

FAMILY GUIDE TO *globetrotting*

Whether you've got picky teenagers or rambunctious toddlers, there is a perfect holiday for your entire brood. Here are the best kid-friendly vacays to start planning right now

WE LOVE TRAVELLING and we love our kids. But somehow the combination of the two often seems to include drama, shouting, pouting and tears — and that's just the grown-ups. Fortunately, going away with the family doesn't have to be a headache.

We've rounded up the kid-friendliest vacations, from wilderness adventures to city-slicker getaways, polled experts (that is, other parents) for their top travel tips and even researched the best apps to download pre-journey. Bon voyage!



PRICE LEGEND

| | |
|----------|---------|
| \$ | 50-150 |
| \$\$ | 150-300 |
| \$\$\$ | 300-500 |
| \$\$\$\$ | 500+ |

(Cost per night.)





WINTER WONDERLAND
Smugglers' Notch Resort,
Vermont Dreaming of black-diamond runs, but convinced you won't see one again until the kids are older? Think again. You can still do the whole mountainside ski escape, even if your tots are young. And they can also get out there with you, sort of; Little Rascals on Snow introduces toddlers to skis and how to use them.

For Mom: Soothe "day-three muscle burn" with a deep-tissue massage at the resort. 4323 Vermont Route 108 South, Smugglers' Notch, Vermont, smugglers.com, \$.

URBAN ADVENTURE
Four Seasons Hotel Chicago

Find us a hotel that makes mealtime easy and we'll want to stay forever. Here, the kids' menu is a relief with its chic versions of the usual fare, plus healthy snacks like applesauce and steamed edamame. Also on offer: cots, diapers, Lilliputian bathrobes. At day's end, ring up the bedtime butler, who arrives with a selection of stories on a silver tray.

For Dad: He can still get in his laps at the hotel's luxe indoor pool. Forgot to pack trunks? Use one of their disposable suits. 120 East Delaware Pl., Chicago, fourseasons.com/chicagofs, \$\$-\$\$\$.



Babies & Toddlers

LA DOLCE VITA

Masseria Torre Coccaro, Puglia, Italy If you're craving a slice of European heaven, this 16th-century fortified farmhouse will surely satisfy. It feels very *Il Postino* with a cobblestone courtyard and whitewashed walls splashed with bougainvillea and jasmine. But the place isn't just pretty—it's a parent's dream. The staff are happy to have children underfoot, so feel free to have them roam with you, whether you're picking figs or taking a dip in the shallow heated pool. Need some downtime? Nanny Angela, who speaks perfect English, will happily take over child-care duties so you can spend a few hours relaxing in the hotel's Aveda spa, which is tucked into a cave, complete with bubbling indoor pool. And be sure to explore the area: Take a day trip to a nearby farm to watch *burrata* being made. These mozzarella balls are handmade and served in Coccaro's restaurant alongside juicy, fresh-off-the-vine tomatoes.

For older kids: Go in the fall for the olive harvest. They can watch olives being pressed, try hunks of fresh focaccia dunked in rich, green virgin oil and make their own chocolate and pizzas in the cooking school. C. da Coccaro, 8-72015 Savellettri di Fasano (Brindisi), Puglia, Italy, 011-39-080-482-93-10, masseriatorecoccaro.com, \$\$\$.

FAIRY TALE AT SEA

Disney Dream, Port Canaveral, Florida Five-year-olds are tea-party fiends, especially when Cinderella attends. Or perhaps someone would like a visit with Ariel? This 14-deck ship is full of these magical flourishes. There are three pools, two theatres, seven restaurants, the first water-coaster at sea,



plus access to Disney's private island, Castaway Cay.

For Mom & Dad: Park the kids in the It's a Small World Nursery, the Oceaneer Club (three- to 10-year-olds), Edge (twens) or Vibe (teens) and hit the spa. Disneycruise.ca, from \$2,400/family of four for three nights.



The Right Stuff Pack light with these multi-taskers and problem solvers



Instant Tantrum Fix
 Never lose Sophie again with this clever tether.
 TOY LEASH, \$10,
JOSHANDEO.ETSY.COM.



Only Wheels You Need
 Fits most car seats and another child on the back.
 CABOOSE STROLLER,
 \$160, JOOVY.COM.



Spill Stopper
 A wide rim and suction-cup bottom save the day.
 CATCH BOWL,
 \$11, BOONINC.COM.



Sleep Easy
 This full-size cot folds into the slimmest of carry cases.
 TRAVEL CRIB LIGHT,
 \$330, BABYBJORN.COM.



Change on the Go
 Keep diapers and wipes handy in this change pad.
 PRONTO CHANGING STATION
 \$37, SKIPHOP.COM.



DOLCE VITA TEXT: ANNA PASTERNAK. WINTER WONDERLAND & URBAN ADVENTURE TEXT: TRALEE PEARCE. FAIRY TALE AT SEA TEXT: JACQUELINE KOVACS. GEAR TEXT: MARTHA BEACH. SMUGGLER'S NOTCH PHOTO, THE IMAGE BANK/GETTY IMAGES, CHICAGO PHOTO, JOHN ELK III/ALAMY.



TROPICAL PARADISE
Kahala Resort & Hotel, Oahu, Hawaii Everyone has days when they fantasize about moving to Hawaii and spending time basking in the sun. And you can live the dream at this swank resort. Nestled behind Diamond Head, Oahu's magnificent extinct volcano, the Kahala is worlds away from the touristy hustle and bustle of Waikiki.

The grounds meander around a natural lagoon filled with sea life, so kids can get quality face-to-dolphin time at daily education programs. The beach is semi-private and sheltered from the Pacific's waves by a coral reef, making it ideal for swimming with the family. And the kids' club is beyond compare. They'll fish, crab, make leis and hula dance, while parental units slip off for surf lessons in Hawaii's legendary waves. *5000 Kahala Ave., Oahu, Hawaii, 1-800-367-2525, kahalaresort.com, \$\$\$.*

For the whole family: Spend a day at sea with local tour company Wild Side. The trip comes complete with games of "spot the whale" and a chance to snorkel with dolphins and sea turtles. Mind-blowing. *Sailhawaii.com, from \$86.*



LIBERAL-ARTSY

Kennedy School Hotel, Portland, Oregon The allure of this city is in its hippie charm and casual vibe. And staying at a 96-year-old elementary school turned hotel ups the fun factor for everyone. Finally sleep in class with permission—rooms are all former classrooms, with original chalkboards for middle-of-the-night doodling purposes. Savour the growing local food scene, but make sure you try the hotel's restaurant.

It's housed in the old cafeteria, naturally, but the food is elevated far beyond greasy fries and fish sticks.

For teens: Family matinees are complimentary for hotel guests at the Kennedy School Theater (formerly the auditorium) all weekend long. You can even get pizza, popcorn and candy delivered right to your seats. *5736 N.E. 33rd Ave., Portland, Oregon, 1-503-249-3983, mcmenamens.com/kennedyschool, \$, free for children ages six and under. >*

Kids & Tweens

WHALE-WATCHING MAGIC

Saint-Siméon, Quebec Imagine being so close to a humpback that you can almost reach out and touch it. Salty water sprays everywhere as it crests the waves of the Saguenay Fjord right in front of you. Pretty cool, right? Now imagine you're four years old. Amp that up to *awesome*. Whale-watching aspirations draw families to excursions such as this one, which travels the coast from Saint-Siméon to other quaint tourist towns like Tadoussac, just a few hours east of Quebec City. It's where the Saguenay Fjord meets the St. Lawrence River, resulting in a krill buffet that attracts several types of whales (minke, fin, humpbacks, blues and belugas) and those hoping to catch a glimpse of them. Get up close with the gentle giants on a 12-person Zodiac, or for the less daring, ride in a bigger, steadier vessel. Just remember—as the enthusiastic captain bellows, "Minke, 12 o'clock! Humpback, 3 o'clock! Beluga, 6 o'clock!"—you're pretty much planting the seeds for their future careers as marine biologists.

For older siblings: Check out the jaw-dropping 13-metre whale skeleton at the Marine Mammal Interpretation Centre. *Croisières Charlevoix, Saint-Siméon, Que., baleines.ca, \$159/family of four.*



Grown-Up Vacays The Kids Will Love, Too



STREET SCRIBBLES

Next time you're in N.Y.C., take this tour to look for legendary graffiti, and your teens might actually think you're cool. *graffittours.com.*



RED, RED WINE

The Larson Family Winery in Sonoma has a lovely cab sauv for you and horseback riding and wagon tours for them. *larsonfamilywinery.com.*



ART ATTACK

Kids will like the gondolas and love the music, theatre and puppet shows at the annual Carnival of Venice. *carnevale.venezia.it.*



RIDE ON

Take the family bike ride to a whole new level with this guided tour through Israel. It's a bit of an epic adventure, best for older kids. *freewheeling.ca.*

WHALE WATCHING TEXT, RACHEL NAUD. TROPICAL PARADISE TEXT, ANTONIA WHYATT. LIBERAL-ARTSY TEXT, TRALEE PEARCE. GROWN-UP VACAYS TEXT, LORA GRADY. WHALE PHOTO, STOCKBYTE/GETTY IMAGES. HAWAII PHOTO, ANTONIA WHYATT. GRAFFITI PHOTO, RANDY DUCHAINE/ALAMY. CARNIVAL PHOTO, ROBERT HARDING. WORLD IMAGERY/GETTY IMAGES. BIKING PHOTO, RAFAEL BEN-ARI/ALAMY.



Eat a clementine—it's packed with vitamin C.



BEACH GETAWAY
Ritz-Carlton, Amelia

Island, Florida Nintendo Wii, movie theatre and air-hockey tables – luxury hotels are totally playing the family card these days and the Amelia Island Ritz-Carlton is scoring points with teens in particular. In addition to a loaded family lounge (perfect for rainy days) and an activities-packed 21 km stretch of coastline, the

hotel even boasts a teen concierge to fulfill their every need. **For Dad:** He can enjoy a guilt-free game of golf with privileges at the Golf Club of Amelia Island, a private club for the exclusive Summer Beach community. 4750 Amelia Island Parkway, Amelia Island, Florida, ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/AmeliaIsland, \$\$.

JUNGLE TALES

G Adventures, Costa Rica

Who wouldn't want to go on an epic wilderness adventure, especially one that's totally hassle-free? This rainforest tour keeps the family in perpetual motion throughout Costa Rica, with nary a decision to make or problem that needs solving in sight. You'll hike through the famous Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve (look out for wild



jaguars, ocelots and the ultra-rare quetzal bird), hang out on remote beaches and relax in natural hot springs. Oh, and go monkey spotting on a cruise through the Tortuguero canals.

For Mom: The Chief Experience Officer (CEO, get it?) arranges a visit with a local family to learn the art of tortilla making. 1-888-800-4100, gadventures.com, from \$1,629, including arrival transfer, accommodations, some excursions and daily breakfast.

Teenagers

TRIP OF A LIFETIME

Ladakh Village Experience, Northern Himalayas, India

If you're eager for a one-of-a-kind adventure rather than the tried and true, you won't find anything more enriching – or beautiful – than the Himalayan mountains, a long-time hot spot for backpackers. Luxury aficonados now have the chance to enjoy the authentic face of India, too. The entire family can tour pristine mountain scenery and stay in a traditional Himalayan village home – though one with porters, a chef and a guide to keep things safe and comfortable. Way off the beaten path, each dwelling includes nicer bathrooms and more luxe linen than you'd expect at 11,500 feet above sea level. But you'll find the best parts of this vacation outside. One of the most sparsely populated and remote regions on the subcontinent, it's the perfect place for teens to run a little wild. They can go rafting, camping and camel riding, and even learn how to shoot a bow and arrow. Plus, the air doesn't get much fresher than this.

For tweens: Plan a visit to a local school, so kids can connect with their peers across cultural lines. *May to September, shaktihimalaya.com, from \$3,962/seven nights and eight days.*



SKIERS' MECCA

Kicking Horse Mountain Resort, Golden, B.C.

If you have not yet realized your dreams of becoming a ski bum, console yourself with a holiday here. This rugged resort, known for its challenging terrain, is bolstering its family appeal with a new beginner's learning centre complete with a carpet lift to appeal to newbies. Once the learners are ensconced, older kids and parents can explore the more demanding runs. After a day on the mountain, head back to some seriously comfy rooms at every price point; accommodations range from cozy chalets to charming boutique hotels. And there's plenty to do for non-skiers, too, including tubing, skating and (our fave) hot tubbing.

For Mom & Dad: Real adventure lovers can try heli-skiing. Take a helicopter to the top of the Purcell Mountains and enjoy ungroomed terrain, steep slopes and pure champagne powder. 1500 Kicking Horse Trail, Golden, B.C., 1-866-754-5425, kickinghorsesort.com, \$-\$\$\$.



Must-Pack Meds

Children's Benadryl

New places can mean unexpected allergies. Soothe itchy eyes and runny noses, and calm bug bites, too.

Junior Strength Motrin

For kid-sized aches and pains.

Gravol Quick Dissolve Chewable tablets

Absolute gold for kids who often get upset tummies and motion sickness.

Poly to Go: Antiseptic Pain Relief Spray

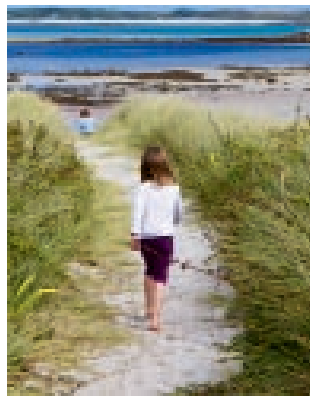
relief and infection protection, all in an easy-to-apply spray formula.

Children's Tylenol Dye Free Liquid

The dye-free formula is great for kids with allergies.



Remove the skin from the turkey breast to cut 15 g of fat.



ISLAND LIVING
Sea Garden Cottages, Tresco Island, Isles of Scilly, U.K.

The Brits have been keeping secrets: The family-owned island of Tresco is so accommodating we see every reason to visit and none to leave. It's surrounded by bright white sand, cars are verboten and (thanks to the isles' southerly location) you can expect temperatures several degrees

warmer than in mainland Britain. There's plenty of mucking about in boats here, from sailing to mackerel fishing, and the pristine beaches are perfect for tide pooling, sandcastle building or simply lolling about. Choose between staying at the charming inn or playing house in the picture-perfect cottages available for rent from the Island Hotel.

For the grandparents: Wander around the subtropical Abbey Garden, which is filled with exotic plants from places as far-flung as New Zealand and South Africa. Follow up with a bite at the Michelin-approved New Inn. *Tresco.co.uk*, \$\$.

LUXE COUNTRY

Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu, Charlevoix, Quebec

It's hard not to feel nostalgic for days gone by at this classic grand hotel, but the endless kid-friendly perks do a lot for our appreciation of modernity. There's an outdoor all-season swimming pool, an arcade and a playroom for the extra-little 'uns.

Plus, temporarily satisfy the kids' pleas for a dog with Jordy, the "canine ambassador," an in-house hound who can be booked for walks on the property's trails. (This is a designated UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve.)

For the whole family: Stargaze at the hotel's new observatory; there's even a high-tech HD telescope. *181 Rue Richelieu, La Malbaie, Charlevoix, Que., 1-866-540-4464, fairmont.com/richelieu*, \$\$.



With the Grandparents

SOUTHERN CHARM

The Sanctuary Hotel, Kiawah Island, South Carolina

Prepare to let your inner Scarlett O'Hara loose, because you'll certainly be staying in *Gone with the Wind* style at this expansive seaside estate. Stay in a perfectly kitted-out room or suite or even split the cost of a seaside villa with the extended family. And don't worry about hauling baby gear; all the necessary equipment and parenting trimmings (in-room crib, on-call nannies and even a kids' room-service menu) are provided. Younger children can spend the day at the hotel's Kamp Kiawah, where they'll play pirates and build sand sculptures under the watchful eyes of trained staffers. When the midday heat strikes, stop for a scoop at the in-house ice-cream parlour. Must-dos include a family bike cruise (child seats, tow carts, training wheels, add-a-bikes and helmets provided, of course) to explore 30 miles of coast, with the requisite wildlife, at your own pace, and a drive inland for a visit to the Angel Oak, a breathtaking 1,500-year-old tree that inspires wonder in all ages.

For Dad & Grandpa: This island has more golf courses than coffee shops, so they can practise their swings at one of five champion-designed greens (think Clyde Johnston and Jack Nicklaus), and follow that up with a match at the Roy Barth Tennis Center. *1 Sanctuary Beach Dr., Kiawah Island, South Carolina, kiawahresort.com/accommodations/the-sanctuary/*, \$\$.



CLASSIC AMERICANA
Winnetu Oceanside Resort, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts

This summer colony has a reputation for being a playground for the rich and famous, but you can still show up in the station wagon for an old-school summer stay. At this resort, families can settle in at their own private hotel suites or cottages. Preteens spend half days with camp counsellors doing treasure hunts, swimming and playing group games, while

life-size outdoor chess sets, a putting green and clambakes are fun for the whole fam.

For younger kids: The tours at the agricultural institute next door let kids be farmers for a day. They can make goat cheese or even see a lamb being born. April to October. *31 Dunes Rd., Edgartown, Massachusetts, 1-508-310-1733, winnetu.com*, \$\$.



Use plain tea-light holders, fabric and ribbon to make your own menorah.

ISLAND LIVING, LUXE COUNTRY & CLASSIC AMERICANA TEXT, TRALEE PEARCE. SOUTHERN CHARM TEXT, GRACE TOBY. FOREST PHOTO, AUGUSTUS BUTERA. BEACH HOUSE PHOTO, ISTOCKPHOTO.



Top Trend Alert! *Glamping*

Leaky tents and mosquito attacks are things of the past – family camping has gone very glam, all chi-chi teepees and upscale yurts. Here are three to try:

DOME GARDEN, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, U.K.

Part sci-fi set and part woody adventure, the Dome Garden in the Forest of Dean is just plain cool. There are proper beds, but the kids will definitely prefer sleeping in the weirdly wonderful fabric pods that hang from the ceiling like space-age hammocks. While each dome is spacious and comfy, the decor is more quirk than chic (some floors are carpeted in AstroTurf) and there's no coddling: You have your own forest kitchen but will have to build your own fires and figure out how the pot crane works come dinnertime. For fun, go on guided hikes, bike rides and canoe outings. And keep your eyes open for llamas. They roam the property.

For the kids: Two words: Pizza night. Twice a week, the huge outdoor pizza oven is fired up, and guests get to construct their own pseudo-Italian masterpieces. Make ours a calzone. domegarden.co.uk, from \$353/three nights.

CAMPING LES MOULINS, Île de Noirmoutier, Pays de la Loire, France

The quarters at this stunning beachside campground range from canvas and wood "eco-lodges" to double-wide teepees – with or without electricity, depending on whether you stay in one of



their tents or your own. Spend lazy days poolside or take sailing lessons at the beach.

For Mom and Dad: Foodies can visit with local oyster farmers. camping-les-moulins.com/en/.

FLORA BORA FOREST LODGING, Saskatchewan

Then there's the *Call of the (almost) Wild* option – if your idea of wild is a luxe yurt nestled in Saskatchewan's boreal forest, that is. The secluded campground sits on Tuddle's Lake in pristine surroundings and offers your pick of outdoor activities: great hiking, canoeing and birdwatching. And yes, there

are wolves and bears in the woods here, too. Run by husband-and-wife team Justin and Karen Wasylyk, the resort strives for low ecological impact, but not at the expense of comfort. Each yurt (a circular wooden abode covered in cloth) comes with a fully equipped kitchen and bathroom and tons of little luxuries: a coffee maker and fair-trade beans, queen-size beds with down duvets and even a stash of board games for a rainy day.

For toddlers: Don't worry about lugging all your little one's stuff. A lot of gear can be reserved ahead. florabora.ca, \$984-\$1,176/week, children 10 and under stay free. ✨



The Best Apps for You and the Kids

WORLD CUSTOMS & CULTURES

Not sure how to tip in Argentina? No problem. This guide to social etiquette has the do's and don'ts for over 165 countries.

PACKING PRO

It has brilliant checklists, but we really love the sample packing templates.

SITORSQUAT BATHROOM FINDER

Get the 411 on nearby public washrooms, including user reviews, hours of availability and even photos.

NETFLIX

Sullen teens will turn instantly sweet if they can borrow your iPhone to watch TV, movies and viral videos.

SQUIGGLES

Arts and crafts without the mess – this app lets kids doodle, write and paint over the photos on your phone.

TOZZLE

Keep them occupied with this puzzle game. Kids drag and drop shapes into place to win.



Sky High

Flight meltdowns are a thing of the past with these kid-friendly airlines

Air Transat has goodie bags for tiny flyers and offers families early boarding. Sign your two- to 11-year-olds up for the Kids' Club and they'll get even more benefits, like free snacks on board.

Gulf Air's Sky Nanny lends a hand during boarding and disembarking, sets up bassinets, customizes separate dining times for the kids and doles out colouring books and snacks with a generous hand.

British Airways provides colourful infant seats or carrycots at no extra cost, delivers kids' meals first and has facilities for warming bottles and baby food.



Grown-up Vacays The Kids Will Love, Too

The Best Apps (for You and Them)

Must-Pack Meds

