

Cut half term panic in half

Tony Blair has called the election.

That means there are just a few precious weeks left...

... to er, book your trip for the Bank Holiday.

And/or May Half Term.

Forget the pollsters.

Ignore the opinion polls.

Simply visit **Take the Family** to see which destinations get our vote.

Bank on us



Bank Holidays.

Ironic really.

The banks are all shut.

Yet you need to rob one to pay for your precious trip.

Here are a few Take the Family Bank Holiday bankers for the weekend of 30 April - 2 May:

With time limited, the UK is an obvious choice for a short break. Choose a **luxury family hotel with childcare**, a **wonderfully-equipped holiday park** or a **cosy cottage**. Or simply take in a **top West End family show**.

And why not look further afield – nip over to **Disneyland Paris**, enjoy a few days in **Rome** or take a long weekend on a warm (hopefully sunny) beach. Our friends at **lastminute.com** have a **wide selection of amazing deals** on breaks over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Then again, why not (school permitting) take the one free day's holiday and turn it into a whole week or even two. Simply **send us detailed requirements** and we'll do our very best to find the right match.

Forget Blair's Full Term. What about Half Term?



Half term!

Two simple words.

But such different reactions.

If you're a teacher, you can breathe a quick sigh of relief.

If you're a parent, you have to take a long deep one and hope for the best.

And if you're a teacher who's also a parent.

Well.

You're probably just glad to be breathing at all.

But panic ye not. At Take the Family, we can cut half term panic... well... in half.

Here are a few ideas:

Luxury family holidays

Browse a range of options throughout the world from our friends at lastminute.com. Just click on your preferred departure date:

- **Friday, 27 May 2005** (over 30 five-star choices starting from £500)
 - **Saturday, 28 May 2005** (over 40 five-star choices starting from £520)
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Adventure holidays for families



May is the perfect time of year for adventure holidays to places that get too hot in the summer. Consider **Egypt**, **Morocco**, **Jordan** or the **Bay of Naples**.

Egypt and North Africa beach holidays

Ideal if you want almost guaranteed sun this May half term (it hasn't rained in **Sharm el Sheikh** for years – in fact for some it is too hot!). Check out "The Residence" in Tunis, The "Four Seasons" or "Ritz Carlton" in Sharm for a truly special break. Share your requirements and we'll customise a break for you.

The Caribbean



May half term is out of the peak Caribbean season – so there's good availability, good offers and (hopefully) still some good weather. Book early to take advantage of some great hotels with childcare for all budgets. Check out our guides to **Barbados** and **Grenada** and enquire about a customised holiday for your family.

The Atlantic

Take your pick from the **Algarve**, Canaries (we have guides to **Tenerife** and **Lanzarote**) or **Madeira**. Excellent half term reports – a short-ish flight (3-4 hours), excellent weather, excellent for kids. And you can opt for almost any kind of accommodation from inexpensive self-catering apartments to pampering on an extraordinary scale at the Reid's Palace in Madeira - where you kids will even get their own Bvlgari toiletries! And did you know that the Luxury Family Hotels team have now set up in Madeira...check out the Jardins do Lago for six nights over half term at just £815 per adult and £295 per child over two, including flights and transfers.

The Med



While not peak summer temperatures, the weather on most Mediterranean beaches should be starting to warm up – and anyway if you've got small kids, toddlers or babies – you don't want it sizzling. Only downside is if pools aren't heated they may be a bit chilly for little ones. Check out our guides to **Menorca**, **Mallorca**, **Sicily**, **Southern Italy**, **Malta** and **North Cyprus**.

- **Thomson is offering deals to the Med from £199 per adult**
 - And do remember that Take the Family has negotiated **£15 off every Excel Airways flight to many destinations in the Med.**
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European camping holidays

OK, it may still be a little chilly under canvas, unless you head to the South of France or Spain. But many sites also have mobile homes with extensive facilities.



Our friends at Canvas have a few great half-term offers. For example, at Camping les Amiaux, St Jean Plage, Vendee a family of four leaving on 26 May for 7 nights will pay £276 in a Maxi-tent and £475 in a luxury Jubilee 29 Midi mobile home (ferry crossing included). Check out the **Canvas Holidays website** for more about this holiday and other May half term deals.

And our partners at Thomson al Fresco are offering savings of 25% on selected holidays for arrivals on-site between 27 May and 2 June. For example, save up to £185 by staying at Yelloh! Village La Plage in Southern Brittany for £555 for a family of six people in a Rossini mobile home, arriving on-site 27th May for 7 nights (includes ferry crossing). More details and other offers on the **Thomson Al Fresco website**.

X marks the spot

So whoever you plan to vote for and wherever you plan to go, good luck and bon voyage from everyone here at Take the Family. And will the last person to leave the country, please turn off the baby-listener.

Plus **check out the election competition** on our site and win a magnum of champagne. Simply come up with the funniest, most bizarre or most appropriate destination for the three party leaders and their families to visit.

Finally, do let us know by replying to this note if you'd like to offer your resignation and unsubscribe.

Note: All prices were valid at the time of publishing this newsletter and are subject to change.