

# **The amazing British holiday lets with availability for February half term**

You may struggle to secure an overseas escape now – but on home turf there are still lots of great options for all the family

With [February half term](#) almost upon us, the window for booking [a last-minute overseas family holiday](#) is closing fast. While you might still snap up a European city break, skiing packages in popular destinations sold out months ago, and decent winter sun options will be few and far between.

What's more, [the hassle involved with travelling abroad](#) right now could make you reluctant to commit. Yes, the UK Government has scrapped testing for children and vaccinated adults (from February 11), but rules in many other countries remain strict. Spain, for example, only welcomes fully vaccinated teens, which, considering only 12% of British 12 to 15-year-olds have had two jabs, makes it an impossible option for many families.

Yet there's [a February half-term option](#) right on our doorstep. Why not [make the most of what the UK has to offer](#)? Plenty of availability can be found, even in some pretty special self-catering properties. Indeed, the aforementioned easing of overseas travel rules has reportedly turned the heads of those who had previously been planning a staycation, perhaps leaving more options for those who would prefer to remain on home soil.

The first travel update of 2021, when it was revealed that vaccinated Britons would no longer need to take a test to re-enter the country, saw UK holiday [cancellations rise by 18 per cent](#) compared to the previous two weeks, according to Guesty, a property management platform.

Yet [the UK still remains appealing for a particular type of break](#) – for all the extended family. “We’re noticing a trend for larger properties, with many of our customers opting for multi-generational trips to get groups of family and friends back together,” said a spokesperson for holiday property company Sand & Stone Escapes.

The places to book below include mansions and estates perfect for a big family getaway and options that would suit a family of four.

## Escape to an estate

To experience pure luxury, without having to step onboard a plane, plan a mini break at Benetfeld. The Grade II listed building was originally built in 1775 and would look just as at home in Tuscany as it does in the rolling fields of Berkshire. It includes eight bedrooms, an orangery kitchen, a ballroom, a croquet lawn and a large decking area. The carefully curated interior features huge chandeliers, pop art works and DJ decks – creating a vibe that should go down well with older children. Indeed, the house could easily accommodate a mini disco.



Should you feel like avoiding the outer world entirely, you can hire an in-house chef. While the youngsters explore the surrounding park, adults could order in a mobile masseuse. If you do get the itch to venture beyond Benetfeld, head to Windsor for the castle, shopping or an afternoon at Legoland – it's just 10 miles away. Other nearby attractions include Stanlake Park Wine Estate, Twyford and the three Michelin-starred restaurant, The Waterside Inn.

**Book it:** Benetfeld sleeps 14, £4,795 for a four-night stay from February 14 (01637 881183; [uniquehomestays.com](http://uniquehomestays.com)).