

London Evening Standard



Homes & Property
The capital's 2014 property hotspots
PLUS Canonbury's celebrity status is confirmed as Keira Knightley moves in
LONDON'S TOP PROPERTY GUIDE

Wednesday 8 January 2014

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THE BAFTA NOMINATIONS

DAVID SEXTON
TIPS THE WINNERS
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TEST STARS SAVE SUICIDE MAN ON SYDNEY BRIDGE

Met chief admits crime figures fiddled

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Helmet camera shows F1 star's accident

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Hunt for Black Hawk crash clues

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Ballet School in row over weight loss

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CRICKETERS PRIOR AND BROAD IN LATE-NIGHT RESCUE

Justin Davenport Crime Editor

ENGLAND cricket stars Matt Prior and Stuart Broad saved a British man from jumping to his death from a Sydney bridge, it was revealed today.

The pair were involved in the dramatic late-night rescue as they walked back to their hotel from a charity function.

Wicketkeeper Prior spotted the man teetering on the ledge of the Pyrmont Bridge in Darling Harbour and grabbed him as he was about to jump.

He and Broad then spent an hour chatting to him on the bridge to calm him down until police arrived.

Prior had been walking past when he noticed the young man had taken off his shoes and thrown his phone, wallet and passport into the water. The cricketer, who had been to a Barney Army fans' charity function with Broad in the early hours of Wednesday morning, approached him with England security officer Terry Minish.

They struck up a conversation when suddenly the man, who was acting erratically, made a motion as if to jump.

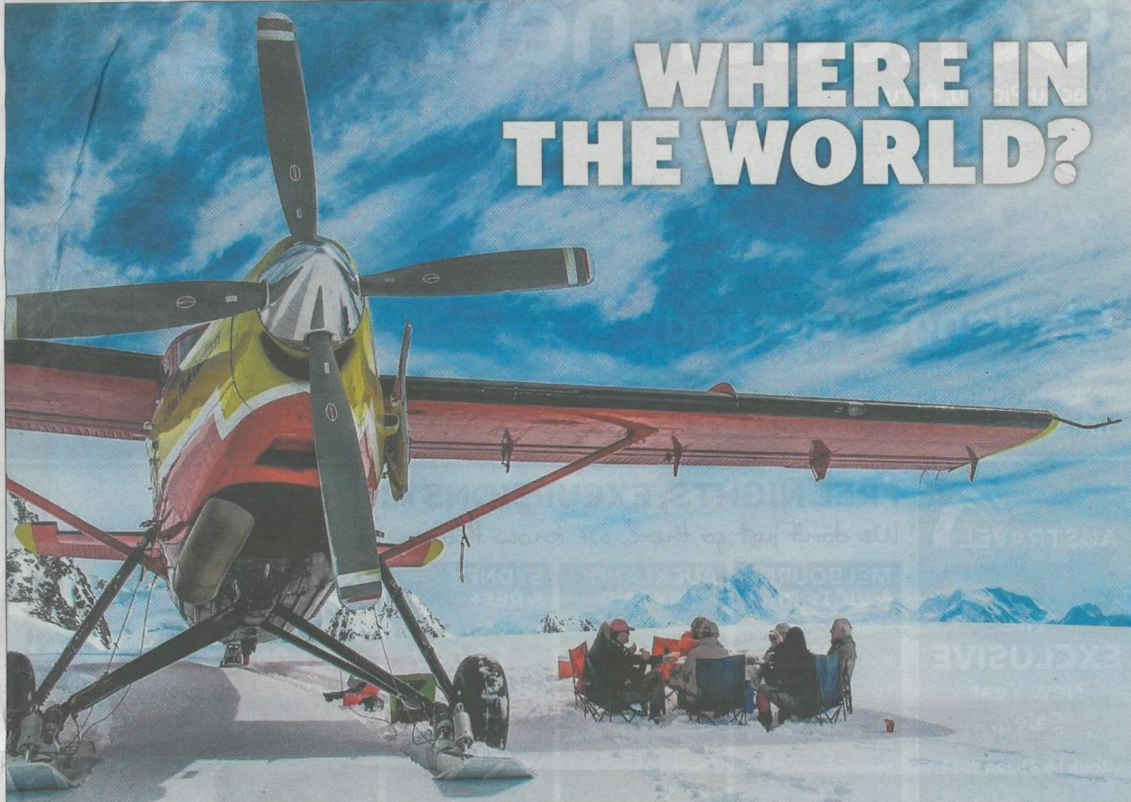
Prior and Minish grabbed him and then managed to wrestle him back to the safety of the walkway on the bridge. He is not thought to have recognised the cricketers. Prior



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Heroes: Matt Prior and Stuart Broad during the Ashes series against Australia. They stopped a man leaping to his death

WHERE IN THE WORLD?



COME November, they all head to Marrakech, trailing scarves from Peru, tribal jewellery from the Silk Route or a rosy glow from the Antarctic, a legion of world travellers, all converging on Pure. Each year, this is where the poshest private travel agents and tour operators come to unearth the most rarified travel experiences on the planet. Space Adventures, the company that – well before Virgin Galactic – has already sent seven paying punters into space is here (if you have a spare \$50 million).

So is Chloe Gibbs, a former nurse from King's College Hospital who has opened a hotel in Marau, a remote

Sarah Turner did the rounds of high-end trade travel fair Pure to ask the experts where we should be heading this year

peninsula in Bahia, Brazil, because six years ago she threw a peanut on a map and vowed to move wherever it landed. Nicely timed to catch this year's football frenzy in South America, the Butterfly House has eight lodges, a restaurant, hammocks at every turn, a sensitive approach to the local environment (£130 B&B, butterflyhousebahia.com).

New horizons:
Sri Lanka's latest resort, Cape Weligama

Mary-Anne Denison-Pender, of Mahout (mahoutuk.com) – nobody has a better knowledge of India than her – is here with a clutch of new properties, including Infinity at La Plage, a collection of five cottages on the beach near Aleppy (from £125 B&B, malabarhouse.com) and Jawal Leopard Camp in the Aravalli Hills of Rajasthan with eight tents with canvas and stainless steel, a library, spa and fleet of customised jeeps (£391 full board and game drives, sujanluxury.com), which opens this month, both the sort of individually-owned, well-conceived hotels we love to fall in love with.

In Sri Lanka, Cape Weligama will open its doors for the first time on July 1 with a collection of 40 colonial-style villas and suites near Galle. Perks include a striking 60m crescent-shaped infinity swimming pool, freshest seafood and a cliff-edge Japanese teppanyaki restaurant as well as inroom spa treatments using oil-based blends of Ceylon tea. Stand on its beach and the next stop is the South Pole. It's serious honeymoon territory with a series of lodges (around £348 full board, capeweligama.com) and Abercrombie & Kent should be featuring it.

Tetiara, the private island that Marlon Brando owned in French Polynesia, will open later this year (allegedly July). Called, understandably enough, The Brando (thebrando.com) it will have 35 villas surrounded by

turtles, dolphins and a restaurant where Michelin-starred Guy Martin of Le Grand Vefour in Paris has provided the menu. A cultural lounge will be

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Peak retreat:
excursions from Ultima Thule in Alaska include a picnic lunch up in the national park

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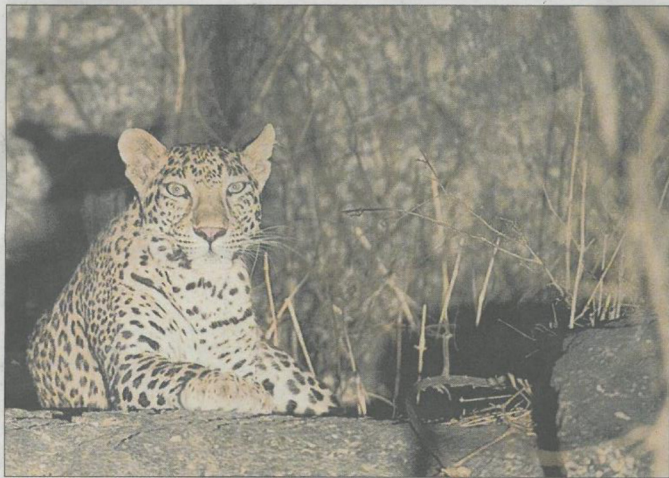
St Lucia – West Indies

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CARIBTOURS

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Wild thing: the Jawai Leopard Camp opens this month in the hills of Rajasthan, where leopards roam free

■ Prices quoted are per double room and nightly unless otherwise stated

British Airways flies from Gatwick to Marrakech from £98 return, ba.com

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stocked with books about French Polynesia and if you tire of the beach you can attend lectures and demonstrations about Polynesian culture and history. On-site research scientists will be delighted to talk about their work and in the UK it'll be featured by Turquoise Holidays (five-nights from £6,175pp full-board with excursions and flights from Heathrow to Tahiti via Los Angeles, turquoiseholidays.co.uk).

Meanwhile, Pure is also proof that Cuba's booming. Blighted for decades by uninspired mass-market all-inclusives, there are a couple of small hotels, including the Pansea Trinidad Cuba Hotel (pansea.com), set to open in the spring above Trinidad, with just 55 rooms, and the Star Flyer (starclippers.co.uk), the first cruise ship to put Cuba on its itinerary, will dock next year (based in Canada, to get around the US ban).

With river cruises, Aqua Expeditions has been meandering along the Amazon in stylish 16-berth cabins for several years but will also launch voyages along the Mekong in 2014, (three nights all-inclusive plus excursions, aquaexpeditions.com).

Does Pure work for you, I ask Dennis Wilde, of Wilde Private Travel, one of London's top travel agents. "Well, I've finalised a £500,000 booking to see the Northern Lights while I've been here," he replies. Have serious money and the truly remote becomes possible. The

Ultima Thule in a national park in Alaska (£1,036, three-night minimum all-inclusive, ultimathulelodge.com) is more than 100 miles from the nearest road (you fly in instead) but comfort levels are reassuringly high, even down to the greenhouse that grows fruit and vegetables and the fishing is apparently out of this world.

A whole section is devoted to Arctic and Antarctic safaris. Arctic Kingdom Polar Expeditions (arctickingdom.com), one of the best, takes customers up close and personal with polar bear cubs and narwhals. Steppes Travel has a seven-night Canadian Arctic itinerary from £9,750pp full board

it as a Saga coach trip for the time-poor super-rich; a 25-day trip costs £61,000 but you do get a free iPad with your itinerary (intravjet.com).

TCS, based in Seattle, has kitted out its own jet to provide 78 business class seats and a physician on board. The cost – including pretty much everything – comes in at \$69,950 (around £42,650) and the itinerary takes in Samoa, Cambodia, the Great Barrier Reef and the Taj Mahal (tcsworldtravel.com).

A few are closer to home – Loyd & Townsend Rose (ltr.co.uk), which specialises in house rentals, is very excited about Wilderness Retreats, a group of new properties on an estate in Sibton, Suffolk, including both a 12-bed butlered-up Grade II Listed Georgian manor house (from £4,000) and the highly romantic off-grid Hex Cottage with no electricity or wi-fi (from £200, wildernessreserve.com).

Stevie Christie from Wilderness Scotland is also at Pure – a marine biologist will be taking his guests to swim with basking sharks on the West Coast near Skye this year, although to keep numbers low it has been left off the company's website. The itinerary also takes in the Corryreckan Whirlpool near Jura – four nights from £650pp B&B and RIB excursions (wildernessscotland.com).

Space might be the next step for tourism but it turns out that there's still plenty to explore on Earth. Once you know where to go.

Have serious money and the truly remote becomes possible

based on set departures in June including all accommodation, activities, internal and international flights (steppes-travel.co.uk).

If you haven't got the time for a round the world cruise, try one by private jet. This year, not one but two companies are offering global trips on customised jets.

Intrav's private jet has been refitted with flat beds. Its itinerary whisks you around the world – including hard-to-reach destinations such as Easter Island and Bora Bora – well Sydney and the Taj Mahal. Think of

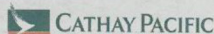


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*Travel periods: 24 – 31 Dec 2013; 01 Feb. 2014 – 25 Mar. 2014; 01 Apr. 2014 – 12 Jun. 2014; 12 Jun. 2014 – 01 Nov. 2014. Other travel dates and fares available. Fares include all taxes and surcharges. Fares are correct at time of going to press. All fares are subject to availability.



Country life: Georgian Sibton Hall, above, and a room, right, at Hex Cottage set in acres of Suffolk countryside