

UK Seaside Holidays for Families

The last of the Turkey curry has been devoured, the Christmas decorations taken down, New Year's resolutions made, and with that slightly deflated post-Christmas feeling, you need to find something new to look forward to.

It's the ideal moment to plan a short family break by the seaside...

Spring or early summer is the ideal time to grab yourself a short break by the sea with the kids – whether just a long weekend or a full week. It doesn't have to cost a fortune and it's a great opportunity to explore parts of the country you may not have visited before.

Where to go?

One of the beauties of the internet is the way you can find out detailed information about almost any place within minutes (and a few mouse clicks), so get stuck in and enjoy doing some research. With young children, it makes sense to minimise journey time as much as possible so start by looking for destinations that fall within a 2-3 hour travelling time. If you're Berkshire-based, that means Sussex, Dorset, Somerset, Kent, Essex, and perhaps even Devon are all possibles.

Where to stay?

It depends how much you want to spend. There are various (relatively expensive) family-friendly hotels but

why not go self-catering instead? There are thousands of charming and characterful self-catering properties all around the UK so jump on the internet and have a look. Also consider caravan parks – they're inexpensive, have loads of facilities available and usually provide children's entertainment. They make a good base from which to explore the local area, plus kids seem to love the novelty of staying in a caravan.

When to go?

Going on holiday in the UK is always a gamble – choose July and you can be subjected to a week of solid rain. Choose March and you might find yourself in a freak heatwave... there's just no way to guarantee the weather. One piece of advice though: the cost of your holiday can fluctuate wildly depending on when you decide to go. School holidays typically command a massive price premium but this can be avoided if you're crafty: did you know school holidays in Devon (for example) fall on different dates to Berkshire? So it's possible to sidestep the price hike if you're careful about your dates...

The other option is to take your children out of school for a few days. Not recommended, unless you're prepared to face the wrath of the head teacher...

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