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THE **LIST** GLASGOW AND EDINBURGH EVENTS GUIDE

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Ashley Jensen

On Extras, Ugly Betty and LA

Glasgow Fashion Week

Meet the designers

**Swietujac polska
kulture w szkockim stylu**

Celebrating Polish
culture Scottish-style

Dolly Parton

Figure of fun or country queen?



Great Escape

How far can you
travel on £50?



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Destinations

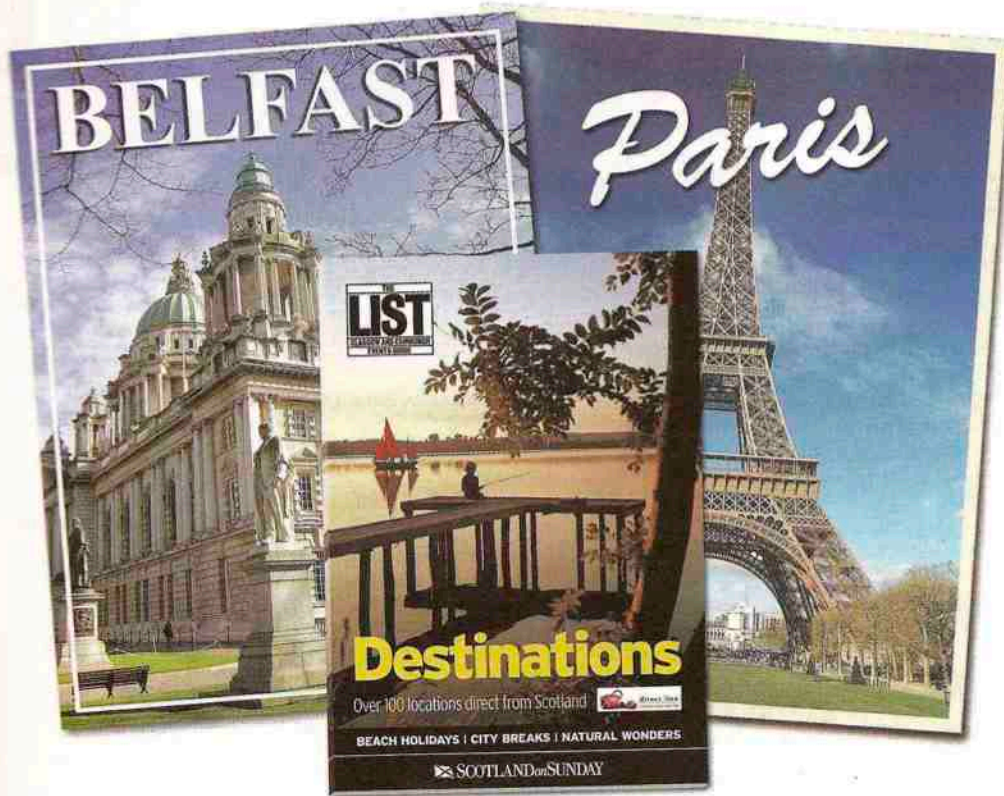
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SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY

CONTENTS

15 - 29 March



Cover story: Travel special

Just how far will £50 get you? We asked two intrepid travellers to find out – with impressive results. Ben Connor is charmed by Belfast and Eileen Heuston proves that Paris isn't just for big spenders. Find out more on page 22. And if that isn't enough to put a smile on your sun-starved face, we have scoured the globe to put together a bumper guide to travel destinations within easy reach of Scotland which we are giving away free with this issue.

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Reader Offers

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- **19 2 for 1** at Juice Almighty **2 for 1** at Magners Glasgow Comedy Festival
- **19 Win** tickets to VERSAcoustic **Win** first class travel to London
- **23 Win** a bottle of rum for an interesting travel anecdote
- **40 Win** tickets for Mark Nelson at Magners Glasgow Comedy Festival
- **96 Win** Okami videogame and T-shirts

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In desperate need of a holiday but desperately short of cash? Take inspiration from our two adventuring writers who were given the task of getting as far away from Scotland (and back) as they could in 24 hours for under £50. Read on to discover what happened next . . .



The great escape



BEN CONNOR

After leaving my home in Sydney, Australia and budget-travelling the world for a year, somehow in the past six months I have become stationary, living and working in Edinburgh. I couldn't resist the challenge of getting out on the road again.

Legoland in Denmark was close and appealing. Riga, the capital of Latvia, I'd heard was cheap, but no matter how hard I searched I couldn't find flights for under £50. I toyed with idea of stowing aboard a commercial ship to Denmark but legality was an issue. Belfast perhaps? Its troubled past gives it a gritty appeal and I've always liked Guinness.

Eureka! A quick internet search revealed a return rail and ferry journey for only £38 when booked two days in advance. I would only have four hours in the city but quick phone enquiries established bicycles could travel for no extra charge and there is no cheaper or better way to see a city than on a bike. I did a quick search of Belfast attractions and planned a loose itinerary.

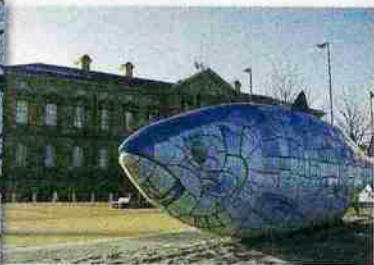
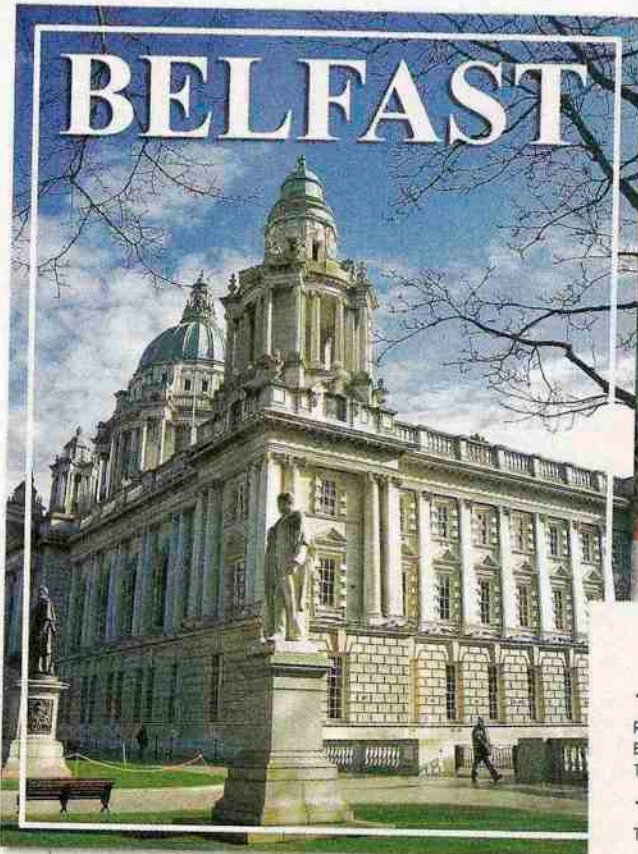
Two days later I'm up at 4:15am. I hurriedly dress, eat breakfast, fill my coffee thermos, and make a packed lunch before grabbing my neighbour's bike and heading out the door. It's pitch black outside as I ride to Edinburgh's Waverley station, climb aboard the 4:50am train to Glasgow then promptly fall asleep.

7:13am. On the train to Stranraer, the sun is out and the sky's a brilliant blue. I pass through dazzling countryside.

9:55am presents a contrast as I step onboard the ferry to Belfast to find myself in a floating modern mall. There are cinemas, video game parlours, fruit machines, restaurants and shops.

At 12:20pm we arrive, late, at Belfast port and I've missed the city bus connection. With only four hours till the last returning ferry, I decide to make my own way on a two-wheeled tourist blitz of the city.

Exiting the port area I'm immediately faced with one of the city's famed murals which I would have missed if I'd caught the bus – an



THE GREAT ESCAPE
BELFAST TRIP

RETURN RAIL AND FERRY JOURNEY	38.00
BUSKERS	2.00
TWO HALF PINTS OF GUINNESS	3.00
TOTAL	43.00

WHILE NOT A PARTICULARLY BEAUTIFUL CITY, THERE IS SOMETHING ENDEARING ABOUT BELFAST

impressive depiction, in black, white and brilliant red, of transport workers pulling a loaded cart. Closer inspection reveals it is dedicated to the Irish Transport and General Workers Union.

Zippering down York Street, I happen upon the glorious St Anne's Cathedral before continuing on to Donegal Place and past the massive, domed City Hall. A fantastic Balkan brass band is busking on a corner: I give them £2. Moving on, to the Crown Liquor Saloon, I stop to enjoy a half pint of Guinness (£1.50) and talk with the barmen.

With two hours until the ferry departs, I visit the Botanical Gardens, ride by the famous

Queen's University and race down the riverside bike trail – admiring waterside sculptures (including a particularly impressive big blue fish tiled mosaic). That leaves me with just enough time to check out the Albert Memorial Clock Tower and to pop into the 300-year-old Duke of York bar (half pint £1.50). It's over.

While not a particularly beautiful city, there is something endearing about Belfast with its friendly locals, diverse architectural styles, sculptures and murals colouring the ultimately dreary urban landscape.

I board the ferry with £7 to spare, shattered but happy to have rediscovered the adventurer within.