

School holiday trips 2023/24



UK
capital cities



Arabic
adventure



Skiing &
Snowboarding



Volunteering
& safari



Culture & fun



European
cities














Golf camp

Quality you can trust

Trips summary

We offer a wide variety of escorted holiday trips during school breaks throughout the year.

Holiday	Theme	Destination	 Dates - 2023/2024	Page
 October Half Term	UK capital cities	Edinburgh, Belfast, Manchester, Cardiff, London	Saturday 14 October – Sunday 29 October Saturday 21 October – Sunday 5 November	3
 October Half Term	Arabic adventure	Dubai & London	Saturday 14 October – Sunday 29 October Saturday 21 October – Sunday 5 November	4
 Christmas Holiday	Skiing & snowboarding	Verbier, Switzerland	Any dates between 16 December – 6 January	5
 February Half Term	Skiing & snowboarding	Passo Tonale, Italy	Saturday 10 February – Saturday 17 Feb	6
 February Half Term	Skiing & snowboarding	Verbier, Switzerland	Saturday 10 February – Saturday 17 Feb Saturday 17 February – Saturday 24 Feb	7
 Easter Holiday	Volunteering & safari	Kenya	Saturday 23 March – Sunday 14 April	8
 Easter Holiday	Skiing & snowboarding	Verbier, Switzerland	Any dates between 23 March – 14 April	9
 May Half Term	European cities	Paris, Berlin & Amsterdam	Saturday 25 May – Sunday 2 June	10
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October Half Term - UK Capital Cities

 Saturday 14 October 2023 - Sunday 29 October 2023
 Saturday 21 October 2023 - Sunday 5 November 2023

Explore UK's capitals

Enjoy an adventure to the UK's vibrant capital cities over the October half term holiday. From the historic and cultural landmarks of Edinburgh and Belfast to the thriving cosmopolitan hubs of Cardiff and London, this journey through the Capital Cities of the UK promises to be an unforgettable experience. Over the course of two weeks, explore the unique sights, sounds, and flavours of each city and become immersed in local culture.

A trip around the UK wouldn't be complete without visiting Manchester - the only UK city in National Geographic's 'Best of the World' list – so it's a must see alongside our capital cities. Pack your bags and let's dive into the best that the UK has to offer!



Highlights

Edinburgh

- Discover Scotland's iconic Edinburgh Castle
- Step into Edinburgh's history at Mary King's Close
- Walk in the footsteps of great golfers at St Andrews

Belfast

- Discover the Titanic Experience
- Shop at the last surviving Victorian covered St Georges market
- Recall incredible tales of legend and local history at the Giants Causeway

Manchester

- See the world-famous home of Manchester United - Old Trafford
- Encounter the extraordinary Mummies of Egypt exhibition
- Skydive in state-of-the-art vertical wind tunnels

Cardiff

- Run the rapids at Cardiff International White Water Rafting Centre
- Fly across the sky on the fastest seated zip line in the world
- Discover the unexpected wonder of coins at the Royal Mint

London

- See magnificent London views on the iconic London Eye
- Take selfies with the celebs at Madame Tussauds - wax or real?
- Cycle central London sights around the Royal Parks
- Enjoy the thrill of live theatre in the West End
- Climb the roof of the O2, before tucking into a burger and fries at Gordon Ramsay's Street Burger



Trip includes



Flights



Transportation
within cities
(ferry, flight,
train, buses)



Accommodation



All breakfasts,
4 lunches
and 9 dinners



Activities and all
entrance fees



Travel insurance

Contact us >

October Half Term - Dubai & London

 Saturday 14 October 2023 - Sunday 29 October 2023
 Saturday 21 October 2023 - Sunday 5 November 2023

Visit dazzling Dubai & London

Get ready for the ultimate cultural experience on the exciting Dubai and London trip during the October half term. Start by exploring one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world that breathes a sense of possibility and innovation - Dubai. Then enjoy the natural beauty of the desert and dhow sailing before jumping back in time with London's rich history.

This journey offers the best in cultural exploration, and adventure. Over the course of 10 nights in Dubai and 4 nights in London, soak up the vibrant culture, indulge in local cuisine, and discover the unique charms of each city. This unforgettable experience will leave memories that last a lifetime.



Highlights

Dubai

- Learn about Arabic culture and enjoy Arabic cuisine
- Spend time on the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve. Step back in time driving in open Land Rovers, riding camels and flying falcons. Enjoy a sumptuous traditional Arabic meal in our Bedouin camp whilst learning about the night sky and enjoying traditional henna hand painting artistry.
- Spend a relaxing day seeing the coast from the crystal blue sea on a traditional Arabic dhow trip, adding Oman to your passport visa collection!
- Explore Dubai's traditional spice and gold souks where you can practice your negotiating skills
- Speed to the top of the world's tallest building – the Burj Khalifa

- Cool down with a fun day at Aquaventure waterpark
- Increase the excitement with a day at Ferrari World or IMG World
- Enjoy an evening of golf driving and food at Top Golf Dubai
- Check out the latest shopping at Dubai Mall
- Relax on the beach in the sun and develop your balance paddle boarding and other water activities

London

- Enjoy a West End Show
- Take an exhilarating outdoor climb over the O2 arena roof and enjoy incredible views of London
- Cycle central London sights around the Royal Parks
- Slowly survey the skyline from the London Eye



Trip includes



Flights



Accommodation



All breakfasts
and dinners and
some lunches



Activities and all
entrance fees



Travel insurance

- Flight escort from UK available on request

Contact us >

Christmas Switzerland, Skiing - Verbier, Les Elfes

 Any dates between 16 December 2023 - 6 January 2024

Christmas skiing in Verbier, Les Elfes

Answer the call of the mountains and carve your way down perfect slopes, enjoy the stunning alpine scenery, and engage in a range of winter activities in Verbier, Switzerland. Whether you're a beginner or an advanced skier, the expert instructors at Les Elfes will help you improve your technique and make the most of your time on the mountain.

With its world-class facilities and charming Swiss hospitality, Les Elfes is the perfect destination to experience the best of winter sports and alpine culture. Ideal for independent travellers looking for an international holiday over Christmas. This is not an Academic Families escorted trip but is offered in partnership with our partners at Les Elfes, specialising in independent ski holidays for teenagers. We manage all transfers and will advise families if other students are travelling on the same dates. Combined with a UK host, this is a popular option for students not returning home and who want a safe independent trip.



Highlights

- Are you a ripper or a shredder? Skiing and snowboarding options down perfectly groomed pistes
- Experience some of the best winter terrain that Switzerland has to offer
- Sample some of the finest Swiss chocolates or cheeses at the factories in Gruyere
- Indoor and outdoor activities, such as swimming, visiting the town of Verbier and going ice skating
- Classic evening activities for everyone that include ice skating, music video, private disco and many other activities
- Ski race on the last day with a mountain BBQ on the slopes
- Awards ceremony



Trip includes



Accommodation



All meals



Daily 5 hours
ski tuition



5 days skiing
and lift passes



Academic Families
assistance to book
this holiday



Camp management
& student supervision
arranged by Les Elfes

- Flight escort from UK available on request
- Not included: Return flights to Geneva*
This is not an Academic Families escorted trip

Contact us >

February Half Term - Italy Skiing & Snowboarding, Passo Tonale

 Saturday 10 February 2024 - Saturday 17 February 2024

Unforgettable skiing in Passo Tonale, Italy

Has a ski-trip to Italy been on your bucket-list? Join us in one of Italy's excellent resorts of Passo Tonale for your February half term. Nestled in the heart of the Italian Alps, Passo Tonale is a premier destination for skiing, snowboarding, and winter sports. What better way to experience this snowy paradise, with its breath-taking mountain views, first-class amenities and 4* Spa and Resort accommodation and delicious Italian cuisine?

Over the course of seven days, hit the slopes, take in the stunning alpine scenery, and enjoy a range of winter activities. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a first-time skier, this resort offers excellent skiing and tuition and the trip promises to be an unforgettable adventure.



Highlights

- Accommodation in twin/ triple rooms with ensuite bathroom and satellite tv
- 6 days of skiing or snowboarding and tuition
- The majority of the slopes suit intermediate skiing with lengthy blues and reds - the 4.5km Alpino red slope is a favourite
- Advanced and expert skiers can enjoy the Paradiso 3km black run, as well as the red and black runs from Cima Presena
- The Adamello Freestyle Arena offers snowboarders a range of features and jumps, as well as a 1000m snowcross
- Other winter activities include ice-skating and tobogganing
- Fun après ski activities such as sledging, skating in a natural ice rink and relaxing in the indoor swimming pool
- Awards ceremony



Trip includes



Flights



All meals



Hire of skis,
boots and poles



4* Spa & Resort
accommodation



6 days ski tuition




6 days skiing and
lift passes




Travel insurance

Contact us >

February Half Term - Switzerland Skiing & Snowboarding, Verbier, Les Elfes

 Saturday 10 February 2024 - Saturday 17 February 2024 – SOLD OUT – wait list - book [Passo Tonale](#)

 Saturday 17 February 2024 - Saturday 24 February 2024 – availability IF matches your school holiday dates

Skiing in exclusive Verbier

If you'd prefer more exclusivity as well as excellent skiing then Les Elfes is the trip for you this February half term. Set in the picturesque Swiss Alps, Les Elfes is a premier ski resort offering the perfect mix of adventure, and adrenaline. With limited availability, this trip promises to be an unforgettable experience for students who want to take their skiing skills to the next level.

Over the course of one week, you will have the opportunity to hit the slopes, enjoy the stunning alpine scenery, and engage in a range of winter activities. Whether you're a beginner or an advanced skier, the expert instructors at Les Elfes will help you improve your technique and make the most of your time on the mountain. With its world-class facilities and charming Swiss hospitality, Les Elfes is the perfect destination to experience the best of winter sports and alpine culture.



Highlights

- Accommodation 4 bedded rooms with private bathroom
- 5 days skiing and tuition
- Ski and snowboarding options
- 1 day midweek excursion to cheese and chocolate factories
- Evening activities
- Ski race on the last day with a mountain BBQ on the slopes
- Awards ceremony



Trip includes



Flights



Accommodation



All meals



Hire of skis,
boots and poles



5 days ski tuition



5 days skiing and
lift passes



Travel insurance



Camp management &
student supervision arranged
by Les Elfes

Contact us >

Easter Holidays - Kenya

 Saturday 23 March 2024 - Sunday 14 April 2024

Human connection, culture and adventure in Kenya – 3 weeks

Making a difference underpins this unique trip for a small group of motivated students who will embark on a journey connecting, understanding and influencing people through our physical journey from Kenya's capital city to its vibrant coastal region. Throughout this adventure, you will work with charities, environmental projects and engage with local communities to understand how they are learning to live alongside nature to survive.

Embark on an unforgettable journey through the diverse landscapes of Kenya - from the red dusty National Parks to the pristine beaches of the Indian Ocean, you will experience the incredible wildlife, rich culture and stunning natural beauty of this East African nation.

After visiting an elephant orphanage and giraffe sanctuary, you will be ready to fine tune your tracking skills on safari by foot, bike and LandCruiser. You will also visit traditional villages where you will be taught many local skills.

Football is a global language which enables you to connect with hundreds of children. Visit [Alive and Kicking](#), a football manufacturing project and try to sew your own ball! Collect our bespoke balls to donate as we move through the country. Matches will be organised but there will be plenty of balls to donate to the many children you meet on your travels.

Understanding how humans and wildlife must work together to share their scarce resources is key to everyone's survival. Work with Maasai building a water pan to ensure water for all, and with [Kuruvitu](#) planting coral to rejuvenate the coastline ensuring the livelihood of fishing communities.



Highlights

- Support sustainable development projects
- Meet local communities
- Play community football matches
- Safari by foot, bike and LandCruiser
- Get up close and personal to elephants and giraffes
- Sleep under the stars at a busy waterhole
- Dhow sunset cruise



Trip includes



Flights



Accommodation



All meals



Volunteering



Safari



Non-motorised
watersports



Travel
insurance

Additional Extras (not included): Motorised watersports, Personal shopping, Visa and vaccinations

Contact us >

Easter Holidays - Switzerland Skiing & Snowboarding Verbier, Les Elfes

 Any time between 23 March 2024 - 14 April 2024



Easter adventure in the mountains of Switzerland

Looking for an unforgettable Easter adventure? Look no further and have the time of your life at Les Elfes International in Verbier, Switzerland. Enjoy thrilling activities, from skiing and snowboarding to rock climbing and mountain biking.

Located in the heart of the Swiss Alps, Les Elfes provides a stunning backdrop for an unforgettable adventure. With comfortable accommodation, delicious meals, and a wide variety of activities to choose from. Return home with great experiences and lifelong friendships. Ideal for independent travellers looking for an international holiday over Easter. This is not an Academic Families escorted trip but is offered in partnership with our partners at Les Elfes, who are specialists in independent holidays for teenagers. We manage all transfers and will advise families if other students are travelling on the same dates. Combined with a UK host, this is a popular option for students not returning home and who want to a safe independent trip.



Highlights

- Mountain bike in the Alps with thrilling downhills
- Challenge yourself on the treetop tarzan swings, rope bridges and zip lines
- Enjoy skiing and snowboarding when weather and altitude allow
- Enjoy stunning mountain rock climbing
- Discover colourful and impressive landscapes, massive water dams, natural mountain lakes, wild forests, traditional villages and nature reserves as you hike a possible 950km of footpaths



Trip includes



Accommodation



All meals



Activities and
ski tuition



Academic Families
assistance to book
this holiday



Camp management
& student supervision
arranged by Les Elfes
International

- Flight escort from UK available on request

Not included – return flight to Geneva

This is not an Academic Families escorted trip

Contact us >

May Half Term

European Cities - Paris, Berlin & Amsterdam

 Saturday 25 May 2024 - Sunday 2 June 2024

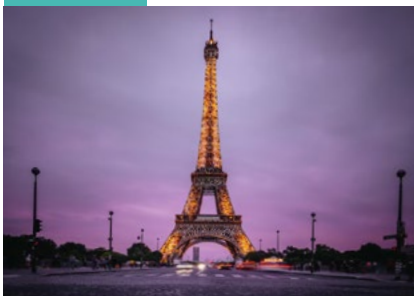
Join us for an unforgettable 9-day European tour

In Paris, explore the city by bike, taking in iconic landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, Louvre Museum, and Champs-Elysees. You'll also get to try your hand at making macaroons and enjoy a full day at Disneyland Paris.

Next, we'll head to Berlin, where you'll spend a full day exploring the city on a bike tour that covers everything from the Brandenburg Gate to the site of Hitler's bunker. For the thrill-seekers in the group, there's also the option to go skydiving! We'll visit the Spy Museum and Mauer museum, Check Point Charlie and learn more about the city's fascinating history and take some time to shop and be entertained at Potsdamer Platz.

Finally, we'll wrap up our tour in Amsterdam, where we'll bike along the picturesque canals, visit the Van Gogh Museum, and take a canal cruise. You'll also have the chance to experience Madame Tussauds and the Amsterdam Dungeons or Holland City for some entertainment and participate in a murder mystery activity for a unique and exciting way to end the tour. Don't miss out on this incredible European adventure!

Paris



Berlin



Amsterdam



Highlights

- Take in sites of Paris, Berlin and Amsterdam by bicycle
- Soak in the breathtakingly unique views of Paris from every floor of the Eiffel Tower
- Cruise the scenic Seine and explore the world of the Impressionist artists at the Louvre Museum
- Disney in Paris will provide thrilling rides and unmissable adventure
- In Berlin, visit the famous Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie and Berlin Wall
- Visit the Mauer museum to learn about the Berlin wall
- Shopping and the full immersive cinematic IMAX experience at Postdammer Platz
- What Amsterdam trip would be complete without without our canal cruise and a visit to the largest collection of art works by Vincent van Gogh?
- Feel the history in Amsterdam's Anne Frank museum
- Macaroon making activity in Paris
- Take part in a murder mystery and investigate "Who did it"



Trip includes



Flights



Accommodation



All breakfasts,
7 dinners,
and 1 lunch



Local transport



Activities and all
entrance fees



Travel
insurance

Contact us >

May Half Term - Greece

 Saturday 25 May 2024 - Sunday 2 June 2024

Join us in Greece, the cradle of Western civilisation

Local historic sites and activities are within easy reach and the boat trip to the island complex of Saronic of Aigina, Agistri and Hydra are a highlight.

Explore the towns, sample local dishes and swim in the crystal blue waters of the Saronic Gulf. Touring Athens is a must and you will be able to immerse yourself in the rich history and vibrant culture of this ancient city when you visit the famous Acropolis, Panathenaic Stadium and the Plaka area. Follow in the footsteps of St Paul to Corinth where he preached for two years and wrote one of his famous letters to Corinthians. This is not a Mamma Mia island trip but there will be plenty of opportunity to sing the songs!



Highlights

- Marvel at the ruins of temples on the Acropolis
- Visit the site of the first modern Olympic Games at the Panathenaic Stadium
- Visit the 5000-year-old ancient town of Corinth
- Visit the first Greek capital of Nafplion, the ancient theatre of Epidaurus and discover the myths of Ancient Greek gods and heroes and tales of conquerors
- Take a boat to the Saronic islands to swim and cool down in the sparkling Aegean Sea
- Discover the island-like, sandy beach combined with a crystal clear, shallow blue sea of Heraion Lake Lagoon with a day full of fun water sports and activities



Trip includes



Flights



Accommodation



All breakfasts and dinners, and some lunches



Activities and all entrance fees



Travel insurance

Contact us >

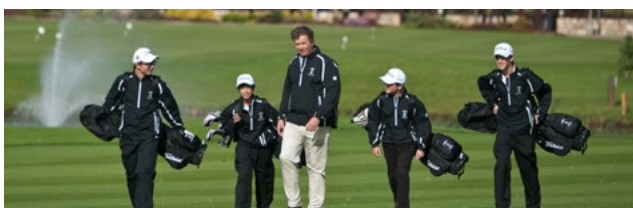
May Half Term - Golf Camp

 Saturday 25 May 2024 - Sunday 2 June 2024

(Limited availability)

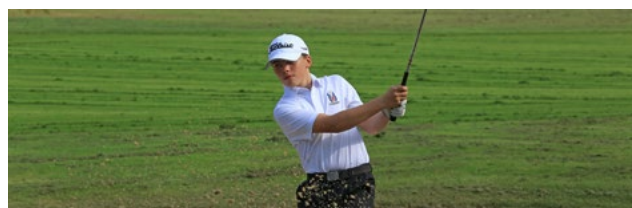
Join us at the home of golf, St Andrews, Scotland

Looking to improve your golf game? Join us for a Golf Camp where golf was invented in St Andrews. Our Ultimate Camp is perfect for beginners and intermediate golfers, aged 10 to 17, looking to develop their skills. For experienced golfers, aged 14 to 17, looking to take their game to the next level with more advanced individual experience, our High-Performance Camp is the perfect choice. Both camps offer a fun and supportive environment where you can hone your skills, make friends, and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of St Andrews and play on some of St Andrews' most beautiful courses. This is not an Academic Families escorted trip but is offered in partnership with our Golf Association partners, who are specialists in golf coaching holidays for teenagers.



Ultimate Camp All abilities: 10 - 17 years old

- Play a variety of fantastic links and parkland courses around St Andrews
- Enjoy a busy schedule of coaching, course play, camp competitions and evening activities
- Explore St Andrews, home of golf with its ancient links courses and #2 ranked UK university
- 12 hours group coaching
- Group (max 8) - swing, chipping, bunker play and putting
- Individual 1:1 - two individual analysis sessions highlighting personal development objectives - swing and putting
- Golf fitness plan



High Performance Camp Skilled players: 14 - 17 years old

- Play links and parkland courses around St Andrews and compete in daily camp competitions
- Intensive 12 hours coaching – 1:1 & small group
- Use of technology - trackman, video analysis, SAM PuttLab, TPI physical assessment and Green Reading
- 6 rounds of golf – challenging courses
- 1:1 swing and putting analysis & online report
- 1:1 golf fitness assessment & personal plan
- group coaching (max 4) - shot making, wedge play, putting
- classroom instruction – course management, nutrition, goal setting ++
- Your coaching pack will ensure you have the tools to continue your development after the camp



Trip includes



Coaching -
UKCC Level 4 coach
with Masters in
Sports Coaching



1 day sightseeing



Evening activities



Accommodation –
St Andrews University
hall of residence



Daily camp competitions



Skills challenge



Prize giving

*Not included: Travel insurance and UK transfers
This is not an Academic Families escorted trip*

Contact us >

Check for Visa requirements

Whether you need a visa or not is dependent on your country of citizenship. Most passport holders are eligible for a visa on arrival at no cost. However, others may need to apply for a visa beforehand. See the below links.

If your child is not from the EU, their passport should be valid for at least 6 months on entry and have one blank page. If from the EU, then the passport should be valid during their stay in the country.



United Arab Emirates

Select your nationality from the dropdown in the following link and find out the visa requirements.

[UAE Visa requirements](#)



Italy

From 2024 you might need to apply for ETIAS

[Italy Visa requirements](#)



Kenya

Everybody must apply for an eVisa, but it is free until 16 years old.

[Kenya Visa requirements](#)



France

[France Visa requirements](#)



Germany

[Germany Visa requirements](#)



Netherlands

[Netherlands Visa requirements](#)



Greece

[Greece Visa requirements](#)



ETIAS

The system, officially called European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), will launch mid 2024 exact date not yet confirmed.

The system will check the security credentials and charge a fee to travellers visiting EU member countries. There is no fee for travellers under the age of 18. If your child holds a passport from any European country they can enter without ETIAS as long as the validity of the passport covers the stay in the country.

[Visit ETIAS.com](#)

Booking terms and conditions



Terms and conditions

- Minimum of 10 students per trip required
- All trips are escorted by Academic Staff unless specified otherwise
- Travel insurance, including medical and emergency cancellations, is included unless specified otherwise
- All trips are subject to availability
- The February half term trip to Switzerland, Les Elfes has limited availability
- Trips start on a Saturday and finish on a Saturday or Sunday
- When required, students will stay at an airport hotel (or host) before and after the trip if their school is closed. This will be an extra charge.

Cancellation policy

- Trips are non-refundable once booked

Travel insurance

- Insurance is provided under the Academic Families group insurance scheme
- Coverage includes medical, accident insurance and emergency cancellation

Booking and payment

- Full payment is due on confirmation for the October half term trip
- Deadline for October and February Half term trip is 31st May 2023
- All other trips - deposit is due on confirmation of place, balance due 6 months prior to departure

Travel advice

- Academic Families can advise and assist with all travel-related questions
- Schools have different holidays, please select the trips your child would like to go on and we will allocate an appropriate holiday departure
- Contact us at trips@academicfamilies.com



UK
capital cities



Arabic
adventure



Skiing &
Snowboarding



Volunteering
& safari



Culture & fun



European
cities



Golf camp

Contact us >

Staying with a British host family during school breaks

When your child is not in school or on an exciting escorted holiday trip with Academic Families, they can stay with a host family who will provide a warm family environment as well as cultural immersion.



Our handpicked and vetted hosts welcome international students with open arms and provide a supportive home away from home. They are all outstanding citizens with the highest credentials, safety checks, and police clearance.

Our network of host families extends all across the UK and includes families living in cities, towns and rural areas.

What do they all have in common? Each one understands the needs of international students and will ensure your child balances their time between studies and enjoying quality relaxing breaks getting out and about to explore the UK while they are here.



Learn more about our host families



"I have worked closely with Academic Families and have always been extremely impressed by the quality of service which the company provides.

Host families really do provide a warm and caring service for children of all ages, and a real bond is formed between them.

The company is extremely well organised, and parent and child satisfaction is always extremely high. This is a company which really does go the extra mile on behalf of the children with which it works."

Housemaster, Merchiston Castle School



Safe
Happy
Successful
Students

Gold Standard Accredited

Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students

British Boarding School Association

academicfamilies.com

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