

'Lies about my mum are grotesque'



Brigitte Macron's daughter on truth, conspiracy and her unusual family

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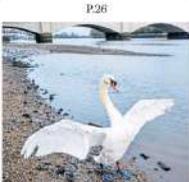
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Our critics reveal the must-sees of the season



Plan for league table of migrant crime

Senior Tories demand detailed analysis to toughen visa and deportation policies

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

THE migrant nationalities with the highest rates of crime will be revealed in league tables under plans to be considered by ministers.

The proposal, backed by senior Tory MPs, would require the crime rates of each nation's migrants in England and Wales to be published annually. Ministers would present a report to Parliament each year detailing the nationality, visa status and asylum status of every offender convicted in English and Welsh courts in the previous 12 months. Such a move would mirror an approach by some US states and Denmark, where the crime rates of those from Kuwait, Tunisia, Lebanon and Somalia are eight times those of Danish nationals.

The plan, set out in an amendment to the Government's Criminal Justice Bill, would enable the Home Office to toughen visa and deportation policies for nationalities linked to higher rates of crime. It is understood that the Government's main concern is regarding the practicality of implementing the plan, as ministers have no ideological objections to it. A government source said: "We will certainly look properly at this amendment and engage with colleagues in the usual way."

The plan has been put forward by Robert Jenrick, the former immigration minister, and has been backed by more than a dozen Tory MPs including Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg, the former business secretary, on the right of the party and Sir Robert Buckland, the former justice secretary, on the centre-left.

Mr Jenrick said: "We cannot hope to fix our immigration system without understanding the problem. The national debate on legal and illegal migration is hindered by a lack of data on the fiscal, economic and societal impacts of migration. "There is mounting concern that the UK is importing crime, particularly vio-

lent crime, sexual assaults and drug production. We need to have transparency so the public knows what's happening and policy can be formulated accordingly."

Rishi Sunak, the Prime Minister, is fighting to get a grip on illegal and legal migration following his pledge to stop the boats. Polls show that dissatisfaction with the Conservatives' immigration policies is at its highest level since Brexit, with the Conservatives shedding support to the Reform party on the issue.

Backers of the league table plan believe it will help the Government strengthen immigration policy on three fronts. First, they said it would allow the Home Office to tighten screening of visas from countries with nationals linked to higher crime rates in the UK. A similar approach could be taken to asylum applications. They also say it would enable the Home Office to focus depor-

'There is mounting concern that the UK is importing crime, particularly violent crime'

tations and returns agreements on these countries.

Sir Robert said Denmark and the UK had a similar approach to tackling immigration, as both countries had developed proposals to process asylum claims of migrants in Rwanda. "The Danes think similarly to us. They were the ones looking at third-country processing agreements. I don't think anyone can suggest they are not being rightly adopting a robust and fair approach," he said.

Among MPs backing the plan are former ministers Andrea Jenkyns, Sir Simon Clarke, Neil O'Brien, Jonathan Djanogly, Sir Desmond Swayne, Sarah Dines, Sir James Tackleyidge, Heather Wheeler and Caroline Johnson.

'Playing Maitlis was harder than Thatcher'



Actress Gillian Anderson found the prospect of portraying Emily Maitlis's interview with Prince Andrew 'so scary' that she initially declined the role in the forthcoming film *Scoop*. She said: 'It was even more daunting than playing Mrs Thatcher'. Review: Pages 8-9

DUP leader arrested over historical sex abuse

By Martin Evans and Charles Hymas
SIR JEFFREY DONALDSON has been forced to quit as leader of the Democratic Unionist Party after he was charged with multiple historical sex offences including rape. The 61-year-old stood down yesterday with 10 offences relating to two alleged victims. He was bailed and faces a court appearance in Newry, Co Down, next month according to the Police Service

of Northern Ireland. His bail conditions are understood to prevent contact with a 57-year-old woman who was arrested and charged with aiding and abetting additional offences.

Sir Jeffrey, a married father-of-two, is understood to have travelled to London after being charged, but the DUP has told the Speaker of the House of Commons that he will not attempt to enter the Parliamentary estate. Gavin Robinson MP, the DUP's deputy leader, was installed as interim

leader with immediate effect, but the party now faces the prospect of a possible leadership election, which could threaten to destabilise the already fragile power-sharing agreement in Stormont.

No 10 was taken by surprise by the news, with sources saying Downing Street found out at the same time as everyone else. It is unclear how long police had been investigating but Sir Jeffrey was arrested and questioned for 15

Continued on Page 4

NEWS

Iran journalist stabbed at his London home

A Britain-based Iranian journalist has been stabbed outside his London home. Pouria Zeraati, who hosts a show on the Persian language network Iran International, was attacked as he left his home yesterday. *The Telegraph* understands he was heading to work at about 3.35pm when he was approached by a man outside his house. The man attempted to engage him in conversation before another suspect came up behind him and began slashing at him with a knife. Page 11

NEWS

King will take 'gentle steps' back to duties

The King will go to church on Easter Sunday but will not host lunch afterwards as part of a tweaked schedule to allow him to greet the public. The King hopes to walk to and from St George's Chapel, in Windsor, after agreeing modifications to the Royal family's traditional Easter diary. It will be his first outside-appearance since embarking on treatment for cancer nearly two months ago, in what has been described as 'gentle steps' towards returning to some duties. Page 7

NEWS

Post Office 'knew Horizon was faulty'

The Post Office claimed in court it was impossible Horizon was to blame for financial shortfalls despite commissioning a report in 2016 that found the software system was faulty. A newly discovered 148-page report from Deloitte, titled *Bramble*, found that staff at Fujitsu, which built and ran Horizon, could remotely alter subpostmasters' cash accounts. The report from Deloitte repeatedly mentions that Post Office management was told about the findings. Page 9

WORLD

Israel kills Syrian colonel in strike

Israel assassinated a Syrian colonel in Damascus and a senior Hezbollah commander in Lebanon in a series of pinpointed strikes amid the largest attacks on neighbouring countries since the start of the war in Gaza. An apparent explosive device planted in the car of a colonel of the Syrian army west of yesterday morning in the suburbs of the Syrian capital Damascus, the UK-based rights group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Page 14

BUSINESS

Public sector pensions bill hits £2.6 trillion

The public sector pensions bill is now larger than the size of the UK economy after it past £2.6 trillion for the first time, official figures show. The Treasury said NHS pension liabilities alone climbed above £1 trillion, while the cost of pension promises to public sector workers including doctors, civil servants and teachers ballooned by £333 billion to reach £2.64 trillion by 2021-22. The jump in liabilities was driven by a substantial downgrade to growth prospects. Page 31

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AUDEMARS PIGUET BOUTIQUES LONDON: SLOANE STREET, HARRODS FINE WATCHES AP HOUSE LONDON - NEW BOND STREET

TRAVEL

Britain's best restaurants with rooms

Some food is worth staying the night for – and these hotels and inns have upped their gourmet game, says Tabitha Joyce



Over the past decade, the way we travel has changed dramatically – and one of the biggest shifts has been the prioritisation of food. Our grandparents would have balked at the idea of travelling the length of the country for the sake of a restaurant – but now, trips around the world are being planned around a single dish.

With this movement comes the growth of a new breed of restaurant in Britain: the kitchens picking, then pickling, their beetroot; the farms rearing, smoking and curing their own pork; the places

to stay that started off as just a bedroom or two – perhaps upstairs, or across the road – for their diners to stumble into after an epic feast.

That feast is so good, it is worth staying the night for; and even then, it is as much about the breakfast as the bedroom interiors or the stand-alone bath tub. What travellers are looking for is a breakfast menu with a chef's spin – no more continental buffets with smoked salmon past its best.

A lot of the time, it is about being given no breakfast choice at all – such as sweet rice pudding

▲ Stay at Number One Brixton in Somerset and dine at its Michelin-starred Oup restaurant

and a croissant-meets-muffin at Number One Brixton. Or a short seasonal list not dissimilar to those you might see at dinner. At Updown Farmhouse in Kent, there isn't a mini jar of honey or a basket of croissants in sight – just dishes of homemade rhubarb and ginger jam for those who order it with a hunk of fresh-from-the-oven sourdough. Monachyle Mhor serves Scottish berries with crème fraîche, and at The Black Swan in Oldstead, Tommy Banks's team serves up a truffle omelette oozing Baron Bigod cheese with a chicory bun.

Interiors, too, have had an upgrade. Tired old rooms above pubs have been given thought-through design lifts with lovely local node fabrics by a talented village resident, or seasonal flowers delivered from a nearby estate displayed in artisanal ceramics. Or perhaps even a chic bell tent or a quirky cabin in the garden will be on offer.

Here are the addresses that have made hotels around the country up their gourmet game.

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Ski among the pristine peaks of Patagonia

Lucy Aspden-Kean goes heli-skiing for the first time and has a pioneering run named after her

There is a game that few skiers get to play in their lifetime. It is called “ski a run, name a run”. And there I was, hitting the jackpot on my first roll of the dice. Starting back at the ribbon I had carved into an untracked white canvas surrounded by sawtooth Andean peaks, I wondered how a mediocre skier like me had found herself in one of the planet’s most treasured wildernesses – and now had a first descent to her name.

Skiing in the remotest corners of Patagonia is perceived as the preserve of ski movie stars – and for the most part, it is. The region, which encompasses more than 400,000 square miles of Chile and Argentina, is among the most inaccessible places on the planet. It extends from the southern tip of the Andes, bound by lakes, fjords, rainforests and glaciers and flanked by the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. To experience its untouched terrain fully requires a thirst for adventure and a healthy bank balance.



The region’s name derives from the word *patagón*, possibly first used by Spanish explorers to describe the indigenous tribes they believed were giants. Skiing has long been possible in its commercial resorts close to major cities (Portillo, 90 miles from Santiago; Cerro Catedral, 12 miles from Bariloche). Now, the furthest outreaches of this colossal playground, home to some of the planet’s last untracked mountains, is accessible to skiers with no expert experience.

From its off-grid outpost Eleven Rio Palena Lodge, operator Eleven Experience is breaking new ground with its once-in-a-lifetime heli-skiing adventures. Founded by American couple Chad and Blake Pike, it has 13 properties worldwide, with the duo’s concept of “taking it to 11” defining the experience. Spread across three floors, the secluded seven-bedroom lodge sits on the bank of the Palena river. Arriving in a southern hemisphere spring – the heli-ski season operates from September to October – I found the surrounding 35 acres of private land green and bursting with wildlife.

Inside, the lodge was a luxurious mix of modern amenities and cosy aesthetics: polished wood floors, stone fireplaces and bookshelves bursting with ski literature, bird-spotting guidebooks and copies of *National Geographic*. As this is a five-star adventure lodge, there was also an equipment room stocked with all the toys needed for a week of exploration, plus a wood-fired hot tub, an outdoor *asado* area for barbecues and a giant terrace from which to gaze at the Milky Way. And, parked up on the lawn, two gleaming helicopters.

“Try not to let the helicopter take your energy, try to relax and don’t try to control the things you can’t,” was the first advice that lead guide Mike Barney gave me and my fellow novice heli-skiers at the safety briefing. We were shown videos on how to approach the machine (slowly, from the front half), how to huddle as it descends (crouch down, eyes up) and how to board (steadily when signalled). Next came what to expect from the skiing – and my anxiety about not having the technical skills to keep up filled me with dread.

“People think of heli-skiing as extreme but there is something for everybody,” Barney said. “We’re not jumping out of helicopters. It can be extreme, but we slow down the pace.”

The next morning I was up with the birds to watch our pilots prepare their machines. After breakfast, it was straight to the equipment room to fit our harnesses (essential when skiing over glacial terrain) and avalanche

The Telegraph's weekly snow and ski update

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Eleven Experience (001 970 315 7625; elevenexperience.com) offers heli-skiing at Eleven Rio Palena Lodge from Sept 15 to Oct 31 2024. Prices start at £12,543pn, including guided heli-skiing, equipment, full board, drinks, transfers and pre-planning. Return flights from London to Santiago with BA (0344 493 0787; britishairways.com) cost from £780, onward flights to Puerto Montt from £120 with Latam (0800 026 0728; latamairlines.com).

◀ All mine: Lucy Aspden-Kean skiing in Patagonia
 ▶ Heli-skiers living the dream



safety gear, as the guides loaded our skis and lunch supplies. We walked through a demonstration of the helicopter etiquette we had learned, and then tested our equipment thoroughly. Nerves settling, it was time for take-off.

The lodge’s lawn dropped away as we ascended out of the serene valley. What lay ahead was the most breathtaking landscape I had ever seen – more vast and dense with peaks than the Alps, closer to the drama of the Himalayas. As our pilots took a daredevil line through the rock towers of Las Tres Monjas (the three nuns), my heart skipped a beat. The slopes below us ranged from steep couloirs to rolling glaciers and winding blankets of white. From their base at the lodge, the Eleven team have a total of

2.3 million acres of terrain to survey – and the sheer scale means there is quite literally a slope to suit every ability.

“We’re exploring here, that’s what really inspires me,” said Barney. “Flying over new ridges into new areas and finding ski terrain, we’re mapping it all.” And that’s when the game begins.

For someone who has lived their life on the groomed, crowded pistes of the Alps, the experience of skiing on virgin snow, on unexplored mountains, is otherworldly. Barney set out ahead and I followed eagerly. A soft layer of spring powder allowed my skis to flow, at my own rhythm, down the mountainside.

The slope was wide and the gradient no steeper than an Alpine red run. I gained confidence with every turn,

trying to take it all in as I descended, hearing the whoops of enjoyment from the group behind me. I laughed out loud in disbelief and the sound echoed off the surrounding mountains. I was doing it – heli-skiing – and it wasn’t hard or scary: it was unadulterated euphoria.

I fist-pumped the air as I calmly carved to a stop next to Barney and the waiting helicopter, after a 600m descent. Looking back, I could clearly see the line I had tracked.

“It’s yours,” said my guide. “We haven’t skied that one before – so now you’re the first.” My body buzzed with feel-good endorphins.

True to the Eleven ethos, the following days delivered more of the same

After the groomed pistes of the Alps, skiing on virgin snow, on unexplored mountains, is otherworldly

sensory overload. After conquering six drops on our first day, we upped the pace to bag eight on our last – exploring areas mapped by our guides including runs named Schnitzel, Hung Jury and Excalibur. Barney estimated that we had discovered six new descents for his team to record and rate for future guests. Only in the untouched Himalayas, or in remote regions of Georgia, might skiers find comparative exploration at their fingertips.

Each run had its own characteristics, from steep and thigh-burning to rolling and tranquil – and each day included lunch in the field, sitting on ledges dug into the snowpack using our shovels, feasting on pre-packed meals and 360-degree views. One afternoon we collected a block of loose glacial ice from our picnic spot, and used it that evening in the pisco sours with which we toasted the success of our exploration.

Nor was it only on the slopes that Patagonia delivered adrenaline kicks. When the weather paused ski-play, the helicopters flew us to Eleven’s river camp for a day’s rafting on the Futaleufú River (translated as “big water”, the river begins in Los Alerces National Park in Argentina and descends through Patagonia). Other excursions included après in the hot springs of La Junta, paddleboarding on the Palena and trailblazing through dense coigue forests to the foot of the thundering El Tronador waterfall.

By the end of my week among the giants of Patagonia, my world had exploded with first-time experiences. But there was one final challenge – what to name my run? “Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds,” I informed Barney. “A small British stamp on this giant playground, and an ode to the all-time high of a ski holiday.”

Lucy Aspden-Kean was a guest of Eleven Experience



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