

We head to **OSLO** to combine a city break with winter sports **p56**



CRUISE RETURNS. →

TRAVEL

Venture to the frozen planet

Been inspired by Sir David Attenborough? We've got a selection of unusually chilled-out trips **p58**



Q&A ADVICE

A well-heeled career choice



Forget singing, Keith Barker-Main says Cheryl Cole should stick to designing shoes. **PLUS** All your etiquette woes are answered **p60**

WEEKEND

Haven't got any plans yet?

Then check out Manic Street Preachers live **PLUS** Other ways to fill the weekend **p61**



Avoid a Turkey overdose this Christmas.

130,000 other families are calling us for take-away numbers.



118118
Everyone's little helper.

Network costs vary. Most landlines 41p per call plus £1.29/min (min 60 seconds). The Number 0800 3891 118.

Life films

“Tom wants each film to have the personality of its director

by **MATT MUELLER**

life.london@ukmetro.co.uk

WHERE better to relaunch a brash action franchise such as Mission: Impossible than a glitzy, self-admiring city such as Dubai? The desert metropolis played host to a chunk of Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol’s filming last year. And the iconic symbol of the city’s lofty ambitions – the Burj Khalifa, the world’s

tallest skyscraper at 2,723ft (829m) – found itself cast as Tom Cruise’s plaything for a few days, during which he ran, climbed, dangled and shimmied along its shiny glass exterior, before launching himself into the air for Ghost Protocol’s most death-defying stunt.

It certainly puts scaling that Utah cliff face on Mission: Impossible II into the shade.

‘When we found out we could actually pull it off, that’s when it became insane,’ says Brad Bird, director of Cruise’s fourth jaunt as IMF super-agent Ethan Hunt. ‘It was like: “We’re really gonna do this? On the actual building?”’ Tom couldn’t wait.

So much so, that when M:I4’s original health and safety officer forbade Cruise from doing it, the actor had him replaced with one who would give him the right answer. His biggest fear, says Cruise, was: ‘Falling. I’m not afraid of heights, I am afraid of falling.’

The day of M:I4’s international premiere, Cruise scales his way back up the Burj Khalifa, albeit this time in the super-fast, super-smooth elevators, arriving at the 124th floor with Bird and co-stars Simon Pegg, Paula Patton and Anil Kapoor.

Cruise’s return to the scene of his high-rise feat is in honour of Ghost Protocol opening the eighth Dubai Film Festival. In a few hours, he will pull red-carpet duty at the city’s lavish Madinat Jumeirah complex, alongside a flock of Emirati glitterati.

As for Bird, the febrile mind behind three of the best animation features of the past 12 years (The Iron Giant, The Incredibles and Ratatouille), he has been plotting his move to live-action for as long as he’s been directing. Which, considering he made his first animated short at the age of 11, is a very long time.

Despite coming into an established franchise, Bird was tasked with bringing some fresh twists to the spy party. He was especially drawn to the script’s dysfunctional family dynamics, in which Hunt and three other agents (Pegg, Patton and Jeremy Renner) have to prove their innocence after they’re accused of blowing up the Kremlin and cut loose by the US government.

‘Tom wants each film to have the personality of its director,’ says Bird. ‘Brian De Palma’s first film feels different to John Woo’s, which feels different to JJ Abrams’s.’

Bird cites Raiders Of The Lost Ark, Die Hard and the early Bond films as his inspirations for Ghost Protocol. He likes action films where heroes appear genuinely frightened by their ludicrous predicaments.

‘They’re not just laughing in the face of death, they’re scared crapless and that’s why we connect with them,’ says



Bird. ‘Where a lot of people make mistakes in action movies is that they think it’s about the size of the explosions. But you can’t care about a fireball if you don’t care about the person running from the fireball. These movies exist on tension, too, and there is a funny side to tension.’

Bringing the funny is Pegg, returning as techno nerd Benji – but now wielding a gun. ‘I used to say to JJ [Abrams]: “If you do a fourth Mission: Impossible, you should make Benji a field agent, that’d be so cool.”’ says the British star. ‘In Mission: Impossible 3, I look like a

potato but I trained really hard for this one. I lost 22lb.’

WITH its physics-defying set pieces and bickering family dynamics, Ghost Protocol does come off as a live-action Incredibles. ‘I always joked to Brad: “You finally got to make The Incredibles 2: Tom is Mr Incredible, Paula is Mrs Incredible, I’m Dash and Jeremy’s the little girl,”’ laughs Pegg.

Bird came away very impressed by Cruise’s work ethic, noting he

RADLEY

LONDON

UPTO

50% OFF

IN-STORE & ONLINE

FRIDAY 16TH TO
MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER

4 DAYS
ONLY

Why let good times go bad?
It's not a race, remember to pace!
www.drinkaware.co.uk

Don't see a great night wasted

THE MAN'S IN CONTROL

Tom Cruise does all his own stunts – here are five of the best...

Scaling the world's tallest building – Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol

Cruise trained for months on a four-storey structure but that didn't prepare the actor for clambering over Dubai's Burj Khalifa (left), 100 floors up. 'I literally had to figure a way to fly,' said Cruise, 'because even with months of training, I didn't anticipate the crosswinds you get when you're up that high. Once I figured out how to use my feet as rudders and got the spatial awareness, we got the shots we wanted.'



The hoverpack chase – Minority Report

Cruise's first collaboration with director Steven Spielberg has three breathless chase scenes – one across futuristic roads, one through an automated car factory and a unique horizontal flying sequence, in which Cruise's character tries to escape cops with hoverpacks. The complex, 24m-high flying stunt rig needed 2.5km of cable and up to 18 crew, just to keep Cruise and five stuntmen in the air.

The Utah cliff hang – Mission: Impossible 2

John Woo's Mission: Impossible 2 was a mess but the opening free climb on Utah's Dead Horse Point that reintroduces Ethan Hunt is spectacular. Ropes were removed by CGI but Cruise spent five days on the cliff doing all but one of the climbing moves. Everyone remembers the crucifix hang but it was the sideways leap on to a small ledge that tore a muscle in the actor's shoulder and held up filming.



The motorbike switcheroo – Knight And Day

Cruise persuaded co-star Cameron Diaz to join him in a daring motorbike feat he dreamed up for 2010's Knight And Day. 'I called [director James Mangold] and I said: "I've got this motorcycle stunt. In the stunt, Cruise is driving, while Diaz clammers over him to fire guns facing the wrong way.

Top Gear on two wheels

Promoting Knight And Day with Diaz on Top Gear, Cruise was a (very big) Star In A Reasonably Priced Car. Determined to beat his co-star, he took a sharp left and the Kia promptly tipped on to two wheels. 'I felt the wind come underneath it,' he joked. Naturally, Cruise claimed top spot on the leaderboard – although, to be fair, at that point in a new season the previous leader was only Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint). **Colin Kennedy**



ONE TO WATCH

Jeremy Irvine

Who: The lead human in Steven Spielberg's new film, War Horse.

Why: He may play second fiddle to a horse but, in landing the plum role of World War I soldier Albert in a film that will be in the running for major Oscars, 21-year-old Irvine has started his movie career at full gallop.

As the owner of stallion Joey, the Cambridgeshire-born actor won't be in the running for awards himself but he holds his own in a cast that includes Peter Mullan and Emily Watson. And the 'Spielberg-effect' is amply illustrated by his new career trajectory. Prior to War Horse, the graduate of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art had only endured a supporting role in the Disney Channel's terrible teen show Life Bites.

Post-Spielberg, Irvine has a significant role in Ol Parker's long-awaited new film Now Is Good; will play the younger version of Colin Firth's character in



World War II drama The Railway Man; and has just been cast as Pip in Mike Newell's new take on Great Expectations.

'I had been a struggling actor for two years, so to go from that to being on the set of a Steven Spielberg film was amazing,' he says.

When: War Horse is out on January 13.

RELIANCE ENTERTAINMENT & EXCEL ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT

THE BIGGEST BOLLYWOOD SUPERSTARS IN THE BIGGEST INDIAN FILM OF THE YEAR

SHAH RUKH KHAN
PRIYANKA CHOPRA

A FILM BY FARHAN AKHTAR

PRODUCED BY RITESH SIDHWANI, SHAH RUKH KHAN & FARHAN AKHTAR
MUSIC SHANKAR EHSAN LOY LYRICS JAVED AKHTAR CINEMATOGRAPHY JASON WEST

ALSO IN 3D WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES IN CINEMAS DECEMBER 21
MORE INFO & CINEMAS LISTINGS AT WWW.RELIANCEENTERTAINMENT.NET



PLANET PHOTOS

Dizzying heights: Tom Cruise scaled the Burj Khalifa in the new Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol film

was coughing up sand for days after filming a sandstorm chase and stayed up 48 hours straight to complete an action sequence.

So does he fancy having a crack at Mission: Impossible 5? 'No, they need to get a fresh horse,' Bird chuckles. 'At this point, I've been ridden. There are so many ways to screw up movies like this, that when it works out, you're not popping champagne – you're just relieved.' Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol is out on Boxing Day.

Free* London travel this New Year's Eve Sponsored by Diageo

*On bus, Tube, tram and DLR services from 2345–0430 and London Overground until last train times. Visit tfl.gov.uk

DIAGEO
PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE DRINKING

