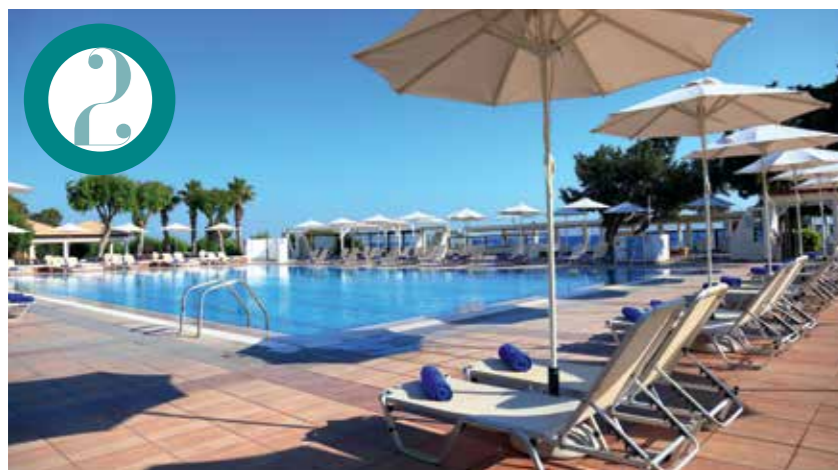


ASK THE OPERATOR

Stuck for October half-term ideas? **Natalie Marsh** has the answers



PICTURES: Zach Ellison; Weel Locky/Olympic Holidays; Campos Fotografia/Interhome/Al Fresco Holidays

1 UNDER-10s

WHAT'S THE BRIEF?

A family with primary school-age children is looking for plenty to do for the kids, in a location that also appeals to the parents. They want somewhere close and easy to reach – and even better if they can avoid flying.



Al Fresco Holidays
Nick Riggs,
managing director

“ WE SUGGEST

La Croix du Vieux Pont in Berny-Rivière, France, is popular for October half-term and it's fairly accessible with good all-weather facilities. For those who can drive, it takes about three hours from Calais. It's about an hour from Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport, but we recommend travelling by car because it is quite rural.

It's become a resort in its own right, so people go there for the on-site facilities, as well as the excursion possibilities.

There's an indoor swimming pool, laser quest, bowling alley and soft-play area, in addition to standard activities such as football and archery.

There are some great attraction parks nearby, with Disneyland Paris and Parc Astérix about an hour away. There are also landmarks such as the Château de Chantilly and Château de Pierrefonds to explore, while the Champagne region is close.

We find this is a great option for those who may find on-site Disney expensive. It's a relaxing rural setting, but the campsite has a coach to Disneyland and Paris, so you can do day trips.

Book it: Seven nights at La Croix du Vieux Pont leads in at £336 on October 26. alfresco-holidays.com

2 TEENAGERS

WHAT'S THE BRIEF?

Two parents and their teenage children are looking for some early winter sun. They want somewhere they can relax and have some downtime, but that also has plenty of history and culture for the family to explore together.



Olympic Holidays
Ricky Wason,
head of product and purchasing

“ WE SUGGEST

I would recommend Rhodes as the destination, and Labranda Blue Bay Resort as a great value-for-money option on an all-inclusive basis. Rhodes gets some of the most sunshine in Greece, so there's a high likelihood of better weather at that time of year.

I always advise getting out and about for a day or two while you're there. Rhodes Town is a short journey from the hotel. It has a lot of historical places of interest, modern shops, a marina and the old city walls – you can spend hours getting lost. The south of the island has some of the best beaches, plus Lindos, which is a historical village with an acropolis.

One of Labranda Blue Bay Resort's main selling points is its beachfront location. There's a full-time animation team, and there are watersports to keep the teenagers happy. There's also a range of family rooms with a separate sleeping area for children.

Book it: Seven nights' all-inclusive at Labranda Blue Bay Resort starts at £645 per person, flying from Gatwick on October 21. olympicholidays.com

3 MULTIGENERATIONAL

WHAT'S THE BRIEF?

A three-generation family of children, parents and grandparents is looking for somewhere relatively easy to get to. They would like to stay under the same roof, and have the option to explore the local area.



Interhome
Danny Waine,
business development manager

“ WE SUGGEST

I would suggest Villa Perla del Mar in Costa Blanca, Spain. It's an easy location to get to – it's one of our top-selling destinations, and one of those that people always go back to.

There is something for everyone in the area. The value for money is very good, and it's great to be there outside the height of summer, so you can go out and do things. I would recommend a car if you want to visit somewhere close by, or Valencia, the nearest big city.

The property size is ideal for a multigenerational group. There's a brilliant pool area, but it also caters for people who want to chill out and relax.

To sell this villa, focus on the facilities: everything from a games room and large swimming pool, both of which cater for younger children, to a barbecue and outdoor dining area for the adults. It's also close to local facilities and the beach.

Book it: A multigenerational family can stay at the Villa Perla del Mar, which has five bedrooms and a private pool, from £2,237 for seven nights, arriving October 26. interhome.co.uk