

# How to

## PLAN YOUR HOLIDAY BASED ON SEASONS

When peak season doesn't match with your schedule, embrace the chance to get out and about at other times of the year.

WORDS SUE WHITE

While spring might be the optimal time to see Japan's cherry blossoms and autumn is when you'll spot Canada's fishing grizzly bears, there's no need to let travelling off peak dampen your spirits. With a bit of planning, you may find hidden benefits...

### WET SEASON DOESN'T MEAN IT'LL RAIN ALL DAY

Don't immediately write off the wet season thinking it'll downpour 24/7. In many locations, it may just mean evening showers or a couple of hours of rain in the afternoon - both of which are easy to work around.

### EXPLORE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS WITHIN THE SAME COUNTRY

It can be easy to assume that one country (especially a hot country) equals one season, but that's far from the case. Thailand is a good example. Not only does it have hot, cool and wet seasons, but down south (near the islands) the climate varies between the east and west coasts. Do your research and choose your location accordingly.

### OFF SEASON HAS ITS ADVANTAGES

Quite a few advantages come with travelling in the

off season. Fewer tourists mean less need to book everything in advance, the accommodation and transport you want is likely to be available, and daytrips won't be packed with other tourists. Plus, don't forget that those willing to travel off peak usually score discounts on flights and accommodation.

### REMEMBER THAT NATURE IS UNPREDICTABLE

Seasonal travel is often tied to natural phenomena: cherry blossoms in bloom, snorkelling with whale sharks - the list is extensive. But nature is unpredictable, so, to avoid disappointment, make sure you and your kids maintain realistic expectations and enjoy the location for more than just the one seasonally based experience.

### GIVE BUCKET-LIST ITEMS EXTRA TIME

If a seasonal activity is on your absolute must-do bucket list (something like the Northern Lights, for example), make sure you give the destination more time rather than less. It may be cost more than you'd planned, but adding those extra few days will increase your chances of success and reduce the nail-biting. **ft**



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