

YOUR LETTERS

ASK
TOM

Tom Hall of Lonely Planet answers your questions about worldwide travel

We have three children, aged 12, nine and seven, and are planning a walking holiday. All the children are good walkers and can happily manage up to about four miles at a time.

We would love a walking holiday in Europe or the Middle East that enabled us to walk this sort of distance every day towards a fixed goal. We would also like to stay in simple accommodation, with the option to have our luggage taken ahead every day. Any suggestions?

*Joanne Brown,
Solihull, West Midlands*

Headwater (0870 0662650; www.headwater.com) offers self-guided walks with luggage transferred, but the minimum daily distance will be over four miles. The shortest is a week's trip to the Loire Valley, walking from Amboise to Chenonceau. You stay in three hotels, and walk on just three days. The terrain

is flat, but you need to cover between eight and twelve miles per day. It costs £519 for adults and £319 for kids (based on self-driving). Until the kids can manage further distances, a single-base trip might be better. Upland Escapes (01367 851111; www.uplandescapes.com) offers a range of self-guided short, half- and full-day walks. Your family can decide each day what you would like to do.

In addition, some or all members of the family may wish to join one of the three full-day escorted walks per week. Recommended destinations include the Majella in Italy and Slovenia's Julian Alps, with prices for peak season starting at £595 for adults and £446 for children for seven nights, excluding flights.