

IT'S A GREEN 'DUTY' TO HIKE PLANE TAX

AIR NEWS THE Coalition isn't doing a lot for flying at the moment. They have banned any new runways at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. Transport Secretary, Philip Hammond told industry leaders last week: "I know some of you harbour fears that this Government is anti-aviation." But he said the decision was because the green agenda was high on the list of priorities of his aviation review. He said the industry had to "decarbonise".

■ THE Air Passenger Duty row rumbles on and is set to be around for a while yet. APD rises **AGAIN** next week, making a total hike of 325 per cent in four years. Brian Wilson, chairman of FlyingMatters, the national campaign for flying, said: "The tax on flights is a totally regressive tax, hitting the poorest and ethnic minorities hardest."

"If the Government want us to return to when only the rich could go abroad they are going the right way about it. On top of that they are burdening the UK with a massive competitive disadvantage as foreign visitors seek cheaper destinations."

■ SECURITY at airports continues to hit the news.

British Airways boss Martin Broughton accused Britain of "kowtowing" to the US by implementing "completely redundant" airport security checks.

He said the practice of asking passengers to remove their shoes should be abandoned and questioned the separate scanning of laptops.

Mr Broughton also noted that US airports did not implement some checks on their own internal flights.

He said: "America does not do internally a lot of the things they demand that we do. We shouldn't stand for that. We should say, 'We'll only do things which we consider to be essential and that you Americans also consider essential.'"

Barry Smith of flight comparison website Skyscanner said: "We know from a survey of our users earlier in the year that passengers are increasingly impatient with the time needed for current security checks."

"Travellers are in favour of anything which will make security checks faster, but they need to feel confident that safety measures have not been compromised."

"Sixty-six per cent of users voted that airport scanners were a good idea as they would speed up checks and improve security."

The stars' treatment



YOU CAN PEEL LIKE A CELEB IN GRAN CANARIA

GRAN Canaria is famous for its fast-paced lifestyle, but away from Playa del Ingles you will find tranquility and the island's best-kept secret – luxurious spas.

Orlando Bloom and J-Lo escape to the island for pampering, so I decided to follow suit.

The Hotel Cordial Mogán Playa didn't disappoint with amazing views and beautiful tropical gardens.

Food was sublime, from local cheeses and meats to a huge, exotic salad selection. Our favourite A-list treat was caviar washed down with cava for breakfast.

On our first day we jumped into a cab to lively Playa del Ingles to see what all the fuss was about, and booked ourselves into a private terrace rooftop sunbathing area in the Gran Canaria Princess Hotel.

A Jacuzzi, fresh fruit and fizz on ice was the perfect prelude to a visit to their spa for a Rasul experience – which my pal Liz and I realised was aimed at couples when

we found ourselves face to face in nothing but teeny paper thongs.

If shopping is what you do best, the neighbouring area of Triana should definitely be on the list of places to go.

Its pedestrianised maze of streets are full of boutique style shops. Make sure you stop at one of the street cafes for drinks and tapas before setting off again.

Next day it was off to one of Bevonce's haunts, the five-star Sheraton Salobre Golf Resort & Spa. We instantly fell in love with the hotel and the poolside areas.

Swanky

This spa hotel is a hidden gem and is a MUST for a romantic break – again, shame I was with Liz!

While you bask by the infinity pool, the fellas can play golf and if you want to get him into the mood, a swanky "white night" dinner under the stars will do the trick.

After all this pampering you might fancy a night out. I'd recommend Gran Canaria's Pacha in the town centre. You'll get fab music and they often let ladies in for free.

LAUREN NAYLOR

lava relaxation room. Himalyan salt cave and "womb room", containing waterbeds, music and soft lighting, are dreamy.

Finally after lots of rest and scorching sun we spent our last day at Lopesan Villa del Conde Resort & Corallium Thalasso.

We booked in for the ultimate sunburn treat, an aloe vera wrap in the Ocean View Suite. The view was breathtaking, with crystal waters and the sun beating down.

And we even had our own private pool – it's the ultimate treat to finish off a sun-fuelled break.

It won't even cost you an arm and a leg either. It's £63 for a 50-minute treatment and 30 minutes' private Jacuzzi on top of your entrance fee will leave you feeling like the ultimate celeb.

But expect a few "peelings" in your treatment and you'll need to like the smell of aloe (a bit like vegetable soup).

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REAL SEA CHANGE FOR STARBUCKS

CRUISE NEWS STARBUCKS' mission for world domination has taken to the seas.

No – the US coffee giant hasn't formed a band of pirates to plunder round the world. But they have opened a branch on a cruise ship.

Royal Caribbean International's Allure Of The Seas, the world's largest cruise ship, is the first to offer Starbucks at sea.

Let's hope the coffee tastes better than it does on dry land.

■ BARGAINS ahoy! See below for tempting trips.

CARIBBEAN CAPER – a 15-night Grand Caribbean Adventurer cruise from £1,099.

You will call at Barbados, Grenada, Bonaire, Curacao, Grand Turk, Tortola, St Maarten, Antigua, St Vincent, St Lucia and Trinidad.

Flying from London on December 13. See iglucruise.com or call 020 8544 6447.

TRY DUBAI – a 12-night Athens to Dubai cruise costs from £1,199. Travel down the Suez Canal, calling at Alexandria, calling at Alexandria, Depart on November 27 for 12 nights. Just £1,299pp for a single cabin. See iglucruise.com.

MEXICAN ADVENTURE – an eight-night Royal Caribbean International cruise costs from £1,295.

Fly from the UK to Fort Lauderdale and cruise Costa Maya, Cozumel and Fort Lauderdale before flying back to the UK.

Leave from Heathrow on January 30, 2011. Call 0845 458 8909.

SPANISH SOJOURN – try a seven-night Voyages Of Discovery French and Spanish Sojourn from £699.

Departs from Portsmouth, calling at La Coruna, Bilbao, Le Verdon, Nantes and St Peter Port and Guernsey before returning to Portsmouth.

Visit voyagesofdiscovery.co.uk or call 0844 822 0820.

PANAMA CANAL – two weeks on P&O's Oceana from Barbados calling at St Lucia, Grenada, Bonaire, Aruba, transit Panama Canal, then Puntarenas, Zihuatanejo and Acapulco costs from £999. Fly from Heathrow on December 6. See pocruises.co.uk.

MAKE IT MADEIRA – two weeks on board Balmoral from Southampton, calling at Casablanca, Lanzarote, Gran Canaria, Tenerife, La Palma and Madeira is from £841.

Leaves on December 7. See fredoliscruises.co.uk or call 01473 742424.

CHILLED . . . view from Hotel Cordial Mogán Playa, main pic, Lauren at Pacha, top left, massage at Sheraton Salobre, far left, and flotation pool, left

GO: Gran Canaria

LAUREN stayed at the Hotel Cordial Mogán Playa. She also had treatments at Gloria Palace Amadores Thalasso & Hotel, Lopesan Costa Meloneras Resort, and the Sheraton Salobre. Prices for a four-night stay for two people on the island range from under £200 to around £700. See grancanariawellness.com for prices, treatment packages and various accommodation options.

ALL TOYS 1/2 price

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