

travel

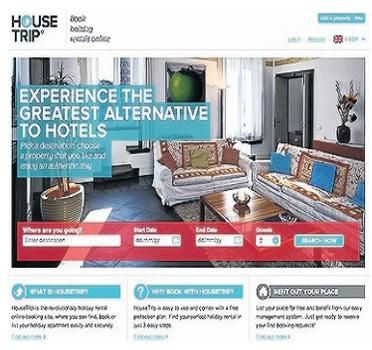
Late deals

■ Flying from Glasgow on September 16, seven nights in Zante staying in three-star accommodation on self catering from £357 per person.
 ■ Flying from Glasgow on September 22, 14 nights in Ibiza, staying in two-star accommodation on self catering from £437

per person.

■ Flying from Glasgow on October 1, seven nights in Lanzarote staying in three star accommodation from £375 per person. For these and other deals log onto www.barrheadtravel.co.uk or call 0800 054 2075.

See the sights from a rented city home



By Debbie Page

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ORGANISING a group or family trip to the big city can sometimes prove to be a big headache – and produce even larger bills for accommodation.

And no matter where you are in the world, finding a hotel that fits your budget can mean you end up being consigned to an industrial estate in the middle of nowhere.

But the growing popularity among homeowners to rent out their houses and apartments to holidaymakers means it's now perfectly possible to find affordable accommodation in the kind of neighbourhood where the locals actually want to live.

And that's how I ended up in a lovely, well-appointed house in London's very desirable Hampstead on a girly trip to see Madonna recently.

The advantages were apparent from the start. We could treat the place like our own and there was plenty of shared space to socialise in.

That was particularly handy as we were preparing for the main event of the evening with an afternoon "cocktails and pampering" party.

The house was more than big enough to cope with half a dozen excited women, a barman and four beauticians, who were on hand to make sure we were looking our best for our big night out.

There were also plenty of creature comforts in the bedrooms, which were clean and attractively presented, while one came with an en suite and another with its own shower and steam cubicle.

The house is on offer from £605 a night, but it can accommodate up to 10 people, making it very affordable for a large family trip to London or a hen party.

But the real beauty of booking through the specialist accommodation website www.housetrip.com is the variety of choice in both size and location.

Staying in residential areas also means you have an array of restaurants and bars on your doorstep.

Housetrip has properties throughout London – one of its biggest markets – including in arty districts such as

▲ CHOICES The Housetrip website

Shoreditch in east London, where hotels are very scarce. They cover the whole world too, with more than 114,000 properties in thousands of destinations, including all the most popular and commonly-visited city break stop-offs.

The cheapest property is a one-bedroom flat in central Athens at just £19 a night, while the most expensive is a ski chalet in Zermatt, Switzerland, which goes for £5808 a night.

Some are the owner's main home, rented out for a bit of extra cash while they are away, others are second homes.

Housetrip's payment policy guarantees you're safe from the possibility of rip-offs, scams and false advertising.

The owner doesn't get paid until 48 hours after the customer has arrived and Housetrip's customer services department can be contacted immediately if the home doesn't live up to its advertisement.

● Find your own home away from home at www.housetrip.com

Facts

- Debbie stayed courtesy of Housetrip.
- If you are interested in becoming a host, visit www.housetrip.com/en/free-listing-on-housetrip to set up your account.
- Listing is free and you set the terms, including the nightly rate you want to receive from guests.
- The rate advertised will include Housetrip's commission.
- The website advises you to set a realistic price to maximise your booking chances.

Facts

- Janice stayed courtesy of Clachan Cottage Hotel, Lochside, Lochearnhead, Perthshire FK19 8PU.
- For bookings and information email: info@clachancottagehotel.co.uk or call 01567 830247.



You've

By Janice Burns

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SCOTS stars Ewan McGregor and Gerard Butler are regulars at the stunning Clachan Cottage Hotel in Perthshire.

And after a few nights at this lovely hotel on the banks of Loch Earn, I could see why.

This place is simply stunning and the views across to Edinample Castle are to die for. It's all about location, location, location here.

Clachan Cottage Hotel in Lochearnhead is the perfect place to chill out, enjoy great food and take in the tranquillity.

This tiny village lies within the beautiful Trossachs National Park and is only 50 miles from Glasgow and 69 from Edinburgh.

Even if you prefer a more active holiday, there's no better place to be – it has some of the best mountains for walking and cycling and it's a

Taste some of best food in Scotland at Clachan on Loch Earn

mecca for watersports enthusiasts. Cyclists can't resist the Glen Ogle trail and route 7 of the Sustrans cycle network is five minutes away.

Just up the road from the Clachan is Lochearnhead Watersports, where you can experience everything from waterskiing to kayaking, wakeboarding to kneeboarding and even "speed boat blasts".

We gave kayaking a try and loved every minute of it, even struggling

in and out of the wetsuits. The Clachan is ideal for couples or families and has 20 newly refurbished, en-suite bedrooms with fluffy white Egyptian cotton towels and flat-screen TVs.

Ten double rooms face directly on to the loch, from where you can relax and watch the sun set over Ben Vorlich, as the ospreys circling overhead swoop down and catch a trout in front of you.

There are also three newly created large family rooms, which also have great views.

Owner Alan Garnier is the perfect host and makes sure that all his customers get the A-list treatment.

He and his family are watersports enthusiasts and the hotel has its own slipway, as well as jetting and mooring facilities, which customers are welcome to use.

He also has his own boat moored at the front of the hotel and often takes his regulars out for a sail.

Alan and his staff also serve up excellent food in the Birch sports