

# 12 of the best bargain breaks to book now

## UK

### Scottish Highlands highlights tour

Expect lochs, mountains and moors on Newmarket Holidays' group tour around the Scottish Highlands. Setting off from Inverness and based at a grand country hotel, it takes in a wildlife cruise looking for porpoises and dolphins on the Moray Firth, a drive along the picturesque "Road to the Isles" to Skye, and the chance to look for monsters in Loch Ness. Departures on July 24, August 25 and September 25 have been reduced by up to £347pp. Six nights' half-board starts from £1,224pp, including flights, transport and activities ([newmarketholidays.co.uk](http://newmarketholidays.co.uk)).

### Kent wildlife park stay

There are treehouse stays and then there are treehouse stays above the rhinoceros enclosure of a wildlife reserve. Kent's 600-acre Port Lympne Safari Park, eight miles west of Folkestone, contains several contemporary glass-fronted treehouses that sleep four. As well as a balcony, large TV and good kitchen, you'll get your own buggy for after-hours exploration, plus tickets for a truck-based tour visiting giraffes, camels, lions, gorillas and tigers, and admission to the nearby Howletts Wild Animal Park. With as much as 39 per cent off, one night's self-catering for four starts from £493 ([secretescapes.com](http://secretescapes.com)).

### Attend the British Grand Prix at Silverstone

Put your foot down and you could score £200pp savings on a weekend trip

to the British Grand Prix at Silverstone, Northamptonshire, on July 6. This year British fans will see Lewis Hamilton compete in a Ferrari for the first time as everyone pursues Oscar Piastri's McLaren. Just Go's package lays on tickets for qualifying and the race, with the discount code FISAVE delivering a free upgrade to the Luffield Grandstand. One night's B&B in a nearby mid-range hotel starts from £449pp, including coach transfers from locations across Britain ([justgoholidays.com](http://justgoholidays.com)).

### Isle of Wight walking

Running until June 30, a summer sale from the walking specialist HF Holidays has UK escapes discounted by up to 40 per cent (and overseas trips marked down by up to 30 per cent). One option is a guided rambling break on the Isle of Wight. Staying at Freshwater Bay House, a coastal country mansion, you can choose between up to three different-grade daily walks in small groups, taking in gentle hills, white cliffs, beaches or Carisbrooke Castle. Starting on July 29, four nights' full board costs from £536pp, including a cream tea ([hfholidays.co.uk](http://hfholidays.co.uk)).

## EUROPE

### Eastern Med cruise

Now almost 40 per cent cheaper than before, Celestyal's laid-back Mediterranean cruise from Athens on August 9 travels as far as fairytale Venice before returning to the Greek capital. There's a call along the way at Kotor, the medieval Montenegrin city wedged between plunging green peaks and a

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fjord, and at Katakolon for a visit to the ruined city where the Olympic Games began. In between, the 1,260-guest Celestyal Journey has seven restaurants and a wraparound teak promenade to enjoy. Seven nights' full board costs from £849pp, including wi-fi and tips (celestyal.com). Fly to Athens.

#### Alpine apartments in France

Newly available through Ski France, Les Balcons du Viso is a collection of traditional-style apartments in the southern Alpine village of Abriès. At an altitude of 1,550m and within the Queyras National Park, they're great for anyone who is looking to spend a summer week cycling or hiking marked trails, with rock-climbing, paragliding and hot springs also nearby. There's a heated indoor pool on site and most apartments have a balcony. Offering savings of up to 30 per cent, seven nights' self-catering for four in the school summer holidays costs from £437 (skifrance.co.uk). Fly to Marseilles or take the train to Guillestre.

#### Croatia for solo travellers

Just You's tour for solo travellers, who are guaranteed their own room, visits Istria, an unheralded but lovely peninsula in northern Croatia. Based in Lovran, a charming seaside town, the trip includes three free days and many group activities. There are trips to Plitvice National Park, where cascades connect 16 lakes, and to Pula's Roman amphitheatre; and a chocolate-tasting masterclass. With the July 15 departure discounted by £200pp, seven nights' half-board starts from £2,099pp, including flights, transfers and activities (justyou.co.uk).

## MID AND LONG HAUL

#### Marrakesh design riad

Riad Botanica is an orange blossom-scented, five-suite hideaway set deep in Marrakesh's mazy medina. The riad, which has a pool and a roof terrace where meals can be taken, has a design scheme that blends local lime

plaster and tiles with art deco style. There are resident budgies, Afrobeats playing and souk tours on offer. Visit for multiple nights before August 1 and use the code Summer\_25 and you can save up to 37 per cent. Morocco will be hot at that time, but this chilled-out home should keep you cool. Two nights' B&B costs from £306pp, including one lunch (riadbotanica.com). Fly to Marrakesh.

#### Family trip to Tobago

Most summertime Caribbean deals carry the risk of tropical storms, but Tobago is outside the hurricane belt, so Castara Retreats' offer is exempt. With the code LATE30, families can claim 33 per cent off the eco lodge's treehouse-inspired two-bedroom cottages, each of which has a kitchen and sea views, until August 31. Activities from daily yoga to waterfall hikes and surf lessons are available if you don't fancy simply lazing around the pool or the crescent of golden sand in-between modern Caribbean meals. Seven nights' self-catering for four costs from £1,701 in the school holidays; book by July 7 (castararetreats.com). Fly to Tobago.

#### Watch sunsets in Mauritius

An elegant all-suite resort, the Trou Aux Biches Beachcomber is known in Mauritius for its pretty white-sand beach, from which you can watch gorgeous Indian Ocean sunsets form over the lagoon waters most evenings. There's also an array of activities, from beach volleyball and glass-bottomed boat rides to snorkelling, golf and tennis, as well as an extensive spa with thatched pavilions. Throughout summer you can save up to 25 per cent by booking at least 30 days in advance; seven nights' B&B starts from £1,775pp, including flights and private transfers (inspiringtravel.co.uk).

#### Mexican luxury resort near Cancun

On a 29-acre tropical estate south of Cancun that was once the Mexican president's beach house, the 274-room Nizuc Resort & Spa is a tranquil, luxurious retreat. Characterised by dark wood and stone, it has two private beaches, an Espa wellness centre, two tennis courts, five Caribbean Sea-facing pools and six quality restaurants. Book this month and, visiting for at least three nights before December 18, you'll save up

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to 35 per cent — plus claim 15 per cent discounts on food. Seven nights' room-only in August starts from £1,762pp (nizuc.com). Fly to Cancun.

#### See New England's autumn leaves

Designed to coincide with the spectacular explosion of autumn colours in New England, Insight Vacations' group tour travels from historic Boston to forests in Vermont, taking in the White Mountains in New Hampshire

and the rugged Maine coast. En route you'll travel on scenic roads and enjoy a tasting session at a maple syrup farm. The departures on October 19 and 22 have been reduced by 10 per cent, leaving seven nights' B&B starting from £3,780pp. That includes flights, door-to-door transfers, activities and some extra meals (insightvacations.com).

**Richard Mellor**

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Kotor, Montenegro

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Beach at Trou Aux  
Biches Beachcomber  
in Mauritius



Riad Botanica,  
Marrakesh