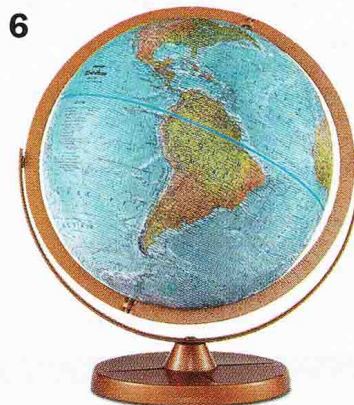


Baggage Globes



1. See red with the **Atmosphere Ruby** minimalist globe with brushed aluminium base – weirdly stylish (£135.95; justglobes.co.uk). ★★★★★
2. Geography-loving tots will enjoy the soft and squashy **Hugg-a-Planet** which has 600 place names to start them learning at an early age (£23.44; stanfords.co.uk). ★★★★★
3. The **Orion** by Replogle Globes is a black earth that lights up at the flip of a switch – what a paradox (£103.99; eglobes.co.uk). ★★★★★
4. Impress your colleagues by popping this **floating globe** on your desk – it levitates and rotates just like the real thing (£24.95; paramountzone.com). ★★★★★
5. The Natural History Museum's quirky **Globe in a Box** is part of a collection that marks the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth (£8; nhm.ac.uk). ★★★★★
6. Replogle's **Atlantis** is a raised relief orb – lumps and bumps to you and me – to show up the oceanic troughs and terrestrial peaks (£74.95; stanfords.co.uk). ★★★★★

Travelogue

The Island that Dared: Journeys in Cuba

Dervla Murphy

★★★★★

(Eland £16.99)



Indefatigable Dervla Murphy sets off for Cuba, fearless of bureaucracy, more opinionated than ever and with a keen eye for the country's good-looking men.

On her first journey, accompanied by her three granddaughters, the Trio, she embarks on a rural roam, sleeping alfresco and in thatched *campesino* homes. Later she rambles solo through mountainous Cuba, an illegal pursuit, confounding locals accustomed to tourist apartheid.

Murphy goes there to understand the complexities of Castro's revolution and its non-consumerist society. It is, therefore, disconcerting that while noting material deprivations she questions why Cubans are 'not book-minded'. She also claims the food rationing system 'undoubtedly works' but then reports that rations provisioned for a month last just two weeks.

However Murphy meets all kinds of characters along the way, from 'patriotic dissidents', to those involved in Cuba's forays into Africa. Investigating the real, modern nation, rather than the pre-packaged one, with candour, she uncovers many truths along the way – presumably the contradictions come as part of the experience. *Claire Boobbyer*

Foreign correspondent

The inside track from Time Out's international editors. This week: **Kuala Lumpur**



Malaysia doesn't have much of a market for 'KL at night' postcards. Possibly because rather than a black scene, the card would currently be full of lights and action. **Euphoria by Ministry of Sound** – Malaysia's first non-smoking club – landed a couple of months back, prompting our other superclub, Zouk, to undergo a multimillion-dollar refit. The **new look Zouk** opens this week and the *TOKL* November issue has a sneak preview. Meanwhile, just opened is Red Square, the city's **first vodka bar**, with entertainment from the region's best DJs and leather-clad (the few parts of them which are covered, anyway) platform dancers. Doing our own bit for KL's nightlife scene, **Time Out Comedy Thursday** takes place on the first, erm, Thursday of the month. The event is hosted by yours truly and showcases five or six local comics for a bargain ten *ringgit* (£1.50). Credit crisis? Not here.

Matthew Bellotti, editor, Time Out Kuala Lumpur, timeoutkl.com