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Terms and Conditions: \*Prices based on 4 sharing an Electric pitch at Blue Dolphin on 7 August 2010 for 7 nights. Activities, facilities and entertainment vary by Park - please check at time of booking. Subject to availability. Terms & conditions apply as shown in the current brochure & website. Calls to the number above will cost no more than 10p per minute from a BT landline - calls from other networks may vary.

MAURITIUS

# Mauritius

**2 weeks this summer from £795\*** pp

- ▶ 1 week on All-Inclusive, 2<sup>nd</sup> week FREE on Room Only. Upgrade 2<sup>nd</sup> week to All In £35pppp
- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> child from £615\* ▶ No supplement for single travellers for stays of up to 14 nights\*
- ▶ Other durations are available ▶ Departures July 2010 - June 2011

**Mauritius:** Blessed by sublime beaches, turquoise lagoons, endless days of sunshine and pretty resorts, this is a popular holiday destination for British visitors.

### Casuarina Resort & Spa Hotel



This Hotel, which is a member of the Worldhotels Comfort Collection, occupies an idyllic spot a short distance from a white sandy beach beside a coral reef in an enclosed lagoon at Trou aux Biches. The delightful traditionally thatched restaurant opens onto the pool area.

**Your All-Inclusive package includes:** ▶ Breakfast, lunch and dinner. Local soft & alcoholic drinks including cocktails & bottled water. FREE selected watersports.  
▶ Return flights from Gatwick, Heathrow or a choice of 7 other UK airports (supplements may apply). ▶ Superior air-conditioned rooms all have private facilities and a balcony or terrace. ▶ 15% reduction on spa treatments. ▶ All UK and Mauritius security fees, airport & passenger taxes. ▶ Rep. service in resort.  
▶ Return airport transfers in Mauritius. ▶ Full ATOL protection of your holiday.

#### SUMMER SPECIALS

Board Basis: All-Inclusive	1 week	2 <sup>nd</sup> week	1 week	2 <sup>nd</sup> week
2 <sup>nd</sup> wk FREE on RO	Adult	Adult	1 <sup>st</sup> Child	1 <sup>st</sup> Child
July 2010	from £919	FREE	£649	FREE
August 2010	from £919	FREE	£649	FREE
September 2010	from £795	FREE	£615	FREE
October 2010	from £889	FREE*	£665	FREE*

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# CYP INTO PARADISE

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get bored of being horizontal there is plenty to do. The resort has a tennis academy, a horse riding school, a nature trail and a championship golf course.

I had a lesson with the club's affable Essex-born pro Danny Heard who instantly pinpointed - and cured - the 30-year-old flaw in my back swing.

Aphrodite Hills is nicely geared up for children. It has a kids club, night-time babysitting options and a baby creche.

We intended to drop Joseph off there - for about a week - but never used it because he was happy galloping across fairways or chilling with us in the pool in his UV-suit with matching Foreign Legion hat.

How things change. My childhood holidays were all about getting burnt and peeling quickly so you could crack on and get a tan to last.

After a few days of quality sleep and guilt-ridden sunbathing we hired a car to explore the island.

I have been to Cyprus several times and it's a friendly and interesting country with plenty to prod the slumbering grey matter, so we zipped along empty roads from one archaeo-

logical site to the next. Our favourite was Kourion, a Greco-Roman amphitheatre built in the 2nd century BC with stunning mosaic floor tiling - Topps Tiles do similar stuff in big strips.

In Paphos, a vast network of catacombs called the Tombs of the Kings were evocative. It wasn't especially uplifting watching Joseph climb into those ancient graves, but the alternative was keeping him in a hot pushchair and letting his screams wake the dead.

The icons and frescoes in Byzantine churches are also sights to treasure.

We loved the monastery of Agios Neofytos and particularly its Enkleistra cave in the mountain-carved out by a hermit for his home. You'll never complain about the size of your bathroom again.

At night, there is a welcoming ambience in the old part of Paphos harbour, but we preferred Pissouri, a hill town 15 minutes from the hotel.

Its tiny central square has a few buzzy bars and tavernas, most notably Symposium which serves a superb grilled Sea "Buss". Don't be put off by its naff photographic menu held together with Sellotape.

After the sightseeing box was ticked, we dedicated ourselves to doing as little as possible. It took most of my morning energy to get over the buffet breakfast which was always a lavish banquet fit for the gods.

The resort's Retreat Spa has won awards and I can vouch for the "Royal Thai" massage.

The hotel has its own small beach club which was a bit too neat and proper for me with its white parasols, plump sun loungers, bar and changing facilities.

But I would recommend an early morning dip by Aphrodite's Rock at Petra Tou.

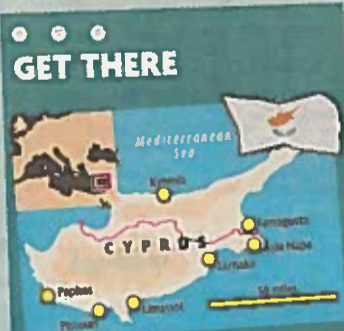
This is where she appeared out of the sea - but get there before the tourist coaches arrive. I swam away from a deserted beach to return to about 40 Russians taking my photo.

Aphrodite is the Greek goddess of love and beauty.

Well, Cyprus is beautiful and we loved it.

The statistics for first time parents in their 40s in need of a non-rustic holiday temporarily decreased by two during our stay.

Give it a couple of months and the stats will be back to normal.



**GET THERE**

ONE week's B&B at the Inter-Continental Aphrodite Hills at peak times starts from £1,315 for a double room for two adults and a baby. Book online at [www.ichotelsgroup.com](http://www.ichotelsgroup.com) or call 0871 423 4942.

Cyprus Airways has return flights from London to Cyprus from £235pp. Call 020 8359 1333 or visit [www.cypriusair.com](http://www.cypriusair.com).

The Cyprus Tourist Organisation has full details of the island at [www.visitcyprus.com](http://www.visitcyprus.com).

Time zone: **GMT+3**

Currency: **£1= €1.18**

**BEST TIME TO GO:**  
Aphrodite's Isle is a delight in spring and autumn

GETTING THEIR GOAT: Gregor and Maisie make a friend



**AS the sun beats a slow retreat below the horizon, it casts its glow on a herd of zebra sauntering home across the parched earth.**

And while the sound of crickets in the long grasses adds to the exotic scene, you can put away the bug repellent, cancel the malaria jabs and forget the long-haul flights. This is Surrey.

Admittedly, arriving in the middle of a mini heat-wave with temperatures in the low 90s gives Chessington's Wanyama Village and Reserve added authenticity.

ON SAFARI: Alex, Gregor and Maisie



But there's no denying the attention to detail that convinces Maisie, seven, and Gregor, four (as well as this big kid and his wife), this is a real safari trip.

After a full day exploring the World of Adventures we retire to the park's Holiday Inn and a safari-themed family room.

The accommodation is a decent size with tasteful African canvases on the walls and subtle animal print throws on the beds.

Although the absence of a fridge is disappointing, controllable air conditioning is a boon on sticky nights. There's a recess next to the door serving as the children's room, which keeps them out of sight at night, but well within earshot.

Later, we have a reservation at the Langata restaurant downstairs, overlooking the reserve - home of zebra and rare scimitar-horned oryx.

We opt for the buffet menu, and while it's not cheap, the choice is good.

Perfect for feeding the sort of children who might fancy chicken tikka masala