



GUIDE TO

FAMILY FUN

Motorhomes 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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CUT OUT
AND KEEP
GUIDE!



Also available as a **FREE ebook**

see www.practicalmotorhome.com/know-how to download yours!

FAMILY-FRIENDLY CAMPSITES

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

1 Stowford Village, North Devon

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

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

The site is well equipped for food and drink, with a farm shop and an excellent 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.

📍 royalresorts.co.uk

2 Blakemere Touring and Holiday Park, Cheshire

This fabulous holiday park is home to more than 30 independent shops and a wide variety of welcoming 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 leisure vehicles and caravans, 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.

On the site you'll find an indoor and an outdoor swimming pool, an exciting high ropes course, a dog agility field, an arts and crafts centre and a sports dome offering a range of activities.

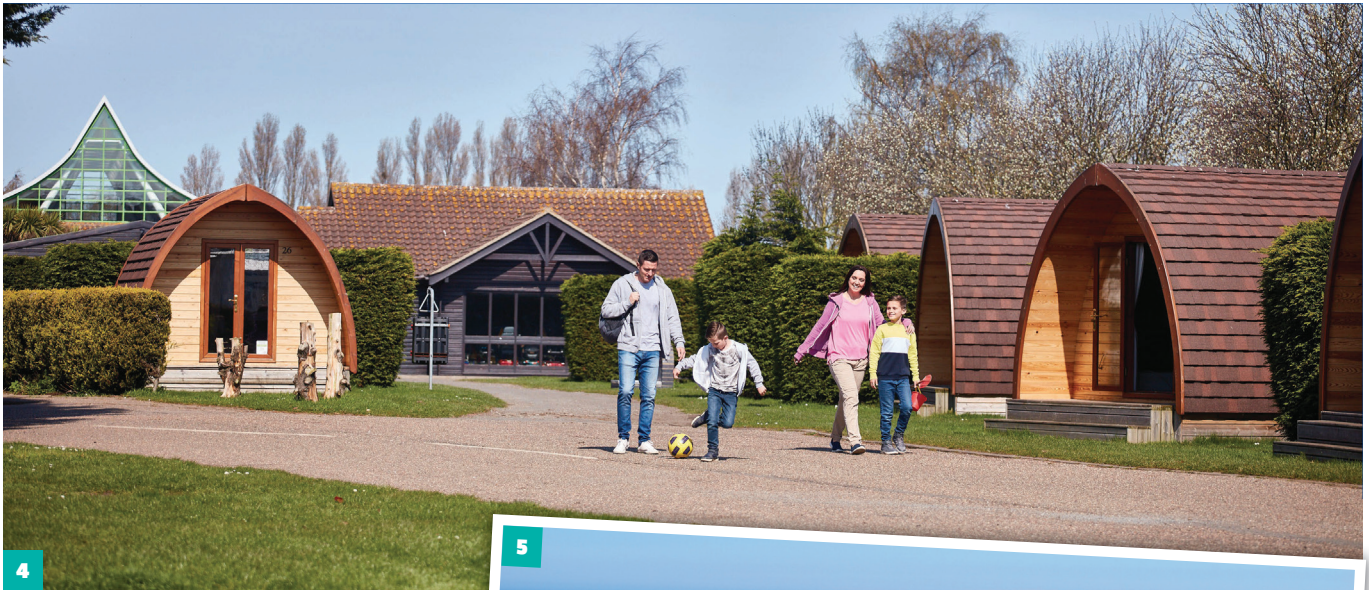
When it's time to slow the pace, there is an outdoor canopy area for evening entertainment and various places for food and drink, including a Costa Coffee and a takeaway.

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, Norfolk

Just a mile from the many attractions of Great Yarmouth, including sandy beaches and traditional amusement 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 super soft play area.

Families can enjoy a game of snooker or jungle golf, and the many delights of the multi-sports area, before finishing up at the Reedcutters Restaurant.

📍 parkdeanresorts.co.uk

5 Trevornick Holiday Park, Cornwall

This pristine campsite is within easy walking distance of the fabulous beach at Holywell Bay, made famous by the BBC dramatisation *Poldark*.

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

For younger children, there's a toddler pool and an indoor soft play area. Older children will really 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 just a 10-minute walk away.

There's also live entertainment, a restaurant, a bar and a bakery.

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

7 Ladram Bay Holiday Park, Devon

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

The park itself will keep everyone busy, with a choice of 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 offers a full





programme of entertainment and activities that is bound to keep the whole family entertained.

📍 ladrambay.co.uk

8 Presthaven Holiday Park, North Wales

Tucked away behind beautiful Gronant Beach, this family-friendly holiday park is 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.

There's also adventure golf, archery, go kart hire, and a choice of food outlets and entertainment.

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

9 Silverdale Caravan Park, Lancashire

Set against the stunning backdrop of the Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, this pretty holiday park really does have something for everyone.

The splendid 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 for paddling.

An excellent choice of food is served daily at the campsite's popular café/bar and restaurant.

Family-focused activities include bowling and arcade games, pitch and putt golf and soft play.

The site is also perfectly located for exploring the many attractions to be found in 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 of all ages.

There's a fascinating Rare Breed trail to explore, and a scenic woodland walk, as well as various barns where visitors can meet and learn about the farm's numerous residents.

To keep everybody in the family entertained, the Adventure Barn is home to an indoor sandpit, a mini climbing wall, a soft play zone and a café, while outside, you'll find a play area, pedal tractors, an exciting log assault course, bouncing pillows and a great deal more.

Farm entry is included with your campsite pitch booking.

📍 cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE



FAMILY FLOORPLANS

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

The site café doesn't open for another two hours, but how you wish it was much sooner!

It's Sunday afternoon, it's rained 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 a pup tent, but with the 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 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 sadly familiar? It might do. A surprisingly large number of people's memories

of family touring holidays tend to be something along these lines.

Which is a real pity, because in the recent past, motorhomes 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 motorhome keeps the whole family happy.

Separate lounge

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

Large washroom

To accommodate the beds, family motorhomes tend to have corner

or side washrooms. But these should still be big enough for two children to get washed at once, to help speed up wash time in the mornings! A separate shower cubicle helps here.

Solid partitions

Concertina partitions might be fine 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 a motorhome. Those little beds might seem cute now, but they won't impress a gawky teen. Make sure there is a good range of bed lengths, and that any bunk beds aren't too short for taller children.

Lots of sockets

Whatever you think about it, children these days expect to be online all the time. Ensure that there are enough USB ports and mains sockets in your motorhome to go round.

Our top family motorhomes



NEW Adria Matrix Supreme 670 SL

This model won the family category at our most recent awards. It features a spacious floorplan, a split, central washroom and great fixed single beds at the back.

Price £86,865



USED Swift Edge 486

The 2020 winner of our Best Family Motorhome category has plenty of bed space - three doubles, in fact. The kitchen is large enough to include everything you should need.

Price Around £59,000 (2020 model)



NEW Rimor Seal 12P

There are six travel seats in this four-berth, so your kids could bring along extra friends for the day or to camp outside. In just 6.48m, there's still room for a fixed adult bed and a separate shower, too!

Price £57,495



USED Bailey Advance 70-6

Inside, occupants will find a very UK-friendly layout with a roomy rear lounge and a big front dinette opposite the kitchen. This layout means there are six travel seats.

Price Around £49,000 (2018 model)

FAMILY ATTRACTIONS

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

1 Puzzlewood, Gloucestershire

You can explore Puzzlewood's winding paths through the mystical woodland and climb bridges over rocky ravines.

Then visit the mini-farm to meet a selection of animals, 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 brilliant 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



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



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 a great deal more.

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

📍 visitmagna.co.uk

Stay at Waleswood Caravan & Camping Park

📍 waleswood.co.uk ➔



3 Hobbledown Farm, Surrey

Hobbledown is a lively menagerie of fantastic 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 a huge choice of memorable educational experiences.

Visitors to Hobbledown can enjoy storytelling sessions and animal demonstrations, as well as outdoor activities including a castle adventure park and ropes course. There is also an indoor play barn and the 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 makes the perfect venue 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 fascinating grotto and a wonderful 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 this entertaining park, depending on which twists and turns you choose to take.

📍 hawkstoneparkfollies.co.uk

Stay at Green Lane Farm Caravan and Camp Site

📍 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.

📍 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 countryside, is located just a few miles away from Bolton.

The farm runs an ice creamery, as well as keeping some 25 types of animals. In Pets Corner, visitors can get to know the farm's residents, 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 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 wonderful 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 great adventures – and there's always something exciting to find just around the corner!

📍 norfolk.bewilderwood.co.uk

Stay at Norfolk Broads CAMC Site

📍 caravanclub.co.uk



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 also a great all-weather activity for the whole family.

📍 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, with a paddleboat trip 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 slate quarry, with a two-person line for younger riders. Below ground you can 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 motorhome is perfect for family holidays! Marcus Leach reveals some essential tips for stress-free travelling

Be prepared

It might sound obvious, but the key to family touring is to be prepared.

One of the many joys of motorhome holidays is that you have far more space than you would if you were going on a more traditional break, so everyone can pack for all eventualities.

The essential thing 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 in a motorhome, 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 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 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 the motorhome is an adventure in itself, and they love playing in the 'van.

Plan ahead

Before our departure, we establish a day-by-day plan that includes a list of 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 might 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 a good idea to give them some responsibilities of their own while you're away.

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

When you are on holiday, activities that adults might view as chores that will need doing on a regular basis can actually be fun for children.

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

Pack properly

With so much storage space available in your motorhome, there is always the temptation to chuck in everything (within your payload of course!), but time spent organising before you set off makes life easier when you are onsite.

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

That also makes it easier to stow everything away in the motorhome when we are 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 touring with young children, pitching up near the washblock can be quite an important thing to consider, making everybody's access to campsite showers and toilets a great deal easier.

Change your perspective

If travelling with 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 grown-ups can rediscover some of the magic to be found in the simplest of things.

Make the drive fun

We always try to make the journey fun, to treat it as part of the holiday, rather than just getting from A to B.

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 motorhome trip with small children can feel a bit daunting, but with the right planning and a bit of preparation beforehand, it is certain to be one of the greatest adventures you could go on.



DAR



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Motorcaravanning is ideal for all ages; getting together with extended family is easy when you're on site; Marcus and Harrison brave the cold for a quick dip, while simple activities such as a stroll on the beach can turn into an exciting adventure

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

ESSENTIAL ACCESSORIES

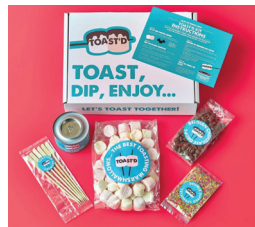
Our selection of brilliant kit will make touring with youngsters even more fun!



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 Who! Travel Card Game are just perfect for touring: 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 close to hand for impromptu lunches on the run.

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 'van door or in the awning for quick, fuss-free trips to the washblocks or swimming pool.

Price £3.49 **Web** [decatathlon.co.uk](https://www.decatathlon.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 when the sun is shining down is no fun for anybody, particularly if you're in a camper without blinds, but you can help youngsters 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** [millets.co.uk](https://www.millets.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



Summer is here at last, and with it long days, (hopefully) balmy evenings and plenty of great opportunities to enjoy time together as a family. And with so much on offer at touring destinations across the UK, there's no need to be left wondering what you're going to do during your motorhome 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, stand-up paddleboarding, or SUP, as it is better known, is a watersport that all of the family can enjoy – even the dog! As such, this fun activity should definitely be on your radar as something to try out in the summer months.

In the past, the cost of the boards was often prohibitive, but a huge number of places now offer rentals. If you're new to the sport, it's best to begin with a few lessons, or at the very least, to start off in calmer waters.

Location A great place for 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 inaccessible coastline?

This exhilarating experience is best suited for the more adventurous, but the thrill of being in the sea, exploring coves and freefalling (safely) from cliffs is a great way to see our stunning coastline with fresh eyes.

Location There are great places to try coasteering across the UK, but arguably the best is the rugged coastline of west Cornwall – Kernow Coasteering is the go-to provider for your ultimate day out.

📍 kernow-coasteering.co.uk ➔

3 Gravel cycling

The emergence of gravel cycling revolutionised the bicycle industry, with a variety of bikes now catering for off-road riding. It has also opened up a new world to riders of all levels and abilities. Once you start planning routes, you realise there are dozens of options for a dash of adventure.

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

📍 komoot.com

4 Hiking

There are few activities as simple as a hike, but pick the right one and there are also few things quite so rewarding. Plan routes 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!

Location National parks are an obvious starting point, or take a look at the UK's national trails.

📍 nationalparks.uk; nationaltrail.co.uk

5 Wild swimming

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

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

📍 outdoorswimmingsociety.com

6 Stargazing

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, even more using visual aids. Make this the summer you search out the Milky Way.

Location The best places are 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 catching your dinner, or reeling in a fish that you are happy to put back. And what better way to do this than from a boat? With licences needed to fish in rivers, lessen the hassle by booking a fishing trip with an operator.

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 a location for a safari, but it's not all about big game – although there are, of course, specialist parks where you can see more traditional safari animals.

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

Location The New Forest is a popular destination for families; 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 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 on 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 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 a horse is pretty much prohibitive, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy a family horseback adventure this summer. Much like exploring on foot, riding allows you to slow down and immerse yourself in the world around you, 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 treks and 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 really 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 from National Archery.

📍 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 adventures will be waiting for you.

Location The UK is blessed with a huge choice of truly magnificent climbing locations, as well as boasting a great array of indoor walls that are ideal for learners to practise and gain confidence on. The expert team at Lost Earth Adventures offers an excellent variety of training courses and experiences, across a range of locations.

📍 lostearthadventures.co.uk/rock-climbing-courses-experience-days-uk

‘Once you start planning routes, you soon realise there are dozens of options for a dash of adventure with your cycling’

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

