



UK FIGHTS BACK TO PROTECT SHIPS IN THE RED SEA



Ships in the Red Sea are being attacked by the Houthis in Yemen

THE Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, says Britain is ready to protect itself after striking back against a group that is attacking ships in the Red Sea.

The Houthis are a group that controls most of Yemen – a country in the Middle East that has a coastline on the Red Sea. For weeks, they have been attacking cargo ships in the Red Sea, using drones, missiles and speedboats.

The Red Sea is an important trade route because it's a shortcut for cargo ships sailing between Asia and Europe. These ships carry goods to be sold in shops in the UK and around the world.

Since the attacks, ships have started avoiding the Red Sea and sailing all the way around Africa instead. This causes delays in the delivery of goods – on average, it adds ten days to the journey of each ship, and an extra \$1m

(£790,000) in fuel costs.

One night last week, the UK and the US carried out airstrikes against Houthi targets in Yemen, to force them to stop attacking ships. A Houthi spokesperson said there were 72 strikes in all, and five Houthis were killed.

This week, Mr Sunak told MPs: "I don't take decisions on the use of force lightly... it was a necessary response to a direct threat against UK vessels, and therefore, to the UK itself." The opposition party, Labour, backed the PM's decision.

The Houthis, who are anti-Israel, say they are attacking ships in protest at the war in Gaza, and that the UK and US airstrikes haven't put them off attacking more ships. On Monday, a Houthi missile hit a US-owned ship, but caused no serious damage.



Lights out in Welsh town!



The Milky Way pictured over Powys

A SMALL town and neighbouring village in rural Wales has welcomed the stars – and the odd comet, too!

Presteigne and nearby Norton, in the county of Powys, have become Wales' first dark sky community. They switch off half of their street lights each night, and turn down the other half. This reduces light pollution and gives local residents an amazingly clear view of the night sky.

Light pollution is the glow caused by man-made light from vehicles, street lights and buildings. It drowns out the stars, making them harder to see, and can also affect the sleeping patterns of wildlife. Since the big switch-off, animals like birds, bats and insects have returned to the area at night, and local astronomers say spotting comets and meteors has become much easier.

Beverley Baynham, the local mayor, told the BBC that earning the title was "a wonderful achievement for such a small community". Presteigne and Norton are home to around 2,700 people.

She added: "For anyone walking, you probably don't actually notice the difference. There are no concerns, no worries about safety. It's better for the light pollution, it's better for the environment, but it's also better for our community."

Florida fun-seekers in game-show heaven

IT'S already home to Disney World, Universal Studios and just a few water parks, but Florida's latest attraction has really got people buzzing!

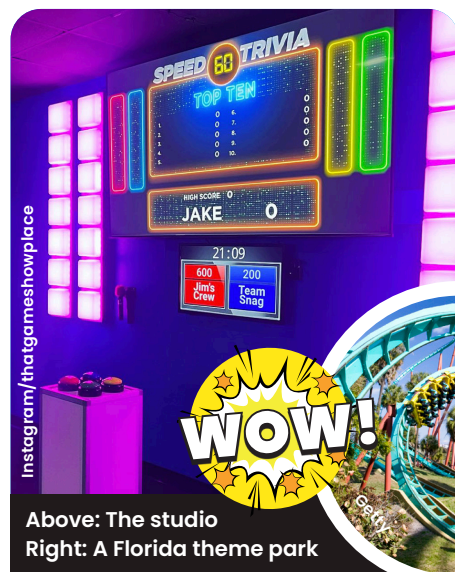
That Game Show Place lets visitors live out their TV dreams and team up with family and friends to take part in a real-life game show – complete with a host, a cool studio, quick-fire questions, timers, buzzers and even snazzy

special effects.

It's been created by game show superfan Jonathon Page. He told local media: "It brings back memories of the family being together and everyone yelling answers at the TV!" There are different games to choose from, and it starts from \$25 (£20) per person.

Would you want something like this in your town?

Let us know at [first.news/polls](https://www.firstnews.com/polls)



Above: The studio
Right: A Florida theme park

WOW!

Grassed place for the world's worst garden

A BEATEN-UP back yard in Australia has 'won' the World's Ugliest Lawn competition.

Kathleen Murray's garden in Tasmania has been chewed to bits and dug up by iconic Aussie animals like kangaroos and bandicoots. She says: "My back yard looks like a real-life *Hungry Hungry Hippos* game!"

People from around the world posted their pictures in to the contest, organised in Gotland, Sweden. The project aims to raise awareness of "saving water on a global scale by changing the norm for green lawns".



It's enough to make you grown!

And they say house prices are soaring...

WOW!



WHOEVER buys this mansion, on sale in Hampshire, might just become the noisiest of noisy neighbours.

That's because the £3.95 million pad also comes with a Harrier II jump jet, parked in the back garden!