

TOP BLOGGER'S FAVE ISLES SPOTS

The Outer Webrides

A SCOTS islander has won a top award at the Cosmopolitan Blog Awards.

Writer Katie MacLeod, 26, from the Isle of Lewis, won the gong for best travel blog at the London

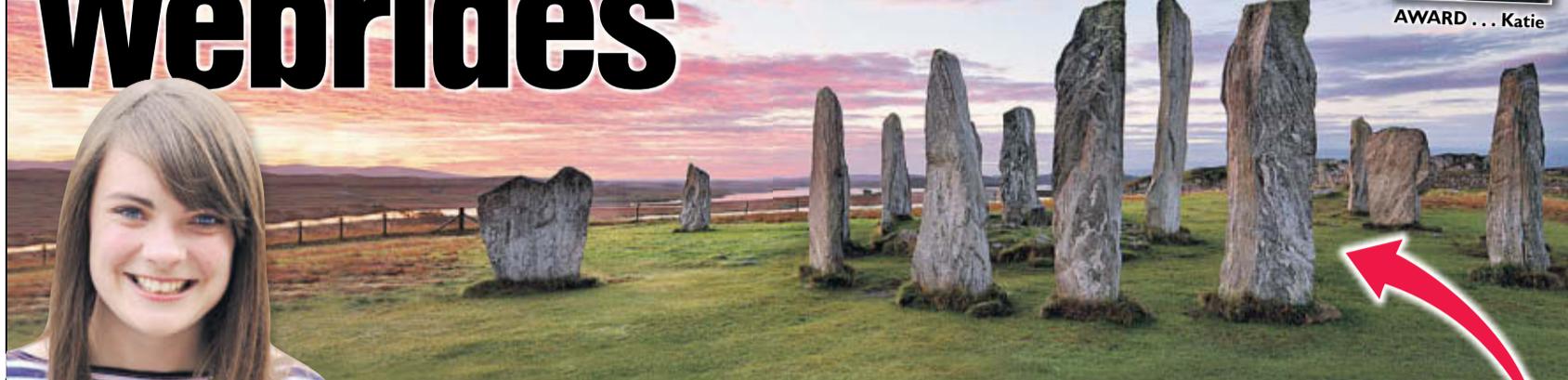
bash thanks to her musings on her site.

Here she tells Features Writer ANNA GAULT about her fave spots in The Outer Hebrides.

● Read Katie's award-winning blog at <http://storiesmysuitcasecouldtell.com>



AWARD... Katie




Luskentyre

I've seen beaches in California, and by the shores of the Indian Ocean, but they're not a patch on the sands that line the west coast of the Isle of Harris. Luskentyre, Sellebost, Horgabost, Scarista — these beaches boast white sand lapped by aquamarine waters that wouldn't look out of place in the Caribbean.



Broch House

The Hebrides might not be the first place that twentysomethings think of for a cosy, luxurious weekend away from it all, but there are plenty of quirky options in the islands, from eco-pods to Mongolian yurts. My favourite is the secluded self-catering Broch House in Harris, built to resemble an old fort.



St Kilda

Want to see Lord of the Rings-style scenery but can't make it to New Zealand? Then head to St Kilda. The isolated, otherworldly group of islands lie 40 miles west of the Outer Hebrides, and are home to an abandoned village, the country's largest puffin colony, and the highest sea cliffs in Britain.



Dhail Mhor

The Hebrides are great for people who like to get active outdoors — including surfing. The Isle of Lewis is one of the best places in the country for surfing. Experienced surfers can often be spotted catching waves from the beaches of Eoipie, Dhail Beag, and Dhail Mhor.



HebCelt

Islanders do know how to party, whether it's with a quiet drink in a local bar, at a concert in An Lanntair arts centre, or in the big top tent on the Castle Green during HebCelt, the award-winning music festival that takes place on Lewis every July. At the weekend, make for McNeill's in the main town of Stornoway.



Callanish Standing Stones

Forget Stonehenge: the Callanish Standing Stones on the Isle of Lewis are much more impressive — and even older, dating back 5,000 years. Disney fans are making the journey here in droves, as the stones — which stand in the shape of a Celtic cross — were the inspiration behind the stone circle in the movie Brave. My favourite time to visit is just before sunset.

Man dies on railing

A MAN was found dead impaled on railings yards from David Cameron's daughter's school.

The victim is believed to have slipped trying to climb the 5ft fence.

He was discovered at 6.40am yesterday in an alley in Kensington, West London.

It is close to where the PM's eldest Nancy, ten, goes to school and is a haunt for the homeless.

Police and fire crews were called to the scene and worked together to remove his body.

Cops investigating were not treating the death as suspicious.

Pet saves fire family

RESCUE dog Uno saved the lives of his owner's family by waking them as their kitchen went up in flames.

The greyhound smelled smoke at 4am and barked in Clare Whiteford's face until she stirred, before dashing to her sons' room.

She got Kieran, 12, Paddy, eight, and Aiden, four, outside and fire crews dealt with the blaze in Washington, Tyne and Wear.

Single mum Claire, 32, said: "Uno saved us. He was barking at the door. I went downstairs and saw the freezer on fire."





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