

# mumsense

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[www.mumsensemagazine.com](http://www.mumsensemagazine.com)

making sense of family life



## **SUPERGIRL**

Encouraging girls to reach their full potential

**Travel Sense**  
**WINTER SUN!**

**FINDING MARY POPPINS**  
Childcare options explored

**WHERE THERE**  
**IS A WILL...**

**'UP'**  
Fly away with our  
colourful fashion picks

**DADSENSE**  
One plus one equals two?

## WINTER SUN!

As I type this I am looking out of my window to December snow that covers my garden in a thick white carpet and dusts the roofs of stone cottages whose chimneys are working overtime to push out big puffs of firewood heat. I can't deny that this image is unmistakably chocolate-box pretty, and this morning when my two-year-old daughter was so beside herself with excitement she decided to venture out in her PJs, robe, hat, scarf and wellies, it was magical. But, after our walk into town to see everything looking Christmassy and jumping around for an hour playing 'catch the snowball' with our dog, our toes became numb and the novelty began to wear off. Home for hot cocoa we came.

Don't get me wrong, I love a good dusting of snow like the next person, but when the pretty white fluffy stuff turns to slush and the grey days begin to merge into one long drizzly winter, I can tell you now that by the time February rolls around I'm ready for some sun on my face. I'm therefore hoping that this month's Travel Sense is going to offer you the perfect remedy for your own winter blues!

I have lined up a few destinations closer to home if you are simply in search of a slightly warmer temperature and maybe a stroll on the beach in jeans and a sweatshirt, as well as a further-afield destination for those of you who need a bit more umph in your winter sun. In addition I've thrown a few useful items into the mix to ensure your winter sun break goes without a hitch!

# Travel Sense

**Alice Griffin** makes sense of where to go, useful products, and helpful services to enjoy winter sun!



## Looking for something luxurious? How about Mauritius...

If the winter weather has made you want to run a little further, bikini in hand, why not head to the white sandy beaches and turquoise blue seas of the Indian Ocean. From the 8th January until 31st March Maradiva Villas Resort & Spa in Mauritius are inviting you to stay for 7 nights and only pay for 5, and that includes a complimentary upgrade to half board throughout the holiday.

This luxury resort overlooks the peaceful lagoon of Tamarin Bay, offers private villa settings complete with your own plunge pool and open dining terraces, a diversity of cuisines using the freshest produce and a wide range of luxurious spa treatments and healing therapies. There are also excellent children's facilities with the Peter Pan Kids Club welcoming those aged 3 to 12 years and the option of a babysitter for children under the age of 3.

If this sounds more appealing than being at the mercy of the bleak English weather, why not take advantage of this winter break offer?

[www.maradiva.com](http://www.maradiva.com) £5,875 (a saving of £2,220 for a seven night stay) based on 2 adults and 1 child sharing a Luxury Suite Villa on a half board basis, including transfers and return flights with Air Mauritius from London Heathrow. Offer valid for travel 8 Jan - 31 Mar 2010.

To book please visit:  
[www.mauritiusconnection.com](http://www.mauritiusconnection.com)  
Tel: 01244 355 475



## Kids Travel Packs

When travelling by plane it can be difficult with a small child who is not particularly interested in sitting still and becomes bored easily. These travel bags are filled with lots of activities and fun things to keep little hands and minds occupied, but don't spoil the surprise by giving them out prior to travelling!

RRP: Girls and boys packs start at £7.99

Age: 3+

[www.kidstravelpacks.co.uk](http://www.kidstravelpacks.co.uk)

## Miamoo Baby Range

Miamoo is the brainchild of BBC TV personality, Saira Khan. Favoured by celebrities such as Charlotte Church and Nell MacAndrew, all the products are over 97% natural, perfect for delicate skin. This Travel Goodies set is ideal for holidays if you don't want to be weighed down with full size products, or need to take them in your hand luggage. Contains: fresh locks shampoo, huggy lotion, splashy wash, cuddle cream, cheeky cream, nana night cream and baba oil.

RRP: £20.00

[www.miamoo.co.uk](http://www.miamoo.co.uk)





## TALES FROM A TRAVELLING MUM: NAVIGATING EUROPE WITH A BABE-IN-ARMS by Alice Griffin

I hope you don't think it presumptuous of me to plug my own book on these here pages, but my hope is that if you are planning an adventure, big or small, my book might just give you a little inspiration and insight. Tales from a Travelling Mum is the personal story of the travels I embarked on with my family to Norway, Greece, France and Spain during the first two years of my daughter's life. Although essentially it is a travelogue, running throughout the book you will find advice related to feeding, sleeping, playing and pacifying a baby or toddler on the plane, boat, train, bus, as well as in the car. Hopefully this makes the book both an interesting and practical read for new parents looking to travel with their own children. You can expect to read about boat trips in Norway, hay-making in rural France, navigating Athens with a buggy, daily life in a small village in the Spanish mountains and a life-changing road trip, as well as stories from fellow travelling mums, both near and far. My hope is that this, my first book, highlights the fact that travel need not stop when love and babies come along, and can be adapted to suit your dreams as well as your budget! RRP: £9.99. Available on Amazon. Find out more: [www.alicegriffin.co.uk/book](http://www.alicegriffin.co.uk/book).

## Cushie Traveler by Bebelephant

Oh how I wish I had one of these when I first started potty-training my daughter! This wonderful little invention can be folded up, stored in a small washable drawstring bag and popped into your hand luggage for long or short journeys. A home-from-home loo and no more aching arms from holding your child over the toilet! RRP: £12.99. Code: B3583. [www.jojomamanbebe.co.uk](http://www.jojomamanbebe.co.uk).



## HOLIDAY NANNIES

If you would prefer to take the stress out of your holiday altogether then you might consider a Holiday Nanny. Imagine what a luxury it would be to have an extra pair of hands on-call throughout your break – all the benefits of travelling with your children, without the drama! Try: [www.holidaynanny.org](http://www.holidaynanny.org).



### Great Deals on Short-haul Flights

If you are simply looking for somewhere a little brighter and warmer than the UK you really don't need to go far. Why not take a quick flight with Aer Lingus to one of their winter sun destinations, all of which have many fabulous family-friendly accommodation and activity options available:

#### Malaga

Daily flights from London Gatwick to Malaga with one-way fares starting from £34.99 including taxes and charges.

#### Faro

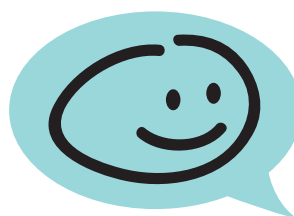
Daily flights from London Gatwick to Faro with one-way fares starting from £29.99 including taxes and charges.

#### Nice

From 28th March there will be daily flights from London Gatwick to Nice with one-way fares starting from £29.99 including taxes.

Aer Lingus were recently awarded "Most Recommended Airline for Travelling with Babies" at the Holiday Extras Customers' Awards. They provide pre-assigned seating on all flights and allow families travelling with infants and young children the option to pre-board the aircraft for added convenience. A collapsible buggy/stroller is included free of charge on all bookings for infants.

[www.aerlingus.com](http://www.aerlingus.com)



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**[www.holidaynanny.org](http://www.holidaynanny.org)**