



THE SUN ON SUNDAY

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CHUCK BERRY DIES AGED 90

By **PATRICK GYSIN**

CHUCK Berry was found dead at his US home yesterday.

Music stars led tributes to the "father of rock 'n' roll", 90.

Full Story — P9



● CENTRE PARCS is launching two new rides at Longleat Forest in Wiltshire as part of its revamped Subtropical Swimming Paradise this summer.

The natura-themed rides – Tropical Cyclone and Typhoon – feature high-tech light and sound special effects.

Tropical Cyclone will be

the largest four-person raft ride in Europe with swimmers able to pick a theme for their journey – forest, nature, jungles or waterfalls.

Typhoon whips riders through tubes and cones for up to a minute of drops and swings, reaching a top speed of 25mph along its 140-metre length.

The revamp also includes

a new family water play area and toddler pool.

Center Parcs' Colin Whaley explained: "We've really pushed the boundaries of what is possible with water rides so families can enjoy something unique. We hope these additions will thrill families and play a big part in their adventures together." See centerparcs.co.uk.



● CELEBRITY unveiled its latest liner this week – complete with a floating restaurant that moves up and down the side of the ship.

Celebrity Edge launches next year and the luxury cruise line promises a host of new innovations on the 2,918-passenger ship. The tennis court-size

Magic Carpet platform is a giant elevator that serves as an extension to the pool on Deck 14 and offers al fresco dining to the restaurant on Deck Five.

Other features on the liner, which will set sail from Fort Lauderdale in Florida in December 2018, include a rooftop garden and suites with private plunge pools.

hot spot

FUJAIHRAH is 29C – and seven nights' B&B at the 5* Hotel Concorde is from £470 with flights to the United Arab Emirates from Stansted on April 4. See southalltravel.co.uk or call 020 8705 0086 for more information.

hot spot

IT'S 30C in Las Vegas – four nights, room only, at the 3* Luxor Hotel & Casino is from £719 with flights from Heathrow on March 31. For more info, see traveltrolley.co.uk or call 020 8843 4400.

Edited by LISA MINOT

travel

Hols for under...

£100 GRAB your golf clubs and head to Whittlebury Hall in Northants. A night's B&B with unlimited golf on its 36-hole course is from £59. Call 01327 850 489 or see whittleburyhall.co.uk.

OR go glamping in Hampshire in a wooden hut in the grounds of The Old Thorns Manor Hotel from £49.50. Guests have access to the hotel's spa and champagne bar. Arrive Saturday. See pitchup.com.

£250 CHILL on the beaches of the Algarve with seven nights' self-catering at the 4* Monte Dourado in Carvoeiro from £238 with March 29 flights from Luton. See loveholidays.com or call 020 3870 6844.

OR check out Romania with three nights' B&B at the 3* Trianon Hotel, Bucharest, from £142 with flights from Luton on March 27. Call 0871 277 0709 or see eDreams.co.uk.

£500 ENJOY an Easter break to Majorca with seven nights' full board at the 4* Intertur Hotel Hawaii Mallorca and Suites in Palma Nova from £352 with flights from Southampton on April 14. See easyjet.com/holidays or call 020 3499 5232.

OR go Greek on a week's break to Corfu, staying all-inclusive at the 4* Alexandros Hotel from £270 with Manchester flights on April 1. Call 0871 474 3000 or see onthebeach.co.uk.

£750 HEAD to incredible Vietnam with ten nights' B&B at the 4* Phan Thiet Ocean Dunes Resort from £745 with Gatwick flights on April 4. Call 020 6705 0107 or see awayholidays.co.uk. OR explore Cyprus with seven nights' half-board at The Annabelle, Paphos, from £689 with flights from Stansted on dates between April 1 and May 7. See destinology.co.uk or call 01204 824619.

£1000 Italian adventure with two nights' B&B at the 3* Bel Sito in Venice, then at the 3* San Giorgio in Florence, then three nights' B&B at the 3* San Remo in Rome. From £945 with Gatwick flights on April 19. Call 01293 765 066 or see cititalia.com.

OR discover the Dominican Republic with seven nights' all-inclusive at the 5* Now Garden Punta Cana from £899 with flights from Gatwick on dates between May 1 and 31. See ba.com/dominicanrepublic or call 0344 493 0122.



STUNNING... Lake Altaussee, main, Sun's Tim, above, and, right, the Hotel Seevilla

MAGICAL MOUNTAINS IN AUSTRIAN LAKE DISTRICT

Alp yourself

IF you like the English Lake District, you will LOVE the Austrian Lake District.

Snow-capped forested peaks replace grassy slopes. Crystal-clear water flows in rivers, lakes team with trout, and afternoons pause for chocolate cake instead of cream teas.

The central European version is set in the heart of the Salzkammergut – literally the salt chamber estate. It is home to salt mines, some still working, that formed the basis of much of the wealth of the Hapsburgs, rulers of the Holy Roman Empire and later of, the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

My trip included a visit to a mine in the village of Altaussee. We walked almost half a mile into the salt mountain and the tunnels did not feel claustrophobic, despite the sound of running water and the need to duck for much of the way.

They open onto amazing galleries, including one turned into a chapel dedicated to Saint Barbara, patron saint of miners.

Another used to hold concerts for 800 people before Austria health and safety laws said the music had to stop for lack of emergency exits.

Thankfully, the laws did not stop us from another salt-mountain tradition – transferring between

GO: AUSTRIAN LAKE DISTRICT

SEVEN nights' all-inclusive, apart from lunches and drinks, is from £1,475 including flights from Gatwick. See adaglo.co.uk/page/the-austrian-lake-district.

levels of the mine by wooden slide. There are staircases for the faint-hearted, which might have included me, except my trip coincided with a visit by a local primary school so using the stairs without losing face was not an option.

I was in Austria with Adagio, whose trips are aimed at walkers who have reached the stage in life where comfort and luxury are as important as the walking.

There were 19 of us in the group, a mix of couples and singles, plus a German leader who is a long-term UK resident.

The week-long break was based at Hotel Seevilla, which is rated "4* superior" on the shore of Lake Altaussee.

The 4* superior included sumptuous breakfasts and seven-course dinners without the stuffy service that often goes with such a set-up.

All the costs of the holiday, including flights, transfers and entrances to attractions, are covered by the overall price, with the

exception of lunches and drinks. When it came to lunch, some of us packed our own.

But most opted to enjoy the local cuisine at family-run restaurants and mountain huts.

They abound in the area, as it is popular with winter sports enthusiasts as well as summer hikers.

It was no surprise to learn most of the location scenes for The Sound Of Music were filmed in the Salzkammergut, including in the regional capital Salzburg where we flew in to.

Gold bars in the lake

The area in general, and Altaussee in particular, was a favourite with leading lights of the 19th century Romantic Movement, who admired the stunning scenery.

Composer Johannes Brahms was a frequent guest at Seevilla when it was still a private residence.

Nearby are the Dachstein ice caves. Each winter they are sealed to keep in the cold and opened in the spring to reveal ting natural ice sculptures.

Also nearby is Toplitzsee, a lake where the Nazis are said to have dumped gold bars in the middle of the lake towards the end of World War Two, hoping to recover them when their fortunes changed.

That may merely be a legend,

although art treasures certainly were hidden in the Altaussee salt mines, where they were later handed over to American troops by anti-Nazi miners.

I can truly say the holiday provided memories that I doubt I will ever lose.

The salt mine and the ice caves are two, but I was also lucky enough to witness something normally only in a wildlife documentary – a dipper bird diving to the bottom of a river and walking along the riverbed with the help of its outstretched wings.

Another day, two of us, slightly ahead of the rest of the group, turned a corner in a forest trail and caught a glimpse of an eagle taking off from a low branch less than 20ft away.

Both times I unfortunately failed to photograph the sight – but another time I did catch a close-up of a deer.

It was taken with a Vodafone Smart Ultra 6 smartphone.

For those of us wanting more walking, it was easy to add extra distance at the end of the planned day by simply getting off our coach before it returned to the hotel.

But all in all, this was a fabulous experience with just the right mix of walking, sightseeing and comfort.

TIM SPANTON