

School holiday trips 2024/25



UK cities



Nature & adventure



Arabic adventure



Skiing & snowboarding



Volunteering & safari



Culture & fun



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 - 2024/2025	Page
 October Half Term	Arabic adventure	London & Dubai	Saturday 12 October – Sunday 27 October Saturday 19 October - Sunday 3 November	3
 October Half Term	Nature & adventure	Sri Lanka	Saturday 19 October – Saturday 2 November	4
 Christmas Holiday	Skiing & snowboarding	Verbier, Switzerland	Any dates between 14 December - 4 January	5
 February Half Term	Skiing & snowboarding	Les Crosets, Switzerland	Saturday 8 February – Saturday 15 February Saturday 15 February – Saturday 22 February	6
 Easter Holiday	Volunteering & safari	Kenya	Saturday 29 March - Sunday 20 April	7
 Easter Holiday	Skiing & snowboarding	Verbier, Switzerland	Any dates between Saturday 29 March - Tuesday 22 April	8
 May Half Term	UK Cities	Edinburgh, Manchester and London	Saturday 24 May – Saturday 31 May	9
 May Half Term	Culture & fun	Greece	Saturday 24 May – Saturday 31 May	10
 May Half Term	Golf camp	St Andrews, Scotland	Saturday 24 May – Sunday 1 June	11
Check for Visa requirements				12
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October Half Term - Dubai & London

 Saturday 12 October 2024 - Sunday 27 October 2024 - *Merchiston Castle, Rossall, Sedbergh and St Leonard's*
 Saturday 19 October 2024 - Sunday 3 November 2024 - *all other schools (limited availability)*

Visit dazzling Dubai & London

Get ready for the ultimate cultural experience on the exciting London and Dubai trip during the October half term. Enjoy London's rich history before discovering the natural beauty of the Arabian desert and dhow sailing. Explore Dubai one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world that breathes a sense of possibility and innovation.

This journey offers the best in cultural exploration, and adventure. Over the course of 3 nights in London and 12 nights in Dubai, 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 and riding camels. 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](#)
- 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](#)
- Explore the history of the [Tower of London](#)
- Cycle central London sights around the Royal Parks
- Experience a tour of one of England's Premiership [football stadiums](#)
- [Speedboat tour](#) on the River Thames



£5,299 includes



Flights



Accommodation



All breakfasts
and dinners



Activities and all
entrance fees



Travel insurance



Fully escorted

Extras - lunches

Book this trip >

October Half Term - Sri Lanka

 Saturday 19 October 2024 – Saturday 2 November 2024

Discover the Pearl of the Indian Ocean

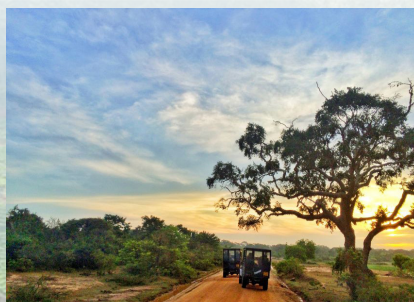
Join us this October Half Term for an adventure of a lifetime in Sri Lanka, also known as The Pearl of the Indian Ocean. Our Sri Lanka trip is an incredible blend of culture, nature and adventure, promising an unforgettable experience for all.

Explore Sri Lanka's rich cultural heritage and traditions as we travel through iconic landmarks and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. From climbing the Sigiriya Rock to visiting the Sacred Temple of the Tooth in the historic city of Kandy. Discover the well-preserved Galle Dutch Fort and learn about the islands' colonial past.



Highlights

- Climb **Sigiriya Rock** in Sri Lanka's Golden Triangle
- Jeep Safaris to track the leopards and elephants
- Visit the Temple of the Tooth in the **city of Kandy**
- Relax on **beautiful beaches** and enjoy **water sports**.
- Colombo **Tuk Tuk** and Shopping Tour
- Beautiful Cave Temples of Dambula
- Traditional local lunch with a Sri Lankan family
- Travelling through lush green mountains, we visit **spice gardens, tea plantations** and learn all about the process of making tea.
- We pass waterfalls and paddy fields as we head for the Southern Province.
- Visit amazing projects including an **elephant orphanage** and **turtle hatchery** - offering unique opportunities to connect with Sri Lanka's incredible wildlife.



£4,999 includes



Flights



Accommodation



All meals



Activities and all entrance fees



Travel insurance



Fully escorted

Extras - visas and vaccinations

Book this trip >

Christmas Switzerland, Skiing - Verbier, Les Elfes

 Any dates between Saturday 14 December 2024 - Saturday 4 January 2025

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 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. 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
- Indoor and outdoor activities, such as **football** or visiting the town of **Verbier**
- 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



From Swiss Francs 2,100 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



Not an Academic Families escorted trip

- Extras - Return flights to Geneva, insurance and equipment hire
- Flight escort from UK available on request

Book this trip >

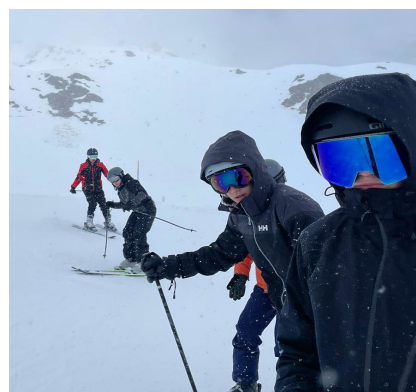
February Half Term - Switzerland Skiing & Snowboarding, Les Crosets

 Saturday 8 February 2025 - Saturday 15 February 2025 - Glenalmond, Merchiston Castle and Sedburgh
 Saturday 15 February 2025 - Saturday 22 February 2025

Ultimate skiing adventure in Les Crosets, Switzerland

Nestled within the famous ski region of Les Portes du Soleil, Les Crosets is a picturesque village in one of Europe's premier ski destinations. With ski lifts right at the doorstep of our hotel, breathtaking mountain views and first-class amenities we find ourselves in a winter wonderland.

Over the course of seven days we hit the slopes, take in the stunning alpine scenery and enjoy a range of winter activities. Whether you are 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

- Cosy hotel directly on the slopes
- Ski in ski out location
- Accommodation in spacious shared rooms with en-suite bathroom
- One of Europe's largest ski areas
- Tuition and 6 days of skiing or snowboarding
- Advanced skiers can **ski from Switzerland into France**
- Fun **après ski** activities including ice skating, sledging, indoor climbing and pool parties.
- Awards ceremony



+

£3,700 includes



Accommodation



Flights



All meals



Hire of skis, boots and poles



6 days ski tuition



6 days skiing and lift passes



Travel insurance

 Fully escorted

Book this trip >

Easter Holidays - Kenya

 Saturday 29 March 2025 - Sunday 20 April 2025

Human connection, culture and adventure in Kenya –



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 schools, 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. Connecting with many locals along the way, you will understand how you can make a difference.

After visiting the famous **giraffe sanctuary**, you will develop your tracking skills on **safari by foot, bike and Land Cruiser**. You will also visit traditional villages where you will be taught in a variety of locations, local skills and will plant trees..

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 and 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 **Kuruwitu** planting coral to rejuvenate the coastline ensuring the livelihood of fishing communities.

Before and after, you are encouraged to persuade your schools (UK and Mexico) to order Alive & Kicking sports balls to help ensure the community of this excellent not for profit trip.

Highlights

- Support sustainable development projects
- Meet local communities
- Play community football matches
- Safari by foot, bike and Land Cruiser
- Early morning safaris to view the 'Big 5' game
- Sleep under the stars at a busy waterhole
- Dhow sunset cruise



[Read our Kenya 2024 itinerary here](#)



£8,250 includes



Flights



Accommodation



All meals



Volunteering



Safari



Non-motorised watersports



Travel insurance



Fully escorted

Extras - motorised watersports, visas and vaccinations

Book this trip >

Easter Holidays - Switzerland Skiing & Snowboarding Verbier, Les Elfes

 Any dates between 29 March 2025 - 26 April 2025



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 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. 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 downhill
- 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 through the stunning scenery



From Swiss Francs 2,380 includes



Accommodation



All meals



Activities and
ski tuition



Academic Families
assistance to book
this holiday



Camp management
& student supervision
arranged by Les Elfes
International



Not an Academic Families escorted trip

- Extras - Return flights to Geneva, insurance and equipment hire
- Flight escort from UK available on request

Book this trip >

May Half Term - UK Cities

 Saturday 24 May 2025 to Saturday 31 May 2025

Explore the UK

Join us this May Half Term for an exciting journey through some of the UK's most vibrant cities. We begin our trip in the historic city of Edinburgh and explore the iconic Edinburgh Castle and stroll along the famous Royal Mile. We will climb Arthur's Seat, an ancient volcano in the heart of Holyrood Park and enjoy panoramic views of the city and beyond.

Next, we visit the dynamic city of Manchester, famed for its football heritage and cutting-edge attractions. We then travel to London for a couple of days of discovery and excitement. Feel like royalty as you explore the majestic halls of Windsor Castle and embark on a high-speed boat adventure on the River Thames. From historic landmarks to adrenaline-pumping activities, this trip promises an unforgettable experience.

Edinburgh



Manchester



London



Highlights

Scotland

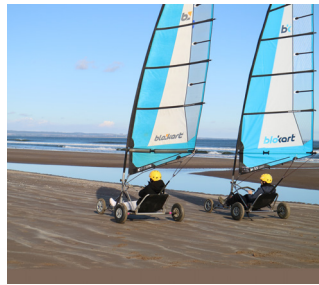
- Discover Scotland's iconic **Edinburgh Castle**
- Step into Edinburgh's history at **Mary King's Close**
- Walk in the footsteps of great golfers at **St Andrews**

Manchester

- See the world-famous home of **Manchester United - Old Trafford**
- **Skydive** in state-of-the-art vertical wind tunnels

London

- Feel like royalty when you visit **Windsor Castle**
- **Speedboat tour** on the river Thames
- Go behind the scenes at **Harry Potter World**
- Enjoy the thrill of **live theatre** in the West End
- Climb the **O2 arena** to enjoy panoramic views of London



£2,999 includes



Transportation
between cities



Accommodation



Breakfasts
and dinners



Activities and all
entrance fees



Travel insurance



Fully escorted

Extras - lunches

Book this trip >

May Half Term - Greece

 Saturday 24 May 2025 - Saturday 31 May 2025

Join us in Greece, the birth of Western civilisation

Local historic sites and activities are within easy reach and the boat trips to the islands of Aegina, 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 wrote one of his famous letters to Corinthians.



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 ancient town of **Corinth**
- Visit the ancient theatre of Epidaurus and discover the myths of ancient Greek gods and heroes
- Motorboat to the **Saronic islands** of beautiful Hydra Aegina and Agistri - explore the white-washed villages and swim off the local beaches
- Discover the crystal clear and shallow waters of **Heraion Lake Lagoon** for a day full of fun water sports and activities
- Enjoy the local food in typical Greek tavernas



£3,200 includes



Flights



Accommodation



All breakfasts and dinners



Activities and all entrance fees



Travel insurance



Fully escorted
Extras - lunches

Book this trip >

May Half Term - Golf Camp

 Saturday 24 May 2025 - Sunday 1 June 2025

(Limited availability)

Join us in St Andrews, the home of golf

Looking to improve your golf game? Sign up for the teenage Golf Camp in St Andrews. Choose the Premier Camp if you're a beginners or intermediate golfer, aged 10 to 17, looking to develop your skills. If you're a more experienced golfer, aged 14 to 17, looking to take your game to the next level, choose the Elite Camp with more individual advanced training. Both camps offer a fun and supportive environment where you can develop your skills, make friends, and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of St Andrews. This is not an Academic Families escorted trip but is offered in partnership with our Golf Association partner, a specialist in teenage golf coaching holidays.



Premier 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 #1 ranked UK university
- 12 hours 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

from **£2,900**



Elite 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

from **£3,300**



Premier Camp & Elite Camp - prices include



Accommodation and meals – St Andrews University halls of residence



1 day sightseeing



Evening activities



Coaching - UKCC Level 4 coach with Masters in Sports Coaching



Camp management arranged by golf partners



Prize giving



Not an Academic Families escorted trip
Extras - Travel insurance and UK transfers

Book this trip >

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. Academic Families will arrange all student trip visas.

We recommend that the passport used for your child's study visa and travel is valid for 6 months after their departure from the UK - so until the end of 2025. They will need at least one full blank page per country they visit during their time in the UK.



United Arab Emirates

Visa on arrival.

[UAE Visa requirements](#)



ETIAS

The system, officially called European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), will launch mid 2025 exact date to be confirmed.

Enter without ETIAS as long as the validity of the passport covers the stay in the country.

[Visit ETIAS.com](#)



Sri Lanka

Advanced online application for an electronic travel authorisation.

[Sri Lanka visa requirements](#)



Switzerland

Visa on arrival.

[Switzerland visa requirements](#)



Kenya

Advanced online application for an electronic travel authorisation.

[Kenya Visa requirements](#)



Greece

Visa on arrival

[Greece Visa requirements](#)

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
- 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.
- Age limit 17+ before 1 September 2024

Travel insurance

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

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 location and date
- Safety is our priority. Mobile phones are not allowed when students are on the ski slopes

Cancellation policy

- Trips are non-refundable once we receive completed booking form

Booking and payment

	Booking deadline	£1000 deposit due	Full payment due	Balance due
October half term Dubai	1 July 2024	1 July 2024	1 July 2024	
October half term Sri Lanka	1 July 2024	1 July 2024	1 July 2024	
Christmas skiing, Les Elfes		On booking		1 November 2024
February half term skiing, Switzerland	1 July 2024	1 July 2024		15 November 2024
Easter Kenya	1 July 2024	1 July 2024		15 November 2024
Easter skiing, Les Elfes		On booking		1 February 2025
May half term Greece	1 December 2024	1 December 2024		7 January 2025
May half term UK Cities	1 December 2024	1 December 2024		7 January 2025
May half term Golf Camp	1 December 2024	1 December 2024		7 January 2025



UK cities



Nature & adventure



Arabic adventure



Skiing & Snowboarding



Volunteering & safari



Culture & fun



Golf camp

Book your adventure today >

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

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