



in motion

name Symphony – and laser-tag arena, a glow-in-the-dark experience where participants battle it out over the fate of the last planet left in the galaxy, also feature.

Evening entertainment in the 1,400 seat Royal Theatre includes *Hairspray*, the cruise line's first Broadway musical at sea, while *Flight: Dare To Dream* is an ambitious stage production introducing 3D flying technology, video and automation. Going where no stage production has gone before, space and zero gravity are simulated as actors "float" within a replica of the International Space Station.

After all that activity and food, it's

The ship is a great choice for multi-generational holidays

nice to know there is a comfortable cabin to retire to. The most imaginative of all the cabins has to be the two-bedroom family suite. It is, without a doubt, one of the most adventurous and interactive suites in family travel. Sleeping up to eight people, it has a 3D cinema room with popcorn machine, a library of video games, an air hockey table, floor-to-ceiling Lego climbing wall and a 212 sq-ft wraparound balcony with whirlpool, pool table and climbing

Clockwise from main: the view down to Central Park; the Aqua theatre; the cruise ship at sea

frame. Oh and there's a slide from the kid's bedroom to the living room below. Well, after all, who needs stairs? As if that isn't enough, it comes with its own personal Royal Genie – otherwise known as a butler – to take care of the guest's every need. It does come at a price – £30,000 for five nights in fact, though this hasn't deterred punters, according to boss Michael Bayley who says the suite is sold out for most of 2018. Other cabin categories include insides, ocean views and balcony staterooms. They all have plenty of storage and are comfortably appointed and pleasingly decorated.

With huge appeal to families with children, the ship is a great choice for multi-generational holidays. It offers a variety of shore excursions specifically designed with families in mind too. But with its vast spa and peaceful solarium, sophisticated restaurants, shows, bars and casino, Symphony of the Seas will appeal to couples and groups too. ■

Symphony will run summer sailings with visits to cities including Palma, Provence, Florence and Rome. Seven-night Western Mediterranean cruises start from £1,330 per person based on two sharing; www.royalcaribbean.co.uk

48 HOURS IN

Kandy, Sri Lanka

Friday, midday

Check into the Amaya Hills (doubles from £130, www.amayaresorts.com), a glorious hillside retreat that looks back towards the city, with a large pool in which you can dip with eagles soaring overhead.

1pm

Head into the Unesco World Heritage listed city and dine in colonial-era surrounds at The Empire Café (www.facebook.com.empirecafeand). Try the "curry and rice", the delicious national dish.

2pm

Walk across the street to the sprawling Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic. This oasis of temples and museum exhibits is one of the world's great Buddhist sites – home to one of Buddha's molars – and a major place of pilgrimage.

4pm

Buy a ticket to the network of forest trails that snake off into the tree shrouded jungle behind the temple complex, where you can appreciate the rich local flora and fauna.

7pm

Retreat back to the hills to dine at Amaya after a sunset swim. It's worth paying the extra to have meat and fish dishes cooked to order in the buffet restaurant.

Saturday, 9am

Head back into the city to take in the frenetic action in the lifeblood Central Market.

Midday

Walk right around Kandy Lake,



which offers a sense of calm after the tuk tuk clogged streets, and enjoy a picnic en route.

3pm

Catch one of those tuk tuks to the city's verdant Botanical Gardens. You can hire a golf buggy, though strolling under the vaulting trees with the massive flying foxes soaring overhead is part of the fun of visiting.

7pm

The buffet spread at the Sharon Inn (tel: +94 81-2222416) offers a great introduction to the delicious world of Sri Lankan cuisine.

Sunday, 9am

Head to a hotel spa with a difference and enjoy a proper Ayurveda consultation at the Amaya before a tailored massage treatment and invigorating herbal bath. ■

Robin McKelvie

[Etihad \(www.etihad.com\)](http://www.etihad.com) fly to Sri Lanka from Edinburgh via Abu Dhabi from £503.16 return. Flat beds available in business class. [Indian Odyssey \(www.indianodyssey.co.uk\)](http://www.indianodyssey.co.uk) can package together the hotel and sightseeing.

BARGAIN BREAKS

Singapore sling

Prices start from £635pp for a seven night holiday in Singapore with Travel Republic. This includes room only accommodation at the four star Elizabeth Hotel and return flights from Glasgow departing on 5 June. [Call 020 8974 7200 or see www.travelrepublic.co.uk](http://www.travelrepublic.co.uk)

All-inclusive Abu Dhabi

Netflights.com is offering three nights in Abu Dhabi staying in the five star Beach Rotana Abu Dhabi on an all-inclusive basis. Prices start from £639pp (saving up to £170 per couple) including flights from Glasgow with British Airways. Prices based on

selected dates in June, and booked by 17 May.

[See www.netflights.com](http://www.netflights.com)

Highland coach trip

Depart on 14 May for a five-day coach break to explore the Highlands. Prices start from £169pp (based on two sharing) including four nights' half board at the Caledonian Hotel in Fort William, a day trip to Loch Ness and Fort Augustus plus a scenic tour following the "road to the isles" to Mallaig. The trip starts from your choice of several pick up points in Scotland including Gretna Green and Hamilton.

[Call 0344 874 8220 or see www.shearings.com](http://www.shearings.com)

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