

How can we have our fill of spas and cars?



Q RATHER than flying long-haul for our next holiday we are planning to take a luxury break in the UK. We would like one that combines my husband's love of driving prestige sports cars with my desire for a pampering spa break. We don't want to travel more than a couple of hours from London, so we were thinking of the Cotswolds. Is there a company that could organise this sort of holiday and can you recommend some things to do in the area?

Susan Brooks, London

A FOR the chance to drive high-performance cars, consider joining a club such as Ecurie25 (www.ecurie25.com). It's not cheap – annual membership starts at £4,750, plus a one-off joining fee of £750 – but it offers about 30 days' driving a year in a fleet of supercars, including Ferraris, Lamborghinis and Aston Martins.

If you want to indulge in a pampering spa break in the Cotswolds, one of the best bets is Whatley Manor (www.whatleymanor.com, 01666 822 888), a restored Edwardian hunting lodge set in 12 acres of gardens near Malmesbury, Wiltshire. It has a superb spa offering, among other things, 'Ressource Minérale' body wraps and massages using marine mineral clays to soothe and nourish the skin.

It also has two restaurants run by Michelin-starred chef Martin Burge, one offering classical French cuisine. If you have a sweet tooth, you might fancy

checking into the hotel for a chocolate workshop on September 3.

A one-night stay at Whatley Manor costs from £285 per room including use of the spa and full English breakfast.

Q WE'RE going to Los Angeles next month and are considering a quick trip to Las Vegas. We're not that keen on driving long distances in America – would you recommend the extra expense of flying?

Kim Barker, Bristol

A SOUTHWEST (www.southwest.com) flies from Los Angeles International (LAX) to Las Vegas. Prices are not expensive – they are presently offering return fares from about £70. It takes just over an hour.

I've never fancied the 268-mile drive

Ask Frank

By Frank Barrett

One carry-on bag for flights is ridiculous...

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www.travelmail.co.uk



**CLASSIC SCENERY,
CLASSIC CAR:** The
Cotswolds are an ideal
motoring destination



which will take you at least four hours in each direction – driving through the desert on Interstate 15 is spectacularly dull. Remember to shop around for hotel deals in Las Vegas. Vegas hotel rooms are like cruises – nobody ever pays the asking price. The most efficient way of looking for bargains is to check the Las Vegas hotel reviews on Tripadvisor (www.tripadvisor.com), where for each hotel you can click on 'check rates' and it will give you the actual prices being charged by a variety of online hotel booking sites for the dates when you are planning to visit.

My favourite Vegas hotel – the Four Seasons – is at No 4 on the current Tripadvisor list. The 'check rates' facility shows that in mid-September, for example, you'll pay from £160 per room per night.

If you just want a decent room in a reasonable hotel, you will find it for a third of this price.

● **DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR FRANK?** Drop him a line at Ask Frank, Mail on Sunday Travel, Northdiffe House, Derry Street, London W8 5TS, email askfrank@mailonsunday.co.uk or fax 020 7938 2894. We regret that due to the large number of requests we receive we may not be able to reply personally to all correspondence.