

# ESCAPE ROUTE

From tots to teens, take *Juliet Kinsman's* tips for the best family escapades

## Fantasy film set

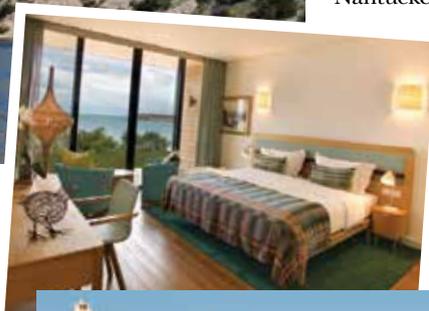
In August, a small fishing village on Croatia's coast will become the location for the fourth series of TV show *Game of Thrones*. Avid fan? Head to Novigrad with Activities Abroad for a week during that month: their Adriatic Family Adventure package includes flights, B&B, activities, some meals, from £945 per person. [activitiesabroad.com](http://activitiesabroad.com)



## Barnaby Bear in New England

The children's book and CBeebies character is making a star appearance in Massachusetts this summer.

On Thursdays in July and August, Nantucket author Wendy Rouillard will be reading her stories at White Elephant Nantucket Island; with treats such as Barnaby Bear cookies, colouring books and toys part of the fun too. [nantucketislandresorts.com](http://nantucketislandresorts.com)



## Familymoons

Hip hideaways, once the preserve of honeymooners, are now shaping up to be dreamy rendezvous for holidays with littles too. Martinhal in Portugal (above right) and La Signoria, Corsica, will be as adored by nippers as they are by lovebirds. Sophisticated couples-suited resorts that nudge juniors into their own pools include Finca Cortesin in Spain and Borgo Egnazia in Puglia (right). Great websites for hideaways en famille include Smith & Family and Baby-Friendly Boltholes.



## HOLIDAYS ARE HOMEWORK

THE ADVENTURE COMPANY POLLED THOUSANDS OF PARENTS AND DISCOVERED THAT MOST ARE CONVINCED TRAVEL IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN SCHOOL LESSONS WHEN IT COMES TO SUBJECTS SUCH AS GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY AND LANGUAGES. WHO SAYS LEARNING CAN'T BE FUN? [adventurecompany.co.uk](http://adventurecompany.co.uk)



ARRIVALS



SLIP-ON SUNBLOCK

Beachdragons' Swedish swimwear has kids sporting UPF 50+ protection in style



POCKET-SIZE PARIS GUIDE

France's capital: the most family-friendly city? *Mais non*. So pack a copy of *The Little Bookroom* by Kim Horton Lesvesque as your blueprint

BAROMETER



BEING ONLINE

Switch off with a Digital Escape Experience at Aleenta Hua Hin – families who leave their phones at reception get a 10 per cent discount at the five-star Thai resort



SHAKY SHOTS

Pop a Camera Demon (above) on a cycling helmet to film smoothly on the move (£24.95; [proporta.co.uk](http://proporta.co.uk)). For stills, let Breffo's tripod, the Adventure Camera Kit (left), £20, work its magic

DEPARTURES



## VOLUNTEERS

Let kids get gap-year satisfaction from a fortnight away with Global Vision International. With more school leavers diving straight into higher education or work, the holidays are the perfect time for them to volunteer. GVI's two-week Costa Rica trip sets teenagers up with construction and sports education projects in the community of Quepos, and throws in a four-day adventure trip around volcano terrain, the Turrialba. Departing 27 July, the price of £1,395 covers accommodation and meals, but not flights. [gvi.co.uk](http://gvi.co.uk)



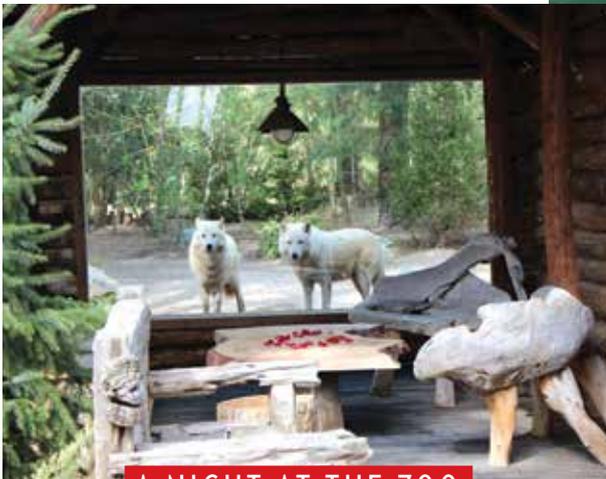
## Gozo adventures

Families Worldwide promises to keep the most active of children busy with their eight-day trip to Malta's smaller sister island Gozo. The fun includes exploring coastal paths by mountain bike, seeking out hidden caves by kayak, playing *bocci* (bowls) with the locals, having a go at goat-milking – never a dull moment. Seven-night trips from £1,289 for eight-year-olds and up; adults £1,389; includes flights, accommodation, breakfast, activities and more. [familiesworldwide.co.uk](http://familiesworldwide.co.uk)



## VIP TRAVEL TAMARA LOHAN

Co-founder of Smith & Family ([smithandfamily.co.uk](http://smithandfamily.co.uk))



## A NIGHT AT THE ZOO

Families are guaranteed a wild night with tigers and wolves at La Flèche Zoo in France – it has four new safari-style lodges overlooking the animals' enclosures. Until November you can sleep here in the forest, then observe the action at dawn. An overnight half-board stay in a safari lodge costs from £92 per adult; children from £50. [zoo-la-fleche.com](http://zoo-la-fleche.com)

## No charges for small people

Children can stay free at lots of places – if you know where to look. Savour a gourmet getaway at Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons in Oxfordshire (below) and sidestep any children-in-room charges, or check into Angsana Laguna Phuket where the theme is 'children stay, play and dine for free'. Go island-hopping around the Med with Variety Cruises and Seafarer only charges parents with up to two kids for a single cabin. Can't argue with that.



## Favourite family hotel?

Finca Cortesin in Spain: you don't have to be a golfer as it's an incredible hotel with stunning pools and a can-do attitude.



## Dream weekend away?

Because we live in a city, weekends away are about wide-open spaces. Dorset has everything you need for the perfect family escape ... We stay at the Beckford Arms (above) on the way down to break up the journey.

## Family travel tips?

Planning is essential: if you are flying, build in lots of time. When you get on the plane, make sure you are extra nice to the cabin crew – they can make your life a lot easier.

## Packing essentials?

Trunki Paddlepaks are brilliant: the kids love them so much that they carry them all the time.



## PINOCCHIO TO GO

ROCCO FORTE'S HOTEL SAVOY IN FLORENCE IS INVITING GUESTS TO CREATE THEIR OWN TAKE ON THE WOODEN PUPPET WITH A THREE-HOUR WORKSHOP HOSTED BY THE CARLO LORENZINI PINOCCHIO CULTURAL ASSOCIATION. EACH CHILD EVEN GETS THEIR OWN PERSONALISED ARTISAN-STYLE COTTON SMOCK TO GET BUSY WITH THOSE ARTS AND CRAFTS, GEPPETTO STYLE. [hotelsavoy.it](http://hotelsavoy.it)