Conde Nast Traveller

CARIBBEAN SPECIAL
OUR ALL-TIME FAVOURITE SECRET PLACES TO STAY

MARRAKECH
FOR LESS THAN £100 A NIGHT

ON HOLIDAY WITH
+ ALICIA KEYS +
+ CHRISIE HYND +
+ FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS +

WHY IT’S THE PERFECT LONG WEEKEND
CAPE TOWN

NEW YORK SHOPPING
BRILLIANT ROUND-UP OF THE BEST INDEPENDENT BOUTIQUES

INSIDE THE GREATEST NEW HOTEL IN LONDON
If anything defines island life it is fishing and the hardy souls who put to sea beneath a steel-grey sky. Stephen and Tom Perham are sixth-generation herring fishermen from Clovelly, North Devon, where some 100 herring boats operated until World War I, part of a once-thriving way of life. Today the village has just two, owned by the Perham brothers. This month they will be at the annual Herring Festival, celebrating the 'silver darlings' which once defined this steep, cobbled fishing village. Amid demonstrations of traditional flax-making (for nets) and a merry chorus of shanty singing, the sea breeze will no doubt wrap all assembled in the thick aroma of kippers smoking in a tiny wooden smoke-hut. I'll buy a bagful of just-caught herring fried in oatmeal, or soused in tea and vinegar, from Stephen and Tom's sister, Rachel Perham, at her waterfront stall and drive 30 minutes' south to The Beach Hut (www.uniquehomestays.com/unique/details.asp?id=640; three nights from £1,120) a shack-for-two overlooking Widemouth Bay.

One of Britain's oldest fishing ports is characterised not by a harbour but its shingle beach, called the Stade (a Saxon word meaning 'landing place'). Hastings has no harbour. The fishing fleet launches from and lands on the beach, and one need not ponder hard to conclude how very skilled an exercise that is. Pescatorial pleasure includes fish and chips in Maggie's Fish Market Café behind the iconic black, wooden fishermen's huts, and buying divine smoked haddock (kedgeree, back home) at Rock-a-Nore Fishmongers. I'd book a room at The George, in Rye (www.thegeorgeinrye.com; doubles from £135) which now has The Shop Next Door so you can take its vibrant style – velvet cushions, Moroccan slippers – home with you. The restaurant has a wood-charcoal grill but also makes much of fresh lemon sole, lobster and Rock-a-Nore kippers. Admittedly, Hastings is well endowed with B&Bs, but as nights draw in, the advantages of a lively bar and...