

# The perfect holiday *just for you*

Whatever trip you want to take, our travel editor suggests the ideal destination – all checked out by the Prima team!

## Go it alone in a charming Cretian hotel

**I've always wanted to visit Greece, but don't have anyone to travel with and I'm a bit nervous.**

Your first solo holiday can be daunting, but for a safe and easy trip, with no single supplement, we recommend the Mistral Hotel on Crete, a long-time haven for single travellers. Guests – many of whom come back year after year – have a ball, making friends, learning skills and letting their hair down.

This is not a dating holiday – some guests have partners who don't like travelling, while others come with a friend. But many are widowed, divorced, separated or simply single. Friendships form fast around the spacious pool, by

the bar or over a meal. A full programme of excursions and activities means there's always something to do, but if you feel like retreating to your smart, sleek room or fancy a solitary wander on the beach opposite, there's no pressure.

The staff make this a real home-from-home, with fabulous Cretian food and plenty of wine included in the package.

### THINGS TO DO

- ◆ Visit the nearby waterside town of Chania. Mistral organises a group dinner, for around £20, in a local restaurant.
- ◆ Enjoy the fish lunch in the beachside village of Sfinari, where the Baladak

family serves a freshly caught feast, with organic veg and local wine. The excursion costs around £30 per person.

◆ Spend time on spectacular Elafonisi beach in the southwest of Crete, where the sand is pink from crushed shells and the sea is clear, warm and turquoise.

**BOOK IT:** A week at the Mistral costs from £525 per person on a half-board basis, including airport transfers.

Themed holidays, including culture and spring flowers week, walking, painting and photography, cost from £682. Visit [singlesincrete.com](http://singlesincrete.com), or call 0871 990 2070. Fly to Crete with easyJet (easyjet.com) from around £120 return.

## Relax at a family resort

We're looking for a family seaside holiday in Britain... but we're desperate for some adult downtime too.

The Sands Resort and Spa in Cornwall sounds ideal for you. It offers family-friendly facilities and kids' clubs with a soft-play room, two pools, an adventure-play area, a zip wire, maze – plus plenty of organised activities. So you can relax, knowing the kids are having fun in safety.

A baby-listening service gives you peace of mind while you dine, and on a menu featuring plenty of fresh, local fish. Younger guests can eat early allowing you to enjoy a jelly- and tantrum-free meal.

Hire surfing equipment from The Sands Surf Shack, book a lesson (£30 for half a day) and head for Watergate Bay, a 20-minute walk away.

Or better still, wave the family off to the beach while you spend the day in the resort's blissful Ocean Breeze Health and Beauty Spa, enjoying a facial or massage.

### THINGS TO DO

- ◆ Visit Jamie Oliver's Fifteen restaurant at Watergate Bay. A three-course lunch costs £28 (fifteencornwall.co.uk).
- ◆ Take a peek at pretty Padstow with its fishing harbour and four Rick Stein eateries (rickstein.com).
- ◆ Head to Perranporth for another amazing beach, and scoff posh fish and chips at the Watering Hole beach bar.

**BOOK IT:** A week's B&B for two adults and two children under seven starts at £917.70. Prima readers get ten per cent off in May and June, excluding bank holiday weeks. Visit [sandsresort.co.uk](http://sandsresort.co.uk), or call 01637 872864, quoting Prima.



## A stress-free group holiday in Cumbria

We go away with my sister and her family, but tensions can arise.

Can you recommend somewhere to stay where we can be close, but separate?

Hawksdale Lodge near Dalston in Cumbria is a delightful, 18th-century house, offering bed and breakfast, as well as self-catering accommodation. The standard is exceptional, the scenery superb and the price affordable – the perfect recipe for a squabble-free break.

Hosts Lorraine and Martyn have opened up two tastefully furnished double rooms in their beautiful home for bed-and-breakfast guests. An extra bed can be added if needed. Next door, there's an exquisite apartment, with two luxurious double bedrooms. It's a joy to stay in this spacious, gracious spot and there's plenty of room for an extended party to relax in peace, admiring the views of the stunning gardens and countryside. A smart, well-equipped kitchen makes cooking a pleasure.

Lorraine serves one of Cumbria's best breakfasts and, when you arrive, the smell of her home baking means you're in for a treat with your welcome cup of tea. Everyone has space to breathe in this splendid spot but Hawksdale is also a cosy place for a comfortable group stay.



### THINGS TO DO

- ◆ Take a bracing walk across the spectacular North Pennines, then head to The Old Crown at Hesketh Newmarket, which has its own microbrewery and serves a cracking Steak and Hesketh ale pie. Lunch costs around £12.
- ◆ Pick up supplies in the inviting village of Dalston where there are good local shops, pubs and cafés.
- ◆ Visit the Church of St Mary's at nearby Wreay, a little gem built in the shape of a Roman basilica with truly divine carvings.

**BOOK IT:** Bed and breakfast in the house costs £95 per night for a double room. The apartment costs £450 per week. Prima readers will receive a 15 per cent discount (excluding bank holidays, Christmas, New Year and July and August, subject to availability). Courses with local artisans are available – try your hand at cheese making, felt workshops, flower arranging or woodturning. Visit [hawksdalelodge.co.uk](http://hawksdalelodge.co.uk), or call 07810 641892, and quote Prima.





## Jazz up a special Caribbean celebration

I want to celebrate our special wedding anniversary in St Lucia, but my husband who loves music, gets bored on the beach.

A trip to the vibrant St Lucia Jazz Festival in May will give your husband his musical fix, while you revel in this heavenly island.

St Lucia is the largest of the Windward Islands, reached by direct flight from Gatwick. Green and rugged, it offers a bewitching mix of unspoiled rainforest, pristine beaches, and the majestic Piton mountains on the south-west coast.

Saint Lucia Jazz is one of the island's major events. Running from 30 April to 12 May, the festival offers a chance to see world-class performances in a laid-back Caribbean atmosphere. Previous performers have included Diana Ross, John Legend and Hugh Masekela. For the lowdown on this year's line-up, visit [stlucijazz.org](http://stlucijazz.org).

### THINGS TO DO

- ◆ Visit the imposing Sulphur Springs Park – a dormant volcano and awe-inspiring collection of boiling springs.
- ◆ For an authentic taste of St Lucian heritage, join Mama Wanita on the Lushan Country Life tour. Visit [stlucia-tours.net](http://stlucia-tours.net).
- ◆ Explore the beauty of St Lucia with the Tet Paul Nature Trail. On this gentle hike, a tour guide fills you in on the island's culture and history, as you marvel at the amazing tropical landscape. Visit [soufrierefoundation.org](http://soufrierefoundation.org).

**BOOK IT:** Seven nights, room only, at Windjammer Landing beach resort in an ocean-view room costs £975 per person through Tropic Breeze. Includes Virgin flights from Gatwick and transfers. Visit [tropicbreeze.co.uk](http://tropicbreeze.co.uk), or call 01752 880880. Visit [saintlucianow.co.uk](http://saintlucianow.co.uk).

## Take your mum and dad on holiday

Myself and my sister (plus partners) would love a memorable weekend away with our parents, who are in their eighties. Where should we go?

The diverse activities on a Warners Leisure Break at Littlecote House in Berkshire appeal to a range of ages, so there'll be plenty for you all to enjoy. Set on an ancient Roman site near Hungerford, this magnificent 13th-century manor house offers sumptuous historic rooms, and modern Signature rooms for less mobile guests.

After checking in, choose from a dazzling programme to get the most of your time. Try a soothing swim in the spacious pool or sign up for archery lessons, while your mum and dad can take to the floor at the afternoon tea dance. Everybody gets together to swap stories over dinner, followed by a comedy show, a quiz and more dancing for every level of agility.

Everyone will love Littlecote's lavish gardens, bordered by fragrant lavender hedges and featuring a colourful kitchen patch. Or stroll to the ancient Roman villa site where a beautiful mosaic floor was discovered in the 1800s and is now protected and preserved to perfection.

### THINGS TO DO

- ◆ A free historical tour of the house, acted out by the entertainments crew, is fascinating and fun.
- ◆ Relax over afternoon tea in the elegant Chinese lounge.
- ◆ Playing bowls on the green is a great way to make friends.

**BOOK IT:** A three-night, half-board break in May costs around £400 per person, including entertainment and use of leisure facilities. Visit [warnerleisurehotels.co.uk](http://warnerleisurehotels.co.uk) for deals or to book, or call 0844 871 4523.

