

London Evening Standard

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The great Kateover
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LondonLife
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UNION CHIEFS TURN UP THE HEAT

MAYOR ATTACKS STRIKE ON TUBE AS 'MAD'

Dick Murray and Joe Murphy

BORIS JOHNSON today branded the Tube strike set to hit London tonight as "mad" as last-ditch talks descended into bitter recriminations.

The Mayor claimed the 48-hour strike was being foisted on Londoners because rival union leaders were fighting an internal battle to succeed the late Bob Crow.

The strike looked increasingly likely as hostilities broke out in public even while the talks were going on. Union chiefs turned up the heat by accusing London Underground management of blatantly

"lying" over a key issue concerning voluntary redundancies. However, some Labour MPs were also criticising the RMT union and privately agreeing that the strike was unnecessary. The TSSA union is not taking part in strike action.

Unless there is breakthrough, the 48-hour strike will start at 9pm bringing major disruption to commuters and costing firms millions.

Mr Johnson said: "I urge the RMT to call off this pointless strike and get back round the table with London Underground and the three other unions

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SUSANNA LEGS IT BEHIND A DESK FOR ITV SHOW

SUSANNA REID arrives for the launch of ITV's Good Morning Britain after her defection from the BBC. But the show faced criticism from some viewers who said the presenter's best assets – her legs – were behind a desk.

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Girl with 'jihadi' flag sparks outrage

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London lawyer who's hooked Clooney

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Baby and young brothers killed in house fire

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Chelsea: Now for the game of our lives

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JESSICA ENNIS-HILL
VITALITY AMBASSADOR

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PRUHEALTH Vitality

Edited by
Jo Fernández

What's new... ^{EST}Travel



Life of luxury: Casa Laguna overlooks the lagoon and comes with a staff of five



Easy reach: go to Belfast with Flybe and visit the birthplace of the Titanic

NEW ROUTES IDEAL FOR WEEKEND ESCAPES

**Simon
says**

SIMON CALDER

I'M a teacher in Woolwich and take an interest in what's happening at London City airport. I read in the Standard about Flybe's plans for a new base there. What will it mean for those of us who like the odd weekend away? — Name withheld

FLYBE has been progressively reducing its presence in the London market. So it surprised everyone last Wednesday by announcing plans to fly up to 32 times a day to and from City airport (LCY).

From October 27, the airline will serve three new destinations – Belfast City, Inverness and Exeter – as well as Dublin and Edinburgh, which already have flights from LCY. It's not a new base, in the usual aviation sense, because the airline won't be stationing aircraft there. Instead, Flybe's first wave of flights from all those airports will arrive at around 8am daily (except Sunday morning, when the Docklands airport is closed) and the last wave will leave LCY late afternoon/early evening.

Those timings look ideal for weekend escapes for people who live or work in Woolwich – the airport is only five minutes away on the DLR. Fares start at £35 one-way, with good availability at the lowest prices if you book now.

Of the new destinations, Belfast has the strongest offer, with everything from the birthplace of the Titanic to many excellent pubs and restaurants.

Given the choice between Inverness and Exeter for a winter weekend I would probably opt for the Devon city and save the "capital of the Highlands" for spring.

Watch for more Flybe destinations from LCY, including cities in France and Spain plus some ski flights.

■ Email your queries to s@hols.tv

IT'S HIP TO BE SQUARE

DESTINATION MEXICO

THE Riviera Maya holds white sand beaches fringed by the bluest Caribbean and Mayan ruins which jut out on cliffs. Along this coast, by Playa del

Carmen, the well-established all-suite Rosewood Mayakoba launches Casa Laguna within its 1,600-acre lush, jungle-surrounded grounds.

Taking luxury villas to a new level, the striking, modernist structure, appearing as if a set of stacked cubes, is accessible by private boat with a pool overlooking the lagoon and

comes with a staff of five, including culinary team, butler and housekeepers.

Local nature-inspired interiors feature polished wooden floors, cowhide-covered chaise longue and amber-hued rugs.

Rosewood Hotels & Resorts is also launching new villas at Las Ventanas

al Paraíso in Los Cabos, Mexico, and Jumbay Bay in Antigua.

■ From US\$12,000 per night including breakfast, private fitness instructor, soft drinks, afternoon snacks, laundry, private boat tours with resort biologist, return airport transfers and wi-fi. For more information, visit rosewoodhotels.com

WEEKEND IDEA



The newly launched Abinger Cookery School in Borking, Surrey, has a variety of courses, including the two-day The Basics for £450pp (£50 per night B&B), comprising knife skills and dishes such as spiced pumpkin soup, braised beef cheeks and panna cotta. Available May 7-8. ■ abingercookeryschool.com

WHAT'S GOING ON IN...

FLORIDA MAY 1-4

Held in Key Largo, the second annual Humphrey Bogart Film Festival marks 66 years since the film Key Largo was released. Entry with the film on the beach from US\$10, bogartfilmfestival.com ■ BA flies from Heathrow to Miami from £529 return, ba.com

LAST-MINUTE HOTEL NEWS

■ Scott Dunn has just opened a new Explorers Children's Club in Croatia for children up to 13 at the Sun Gardens resort in Dubrovnik. Seven nights from £1,460pp B&B, based on a family of four sharing sea views with return BA flights and private transfers, places from £252 per child, scottdunn.com

■ The 188-room Cromwell opens in Las Vegas on May 21 with the first restaurant by US celebrity chef Glada De Laurentiis and a rooftop beachclub. Doubles from £149 room only, thecromwell.com

AHEAD OF THE PACK

THE new breed of Dreamliner aircraft claims higher humidity levels to alleviate dehydration.

If you're not flying on one, chances are you will arrive at your destination feeling dried out.

**ROUTE
NEWS**
Atlasjet launches four-times weekly direct flights from Luton to Istanbul on May 2 (daily from June 1), returns from £136, atlasjet.com

Launching this week, Perricone MD's Chloro Plasma is a gel facemask containing chlorophyll, derived mainly from algae and watercress.



At 59ml you can carry it on board and, if brave enough, massage onto a cleansed face – but be warned: on application it turns green. Not a scary Shrek green, more a pretty shade of sage. Skin does look smoother after. Less bold types stick to the bathroom.

■ £67, perriconemd.co.uk