

OUR Spotlight On column shines a light on the best things to see and do in popular holiday destinations, and some spots relatively under the radar. This week we go Stateside to focus on the Ohio city of Cincinnati, which now has direct British Airways flights from Heathrow six times a week.



CINCINNATI

MUST SEE/DO: Stretching along the Ohio River between Cincinnati's two major sports stadiums, Paycor Stadium and the Great American Ball Park, The Banks has transformed the city's waterfront. Explore Smale Riverfront Park, catch a game, dine at riverside restaurants or simply soak up views across the river to northern Kentucky.

The district is also home to the Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame, an interactive attraction celebrating the artists, musicians and cultural pioneers who helped shape American music.

HIDDEN GEM: Tucked away north of downtown, the American Sign Museum has hundreds of restored vintage neon signs, marquees and advertising displays, offering a colourful journey through American commercial history.

BEST VIEW: Perched high above the Ohio River, Devou Park offers sweeping panoramic views of the Cincinnati skyline. The city, riverfront and surrounding hills are framed in a single spectacular vista – it's the perfect sunset stop.

The AC Hotel at The Banks has a stylish rooftop bar that overlooks the riverfront, a relaxed spot to enjoy cocktails while taking in sweeping views of the stadiums, skyline and waterfront energy below.

RATED RESTAURANT: Wildweed is one of Cincinnati's buzziest new restaurants. Offering a Mid West take on pasta, it uses local grains and eggs to create beautifully striped handmade pastas. Named One To Watch in North America's 50 Best Restaurant Awards, its signature dish is red and yellow striped chicken tortelli with a Vietnamese-style broth and herb salad.

For a local institution, head to Camp Washington Chili – serving up 3-Way, a uniquely spiced chilli with spaghetti and Cheddar cheese – or 4-Way, with the addition of onions or beans.

BEST BAR: Hidden several storeys beneath downtown Cincinnati, Ghost Baby sits inside 19th-century tunnels built by German brewers who needed cool temperatures for storing beer before refrigeration.

The tunnels later gained a secretive reputation during Prohibition, adding to their intrigue. Today, the bar uses this historic underground space to serve up an intimate mix of cocktails and live music.

HOTEL PICK: Opening next month, the Fidelity Hotel is a beautifully restored grand Beaux Arts building – originally built by Alice Claypoole Gwynne Vanderbilt, wife of the railroad tycoon Cornelius Vanderbilt II and the former HQ of laundry and beauty giant Procter & Gamble.

The modern rooms range from luxury doubles to high-end bunk rooms for groups, with rates from £140 a night.



COOL . . . Cincinnati's Ghost Baby bar

HOLIDAYMAKERS are being warned about the dangers of around 600,000 high-risk batteries flying through Scottish airports this weekend.

The Civil Aviation Authority is advising passengers to "pack right for a safe flight, as schools break for summer.

The regulator has revealed the risk of fire from lithium batteries in things like power banks, vapes, portable speakers and even electric toothbrushes if packed in



checked baggage.

As part of a summer campaign with airlines and airports, the CAA is advising holidaymakers to take their rechargeable lithium batteries in the cabin with them.

Passengers are also being warned to never charge a power bank on a flight and to turn off laptops completely if they're being checked in with baggage.

Giancarlo Buono, Director of Aviation Safety at the UK Civil



Aviation Authority, said: "Flying is by far the safest way to travel and we want to keep it that way. Scottish passengers must pack right for a safe flight, and that means don't put your batteries in your checked bag. Take them onboard with you.

"This simple tip will make your flight safer for you, and the other passengers you're flying with."

Lithium battery incidents now occur twice a week, with reports of overheating or malfunctioning passenger devices nearly doubling between 2024 and 2025.

...SET SAIL: A 12-night Canary Islands cruise onboard MSC Virtuosa with rugby legends Ben Cohen MBE, Ben Kay MBE and Neil Back MBE, as well as Strictly star Kristina Rihanoff and the Chase's Dark Destroyer Shaun Linford, is from £1,049pp. Departs Southampton on August 8 calling at Vigo, Madeira, Las Palmas, Tenerife, Lanzarote and Cadiz. See [msccruises.co.uk](https://www.msccruises.co.uk).

...HOLIDAY: A four night family



summer holiday stay at the Belfry Hotel & Resort in Sutton Coldfield, Midlands, is from £699 for a family of up to four including breakfast and use of club facilities. Use code use promo code 443 at [thebelfry.com/offers](https://www.thebelfry.com/offers).

...ISLE BE THERE: Three nights room only at the 4★ Hesperia Ciudad De Mallorca is from £489pp leaving Glasgow airport on July 14. See [jet2holidays.com](https://www.jet2holidays.com) or call

0800 408 5594.

...DEVONLY: A week self-catering at Ladram Bay Holiday Park in Budleigh Salterton, Devon is from £1,198 for up to eight sharing a Budleigh Premier Plus 3 (with decking) holiday home, arriving June 29. Use code STAY20 at [ladrambay.co.uk](https://www.ladrambay.co.uk).

...DUB-AYE: Seven nights room only at the 4★ NH Collection Dubai The Palm is from £876pp leaving Glasgow airport on August 10. See [thomas-cook.com](https://www.thomas-cook.com).



...DUST off your cowboy boots and boogie on down with Marella Cruises, with the return of its adult only country music themed cruise, 'Country Rhythms'. The cruise on Marella Explorer in November 11-16, 2027, will include a line up of singers and acts, country themed activities including a Barn Dance, country themed production

shows and line dancing classes.

The four-night 'Country Rhythms 1' sailing leaves Malaga calling at Gibraltar; Puerto del Rosario, Fuerteventura and finishing in Gran Canaria or add an extra night taking in Tenerife.

Prices from £749pp, including flights from Glasgow. See [tui.co.uk](https://www.tui.co.uk).

YOU MIGHT ARRIVE A STRANGER ON SOLO GREEK HOL ..BUT YOU'LL LEAVE WITH FRIENDS



STYLISH RESORT . . .
Lindian Dream Seaside hotel's room, pool and extravagant dessert

GOING on solo holidays often feels a bit daunting, especially when you are spending the week in the company of strangers as part of a singles group.

But few companies do holidays for singles better than Friendship Travel, and from the moment your rep meets you at the airport any worries soon disappear.

I've been with Friendship in the past but it had been a while, so I was keen to find out how the 2026 version compared to the older FT.

One of the most popular destinations for solo travellers is Greece and I picked the beautiful village of Lindos on the island of Rhodes for my week's stay.

Ease the nerves

The 5★ adults only resort of Lindian Dream Seaside Resort, situated halfway between Lindos and the seaside town of Pefkos has recently changed owners, who are keen to promote the luxury and exclusivity angle.

I flew to Rhodes with the excellent Jet2, and, despite the horror stories of customs delays at airports throughout Europe, I sailed through arrivals, and 15 minutes after landing was met by the rep and taken straight to the private transport and was at the hotel 45 minutes later.

The rooms at Lindian Dreams are big, comfy, all with huge beds, a mini-fridge and most with a balcony. It's a beautiful looking resort and I enjoyed taking it all in with a glass of something cold on my sea-facing balcony.

I met my fellow solo travellers next morning at breakfast and was glad to see the Friendship way of everyone eating together at all meal times was still in

place. It's the ideal way to get to know everyone.

Although we were sat at the same two large tables, the rep encouraged us to swap seats so we could get to know everyone in the group.

Simple but very effective and it helped ease the nerves for any first-time solo travellers.

There was also a pre-dinner drinks meet up every night which was another good way to chat with others in the group I hadn't caught up with before.

Where I and the group spent most of our time was the undoubted star attraction of Lindian Dream – the magnificent pool area and attached private beach, both the perfect spot to

chill out and enjoy the sun and the sea.

The massive main pool, with a bridge over it to the pool bar, was understandably incredibly popular, and with it's breathtaking views of the turquoise waters of the Aegean Sea it's a unique setting. There's also a smaller pool attached and even at really busy times there was never a problem getting one of the super-comfortable sunbeds.

A few steps away is the hotel's private sandy beach, with plenty of sunbeds.

If you fancy treating yourself the resort have recently added four cabana-style beds on the beach which are ideal for staying cool in the baking heat. There's

waiter service at both the pool and beach, so I could enjoy drinks and food without having to leave me sunbed – sheer bliss.

The excellent pool bar Aeria also serves up delicious lunches with breath-taking views.

Talking of food, breakfast is a massive buffet selection of fruit, cereals, yoghurts, cheeses, ham, hot freshly cooked items, pastries, Greek specialities and US style pancakes.

But the new owners decided to ditch the buffet option for dinner in the classy Navarone main restaurant and made it a la carte.

In my humble opinion it's a much better idea and makes it feel more like you going out for a meal. There a different menu

every night, with four courses offering great choices which we took full advantage of, as part of the Friendship Travel package guests get five evening meals included, as well as a glass of wine, a beer or soft drink.

It's a real sociable event where you catch up with the rest of the group as they all share stories about their day's activities.

On Monday nights there's a special Greek-themed night with live music and that is the one evening where there is buffet service with a mouth-watering selection of local dishes.

The food was spectacular and definitely my favourite.

If you fancy splashing out on a special treat the hotel's fine

dining fusion restaurant Onar offers something different to experience, the highlight being their food and wine tasting evening each Thursday.

Saturday and Sunday were "free nights" for the group where we were left to arrange our own spot for dinner but the rep was very helping in suggesting restaurants in Lindos, Pefkos or nearby villages.

As much as it was tempting to spend my entire holiday lazing by THAT incredible pool or the beach, Friendship offer a varied programme of excursions to lure me away from the resort.

These include a trip to Rhodes Town (either during day or at night), jeep safari, several differ-

ent boat trips, Lindos By Night, which lets you explore the many lively rooftop bars in the town, and also day trips to some of the region's best beaches.

There is a huge choice of restaurants in nearby Pefkos, a ten minute cab ride from Lindian Dream, which works out about 3 euros each if there are three or four of you sharing.

One place I stumbled on and recommended to the group for dinner on our free nights was the family run multi-award winning Hellas restaurant on the outskirts of the town.

It was so good I went there on both our free nights.

The food is next level and beautifully presented – we're

talking Masterchef professionals standard – with the accent on the best of Rhodes cooking using all local produce.

The wine selection is also outstanding, and it's a fantastic, lively atmosphere with very friendly staff and superb service, a definite must visit.

On my last day at Lindian Dreams I was tempted by the spa which offers a wide range of treatments but the gym, well, not for me!

I may have arrived here a stranger but thanks to Friendship Travel I made plenty of new buddies and I know this will definitely not be my last solo holiday.

KEVIN KELLY

BLUE PARADISE . . .
Kevin, below, and spectacular Lindos village above bay

GO: RHODES

GETTING/STAYING THERE: Friendship Travel's Lindian Dream Seaside Resort holidays from £1,695pp in September. Includes flights from UK, double/twin room for solo use, breakfast, five dinners and transfers. See [friendshiptravel.com](https://www.friendshiptravel.com).

