

## GUARANTEE YOUR KIDS A 'WHITE' CHRISTMAS



Everyone's dreaming of a White Christmas. Particularly if you've got children in tow.

But with bookmakers William Hill offering odds of 11/2 on one flake of snow to fall during the 24 hours of Christmas Day in London, Manchester, Cardiff or Glasgow, it's just not that straightforward.

So here are ten adventurous ideas from [takethefamily.com](http://takethefamily.com) to 'guarantee' an alternative 'White Christmas' for you and your family – they all beat staying at home roasting your chestnuts on

an open fire!

### **1. Igloo Building in Andorra - 8 days from £899 per adult. Departs 19 Dec.**

You know what they say - the family that builds igloos together, stays together. Here, surrounded by the beauty of the Pyrenean landscape, you can have some real fun in the snow, including snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and – the ultimate – building your very own family-sized igloo. After all, there's snow place like home.

### **2. Husky-Sledding in Finland. 7 days from £899 per adult. Departs 22 Dec.**

From your farmhouse base (complete with sauna!) you and your family will embark on a series of snow-based activities - starting with cross-country skiing and a spot of ice fishing. Having mastered this, you then move on to snowshoeing – a fantastic way to get about in the white landscape. Then on to snowmobiling, which provides an exhilarating way of covering the ground in this icy wilderness. Plus snowboarding and dog-sledding with huskies. Incredible!

### **3. White Mountain Climbing in Morocco - 8 days from £639 per adult. Departs 26 Dec.**

Less ho-ho-ho. More Morocco-co-co. Climb high enough in the Atlas Mountains and you're virtually guaranteed a sight of the white stuff. Your journey begins in the atmospheric city of Fez, exploring its dazzling architecture and lively souks. Then on to imperial Meknes, the mountain-top pilgrimage centre of Moulay Idriss and the Roman remains of Volubilis. Heading into the desert you witness the raw beauty of the Sahara's rolling sand dunes and trek with camels to sleep in an atmospheric Bedouin camp. Hey, beats the Eastenders Christmas Day special!

#### **4. White House Viewing 7 nights over x-mas from under £700 per person.**

George Bush has just secured four more years. Love him, hate him or just underestimate him, this is your chance to show your family what the USA and his fellow Americans are all about with a week in Washington at the family friendly Carlyle or Savoy Suite Hotels, including flights.

#### **5. Snow White Hugging. 7 nights over x-mas in 4\* Orlando from £960 per person**

Make your darling daughter's Christmas with this trip to Orlando and Disneyworld to see Snow White and prove you're the most generous Mummy or Daddy of them all. Fly to Orlando and base yourself at the 4\* Double Tree for less than £4000 for a family of four, including hire car. Or take your adrenalin-loving kid on the world's greatest white-knuckle rides.

#### **6. White Tusk Spotting – from £700 per person plus flights and 'kitty'. Departs 17 Dec.**

If you've had enough of seeing the Great Aunt at Christmas, what about a festive season spent spotting the mighty elephant instead with this 16 night trip to South Africa, including an extraordinary elephant safari. Christmas may come but once a year, but with beautiful beaches as well as bungee jumping, swimming, diving and canopy walks available, this sort of trip is once in a lifetime.

#### **7. White slopes of France. Departs 19 Dec.**

Stay off the strong stuff and on the white stuff with this amazing ski offer from Esprit, where two adults and two children stay at a chalet in La Rosière, France for just £1195 (includes flights, transfers and half-board accommodation).

Other festive ski offers include: 7 nights for the price of six with Powder Byrne in Grindelwald, Zermatt, Courchevel and Klosters. Take the Family can also offer your family a discount on all Club Med and Mark Warner holidays. So, let us know your requirements, we can almost certainly find the right match.

#### **8. The Lapland of Luxury – See the father of all Santas for £279 per person for the day. Dec 5th and 17th**

Forget sitting on his knee at draughty school Christmas fetes. Say farewell to long, overpriced queues at department stores. Go and see the big bearded fella in his native habitat with this luxury day-trip to Lapland.

#### **9. The White Sand Beaches of Zanzibar and more – 2 weeks for £1,425. Departs 18 Dec.**

Everyone claims they love a traditional Christmas, but stretched out on the white beaches of Zanzibar having enjoyed an East African adventure, even the Queen's speech and over-cooked brussel sprouts begin to lose their festive appeal. As well as the beach, this 15-night family trip includes safaris and camping in Nakuru National Park, the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater and a visit to a Masai Boma. Blimey! Put that in your stocking and smoke it.



And if you're looking for white sand, luxury and heat elsewhere then why not consider these options (based on two adults and two children under 12, with prices subject to availability):

### ***St Lucia - St James Club***

Superior Room - All Inclusive - 14 Nights Departing from LON 17 Dec = £6556 Total

Superior Room - All Inclusive - 7 Nights Departing from LON 17 Dec = £5856 Total

### ***Barbados - Escape at Prospect Bay***

Deluxe Room - All Inclusive - 8 Nights Departing from LON 18 Dec = £5948 Total

### ***Barbados - Turtle Beach Hotel***

Junior Suite - All Inclusive - 10 Nights Departing from LON 16 Dec = £6700 Total

### ***Mauritius***

Family Room - 4+ Hotel - All Inclusive - 11 Nights Departing from Lon 20 Dec = £8400 Total

## **10. Isle of Wight Christmas – from £45 per adult per night, between x-mas and New Year**

OK, not everyone can visit the slopes, the souks or the Spice Islands, but if the Isle of Wight feels more manageable, there's still availability between Christmas and New Year at the Old Park Hotel. December 27-30. Prices from £45 per adult and £2 per night per year of age for children.

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## **WE'VE GOT XMAS TRAVEL GIFTS ALL WRAPPED UP**



Whether you want to buy your loved ones trendy travel accessories this Christmas like portable DVD players and Apple I-pods or you prefer classic gifts like luggage or travel books, look no further than [takethefamily.com](http://takethefamily.com)'s **what to take** section.

We've got a fantastic festive selection at great discounted prices.

Also new on the site this month are 10 exhilarating new family adventure destinations including **Egypt, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Morocco** plus loads more.



We're delighted (and, hopefully, you'll be as well) that Center Parcs is offering up to 25% discounts at Elveden Forest in Suffolk to Take the Family customers. The offer is on selected off peak midweek and weekend stays from 7th January 05 to 29th July 05. A family of four can take a midweek break from £199. To book call 08705 200 300 quoting PP115 and check out **our guide to Center Parcs**.



And remember it's nearly the last chance for you and your family to **win a thrilling all-inclusive family ski holiday**, thanks to our good friends at Club Med.

Congratulations to the Rob & Michelle Holtom from Uxbridge who have won a wonderful family holiday in Ireland. We selected their cheeky holiday snap / tale from all your entries. Congratulations to them and thank you to you all for entering.

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## REMEMBER, REMEMBER TO... ER... BOOK IN NOVEMBER

Please remember to book early if you want to choose from our widest possible selection of destinations for summer 2005 (and let us advise you on some fantastic early booking discounts), and to take advantage of our exclusive special Christmas offers – including late availability at hit West End musicals.

So that's November for you. Christmas is coming and the flights are getting full. So do get in touch asap if we can help with your festive travel. Or if you just want to unsubscribe from this newsletter.

And wherever you're going this month – to visit Father Christmas or Santa Fe – have a safe trip and bon voyage from everyone at Take the Family.