



CHEDDAR GORGE INSTEAD OF GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA

The United Kingdom's largest gorge was carved out of the Somerset landscape by glacial meltwater hundreds of thousands of years ago. It is almost 400ft deep and three miles long – so you could say it's the UK's mini Grand Canyon!

» Las Vegas for 7 nights, self-catering and including flights, £4,960

» Cheddar for 7 nights, self-catering, £995



THE JURASSIC COAST INSTEAD OF TURKEY

Steeped in history and with beautiful beaches, stunning scenery and the tastiest food, how about exploring the timeless magic of the Jurassic Coast instead of Turkey this year?

» Marmaris for 7 nights in a 3* self-catering apartment, £1,984

» Weymouth for 7 nights in a beach apartment, £934



BATH INSTEAD OF PARIS

Bath is the perfect place to enjoy a romantic city break without leaving the UK.

It has for centuries been a mecca for pleasure and relaxation – and a wellbeing hotspot since Roman times. There's no shortage of things to do. Visit

the original Roman Baths, walk the Georgian Royal Crescent and bathe in Thermae Bath Spa's open-air rooftop pool, which offers incredible views over the city.

» Paris for 7 nights, self-catering and including flights, £2,415

» Bath for 7 nights in a 3* hotel, £839

Staycation swaps

SOME OF THE WORLD'S FAVOURITE DESTINATIONS HAVE A GREAT EQUIVALENT RIGHT HERE IN BRITAIN

BY JANE HAWKES
travel consumer expert

When planning a break in the middle of a cost of living crisis, why vacation when you can staycation for a lot less cash?

Yes, the weather might be a little more unpredictable but a UK stay can have remarkable similarities to some favourite holiday hotspots – just take a look at these!

All prices quoted are based on a family of four for the week of August 8.

For more advice from Jane, see ladyjane.co.uk

For more UK staycation inspiration, check out weekendcandy.com

Book your dream stay with independentcottages.co.uk and lastminute-cottages.co.uk

ENGLISH VS FRENCH RIVIERA

The Mediterranean coast of south-eastern France is one of the country's most popular holiday destinations, with tourists flocking to the beautiful seaside resorts there every year.

But the English Riviera has much to offer, too. It's steeped in history,

with stunning landscapes and gorgeous beaches – so holidaymakers looking to enjoy that riviera experience on a budget might find it a great alternative.

» Antibes for 7 nights, self-catering including flights, £2,727

» Pitch a tent near Torquay for 7 nights, £175

TOP 10 STAYCATION BUDGET TIPS

- 1 Be flexible:** Flexibility is key – in everything from where you are going, how, what you are doing and where you stay. If you aren't limited to fixed dates, study off-peak prices for savings.
- 2 Avoid holiday hotspots:** Peak prices are often associated with the most popular tourist spots. According to research by Parkdean Resorts, Cornwall still tops the UK search list – but Devon, Somerset and the Cotswolds have been replaced by

- Lancashire, the Lake District, Yorkshire and Wales.
- 3 Book direct:** If you book accommodation directly, the host saves money on any online commission and booking fees. You could be quoted a better price by contacting them to ask for their best rate and negotiate additional benefits such as early or late check-ins.
 - 4 Compare prices:** Do your research thoroughly when planning a staycation. Use

- comparison websites such as skyscanner.net and icelolly.com, and find the best prices.
- Alternatively, search smartly using incognito or private browsing to avoid companies using your browsing history to increase prices.
- 5 Sign up to hotel loyalty schemes:** When you join a loyalty scheme, you tend to get perks straight away. However, the benefits really kick in when you've built up rewards over time – so choose a hotel chain

- you are likely to use the most to get the best out of the scheme.
- 6 Watch out for scams:** Budgets are tight and this makes it easier for fraudsters to lure unsuspecting victims in with prices that are too good to be true. Scammers may ask for a deposit for a holiday let or caravan they don't own.
 - 7 Use discount websites:** Consider booking via websites such as wowcher.co.uk and groupon.co.uk to save

- money. And check voucherCodes.co.uk for a range of discount codes for booking UK stays.
- 8 Consider a city break:** Our city centres took a hit in the pandemic with reduced footfall, so there are plenty of bargains to be had!
 - 9 Avoid big events:** If you book breaks when concerts or sporting events are on, you may pay more due to increased demand for accommodation.



- 10 Know your consumer rights:** We spend hours planning where to go but not as much time checking the terms and conditions of bookings. This is essential not just in terms of cancellation and refund policies but so that you don't get caught out with any unforeseen extra charges.



BLACKPOOL INSTEAD OF TENERIFE

With temperatures soaring, there's no need to head abroad to catch some quality summer rays. Just like its Spanish counterpart, the lively and popular resort of Blackpool boasts the

very best of sand, sea, sun and fun for all the family.

» Puerto de la Cruz for 7 nights in a 3* self-catering apartment, £2,058

» Blackpool for 7 nights in a 3* hotel on the South Shore, self-catering, £845

SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS IN THE OUTER HEBRIDES INSTEAD OF NORWAY

Those hoping to catch a glimpse of the aurora borealis often head to Norway but it is also possible to view it in remote areas of Scotland.

The islands of the Outer Hebrides provide the perfect conditions to view the "Mirrie Dancers".

» Tromsø for 7 nights, self-catering including flights, £2,708

» Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis for 7 nights in a four-berth motorhome, £775



FOREST OF DEAN INSTEAD OF THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

Rather than heading to Ardèche for canoeing, mountain biking and hiking, thrillseekers can do all of that in the stunning Forest of Dean for a fraction of the price.

» Vallon-Pont-d'Arc for 7 nights in a 3* hotel, including flights, £2,285

» Symonds Yat for 7 nights in a 3* hotel, £1,178



If you'd like to chat about money, we're all ears.

If you feel like your finances are getting on top of you, it's best to talk to someone. Our Money Confidence Experts are here to help with everything from budgeting to managing debt. So take that first step towards feeling a little more confident about your money.

Chat to us in branch soon by visiting tsb.co.uk/appointments

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If you need help with money, don't bottle it up.

