

FEATURE

school's out

Banish those winter blues with our family-friendly selection of half term breaks

By Jenny Kesterton



February half term is the perfect time to lift one's spirits with a short family getaway. If you're looking for family travel inspiration, here is Little Book of Wonders' choice of exclusive trips designed to appeal to parents and children alike.

Paris with a Twist

(Right) If the idea of taking your kids on a Parisian city break sounds like a stressful prospect, look no further than Family Twist, a company that aims to make Paris as appealing to children as it is to blissed-out newlyweds. The company will tailor and tweak every aspect of your holiday according to the ages and interests of your children. From booking family-friendly boutique hotels to arranging baguette-baking lessons with English-speaking chefs, a stress-free break is guaranteed.

family-twist.com





Peak Performance in Val d'Isère

(Above) Introduce your little ones to France's most glamorous ski resort with a tailor-made break from alpine specialists Scott Dunn. Parents can enjoy the seemingly limitless array of runs that the resort offers, secure in the knowledge that their children will be having the time of their lives in the exclusive Scott Dunn kids' club. Dedicated nannies

provide a stream of activities, from snowshoeing to zorbing to ice-skating, while the ski school is led by experienced English-speaking instructors. At the end of the day, parents and children can relax in style in an exclusive chalet.

scottdunn.com

Family Fun at Augill Castle

(Overleaf) For an option that's a little closer to home, Augill Castle in Cumbria has been lovingly restored by owners Wendy and Simon Bennett as "a family home that welcomes other families". The 14 bedrooms are spread throughout the castle's towers and turrets, with tennis courts, play areas, tree houses and a mini cinema to keep children entertained. If that's not enough, the Little Augill Cookery School gives them the chance to learn





to cook in the castle's impressive kitchens. With an emphasis on fantastic natural ingredients, the course also gives junior cooks the chance to feed the hens, collect their eggs and pick vegetables from the kitchen garden.

stayinacastle.com

Pizza perfection on Lake Como

(Left) An imposing art nouveau palace overlooking Italy's Lake Como, the outward appearance of Grand Hotel Tremezzo doesn't immediately suggest a child-friendly retreat. Inside, however, it's a totally different story. There's no shortage of activities to keep the kids occupied here, whether it's splashing around in the pool, enjoying watersports on the lake, playing tennis or strolling around the 20,000 sq m park that encloses the hotel. Best of all, the poolside snack bar, T Pizza, organises fun pizza-making lessons on request for families and groups of children. And while the kids are inventing their own topping combinations, adults can enjoy the delicious Lake Como Indulgence, made with fresh salmon, grilled aubergines, spinach and courgettes.

grandhoteltremezzo.com