

# 30 reasons why British hols are fab!

You don't need foreign sea, sun and sand to have a good time on holiday. Don't believe us...?

**1** You don't have to unload the suitcases, travel cot, buggy, booster seat and carrier from your car at the airport and perform the superhuman balancing act of getting it, and your tot, from the car park, onto the transfer couch and through the crowds to check-out.

**2** You don't need a passport photo for your baby - which involves holding him up for the camera while hiding your hands, and entire body, behind his. Only for the Passport Agency to reject it because your ridiculous attempts at body contortion are making your baby laugh in the photo.

**3** Flashing arcade games, over-priced *Bob the Builder* ride, huge bags of sweets and brightly-coloured fast food restaurants. You hate them. Your tot loves them.

**4** You can break your journey by inviting yourselves to stay overnight with far-away friends who you can never normally find the time to visit.

**5** You don't have to spend two hours at the airport, in the middle of the night, frantically trying to quiet

an overtired baby - *before* you even get on the plane...

**6** You don't have to pack an entire suitcase with formula and jars of your tot's favourite baby food, just in case.

**7** You can travel there by train: officially the most exciting form of transport for anyone under three. (Well, there's no equivalent of *Thomas the Tank Engine* in aeroplanes, is there?)

**8** Eating your tea out of newspaper is a key part of the experience.

**9** To your baby, sand is sand. To you, sand in Weston-super-Mare is a whole lot cheaper than sand in the West Indies.

**10** The immense feeling of relief when you wake up and the sun's shining. Phew!

**11** If it's raining, there's always *Cbeebies* on TV...

**12** ...and there's always a soft play centre nearby...

**13** ...and if it's still raining, you can guarantee there'll be people on the beach

anyway, in raincoats, having fun. Where else in the world would you find that?

**14** Our ice-cream cones come with chocolate flakes.

**15** You don't have to calm a crying baby in the back of the car while remembering to drive on the 'wrong' side.

**16** Got a fussy and/or tired eater on your hands? Relax, somewhere nearby will definitely be serving chips for that emergency re-fuelling.

**17** It's rarely so hot that you can't bear to do anything except lie down with a drink (and without a toddler enthusiastically bouncing on your stomach, thank you very much).

**18** Your tot won't try to make friends with a playmate who doesn't speak English.

**19** You can phone your mum/sister/best friend every night for a good old goss without running up a huge bill.

**20** Your usual, trusted brand of nappies don't cost twice the usual price.



**22** Pub gardens with bouncy castles. You relax; your tot jumps around like a lunatic; you both go back home and fall fast asleep.

**23** A cream tea, with plenty of clotted cream and home-made jam, makes a tricky day with your tot a whole lot better.

**24** Need a highchair? Ask the waiter, without having to resort to elaborate sign language.

**25** There's always a stately home nearby - your tot can attempt to destroy priceless antiques while you wonder why you ever got bored with building sandcastles.

**26** Castles. Real ones with moats, turrets and battlements, just like in the fairytales (or, as your tot knows it, *Shrek The Third*).

**27** You won't miss *Match of the Day*, or your favourite weekly magazine. Or *Corrie*...

**28** You can actually bring all the buckets, spades, fishing nets, inflatables and general beach clobber you buy every year back home with you this time.

**29** The smoking ban means your tot can play on the café floor while you shovel down pasta, without worrying she's going emerge with a cigarette end in her mouth.

**30** And, if it's really that bad, you can always come home early.

**21** You can justifiably buy your tot a super-cute wetsuit to keep him warm on the beach.