



Travel

NOTEBOOK

By Sharon Ring

Barnsdale Lodge, Rutland

HOT
HOTEL

WHY GO? It's in England's smallest mainland county next to England's largest manmade lake – perfect for walkers, anglers and birdwatchers. **WHAT'S IT LIKE?** A gem of an old farmhouse, well converted, with 44 bedrooms around a courtyard. Log fires, comfy sofas, a friendly bar. **WHAT'S TO DO?** Explore 25 miles of walks around Rutland Water. Visit quaint villages, grand Burghley House or historic Stamford. Geoff Hamilton's *Gardeners' World* garden is nearby. **WHAT'S COOKING?** Try pan-fried scallops with cauliflower fritters, chilli and lime, then sea bass fillet and crab with spring onion and spinach mash. **THE DAMAGE?** Two nights' B&B in a double room costs £210 for two (01572 724678; www.barnsdalelodge.co.uk).



MOUNTAIN HIGH, PRICES LOW

TIME
TO GO

Slovenia, next door to Italy, is great value now – a holiday for six, for example, can cost less than £400 per person a week. Breda House, in a small village with stunning views, is ideal for groups wanting an active Alpine break. Go mountain biking and paragliding, take a cable car to enjoy scenery, or relax in the outdoor pools and spa at the resort of Snovik nearby. Prices for seven nights' self-catering for six people start from £370 per person, including flights from Stansted and car hire (01373 814230; www.justslovenia.co.uk).

TRAVEL EXTRAS WORTH £600! We're giving away a holiday starter kit for one reader, including annual travel insurance for a family of four, a week's airport parking, a week's car hire, a night in a four-star airport hotel (www.essentialtravel.co.uk/sainsburys).

It takes two

GoCars, zippy yellow, GPS-guided, talking-tour cars for two, were first seen San Francisco, but can now be hired in Miami, San Diego, Barcelona and Lisbon – all you need is your driving licence. Prices (Lisbon), from €25 (£21) an hour to €89 (£77) a day. Book via www.gocartours.com.



Plug that gap

Fancy planning your own gap break? Try www.yearoutgroup.org, a non-profit-making body that arranges gap breaks for a few weeks to a year for around 35,000 people annually across 90 countries. Click on to the Parents/Advisers section on the home page to help you choose the right organisation for you.



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