

An expert guide to every
British Center Parcs p.14

TRAVEL

Better late than never: summer holidays to book now

From well-worn fly-and-flops to far-flung adventures, there's still time to plan a last-minute break, says Amanda Hyde



If your summer holiday plans are still up in the air, don't despair. Many people are in the same boat this year because economic and political uncertainty have made delaying booking a trip understandable. And though pickings are now slim for July and August, there are still glamping sites, houses and hotels to be had if you know where to look.

One tour operator told us that Italian villas hadn't sold as well as usual – so, with a bit of research, retreats between the olive groves and seaside pads under shady pines can be found. Summer can also be the best time to head to a long-

haul beach, because many travellers save these destinations for winter sun. It means that rates – and filled rooms – dip in off-season and family holidays to traditionally pricey destinations such as the Maldives can cost as little as renting a villa on the Med during August.

Closer to home, it might be best to think laterally. Many of the most touristy spots will be booked by now, and they'll also be exceptionally busy when that holiday rolls around. Last August in Mallorca, for example, traffic jams clogged the country roads, towels crowded the beaches and anti-tour-

▲ Your sunbed awaits: act now to reserve a summer spot beside the sea

ism protests set the island on edge. In a week's time, protesters will take to the streets in Mallorca, Barcelona and Ibiza once again, frustrated by overcrowding and a lack of affordable housing.

By swapping a Balearic beach town for Asturias's empty sand or one of the best-known Greek islands for a lesser-visited spot, you might have a better experience – and more change for an ice cream or two too. But, if you're absolutely set on a jaunt to one of the best-known destinations, look for new or recently refurbished hotels and apartments that don't yet have the benefit of repeat guests or word-

of-mouth recommendations. Or this could be the year to savour a British summer. Last week the Met Office predicted hotter than normal weather in the UK, with fairly weak rainfall signals for July and August. These months are never good value on home soil, but there's space in some of the country's prettiest corners for those willing to spend.

Here, we've rounded up 20 of the best holidays still with availability for summer – from France to Florida and beyond.

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Novél's elegant new look and creative menu draw in locals and tourists alike

The Telegraph

THE 19 BEST RESTAURANTS IN CYPRUS

From humble Cypriot tavernas to Michelin-starred marvels, here's where to eat on this eclectic Mediterranean island.

Carole French, Travel Writer

Cyprus is often referred to as being at the crossroads of three continents – Europe, Asia and Africa – and as such their time-served influences can be seen on the menus of countless tavernas across the island. But, don't go thinking Cyprus is set in its ways. In fact, this forward-thinking island has embraced grand gastronomy from around the world, cutting-edge fusion cuisines and trendy plant-based dishes, which complement the more traditional Mediterranean fare of slow-cooked meat, lemon-drenched fish, olives and olive oil, vegetables, fruit picked fresh from the tree and nuts, perfectly. Of course, it is all accompanied by some fine Cypriot wines.

Novél

This former market hall has been reinvented as a gorgeous, design-led hotel, and now houses one of the island's newest restaurants. On Novel's local, creative and often organic menu, chefs apply their expertise to dishes like garlic prawns with sourdough, marinated baby chicken with orange miso dressing or homemade lemon tart served with chocolate ganache and pistachio. All dishes can be accompanied by wine pairings. The elegant space has inside and alfresco dining and music evenings where holidaying couples will find themselves mingling with locals.

Area: Lefkara
Website: theagorahotel.com
Reservations: Recommended
Price: ££
Best Table: On the terrace next to the pool

