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The best last-minute summer holiday deals — with August availability

Luxuriate in Lisbon in a posh hotel, drive to Brittany to laze by the pool or pack the kids off to Cornwall for an adventure-packed week



Visit North Macedonia's Lake Ohrid with Intrepid's escorted tour of the western Balkans

[Richard Mellor](#)

Wednesday August 14 2024, 5.00pm, The Times

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If you've left sorting a summer holiday this late, then you have our strictest admiration for your brinkmanship. You also have very little time left. We've found six holidays at home and in Europe that still have space at the month's end — and money off to boot — but availability is limited. The options encompass a classic trip to Brittany, getting to know Northern Ireland, one of Mallorca's most stylish resorts and a Cornish adventure camp for children.

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UK

1. Kids' summer camp in Cornwall



Camp Cornwall is based in Porthpean and includes all kind of activities from paddleboarding to yoga

Are the children getting restless? A summer-only pop-up for kids aged 8 to 14, Camp Cornwall is based in a small sandy shore in Porthpean, on the county's southeastern coast near St Austell. It supplies home-cooked meals, glamping-style bunkhouse tents, evening entertainment and daily supervised activities from paddleboarding, archery and surfing to yoga, fire-lighting and first aid courses. There's still space for five-night stays during its final week, beginning on August 25, and 20 per cent off if you quote "Summer2024". Five nights' all-inclusive starts from £520pp (porthpean.com).

2. Contemporary Causeway Coast hotel

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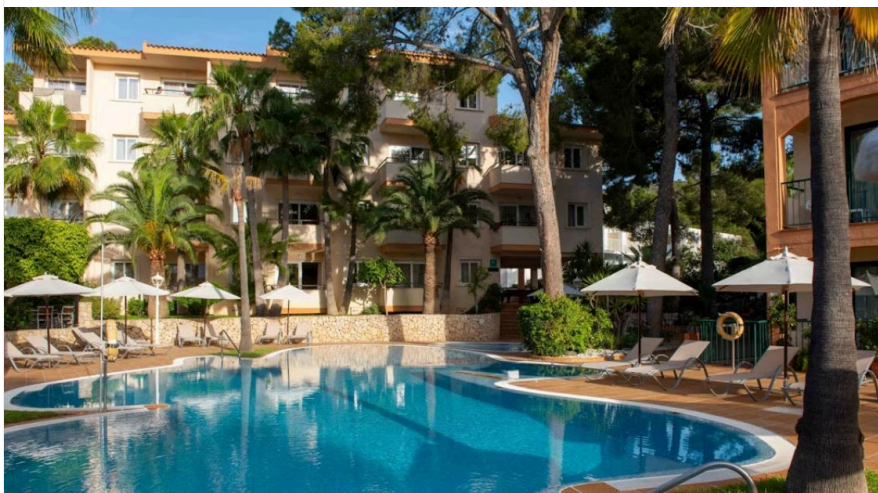


There are 51 spacious rooms at Marine Hotel Ballycastle, some overlooking the long, sandy beach in front

Times readers can exclusively get a fifth off bed-and-breakfast rates during August and September at Northern Ireland's Marine Hotel Ballycastle. Bordering a long, mostly sandy beach on the spectacular Causeway Coast and refurbished earlier in 2024, it has 51 spacious, colourful rooms alongside a bistro that uses locally sourced food for its dinner, afternoon teas and Sunday roasts. There are free activities such as Irish coffee masterclasses, or you might drive to Giant's Causeway or Portrush. The minimum two nights' B&B starts from £136pp using the code "TIMES" (marinehotelballycastle.com).

Europe

3. Stylish Balearic resort



Palm trees line the pool at Valentin Somni Suites & Hotel

Earthy, pastel colours and wood-on-white decor render southwestern Mallorca's adults-only Valentin Somni Suites & Hotel appealingly chic. That's true of its outdoor pools, where palm trees sway over sunbeds, of the buffet restaurant, the spa and the 200 bedrooms. Just 450m from one of the two powdery

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for £161 less departing on August 26. Six nights' B&B costs from £1,068pp, including flights and transfers (tui.co.uk).

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4. Foodie Greek city break



The Modernist Thessaloniki keeps clutter to a minimum

The Modernist Thessaloniki is aptly named: whether displaying mid-century, art deco or Scandi-style design, this svelte hotel in Greece's second city always keeps clutter to a minimum. A decked roof terrace affords sea views while guests are well placed for visits to the old port or White Tower. Thessaloniki is renowned for its Balkan-meets-the-Med food, and the staff can offer insider restaurant tips. Fifteen per cent savings are available on stays later this month: three nights' B&B costs from £167pp (mrandmrsmith.com). Fly to Thessaloniki

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5. Brittany family apartments



The fortified city of Vannes

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Just over two hours' drive from the ferry port at St Malo in southern Brittany, the village-set Résidence Ker Goh Lenn is 36 per cent cheaper during the last school-holiday week. Stay in a bright, airy apartment with access to a shared pool and gym on site, and spend your days roaming the fortified city of Vannes, admiring the fairytale Château de Largoët, or sailing to the Gulf of Morbihan's islands and beaches. Beginning on August 26, seven nights' self-catering for four drops to £423 (summerfrance.co.uk).

6. Luxury Lisbon stay



Lapa Palace is one of the most upmarket hotels in Lisbon

One of the city's poshest hotels, Lisbon's sculpture-lined Lapa Palace has an acclaimed fine-dining restaurant, plus an alfresco summer alternative serving lighter dishes; nearby, glorious

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best viewpoints, museums, fado bars and sandy beaches are all easily reached on foot or by bike. Thanks to an offer that includes a complimentary night, four nights' B&B in late August costs from £1,268pp, including flights, private transfers, concierge service and a Lisbon Card giving free transport and entrance to 25 attractions (kirkerholidays.com).

7. Small-group tour of the Balkans



Intrepid's tour takes in several fascinating countries, including Albania (pictured), Croatia and North Macedonia

From Dubrovnik, the Croatian seaside citadel where you can walk on the old defensive walls, Intrepid's escorted tour explores the western Balkans. Highlights include admiring Kotor, a world heritage-listed Montenegrin city crowning a fjord, trying Kosovan crepes, cruising on North Macedonia's Lake Ohrid and shopping in the Ottoman-style Kruja Bazaar in Albania. There's still space on departures on August 24 and 31, with the latter reduced by £123pp, plus four September dates. Eleven nights' B&B costs from £1,924pp, including transport and activities (intrepidtravel.com). Fly to Dubrovnik

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