

mumsense

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making sense of family life

READING MATTERS

Understanding children's reading habits

TEN SENSE

Language Development

SPLASH BABY!

TRAVEL SENSE

Something different?

HOME SWEET HOME

Making moving with children easier

SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT...

What is life without a little adventure? And really should that adventure stop when you find yourself mum to a little one? You might think so, I certainly did, but three years since my daughter was born I've found that with a little pre-planning, some tweaking and a level head, travel is still entirely possible and not confined to the simple 'sun, swimming pool and kid's club' option. Ok so you might not fancy packing your family up for a long-term road trip as I did, but with the exciting array of travel possibilities on offer specifically aimed at families, as well as new products coming onto the market daily to make your journey that much easier, there really should be nothing holding you back.

So, in an effort to break from the norm, I have pulled together a few holiday options that you might find of interest and although it has been very difficult simply because the array of alternative ideas on offer is vast, I hope you will like what I have found. There is something for those of you who are up for a challenge and have children with plenty of energy to burn off, a more sedate break for you city dwellers dreaming of the good life and I've thrown a wild card in there for the rest whose lust for travel can only be satisfied with more far flung destinations. And of course, I have reviewed a few products for you that you might like. Enjoy!

Now I'm off to plan my own summer holiday, which is looking like a mini road trip through Norway to enjoy fjords, lakeside cabins, mountains and maybe even a spot of farming volunteer work for all the family!



Orangutans in Borneo

If trekking is too energetic and the Isle of Man far too close to home, then you might opt for something wildly different like packing your khaki shorts and heading to Borneo. Here you can stay at the luxurious Rasa Ria resort and enjoy a wide spectrum of Sabah wildlife. The Borneo wilderness begins just outside the resort and offers the curious explorer many fascinating sights and adventures. Most popular of all is a visit to the Nature Reserve to meet rescued Orangutans.

£3,296 based on two adults and 2 children travelling between 10 April and 6 July 2010. Includes flights with national carrier Malaysia Airlines via KL and accommodation at the Rasa Ria resort <http://www.shangri-la.com/en/property/kotakinabalu/rasariaresort>. To book contact Premier Holidays: Telephone: 08444 937 542 Website: www.premierholidays.co.uk.

Travel Sense

Alice Griffin makes sense of doing something a little different for a holiday...

Africology Spa Products

While hubby is off with the kids talking to Orangutans or shark watching, you can relax in your room and pamper yourself with some DIY spa treatments. Small enough to pop into your hand luggage, I can highly recommend the Africology Travel Bag for a little indulgence. A natural and ethical spa brand from South Africa, these products are 100% natural and fragranced using essential oils. Each set contains travel size products (Cleansing Gel, Tonic, Exfoliating Cream, Clay Mask, Moisturiser) as well as a stylish black Africology bag.

Available for dry/oily skin
RRP: £86.00
www.africology-uk.com
01277 634 938



Trunki Travel Chums

My daughter loves this set! Not only does she now have her own funky wash bag to pack in her luggage, but there is also a pencil case to use on the journey and a wrist purse perfect for keeping a few trinkets close-by when we head out for lunch.

Available in pink and blue
Website: www.trunki.com
Tel: 0870 626 0002
Wrist Purse £4.99 / Pencil Case £7.99 / Wash Bag £9.99

Back to Nature on the Isle of Man

If you are craving a break from city life and want to get back to nature and let your children experience a real sense of freedom, then why not consider a family holiday closer to home on the stunning and ruggedly beautiful Isle of Man?

Staying on a real working farm, you and your children will enjoy a wholly different way of life helping to feed chickens, groom Shetland ponies and even watch deliveries at lambing time. In addition, you will enjoy an array of restaurants, walks, pubs, unspoilt beaches and can even take some time out to go shark, dolphin and seal spotting off the coast.

Price: £1899 for 7 nights based on 2 adults and 2 children. Includes flights from London, and accommodation at Knockaloe Beg Farm <http://knockaloebegfarm.com/> Hire car is included.

Telephone: 01624 694455

Website: www.isleofmanbreaks.com / www.visitisleofman.com

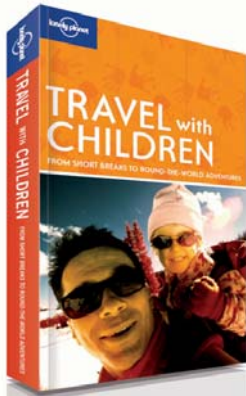




South African Adventure

South Africa is a "World in One Country" - there is so much to see and do that it is impossible to pack it all into one holiday. However, a great starting point is Cape Town, the Garden Route and a Safari. Cape Town's attractions include the world famous Table Mountain with its thrilling cable car journey as well as seeing a penguin colony on one of the beaches. The variety of activities and excursions available on the Garden Route is endless with elephant and ostrich riding opportunities, hiking, biking, zip wires and bungee jumping to name a few!

To book contact Alison Aldred at Hungry Lions
 Telephone: 01483 762033
 Website: www.hungrylions.co.uk
 Email: ali@hungrylions.co.uk



Travel with Children

If you are new to travelling with children or feel a little unsure about how to approach trips on a practical level, then this guide is ideal. It covers everything from how to prepare, what type of holiday to embark on and where, as well as how to keep safe and happy. Although generally this is a resource that you will dip into for inspiration and ideas, there is also a great selection of short Travellers' Tales interspersed throughout, which I particularly enjoyed.
 Price: £12.99



Planning your next holiday?

Have you ever thought about taking the kids to **Mauritius** or **South Africa**?

With overnight flights and virtually no jet lag, Mauritius and South Africa are ideal destinations for half terms and school holidays. And because their seasons are the opposite to ours, they are also fantastic for some winter sun!



South Africa offers a multitude of activities ranging from zip wiring across rivers and riding ostriches to viewing the Big 5 on safari and sleeping out under the African stars! Mauritius beckons with its palm-fringed beaches, crystal clear waters and a whole host of options for the active family! You may enjoy waterskiing, windsurfing, sailing, snorkelling, golf or tennis. Or simply sit back and enjoy the sunshine and fantastic food and wine!



With 15 years experience in the Travel Industry, and with children of my own, I specialise in putting together Tailor Made holidays for families to South Africa, Mauritius, and The Seychelles. Through personal experience I have found some fantastic 'family friendly' accommodation throughout these regions and would be delighted to help you plan your holiday.

For more information please either call or email me!

Alison Aldred

Tel: 01483 762033
 Mobile: 07754 501617

Email: ali@hungrylions.co.uk
 www.hungrylions.co.uk

Mont Blanc Family Walk - France To Italy

If you are an active family then this summer you could immerse yourselves in the stunning scenery of the European Alps on an exhilarating 7-day trek from France to Italy carrying only a day pack, while mules transport your bags and supplies! This adventurous holiday will be led by an experienced mountain guide and includes meals and accommodation in mountain refuges and gite?? hostels along the way. Please bear in mind that it is only suitable for active children age 7+ (or strong parents happy to carry a baby on their back!) as it includes walking for up to 5 hours each day.

Price: £605 (Adult), £445 (Child). Departs every Sunday in July and August 2010
 Telephone: 0845 241 7599
 Website: www.UTracks.com



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