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Birmingham Or Beach? A Holiday Idea To Please The Whole Family

Holiday Bliss in Birmingham

With the school summer holidays fast approaching and forecasts of a **blistering hot summer** ahead, minds are fixated on where to go and how best to spend time with a young family over the holiday period.

With the seaside offering the traditional United Kingdom holiday getaway, many never look beyond the beach to see what other great alternatives may be available.

Lets face it, the idea of uncrowded golden beaches, fun in the sea and ice creams with the family in the sun is more akin to holiday brochures than reality. If, like so many of us, youve done the United Kingdom beach holiday in the past, more often than not the experience revolves around bored children, **overcrowded beaches**, overpriced drinks and ice creams, sand in the potato salad and the constant worry of sunburn; not exactly the perfect way to spend a relaxing few days with the family.

So *where else can we go?*, I hear you asking. Breaking with time-honoured tradition and heading for a major city may not at first sound like a great way to spend your holiday. City breaks, although not offering the sea air and sound of surf rolling up the beach, in some ways offer far more. Taking Birmingham as an example, there are a **wide range of activities** to keep the whole family entertained, and with some exceptional early booking deals available from the likes of Travelodge and other popular UK hotel chains, a week long city break could work out cheaper than a trip to the seaside.

In terms of entertainment and places to visit, here are just some examples of what the city of Birmingham has to offer.

Cadbury World: Opened on 14th August 1990 and still the only purpose-built visitor centre in the United Kingdom devoted entirely to chocolate. If you want to stay in the good books of your chocolate-loving brood, be sure to include this on the tour trail

Sea Life Center: Fancy diving beneath the sea without getting your clothes wet? Youll come face to face with everything from shrimps to sharks, and learn loads of great stuff from Sea Life experts.

The Birmingham Hippodrome: Entertainment for all. Treat the whole family to an evening of entertainment with some of the biggest named shows around.

The Birmingham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses: This 15 acre oasis of horticultural delight opened to subscribers in 1832. Today, you will find beauty, peace and tranquillity combined with excellent visitor facilities for the whole family.

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery: You can view art and objects spanning seven centuries of European and world history and culture. Find out more about Birmingham's history or see the Egyptian mummies - always popular with the kids.

ThinkTank: The most modern of science museums. Investigate everything from full size locomotives and aircraft to intestines and taste buds. There's also the awe-inspiring, truly gobsmacking planetarium.

IMAX Theatre: Jaw dropping and spectacular, that's the IMAX Cinema at Millennium Point (in the same building as ThinkTank). It's by far the largest movie screen in the Midlands - high as a five-story building and wide as four buses. It's also got 3D technology to bring the action right to the very tip of your nose.

Every city has its unique points and attractions. Indeed, chances are that a trip to the city could be more entertaining and enjoyable for the whole family than the hard to find serenity of the perfect beach. So, next time you start planning for a family holiday or weekend getaway, consider the alternatives and ask yourself if the beach really does offer the perfect family getaway.

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