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At last! Half-term holidays are go

Finally, we can book that longed-for family break in February. Here are
25 great escapes for children, parents and, yes, those helpful grandparents too

Admit it – you had forgotten, hadn't you? What with the children barely back at school, and you still struggling to deal with work, dark nights or resuming regular running, somehow – somehow – the next school holiday (half term runs from February 12-20 this year) is already looming and you haven't done anything about it.

And this half term really does matter. In the past, the February break has been almost an afterthought. Easter, Whitsun, summer – as parents, we are all over

those, maxing out our annual leave to seize every sunny day we can. But, we reasoned, who wants to blow their five precious days of holiday in mid-winter? This time round, after the months we have all endured, we just can't wait.

In fact, February is precisely the time of year when we most need a holiday. The schadenfreude is off the scale as your plane lifts up out of freezing fog in the UK and sets you down, hours later, in a destination so sunshine-bright and gloriously unfam-

iliar that it might as well be another planet. And February is a prime month for travel. It is blue-sky season in the Caribbean and the Maldives, and the peak month for snowfall on Alpine slopes. There is also plenty to excite little ones closer to home.

Thank heavens, too, for grandparents, who often muck in during that vital week, bonding with our precious bundles by whisking them off to feed goats at farm parks in the Cotswolds or even – for the intrepid – on an overseas

escape somewhere if mum and dad really can't get out of the office.

Half term may be just a week, but that is still a nine-day stretch which is certainly long enough for an adventure. An adventure that will put a spring in your step until spring, and send the children back to school with their eyes a little wider, and horizons a little broader.

Laura Fowler

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KING TUT'S WOW-WOW TRIP

For younger children

Most primary school children have heard about ancient Egypt, so it's trip they will really bring the story to life. Beyond their understanding, however, the wow factor of this adventure travel, has created an engaging itinerary for younger children that includes riding camels around the Pyramids at sunset and donkeys through the Valley of the Kings, before you head to discover the hidden treasures of the hidden tomb of Tutankhamun. And with a nod to the famous Egyptian goddess Isis, the Nile, also on this February – sailing along the great river and stopping on the deck.

Eight night Highlights of Egypt trip
From £2,495 per family of four in a half twin, including flights, transfers, accommodation, breakfast, and a 40% discount on the Nile cruise. www.kingtutswowwowtrip.com



FLORIDA LOUD AND QUIET

For age 4-plus

For most seven-year-olds, the only thing more exciting than a trip to the state capital is the opportunity to see the state capital. So, for the Florida Loud and Quiet, we have the Florida Loud and Quiet. The Florida Loud and Quiet is a trip to the state capital, where you can see the state capital. The Florida Loud and Quiet is a trip to the state capital, where you can see the state capital. The Florida Loud and Quiet is a trip to the state capital, where you can see the state capital.



ALEX'S WELLS IN THE MALDIVES

For: teens and up

A fairly recent newcomer to the Maldives, Alex's Wells is a truly unique, well-being and art. It's a place where you can see the state capital. The Florida Loud and Quiet is a trip to the state capital, where you can see the state capital. The Florida Loud and Quiet is a trip to the state capital, where you can see the state capital.

Alex's Wells and Alex's Wells
From £1,495 per person, including flights, transfers, accommodation, breakfast, and a 40% discount on the Nile cruise. www.alexswells.com

At the Alex's Wells, you can see the state capital. The Florida Loud and Quiet is a trip to the state capital, where you can see the state capital. The Florida Loud and Quiet is a trip to the state capital, where you can see the state capital.

MADEIRA FOR MULTIGENS

For all ages

Advent in the Atlantic, 200 national miles off the coast of Africa, the Portuguese archipelago of Madeira has been a destination for centuries. It's a place where you can see the state capital. The Florida Loud and Quiet is a trip to the state capital, where you can see the state capital. The Florida Loud and Quiet is a trip to the state capital, where you can see the state capital.

Portugal's River of Gold
From £1,495 per person, including flights, transfers, accommodation, breakfast, and a 40% discount on the Nile cruise. www.portugalriverofgold.com



COSTA RICA WILDLIFE WORKATION

For age 12-plus

One responsible and highly affordable way to get close encounters with wild animals is by volunteering at wildlife rescue centers. Responsible travel can be a family vacation or a way to see the state capital. The Florida Loud and Quiet is a trip to the state capital, where you can see the state capital. The Florida Loud and Quiet is a trip to the state capital, where you can see the state capital.

Costa Rica Wildlife Workation
From £1,495 per person, including flights, transfers, accommodation, breakfast, and a 40% discount on the Nile cruise. www.costaricawildlifeworkation.com



FULL-THROTTLE SRI LANKA

For age 12-plus

Much is said of Sri Lanka's tranquil beauty, its lush green hills and ancient, mist-shrouded hills. Less so of the island's rich cultural heritage. It's a place where you can see the state capital. The Florida Loud and Quiet is a trip to the state capital, where you can see the state capital. The Florida Loud and Quiet is a trip to the state capital, where you can see the state capital.

Full-Throttle Sri Lanka
From £1,495 per person, including flights, transfers, accommodation, breakfast, and a 40% discount on the Nile cruise. www.fullthrottle.srilanka.com

Viking 2023 river cruises now on sale.



Viking 2023 river cruises now on sale.
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With the number one river cruise line in the 2021 Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards, Viking offers the best choice of river journeys across Europe, Russia, Asia and, now, along America's Mississippi. With the world's largest fleet of multi-award-winning Viking Longships, you can look forward to the highest level of quality and comfort. Relax in spacious, Scandinavian-designed surroundings. Indulge in fabulous destination-inspired dishes and thoughtfully selected wines. Discover the history and culture of each fascinating place on expert-led tours, as you explore the world, the Viking way.

Call now on 020 8780 7990 or book online at viking.com

Viking
Exploring the World in Comfort

TRAVEL WARNING

There are restrictions in place governing international travel and things are changing all the time. For more information, see gov.uk or www.gov.uk.

For more information and advice on holiday bookings, see www.holiday.com.

All information correct at the time of going to press.

BACK IN THE SADDLE

For age 10-plus

February is the best time to visit the country. For a long time, the best time to visit the country is in February. The best time to visit the country is in February. The best time to visit the country is in February.

Back in the Saddle
From £1,495 per person, including flights, transfers, accommodation, breakfast, and a 40% discount on the Nile cruise. www.backinsaddle.com

On gaily for a riding school and live the gaucho life in Argentina's Central Sierras

Sweden in the Snow
From £1,495 per person, including flights, transfers, accommodation, breakfast, and a 40% discount on the Nile cruise. www.swedeninsnow.com

Scandinavian Airlines' new direct flight from Heathrow opens up the low-cost airline to a new level. The new direct flight from Heathrow opens up the low-cost airline to a new level. The new direct flight from Heathrow opens up the low-cost airline to a new level.

Sweden in the Snow
From £1,495 per person, including flights, transfers, accommodation, breakfast, and a 40% discount on the Nile cruise. www.swedeninsnow.com

Original Family Break in Lapland from £1,495 per person, including flights, transfers, accommodation, breakfast, and a 40% discount on the Nile cruise. www.familybreak.com

Swedish Winter
From £1,495 per person, including flights, transfers, accommodation, breakfast, and a 40% discount on the Nile cruise. www.swedishwinter.com

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VIRGIN ISLANDS HOPPING

For: teens 10-plus

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Virgin Islands Hopping
From £1,495 per person, including flights, transfers, accommodation, breakfast, and a 40% discount on the Nile cruise. www.virginislandshopping.com

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TRAVEL WARNING

There are restrictions in force governing international travel and things can change at short notice. For more information, see gov.uk/coronavirus; gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19; gov.wales/coronavirus

For more information and advice on holiday bookings, see telegraph.co.uk/tt-covidtravel

All information correct at the time of going to press



BACK IN THE SADDLE

For: age 10-plus

February is late summer in gaucha country. For a long-haul spurge, head to Argentina's Central Sierras, where the self-sufficient Estancia Los Potreros has just launched a riding safari aimed at families. Days are exhilarating: riding through the vast landscapes, cooling off in waterfalls, spotting eagles, driving cattle, learning to lasso and playing games with bona-fide gauchos.

Seven-night Ultimate Family Adventure, £3,274pp full-board, including activities, flights and transfers (020 3733 5715; theultimatefamilyadventure.co.uk)

◀ Go giddy for a riding safari and live the gaucha life in Argentina's Central Sierras

SWEDEN IN THE SNOW

For: age 4-plus

Scandinavian Airlines' new direct flight from Heathrow spirits you to Swedish Lapland in around three hours. February is prime northern lights viewing time; while the short hours of daylight can be spent discovering this Narnian wonderland in new and breathtaking ways – ice fishing, moose spotting, snowmobiling and husky sledding across frozen lakes.

Original Travel's Family Break in Lapland costs from £1,420pp B&B, including three nights' B&B, flights and transfers (020 3366 6120; originaltravel.co.uk)



▲ "Narnian wonderland": go dog-sledding and see the northern lights in Sweden