

# Kathryn has got the Superfast X Factor

Aye, aye skipper:  
Kathryn and the  
Superfast X



*Holiday snaps*  
BY JIM MURTY

SHE'S been heralded as many things in her time... but a Ferry Godmother! Kathryn Thomas was on hand this week to help celebrate Stena Superfast X's 1st birthday.

There was no magic wand involved in Superfast's success, it was the result of hard work and dedication. Superfast X has transported 375,000 and 975,000 cars between Holyhead and Dublin over the past year, while there have been 57,000 cups of tea drunk and 20,000 Irish breakfasts eaten.

Thanks to Stena for sending Snaps a miniature bottle of bubbly and chocolate. How did they know that that's my brekkie? Visit [stenaline.ie](http://stenaline.ie)

**FILING** through an airport is a drag... but holidaymakers' spirits were lifted this week when they were greeted by Miss Ireland Sasha Livingstone, who was full of sunny cheer as she launched Superbreak's arrival in Ireland.

Superbreak is all about the flexible short break. Packages on offer include:

■ Dinner Deals in Ireland - Packages from €87.50 pp. The 5\* Glenlo Abbey Hotel in Co. Galway deal caught my eye. Dine aboard original carriages from the Orient Express

for €290 pp based on two nights' stay, inc. breakfast and dinner on a night of your choice in the Pullman Restaurant aboard the Orient Express. Arrival April 20.

■ London calling? SuperBreak's Sightseeing Weekend offers packages from €80pp. See the London skyline at The View from the Shard. €230pp based on two nights' stay at 3\* Ambassadors Hotel Kensington, return flights from Dublin to Stansted and tickets to The View from the Shard. Arrival April 23.

■ European City Breaks packages come in at €178pp. Rome comes in at €285pp based on three nights at the 3\* Arcadia Hotel inc. breakfast, return flights from Dublin plus tickets for the Rome by Night with Dinner and Music Guided Tour. Arrival April 6. See [superbreak.ie](http://superbreak.ie), contact (01) 695 0000 or see a travel agent. Superbreak has over 5,000 3-5\* hotels and an array of attractions.

**I MIGHT** still be walking the Camino in a blue funk were it not for the help of the many wonderful women I met on the way. So I was interested to read that CaminoWays.com has launched a Women's guided tour along the last 100km of the Portuguese Coastal Way. It departs June 25 from Baiona to Santiago and involves seven nights (six walking days) at €740 per person sharing. An English-speaking local guide will travel with you. It includes airport



transfers from Dublin to Santiago de Compostela, half-board accommodation, luggage transfers and holiday pack.

The pilgrims of yore sailed out from these shores, from among other places, Dingle, to start their Camino. Kerry still celebrates those links and CaminoWays.com (01) 525 2886 is linking up with the Kingdom this May Bank Holiday Weekend for the Kerry Camino Walking Festival which takes walkers from Tralee to Dingle. It is €50 for a weekend ticket. €20 for day tickets and €10 for Sunday barbie. The price includes

transport back to Tralee daily, a Kerry Camino pilgrim passport and information pack. It does not include water, snacks or accommodation. It also strikes us a Kerry passport might carry a stamp of Sam.

**WE'RE** flying high! Aer Lingus beat off some of the world's leading airlines to win Best Short Haul airline at the 2016 Guardian and Observer Travel Awards. And Tour America won the Deloitte Best Managed Company Platinum Award. Congratulations to both.

**SNAPS** will, God willing, be on the slopes this Paddy's Day, when we'll be greening up. Of course, the rest of the world will be doing the same. If you've got next week off there is still time to get a late deal with Gohop.ie. Try seven nights in Barcelona from only €355pp. Inc: Return flights ex. Dublin, seven nights on a room-only basis, taxes and charges. Departs March 14. Weekend Travel will be in Barcelona for Paddy's Day too – our reach is long, we'll tell you how it went.

**WE** all love a sale... this is Topflight's five-day Sun Holiday Sale, from Sunday. As a sample it has:

Lanzarote – March 26 (Easter Getaway), 2\* Jable Bermudas, S/C was €549 now €399pps  
Lanzarote – May 7, 4\* Hotel Los Fariones, B&B was €857 now €729pps.  
Algarve – May 7, 5\* Pine Cliffs Resort, S/C was €1019 now €716pps.  
Algarve – May 14, 5\* Victoria Residences, S/C was €699 now €569pps.  
Madeira – May 12, 3\* Dorisol Mimosa, B&B was €629 now €449pps.  
Italy, Lake Garda – May 7, 4\* Bella Italia Bungalows, S/C was €609 now €399pps. Call Topflight (01) 240 1700, see topflight.ie.

**YOUR** diarist sees himself as bohemian with his trilby, bushy beard and individual clothes sense. However, nobody else does. Invited to the Czech Embassy to hear how they will mark the 700th anniversary of the birth of Father of the Czechs Charles IV, I left the wrong impression... on my suit jacket. I'd been trying to eat a mini-burger while

holding a glass of Moravian wine in that same hand. I only hope the ambassador, the charming Hana Mottlová, didn't notice and am glad I wasn't standing next to her. Snaps will bring you more as the year goes on.

