



In association with



Guide to... FAMILY FUN

Caravans are ideal for fantastic family holidays – here's everything you need to know to enjoy exciting adventures that will entertain all ages

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FAMILY-FRIENDLY CAMPSITES

One of the keys to happy family touring is selecting the right site, and here are 10 of our favourites!

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1 Stowford Village, North Devon

Set in 500 acres of beautiful North Devon countryside, this family-friendly park really does have something for everyone.

For starters, there's an indoor swimming pool, games room, crazy golf, ebike hire and an extensive recreation area, including a football pitch, tennis court and play zone.

The site is well equipped for food and drink, with a farm shop and a good choice of places to eat. There's even a stables and a farm, where kids can feed and play with a variety of animals. Exmoor National Park and Lynmouth are nearby.

➤ royaleresorts.co.uk

2 Blakemere Touring and Holiday Park, Cheshire

This fabulous holiday park is home to more than 30 independent shops and a variety of excellent places to eat and drink.

Touring families can choose from a range of exciting activities that are available at the site, including Segway hire, bushcraft and archery sessions.

There's also an outdoor adventure play park, a miniature railway and an enclosed dog-exercise area. The park accommodates all kinds of caravans and leisure vehicles, and provides a large amenities block, a licensed shop and a games/chill-out zone.

➤ stayatblakemere.co.uk

3 Sandford Park, Dorset

Just a short drive from the gorgeous Dorset coast, this bustling park is perfect for active families. They have an indoor and an outdoor swimming pool, a high ropes course, a dog agility field, an arts and crafts centre and a sports dome.

When it's time to slow the pace, there is an outdoor canopy area for evening entertainment and various places for food and drink, including a Costa Coffee and a takeaway. Sandford also offers a good selection of pitches and facilities.

➤ parkdeanresorts.co.uk



'Touring families can choose from a range of exciting activities, including Segway hire, bushcraft and archery sessions'





4 Vauxhall Holiday Park, Lincolnshire

Just a mile from the many attractions of Great Yarmouth, including sandy beaches and nostalgic arcades, Vauxhall Holiday Park is well equipped to keep families entertained.

Children will love the treehouse adventure playground and outdoor splash zone with inflatables, as well as the indoor and outdoor swimming pools. Especially for the younger ones, there is an under-12s den and a soft play area.

Families can enjoy snooker, jungle golf and the multi-sports area before finishing off the day in the Reedcutters Restaurant.

➤ parkdeanresorts.co.uk



5 Trevornick Holiday Park, Cornwall

This pristine site is located within walking distance of the fabulous beach at Holywell Bay, made famous by BBC's *Poldark*.

Along with an excellent choice of pitches, visitors will enjoy the site's outdoor heated swimming pool, whirlpool bath and spa.

For younger children, there is a toddler pool and an indoor soft play area. Older children will love the daytime and evening entertainment and outdoor play area, while for the grown-ups, there are onsite fishing ponds and a neighbouring golf course.

➤ trevornick.co.uk

6 Highlands End Holiday Park, Dorset

Perched on a clifftop overlooking the dramatic Jurassic coast, Highlands End offers plenty of family amenities.

Onsite is an indoor heated pool and sauna, nine-hole pitch and putt course, tennis court and outdoor play park.

Four-legged friends are not forgotten, with a dog-exercise field and doggy shower, and gorgeous Eype Beach is a 10-minute walk away. There's also live entertainment, a restaurant, bar and bakery.

➤ wdlh.co.uk/holiday-parks/highlands-end

7 Ladram Bay Holiday Park, Devon

Another Jurassic Coast gem, this five-star site offers stunning views of the Devon coastline and has a private pebble beach.

Tempting as the beach may be, the park itself will keep everyone busy, with adventure golf, an indoor climbing wall, a soft play area, watersports hire and a pool complex with outdoor splash zone.

Along with a good choice of food outlets, the complex runs a full entertainment and activities programme that is bound to keep the whole family entertained.

➤ ladrambay.co.uk





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'Family activities include bowling and arcade games, a pitch and putt golf course and a soft play area'

8 Presthaven Holiday Park, North Wales

Tucked away behind beautiful Gronant Beach, this family-friendly holiday park is absolutely packed with exciting things to do, whatever your preference.

The kids can blow off some steam in the outdoor play areas, indoor soft play, aerial adventure course or the SportsDrome. Everybody can cool down in the outdoor pool or the indoor swimming complex.

For families, there's archery, adventure golf, go kart hire and access to Gronant Dunes. The park also offers a choice of food outlets and onsite entertainment.

➤ haven.com/parks/north-wales/presthaven

9 Silverdale Caravan Park, Lancashire

Set against the stunning scenery of the Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, this pretty holiday park has something for everyone.

The indoor swimming complex houses two pools, a spa bath, sauna and steam room, plus a gym. For the little ones, there's a separate toddler pool.

An excellent choice of food is served at the site's popular café/bar and restaurant, and family activities include bowling and arcade games, pitch and putt golf and soft play. The campsite is also perfectly located for exploring the Lake District.

➤ holgates.co.uk/our-parks/silverdale

10 Cotswold Farm Park, Gloucester

Located in the heart of the Cotswolds, Adam Henson's famous farm and holiday park is a perfect destination for animal lovers. There's a fascinating Rare Breed trail and a woodland walk, as well as various barns where visitors can meet and learn about the farm's residents.

To keep everybody entertained, the Adventure Barn is home to an indoor sandpit, mini climbing wall, soft play and a café, while outside is a play area, pedal tractors, log assault course, bouncing pillows and more. Farm entry is included with your pitch booking.

➤ cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk





FAMILY FLOORPLANS

Choose the right caravan and you'll keep everybody happy!

THE SITE CAFE doesn't open for another two hours, but how you wish it was sooner!

It's Sunday afternoon, it's been raining all weekend, and you've lost count of the number of games of Exploding Kittens you have had to play to keep the grandchildren amused.

Poor lambs, they've nowhere else to go in this end-kitchen two-berth. And you thought a long weekend with them would be the perfect break...

You're tired, too: you thought they'd be happy sleeping in the awning, but with rain lashing down, they got scared so you let them crash out in the aisle, much to the disgust of Fido, who was sent outside into the awning, where he sat up and whined all night.

You sigh yet again as you struggle past the kids to the kitchen, to fill the kettle once more. Monday morning, when

you will be packing up and going home, has never looked quite so appealing.

Does this scenario sound all too sadly familiar? It might well do. A surprisingly large number of non-touring people's memories of family caravan holidays tend to be something along these lines.

Which is a real pity, because in the recent past, caravans have become so much more family-friendly that you could spend a long weekend inside some of them and never trip over each other's toes at all.

Here are our expert tips on what to look out for in a layout to make sure your new caravan keeps the whole family happy.

'Those little beds might seem cute now, but they aren't going to impress a gawky teenager'

Separate lounge

Two seating areas are going to give the kids privacy and allow you all to spread out. Having them at opposite ends of the van will please teens, especially if the second lounge has USBs, a table and TV sockets. In some models, you can get a second lounge opposite the kitchen, where it also doubles up as an eating area for the kids.

Large washroom

To accommodate the beds, family caravans tend to have corner or side washrooms. But these should still be big enough for two children to get washed at the same time. A separate shower cubicle helps here.

Solid partitions

Concertina partitions might be acceptable with smaller children, but as they grow, if you can, it's best to go for layouts where there is a good solid wall between you and the marauders!

Flexible beds

It's growing kids you need to think about when choosing your caravan. Those little beds might seem cute now, but they won't impress a gawky teenager. Make sure there is a good range of bed lengths. And try to avoid too many situations where the children would be obliged to share a double bed.

Lots of sockets

Whatever you think about it, kids expect to be online all the time. Ensure there are enough USB ports and mains sockets in your caravan to go round.

Our top family caravans



NEW Bailey Pegasus Grande SE Ancona

This 2022 van won the family category at the Tourer of the Year awards, thanks to its rear lounge for the kids. It's cosy up front for the adults, and the washroom is an excellent size.

Price £27,999



USED Bailey Phoenix 760

Available as a used model, this 2019 twin-axle 760 includes a rear lounge that doubles up as a bedroom for four. It can also be shut away behind the large central washroom that straddles the caravan.

Price Around £19,999



NEW Elddis Avanté 840

This 8ft-wide model remains a contender thanks to its large second lounge, which is big enough to seat four children for a family dinner next to the kitchen, while still leave relaxing space for stray adults.

Price £26,499



USED Sprite Major 6 TD

Sprites have long been popular as budget family models. This 2019 example has a spacious dinette at the back for the children, which converts easily into double bunk beds. And it doesn't look budget, either.

Price Around £18,100

FAMILY ATTRACTIONS

Pitched up and ready to explore the local area? Our round-up of fantastic family venues has something to please all ages!

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1 Puzzlewood, Gloucestershire

Explore Puzzlewood's winding pathways through the mystical woodland and climb the bridges over rocky ravines.

You can visit the mini-farm to meet a selection of animals, too, including Highland cattle, donkeys, goats and ducks.

Keep an eye out for bats, deer and birds of prey, all in their natural woodland habitat.

Make sure to pick up a free Wizard's Guide when you get there and complete the tick list of 20 places and objects to be found along the way, to make your adventures even more fun.

➤ puzzlewood.net

Stay at Greenacres Campsite

➤ greenacrescampsite.co.uk



2 Magna Science Adventure Centre, Rotherham

Perfect for a rainy day, this exciting interactive science centre in South Yorkshire will captivate the whole family.

Based indoors and outside, this "coats on experience" turns every visitor into a scientist for the day. Four pavilions, for Air, Earth, Fire and Water, host experiments, demonstrations, activities and much more.

Outside is a large adventure playground and a splash park, one of the UK's biggest outdoor water play zones.

➤ www.visitmagna.co.uk

Stay at Waleswood Caravan & Camping Park

➤ waleswood.co.uk



'Outside is an adventure playground and a splash park, one of the UK's largest water play zones'

»



3 Hobbledown Farm, Surrey

Hobbledown is a lively menagerie of attractions set in 50 acres of lovely Surrey countryside. Home to lemurs, camels, meerkats, prairie dogs, alpacas and more, the park is bursting with exciting sights and educational experiences.

Visitors can enjoy storytelling and animal demonstrations, as well as outdoor activities including a castle adventure park and ropes course. There is also an indoor play barn and Reptile House, complete with water play and an interactive jungle.

➤ hobbledown.com/epsom

Stay at Walton-on-Thames C&CC Site

➤ campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk



4 Hawkstone Park Follies, Shropshire

Located in 100 acres of rugged parkland, Hawkstone Park Follies are perfect for a day of exploring in natural sandstone hills. Rich in history, the park is home to bridges, caves and arches, as well as a grotto and a rock cleft.

There's a 100ft monument to climb that gives panoramic views across Shropshire, and a picturesque picnic area. You can spend two or three hours meandering through the park, depending on which twists and turns you choose to take.

➤ hawkstoneparkfollies.co.uk

Stay at Green Lane Caravan Park

➤ greenlanecaravanpark.co.uk



5 Hever Castle, Kent

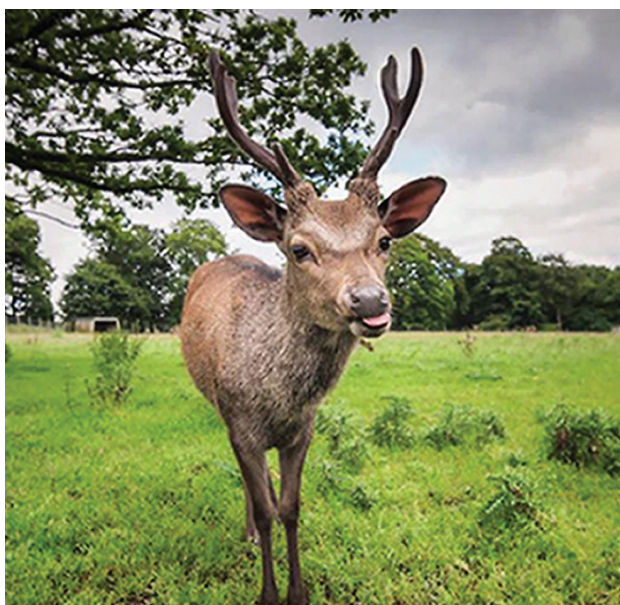
Dating all the way back to 1270, this enchanting castle was once the childhood home of Anne Boleyn.

The magnificent house is full of fine furniture, tapestries and portraits. Then there are 125 acres of gorgeous gardens to explore, where you'll find grottoes, fountains, statues, a giant topiary chess set and two mazes, one of which is set in a pond – don't forget to bring a towel! Rowing boats and pedalos are also available to hire on the 38-acre lake.

➤ www.hevercastle.co.uk

Stay at Long Acres Caravan & Camping Park

➤ longacrescamping.co.uk



6 Smithills Open Farm, Bolton

This working dairy farm, set in 70 acres of beautiful countryside, is located just a few miles from Bolton.

The farm runs an ice creamery, as well as keeping 25 types of animals. In Pets Corner, visitors can get to know the farm's residents by feeding the lambs and goats or cuddling the baby rabbits and guinea pigs. With indoor and outdoor play areas, tractor rides and demonstrations, there's no shortage of fun and interesting activities at Smithills.

➤ smithillsopenfarm.co.uk

Stay at Wilcocks Farm Caravan Site

➤ wilcocksfarm.co.uk



7 Bewilderwood, Norfolk

This unique adventure park is nestled in woodland not far from the Norfolk Broads. It's home to treetop mazes, zip wires and marsh walks, where visitors can immerse themselves in the imaginative world of Tom Blofeld's books for children.

There are storytelling performances and a magical boat ride through a lagoon, as well as plenty of room for just running around. It's well laid out for exploring and adventures – and there's always something exciting around the corner!

➤ norfolk.bewilderwood.co.uk

Stay at Norfolk Broads CAMC Site

➤ caravanclub.co.uk



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8 Camera Obscura, Edinburgh

With five floors of mesmerising exhibits and interactive attractions, Camera Obscura is a great activity for visitors of all ages. Each floor offers something different, from light and sound tricks to immersive optical illusions.

There are amazing collections of mind-bending things to see, as well as a fascinating interactive 3D cityscape showing Edinburgh in the Victorian era and in modern times. Not far from Edinburgh Castle, this is a great all-weather activity.

➤ camera-obscura.co.uk

Stay at Edinburgh CAMC Site

➤ caravanclub.co.uk



9 Greenwood Family Park, North Wales

This family-friendly venue near Snowdonia National Park is simply bursting with excitement. For thrill-seekers, there's a rollercoaster, a huge water slide and a woodland adventure course based on Welsh folklore.

Visitors can take things more slowly, too, on a paddleboat trip down the canal or a barefoot sensory walking trail through the woods. Youngsters will love the mini-diggers and tractors, and the indoor soft play area has a café for parents to refuel.

➤ greenwoodfamilypark.co.uk

Stay at Rhyd y Galen Caravan Site & Camping Park

➤ wales-camping.co.uk



10 Zip World, Llechwedd

In the town of Blaenau Ffestiniog, you'll find Zip World, an adventure park that is home to six exhilarating activities.

There's a 1km, four-person zip line over the historic slate quarry, with a two-person line for younger riders. Go below ground to explore the adventure park, which hosts golf and tours of the mines and caverns. One of the most popular attractions is Bounce Below, where six trampoline-style nets span an area twice the size of St Paul's Cathedral.

➤ zipworld.co.uk

Stay at Coed-Y-Llwyn CAMC Site

➤ caravanclub.co.uk



HOW TO TOUR WITH CHILDREN

A caravan is perfect for family holidays! Marcus Leach reveals some essential tips for stress-free travelling

Be prepared

It might sound obvious, but be prepared. One of the many joys of a caravan holiday is that you have far more space than you would if you were going on a more traditional break, which means that everybody can pack for all eventualities.

The key for us as a family on tour is having everything we might need to ensure the children are always entertained, even on rainy days.

Go slowly

All parents will quickly adapt to the fact that doing anything with children takes a lot longer, and that goes for travelling, too.

Don't be in a rush and don't try to fit in too much on each day of your trip. We try to keep holiday driving to a minimum, and we aim to enjoy one main activity every day.

Any more than that and in our experience, everybody gets stressed, thinking that we have to be on the move to get to our next activity or destination.

Keep it simple

We all tend to spend loads of time thinking up activities and planning various experiences to entertain our children, when in fact, the simplest things are often the most rewarding – be that a breezy stroll along the beach, a bike ride on family trails, or leisurely hours spent crabbing off the harbour wall.

For our children, staying in a caravan is an adventure in itself, and they love playing together in the van.

Plan ahead

Before departure, we establish a day-by-day plan that includes

potential places to eat, activities, points of interest and any additional driving that we might need to do.

That's not to say we are not flexible – on any trip, some of the best times are impromptu – but it helps to have an idea of what is going to be happening. And even though we are on holiday, the children still like to have a routine.

Keep them involved

Children want to help and feel a part of things, which is why it is good to give them some responsibilities of their own.

In our family, Harrison loves drying the dishes when we go to wash up, and Dorothy likes to help put everything away – even if it takes us a little bit

longer that way! When you are on holiday, what adults might see as chores that need doing on a regular basis can actually be fun activities for children.

Pack properly

With so much storage space in the car, there is always the temptation to chuck in absolutely everything and just go, but time spent organising before you set off makes life easier when you are onsite.

We try to follow a basic packing list, with the aim of catering for all eventualities, but not taking loads of stuff that ends up being unused for the whole trip.

That also makes it easier to put things away in the caravan when we arrive at the campsite.

Pick the right pitch

For us, finding the perfect pitch means selecting one that is away from the busy entrance to the campsite, but fairly close to all of the amenities.

We usually stay at Club sites, because almost all of these are great parks for children, so we always aim to tour as close to them as we possibly can.

Particularly for families with young children, pitching up near the washblock can also be quite an important thing to consider, making everybody's access to showers and toilets a great deal easier.

Change your perspective

If travelling with our children on family tours has taught us anything at all, it is to see the world through their eyes, which offers a very different view to the one that we have.

In doing so, we rediscover the magic that can be found in the simplest of things.

Make the drive fun

We always try to make the journey fun. This means having a playlist that we all love and can sing along to, knowing some interesting facts about places we pass through, giving Harrison a map to find where we are going, and having little competitions with rewards – for example, the first one to spot 10 red cars gets an ice cream!

Family adventures

Preparing for your first caravan trip with small children can feel a bit daunting, but with the right planning and a little bit of preparation beforehand, it will be one of the greatest adventures you could go on!



'The simplest things are often the most rewarding – be that a breezy stroll along the beach, a bike ride, or leisurely hours spent crabbing'



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Marcus, Kim, Harrison and Dorothy love to go exploring; caravanning is ideal for grandparents, too; simple activities such as a stroll on the beach can be a great adventure; getting together with extended family is easy when you're on site; Marcus and Harrison brave the cold for a quick dip!



ESSENTIAL ACCESSORIES

Our selection of brilliant kit will make touring with youngsters even more fun!



Nappy bags

Naty Eco biodegradable nappy bags aren't just for the obvious – keep a stash in your van for storing dirty shoes and clothes, or take them out and about for holding leaky water bottles.

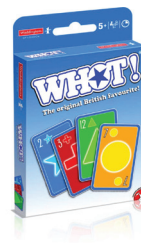
Price £2.20 **Web** [sainsburys.co.uk](https://www.sainsburys.co.uk)



Marshmallow toasting kit

Who doesn't love toasted marshmallows? If your site allows it, you can't beat this evening activity. This great kit from Toast'd has all you need, including a gel burner - no campfire necessary!

Price £17 **Web** [toast-d.co.uk](https://www.toast-d.co.uk)



Play the game

Games such as the classic Whot! Travel Card Game are perfect for caravanning: smaller than their full-size counterparts, they'll help save storage space in your lockers, while providing hours of fun.

Price £4.95 **Web** [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)



Picnic blanket

Not just for picnics – this Waterproof XL Tartan Picnic Blanket is ideal for kids to play on outside the van, helping keep clothes clean. Stow one in the car for impromptu lunches on the run, too.

Price £12 **Web** [halfords.com](https://www.halfords.com)



Colourful crayons

Little ones can express their creativity in an upholstery-safe way with these Crayola crayons – don't forget to pack a good supply of paper, for great entertainment, whatever the weather.

Price £3.99 **Web** [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)



Fun footwear

These brightly coloured Olaian Flip-Flops 120 are brilliant for tours with children – keep a pair by the caravan door or in the awning for quick, fuss-free trips to the washblocks or swimming pool.

Price £3.49 **Web** [decaathlon.co.uk](https://www.decaathlon.co.uk)



Handy wet wipes

Clean faces, hands, tabletops and more with this economical pack of 60 wet wipes. WaterWipes are also plastic-free and biodegradable, making them much better for the environment, too.

Price £2.95 **Web** [sainsburys.co.uk](https://www.sainsburys.co.uk)



Stay in the shade

Travelling in the car with the sun shining down is no fun for anybody, least of all fidgety, fractious youngsters, but you can easily help them stay cool with these cheerful window shades.

Price £10.80 **Web** [halfords.com](https://www.halfords.com)



Take a seat

Kids love to have their own special seat, and the Giraffe Chair from Eurohike is sure to please. It's just one of a range of sensibly priced, brightly coloured, child-friendly chairs now available.

Price £10 **Web** [milletts.co.uk](https://www.milletts.co.uk)

ADVENTURES START HERE!

A family holiday is the perfect time to try something new, says Marcus Leach, and there are plenty of activities to choose from

CUT OUT
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Summer is here at last, and with it long days, (hopefully) balmy evenings and plenty of opportunities to enjoy time together as a family. With so much on offer here in the UK, there's no need to be left wondering what you're going to do on your caravan trip, but just in case, we have some brilliant suggestions for you.

1 Stand-up paddleboarding

With its origins in Hawaii and its roots in surfing, SUP, as it is better known, is a watersport that all of the family can enjoy – even the dog! As such, it should definitely be on your radar for the summer.

In the past, the cost of boards has been prohibitive, but with a huge number of places now offering rentals, it is a lot more accessible. If you're new to the sport, it's recommended that you begin with a few lessons, or at the very least, start off in calmer waters.

Location A great place to begin your SUP experience is in the Lake District, combining it with an all-round

outdoor adventure holiday. Ullswater Paddleboarding offers boards for hire, expert tuition and guided tours. ullswaterpaddleboarding.co.uk

2 Coasteering

What's not to love about a shot of adrenaline from swimming, throwing yourself off a cliff and scrambling around coastline that is otherwise inaccessible?

This exhilarating experience is best suited for the more adventurous among us, but the thrill of being in the sea, exploring coves and freefalling (safely) from cliffs and rocks is a great way to encounter our stunning coastline as you've never seen it before.

Location There are some great places to try your hand at coasteering across the UK, but arguably the best is the wild and rugged coastline of western Cornwall, where the superb Kernow Coasteering is the go-to provider for your ultimate day out in the sea.

kernow-coasteering.co.uk/coasteering-cornwall >>



3 Gravel cycling

The emergence of gravel cycling has revolutionised the bicycle industry, with a huge variety of bikes now catering for those looking to explore off-road. This has also opened up a new world to riders of all levels and abilities. Once you start planning routes away from paved roads, you soon realise there are dozens of options for a dash of adventure with your cycling.

Location The Cambrian Mountains in mid-Wales are a magnet for gravel cyclists, with the ultimate route being the Trans-Cambrian Way, a 160km trail. For something a bit more family-sized, try Komoot.

➤ komoot.com

4 Hiking

There are few activities as simple as taking a hike, but pick the right one and there are also few things quite so rewarding. Walks can lead us to all manner of wonderful locations, all at our own pace.

Plan your route as a family to get everyone involved, find places to visit along the way and pack a picnic. Walking with children? Make it a treasure hunt and keep them engaged along the trail.

Location The possibilities are endless. Our wonderful national parks are an obvious starting point, or you could take a look at the UK's numerous national trails.

➤ nationalparks.uk; nationaltrail.co.uk

5 Wild swimming

Most people enjoy a dip, and there are so many outdoor places where we can swim. There's something special about swimming in a lake in the early evening, or starting the day with a swift splash in a river.

Keeping safety in mind, you should always check your surroundings if you plan to go wild swimming. If in any doubt, it's best to stay out of the water.

Location There are countless places where you can swim outdoors. For further information and guidance, check out the Outdoor Swimming Society.

➤ outdoorswimmingsociety.com

6 Stargazing

The night skies are full of fascination. If you're willing to take a little time to look up at night, new worlds await you! In Dark Sky locations it's possible to spot more than 2500 stars with the naked eye, and even more using visual aids. Make this the summer that you search out the Milky Way or watch a meteor shower.

Location The best places to stargaze are our national parks, many of which have Dark Sky status. Perhaps the best of these is Northumberland National Park, one of Europe's largest International Dark Sky Parks.

➤ northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/things-to-do/discover-dark-skies

7 Sea fishing

There's nothing quite like the satisfaction of catching your own dinner, or simply reeling in a fish that you are happy to put back. And what better way to do this than from a boat off the coast of the UK? With various licences needed to fish in rivers, lessen the hassle by booking a fishing trip through an operator, with the bonus of admiring the coastline from the water.

Location Pembrokeshire in West Wales is home to some wonderful sea fishing. Saundersfoot Sea Fishing runs trips for anglers of all abilities, and its boats are wheelchair accessible, too.

➤ saundersfootseafishing.co.uk

8 Go on safari

You might not think of the UK as an obvious location for a safari, but it's not all about big game – although there are specialist parks where you can see more traditional safari animals.

There's a surprising variety of safaris available in the UK, everything from basking sharks and minke whales off the Isle of Mull to deer in the New Forest.

Location The New Forest is a hugely popular family destination; add in the possibility of a safari, and it becomes even more attractive. Book an excursion with New Forest Deer Safari and head out to see red deer and the more elusive fallow deer.

➤ newforestsafari.co.uk

9 Boating on the Thames

Away from the hustle and bustle of central London, there's an abundance of parks, wildlife and waterways to enjoy. Take to the water in and around London and you'll discover a different side to the city, be that on a scenic canal trip through Paddington, heading out past Hampton Court Palace, or a high-speed jaunt in a RIB.

Location The Thames traverses London, so there are plenty of options, and lots of operators offer trips.

Try GoBoat for a more sedate voyage, or Thames Rib Experience for adrenaline-fuelled excursions.

➤ goboat.co.uk

➤ thamesribexperience.com

10 Horse riding

For most of us, the cost of owning and caring for a horse is pretty much prohibitive (unless we sell our beloved caravan!), but that doesn't mean we can't enjoy a family horseback adventure this summer.

Much like exploring on foot, riding allows us to slow down and immerse ourselves in the world around us, without the worry of little legs getting tired halfway.

Location The Wild Atlantic Way, in Kerry, Ireland, is home to Dingle Horseriding, where you can sign up for lessons or book a variety of treks and riding holidays.

➤ dinglehorseriding.com

11 Archery

Are your kids fans of *The Hunger Games*? Perhaps they just love the idea of shooting arrows into the sky like Robin Hood. Then there's no better activity to book this summer than a day of archery, an ancient skill that is great fun for children and adults alike.

Location There are hundreds of places to try your hand; find out more at the National Archery website.

➤ nationalarchery.co.uk/en/kids-archery

12 Rock climbing

Fancy yourself as the next Alex Honnold?

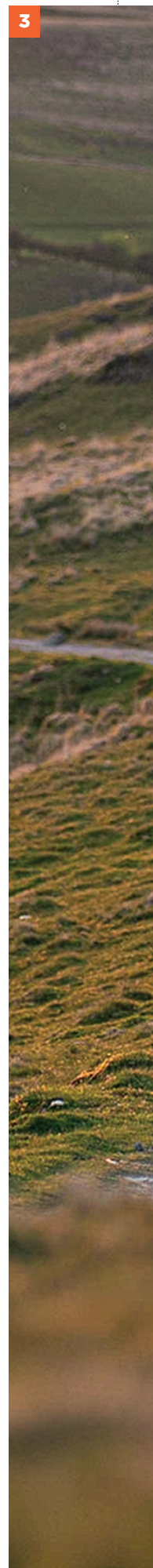
Perhaps you just want to enjoy the freedom to be found when (safely) dangling from a cliff face looking out over some spectacular scenery.

Either way, climbing, in its many forms, is a great physical and mental challenge. Once you've mastered the basic movements, a whole new world of thrilling adventures will be waiting for you.

Location The UK is blessed with magnificent climbing locations, as well as boasting a great array of indoor walls that are ideal for learners. The expert team at Lost Earth Adventures offers a variety of training courses and experiences, across a range of locations.

➤ losteearthadventures.co.uk/rock-climbing-courses-experience-days-uk

3





'Once you start planning routes away from roads, you soon realise there are dozens of options for a dash of adventure'

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