

## Luxury escapes

# Jet-set pets are the stars now



First-class pup:  
pets can travel with  
a valid passport

## PETTRAVEL

Pet spas? A la carte menus? Now your canine travelling companions can enjoy a life of luxury, too, says **Caroline Sutton**

REGULARLY snapped clasping delightful fluffy white bundles to their gorgeous persons as they teetered out of luxury hotels and cars, stars such as Elizabeth Taylor and Marilyn Monroe epitomised Hollywood glamour in their Fifties and Sixties heydays.

These days, a cute puppy is the glitzy celebrity accessory of

choice. And these pooches increasingly enjoying star treatment all their own.

It seems that the ultimate status symbol for today's globetrotting movie-star types isn't that monogrammed Louis Vuitton suitcase but a tiny dog peeping over the top of it. And why leave Fido at home when tour operators will ensure that

their holiday is just as luxurious as yours?

In fact, after discovering the exotic treats available for globetrotting pets, most people would happily opt for a dog's life.

Hollywood stars, royalty and wealthy types seem to get as gooey as a Disney cartoon wedding when it comes to their pets. And, as they've got

the Hollywood budgets to match, Scamp can now expect a few fantasy touches on his travels, too.

Organic handmade food, designer clothes, massages and five-star doggie freebies mean pets are now given the full red-carpet treatment wherever they go. No doubt sequined dog-jackets are being crafted in the couture houses of Paris for next year's Oscars.

Pet travel is an increasingly serious business. George Bush's dogs Barney and Miss Beazley are accustomed to first-class service, being frequent flyers on the world's

most exclusive jet – Air Force One. Millionairess Paris Hilton, meanwhile, is regularly snapped trotting through hotels with a fluffy pooch tucked under one arm.

Former Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho was arrested after it was claimed he'd sneaked his precious pup Leya from Portugal back to the UK without passing quarantine regulations. It's believed he later spent £20,000 flying the Yorkshire terrier back to Portugal on a private jet.

Devotion like that has inspired luxury holiday companies to offer higher levels of service for little furry loved ones. The Rome Cavalieri Hilton is at the forefront with its roster of pet services. Rumour has it that the idea for pet services came after a royal visit but the hotel would not dare reveal the identity of their regal canine customers.

So, what can a jet-set pet expect at the plush hotel? For starters, there's the two-course "doggy menu", with a choice of healthy rice, meat and vegetable soup, pasta with game, or tuna and sardine pâté. The dishes arrive on a golden platter in a Gucci dog bowl.

The hotel also provides white cotton robes for pets, or bespoke cashmere dog jumpers. Plus, 15 acres of private parkland can be used for walkies – with a dog walker, of course.

The next stop on the pooches' European tour might be the Regent Berlin, a regular A-list haunt. Here, Rover can snuggle down into a specially fitted dog bed, before

tucking into a personalised bone made by the chief patissier of the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant, Fischers Fritz.

For those holidaying in increasingly trendy Croatia, the Regent Esplanade Zagreb has a luxurious doggy spa. Pooches can expect expert grooming and a tailor-made personal-hygiene kit.

Of course, easy as it looks on magazine covers, whether taking a dog, cat or pet iguana

'Jose Mourinho is rumoured to have spent £20,000 on a private jet for his Yorkshire terrier'

abroad, you'll have to make sure it has a valid passport that allows it to leave and re-enter the UK without quarantine. And pets must be micro-chipped, registered, vaccinated against rabies and blood-tested to apply.

Companies such as PetAir UK and Air Pets Oceanic can help to obtain your pet's travel documents.

And don't forget to pick up your ever-so-smart pet-passport

cover from Smythson of Bond Street. A stay at the Rome Cavalieri Hilton with your pet, costs from £220 per night. ([www.cavalieri-hilton.it](http://www.cavalieri-hilton.it); 00 39 06 35091).

Paris match: Ms Hilton and pet



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**Pet Travel Scheme:** find out all you need to know about taking your pet abroad. ([www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk))