

Where was I



Win a luxurious five-night break for two in Cyprus, as guests of the Azia Resort and Spa, and GB Airways

Occasionally, I delight in stumbling across some seldom-used, cobweb-strewn word that has escaped from its ancient, lexical dungeon.

Here's one: I could make a meal of it, so to speak, but shall merely say it is a four-letter word. It describes, partially, a considerable feat of 15th-century engineering linking a city with a town to its northeast. It was built by an archbishop — the 66th person to hold a well-known archbishopric.

In the hope of seeing it for myself, I check the map. Level crossing. Level crossing. Level crossing. That pretty much sums up the topography, so I drive north — across a level crossing — and into a village. It was the birthplace of a 20th-century novelist whose works include *A Perfect Woman*. Here I park and briefly join a 110-mile long-distance path that leads me to said feat of engineering.

Back at the car, I plot my onward course. Next: an appointment with the Romans. Thus I backtrack to the village, turn right and head west. Six miles later, I dally with the outskirts of aforementioned city. It has its own saint (died AD870, his day: April 10). In the southern suburbs, meanwhile, a noted 20th-century astronomer was born. A schoolmaster by profession, he discovered several comets — one being named after him in 1959. He died in 2000.

Continuing west, I follow, as best I can, the south bank of the city's principal river, thus passing through the village in which an engineer was born in 1863. He started business in a small way, manufacturing switches and suchlike before meeting, in 1904, his famous business partner (the first person to fly the English Channel, nonstop, return). A mile northwest of the village, I find, eventually, somewhere to park. Luck is on my side, for I am almost on top of a Roman town built to guard the spot where a well-known Roman road crossed the river. The town was noted for the enormous amounts of pottery (named after the river) that it produced. It is bisected perfectly by the Roman road, and I can see its agger as clear as clear can be. Agger: yes, it's a good day for delicious, old words.

The competition

- 1 What is the feat of 15th-century engineering?
- 2 What was the name of the Roman town?

The prize: a luxurious five-night break for two in Cyprus, as guests of the Azia Resort and Spa, and GB Airways. The winners will stay for five nights, on a B&B basis, at the five-star Azia Resort and Spa, set on the beach near Paphos. A member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World group, the resort offers three styles of accommodation — Azia Blue for families, the Azia Club and Spa for couples, and the all-suite Residence — as well as the state-of-the-art Asphodel Spa. For more details, call 00 357 26 845100, www.aziaresort.com. Return flights from Gatwick or Manchester are with GB Airways (0870 850 9850, www.gbairways.com), which operates daily British Airways flights to Paphos. Returns start from £138pp, including tax. The prize includes transfers in Cyprus and one dinner in the Azia Resort and Spa's restaurant. The holiday must be taken before December 1, 2007, excluding peak periods and public holidays, and subject to availability.

Entries: on a postcard to Where Was I? February 4, 2007, PO Box 48795, London E98 1WY or at www.sunday-times.co.uk/travel by Wednesday. The winner will be announced in next week's Directions. Only one entry per person. Normal Times Newspapers rules apply. No correspondence will be entered into.