

steep hillsides overlooking the valleys and quarries of Blaenau Ffestiniog. The rustic-chic lodges have solid wooden floors and each sleeps four to five people. Take a mining tour at the Slate Caverns or an off-road adventure in the quarries, then return for pizza cooked on the open-air grill. A week's stay costs from £195pp, based on five people sharing a tent (coolcamping.com).

38 Explore the New Forest

Make your base at the 18th-century Bell Inn in Brook and you'll find plenty to do on a summer New Forest break. See the classic cars at the National Motor Museum in Beaulieu before walking along the river to Buckler's Hard, an 18th-century shipbuilding village that is a base for summer river cruises. Exbury Gardens, a 200-acre woodland garden with a steam railway, and the Georgian coastal town of Lymington are close by. The inn has 28 boutique rooms and a restaurant serving game from the owner's estate. Seven nights' B&B costs from £903 for two people (023 8081 2214, bellinn-newforest.co.uk).

39 Swim and canoe in Herefordshire

Swim in the River Wye after a day's canoeing or explore the cathedral city of Hereford with its biggedly-piggledy squares and wooden houses. New on the books at Unique Home Stays is three-bedroom Apifera, a rustic-chic bolt hole surrounded by six acres of woodland with good availability throughout July, August and September. Seven nights for four adults and one child costs from £995. Larger groups will love Charity, a six-bedroom house with a wood-fired hot tub, snooker room and cinema barn. Seven nights for 12 costs from £1,89 (01637 881183, uniquehomestays.com).

40 Family cycle along Hadrian's Wall

Cycle the length of northern England's ancient Hadrian's Wall — from Cumbria in the west to Tyne and Wear in the east — on a seven-day, self-guided family cycling holiday along Hadrian's Cycleway. Highlights include the section along the banks of the Solway Firth to Warwick Bridge, an exhilarating descent to Vindolanda — a Roman frontier military and civilian site that is home to the famous Vindolanda writing tablets — and a chance to explore the pretty town of Corbridge. A week's B&B with luggage transfers costs from £1,785 for a family of four on dates throughout the summer (0191 2651110, skedaddle.co.uk). Daily rides are about 15-19 miles.

September under £750

41 Five-star Dubai

Dubai is still hot in the middle

including flights from Heathrow with Royal Brunei Airlines, departing on September 18 (020 8705 0107, awayholidays.co.uk).

42 Beach Barbados

The popular family-run Coconut Court Beach Hotel makes a great base in Barbados, a stone's throw from the beach. The hotel in Hastings in the southwest of the island has comfortable rooms, including many that have been recently refurbished. Trailfinders (020 7084 6500, trailfinders.com) has a week's stay, room-only, from £749pp, including flights, transfers and a free room upgrade, departing on September 6. The holiday must be booked by July 31.

43 See Sri Lanka

Tucked away in 36 acres of lush gardens on a spit of land between a palm-tree-lined beach and the Kalu Ganga River, the stylish rooms in the Avani Kalutara Resort make a great base for couples. While away the days sprawled out by the sea or lolling by the pool. Southall Travel (020 8705 0086, southalltravel.co.uk) has a week's half-board, departing on September 18, from £704pp, including flights from Heathrow.

44 Riads in Morocco

Each of the Rebal Riads, 20 minutes south of Essaouira on Morocco's Atlantic coast has its own kitchen — but there's also on-site catering that can be delivered to your door — as well as bright rooms and a communal pool. In the surf village of Sidi Kaouki, riads range from one to five bedrooms, and the complex has tennis courts and a spa. A week's B&B in September costs from £554pp, including flights from Luton (020 7112 0019, fleewinter.com).



Avani Kalutara, Sri Lanka

45 Quiet Mallorca

Forget packed beaches and rowdy bars and head to the small town of Bugar, with its pretty windmills, in the north of Mallorca. Simpson Travel (020 8003 6557, simpsontravel.com) has availability in a number of stylish villas there in September. For example, seven nights' self-catering at Ca La Tieta costs from £417pp, based on ten sharing the five bedrooms, including flights and car hire. The villa is 7km from Puerto Pollensa.

46 Crete with friends

New this season, Cook's Club is Thomas Cook's latest venture, after the launch last year of its new boutique Casa Cook properties. It's slightly more mass-market, but this first property on Crete is very hip, with chic loungers by the pool, pared-back bedrooms with slate-grey walls and a stunning beachside setting. There are also some cool apartments with small kitchens. A week's self-catering costs from £628pp, based on four adults sharing two apartments, including flights from Edinburgh, departing on September 4. Flights are



47 Activities in Sardinia

The activity specialist Neilson (0333 0143350, neilson.co.uk) has cut the price of stays at Baia dei Mori Beachclub in Sardinia. Daily activities include sailing, stand-up paddleboarding and bicycle rides, and there are tennis lessons and fitness classes. A week's "club board" — breakfast and lunch daily, plus four evening meals — costs from £749pp (a saving of £410), departing on September 1 from Heathrow.

48 Croatia for less

There are sweeping sea views at the Amfora Hvar Grand Beach Resort on the Croatian island of Hvar, which sits in a secluded bay, ten minutes' walk from the historic town. Destinology (01204 824619, destinology.co.uk) has seven nights' B&B from £729pp, including flights from Gatwick and catamaran transfers to the island. The offer is valid on stays from September 20 to October 8, but must be booked before July 10.

49 Trekking in Morocco

Hike in the High Atlas mountains, then trek on the edge of the Sahara desert on this holiday with KE Adventure Travel (01768 773966, keadventure.com) that takes in the 4,167m Mount Toubkal. The seven-night tour includes four days' trekking and costs from £618pp, including flights from Stansted. The price includes the services of a guide throughout, all meals, two nights in a hotel, four nights' camping and one night staying in a mountain gite.

50 Walking in northern Cyprus

Join Explore (01252 883349, explore.co.uk), an adventure specialist, on this week-long, easy-graded walking holiday through Cyprus's beautiful Beparmak Mountains. Spend the week exploring the pretty harbour towns along the way, hiking on quiet mountain trails and discovering the imposing crusader castles. Seven nights' B&B costs from £479pp, including flights, transfers, some lunches and the services of a guide