

Breaking out my dance moves...



Prague, Prague, Baroque dancers, the enchanting Chateau Stud Farm in Kladruby Nad Labem. Pics: Sarah Glascott

we were back on the bus for final night in the Czech Republic. Back in Prague, I feel a sense of excitement. I spend my day in the Czech Republic zig-zagging around the city, from the town square and astronomical observatory to the Jewish quarter and up to the castle. Actually, I found myself standing in the same spot I had been at a week ago. This time, as I look at the statues on Charles Square, I feel like I understand about this beautiful country's history. I don't want to leave, but I know I'll return here again. There's still so much more to see, and, to experience.



TRAVELFACTS

HOW TO GET THERE

Ryanair: Dublin-Praha: €57-€143, single.
Aerlingus: Dublin-Praha: €66-€131, single.

WHERE TO STAY

Hotel Golden Key Praha: €128
Chateau Kotera: €69
Hotel U hrabenky - Telc: €64
Hotel K + K Central Prague: €98

TRAVELLING AROUND

For trains and buses, check out www.idos.cz

To hire a driver, transfer or taxi, check out Europcar, Hertz, Sixt Rent Car.

NEED A TOUR GUIDE?

Guided tours provided by: www.catguide.cz /Eva Vondrusova. Email: info@catguide.cz Phone: 00420 602 618 354

GENERAL INFORMATION

Visit www.czechtourism.com. For Baroque through all your senses: <http://www.czechtourism.com/baroque/>

THE TIME TRAVEL THROWN IN

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Zip lining

On a busy day, the Limitzero line – the 'la tirolina' in Spain – can accommodate 24-30 people an hour, with each journey costing €15. Your stay in Portugal won't last long. There is a boat on hand in the picturesque village of Alcoutim to ferry zipliners back to Spain after their ride is complete. One at 2,365ft though it is not the tallest zipline in Spain. The highest in the Malaga province is at 4,711ft long and the line will take you flying across mountaintops within minutes.

You want even bigger numbers... what about the world's longest zip line. Don't let the name 'The Monster' put you off. Spanning 7,234ft and some 1,200ft above the ground, this zipline in Puerto Rico has been named the longest in the world by Guinness World Records. 'El Monstruo,' which translates as 'The Monster' or 'The Beast' takes visitors on an eye-opening 105kph tour high above trees, mountains and rivers. The zip line is located at the 316-acre Toro Verde Nature Adventure Park in the lush mountains of Oro-covis, Puerto Rico. Zip lining is popular here too and the longest overwater zip line in the country is at Castelcomer Discovery Park, Kilkenny. At 984ft and 115ft above the ground you will get a real adrenaline rush. The zip line is accompanied by two

new high-rope courses dubbed the 'Octagonal High Ropes Challenge.' Visit discoverypark.ie or call 056 444-0707. Overwater, you say... what about Europe's first zipline over the sea. Situated in Crikvenica, Croatia, near the hugely popular coastal town of Rijeka, the 1,640ft line offers stunning views of the Kačjak peninsula from 100ft up and will reach approximately 65km/h. Or underwater... you can even zip line underground at the world's largest underground course in Wales. In the Llechwedd Slate Caverns, Zip World's ten-line course takes visitors through five caverns, some big enough to fit 75 double-decker buses. It is suitable for children as young as 10 and lasts three hours. So what are you hanging around for? Go off and zip line.

THE RAMBLER



Holiday snaps

BY JIM MURTY

It's easier than ever to drop in on Florida...

VISIT USA! I thought it was an instruction! And I don't have to be told twice.

Our American friends from the Visit USA brand gave us a taster of what to expect this year in the States at their roadshow in Dublin this week.

We are, of course, all very excited about the new Aer Lingus route to Miami in September and we were given a presentation of the best of what Florida has to offer.

After your diarist was moved, of course, because his big head was in shot in front of the camera... it was threatening to obscure the everglades!

Florida, the Sunshine State, is truly blessed and you really will be spoiled for choice.

We know, of course, about Orlando where dreams come true at Disney World and you can enter the Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Studios as well as much, much more.

But we were here instead to enjoy the best of the rest of Florida... Miami with its iconic Ocean Drive and Little Havana and renowned Art Deco architecture.

But if it's good old 'you never grow up' fun you're after you'll be wanting to make the most of their newest building, the funky 1,000ft SkyRise Miami Observation Tower which as well as having a nightclub, event space, amphitheatre and



restaurant will also have a flight simulator, and, get this, a bungee jump and a ride with a 50-storey high-speed drop.

I know all about drops and was reminded of what Tampa Bay has to offer when the salsaing Josephine made her pitch which included the joys of Busch Gardens and one Falcon's Fury drop which is the greatest fun you can have upside down. St Petersburg Clearwater I know about only through my parents but which TripAdvisor ranks as having the No.3 and 4 top beaches in the US, Siesta Beach near Sarasota, Florida is tops.

We were also treated to the charms of Michigan which Weekend Travel has also visited and which we were reminded is waiting for its direct Aer Lingus route from Ireland. We'll be the first on the plane when we get the instruction.

MEET you on the road! I did. Our Caribbean friends were also in town so I did some island-hopping. Complete with tales from my trip to Barbados last week. I also bring glad tidings from my Barbados-based Trinidadian friend Jevan and passed them on to Marc, the wonderfully dreadlocked representative from Barbados who was part of the Caribbean delegation here this week. Of course, we were also seduced by the charms of the St Lucians, the Bahamians, the Cayman Islanders and the Anguillans to name just a few. So you want some offers? Tropicalsky.ie has a saving of up to €170pp on seven-night stays at the all-inclusive four-star The Soco Hotel, by Hastings beach departing between August 28 and October 15, if booked before May 31. So that's €1,999pp. Includes return flights from Dublin and transfers. Also save up to €500 pp on seven-night stays at the four-star Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa, St Lucia, departing between September 4 and October 15. Book before May 31. So it's €1,969 pp. Same terms and conditions. Ring (01) 664 9999.

IT was jig time as Celebrity Cruises put on an Irish dance show at the Mansion House on the back of Celebrity Cruises' exotic Eclipse's first-ever call to Dublin. It prompted me to visit www.celebritycruises.ie. Book an Ocean View stateroom or above by Aug. 31 on selected sailings, get a Free Classic Drinks Package for two + \$300 per stateroom to spend onboard when you book selected cruise dep. by April 2018.

WHEN you're one of the best you want to shout about it. Clontarf Castle Hotel was ranked in the top 2,500 hotels in the world, based on customer reviews on hotels.com, the world's biggest accommodation website. Clontarf Castle Hotel, right, offers from €279 per night for an overnight stay for two with an artisan castle breakfast and dinner in Fahrenheit Restaurant. Visit clontarfcastle.ie or call 01 833 2321.

