

Great ESCAPES

THE WILD WAY AHEAD: When finished, The Wild Atlantic Way will span 1,400km from Donegal to west Cork, and should rival any other driving route in the world. The way is yet more evidence that our tourist authorities are constantly thinking of new ways of enhancing our offering to the world – and ourselves. On a micro level, Roscommon is hoping to lure visitors with the slogan Revive,

Refresh and Rewind, and by highlighting attractions such as its Shannon shoreline, Rathcroghan (which is older than Newgrange), Strokestown House and Lough Key Forest. See visitroscommon.com.

GREEK BALANCE SHEET: Eight years ago, the eyes of the world were on Greece. It won the Euros in football and hosted the Olympics. The world is still looking at Greece but for all the wrong reasons. And it appears to be affecting tourism. A GoHop.ie survey has found 51% would not travel there this year. They might think again if they see how much prices have fallen by in

Greece. Rooms at a five-star hotel in Athens can start at €60 per night, while a four-star in Crete is from €27. Both prices are about 60% cheaper than last year – GoHop.ie.

NO MAN IS AN

ISLAND: Charlie Haughey had one all to himself but times have changed and you no longer need to be taoiseach to have a private island, albeit for

a week. Trailfinders has packages to single-resort isles, ranging from the five-star Anantara at Sir Bani Yas Island in the UAE (five nights from €1,199) to the four-star Sonaislai Island in Fiji (seven nights from €1,949, which includes a €460 discount) – (01) 677 788, trailfinders.ie.

CANOE SAFARI: Lying on the white sands staring at the

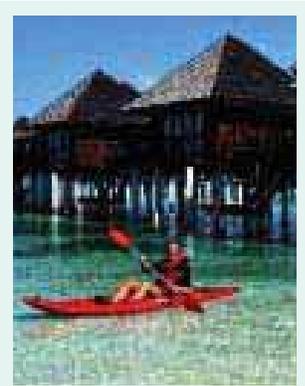
crystalline waters gets boring after a while – or so say the locals. In a bid to combat this flaw in the tropical paradise holiday, the Olheveli Beach And Spa Resort in the Maldives offers canoe safaris for those who want to explore the dazzling shallow lagoon and the deep channels before feasting on a picnic in nearby Dream Island. Seven-night packages from €1,882, a saving of €186 –

(0044) 23 8073 6157, purelymaldives.co.uk.

COUNTRY WAY: A rustic way to walk the Camino de Santiago is with stays in historic country cottages. Half-board accommodation with luggage transfers but no flights from €530 –

caminoways.com, (01) 525 2886.

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MALDIVES: Canoe safari

