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lonely planet

JULY 2019

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THE URBAN EDIT

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LUXURY TRAIN

Emerald aisle

Though it's rash to speak of anything so clear-cut as 'seasons' in Ireland, if you want to see the island's greens at their most vivid, early summer is your best bet. An exclusive experience at this peak time for visitors is part of the appeal of the Belmond Grand Hibernian - a sleeper train that aims to do for Europe's western shores what the Orient Express did for journeys east. The interior design takes a few pointers from the classic Georgian look of many Irish stately homes and, in the observation car, long sofas face the picture windows. Journeys come with onboard musical performances, and range from a two-night Taste of Ireland trip from Dublin to Belfast and Kilkenny (from £2,850; belmond.com), to a week-long Grand Tour of Ireland (from £8,800).



NEW PLACE TO STAY

Gone to the beach

We're pretty confident that no 1930s bungalow has ever been as stylishly remodelled as Ammonite, a holiday home squirrelled away down a bumpy track near Rye on the south coast. Inside is all light and white, with reclaimed floorboards, soaring eaves, upcycled furniture and vintage accessories. The focus of a stay in the three-bedroom pad will likely be the open-plan living room, with views of the flat East Sussex countryside stretching back and front. The cabin's location encourages you to step out and enjoy the first glimpses of the British summer, set within a stone's skim of three terrific beaches: the shingle-piled hulk of Winchelsea, the broad, sandy sweep of Camber and, further round the coast, the appealing desolation of Dungeness. Though, should the weather in June turn reliably unreliable, no one is going to be too unhappy about having to while away some time indoors, finding an excuse to light the log-burner and play board games from the prime spots of the battered leather armchairs. Sleeps six; four nights from £1,495; ammonite.uniquehomestays.com

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