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KP IS NUTS ABOUT CAPTAIN'S ROLE

KEVIN PIETERSEN GETS CRICKET'S TOP JOB PAGE 20



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FREE



Financial spread betting



HSBC profits hit as bad debt surges

Europe's largest bank announces a 28 per cent drop in earnings as crunch bites

► **BANKING**
By **ROB DAVIES**

graphic regions.
In a conference call, finance director Douglas Flint said delinquencies in its US

ROCK BOTTOM Northern Rock set to reveal £500m loss



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Imperial in takeover bid

Crispin Odey bags £28m

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Delsey's 1930s style Carisma bag
Price: £335 www.delsey.com
With heavy hard shell case and traditional toe leather trim. Perfect for that stately lausanne cruise.



Tura's bengal tiger print holdall
Price: £545 www.tura.com
For the glamorous safari.

Aspinal of London's Buffalo bag
Price: £725
www.aspinaloflondon.com
Luxurious, regulation-sized carry-on with wheels. Handmade from black calf skin leather. See it where F&A meets class.



Eagle Creek's Switch Back trolley case
Price: £260 www.eaglecreek.com
Has a detachable backpack on the front with pockets for water bottle, sunglasses, food etc. Backpack's heavy.

Tura's Frequent Traveller Theorum Case
Price: £795 www.tura.com
Selling points are an arched frame and wheels set on the outside which allows for up to 30 per cent more packing space. Perfect for the shopping trip to LA.

Bric's Pinkstone 60cm trolley case
Price: £295 At Harrod's
Shiny and laconic: the City slider's drum tote for up-to-our full weekend of travel.

A case odyssey

Choosing the right luggage is a vital part of looking good on holiday, says Zoe Strimpel

Style

Classy luggage comes in all shapes and sizes.

But let's be honest. There's no hiding which case is yours when it comes time for collection at the carousel. Who hasn't sniffed at other people's mishapen, hulking sacks going round and round the belt? Attractive luggage not only makes you feel good, it's a necessary part of being chic.

Of course, one bag fits all just doesn't apply here. Any self-respecting jet-setter will want a luggage wardrobe: different trips have different requirements. A week-end in Paris requires something quite different from a trek in the Himalayas, or a business trip to New York. Here is our pick of the best cases for looking cool, professional and comfortable in transit. Bon Voyage.

ANY traveller will tell you that your suitcase is just as important as what you put in it. It's no good packing a gorgeous Gucci jacket or Versace ballgown if it arrives crumpled or imprinted with the shape of the toilet case you had to squeeze in next to it. Clever construction is a must. The right pockets and compartments, wheels if you like a smooth tug, expandability and durability are all integral to a good piece of luggage.

SIZE: Too large and it's difficult to manoeuvre and get into the boot of your car. Too small and you can be sitting on the lid to get it closed. Choose a practical size - try Zorches (www.zorches.com) for two weeks. An expandable case is key. Tura has a range with an internal expansion system that adds an extra 20 per cent volume.

WHEELS: Always choose a four-wheeled system for larger suitcases - crucial for manoeuvrability. Try the Dribury Passporter case, which inches through 360 degrees so can be wheeled beside you in the check-in queue.

COLOUR: Avoid black as it can be confusing

when it comes to spotting your luggage on the carousel. Think olive or caramel and show green for a mark of difference.

COMPRESSION STRAPS AND COMPARTMENTS: Lighter summer clothes travel better under straps. Compartments are a matter of taste. Try Delsey's Carisma - this contains every garment, laundry and shoe bag, five holder, wet packs and built-in section dividers.

HARD OR SOFT-SIDED: Doesn't matter as long as the brand is reliable.

STYLE: Unlike clothes, luggage comes in

industry sets, so choose a case you can build on. Make sure your brand of choice offers a set.

WEIGHT: As light as possible. 3.7kg should be the upper limit.

PRICE: The saying that you get what you pay for applies here. Anything from £200-£700 should see you through a few years.

CARRY ON LUGGAGE: Make sure your bag falls within the BAA allowance, currently 45x56x25cm. The Tura International is as supple as they come and will be allowed onto any plane in the world.

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