast Highway," she says. "That's one for the bucket list."







**UNFORGETTABLE HOTELS.  
INCREDIBLE LOCATIONS.  
UNBEATABLE PRICES.**

Win a 3 night stay at the stunning Barsham Barns in Norfolk  
and a travel wardrobe from White Stuff worth £250. To enter\*, visit:

**[i-escape.com/vera](http://i-escape.com/vera)**

Shop the collection at [whitestuff.com](http://whitestuff.com)

**White Stuff**

\*Terms and Conditions apply - see website for details.



# Pretty fly for a WiFi

Now you can post selfies, binge-read your favourite e-book, brag about your hols to your mates or even catch up on some work while flying above 10,000ft with Virgin Atlantic

## How to connect

1 Turn on your WiFi-enabled device and connect to the "Virgin-Atlantic" WiFi network.

2 If you don't automatically connect to the WiFi portal, don't worry. Just take a look at the safety card in your seat pocket to see what aircraft you're on. If you're onboard...

- A B787-9, A330-200 or A350-1000, open your browser and navigate to [virgin-atlantic-wifi.com](http://virgin-atlantic-wifi.com)
- All other aircraft, open your browser and navigate to [airborne.gogoinflight.com](http://airborne.gogoinflight.com)

3 Just follow the onscreen instructions to buy a session, and then get browsing!

## Shout about it

Tweet or take a pic with #LiveFromVirgin and let the world know that you're connected from above the clouds.

## Making the most of your data

Remember to switch off your device's automatic app updates and synchronisations. That way you can avoid using up your data on the boring background stuff while you're busy browsing, tweeting and sharing.



## You can use the eGates if you are:

A citizen of:



+



Your passport has this symbol

+



You are 12+ (those aged 12-17 must be accompanied by an adult)

+



You don't need a stamp in your passport

# Use the eGates for faster entry to the UK

Millions more travellers can now use the eGates on arrival into the UK – can you?

The UK government has expanded the use of eGates at airports to nationals of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea and the United States of America.

The majority of nationals from these seven countries will be eligible to use the eGates. But there are exceptions including those travellers with children under 12 or those coming to the UK for short-term study or certain types of work.

Please see a Border Force officer to get your passport stamped if you're a citizen these countries and are:

- Coming for short-term study (for up to six months)
- Or have a Tier 5 Sporting and Arts Certificate of Sponsorship
- Or are due to carry out Permitted Paid Engagements
- Or are a family member of an EEA national seeking to join them permanently in the UK

**For more information, visit [gov.uk/border-force/fastertravel](http://gov.uk/border-force/fastertravel) or watch the eGates eligibility video on V-TV, onboard now**



## Change is in the air

Change is in the Air is the name we give to our sustainability programme, because we believe that sustainability means changing things for the better. We're pioneering ways to reduce our environmental impact, improve our supply chain and support communities around the world.

### Change for Children

WE's mission is to create a world where all young people are free to achieve their fullest potential as agents of change. They're helping us deliver sustainable change in overseas communities, as well as inspiring young people in the UK to "be the change" they want to see in the world, through an empowering schools' programme. To find out more about WE visit, [we.org](http://we.org).

To support their work, please place any loose change or foreign currency in the Change for Children envelope and hand it to one of our cabin crew. To keep it safe, please don't leave it in your seat pocket. Thank you!

### Carbon offset your journey

Our scheme, in partnership with offsetting expert ClimateCare, finances renewable energy and natural resource conservation projects around the world, helping people from poorer communities access cleaner, safer, affordable energy and reduce carbon emissions. Visit [virginatlantic.com/changeisintheair/offset](http://virginatlantic.com/changeisintheair/offset) to offset your flight.

### Magazine

This shiny, new-look, lighter mag will save 68,199kg of CO<sub>2</sub> every year across our fleet!

### Headphones

We don't wrap headphones in plastic anymore, which saves 17 tonnes of waste each year.

## Case in point

We're on a mission to reduce unnecessary weight on our flights

Packing for a trip can take some skill, even for the most seasoned traveller. Making a decision on what to bring and what to leave behind can be tricky, especially when your bag is already bulging and you need an outfit for every occasion.

As an airline, packing is something we take seriously. We have to get it right, and not just to make sure we have everything we need. While planning what we'll put onboard to make sure you have a comfortable flight, we weigh every single product so we can ensure we're keeping the plane as light as

possible. Why? It's simple. The less we carry, the less fuel we use. By using less fuel we produce fewer carbon emissions, and that's our number one environmental priority.

Even small changes in weight add up to a big difference. For example, if you've already plugged in to our inflight entertainment system, you may have noticed that your headphones are no longer in a plastic bag. They're now wrapped in our Change for Children charity envelopes. Not only will that avoid approximately 17 tonnes of plastic waste each year, we've also saved 9 tonnes per year in onboard weight.

The magazine you're reading is different too. As well as a makeover, a small change in size has saved 13kg per flight. That's 68,199kg of CO<sub>2</sub> every year across our fleet.

So next time you're packing for a flight, remember you can help too. Reducing the weight of your bag by even just a few grams can make a big difference. With hundreds of bags on every flight, all those grams add up.

You can keep up to date with everything on [virginatlantic.com/changeisintheair](http://virginatlantic.com/changeisintheair). And while you're onboard, check out our sustainability videos on Vera, too.





# hush

AUTUMN 19

Exclusive 10% off code: Vera10

[hush-uk.com](http://hush-uk.com)

\*10% off a full price purchase with code VERA10. Not valid in conjunction with any other discount. Offer expires 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.



# CHANTECAILLE



## Africa's Vanishing Species

We proudly support the conservation groups fighting to protect Africa's most endangered species with Luminescent Eye Shades.

BERGDORF GOODMAN • CHANTECAILLE.COM • HARRODS • LIBERTY • NEIMAN MARCUS • SAKS FIFTH AVENUE • SPACE NK