

# GATHER THE GANG: IT'S HALF TERM

You've two weeks to rustle up a week away. Chris Haslam's pick, from Mevagissey to the Seychelles, should help

(01252 339023, waterwaysholidays.com) has knocked 10% off a week-long narrowboat holiday on the Grand Union Canal, starting and ending in Leighton Buzzard, **Bedfordshire**. It costs £1,040, saving £115, for a family of four, including damage waiver, fuel, buoyancy aids and tuition.

Options in Wales include a five-day ordeal by water at Preseli Venture (01348 837709, preseliventure.co.uk) in **Pembrokeshire**, involving coasteering, sea-kayaking and kite-boarding. It costs £525 for adults and £399 for under-16s; one child goes free with every family of four or more. The price includes five-star eco-lodge accommodation for four nights, all meals, guided adventure sessions and, crucially, winter wetsuits.

The loafers' option is a seaside bolt hole. Coastal Cottages of Pembrokeshire (01437 772760, coastalcottages.co.uk) has a few properties left, including Rock House, which sleeps six and lies yards from the

foreshore of the Cleddau estuary. The views, predictably, are "stunning", and the price is £671, saving £118.

Cash poor and time poor? The four-star Vale Resort (01443 667800, vale-hotel.com), in **Glamorgan**, has a recession-busting deal including two nights' B&B in a family room, free dinners for the kids, organised activities and an indoor pool for £195.

In **Perthshire**, Wilderness Scotland (01479 420020, wildernessscotland.com) has a five-night bespoke guided trip with activities including gorge-walking, mountain-biking, open-boat canoeing, rock-climbing and nature walks. Highlight of the week is the barbecue and campfire on a wooded island, reached only by canoe. Accommodation is in a guesthouse and the price is £679 for adults and £479 for kids, including breakfasts and packed lunches.

## FRANCE

For a cheap cross-Channel break, Siblu Villages (0871 911 2288, siblu.com) is offering free bike hire, free linen and 15% off accommodation at Domaine de Kerlann, near Quimper and arty Pont-Aven, in southern **Brittany**. A week in a self-catering mobile home starts at £328. It costs £125 for Dover-Calais ferry crossings with MyFerryLink (0844 248 2100, myferrylink.com).

Even cheaper is a break in a mobile home at the upmarket Camping Village Fayolan at Clairvaux-les-Lacs, in the **Jura**. It starts at £296, saving £130, including return crossings by ferry,

with Venue Holidays (01233 629950, venueholidays.co.uk).

Nearer to home is the Mayenne river valley, south of **Caen**, where Normandy, Brittany and the Pays de Loire collide. Inntravel (01653 617000, inntravel.co.uk) has a family cycling week from £820 for adults and £450 for children, including six nights' half-board in gorgeous old manor houses (two with pools), return ferry crossings (though a £68 supplement applies during half term), luggage transfers, cycle hire, route notes and maps.

Mark Warner (0844 273 7397, markwarner.co.uk) has cut £300pp from a week's healthy exercise at the San Lucianu Beach Resort in **Corsica**, and added an upgrade to full-board. It costs £720 for adults and £522 for kids, including all the usual watersports, tennis and other instructed activities.

## THE MEDITERRANEAN

Casal dei Fichi is a self-catering farmhouse in the Italian **Marche** that's giving away free wine from its own vineyard. That's all we need to know, apart from the price: £635pp, with Real Holidays (020 7359 3938, realholidays.co.uk).

In **Greece**, Sunvil (020 8758 4758 sunvil.co.uk) has a week in the waterfront Hotel Armonia — it's close to the beach and has a pool — on Lefkas for £570pp. And in **Cyprus**, Thomas Cook (0844 412 5970, thomascook.com) has a week

Half-term week begins on May 26. Unless stated, prices are for a week, hotel stays are on a B&B basis, flights are from London and transfers are included. Contact the operator for regional departures

the same on its Turquoise Coast Adventure, in **Turkey**, which starts at £649 per adult and £619 per child, including most meals.

## FURTHER AFIELD

Dial a Flight (0844 556 6060, dialaflight.com) has the five-star Sheraton La Caleta Resort & Spa in **Tenerife** from £599pp. The hotel has three pools and four restaurants. Sunvil (020 8758 4722, sunvil.co.uk) has a family whale- and dolphin-watching week in the **Azores** from £533pp, staying at the Hotel Sao Miguel Park, in Ponta Delgada.

In **Egypt**, Hayes & Jarvis (0844 415 1918, hayesandjarvis.co.uk) has the Ritz-Carlton, Sharm el Sheikh from £799pp. The two kids' pools and the Ritz Kids programme will keep the children entertained while you loaf by one of the five pools or in the wellness centre.

In the **Seychelles**, which are at their best in May, Expert Africa (020 8232 9777, expertafrica.com) has the kid-friendly Coco de Mer, on Praslin, from £1,536 per adult and £1,043 per child, staying in a beach-facing chalet room and spending the days

