



## Getting holidays back on track: How trains can beat planes if you're heading to Europe this summer

- Neil Simpson looks at some of the best ideas for a safety-first rail journey
- The Eurostar from London is the perfect way to begin your travels, he says
- Forget about sharing a crowded airport terminal and boarding can feel safer

By **NEIL SIMPSON FOR THE MAIL ON SUNDAY**

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Every week our Holiday Hero Neil Simpson takes an in-depth look at a brilliant holiday topic, doing all the legwork so you don't have to. This week: How trains can beat planes if you're heading to Europe this summer.

Among holidaymakers with concerns about catching **Covid-19**, trains are a slower but safer route to the sun.

Fans of Eurostar, which runs direct from **London** to Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam, say it's the perfect way to begin your travels.



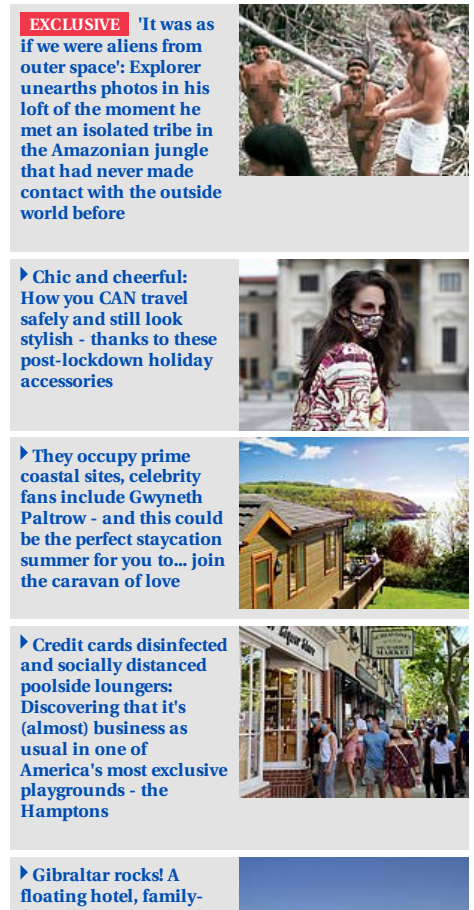
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### TOP STORIES IN TRAVEL







Slow train to the sun: The Glacier Express on its way to Italy

For starters, forget about sharing a crowded airport terminal with thousands of passengers coming and going from all around the world – the only people allowed through security at London’s St Pancras station are passengers who are booked on to the next two departures.

Boarding can feel safer too. Gone are hundreds of fellow plane passengers passing through one or two doors and touching dozens of seat backs as they squeeze up the aisle to their row. Instead you’ll be directed along the platform to the front or rear doors of your carriage. Only those with reservations can enter and each carriage has its own toilet.

Take the train to Europe and you also avoid airline-style rows of three. Train seats are two abreast at most. Even in standard class, extra leg room and wider seats mean you’re a little further from other passengers than on a budget airline.

Pay for Premier Class and couples can create a bigger bubble by reserving a pair of single seats facing each other across a table.

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And touch-free passport controls are being trialled, where instead of stopping at immigration desks, passengers are identified by facial recognition technology. But for all these advantages, trains won’t always beat planes. You still face queues at security, travel times are longer and fares are higher.

However, the range of train-based trips is set to expand in July as the world reopens. Here are some of the best ideas for a safety-first rail journey.

The big four direct destinations with Eurostar are Paris, Disneyland Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam. A direct, standard-class return to Amsterdam for a long weekend in September starts at £102 and takes just under four hours.



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friendly beaches, lively nightlife and even a decent cuppa await at this historic British outpost

From beaches and Rollerblades to food and craft beer, get your skates on to San Diego and experience 'the birthplace of California'

Waterfalls that tumble into the sea, mind-boggling mountains and idyllic beaches: Stunning images of the British Isles' incredible islands

**EXCLUSIVE** If these photos don't spark wanderlust, NOTHING WILL: The amateur photographer who has wowed Instagram with sensational holiday snaps, from Majorca to the Maldives

'Travel as we knew it is over and it's never coming back,' says Airbnb CEO, who predicts that holidaymakers will choose small communities over cities in the future

Emirates to resume services to London and Paris using its flagship A380s from July 15

London City Airport's most popular route will reopen on July 13 when KLM restarts flights to and from Amsterdam

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This might peak your interest! The majesty of the Alps is captured in a stunning new coffee



Stop for lunch in the glorious, art nouveau Le Train Bleu restaurant in Paris

Or enjoy old-world glamour on a seven-day Biarritz and the Atlantic Pyrenees tour with Great Rail Journeys, from £1,445pp departing from St Pancras. As well as trips to San Sebastian and Bayonne, a big attraction is having your luggage sent ahead for free, so you don't have to carry heavy bags on the train.

Options open up if you're happy to change trains in Paris.

Fancy Barcelona? Then consider a ticket on the high-speed double-decker TGV trains.

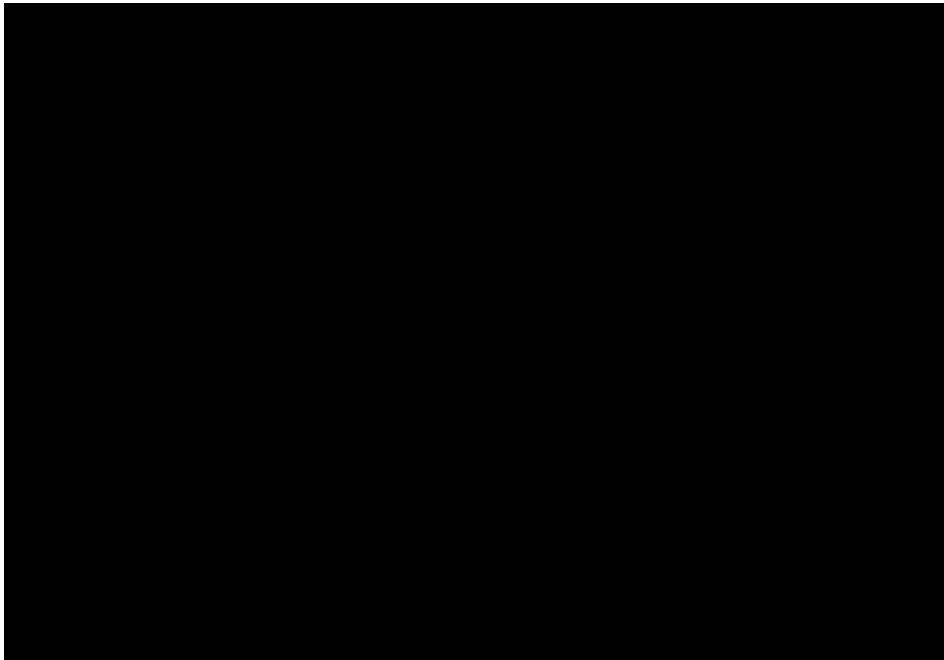
Mark Smith, founder of train advice website Seat61, suggests leaving London on an early Eurostar then transferring to Gare de Lyon station in Paris.

Once there, you'll have time to follow in the footsteps of Salvador Dali and Brigitte Bardot by stopping for lunch in the glorious, art nouveau Le Train Bleu restaurant.

Then board the TGV and you'll be in Barcelona in time for tapas and cocktails.

If you'd prefer to be guided through a long-distance train trip, firms such as Great Rail Journeys and Rail Discoveries offer fully escorted tours from London.

A top choice for healthy fresh air is the nine-day Glacier Express tour with Rail Discoveries that includes St Moritz and Tirano in Italy from £1,599pp.



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## table book

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► Cottages going to war on Covid: How UK holiday homes are preparing for the summer season



► Exclusive for Mail on Sunday readers: See beautiful Bordeaux with chef James Martin - discover the TV star's culinary roots on a luxury 8-day cruise



► Fancy a stress-free stroll in the tulip-filled streets of one of Holland's most beautiful towns? Then it's time to... do the Haarlem shuffle



► The Armchair Traveller reveals how to explore the world from home: Relive your surfing summer and discover the UK's best spas



► Are we all going on a summer holiday? Mixed messages, dithering and questions galore. No wonder it's so confusing - but don't despair... we reveal where we're welcome and where we're not



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► The year of the great British staycation: With time running out to book a break overseas, a holiday in the UK could be the answer. Here's how the regions are shaping up - and what to expect when you get there



► What travel tribe do YOU belong to? Some of us are cautious, some daring - and some plain defiant







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► Rebooking Jet2 flights, travel insurance refunds and paying off outstanding costs for trips are the hot coronavirus topics tackled by the Holiday Guru this week



► The stunning other-worldly beauty of the world's deserts captured in a series of mesmerising fine-art pictures



► British Airways in the coronavirus era: Inside a business class cabin from LA to London - and how the carrier's new meal box food offering compares to the old dining arrangements



► Pictured: The amazing new 'infinity edge' geothermal lagoon set to open in Iceland in 2021, which will offer ocean views and a swim-up bar



► Wild beaches, abandoned monasteries and enchanting woods used for Harry Potter scenes: The stunning hidden beauty spots in London and the South East



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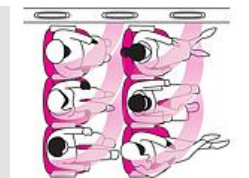
UK homes since the lockdown began, from converted shipping containers to windmills and off-grid domes



► Island has put buoys, lines and nets confiscated from criminal shark poachers to good use - and made a BRIDGE out of them



**EXCLUSIVE** The 3D-printed 'AirShield' device that bolts on to plane cabin ventilation nozzles and directs passenger breath droplets downwards to prevent the spread of coronavirus



► 'Hovering' mountains, a mist-shrouded Manhattan Bridge and fighting stallions: The jaw-dropping images that have wowed the judges in an annual photography contest



► EasyJet and Virgin Atlantic ban alcohol on all flights to limit contact amid coronavirus



► Discovering how a field of acorns ends up as the world's finest ham in the town that offers... a perfect slice of Spanish life



► The tiny island that packs a BIG punch: It's only 23 miles by 13, but the Isle of Wight boasts stunning scenery, the UK's oldest theme park, a world-class regatta, dinosaurs - and serious style



► Exclusive for Mail on Sunday readers: Discover the Cotswolds with TV's Adam Henson - meet the Countryfile star and tour some of the area's most beautiful gardens



► The quirky boats that now rule on dry land, from a 19th Century barge in Suffolk to a former ferry in Cornwall



► Holidaymakers with refund credit notes may have to find and pay up to £120 for a solicitor to get their cash back if their travel company goes bust, warns Which?



► Hotels will be dramatically different when their doors reopen. Here's how they plan to keep us safe from coronavirus this summer...



► The Armchair Traveller reveals how to explore the world from home: Brilliant breaks to get you dreaming and creating the flavours of an American barbecue



► Sin City pictured in the coronavirus era: Inside reopened Las Vegas, with dealers in face masks, blackjack tables with plastic shields and 'Covid surcharges'



► There are more than 200 islands to choose from and something for everyone this summer (hopefully). So... Come on Boris, build a bridge to Greece!



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► Welcome to the post-Covid hotel: Next month can't come soon enough for UK hoteliers - but it won't exactly be business as usual



► Your guide to global sneezing etiquette: Here we reveal the basic protocols for when you finally get to travel abroad



► Howdy Canada! Saddle up for the ride of your life at the Calgary Stampede, the most prestigious rodeo in the world



► Tui credit notes, Interrail refunds and 'misleading' Wizz Air adverts are among the hot topics tackled by the Holiday Guru this week








► Exclusive for Mail on Sunday readers: Get a taste of Norway with the Hairy Bikers - sail the fjords on a brilliant nine-day trip with the TV cookery stars



► From castle ruins to cable cars: The high-flying shortlisted images that wowed the judges in an aerial photography contest



	
► Nuts! Behold the world's largest cashew tree, which covers two acres and looks like a mini FOREST (and it's still growing)	
► Cyprus says quarantine hotels for families of coronavirus patients 'will have a holiday vibe' with nightly karaoke, shows and bingo - and that no one will need to sunbathe in a mask	
► Spooky images show abandoned industrial places in desolate locations throughout the world, from a vast space rocket launch site in Kazakhstan to an old whaling station in Scotland	
► Hyperloop linking Amsterdam airport to other European cities may be a substitute to short-haul flights, says study	

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► Forget thrill-seeking: Holidays where you get back to nature and relax are set to be all the rage in Europe after the pandemic, according to Tripadvisor	
► Private temperature checks, a luggage sanitising service and socially distanced beach loungers: Dubai's five-star Atlantis The Palm hotel is doing safety VIP-style	
► Egypt prepares for the return of tourists with hotels ramping up hygiene, ancient sites sanitised and beaches cleaned	
► Amazing 360-degree interactive tour of Barnard Castle brings the delights of the town into sharp focus	
► From the bizarre to the beautiful: The striking winning images from the 2020 Sony World Photography Awards	
► Confused about where you can and can't fly to? <a href="#">The interactive</a>	



coronavirus travel regulations map that reveals restrictions country-by-country



► The GP-backed anti-coronavirus personal protection shield for plane seats that is set to be ready for aircraft use by mid-June (and won't require airlines to block middle seats)



► 'A rubber tree absorbed the impact and we walked away without a scratch': TV angler Jeremy Wade reveals how he survived a plane crash in the Amazon



► From Open All Hours to Gavin and Stacey: The filming locations for Britain's favourite TV shows mapped and pictured



► The inside track: All aboard the new fly-on-the-wall TV series that goes behind the scenes of much-maligned TransPennine Express, as it launches state-of-the-art trains



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► Where in the wolds will you go? It's not just the Cotswolds - England has many more stunningly beautiful areas of hill country to discover



► Deals to lure us back to the sun - including Spain's Costa del Sol from less than £20 return



► Following in the footsteps of St Francis and joining pilgrims on a trek to Rome along Italy's very own... highway to heaven



► The Armchair Traveller reveals how to explore the world from home: Discover a majestic Indian odyssey and the most romantic virtual date destinations



► Sniffing snuff and drinking horse milk: Inside the remote camp of a nomadic Mongolian tribe that still lives as its ancestors did, roaming a primeval landscape... and welcoming strangers





► You could make a world of difference: Combine adventure with saving the planet on one of these life-changing conservation breaks



► Roll up for the great holiday gamble! With cheap flights and package deals up to 65 per cent off, you can bag a summer bargain - IF restrictions are lifted



► Cyprus, the sure bet: It's so keen to have us that it will even cover our costs if things go wrong...



► Pictured: The wacky new £90million Willy Wonka-style mega chocolate factory that will have a ROLLER COASTER running through it



► Revealed: The airlines that will let you book NOW with flexibility for late 2020 and early 2021 - and it's Lufthansa and KLM that offer the most hassle-free wriggle room



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► 'New guidelines, same fun!' Universal Orlando reopens with temperature checks, mandatory face masks and high-fives with Captain America banned



► Insurance issues for a trip to India and claiming money back from a collapsed firm: The Holiday Guru tackles YOUR travel problems



► Renowned photographer spent two years shooting timelapse footage of Amsterdam 'to make locals proud and tourists desperate to visit' - and the result is incredible



► Inside the spellbinding new Harry Potter-themed Airbnb that features Hogwarts-inspired bedrooms, a 'Quidditch pitch' and a Forbidden Forest cinema room



► Self-cater 'everything' and watch Naomi Campbell's viral



aeroplane hygiene video:  
Frequent flyer reveals 11  
tips to stay safe on  
planes in the  
coronavirus era



► Revealed: As the world  
gradually reopens to  
tourism, here's WHERE  
and WHEN  
international visitors  
can travel in 2020,  
country by country



► Searches for breaks in  
Spain and Greece  
increase by more than  
50 per cent as Britons  
desperately look for  
summer holiday light at  
the end of the lockdown  
tunnel



► Shipwrecks on the  
beaches, a stormed-  
weathered lighthouse  
and a dark history: The  
rogue abandoned ghost  
island amid a Caribbean  
paradise



► Wish we were there!  
The world's most-missed  
places, according to the  
trending Instagram  
hashtag #takemeback -  
and it's the Pyramids  
that travellers yearn to  
revisit the most



► Easyjet says it will  
resume flights to almost  
75% of its network by  
August - and all  
passengers and crew will  
have to wear face masks  
on board



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captain's plea for  
travellers to 'buy airline  
tickets like you bought  
toilet paper' goes viral



► No screaming, no high-  
fives and haunted house  
ghosts will scare victims  
from a safe distance:  
Japanese funfairs  
release rules for the  
coronavirus era



► Emirates president  
warns it could take up to  
FOUR YEARS to rebuild  
the airline's entire  
network, which it's had  
to dismantle as a result  
of the coronavirus  
pandemic



► The Barcelona filming  
location for Villanelle's  
flat in season three of  
Killing Eve is a stunning  
Art Nouveau apartment



that's available to rent on Airbnb



► Get ready to roam with your home! When lockdown eases, what better way to enjoy the wonders of Britain than a campervan tour? Discovering five fantastic journeys...



► Hotels' reward for our Covid heroes: The extraordinary ways hotels across the UK have been helping their local communities through the pandemic



► The Armchair Traveller reveals how to explore the world from home: Discover breathtaking cliff-diving locations and Europe's best cycle tours



► Go into action with an Algarve autumn... the perfect time for a family activity trip



► Exclusive for Mail on Sunday readers: See the gardens of the Cotswolds - including Highgrove House - with The One Show's Christine Walkden



► Part-resort, part human-aquarium: The incredible villas with clear-bottomed swimming pools IN THE CEILING



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► Coasting to freedom: Weary of your local park? Then strike out along England's unrivalled coast, with more and more of its most glorious stretches linking up for public access



► Travel bubbles? Air bridges? What DOES it all mean for summer holidays? Here are the answers you need



► Spain awaits and it won't Costa Lotta! In theory it's game on for summer hols on the Spanish coast, so here we pick our favourite costas, with packages boasting as much as a third off





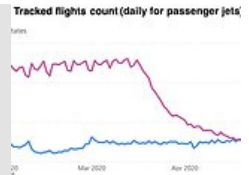
► Nice to meet you: Handshakes and hugs are out - so what's the new global etiquette?



► Checking in... TV chef Ainsley Harriott talks about eating his first hot dog in New York and having an unforgettable meal at Sydney's Bondi Icebergs



► Chinese airlines have flown more passenger flights in a month than US carriers for the first time ever



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