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School's out Ideas for adventurous families

Summer holidays

Visit Buddhist monasteries on **a walking holiday in Ladakh in the Himalayas**, which remains dry during India's monsoon season. There are five days of walks suitable for children over 5. Departing August 7, the 14-day trip costs from £1,899 per adult and £1,799 per child, including flights, most meals, hotels and six nights' camping, with Families Worldwide (0845 0514567, www.familiesworldwide.co.uk).

Autumn half term

Book a week's self-catering at Clyne Farm (01792 403333, www.clynefarm.com), near Swansea, **South Wales**, and **try archery, riding and indoor climbing**. Longer sessions and other activities, such as rock-hopping, abseiling and Segway racing, can be booked on arrival. A fully equipped cottage that will sleep four costs from £515 for the week.

Christmas

Families with children over 10 can **feed and bathe elephants in Thailand** with other volunteers at the Elephant Nature Park, near Chiang Mai. The 13-day tour starts on December 20 and ends with three days' chilling out on the beach at Krabi. The cost is from £1,079pp, including road and sleeper train travel. Details: Imaginative Traveller (0845 0778803, www.imaginative-traveller.com).

February half term

Try cross-country skiing and ice-fishing in Lapland, as well as husky sledding and reindeer safaris. Downhill slopes for beginners are on the doorstep of Yllashumina Hotel in Yllas, Finland, also a good spot for watching the northern lights. Seven nights' half board, flights from Gatwick and use of cross-country trails are £1,150 per adult and £840 (age 5-12) with Inntravel (01653 617906, www.inntravel.co.uk).