

TOURING

🎯 **Claudia Dowell** kicks off our travel section with all the touring news, updates and information that you need to know

I was delighted to hear about the stunning new tourist route in Scotland's north east (see right). On a recent trip to Speyside, I fell in love with the gorgeous scenery as I drove through Cairngorms National Park; the drive was made even more beautiful by the autumn colours. I couldn't keep the smile off my face as my Benimar Tessoro ate up mile upon glorious mile of the A9. I now can't wait to explore Royal Deeside and the coast. Perhaps the new route will relieve some of the pressure on the Western Isles (see Travel News, January 2018), while enhancing the economy of another part of Scotland.



You can explore the beautiful Cairngorms National Park on the North East 250

Scotland launches new driving route

Following the success of the North Coast 500 tourist route (see our Grand Tour in the November 2017 issue), a new Scottish driving route has just been launched.

The North East 250 covers some of the country's finest landscapes, in the Highlands and on the coast.

The 250-mile circular route encompasses the Cairngorms National Park, Speyside, the Moray coast, the east coast, Aberdeen and Royal Deeside.

Along the way, you can stop off to visit castles, explore mountains, beaches, forests and villages, and follow the Malt Whisky Trail.

The route, developed by Speyside businessman Guy

Macpherson-Grant, also has support from VisitScotland. Regional director Jo Robinson said: "This area has arguably the best scenery, landscapes and views in Scotland, and we anticipate the introduction of such a route will bring economic benefit to the area and its tourism businesses."

When we checked the website (www.northeast250.com) for scheme partners, we found just one campsite, Speyside Gardens (www.speysidegardens.com), one motorhome dealership, Dyce Caravans (www.dycecaravans.co.uk), and one hire firm, Go North Campers (www.gonorthcampers.com);

but it's early days yet, and partnerships will be added.

If you're planning a tour of the route and become a member (for £25 a year), you can download an itinerary, a printed route map (an interactive map is available at www.northeast250.com/interactive-map) and a North East 250 Passport, which can be stamped along the way.

In the secret world of spies

Its work was crucial during World War II and continues to fascinate its 250,000 visitors a year. Now, the listening posts, codebreaking machines and Colossus – the

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world's first electronic computer – at Bletchley Park, near Milton Keynes, join Jodrell Bank and Greenwich on Historic England's list of the top 10 science and innovation places to visit.

Part of its 'A history of England in 100 Places' campaign, the top 10 "demonstrates that England has a long tradition of finding creative solutions to problems of worldwide significance", said Historic England chief executive Duncan Wilson. "It's vital we remember these places and events as an inspiration to continuing our tradition of experimenting, inventing and creating."

The museum at Bletchley Park is open all year; for further information, visit www.bletchleypark.org.uk.

Broaden horizons with your phone

You are getting tired and that hill in front of you is looming large, but might there be a tearoom or a pub beyond it?

You can now find out by using the OS Maps app, with augmented reality. Just pan round the landscape with your phone or tablet and the app will be able to identify and label features.

If you have data connection, tap the label to see a page of useful information, such as walks and places to stay.

Ordnance Survey recommends that you still use paper maps when out walking, but recognises that many people like to use their phone for navigation. "This new feature gives you a clear context of your environment," said digital product manager Tim Newman. To find out more, visit www.os.uk/getoutside/AR.

Don't miss Vicarious Media's latest **All the Aires** guide

Run Cottage now for adults only

Suffolk's Run Cottage Touring Park, a regular finalist in our *Top 100 Sites Guide*, is switching to being for adults only from 1 January 2018. The family-run site, located on Suffolk's Heritage Coast, offers 45 large pitches set in 4.5 acres of parkland, with an abundance of wildlife.

A pitch on the year-round site costs £20 per night, but this reduces to £18 per night if you book more than two nights up to 23 March.

See more of Spain & Portugal

Dropping into *Practical Motorhome's* in-tray recently was the latest (fifth) edition of Vicarious Media's *All the Aires Spain and Portugal*, the essential guide for motorcaravanners heading to the Iberian peninsula.

The guide includes 200 new aires, bringing the total number featured to 636 inspected aires across Spain and Portugal, 314 LPG Autogas stations and 112 open-all-year campsites.

The guide, which costs £18.50 and is available from <http://bit.ly/2zjzMWZ>, includes a very handy map listing the aires on one side and LPG stations and campsites on the flip side. ©



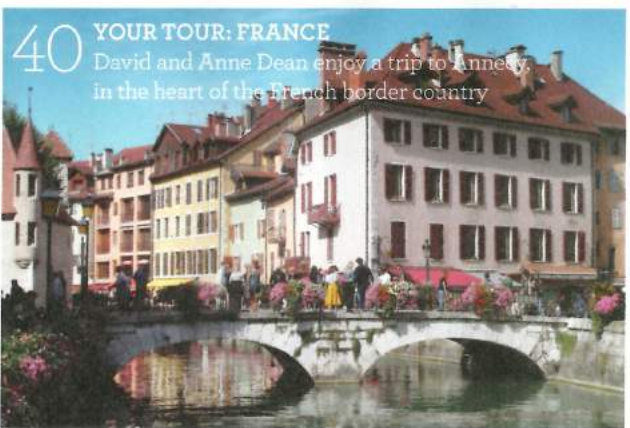
In this month's travel...



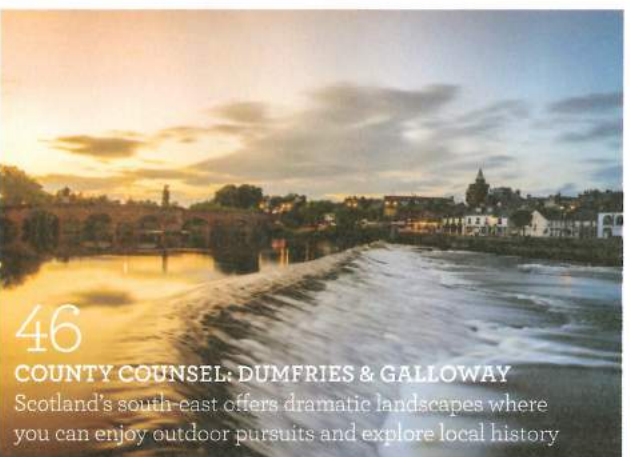
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Scotland's south-east offers dramatic landscapes where you can enjoy outdoor pursuits and explore local history

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TOUR WITH YOUR DOGS? Here's what you need to know about how to keep both pet and owner happy: <http://bit.ly/2hQZ5oq>