

The black stuff or the white stuff?

Greetings from everyone at **Take the Family**. It's September already! Incredible! (if somewhat inevitable). So now's around the right time to start thinking of this winter's half term and Christmas holidays. And whether your idea of winter warmth is your family lazing in front of a log fire, lying on a tropical beach or speeding down the slopes, we're here to help.



For starters, our Irish promotion is now in full swing, offering information about all corners of the **Emerald Isle**. But if you prefer black slopes to Guinness, check out our unbeatable family ski holidays. And if you crave nothing more than winter sun (and who can blame you) you'll have to travel far and wide to find deals much hotter than ours.

Peru-se our new guides and gadgets

Plus we've got a brand new guide to **Les Gets** and (for all you Paddington Bear fans) another to **Peru** - just one of the increasing number of exotic destinations in South America, Africa and Asia that are proving more and more popular with families.

And if you've got small children, check out our **What to take** page. It features the smart new Bebetel baby monitor which connects direct to your mobile phone and is perfect for when reception is otherwise poor. Perfect if your hotel doesn't have baby listening.



Half-term time

It's already looking busy this half term. Hot favourites include the Red Sea and you'll now struggle to find flights with spare seats to Egypt. Although October half-term isn't as busy as August you still need to book a long time in advance for the very best holidays, or compromise by going to places where you're not guaranteed great weather.




Or consider a city break? Check out our guides to **Paris, New York, London, Venice, Rome** and there are many others too. At Take the Family we think that you can have a great time with your family in cities.

But if you're set on the beach and are still looking we can certainly help. **Share your requirements** with us if you're looking for a special, customised break. Or reach out to our partners at Thomsons and take a look at their **Superfamily offers**. And, of course, who better than our good friends at lastminute.com for assistance with **last minute holiday needs**. And:

- Remember that you can find great deals on **flights, cars and hotels** (with discounts of up to 70%)
- Book with **Excel Airways** and enjoy £20 off ALL October 2004 flights (only valid until 17 September). Plus get over to the Caribbean for just £299.
- Consider a **break at one of thousands of cottages**
- Look at the **special offers** page where you'll find deals from Club Med, Mark Warner, Powder Byrne, Esprit and other firm family favourites.

That winning ealing

Congratulations to the Wilkins family of Ealing. They were first out of the computerised hat and win our fabulous Hilton family break. But don't worry if you didn't win this time.

Club Med  We've got two more competitions for you to enter with two great prizes – the first is an **all-inclusive family skiing holiday** to Les Menuires in France with Club Med and the second – a holiday to beautiful Co Waterford in Ireland courtesy of Irish Ferries and Pebble Beach Holiday Homes. To win the **holiday to Ireland** all you need to do is share a holiday tale of woe or joy or one of your cheekiest holiday snaps. So please keep sending them in.

But it's not just the Wilkins family who've been winning. We've been at it too. We were lucky enough to be named best new website by Web User magazine in August. You made that possible with your feedback, so many thanks. And, if you can spare a minute or two, please **reply with any ideas** that can help us continue to improve.

Charity begins on holiday



Last but definitely not least, at Take the Family we're proud to announce that we'll donate £1 from every holiday we sell to the Family Holiday Association, which helps provide a welcome break to families who wouldn't otherwise manage to get away. We hope you agree with us that it's an extremely worthwhile cause. For more information simply visit our **helping other families** page!

So there we have September in a nutshell, well in a few hundred words anyway. If you'd prefer no words next month then do please unsubscribe by replying to this note. Thanks for your time and wherever you take your family this month, do have a safe trip.