

# 10 ideas for the Family options for the summer

**1 Your own Private Villa in the sun** - If you like to be independent, explore the local surroundings, and dine in or out at your choosing then a villa with your own pool is a great idea. For the kids the pool itself is great entertainment and the option for *All fresco* dining means that you can easily cater for fussy palates. Villas also provide excellent value especially if your group includes extended family or friends whereby the cost of a larger property can be shared. And with a car at hand you can time your visits to the beach and time around the pool to avoid the crowds, even in high season.

**2 A Mark Warner Resort** - If you prefer an active break with good company and lots to do for the children then a Mark Warner holiday is a great option. The Mark Warner resorts in Greece, Turkey, Sardinia, Corsica and Portugal provide activities for the entire family and with childcare included the adults really can indulge in just as much play as the children. The childcare is available for children from 4 months and up to 17 years so this really is an option to get all the adults and older kids to get involved in watersports, mountain biking, tennis and other sporting activities, while the younger children are safely entertained by fully qualified British nannies.



**3 The Big European Adventure** - Yes the cities are hot in the summer but they are also quieter as many locals have left for their own holidays and the hotels often offer discounted rates to lure tourists away from the coast. For older kids especially the opportunity to step out with the rucksack and a list of Europe's majestic capitals can be awe inspiring. Include beach options along the way such as Barcelona,

Nice or Sorrento to allow some time to cool off, and treat the party to air conditioned first class rail between stops. It's great training for future inter-railing and you will have a true family adventure to look back on in years to come. And before anyone says we are mad to suggest it, we have actually done it!



**4 Ikos Resorts** - Combine 5 star luxury with an All Inclusive guarantee that you won't break the budget while you are away at the Ikos Oceania or the brand new Ikos Olivia hotels in Halkidiki. These Ikos resorts take the all-inclusive concept to a new and highly refined level of luxury. They are set in truly spectacular beachfront locations in Halkidiki and offer a wide range of the activities and entertainment but all akin to a 5 star resort. So if your preference is to indulge in the luxury of a resort where everything is provided for you including superb food and excellent accommodation then either of the Ikos options is right for you. You really won't need to step beyond the gates of the resort.

**5 Euro camping** - Kids love camping and thankfully with today's self-drive camping holidays you don't have to do all of the donkey work of transporting or erecting the tent and equipment yourself. Add to this the growing number of sites that offer the kind of leisure and entertainment facilities to rival a theme park and the children can play non-stop before the joy of sleeping beneath the stars. And if the parents can't quite live with the canvas then a modern mobile home offers a more comfortable compromise to enjoy the same facilities of the holiday park with the added benefit of open plan living areas, en-suite rooms, gas BBQs and air conditioning. The word glamping is more appropriate!

**6 Florida twin centre** - Okay this one will not take much selling to the kids. The draw of the Magic Kingdom remains as strong as ever and the surrounding theme parks will ensure that your first week in Florida is an action packed time perfectly suited to the thrill seekers in the family. From a dining perspective the US offers great value and a Florida Villa is a great option to allow complete autonomy when planning your dining and theme park itinerary. Of course it will be a week of non-stop action, some of it water based so the opportunity to then wind down in one of Florida's excellent beach resorts will make sure that you can rest up by the sea before returning to the UK. And if the kids still haven't had enough action from the first week you can easily squeeze in one or two more days to the rollercoasters from your beach base.



**7 A Cruise on RCCL** - Once upon a time taking the kids on a cruise would have meant a compromise on activities but the RCCL ships offer such a range of activities they may not even notice you have left dry land. Our family can speak from personal experience here as every time my wife and I stood on deck to witness the majesty of the incoming or outgoing ports we would try to summon the interest of our children only to find that they were otherwise engaged with the on-ship entertainment. The RCCL on board activities include "Flowrider" surfing, zip wires, climbing walls, inline skating and mini golf, in fact so much that it's easy to forget standard facilities like the swimming pools. Equally on-board dining can be as informal as suits best with a choice of up to 18 restaurants from Johnny Rockets American Diner, to Jamies Italian to the Chefs table there is something for all palettes.



**8 Flotilla Sailing** - Learn to sail with your kids at the Neilson Vounaki Beachclub on the Greek Mainland. Spend the first week enjoying the many inclusive activities or learn how to sail your yacht on the 4 day Introduction to Yachting course! Then take to the sea along with a flotilla leader and other like-minded families as you explore the Ionian Islands under sail. The Beachclub has a great deal to entertain the children with dedicated kids clubs, non-sailing water sports, tennis and mountain biking. With so much on offer the children can be fully entertained and either leave it to Mum and Dad to undertake the 4-day sailing course, or older children may also want get to grips with the sailing duties so that they can take a more active part on the second week at sea. The opportunity to spend the second week sailing amongst the beautiful green islands of the Ionian group, dining beneath the stars and experiencing the exhilaration of the warmth and the waves is might just have you planning more sailing holidays to follow.



**9 Self-drive Gite holiday with Eurotunnel** – The beauty of Brittany lies both in what it has to offer as a holiday destination and in the easy proximity for UK visitors. With a choice of sea routes from the south coast of the England, and an enjoyable but not too long sea crossing the family can arrive in France with many destinations within an hours drive of the port. Equipped with your own car you can then explore the countryside and superb beaches at your leisure, taking in the historic charm of its towns and villages. Many Gites provide a private or shared pool and offer a superb base for the family and as they are usually converted from old farm buildings and houses they provide lots of unique character in keeping with the surroundings.

**10 A UK Pine Lodge Break** - UK summer holidays offer unique magic and special memories. For a certain age group the idea of simply packing the car and heading off to the UK coast conjures childhood memories and a desire to play games together on the beach and picnic by the sea. Thankfully we can now enjoy fantastic accommodation options around our coast and in the beauty spots of our countryside. A UK pine lodge is a great option for the immediate family, and also for groups of extended family of friends and easily accessed without any hassle of check-in or security queues. The pine lodges themselves are housed in woodland and rural settings, many with on park indoor pools which are always helpful when the sun chooses not to make an appearance. Through Hoseasons you can select from a special range of parks across the UK that offer activity programmes to keep the kids entertained in the park location with archery, high ropes, climbing walls and horse riding amongst the many activities..... and in between all of those things you can simply go to the beach!

