

DARTMOOR is to be given a new name – in Chinese. As part of a campaign by VisitBritain, various parts of the country and British traditions will be given Chinese names to attract visitors from the Far East. Dartmoor, right, joins Agatha Christie's English Riviera and cream tea to represent Devon in the list of 101 points of interest that have been selected to

feature in the upcoming campaign by the tourist board. The Chinese often give new names to popular celebrities and places. Indeed British actor Benedict Cumberbatch has been named "Curly Fu". The 101 British locations and traditions to be renamed will be announced over the next ten weeks. See the campaign site at visitbritain.com/greatnames.



CHRISTMAS is one of the busiest times of year to travel, so anything to make it easier has to be a winner. Resorthoppa arranges airport shuttles and taxis so you can sort out your transfers in advance – and for surprisingly little money. The company says its most popular areas at this time of year are the Canary Islands,

the Algarve, Cancun in Mexico, Barbados and Orlando, Florida. Geneva is also popular for skiers. Prices start from £12 per person for a transfer from New York JFK to Manhattan. Bookings in December come with an extra 15 per cent off if you remember to use the code ESCAPE15. See resorthoppa.com.

HOT SPOT IT IS 28°C in EGYPT... save up to £437 on a week in Sharm El Sheikh. All inclusive at the 3★ Club Azure is from £357 with Thomson Skytours. Departs Newcastle December 18. Visit thomson.co.uk.

HOT SPOT IT IS 30°C in the CARIBBEAN... get two weeks in Jamaica from £763 via Skyscanner. That is for room only at the 3★ Treasure Beach Hotel in Montego Bay, flying from Manchester on December 30. See skyscanner.net.

Edited by **LISA MINOT**



travel

6 pages of holidays

LATES FOR... VENICE: Save up to £185 per couple on a four-night stay next month.

Citalia has B&B at 4★ Savoia e Jolanda, with flights from Glasgow on Jan 19. See citalia.com or call 01293 731 753.

THAILAND: Book now for selected dates next year in Hua Hin. Travelbag has ten nights' room-only at the 3★ Regent Cha Am Beach Resort from £549 for travel between April 16 and October 31 from Heathrow. See travelbag.co.uk or call 0845 543 6615.

AUSTRALIA: Get out and about down under from £995. Austravel has flights from Heathrow plus car hire and four nights room-only at the 4★ Cambridge Hotel, Sydney, then three at the 4★ Novotel Coffs Harbour Bay, for travel in May. See austravel.com or call 0800 988 4834.

EGYPT: Soak up the sun with seven nights in Sharm El Sheikh. Save up to £84 per person at the 5★ Golden View Beach Resort – Sovereign has B&B from £595 for January 15 departures from Manchester. See sovereign.com or call 01293 731 566.

FLORIDA: Get 14 nights in Orlando from £595. That is room-only at the 3★ Clarion Inn Lake Buena Vista, saving up to £216 per person with Travel City Direct. Departs Gatwick Feb 2. See travelcitydirect.com or call 0844 557 6965.

LANZAROTE: Relax in the sun for under £200. Cosmos has a week in the Canaries from £180, self-catering at the 4★ El Trebol apartments in Costa Tegui. Departs Gatwick January 6. See cosmos.co.uk or call 0844 573 4261.

PRAGUE: Two nights in the Czech capital is from £99 with Broadway Travel. That is B&B at the 4★ U Divadla Hotel on selected dates in January and February, departing from various airports. See broadwaytravel.com/flash-sale/u-divadla.

NEW YORK: See the stars on Broadway next month. LetsGo2 has three nights' room-only at the 4★ Ameritania Hotel from £549, saving up to £120. Departs Heathrow Jan 10. See letsgo2.com.

MOROCCO: Save up to £380 on an all-inclusive week in the sun. First Choice has seven nights at the 4★ Medina Gardens in Marrakech this month. Departs Manchester on Dec 19. See firstchoice.co.uk or call 0871 200 7799.

WINDERMERE HOTEL IS PERFECT PLACE TO RELAX

Lake the weight off your feet

YACHT A VIEW ... lakeside vista, the Belsfield, below, and Wray Castle, bottom



THERE are rooms with great views... and then there are rooms with THIS view.

This sigh-inducing sight of Lake Windermere is from the window of the newly refurbished Belsfield Hotel in Bowness, Cumbria.

Whatever the weather, it is an incredible scene to wake up to.

When it is wet – as it was all day, all night and the entire following day and night of my visit – you can watch dark, dramatic clouds swirl round the Langdale Pikes and up to the Fairfield Horseshoe.

Obviously, the clouds look less foreboding from inside a beautiful, warm hotel room.

The Belsfield, fresh from a Laura Ashley takeover and makeover, is as gorgeous

inside as out. If you haven't been inside a Laura Ashley shop since the Eighties, you might be expecting fussy florals and lots of lavender.

This hotel, however, is super-elegant and modern, while still in keeping with the building's Victorian Italianate architecture.

The Belsfield is palatial and its grounds are stunning.

It is so grand, even the wallpaper sounds posh. The drawing room is decorated in "summer palace powder blue".

There is a smart library and lots of lounge areas furnished with cosy armchairs – perfect for a pot of coffee and the Sunday papers.

However, you can't come to the Lake District without taking a stroll.

My partner and I

loaded up beforehand with a superb English breakfast of juicy Cumberland sausages and fat slices of black pudding.

We donned our water-proofs and walking boots, then took the 50p car ferry over to the western shore.

From there, we walked four miles to Wray Castle, soaking up the incredible scenery and rich autumnal colours (as well as the rain).

We planned to get the bike ferry from there back

to Ambleside, but the ferry had stopped for the off-season the week before.

So we ended up walking another six miles to Ambleside. Tourist fail!

We certainly deserved that pint at the end of it. There are dozens of clearly sign-posted walks of varying difficulties, but don't miss out on a cruise on Windermere lake – it is the star attraction, after all.

There are trips to Ambleside and Lakeside, plus a 45-minute island tour that takes you past several grand temples and buildings including one bought by the Dunkin' Donuts heiress. All boats leave from a convenient jetty outside the hotel.

After all that fresh air you are sure to be famished. The hotel has two res-

taurants – the Brasserie, serving hearty grub such as Lancashire hotpot, and the Belsfield Restaurant, where you can spoil yourself (and your waistline) with a five-course meal.

Pleasingly, the chic lounge bar is open around the clock and was still gently buzzing at midnight.

Do the trick

There is no pressure to scam and no "last orders". It is rare for a hotel of this grandeur to be given a top-to-bottom makeover.

It is now as impressive as it must have been to the hotel's first guests in 1892.

So if you have someone you want to impress, this hotel will do the trick.

Just make sure they pack a raincoat.

EMMA YATES

GO: WINDERMERE

STAYING THERE: B&B this month at Laura Ashley's The Belsfield is from £119 per double room; see lauraashley-hotels.com or call 01539 442448.