

Edited by  
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# What's new... **ES**Travel



**Steps to heaven:**  
the Anantara resort  
opens in June

## SURF'S UP IN INDONESIA

### DESTINATION BALI

THAILAND-BASED Anantara Hotels, Resorts and Spas is preparing to launch its newest spa resort on the south-western tip of Bali.

Opening this June, the Anantara Uluwatu Resort & Spa appears to cling to the limestone cliff 200ft high above a reef break.

Each of the 77 spacious suites – set over the 1.7-hectare resort comprising a cliff-top infinity pool,

spa cabanas and three restaurants – will have Balinese art, Bose home entertainment systems and, of course, views of the ocean.

The resort will also have its own range of surf boards, shaped by locals, with the hotel teaming up with

surf specialist company Tropic Surf to offer instruction.

If you get carried away by the romantic setting there is also a wedding chapel on site.

■ *Doubles from £310 B&B, [balianantarauluwatu.com](http://balianantarauluwatu.com)*

### WEEKEND IDEA



The Bedruthan Steps hotel with spa on the clifftops of Mawgan Porth, Cornwall, has a bread-making break with local baker Tom Hazzledine. Two nights from £264pp full board with two days baking (based on two sharing a non-seaview room). Available March 11-13. ■ [bedruthan.com](http://bedruthan.com)

### WHAT'S GOING ON IN...

#### VALENCIA, MARCH 15-19

■ The famous Las Fallas festival, celebrating St Joseph, includes burning effigies and huge bonfires, with an amazing fireworks finale, [turisvalencia.es](http://turisvalencia.es)

■ Iberia has return flights from Heathrow to Valencia from £176, [ebookers.com](http://ebookers.com)

### LAST MINUTE HOTEL NEWS

■ The 270-room Mondrian SoHo, New York, opened on March 1. Guests enter via a lush garden on Crosby Street to the grand interior filled with marble, mirrors and chef Sam Talbot's Imperial No. Nine restaurant. Doubles from \$259 B&B, [mondriansoho.com](http://mondriansoho.com)

■ The English Wine Centre and Cuckmere Barns near Alfriston, East Sussex, opens a new boutique hotel in a traditional Sussex barn in its grounds in May. Doubles from £130 B&B, [englishwine.co.uk](http://englishwine.co.uk)

### AHEAD OF THE PACK

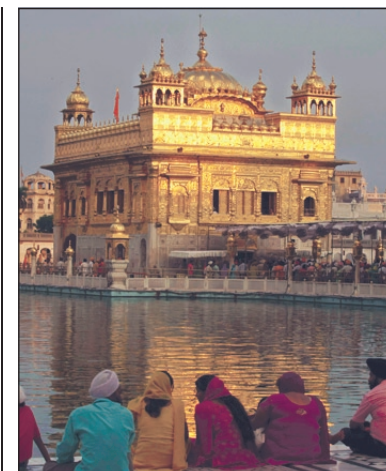
The Tumi iPad Case has a sleek new design featuring a textured neoprene exterior, padded interior and a top zip closure.

The cases come in Red (£75), Black (£55), Black Python Print (£75) and Black/Silver (£65). Available from the Tumi store, 170 Piccadilly W1, [tumi.com](http://tumi.com)



### ROUTE NEWS

BA launches a new route from Gatwick to San Juan in Puerto Rico on March 28, return fares from £668.90, [ba.com](http://ba.com)



**Long way round:** to get to Amritsar, our passenger had to stop at Delhi

## DIRECT DOES NOT MEAN 'NON-STOP'

Simon **says**

**SIMON CALDER**

### When is a direct flight indirect?

THAT'S vexing Ajmer Chahal. He bought a ticket from Heathrow to the golden city of Amritsar in north-west India, choosing Air India because "they were the only airline who flew direct".

So what actually happened? The Boeing 777 flew from Heathrow to Delhi. At the Indian capital, he had to change planes, to a narrow-bodied Airbus, for the final one-hour hop. Ajmer is furious. "My tickets just say Heathrow to Amritsar. I feel ripped off."

According to the schedules, Air India flight 116 departs from London Heathrow daily at 1.30pm, arriving at Amritsar just before sunrise at 5.35am next day. What could possibly go wrong? Well, Ajmer unwittingly discovered that "direct" does not mean "non-stop".

Air New Zealand flies from Heathrow "direct" to Auckland every day but has to refuel in Hong Kong or Los Angeles. And BA and Virgin Atlantic can profitably serve smaller Caribbean islands direct from Gatwick only as add-on hops from bigger destinations such as Antigua. Some airlines – including Air India – stretch the term "direct" to cover any journey to which they assign a single flight number. Even though Ajmer had to land, clear immigration, pick up baggage and check in again, AI116 is officially "direct".

The lesson: online, check to see if the giveaway code "A/C change" appears. Or, if you still prefer to buy travel from a human being – ask if there are stops along the way.

■ *Simon Calder is senior travel editor of The Independent*

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