

Late deals

Family breaks for summer

UK

Narrowboating in Wales

With just four locks to navigate, the Llangollen Canal section from Llangollen itself to Whitchurch is ideal for beginner families with teenagers seeking a low-effort break. The Dee Valley provides a spectacular backdrop and there are some memorable highlights: Pontcysyllte, the world's tallest canal aqueduct at 38m, and the pitch-black, 420m-long Chirk Tunnel. Your luxury boat, complete with a kitchen and saloon, can be moored at virtually any point. Reduced by £299, seven nights' self-catering for four costs from £1,784 beginning on August 10 (black-prince.com).

Cotswold sunflower blooms

Along with castles, calorific tearooms and Bourton-on-the-Water's Dragonfly Maze, summer stays in the northern Cotswolds could also incorporate visits to Glebe Farm. Open to visitors in August, this pick-your-own grows photogenic sunflowers and has hay bales ready for picnics — ideal for families with tweens. StayCotswold has various nearby rentals with space next month plus discounts of up to 25 per cent. One, in the typically twee village of Ebrington, is the four-person Clare's Cottage, where there's a lawned garden where the kids can tear around. From August 23, seven nights' self-catering

for four now costs £853 (staycotswold.com).

Family resort near Bude, Cornwall

Near Bude on Cornwall's north coast, the Landal Whalesborough is a 450-acre resort perfect for families of all ages. Its distractions range from pools, play areas and tennis courts to a farm where children can feed goats or alpacas. Surf lessons await on sandy Summerleaze Beach, ten minutes' drive away, as do ice creams and fish and chip shops. Enjoy a discount of £560 and stay in a pet-friendly, timber-framed modern barn conversion with its own hot tub. Starting on August 23, seven nights' self-catering for four is from £2,199 (landal.co.uk).

EUROPE

Action-packed Portugal tour

It's not too late for families to snag a space on Explore!'s energetic Active Portugal small-group tour, open to anyone aged seven or over. After scoffing fresh pastel de nata tarts in Porto, you'll hit the coast for a surfing lesson, get to wild swim in a gorgeous, shady river valley or try rafting, via ferrata and a mile-long zip wire. The August 4 departure has been discounted by £150pp so seven nights' B&B costs from £1,395pp, or £1,240 per child aged 7-11, including transport and activities

(explore.co.uk). Fly to Porto.

Luxury beachside Menorca

On the Balearic island of Menorca, the Villa Le Blanc hotel works well for couples with a baby or young families yearning for easy beachside calm. Featuring a pool terrace and gardens, the 159-room hotel is in Santo Tomas, a low-key village in the south of the island near lots of pale sand. An informal onsite restaurant serves classic Menorcan dishes, and every spacious, soft-palette bedroom has outside space. Fifteen per cent savings mean that seven nights' B&B in a four-person, sea-view suite beginning on August 10 costs from £1,408pp, including flights (kenwoodtravel.co.uk).

Explore southwestern France

A pretty seaside town just inside the large Landes de Gascogne Regional Natural Park on France's lesser-visited Atlantic coast, Le Teich makes a fine base for days spent tackling treetop obstacle courses, taking easy cycling jaunts or renting electric boats. Book a whitewashed duplex apartment with a terrace on the Résidence Les Rives Marines estate, close to its heated outdoor pool, and seven nights' self-catering for six will be up to £452 cheaper. Beginning on August 24, prices start at £764 (summerfrance.co.uk). Fly to Bordeaux or take the train to Le Teich.

Get some fresh air in Austria's Alps

Fresh air and fantastic scenery abound in the Austrian Alps. Inghams has £1,600 discounts at Hotel Hanneshof, a traditional property with a heated pool and spa in the authentic alpine village of Filzmoos, which is a small ski resort in winter. Ringed by lakes and pine forests, this is a place of weekend brass band concerts and horse-drawn carriages. Teenagers should like hiking and biking trails leading to meadows or mountain-hut cafés serving homemade doughnuts; youngsters will love cable cars or tractor shuttles. Starting on August 10, seven nights' half-board for four is now from £649pp (ingham.co.uk).

Restful Netherlands camping

The Dutch province of Friesland is a sleepy realm of lakes, waterways, forests and meadows, plus the sandy shores of the Frisian Islands. At its Landgoed Eysinga State campsite, young families can sleep in static, timber-decked holiday homes after days spent cycling along canals to windmills. A kids' club, swimming lake and ping-pong tables are on site. Courtesy of Eurocamp's summer sale, which provides savings of up to £500, seven nights' self-catering for six in August costs from £264 (eurocamp.co.uk). Take the train to Heerenveen or fly to Amsterdam.

Richard Mellor



Landal Whalesborough, Cornwall



Villa Le Blanc hotel, Menorca



Filzmoos, Austria