

**Travel doctor**



**Q** My husband and I would like to take our two boys, who will then be 10 and 15, to New York for a week next summer. This would be our first visit and we would appreciate some advice. Our budget for flights and accommodation (ideally including breakfast) would be about £4,000 — is this possible?  
 Alison Hetherton, via e-mail

**A** Flights to New York next summer are already expensive — if you want to fly non-stop, you're looking at about £800pp. If you're prepared to make a stop both ways, however, Icelandair is currently quoting about £620. This does not leave an enormous sum for accommodation in Manhattan. I'd suggest your best option is an apartment. Coach House Rentals (chsnyc.com) has a one-bedroom apartment that sleeps up to five in a brownstone building on the Upper East Side. There is a subway station two blocks away and it's four stops from Times Square. It costs £154 per night if you stay seven nights or more. Or if you're happy to stay a bit farther out in leafy Brooklyn — which could be wise in summer's heat — One Fine Stay (onefinestay.co.uk) has a pretty, three-bedroom house with air-con and a walled garden for £1,205.

**Q** My friend and I have visited Sri Lanka a number of times and we love the island. For our next visit we would like to try renting a small house for two or three weeks, perhaps in the Bentota area. Could you give us details of any agencies able to help? We are not seeking luxury but do want a house with mod cons and possibly help with shopping and cooking.  
 Tom Kerrane, via e-mail

**A** There are plenty of reasonably priced rentals on Sri Lanka's southwest coast. Try HomeAway (homeaway.co.uk), which has Magnoon Villa, a newly built bungalow in a large garden with palms and fruit trees. It's in a quiet, residential hamlet just over a mile from the beach area of Narigama and 12 miles from Galle. There are two double bedrooms with independent air-conditioning units and ceiling fans, and its terrace overlooks a paddy field, which would be great for a sundowner. It costs from £220 a week and the manager, who lives next door, should be able to help with queries. Alternatively, for £850 a week, you could rent the four-bedroom Elephant House, just over a mile from Bentota beach (ten minutes by tuk-tuk), which has a pool, and a cook and massage as optional extras. Holiday Lettings (holidaylettings.co.uk) is another agency with budget Sri Lankan options.

**Q** My husband and I would like to plan a two-week holiday to Turkey during the last week in July and the first in August, with a few days, including a balloon flight, in Cappadocia. We would like to be based in the Antalya coastal region, staying in a family-run hotel, and have a trip to the Göreme Valley. We would

prefer to fly from Antalya and hire a car there. Is there a holiday company that specialises in this type of holiday? Our budget is £3,000.  
 Hilary Symington, via e-mail

You haven't made it easy for yourselves budget-wise by choosing peak-season weeks. Anatolian Sky holidays (0844 2733586, anatoliansky.co.uk) can offer a two-week trip incorporating seven nights in the old town of Antalya in the Puding Marina Residence, a restored Ottoman mansion, with a short trip to Cappadocia via an overnight bus journey. It would cost £1,459pp B&B, including flights from Gatwick to Antalya and two nights at the Assiana Cave Hotel in Urgüp; a day tour of the Devrent Valley and Göreme Open Air Museum; an early-morning hot-air balloon ride over Cappadocia; and three final nights at the Puding Marina. Alternatively, for £1,500pp, Wexas Travel (020-7838 5892, wexas.com) could arrange an eight-day trip including the hot-air balloon trip and visit to the fairy chimneys in Cappadocia, three nights B&B at the Assiana Cave Hotel and four nights at the Puding Marina Residence, as well as international and domestic flights. Julia Brookes is the Travel Doctor

**Don't put up with this**  
 No payout for cruise cancellation

**We booked a fantastic holiday with Imagine Cruises, but six weeks before travelling we discovered that our granddaughter's main carer, her step great-grandmother, had had terminal cancer diagnosed and we needed to cancel. If we did so, we were told we would receive only a nominal amount back, so we spoke to our insurance company but, unfortunately, because grandma is not related to either me or my husband, there was no cover. You are our last hope to recoup some or all of the money, which would enable us to take our granddaughter away in 2013 on a child-friendly holiday.**  
 Julie and David Martin, via e-mail

Imagine Cruises told me that it was sorry

you did not contact it again after discovering that your insurance policy would not payout but it is now helping you to re-send your claim with supporting letters from both Imagine and a Macmillan nursing team. "We were really sorry to hear that Mr and Mrs Martin's insurance policy did not live up to their expectations. We have written to the insurance company on their behalf and will do everything we can to help them reach a satisfactory conclusion," a spokesman said.

**Contact us...**

If you have a gripe, suggestion or question about holiday travel, write to Travel Doctor, The Times Travel Desk, 3 Thomas More Square, London E9 8JTT, or e-mail traveldoctor@thetimes.co.uk. Please include contact details if you have a dispute with a travel company, try to resolve it before contacting us. Do not send us original documents. Unfortunately we cannot reply to every inquiry.