

# travel



*Don't just book it... Thomas Cook it!*

SUMMER 2013



we've got  
what you want

THIS

summer

whatever your

FLAVOUR

PLUS

CUBA PARIS CANCÚN BIZA ALGARVETENERIFE GRAN CANARIA

# INSERT COINS

Forget Coke cans. The Japanese craze for vending machines that dispense quirkier goods (think sushi, eggs and underwear) 24 hours a day is now sweeping the world

## CUPCAKES

**Sprinkles** ([sprinkles.com](http://sprinkles.com), right), the American gourmet cupcakery whose clientele includes Oprah Winfrey and Paris Hilton, launched the world's first cupcake ATM in Beverly Hills last year. And now a London location is being scouted for its new 24-hour "ATM", which will be constantly restocked with treats.

**FIND IT:** The London spot is yet to be confirmed, but we predict it could be in Soho.



TREND



## BIKES

Where else would you find a bicycle vending machine other than India? Bikedispensers is a "self-service" rental station that's part of the country's national cycle scheme. Bikes roll out of a specially shaped hole-in-the-wall and are sucked back into their enclosure upon their return.

**FIND IT:** Arnhem, Delft, Duiven and Enschede railway stations, [bikedispenser.com](http://bikedispenser.com).



## VINTAGE BOOKS

Forget wine, vintage books are the order of the day at Toronto bookstore/antiquarian specialist Monkey's Paw. Its Biblio-Mat vending machine is stocked with rare reads – carefully picked by the store's owner Stephen Fowler and guaranteed to be at least 25 years old – and are popped out randomly.

**FIND IT:** 129 Dundas St, West Toronto [monkeyspaw.com](http://monkeyspaw.com)



## BEACHWEAR

You can now travel lighter thanks to Quiksilver's machines. Located poolside at hotels in The Standard hotel chain across the USA, these machines stock an exclusive "Standard" line of bikinis, board shorts and sunglasses, with prices starting at \$75 (£49).

**FIND IT:** Pop into any The Standard hotel in New York, Downtown LA and Miami on your next Stateside visit.

## FANTASY MACHINES

Three things we'd like to see dispensed from an all-hours vending machine

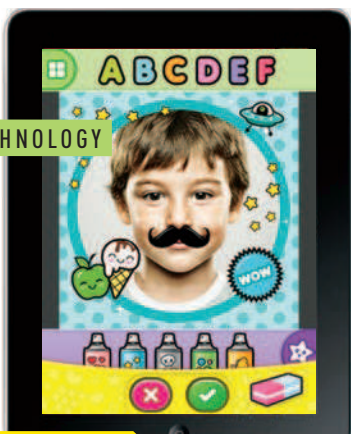
**Sports equipment:** Stocked with footballs and Frisbees, this machine will be the saviour of those unexpected sunny days for a kick about in the park with your mates.

**Manicures:** Because who needs a chipped nail on a night out? This machine would repaint nails to the exact colour and dry them in just 60 seconds.

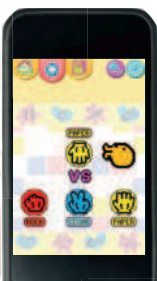
**Advice:** When a Freudian couch or Baz Luhrmann soundtrack won't do the job, insert your woes and this device will dispense its Dr Frasier Crane-style tips.

# Playing the Shield

If NVIDIA's new Project Shield began as a codename, it's probably too late to change it now that it has hopped off the rumour mill and straight into the realm of reality as the most hotly-anticipated gadget for 2013. The handheld Android gaming device enables players to tap into their NVIDIA-compatible apps and PC games and play them, portably, on Shield's five-inch, high-quality screen via Wi-Fi, using console-grade controls. Basically, you can say goodbye to tapping the screen for those more complex games. There's no price tag as yet, but as it's due for release in July, you'd better start saving your pennies. [nvidia.com](http://nvidia.com)



TECHNOLOGY



Made by kids for kids

APPY KIDS WE'VE SCOURED THOUSANDS OF NEW APPS TO FIND THREE OF THE BEST FOR YOUR MINI JETSETTER THIS SUMMER

### KIDOMATIC CAMERA

Why should you be the only one to have fun with tweaking your holiday snaps? Touted as the kids' version of Instagram, this will keep little ones entertained for hours. Capture an image then drag and drop all manner of quirky cartoon-style stickers like moustaches, stars, tiaras and ice creams onto the scene, add a border and save it for later or send it to a friend. The possibilities are endless. (free, iPhone/iPad, [itunes.com](http://itunes.com))

### TAMAGOTCHI L.I.F.E.

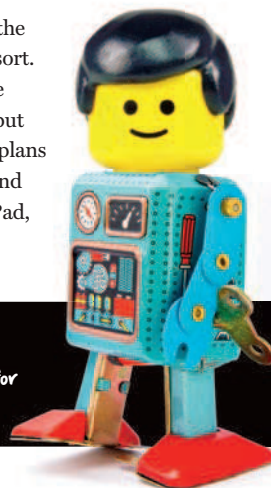
The virtual-pet phenomenon that ruled the 90s is being revived for the Android generation. Gone are the egg-shaped keychain and button-mashing controls. Instead, the L.i.f.e. version – which stands for Love is Fun Everywhere – emulates the original with three touch-screen buttons for players to look after their pet. You can even earn rewards like backgrounds, themes and new pets. (free, Android, [play.google.com](http://play.google.com))

### BOUND ROUND

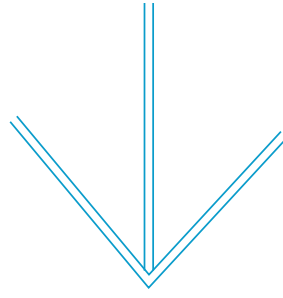
Finally: a travel app for kids, *by* kids. Taking the stress out of family holiday planning, it combines the fun and interactivity of an app game with the best kid-friendly attractions in-resort. Sydney and the Gold Coast are the only destinations featured so far, but it's early days yet and the app has plans to expand and explore Canberra and Fiji by December. (free, iPhone/iPad, [boundround.com](http://boundround.com))

### LEGO-TRONICS

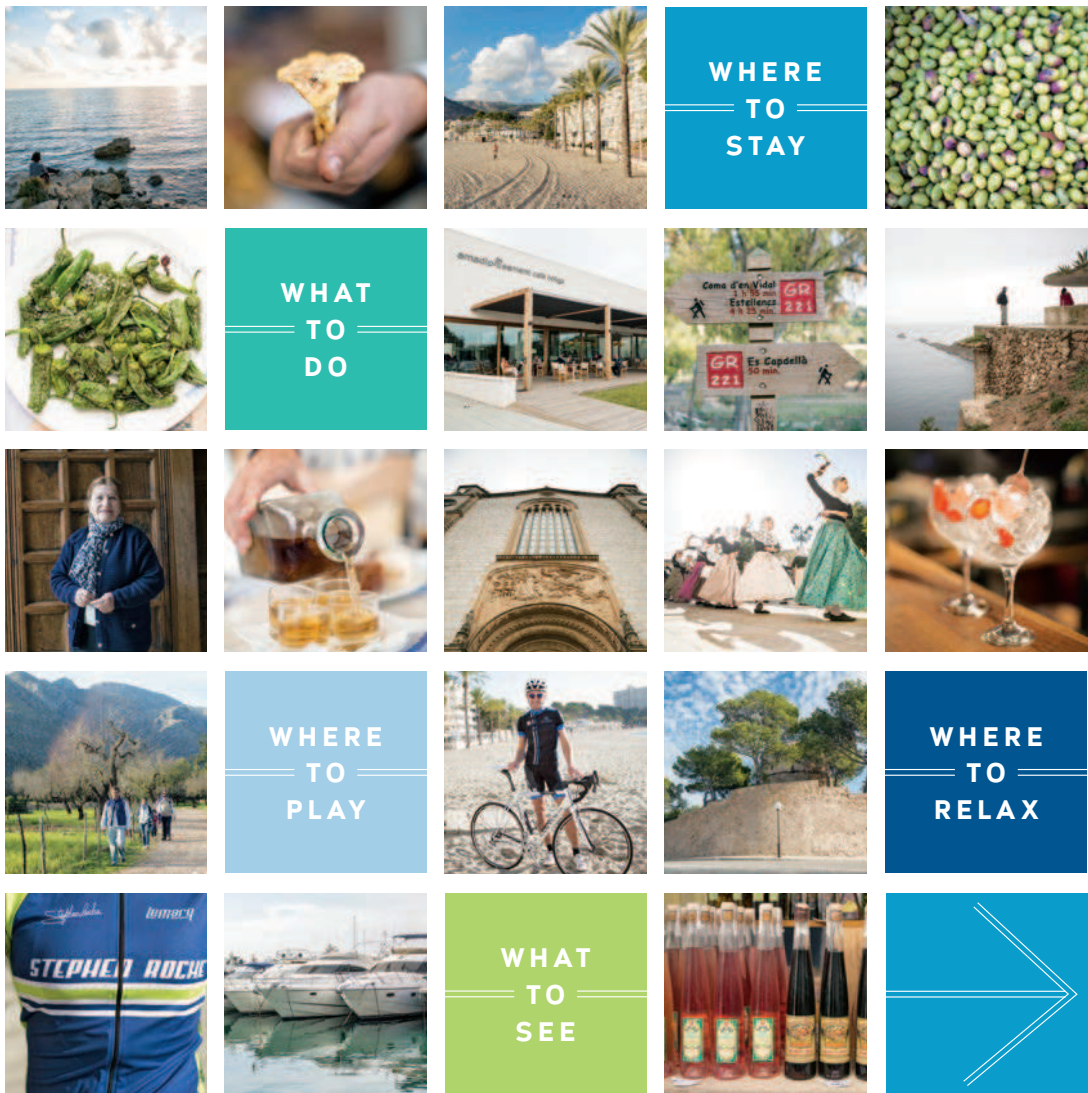
Programmable. LEGO. Robot. Three words to give a LEGO-obsessed kid/kidult a heart attack. Its price tag will also put pressure on the old ticker – a whopping €350 is the suggested going rate for LEGO's latest fully programmable Mindstorms EV3 robot, complete with infrared sensors and 3D building instructions.



WORDS: STEPHANIE YIP. PHOTOS © ALAMY



# MAJORCA



## THE INSIDER GUIDE

*With its sweeping beaches, lush mountain landscape and picturesque villages, there's more than one reason why this Balearic island rocks*

**W**ITH ITS LIVELY beaches and neon-lit strip, the western resort of Magaluf has been pulling in the tourist trade to Majorca since package holidays kicked off in the 1970s. But venture a little further and you'll find that the largest Balearic island has more to offer than just sun, sea and sand.

Having been conquered by the Romans and Arabs before being returned to Spain, the island of Majorca enjoys diverse architecture, which can be seen as the countryside unfolds to the capital Palma's west through Calvi, revealing pockets of small Arabic-influenced towns and ancient watchtowers on high cliff-faces overlooking wild *calas* (coves).

Ruling this landscape are the rugged Serra de Tramuntana mountains, which were given UNESCO's seal of approval in 2011. It was on top of these mountains – Puig de sa Morisca, to be precise – where James I the Conqueror fought to reclaim Majorca from Moorish rule in 1229 and where the country's highest peak, Puig Major, provided the setting for the much-hyped sci-fi drama *Cloud Atlas* starring Tom Hanks and Halle Berry.

Heading north, you start to understand why everyone from Grace Kelly to Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones have fallen under Majorca's magical spell: the beautiful northern villages of S'ldemossa, S'lle r and Dei – the latter reminiscent of Italy's Amalfi Coast – feel a world away from the high-rise resorts.

But the island doesn't discriminate. Even without an A-list budget, you can still enjoy the best of Majorca without denting your bank account. Base yourself in the south of the island, with its wide, open beaches, and you can easily make day trips to discover the island's gems.

CLOCKWISE FROM HERE:  
THE TRAMUNTANA REGION'S  
DISTINCTIVE TORRE DES  
VERGER (TOWER OF SOULS);  
LOCAL PRODUCE, SUCH AS  
SUMPTUOUS SAUSAGES,  
CAN BE FOUND AT MANCOR  
DE LA VALL MARKET;  
TRADITIONAL FOLK DANCE  
ENLIVENS THE MARKET'S  
MAIN SQUARE EVEN TODAY



Everyn e fm G e Kelly  
to Michael D u g a n d  
Ch n e Zeta J n e s h e  
f h l e n n d e r M j a o ' a  
i g h p l l





### MUST-SEE

Start off by exploring Palma's narrow cobbled streets, quaint squares dotted with tapas bars and its colossal 17th-century Le Seu cathedral, an icon that sits on the site of a former Roman citadel and Arabic mosque. From the station next to the city's Plaza de España, you can take the 100-year-old wooden train to the picturesque seaside town of Sóller in the northwest, which runs through 13 tunnels in the Tramuntana mountains (£105.00 one-way, £16.50 return). The journey takes an hour and is a popular tourist route, but it's undoubtedly the best way to see Majorca's inland beauty. Don't leave before picking up some homemade ice cream from Sa Fàbrica de Gelats (*13 Avinguda de Cristòfol Colom*). Make sure you also save a day to experience traditional life in one of Majorca's inland villages, like Mancor de la Vall (not to be confused with Manacor, birthplace of local tennis champ Rafael Nadal). Situated at the foothills of Tramuntana, the markets are best experienced at the weekend, when stalls of local cuisine lace the streets and folk music and dancing enlivens the main square. In between performances, sample and pick up *sobrassada* sausages, *buñuelos* (a potato-based fried dough ball) and Majorcan *herbes* or *palo* – strong, slightly sweet herb and root-based liqueurs that are consumed as an aperitif – from one of the stalls.



### WHERE TO STAY

The luxurious Sentido Punta del Mar ([thomascook.com](http://thomascook.com)) is an adults-only hideaway located on a rocky headland in Santa Ponsa in the southwest, and is renowned for its gorgeous ocean views. The newly renovated resort is an oasis of calm with two outdoor swimming pools, floor-to-ceiling windows and direct access to the sea. Those looking for a more affordable option should check into Hotel Marina Torrenova ([thomascook.com](http://thomascook.com)). With a wealth of Kids' Club facilities (see pages 606-1 for more information), including a splash pool and a playground, all-inclusive dining and its snug location between Palma Nova Beach and powder-white Magaluf Beach, it's perfect for families. >

### LOCAL'S TIP

"I'd say the best beach on the island is Sa Calobra, just north of Sóller. You can only get there by car via a curvy road – though you mustn't be afraid of heights as it goes down the mountains."

**Gabriel Campos,**  
student

PALMA, MAJORCA





**LOCAL DINING**

If you're after real-deal Majorcan food with Michelin stars, try Trist n Bistro (*Local 1, Rta erto B rtals, +34 9176 755 4 7*) in Calvi 's Portals Nous neighbourhood. A firm favourite with the jet set for nearly 25 years, dishes such as crispy fried breast of poulard (young hen) with spinach, potato and a lemon sauce (£175 ) are served on V rsace tableware. A few doors down, Flanigan (*Local 16, Rta erto B rtals, +34 97 679 1 91*) is a hot table without the fuss and an apple tart dessert that requires a 30mi nute advance order due to its elaborateness (but it's worth the wait). King Juan Carlos of Spain – who regularly docks his royal fleet of yachts at the port near the restaurant – is reported to be a fan of the paella. For a more casual affair, Bar Nou (*7C alle Mayor, +34 97 2 31 7*) serves generous plates of home-cooked *tumbet* (potato, pepper and aubergine stew) and *arr s brut*, a rice soup prepared in a clay pot, for about £85 00. But if it's a unique Majorcan experience you're after, search out a *celler*. H used in old cellars, expect dining rooms kitted out in thrifty d cor (think old wine barrels and vintage bull-fighting posters), often running specials. Palma's Celler Sa Premsa (*8P axa Obispo Berenguer de Bl ou, +34 97 23 5 2*) does a daily lunchtime three-course deal for £105 (£116 0 on Saturdays).

Mj a d a w s a  
 d e d i c a d c w d f  
 p h g p e s n a t s  
 w h s c h l e n g i n g  
 m h p a d  
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**THE GREAT OUTDOORS**

With its warmer climate and challenging mountain paths, Majorca draws a dedicated crowd of sporting personalities, including Team GB, who trained here for the London 2012 Olympics. Both seasoned and casual cyclists and hikers can follow one of 11 well-marked routes that *visitcalvia.com* hosts, including the 23km-long GR 21 in the southwest, which runs from E Capdell to E tellences, dipping into the Galatz V lley for an imposing view of the mountainous surroundings. But even more visually spectacular is the Tramuntana route at sunset, which passes the Arabic-style villages of E porles and Banyalbufar, a 17th-century toll booth-turned-gateway for tobacco and cigarette smuggling, and the 16th-century defence tower of Torre des V rger. Meaning 'Tower of Souls', this romantic spot is perched high on a cliff and delivers an awe-inspiring panorama of the coastline and the iconic Sa Foradada rock close to Dei . Cycling stations are dotted all over the island, including one owned by professional cyclist and Tour de France champ Stephen Roche (*stephenroche.com*) where you can join a tour to visit the scenic off-road sites around the island. >

**SAY IT RIGHT**

Mind your manners

**POR FAVOR  
 PLEASE  
 GRACIAS  
 THANK YOU**



Practical  
**LA CUENTA,  
 POR FAVOR  
 THE BILL,  
 PLEASE**



Show off  
**DA UN BESO  
 A LA BOTELLA**

LITERAL TRANSLATION:  
**GIVE THE  
 BOTTLE A KISS**  
 ENGLISH EQUIVALENT:  
**TAKE A SWIG**



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: SEAFOOD TREATS AT BAR NOU, CALVI; SUN, SEA, SAND AND SHADE ON PAGUERA'S BEAUTIFUL BEACHES; PAUSING FROM PEDALLING TO SOAK UP THE CALVI SCENERY. OPPOSITE PAGE: HEAD TO THE GALATZO VALLEY FOR BREATHTAKING MOUNTAIN VIEWS







## Palm-fringed white sands lie behind the main street's cool cafés and bars



### BEACHES

With an average summer temperature of 27°c, you'll want to pen in some beach time. The dramatic western shoreline is dominated by craggy cliffs and stoney coves, so head to the south for wide, inviting and sandy shores that stretch one after the other so smoothly, that you can pretty much walk the coastline for hours uncovering sand, surf and *calas*. Paguera's Palmira beach connects to Playa de Tor and Playa de la Romana, with Cala Fornells not far beyond reach by foot either. Its palm-fringed white sands lie right behind the main street, with its wealth of cool cafés and bars and water sports outlets, but you can explore the edges to find hidden nooks away from the crowds. Look out for special summer entertainment, like movie screenings on the beach.

### LOCAL'S TIP

"Ruta Martiana, which literally translates to 'Mars Route', is an initiative by some bars in downtown Palma to draw in guests on Tuesdays. For €2 (£1.70), you get a small glass of beer or wine and one portion of tapas. It's a great way to have a cheap night out in Palma in a part of town where the locals hang out."

Raquel Prieto  
CALVIÀ, MAJORCA



### AFTER DARK

Magaluf has been drawing clubbing enthusiasts, high-profile DJs (think David Guetta and Tiësto) and big-name acts like Jessie J and Professor Green to its infamous strip for years. But a more sophisticated nightlife trend is 'Gin and Tonic', which, as you might guess, pays homage to the humble G&T. Seen more as an art form, bars here pair the refreshing drink with citrus fruits before pouring generously into high tumblers. Santa Ponsa's Bar Charlotte (96 Avenida Rey Jaume I) is a little hole-in-the-wall that doesn't close until you're done, with drinks from £9.60 but those wishing to up the ante will love Palma's Ginbo (11A Paseo Mallorca). Even more impressive than its strong selection of gins and eight tonics is the signature 'perfume' that's distilled onsite and mixed into each concoction. **LC**

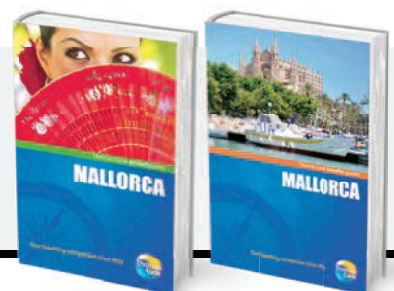


### GO

Thomas Cook flies to Palma between April and October from select UK airports. For more information, visit your local Thomas Cook store, call +44 (0) 844 412 5966 or visit [thomascook.com](http://thomascook.com). For hassle-free travel to Gatwick Airport, visit [gatwickexpress.co.uk](http://gatwickexpress.co.uk).

### MORE INFO

Pick up *Pocket Guide Mallorca*, £4.99, or *Traveller Guide Mallorca*, £9.99, ([thomascookpublishing.com](http://thomascookpublishing.com)) for more inspiration.





## of holiday ideas for kids

*Don't worry about keeping the kids – and kidults – entertained abroad this summer. Whatever their age, with our indispensable guide, it's easy as ABC*



▶ A IS FOR...

## *A*riel Winter

With Miley Cyrus shedding her Disney looks (and locks) and Selena Gomez showing her darker side as one of the *Spring Breakers*, the search is on for a squeaky-clean female teen icon. Enter Miss Winter. The 15-year-old has Selena's looks, stars in hit show *Modern Family* and is a style icon in her own right. But listen out for her vocals this year – she's posted a rendition of Taylor Swift's *I Knew You Were Trouble* on YouTube that even Simon Cowell would find hard to fault.



▶ B IS FOR...

## *B* to *do*

The whole of the Caribbean island parties at the Crop Over festival (9 June to 9 August), including Barbados' most famous export, Rihanna. The Carnival-style celebration – which traditionally marks the end of the sugar cane harvest – takes place every summer with lots of colour, costumes and calypso music. But save your best feathered headgear for Kadooment Day on the first Monday of August, where tots, tweens and teens can form a band to parade before judges. ([thomascook.com](http://thomascook.com))



▶ C IS FOR...

## *C*hef *i*n *g*

Aspiring foodies can follow in the footsteps of American wunderkind Flynn McGarry – who launched a pop-up restaurant last year in Beverly Hills aged just 14 – with the new Little Leon cookbook series (£6.99 each, Conran Octopus, [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)). The four colourful books have easy-to-follow recipes that will have your little chef whipping up healthy treats – from wheat-free pancakes and energy-boosting smoothies to the chain's famous Better Brownies – in no time.



GUARANTEED TO PLEASE THE KIDS AND KIDS AT HEART

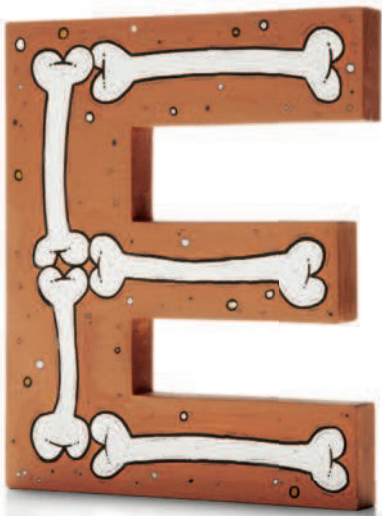
▶ D IS FOR...

## *D*isney *i*nfinity

How about a computer game that has all of Disney Pixar's best characters in a 3D animated world? Featuring *The Incredibles*, *Wreck-It Ralph* and Sulley from *Monsters Inc.*, this game works by slotting character figurines into the 'Infinity Base', which then transforms them into a 3D version on your Nintendo Wii or 3DS, ready to solve puzzles, battle baddies and explore the worlds of the greatest animated flicks. Guaranteed to please kids and kids at heart. (*Disney Infinity* Starter Pack is released 23 August, from £49.99, pre-order at [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk))



**Diarise this:**  
MONSTERS UNIVERSITY, THE MUCH-ANTICIPATED PREQUEL TO MONSTERS INC. WILL HIT UK CINEMAS ON 12 JULY.



▶ E IS FOR...

## Extinction

It's not all dodos and dinosaurs, according to London's Natural History Museum, which is casting a more positive light on the subject matter this summer with its *Extinction: Not the End of the World?* exhibition. Running until 8 September, it uncovers the incredible creatures that have come and gone (the woolly mammoth and dodo) and even returned from the brink of extinction (Lord Howe Island stick insect), and asks the important question of the future of conservation. You can have your say on which species you couldn't live without and which ones you wouldn't miss by leaving a message on the Wishing Tree. At *Travel* magazine, we decided we could not live without tigers, but definitely would not miss mosquitoes. (*nhm.co.uk*)



▶ F IS FOR...

## Frank Lampard

Frank proves he's got skills off the pitch by penning a book series for kids aged five and up called *Frankie's Magic Football*, which follows the wacky adventures of a school boy, Frankie, his friends and his pet dog Max. The first book, *Frankie vs The Pirate Pillagers*, is released in June (Little Brown, £4.99, pre-order from *amazon.co.uk*).



▶ G IS FOR...

## GeoDash

Calling all budding David Attenboroughs. GeoDash: Wild Animal Adventure is a nifty, informative app from the folk at *National Geographic* that lets kids learn about animals with a curious robot – who travels the world meeting animals and picking up their abilities – that collects cards with cool pictures, facts and trivia. It's the ideal companion for that long-haul flight, surely? (iPhone/iPad, free)



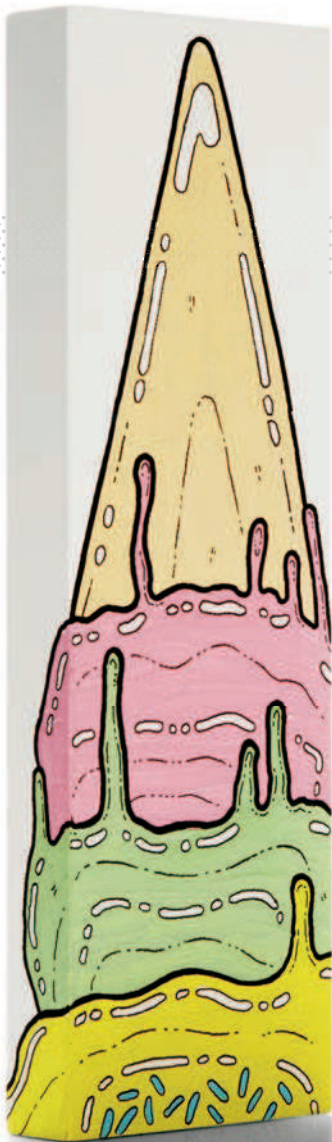
▶ H IS FOR...

## Hello Kitty

Yes, you read that right. Dubai (*tesignature.com*) is now home to a spa dedicated to cult Sanrio character Hello Kitty. The posh pampering is designed for girls (the princesses) and their mums (the queens), and uses organic products suitable for sensitive skin (naturally). While your princess indulges in 'Kitty' nail art wraps and chocolate and honey-based facials, you can get your hair styled or treat yourself to a relaxing hand and foot massage. The purr-fect mother-daughter day out. (*hellokittybeautyspa.com*)



SAY HELLO (KITTY) TO A WORLD OF PAMPERING



➔ I IS FOR...

## Ice cream

Because it wouldn't be a summer holiday without it. But why not get creative and shake up your own Heston Blumenthal-inspired flavours (fish 'n' chip sorbet, anyone?) with these travel-friendly Mugz ice cream and slushy makers. It comes in four animal designs (penguin, seal, polar bear and dog) and is easy to use and quick to make: simply throw in some ice cubes, salt, water, milk, cream and flavouring and shake for three minutes to enjoy your frozen treat. (£10.99, [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk))



➔ J IS FOR...

## Jb Hub

Meet the man set to steal R-Patz' crown as Hollywood's poster boy. He's already proved his acting chops as Peeta Mellark in *The Hunger Games* and celebrates his big two-one on 21 October. As well as the second *HG* instalment - *Catching Fire* - in November, he'll voice the character of Nod in upcoming animated flick *Epic* (out 24 May), along with big stars like Amanda Seyfried, Colin Farrell and Beyoncé. And he's becoming a bit of ladies' man: both Vanessa Hudgens and Selena Gomez were apparently flirting with him after the Golden Globes this year.

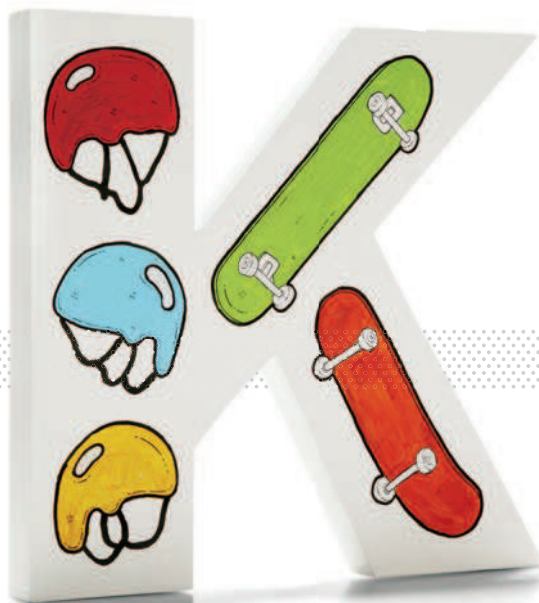
➔ K IS FOR...

## K b

Budding adrenaline junkies and daredevils will love re:creation's crazy new Krash helmets, which hit shops in June. Featuring everything from sweet unicorns to scary sharks, they mix safety with statement style - and are bound to make your four-to-seven-year-old the coolest kid on the block/skate park/cycle track. (£19.99 each, [toysrus.co.uk](http://toysrus.co.uk))



TRY A HELMET THAT MIXES SAFETY WITH FUN



SHAKE IT UP FOR SOME COOL, HOME MADE ICE CREAM



## WHAT'S YOUR FLAVOUR? Cool desserts to try in a resort near you

### BOUZAT HALEEB

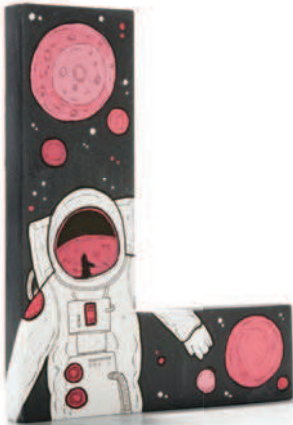
This light and gummy Arabic ice cream, usually flavoured with rose water, is popular throughout Egypt.

### DONDURMA

You can only sample this delight - which translates to "freezing" - in Turkey. Its export is banned due to the depletion of a wild orchid root, its main ingredient.

### GELATO

Because a holiday to Italy just wouldn't be the same without a taste of this sweet treat.



▶ L IS FOR...

## Lunar Chronicles

The *Lunar Chronicles* is the latest book series that is set to follow the success of *Twilight* and *The Hunger Games*. Penned by Marissa Meyer, the stories take fairy tale heroines – such as Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel and Snow White – and catapults them into a sci-fi future. And just like its predecessors, there's talk of putting them on the big screen. (from £5.24, Penguin, [bookdepository.com](http://bookdepository.com))

*The stories combine the archetypal fairy tale structures with androids, spaceships and an intergalactic war. I didn't hold myself back when it came to creating a brand-new world for these familiar characters to inhabit: there's a plague ravishing Earth, a species of evolved humans called Lunars who live on the moon, and an army of wolf-mutant hybrids wreaking havoc."*

MARISSA MEYER



THE ULTIMATE ACCESSORY FOR KIDS THIS SUMMER

▶ M IS FOR...

## Moshimonsters

The only way to travel in style this summer is with Trunki's super-cute special edition cases dedicated to the fierce and feisty Katsuma (for the boys) and pretty pink Poppet (for the girls). They come complete with all the Trunki essentials, from a teddy bear seat belt to secret compartments for your little one's precious possessions. Each monster-friendly case also comes with free online codes to play at [moshimonsters.com](http://moshimonsters.com). (£39.99, [trunki.com](http://trunki.com))

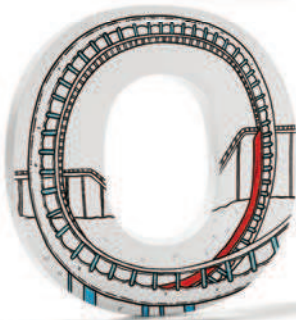
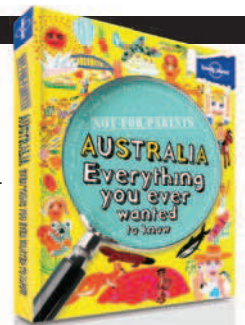


▶ N IS FOR...

## Not For Parents

Yes, you read that right. Lonely Planet's *Not For Parents* series of travel books come with a different kind of parental restriction. Aimed at mini jetsetters aged eight to 11, the latest books on Australia, China, Britain and the USA are much more than guide books, bursting with quirky facts – from China's biggest Buddha to American eating contests – and plenty of cool graphics, illustrations and snaps. (£9.99, [lonelyplanet.co.uk](http://lonelyplanet.co.uk))

Lonely Planet is hosting Lonely Planet's Big Adventure – a free event in London for young explorers – this May. Held in a giant tipi tent, there will be talks for children to teach them more about the world around them at Victoria Park (11 May) and Wandsworth Common (12 May).



▶ O IS FOR...

## Orlando

Proving that it's still the undisputed theme park capital of the world, this year will see the opening of a new Antarctica: Empire of the Penguin attraction at SeaWorld Orlando on 24 May ([seaworldparks.com](http://seaworldparks.com)), a new 3D *Transformers* attraction at Universal Studios ([universolorlando.com](http://universolorlando.com)) and over in the Magic Kingdom ([disneyworld.disney.go.com](http://disneyworld.disney.go.com)), the New Fantasyland expansion continues with the opening of Princess Fairytale Hall, an elegant court where Disney princesses like Sleeping Beauty and Jasmine are ready to meet their royal subjects. ([thomascook.com](http://thomascook.com))



▶ P IS FOR...

## Postcard Aeroplane

Instead of scribbling 'Wish you were here' on the back of a tacky postcard, why not share some holiday spirit by sending your sweet memories on the wings of this retro-inspired postcard? Made from lightweight balsa wood, once your loved ones have read the message on the Postcard Aeroplane, they can pop out a fun and completely airworthy glider. (£3, [suck.uk.com](http://suck.uk.com))



▶ Q IS FOR...

## Quiksilver surfing school

Who said you had to jet off all the way Hawaii to enjoy gnarly waves? Closer to home, Fuerteventura is proving its got the all the credentials to 'hang ten', especially since Quiksilver set up a surf school on Corralejo beach ([quiksilver-surfschool.com](http://quiksilver-surfschool.com)). Ready to rock year-round – just like the Canary island sunshine – they've even got special classes for kids aged eight to 13 with child-friendly equipment, soft boards and have two instructors per class to ensure maximum safety. ([thomascook.com](http://thomascook.com))



GET THE CHIC SCANDI LOOK FOR YOUR COOL KIDS



▶ S IS FOR...

## Scandinavian Style

There's no denying that those Scandinavians know their style – they have, after all, introduced the world to IKEA, H&M, Noma and Björk. And now Icelandic brand glis is joining the ranks with its cool summer range for kids. The creative and comfortable designs are so trendy, you'll be wishing they made them in your size. (from €20/£17, [nordickids.co.uk](http://nordickids.co.uk))



▶ R IS FOR...

## Raptor hoodie

These hoodies by Mouth Man – founded by rock star Ross Valory from Journey – are simply jaw-some. On the outside, they look pretty normal, with a motif of a raptor, shark or tiger on the front and back, but fold your arms across your chest and see it come to life with a dazzling display of gnashers. And yes, they do come in adult sizes, too (from \$29.99/£20, [mouthman.com](http://mouthman.com)).



SINK YOUR TEETH INTO THIS SHARP BIT OF CLOTHING



▶ T IS FOR...

### Turkey's Papy Land

A new fantasy water world on Turkey's Lycian Coast has just opened at the family-friendly Papillon Belvil hotel. With over 200 metres of waterslides and other activities for kids – such as treasure hunts, face painting, sports and cinema screenings – it's the perfect place for little ones to cool off in the sizzling heat. ([thomascook.com](http://thomascook.com))



▶ U IS FOR...

### Underwater museums

This is the summer to finally get the kids doing their Junior PADI qualification as a slew of underwater museums are opening up in the not-so-distant future. Cancún is already home to a submerged sculpture park, and in Florida, there are a number of underwater archaeological preserves where you can see ship ruins. There are also plans to open similar museums in Egypt, Alexandria and Kenya. ([thomascook.com](http://thomascook.com))

CANCUN'S SUB-AQUA SCULPTURES ARE NO DAMP SQUIB



▶ V IS FOR...

### Vegas

They might be too young to gamble, but under-21s don't have to miss out on enjoying Sin City's largest slot machine. SlotZilla, an 11-storey fruit machine replica that will have eight zip lines over two tiers coming out of it – will open in June in Downtown Las Vegas ([thomascook.com](http://thomascook.com)). Using a new 'power launch' system, it will shoot riders above the neon lights of Fremont Street. The lower-level zip will cost \$20 (£13) to ride, while the longer 'zoomline' will cost \$30 (£20).



▶ W IS FOR...

### Water safety

Whether it's the pool or sea, swimming under the sun is the epitome of a summer holiday, so it's important to understand water safety. From 22-30 June, the Royal Life Saving Society is running a national campaign at schools and leisure centres across the UK to educate parents and children about how to keep safe when swimming to help reduce drowning incidents happening both home and away. For more information and safety tips, visit [drowningpreventionweek.org.uk](http://drowningpreventionweek.org.uk).





X IS FOR...

## X Factor

One Direction might be *The X Factor's* greatest hit, but get ready for a hit of girl power in 2013 with these shiny stars.

**Amelia Lily:** This pink/blonde bombshell spent the start of 2013 opening for Girls Aloud's 'The Hits' Tour, but as of 29 April, the spotlight's all on her with the release of her first album *Be A Fighter*.

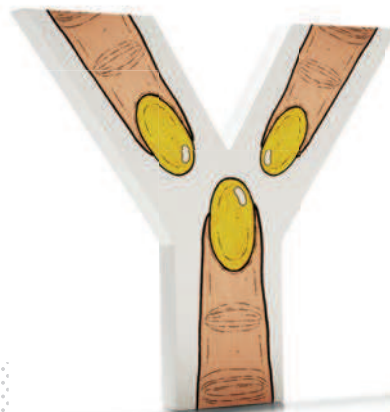
**Ella Henderson:** Despite being only 17, this talented songstress is rumoured to be releasing her debut album this summer with a special guest appearance by Emeli Sandé.

**Misha B:** She kept true to her mantra of 'stay fly, aim high' when her single *Do You Think of Me* was a UK top 10 hit. And if *Here's To Everything* is anything to go by, the only way is up for this diva.



2013'S RISING STAR MISHA B HAS THE X FACTOR

Those who missed *The X Factor Live 2013* tour have another chance to party with its stars. *The X Factor* alumni JLS, Little Mix and Amelia Lily, as well as pop kings The Wanted and Conor Maynard, are all billed to headline North East Live in Sunderland on 22 June ([nelive.co.uk](http://nelive.co.uk)).



Y IS FOR...

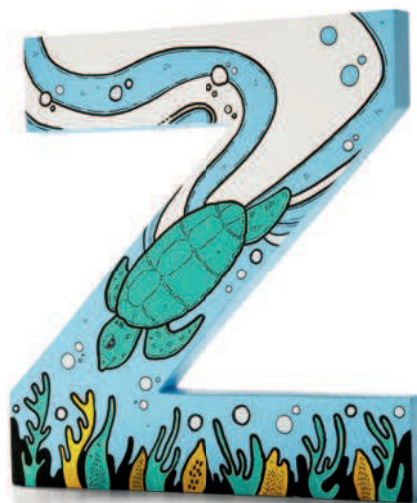
## Yellow nails

If you've got a budding fashionista tween, you'll want to spread this trend alert: yellow was one of the hottest trend colours on the spring/summer catwalks and is set to be *the* nail shade of the season. Try Models Own Luis Lemon shade (£5, [asx.com](http://asx.com)), which screams summer. And want to really stand out from the crowds? Pick up Naileases' instant manicure nail wraps Nail Art (£6 each, see page 48 of *Eporium* magazine), onboard now.

Z IS FOR...

## Zanzibar

Tipped to be one of the best snorkelling spots on Africa's east coast, Mnemba Island – which is a one-hour boat ride from the main island – is a great place for novices of all shapes and sizes to test the waters. Renowned for its clear turquoise sea, you can spot a different kind of African 'Big Five' here, including dolphins, humpback whales, whale sharks, barracuda and green turtles. ([tcsignature.com](http://tcsignature.com))



➔ **Be there...** For more inspiration for your own family adventure, visit your local Thomas Cook store, call +44 (0)844 412 5966 or visit [thomascook.com](http://thomascook.com)