

● HAWAII'S famous Waikiki Beach in Honolulu has a new hotel Beachcomber by Outrigger, right — its first lifestyle base in the centre of the resort.

Following a £27million modernisation, the property has 498 rooms and a trendy pool deck.

Outrigger's legacy in the US island state spans more than 70 years and their newest hotel has a

contemporary Hawaii beach house look, complete with driftwood cedar, sea glass tiles, native puka stone and basalt lava rock — framed by a multi-storey green wall. It is just steps from the beach, next to International Market Place and home to local dining hotspots including Maui Brewing Co and Hawaiian Aroma Caffè.

See WaikikiBeachcomber.com



● HILTON is to introduce its upscale lifestyle brand, Canopy by Hilton, to Italy with a new hotel in the centre of Venice in 2021. It will be part of the redevelopment of the buildings of the Venetian Botanical Gardens which date back to the 19th Century.

The move follows plans to open hotels in Bordeaux and Paris in France. Gary Steffen, global

head of Canopy by Hilton, said: "Canopy by Hilton is rooted in the local neighbourhood, and we're particularly excited to incorporate and celebrate the unique cultural, culinary and artistic influences of the Cannaregio area in Venice."

"Canopy by Hilton Venice City Centre will be a stunning addition to our growing portfolio in Europe." See canopy3.hilton.com

hot spot

IT'S 24°C IN GRAN CANARIJA — seven nights at the 3★ Corona Blanca hotel in sunny Playa Del Ingles is from £389pp with Jet2. Flying from Glasgow on June 4. See jet2holidays.com or call 0800 408 5594 for more info or to book this break.

hot spot

IT'S 30°C IN JAMAICA — a week at the plush 5★ Grand Bahia Principe is from £1,466pp with Travel Republic. The price is based on all-inclusive with flights from Gatwick in July 1. See travelrepublic.co.uk or call 020 8974 7200 for more details.

Planet Heather

Scotland's most-read travel section

3 PAGES OF HOLS WITH SCOTTISH SUN TRAVEL EDITOR HEATHER LOWRIE

YOU'RE ONTO A WINNER AT WINDERMERE

WATER LOTTA FUN ... Paul on cruise with George and Sadie



BEAUTY SPOT ... famous lake and Parkdean lodge

Lake a break

WINDERMERE is hailed as the jewel in the crown of the Lake District.

So as we climbed aboard our cruise, it's no surprise the water was sparkling like a gem.

Moments after the boat sailed from the pier at bustling Bowness, the snow-topped hills came into view from the open-top deck. It truly was a majestic setting that, whisper it, rivals any vista you get in Scotland.

On the half-hour sailing up to pretty Ambleside we passed our holiday park.

Just a couple of hours earlier we'd arrived at Parkdean's family-friendly White Cross Bay on the shores of Windermere — England's largest and most iconic lake.

After a short drive down from the Central Belt with wife Joanne, our kids George and Sadie were eager to explore our lodge. After a warm welcome from informative host Sam at reception, the children were soon making themselves at home in the comfortable, cosy and bright pad.

It had a massive open-plan living room, kitchen and dining space, a double bedroom and en-suite and two twin rooms. There was decking out front and some lodges have hot tubs. And the best thing was the lodge was just a minute's stroll to the shore. After that we explored the

GO: WINDERMERE

STAYING THERE: Three nights for a caravan sleeping six at White Cross Bay in July starts at £429. Park facilities include an indoor swimming pool, outdoor play area, multi-sports court, amusement arcade and a gym. See parkdeanresorts.co.uk or call 0330 123 4850.

rest of the park. It has a good-sized pool — which you have to book a 45-minute slot for. We enjoyed a splash then headed into the bar and restaurant for some well-deserved grub. It was an impressive menu.

I plumped for the pulled pork burger, Joanne choose the cajun chicken penne and our little monkeys devoured their mac and cheeses before burning it off in the play area outside as my wife and I watched them while enjoying some local craft beers.

The sun was setting over the lake as we headed back to the lodge and we paused to take it in. If that was splendid, there's no doubt the best way to see the lake is on it.

We snapped up a Freedom Of The Lake ticket which gave us unlimited cruises for 24 hours (windermere-lakecruises.co.uk). First stop was Ambleside, where we headed to the little beach and café to sample their blueberry scones and cream while

the little ones wolfed down giant chocolate-dipped ice creams.

We also relaxed on a cruise around the islands and south towards Newby Bridge — home to the Lakeland Motor Museum and its 30,000 exhibits

Back on dry land in Bowness, Sadie reminded us we had earlier driven past The World Of Beatrix Potter so off we went to soak up all things Peter Rabbit. The interactive exhibition is great for kids and lets them explore all of Potter's characters from her famous books on a self-guided tour (hop-skip-jump.com).

There's no shortage of fresh air in the Lakes and we headed out in the stunning countryside to take in some chilled walks.

First up was Grizedale Forest on the west side of the lake, past author Potter's former Hill Top home.

The kids lapped up some of the ten walking trails, especially the one based on Gruffalo writer Julia Donaldson's dragon Zog. The pleasant trek took us into the trees as George and Sadie uncovered hidden signs and filled in their activity packs (forestryengland.uk/grizedale).

The next day we headed north into the quieter area around Bassenthwaite Lake and up a stunning peak pass towards Whinlatter — England's only mountain forest (forestryengland.uk/whinlatter). You

can hire bikes, zipwire through the trees and enjoy a giant playpark. We also, carefully, headed into the deep, dark wood on the Gruffalo trail. George and Sadie tracked down wooden statues of Mouse, Owl and Co before eventually finding the Gruffalo napping. It was a wise move not to wake him.

The next day, after a morning swim at White Cross Bay, we headed next door into the Brockhole adventure hub (brockhole.co.uk). You can take part in a host of activities including caving, kayaking, outdoor play, treetop trekking and soft play.

We spent five days in and around Windermere and barely scratched the surface. We'll be back to soak up more of the pretty villages, steep mountain roads and revel in the accessible wilderness.

The jewel that is Windermere sure left us dazzled.

PAUL FORD

late deals

...I LOVE LUCIE: a week all-inclusive at the 4★ Club Med Sandpiper Bay in Port St Lucie, Florida, is from £1,592 per adult and £1,042 per child, leaving Edinburgh on May 26. See clubmed.co.uk for more details or to book.

...NAM FINE: a ten-night tour of Vietnam — including two nights in Ho Chi Minh city, a five-night beach stay in Danang, two nights in Hanoi and one night on a luxury Halong Bay cruise — is from £1,985pp leaving Glasgow on selected dates in October. See emiratesholidays.com or call 0208 972 8949.

...YOU GOTTA FLO: the 4★ boutique Chesterfield Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida, has three nights' room-only for the price of two, now from £190. Offer available until September 30. See chesterfieldpb.com for more info or to book.

...SANDS AND DELIVERS: three nights' self-catering at Skipsea Sands Holiday Park in Driffild, Yorkshire, staying in a Wiske caravan sleeping six is from £239 arriving May 24. For more details or to book this break go to parkdeanresorts.co.uk

...BISH, BASH, BOSCH: a week self-catering at Villa Sans Bosch in Cala'n Blanes, Menorca, is from £349pp, based on six sharing and including flights from Edinburgh on June 7 and car hire. See jet2holidays.com or call 0800 408 5594 for more info or to book.

...THE LIFE OF FILEY: three nights' self-catering for four staying in a Premium Beach House at The Bay Filey in Yorkshire's Filey Beach is from £348 on various dates. See ariaresorts.co.uk or call 03333 700 555 for more details or to book.

...LA DOLCE VITA: a week all-inclusive at the 3★ Hotel Club Palia Dolce Farniente in Cala D'Or, Majorca, is from £269pp leaving Glasgow on selected dates this month. See icelolly.com or call 03331 305 165.

...CAPITAL INTEREST: three nights' B&B at the MacDonalld Holyrood Hotel in Edinburgh — including a choice of two 55-minute Elemis spa treatments and dinner on the first night — is from £274.50pp, two sharing. See spabreaks.com or call 0800 043 6600.

...GEM OF A TRIP: a week B&B at the 3★ Topaz Hotel in Bugibba, Malta, is from £256pp leaving Aberdeen on May 29. See Sunshine.co.uk

...GARDA OF HONOUR: seven nights' half-board at the 3★ Hotel Garda Bellevue in Lake Garda, Italy, is from £519pp leaving Glasgow on May 22. See barrheadtravel.co.uk or call 0141 222 2223.