

A whole lot of nerves, a whole lot of excitement, and a whole lot of 'where the hell am I going?!'. On Thursday, March 7, I arrived at Gatwick Airport ready for Wizz Air's mystery trip of a lifetime where I had no idea which destination I was heading for.

The only information I was given beforehand was that it would be 18 to 20 degrees and I would need to pack some swimwear and hiking gear. Packing was a nightmare. Could there be a chance of rain? Could it be warmer or colder than that?

Before I arrived at the airport thoughts were swirling around of where I could be going. The trip lasted until Sunday evening so I thought surely it must be a two-hour flight max, with me thinking it could potentially be Portugal or maybe even Greece - but who knows? It could be anywhere.

I have never done anything like this before, I have never done a Wowcher mystery holiday or had a trip booked for me where I don't know where I am going. I always plan, know what to pack and know where I am going. But if trips and opportunities like this come around again I would 100 per cent go.

I was joined by 33 other lucky winners and their chosen guests, who had won Wizz Air's 'Let's Get Lost' trip which had been posted as a competition on the airline's Instagram page.

Over 5,000 people entered to win this year's mystery holiday trip - the airline ran the campaign before with previous winners going to the likes of Abu Dhabi and Vienna.

Everything was very much kept a secret. The destination on the departure flight board read 'Unknown foreign' as it did the boarding pass. The only giveaway was that the flight would be landing at the destination at 9pm.

Boarding the plane and having no idea where I would be heading was so thrilling and hilarious at the same time. During the flight I was eagerly looking out of the window, trying to guess where we were, which became a little difficult when the sun set and it was pitch

'I went on holiday to a destination unknown'



Main image: When the plane landed it went silent as it was announced where we had landed.

Left: One of my favourite experiences was a buggy safari where I took control of the steering wheel.



We explored the enchanting old town of Kaleici and had a stunning boat trip to see the Duden Waterfalls.



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had exquisite food including squid, sushi and an amazing aquarium in the middle which had a variety of majestic sharks. The next day we explored the enchanting old town of Kaleici which was really charming, visiting the likes of the almost 2,000 years old Hadrian's Gate.

The town also had a stunning harbour where we had a boat trip to see the Duden Waterfalls.

We then dined at the 7 Mehmet Restaurant which had interesting food including a pumpkin dessert with tahini sauce, and a delicious array of starters. The lunch overlooked the ocean and everyone had a really good time chatting away about our experiences so far, and getting to know each other as the winners of the competition were from all over the UK from Essex to Scotland.

On our last day we had a truly exhilarating jet boat ride that went so fast it took my breath away. The driver spun the boat around so of course we all got very wet. Then it was time for one of my favourite experiences, a buggy safari where we took the steering wheel. We drove the orange little buggies through fields of trees and dirt, and I was really in my element and pretty shocked at how well I could drive it. I must admit I did get very into it, overtaking others, and speeding through trees - maybe I was an F1 driver in a past life - but it was such a fun experience that I wanted to do it all over again.

Looking back, it really was a trip of a lifetime. A surreal experience not knowing where you are going. You get to try things you perhaps would never normally do on your holiday, go somewhere you perhaps wouldn't have thought of yourself, and meet amazing people. The journey into the unknown was a delight and will always be a standout moment in my life.

Our journalist embarks on Wizz Air's mystery trip, but would she do it again?



BY ISABELLA BONEHAM

Travel facts

Wizz Air's #LetsGetLost mystery trip is a competition that the public can win via Instagram. Wizz Air posted on Instagram that it was offering this mystery trip to those who are lucky enough to win and detailed how people can

enter the competition. The airline said it hopes to do more of these trips in the near future so be sure to follow Wizz Air on Instagram and keep your eyes peeled for their next mystery holiday competition.

black outside. The cabin crew informed us that the plane was beginning to descend and we were all craning our necks to look outside the window.

I was so excited. The plane landed and it went silent as it was announced: "Ladies and gentlemen, we would like to welcome you to Antalya, Turkey".

The plane erupted with cheers, claps and laughter.

As we disembarked the plane we were greeted in a private lounge in Antalya Airport with drinks, food, and live violinists. We were handed the itinerary for the next few days and it looked surreal.

We stayed at the Maxx Royal

Belek Golf & Spa five-star hotel in Belek, which was a stunning and grand hotel. It had so many gorgeous pools, a chocolatier where you could have free chocolates and amazing restaurants with pretty much any food that

you could wish for. The trip was an all-expenses paid holiday so we could all enjoy what the hotel had to offer.

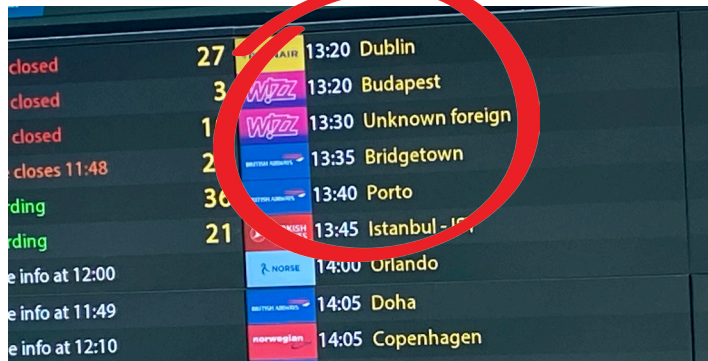
On the first full day we had rafting, Tazi Canyon and a jeep safari experience. I was pretty

nervous about the rafting but I am so glad I did it and experienced it. We were all put in boats, with a guide, in our pretty hideous wet-suits, helmets, and oars, and rafted through the river which had the beautiful scenery of the Taurus Mountains around us.

Then we were off on the jeep safari. For some reason I expected a relaxing ride, but this was far from the case.

We were off-roading, flying around bends and through puddles, sitting in the back of a jeep clinging on to each other to make sure we didn't fly around and land on each other. We stopped off at a viewpoint of the stunning Tazi Canyon and returned back to our base.

That evening we dined at the 'Nemo' restaurant in the 'Land of Legends' resort in Antalya which



The destination on the departure flight board read 'Unknown foreign'.

Slovenia s' lovely for cultured arts adventures

PHOTOS: SLOVENIAN TOURIST BOARD



Slovenia offers height of culture.

populated by such silver screen stars as Orson Welles and Peter Ustinov, Slovenian Film Centre this year featuring for first time at American Film Market, US action thriller The Union recently shot with star-studded cast including Halle Berry and Mark Wahlberg, gulf resort among 17 locations nationwide, Tartini's Birth House also pilgrimage for fans of famous son Giuseppe, showcasing celebrated composer's violin virtuosity.

Don't spare the horses to visit world's largest Lipizzaner stud farm that is Lipica, UNESCO World Heritage Site starring 300-plus famed white steeds, roaming 300 hectares, recognising over 400 years of man and animal united in equine harmony.

Center Rog Workshop seamlessly weaves urban handicraft heritage and state-of-the-art technology, Fab Lab factory fusing bygone skills with modern advances to become self-styled "creative engine of Ljubljana".

Also "font" and central of cultural history is nearby Old Print Shop, where 500 years of print history comes to life, courtesy manual typeset design, "slug" lead lettering expertly explained by resident artisan to make your very best impression.

Where to stay: Goriška Brda Belica's name dates back to 1898 birth of Nonot Pepot, complete with bright white hair, equally glowing reviews lauding family homestead's eight rustic rooms and two apartments, ideally located in Medana village, within beating heart of wine-growing region boasting breath-taking views from Alps to Adriatic.

Hotel Maestoso, named after Lipizzaner stallion classic line, is itself pure equestrian themed thoroughbred,

striking and sleek in equally impressive measure, seamlessly blending contemporary luxury with natural antiquity. Eat like a horse at Restaurant Gratia, serving success on a plate regional herb-infused Karst culinary creations, accompanied by rich robust Teran wine, strong as Bora winds that whip the landscape.

Where to dine: Haute cuisine comes no higher than lofty location of Strelec, renowned restaurant gracing Archer's Tower atop Ljubljana Castle, country's most popular visitor attraction, quality chefs doing exactly what it says on the menu - "synergy of excellent cuisine and historical ambience" - Michelin assessors bestowing coveted star status with appetising accolade "Stylish, delicious cuisine is real star of the show here with balance of local ingredients and more exotic flavours".

Klinec Plešivo's eclectic hospitality reflects artistry and artefacts adorning restaurant walls, International Visual Arts Festival colony hosts assuring "we provide new experiences every time, in wine glasses and on plates, every step of the way reliving stories brought to this space by creativity of artists who have found their inspiration here".

Flavours of Istria abound at Inn Rostelin, putting pasta perfection into Piran in mouth-watering form of fettuccine to fuži, signature dishes including classic comfort of Tomato Sauce Pasta, Fritaja with Asparagus and warming bean fest that is Bobiči Soup as well as sweet treats Fritole Doughnuts and Hroštolle Pastry.

Nearby Mestna kavarna takes the cake with speciality Štorta, richer than entrepreneurial couple Samo and Iza Sia Login's 700m Euro assets.

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