

SATURDAY SMILERS
JUST A FEW LITTLE JOES TO GET YOU THROUGH THE WEEKEND...

IRISH DAILY STAR **EXPLORE THE WORLD** **YOUR PERFECT GETAWAY**
EXCITING HOLIDAY GUIDE FOR A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF CHOICE

WITH CATHERINE HALLORAN

● **WHAT** is the difference between a well dressed man on a bicycle and a poorly dressed clown on a tricycle?
Attire.

● **A GARDA** waited outside a popular pub, hoping to nab a drunk-driver. At closing time, as everyone came out, he spotted his potential quarry. The man was so obviously inebriated that he could barely walk. He stumbled around the parking lot for a few minutes, looking for his car. After trying his keys on five others, he finally found his own vehicle.

He sat in the car a good 10 minutes as the other pub patrons left. He turned his lights on, then off. He started to pull forward into the grass, then stopped.

The cop waited for him to pull out again and then put on his lights and pulled the man over. He administered the breathalysers test and, to his great surprise, the man easily passed.

● The cop was dumbfounded. "This equipment must be broken," said the policeman. "I doubt it," said the man. "Tonight I'm the designated decoy."

● **A MAN** gets a call from his doctor, who says "I have the results from your examination and I'm afraid I have some bad news and some worse news."

The man, nervously, asks "What's the bad news?"

The doctor says, "According to my report, you will die in 24 hours."

● The man says, "Oh my God! What could be worse than that?"

The doctor says, "I have been trying to call you since yesterday."

● **I THREW** a birthday party for my girlfriend, but it only lasted for half a minute. Well, it was her thirty-second birthday.



● **MY DAUGHTER** was always dropping hints about wanting to be a ballerina. I just never put tu and tu together.

● **A PASSENGER** in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder.

The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb, and stopped just inches from a shop window.

● For a few moments, everything was silent in the cab, and then the still-shaking driver said, "I'm sorry, but you scared the daylight out of me."

The frightened passenger apologised to the driver and said he didn't realise a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much.

● The driver replied, "No, no, I'm sorry, it's entirely my fault. Today is my first day driving a cab."

● "I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years."

KEEP HER LITH'

Kaunas is a perfect spot for weekend break



HISTORY: The old town in Kaunas, Lithuania and (left) Cold War replicas in the Nuclear Bunker Museum



PRIDE AND JOY: Christ's Resurrection Church

THAT'S THE SPIRIT: Star man Ian samples the tasty local vodka

LITHUANIA as a country is only somewhere that registered in my consciousness as a footballing destination — Ireland have been here before, you see.

That was in the capital city Vilnius and, by all accounts, if Kaunas was akin to the capital I was in for a treat.

Kaunas is a fiercely emotive city and as we were guided through the old town, it continually dawned on our group (with the Euros being on), time and again, that while Ireland was gearing up for Italia 90, only then was Lithuania gaining freedom.

● **While Packie Bonner was performing heroics and getting this nation into an almighty spin, Lithuania was ridding itself from Soviet rule. Perspective I guess.**

Bullet holes in an eerily peaceful abbey, recent bullet holes at that, tell you all you need to know about this remarkable city. These locals are strong and proud, lean, healthy and dare I say, beautiful. In a lot of ways, Lithuanians resemble us

■ **Ian GAUGHAN**

Irish. While we had our Black and Tans for their freedom and became the first independent state free of Soviet rule.

And they love their city — a city located at the confluence of the two largest Lithuanian rivers, the Nemunas and the Neris; a city split between the Old Town and New City.

Love

With little interest in visiting shopping malls or shiny new buildings, Dalea, our guide, really delivered when taking us somewhat off the beaten track as we rode the funicular, a rickety tram-like cable carriage up to the top of Aleksotas Hill to discover the breathtaking views of the pride and joy of Kaunas' Christian population, the

gleaming white Christ's Resurrection Church.

As we twisted and turned through the Old Town, taking in Gothic and Renaissance architecture, the charms of the place became quickly evident.

● **The Old Town is there to be explored, with its gastropubs, cocktail bars and game restaurants — the venison was sensational in restaurant Medziotoju Uzeiga which is located on Rotuses Square, smack bang in the centre of the Old Town.**

If you're daring or adventurous then the UNO Park is for you. Situated at Lampedziai beach, just 10 minutes outside the city, this place isn't for the faint-hearted.

The macho in me took up the challenge of the Black Trail in the zip-lining adventure nestled high into the forest. Then, just for the craic, they



TREAT: Ian in traditional party garb

threw in an Elephant Jump. Think it sounds nice? Think again. Pick the tallest tree you can see and bungee jump from it.

● **That was enough adventure and now it was time for some intrigue — KGB style.**

The Nuclear Bunker Museum took us underground to visit an incredible collection of Cold War era secret surveillance equipment — phone tapping devices, gas masks, button cameras, all sorts of weird and wonderful spy gear that you thought were only in movies.

Spy

Next stop was the Stumbras factory. We were in Kaunas, vodka country, and we could sample seven, yes seven, different flavours of vodka.

● **It's just another string to Kaunas' bow, a city that packs a real punch for everyone, the perfect city break for you and your respective other, or for anyone looking to sample a piece of a different world.**

Great people, great food and drink and so much interest and intrigue — Kaunas is the perfect weekend away.

● **RYANAIR** fly direct from Dublin to Kaunas with an average flight time of approximately three hours.
● **There are four flights per week from Dublin to Kaunas with the low cost airline (www.ryanair.com), and prices start at a very reasonable €24.99.**
● **We stayed at the Best Baltic (Daniela) Hotel (www.danielahotel.lt) and with prices for bed and breakfast beginning at approx. €50 per night.**
● **Information on Kaunas can be found at www.visitkaunas.lt.**

Rhine romance



● **SAVE €2,094** per person on Uniworld River Boutique Cruise's stunning Castles Along the Rhine all-inclusive river cruise exploring France, Germany, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

But get moving as this special offer is only valid until July 29. This is an all-inclusive holiday in pure six-star surroundings with everything included — even daily excursions.

● You will cruise along the Rhine, with Germany on one side and France on the other.

Discover historic Alsace and its dual heritage, wines and food, and marvel at once mighty fortresses that are now romantic ruins.

To book, visit any Travel Agent in Ireland. Freephone 1800 98 98 98 or visit www.uniworld.com.

Reyk' deal for break in Land of Fire and Ice

DISCOVER the vast history and natural wonders of Iceland on this excellent value three-night city break to Reykjavik from The Travel Department.

Known as the 'Land of Fire and Ice', there aren't many places in the world which can boast such dramatic, contrasting landscapes.

● **Light**

Iceland is one of few places on earth where it is possible to see the amazing Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights, a spectacular natural light phenomenon in the night sky. Its unusual and versatile landscape, with black volcanic beaches, waterfalls, bird cliffs, volcanoes, glaciers, hot springs and more, will leave you with memories that will last a lifetime. Your home for this trip will be the



SPECTACULAR: The Northern Lights and (below) Reykjavik



three-star Best Western Hotel Reykjavik, located in close proximity to Reykjavik's main shopping street, restaurants, cafes and museums, with convenient access to many more popular venues.

This hotel is the ideal base to explore all the exciting sights and attractions the world's northernmost capital city has to offer.

● **Nights**

Prices start from €549 per person, including return flights from Dublin, three nights' B&B hotel accommodation, transfers, and taxes and charges, with flights departing in October 2016.

For more information or to book, contact The Travel Corporation on www.traveldepartment.ie.