



There's something about the slide into autumn that feels as though it's time for a rebalance. Summer crowds have vanished, festive chaos is still a way off, but the season of mellow fruitfulness triggers the richest colours of the year and bumper mouth-watering produce.

It's too soon to hibernate, so grab a chunky sweater and enjoy an energising beach walk with golden sunsets. Views are always better on foot, so why not join hikers and relaxed wanderers at the Isle of Wight Walking Festival, 4-12 October? Get an insider's view as experts share favourite seasonal routes, special viewpoints and hidden gems.

If you're stuck for half term ideas, don't miss our new blog, from spooky castles to stargazing and haunted pubs, there's fun for all ages. And this month we're offering the [chance to win](#) a chic coastal escape at The White Horse Hotel near Brighton, with its stylish design and fantastic food, it's the perfect off-season treat!



Fun, food and fresh sea air in Thanet

There's no need for an excuse to visit the Kent coast, but the Isle is not just a place to visit, but a place to create. Meet the locals and take the opportunity to express yourself, inspired by local know-how. Try a cocktail-making masterclass, leather workshop or glass-fusing experience.

Enjoy breakfast on a seafront double-decker bus, fish and chips overlooking yachts bobbing in the only Royal harbour in the country, friendly pop-ups, sharing plates and laid-back restaurants - you'll dine well, Michelin named Margate in 'The 10 best seaside towns for food lovers in the UK & Ireland'. Then have a blast of fresh sea air cycling the Viking Coastal Trail which circles the entire Isle before enjoying a sundowner at Ramsgate Royal Harbour – the ideal autumn break!

Explore the Isle of Thanet



All-weather appeal in the Waterfront City

Take a trip to Portsmouth whatever the weather! Packed with attractions indoor and out, you'll have an amazing time. If it's your first visit, stop at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, the UK's number one destination for 500 years of naval history. Step aboard HMS Victory following the footsteps of Nelson, explore The Mary Rose and much more, an Ultimate Explorer ticket gives entry to nine attractions.

Then scale the 170-metre Spinnaker Tower, take tea in The Clouds Café, visit Charles Dickens' birthplace and browse the retail bargains at Gunwharf Quays.

Discover Portsmouth



Break away to East Yorkshire with your best friend!

Why not plan a getaway with a friend or partner and four-legged friend on East Yorkshire's beautiful coast? Hornsea Beach's wide, open sands are ideal for a game of frisbee and chasing your pup in the waves or run along the tracks at Hornsea Mere with handy café pitstop.

Visit the wonderful stately homes of Burton Constable Hall or the 50-acre estate of Sewerby Hall and Gardens, wander the cobbled lanes of Bridlington, enjoy afternoon tea or dine on freshly caught seafood. If you're in need of a change of walls, this coast's the ideal energiser

Experience East Yorkshire



Coast, castles and countryside – it's the North East!

With the buzzing cities of Newcastle, Gateshead and Durham bordering its coastline, a trip to the north east can pack castles, islands, wildlife and adventure all into one weekend. This World Heritage Site boasts three acclaimed landmarks, Hadrian's Wall, Durham Cathedral and the Lake District, but its coast holds unexpected gems.

Stargaze and roam castles in Northumberland, ramble headlands and rugged cliffs on Durham's Heritage Coast, visit the sands of Roker Beach and its listed Lighthouse or learn to surf in Tynemouth. Book a seafront room in Saltburn-by-the-Sea, a cosy cottage in Whitley Bay or spa luxury in Seaham – all joyous off-season!

Where to go: North East



Win a chic coastal escape near Brighton

With uninterrupted sea views and just a stone's throw from the buzz of Brighton, [The White Horse Hotel](#) in Rottingdean offers the perfect escape for coast and countryside and this month we're offering the chance to win an overnight stay for two people including three-course dinner.

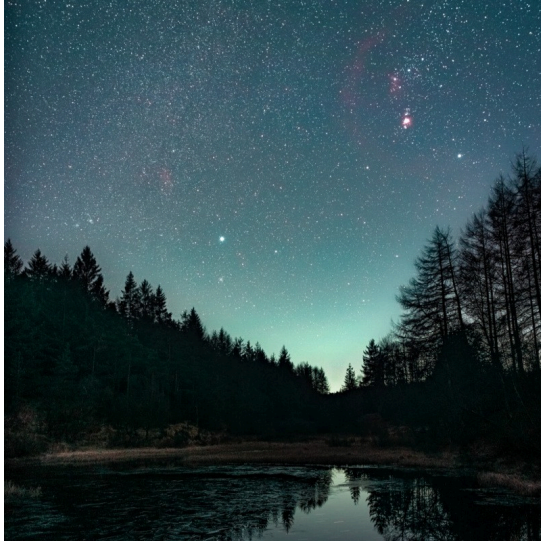
This newly designed hotel blends coastal charm with contemporary facilities, enjoy a cocktail in its Discovery Bar or on its sun-drenched terrace. Head off the beaten track and explore the East Sussex countryside, visit the world-famous Severn Sisters Country Park or enjoy the fizzing entertainment of Brighton's city centre.

You'll stay in a classic double room with a nourishing breakfast ending the day with superb three-course dinner worth up to £150. Here local produce takes centre-stage, from its sustainably caught seafood to seasonal veg and freshly baked cakes.

Don't miss your chance to win this luxury escape, [enter below!](#)

[**Enter Now!**](#)

[**Check out our latest blogs**](#)



Stuck for half term ideas? Spooky castles, Halloween trails and starry dark skygazing await all around the coast. For grown-ups, literature and music festivals and awesome cycling and hiking trails beckon in our new blog.

[Read Blog](#)

Fine feasts are key to any enjoyable escape, but on the coast they're in a class of their own. Out-of-season is perfect for sampling what's straight off the boat but now's also the best time for savouring the local harvest.

[Read Blog](#)

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