

FAMILY FUN

These UK boltholes are perfect for both big and little kids...

THE SPREAD EAGLE, WEST SUSSEX

THE LOWDOWN: Set in the heart of the South Downs, The Spread Eagle combines the charm of a traditional English country inn with modern-day amenities such as an award-winning spa, indoor swimming pool and fully stocked gin bar! Many of the rooms are spacious enough for extra beds for your little ones, while others have a sofa bed in a separate sitting room.

WHY THE KIDS WILL LOVE IT: There are plenty of things to keep the kids entertained, from kites, colouring-in books and board games to a library filled with story books. Throughout the day, there are allocated family swimming times in the pool, so your children can splash around to their hearts' content. Kids' menus are also available in the hotel restaurant.

WHY THE GROWN-UPS WILL LOVE IT: Adults will love the indulgent spa, with the heated pool overlooking a beautiful garden, a sizzling sauna and Turkish steam

room plus a fab Jacuzzi. For a real VIP experience, book yourself in for a Red Carpet Facial at the spa and enjoy 60 minutes of pure indulgence. There's also a fully equipped gym with a range of fitness classes on offer daily. The hotel is pet-friendly so if you're a dog owner you won't have to leave your pooch at home.

OUT AND ABOUT: Picturesque Midhurst is perfect for a family stroll, or you can hire bikes from the hotel reception and head into South Downs National Park (pictured above), where there are plenty of cycle trails. The hotel can organise a picnic basket for you if you want to make a day of it. Kids will also love the South Downs Planetarium in nearby Chichester.

NEED TO KNOW: From £119 per night, based on two sharing a standard room mid-week on a B&B basis. The Queen's suite costs from £329 (B&B). Book at Hshotels.co.uk.



The hotel's indoor pool looks out onto a garden

Kids will love the inflatable assault course



HOBURNE DEVON BAY

THE LOWDOWN: This holiday park has everything a family could ask for – an indoor pool complete with water slide, outdoor heated pool, soft play area, adventure playground and affordable eateries. You might not think of glamour when you think of caravans, but ours felt more like a luxury apartment, with super-soft carpets, en-suite bathrooms and a brand spanking new kitchen.

WHY THE KIDS WILL LOVE IT: The Sammy's Squad entertainment team offers activities for all ages, from baby sensory classes to inflatable assault courses in the pool. The Sammy Rocks disco had our toddler happily bopping until she was ready for bed.

WHY THE GROWN-UPS WILL LOVE IT: The park has a very laid-back feel and there are scenic views from every bar and restaurant. You can relax in the sauna and steam room – or hit the gym if you're feeling energetic. At night, there are magic shows, game shows and West End-style musicals to keep you entertained.

OUT AND ABOUT: Hire a bike at Grumpy's Bike Hire and head out to explore the beautiful countryside. We loved Pennywell Farm in Buckfastleigh – home of the famous micro pigs, and the River Dart Country Park in the Dartmoor National Park, which has adventure playgrounds, giant slides, rope courses, water sports and pony trekking.

NEED TO KNOW: A caravan that sleeps six costs from £186.40 for three nights. Visit Hoburne.com.



Pet a micro pig at Pennywell Farm

T'WHIT T'WOO, LAKE DISTRICT

THE LOWDOWN: You'll be treated to gorgeous views of Lake Windermere through the front window of this delightful little cottage in the grounds of the Victorian Priory Manor Estate. There are gardens where you can play or relax and you even have your own private jetty looking out over the lake.

WHY THE KIDS WILL LOVE IT: Kids will love skipping down the woodland path to the jetty, looking out for deer, squirrels and maybe even a tawny owl along the way. As the Lakes is the setting for the famous Beatrix Potter books, our little

boy was very excited about visiting Peter Rabbit's "home". Feed their enthusiasm with a trip to Wray Castle in Ambleside, where there's a soft-play room, dressing-up area and Peter Rabbit-themed rooms. The World Of Beatrix Potter in Bowness-on-Windermere will also fire their imagination as you journey through the 3D attraction spotting famous scenes from the adventures of Peter and friends.



The cottage has its very own jetty



Relax in the light and spacious living room

WHY THE GROWN-UPS WILL LOVE IT: The recently refurbished cottage is beautifully decorated and has all the mod cons plus a few toys for your little ones. The surrounding sheep-filled countryside is tranquil and beautiful. The 30-minute walk up to nearby Orrest Head will give you another stunning panoramic view of Lake Windermere.

OUT AND ABOUT: Be sure to visit Coniston Water, the third largest lake in the region,

where you can take a gondola ride. In the market town of Kendal you can explore the ruins of 13th-century Kendal Castle that overlooks the town. Head to the Hol in t' Wall in Bowness-on-Windermere, a child-friendly country inn full of character and charm, for some comforting pub grub.

NEED TO KNOW: Book through the UK's leading independent holiday cottage provider – Sykescottages.co.uk. You can book a three or seven night stay at T'whit T'woo, from £389.

THE ESPLANADE, NEWQUAY

THE LOWDOWN: This family-friendly hotel overlooks beautiful Fistral Beach, so remember to bring your buckets and spades. The wide stretch of sand is perfect for kite flying, too. There are a number of family rooms, sleeping up to six people – some of which are also pet-friendly.

WHY THE KIDS WILL LOVE IT: The hotel has an indoor soft-play area and outdoor climbing frames, as well as an indoor swimming pool and splash pool. Kids can also enjoy afternoon activities such as face painting, pizza making and Build-A-Bear, where they're given their own teddy to make and T-shirt to decorate. Little ones are also catered for in the restaurant, with tasty spaghetti and mini fish and chips on the kids' menu.

WHY THE GROWN-UPS WILL LOVE IT: Parents can relax knowing that there are plenty of activities to keep the family entertained whatever the weather. There's a surf school right next to the hotel, so book in for some lessons if you want to learn how to ride the waves. Or if you're in need of some pampering, The Esplanade's sister hotel, the Fistral Beach Hotel, has a spa and vitality pool that you can visit.

OUT AND ABOUT: We grabbed a burger at The Slope Beach Bar + Kitchen on Great Western Beach and watched a gorgeous



The Esplanade overlooks Fistral Beach



The hotel has an outdoor play area



Take a dip in the indoor pool

sunset at Fistral Beach Bar. Your little ones will love a trip to Newquay Zoo and the Bluereef Aquarium, where they can marvel at all the marine life and wildlife. Perranporth, another scenic town with a beach, is a 20-minute drive away, or you

can head further afield to Land's End, the most westerly point in mainland England.

NEED TO KNOW: From £210 per family (two adults and two children) for two nights' bed and breakfast. Book at Esplanadehotelnewquay.co.uk.