



DAILY MIRROR

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CIRCULATION

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JOY RIDES The park's attractions offer something for all ages

EAT YOUR WAY AROUND THE WORLD

With 47 food and drink outlets, you can go on a gastronomic world tour between the rides and shows. As the park is in Spain, it would be rude not to pop into Mediterranean's Vinofiera Tapes I Vins for a little tortilla and sangria. And if you're heading to China to ride on the Dragon Khan, Sichuan has all your Chinese restaurant favourites. Over in Mexico, La Cantina is the place if it's chilli or burritos you're craving. Meanwhile, in the Far West you can live it up the a gold prospector at The Old Steak House. Or the rodeo's calling, grab a bite on the go at Hot Dog. Little ones will love Cookie Monster Corner at SesamoAventura. And for an afternoon snack, look out for the Gelateria (or the Yoghurteria for the virtuous). You won't go hungry at Ferrari Land either, where the trattoria Ristorante Cavallino serves up pasta and pizza. The dishes are delicious, but give them time to settle before you rev up for Red Force.



ON A HIGH Riding Shambhala



WILD Lots going on in the Far West area

world in a Ferrari GT. In reality, you are strapped into seats, watching the car on screen rather than flying in it, but it's a thrilling few minutes.

Other attractions include an F1 Simulator, where you can show off your driving skills, and a Pit Stop competition to test how you'd fare changing tyres for Sebastian Vettel.

But nothing could have prepared me for Red Force, the showpiece ride. You can see this mighty vertical accelerator, emblazoned with the Ferrari logo, from the adjacent sister park - and up close it takes your breath away, but there's no shortage of excited screaming from the brave souls (not me!) on the ride, which is 367ft high and takes riders from 112mph in just five seconds.

For the fearless teens among my party, Red Force took the prize as the scariest experience of the weekend, but with 71 rides in total across the parks, there are numerous other attractions to appeal to less gung-ho grown-ups. I

thought Furious Baco in the Mediterranean area of the park looked relatively tame. Little did I realise I'd be hurtling from 0-84mph in three seconds!

And if I thought going 'old school' on wooden rollercoaster Stampida might be less scary for a nervous 50-something, I was mistaken.

But I can't complain, as the maps tell you whether a ride is listed as Gentle, Moderate or Thrill and I walked away with a souvenir photo and a bucket list box well and truly ticked. While a day at PortAventura takes you on a world tour, with areas named China, Mexico, Polynesia and Mediterranean, as well as SesamoAventura of course, the park's main style is Wild West. We walked past Little House On The Prairie-style saloons and stores en route from our on-site hotel to the main park, where the Far West area includes traditional

fairground games and a bucking bronco alongside rides. To make the most of your time, it's worth booking a resort hotel. There are five four-star ones and one five-star, along with a caravan park. You can make a trip to PortAventura as hectic or as relaxed as you like. There's a cute steam train that travels around the park, or why not get that slow boat to China?

Ferrari Red Force took prize as scariest ride of weekend

By Mediterranean, there's a delightful harbour, lined with cafes, bars and restaurants with a vibe more quaint seaside village than theme park. So when Joe and Harry went AWOL (squeezing in another ride on Shambhala - well, it is one of Europe's highest rollercoasters at 256ft), Millie and I grabbed a drink and an ice cream and headed down to soak up the sun at a table on the 'beach'. It was a moment of calm as I worked up the courage to take on one last rollercoaster...

Hotel checkout

Edinburgh's boutique Bonham Hotel has unveiled its multi-million-pound refurbishment. All 49 rooms had a makeover last year and now the public areas of the West End hotel have been refreshed and a new restaurant, No. 35 at The Bonham, has opened. Rates at the Georgian property start at £149 a night. thebonham.com



The world's most luxurious hotel has gained three leading chefs. The Burj Al Arab Jumeirah in Dubai has recruited Francky Sembhat, Kim Joille-Maurin and Kasper Kurdahl, who will bring a total of seven Michelin stars to the sail-shaped property. A spokesman said: "Their experience at some of the world's best restaurants, coupled with their diverse backgrounds and entrepreneurial adventures, will pave the path to a wonderful gastronomic journey." Rates start at £949 a night. jumeirah.com



Nobu has opened its first hotel in Mexico - a collaboration between stellar chef Nobu Matsuhisa and Hollywood legend Robert De Niro. The 200-room beachfront property is in upscale celeb hotspot Los Cabos, on the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula. A-listers such as George Clooney, Cameron Diaz and Will Smith have been spotted at the destination, and the new hotel blends contemporary Japanese minimalism with locally sourced natural materials. Features include four pools, a spa and, of course, the world-renowned Nobu cuisine. Rates start at £327 a night. nobuhotelloscabos.com

Hong Kong's Page Hotels is entering the London luxury market this autumn. The 138-room Page8 in Charing Cross will have a large rooftop restaurant and alfresco bar with views of Trafalgar Square, a coffee house, and rooms with lots of natural light. Rates will start at £280 a night. pagehotels.com



Get there



Rooms at PortAventura Hotel Mansion de Lucy start at £256.46 a night on room only including main theme park access and Ferrari Land tickets (one-day access per stay, per person); PortAventura Hotel Gold River from £155.05 a night with same deal. portaventuraworld.com/en, 0808 234 3399. Flights to Barcelona are available from airports across the UK. Tourist info: spaininfo

Cruise news

Princess Cruises' spring and summer UK visitor has arrived for the season - and will boast a special wearable hi-tech feature. Crown Princess is now homeporting in Southampton for a series of 12-night voyages around the British Isles. From July 28 the 3,080-passenger, 113,561 gross tonnage ship will be equipped with the line's Ocean Medallion technology.

It's a disc around the size of a 10p coin - carried in a pocket, or worn on a lanyard or wristband - which can unlock a passenger's cabin door as they walk up to it and speeds up embarkation and disembarkations. The 'compass' feature means passengers can stay connected with friends on board and the device can tell crew what drink a passenger is likely to order at the bar. In September, Crown will head to Fort Lauderdale for winter Caribbean sailings,

then will return to the Solent in May 2020 for itineraries to the Mediterranean, Canary Islands and northern Europe. A 12-night British Isles cruise, departing on August 17 for Guernsey, Cork, Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow, Inver Gordon, Edinburgh and Le Havre, starts at £1,099 per person. princess.com **CroisiEurope** is waiving the single supplement on its May and June European river and French canal cruises. Book by Friday to get the deal. Call 020 8328 1281.

Holiday pound

Spain	1.11
Australian Dollar	1.80
Bulgarian Lev	2.11
Canadian Dollar	1.49
Croatian Kuna	6.07
Czech Koruna	27.99
Egyptian Pound	19.42
New Zealand Dollar	1.84
Polish Zloty	4.42
South African Rand	82.22
Swiss Franc	1.28
Thai Baht	39.33
Turkish Lira	7.28
UK Dollar	4.60
US Dollar	1.27



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