



Activity based holidays – husky sledging and whale watching – appeal to plenty of people but if, like us, you confine your winter adventures to an appetite inducing stroll and a return to the sofa you can still get a taste of the Arctic. Inspired by the Icelandic landscape, Arctic produce rugs, cushions and cloth woven in family-run mills. These small enterprises work more harmoniously with the environment and carry the Arctic ethos through to the final products. [www.arctic-designs.com](http://www.arctic-designs.com)

It's always nice to add someone new to our list of favourite mail-order companies and Niki Jones's timing is perfect. The former textile designer for Habitat and design director for Wedgwood is offering her collection of original textiles, furniture and gifts – made by skilled crafts-people from around the world – just in time for Christmas. No two items are quite the same: Bramble-knitted cushions and throws are handmade in Scotland using the softest lambswool, hand-knotted rugs are crafted in the specialist rug district of Varanasi, and silk quilts made by communities in Delhi who have stitched for generations. [www.niki-jones.co.uk](http://www.niki-jones.co.uk)



pudding – even if you can't stand the taste. Perhaps you'd try a bite if you had a chance of finding one of Rachel Eardley's silver sixpences? If you're looking for real butter muslin to wrap your plum pudding (or your gifts) try Givan's Irish Linen stores... But if you prefer a cake or pie rather than a pudding you might appreciate Julie Haslam's Domestic Bliss range. Her tea towel collection is digitally printed and captures the urgency of a roughly transcribed favourite recipe. [www.racheleardley.com](http://www.racheleardley.com), [www.givans.co.uk](http://www.givans.co.uk), [www.juliehaslam.co.uk](http://www.juliehaslam.co.uk)



## Snug as a bug

Every parent wants to keep their children warm but no one wants to inflict itchy sweaters and suffocating layers on their offspring. The Baloo down-filled swaddle by Album di Famiglia is an 'envelope' of comfort for a newborn, while Tulip and Nettle offer a flannel petticoat which will add a cosy layer under party dresses. And boys can have a little vintage style in one of Wool Shed's 50s style sweaters.

[www.littlefashiongallery.com](http://www.littlefashiongallery.com), [www.tulipandnettle.com](http://www.tulipandnettle.com), [www.woolshed.co.uk](http://www.woolshed.co.uk)

