

DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD

# news

## V.I.K.

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with your Very  
Important Kids*

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DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD  
**news**  
WWW.DOTWNEWS.COM

June 2015, Issue 108

Publisher Anna Zhukov  
anna@dotwnews.com

Commercial Director Jesse Vora  
jesse@dotwnews.com

Editor Michelle Wrani-Hicks  
michelle@dotwnews.com

News Editor Steven Bond  
steven@dotwnews.com

Art Editor Sarah Freeman  
sarah@dotwnews.com

Features Writer Laurel Munshower  
laurel@dotwnews.com

Assistant Online Editor Liz Wentling  
liz@dotwnews.com

Head of Key Accounts Shirley D'Souza  
shirley@dotwnews.com

Account Manager James Stead  
james@dotwnews.com

Account Manager Siby Thomas  
siby@dotwnews.com

Art Director Kris Karacinski  
kris@dotwnews.com

Assistant Graphic Designer Eliot Sleep  
eliot@dotwnews.com

Multimedia Manager Vandita Gaurang  
vandita@wnnlimited.com

Multimedia Graphics Manager  
Haitham El Shazly  
haitham@wnnlimited.com

Circulation department  
circulate@dotwnews.com

Finance department  
accounts@wnnlimited.com

International Commercial Representations  
Destinations of the World News' network of international advertising sales and editorial representatives are based in the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Russia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America. Destinations of the World News is published monthly by WNN Limited and distributed to more than 200 First and Business class airport lounges, our subscriber network and five-star hotels. The title Destinations of the World News is a registered trademark and the publisher reserves all rights. All material in Destinations of the World News is compiled from sources believed to be reliable and articles reflect the personal opinion of the author and not necessarily that of the publisher. Destinations of the World News is not responsible for omissions or errors that result from misrepresentation of information to the publisher. Advertisers assume all liability for their advertising content. All rights of the owner and the producer of this conceptual development and artwork design are reserved. Neither this publication nor any part of it may be imitated, reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission of WNN Limited.

WNN Limited, Reuters Building 1, Office 106, Dubai Media City, PO Box 500661, Dubai, UAE  
Tel +971 4 3910680 Fax +971 4 3910688; WNN Limited, 31 Archbishop Kyprianou Street, 3036, PO Box 51234, zip 3503, Limassol, Cyprus

To subscribe to Destinations of the World News at an annual rate of \$99 visit the website at [www.dotwnews.com](http://www.dotwnews.com) and hit SUBSCRIBE.

Images used in Destinations of the World News are provided by Getty Images/Corbis unless stated otherwise. DOTW News is printed by J G Cassouliides & Sons Ltd, Nicosia, Cyprus and Emirates Printing Press LLC, Dubai, UAE

Cover image Sakis Papadopoulos © Robert Harding World Imagery/Getty Images

Published by

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Luxury destinations are brimming with family-friendly fun

# Welcome

Travelling as a family used to mean luxury fell by the wayside, but not anymore. From curated luxury safaris and incredible kids' clubs to flying nannies and dedicated airport lounges, this inaugural edition of *Destinations of the World News'* Luxury Family Travel details the most exclusive parent- and child-friendly travel experiences, meaning discerning families can travel with peace of mind and style. We hope the 2015 edition inspires and entices.

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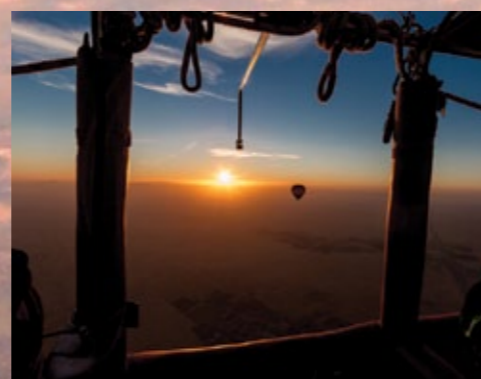


Photo: Shutterstock

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Saddle up for a horseback riding safari



# V.I.K. (VERY IMPORTANT KIDS)

Grown-ups aren't the only ones getting spoiled these days with luxury hotels going above and beyond to cater to pint-sized travellers, from a teddy bear turndown service to exceptional kids' clubs and programmes, finds **Laurel Munshower**





The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua



Pool time

### ITZY BITZY RITZY

TRAVELLING FAMILIES need to keep their brood entertained and the Ritz Kids programme at Ritz-Carlton hotels around the world certainly delivers on that front. The offerings vary from hotel to hotel but one thing that remains a constant is the ability to create a menu of engaging experiences for kids aged four to 12. Ritz Kids isn't just another supervised hotel-based activity area but a menu of thoughtful and immersive activities dedicated to educating children about the world around them. And keeping in mind the brand's partnership with Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Future's Society, trips to sea destinations like the new Ritz-Carlton, Aruba are



The Ritz-Carlton, Cancun



## HIKE TO AN ANCIENT LAVA FLOW WHILE LEARNING HOW THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS WERE FORMED

filled with fascinating kid-friendly experiences like searching for and learning to identify types of local iguanas, and exploring the island's lush mangroves in Nature Scouts. In Hawaii, at The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua, kids and parents alike can take part in Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ambassadors of the Environment programme through an array of activities. Follow a naturalist to coral gardens to snorkel and snap photos with an underwater camera, or find "The Fires of Pele" during a hike to an ancient lava flow while learning how the Hawaiian islands were formed from volcanoes erupting from the sea.

Travelling with a baby or toddler? Along with superb Mayan beaches, The Ritz-Carlton, Cancun offers Itzy Bitzy Baby Amenities. Lending a helping hand to accommodate parents travelling with infants, items like baby bath amenities, a baby soaking tub, crib, changing table, miniature hangers for infant-sized clothes and high chair are available to ensure baby's every need is met so the whole family can make the most of their time in paradise. Older kids will be thrilled to play a part in sea turtle conservation from May to November each year by helping new hatchlings make their way to the sea with the aid of the hotel's Turtle Guardian programme.

[www.ritzcarlton.com](http://www.ritzcarlton.com)



Cancun fun



Learn about marine life



Find iguanas at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba



KidsOnly activities



One&Only Le Saint Gérân

**BESPOKE CUISINE**

CHICKEN NUGGETS, mini-pizzas and french fries are ubiquitous items on children’s menus around the world but the One&Only Le Saint Gérân in Mauritius treats children like little gourmands. Partnering with acclaimed child food guru Annabel Karmel, parents might feel a twinge of envy when they see their little ones tucking into a delectable range of healthy dishes such as oriental bento with shrimp dim sum,

South of the Border chicken fajitas or Dodo’s lychee and berries frozen yogurt. Further health-conscious programmes help kids to develop an interest in exercise and nutrition while on holiday, but this doesn’t mean that silly activities are forgotten. The shipwreck-themed KidsOnly Club offers a fun-filled world of games, crafts and a dedicated kids’ swimming pool.

From US\$635 per night; Tel: +230 401 1688  
www.lesaintgeran.oneandonlyresorts.com

**WELCOME TO NEVERLAND**

JUNIOR JET-SETTERS are sure to be thrilled when they discover that the Land of Smiles has a hotel designed especially for them – the Land of Iniala Kid’s Club and Hotel at Iniala Beach House in Phuket, Thailand. Children’s designer Christopher Jones may be all grown up but he certainly knows what kids want in their stay, from adventure-themed bedrooms and fancy dress costume shops to tree house bedrooms that can be exclusively booked by families. Upon arrival, children are given a backpack stuffed with a storybook, t-shirt and games, while the kids’ club and hotel includes a cave, island-themed play area, and a theatre and camp to spark the imagination. Child minders are on hand to keep careful watch and help kids choose healthy meals from the dedicated dining area.

From US\$1,395 per night; Tel: +66 76 451 456  
www.iniala.com



Land of Iniala Kid’s Club and Hotel



Alila Villas Soori Bali

**A BALI JOURNEY**

THE INDONESIAN island of Bali may be small but it’s certainly not short on heritage, culture and exploring opportunities, and Alila Villas Soori Bali has pulled out all the stops to ensure children and families can immerse themselves in island life with Journeys for the Little Ones. Creative tykes will enjoy building and flying traditional Balinese kites, organised treasure hunts or getting their hands dirty (literally) to mould traditional terracotta items. They can



**THE KIDS’ CLUB AND HOTEL INCLUDES A CAVE, ISLAND-THEMED PLAY AREA AND THEATRE**

even don a chef’s hat to create sweet treats with Alila’s pastry chef. For children fascinated by creatures great and small, Alila can arrange a trip to a village stable to feed horses or watch exotic butterflies in a tropical garden. More of Bali’s rich culture can be experienced with visits to rice paddy fields, Balinese dance lessons or by learning to play local instruments such as the bamboo xylophone, or *rindik*.

From US\$655 per night; Tel: +62 361 894 6388  
www.alilahotels.com/soori

Monkey around with Alila’s Journeys for the Little Ones





# RIXOS SHARM EL SHEIKH

Stay in exclusive luxury at the five-star Rixos Sharm El Sheikh, rated among the best all inclusive resorts in the world. Offering elegant, comfortable accommodation with the highest level of personalised and professional service, the resort is the ideal destination for families, with 10 swimming pools to choose from, including three for children and a mini aqua park. The property also enjoys a 330-metre private beach with a jetty and diving centre to explore the bounty of marine life found in the waters.

Entertainment is on hand with nightly shows, while activities include aqua aerobics, darts, water polo, beach and water volleyball, bocce, pilates and even yoga, as well as themed activity days.

Children will never be bored with plenty of things to keep them occupied. The Rixy Kids Club has all the latest amenities including a cinema, indoor and outdoor play areas and a special kids buffet.

For the parents, indulge in a therapeutic treatment at Rixos Royal Spa, which has a beauty salon, Turkish Bath, a relaxation and steam room, as well as a sauna and jacuzzi, and afterwards, enjoy a refreshing juice from the Vitamin Bar.

Even while you're relaxing, you can stay connected with complimentary wifi available in all rooms and public areas, or browse the resort's shopping outlets providing a wide variety of products including fashion, jewellery, leather goods, souvenirs and beach accessories.

Families are spoilt for choice when it comes to food at Rixos Sharm El Sheikh, with a multitude of culinary experiences crafted by internationally-awarded chefs. Dine in one of eight a la carte restaurants featuring Italian, Turkish, Chinese, Egyptian and Indian cuisine along with plenty of sushi and seafood. At night, you can drink the night away with branded drinks by the pool or in one of the many bars, with music or a traditional water pipe (Shisha) or even catch the latest sporting events on the big screen.

For couples seeking secluded romance, you can relax in one of the beach or pool cabanas with your very own butler – or make that special evening even more romantic with a private candlelit dinner on the beach. Whether you're travelling with the family or seeking an exclusive break with your significant other, nothing is too much trouble at this spectacular five-star resort.



## Rixos Sharm El Sheikh

South Sinai, Nabq Bay 46619

Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

Tel: +20 69 371 0210

E-Mail: [sharmelsheikh@rixos.com](mailto:sharmelsheikh@rixos.com)

Web: [www.rixos.com](http://www.rixos.com)





FAMILY FRIENDLY



Fregate Island Private



Indian Ocean beaches

### CASTAWAY KIDS

ADULTS WON'T NEED much convincing to visit the idyllic Fregate Island Private in the Seychelles, but kids will be begging to go once they catch wind of Castaway Club House, a special kids' club on the island located in a hut surrounded by verdant, tropical forests. Catering for ages three to 12, there's a tonne of exciting planned activities for junior island explorers, such as treasure hunts on the beach and educational hikes through the jungle guided by a conservation manager. The island is home to some 2,200 giant Aldabra tortoises and lucky kids might even get the chance to meet James, the island's 150-year-old resident tortoise.

From US\$3,260 per night; Tel: +49 7221 900 9922  
www.fregate.com



KIDS WILL BE BEGGING TO GO ONCE THEY CATCH WIND OF CASTAWAY CLUB HOUSE, A SPECIAL KIDS' CLUB ON THE ISLAND LOCATED IN A HUT

Per Aquum Niyama's beach studio



### ISLAND EXPLORERS

DESIGNED BY the purveyor of luxury tours, Scott Dunn, Per Aquum Niyama has launched a new kids' island, home to the first kids' club in the Maldives to accept children under the age of three – a fact sure to elicit hoots of delight from the frazzled parents of toddlers. The aptly named Play island is fitted with two-bedroom family villas equipped with a nanny's room and two private pools, with a club split into four different age groups from 12 months to 12 years. With plenty of care-givers to watch over the little ones, activities revolve around learning about the Maldivian destination – a cornerstone of Scott Dunn's Explorers clubs – while theme days for the youngest, like Jungle Safari, Pirates & Princesses



Snorkel in calm lagoons

Meet James the tortoise



Per Aquum Niyama's beach pavilion



PLAY ISLAND IS FITTED WITH TWO-BEDROOM FAMILY VILLAS EQUIPPED WITH A NANNY'S ROOM

and Circus, are designed to keep imaginations firing on all cylinders. Older kids are encouraged to take on more active games like beach cricket, snorkelling or even testing their acting skills at the club's amphitheatre. In other words, there's no chance of hearing the dreaded "I'm bored".  
From US\$915 per night; Tel: +960 6762 828  
www.niyama.peraquum.com

# 'RESIDEN-CHELLES' ESCAPES



Overlooking the stunning white sands of Petite Anse Bay, the spacious Residence Villas at Four Seasons Resort Seychelles are a paradise setting for travelling families and friends. Now, there's even more reason to visit with the launch of the new 'Residen-chelles' Menu. From in-villa surf lessons to a personally designed pop-up speakeasy, guests staying in a Residence Villa can choose from four personalised 'Residen-chelles' Escapes, ranging from the ultimate castaway adventure to a blissful retreat, creating unforgettable family moments and exclusive pre-wedding celebrations for groups of friends.

## DREAM ESCAPE

Catering to adventurous souls, the Dream Escape offers days filled with discovery and evenings of spectacular events. Master the fundamentals of surfing with private lessons in the villa's 27 metre pool, or create personal postcard memories through a sketching class with a local artist on the villa's hillside terrace. Celebrate the day's achievements as the upper villa terrace is transformed into a personally designed speakeasy bar, with a Four Seasons bartender on hand to deliver a private cocktail class – you can even install a DJ booth for the evening to create a poolside lounge bar.

## ESCAPE TO SERENITY

Whether you're looking for a digital detox or simply time to unwind, enter an oasis of tranquillity as a bedroom is transformed into a dedicated spa treatment suite, with expert therapists tailoring rituals to suit your personal needs. Engage in poolside meditation and yoga to calm and clear the mind while keeping your body well-nourished with fresh, healthy cuisine – all prepared by a Four Seasons chef in the Residence Villa's kitchen.

## FAMILY ESCAPE

Spend quality time together as a family, lounging around the pool as a private chef prepares a BBQ lunch, or capturing treasured moments with a professional family photoshoot. Younger guests can learn about local marine life with a visit from the Resort's WiseOceans marine educator, making sea life-inspired arts and crafts to take home. The Four Seasons team can also set up a movie night in the spacious living room or on the pool deck, where you can enjoy family favourites under the stars. Staff can arrange theme dinners, performances by local musicians, evening salsa classes with tapas refreshments or even an entertaining fire show.

## THE 'FINAL' ESCAPE

Ahead of your big day, mark one of life's greatest celebrations with a group of close friends. Throw an in-villa spa party with mini-massages, facials and pedicures, or partake in a group yoga class. Prepare local or international favourites in a group cooking class or keep things active with a game of water volleyball in the pool. Surprise the bride or groom-to-be with a party to remember – from freshly caught lobster and chilled champagne to the release of a Chinese paper lantern to celebrate their last nights of freedom, every evening can be tailored to suit the celebration.

Available as pre-determined itineraries or on a la carte basis, the 'Residen-chelles' Menu allows for complete flexibility and personalisation. A dedicated contact from the Resort's Residences team will assist with planning every aspect of the holiday to suit your needs, while guests also enjoy a private butler and event planning service for the duration of all Residence Villa stays. With a choice of three-, four- and five-bedroom Residence Villas, the resort is the perfect destination for secluded, exclusive Indian Ocean holidays. Residence Villa guests also receive a sixth complimentary night when booking five consecutive paid nights as part of the current Stay Longer Offer – allowing even more time to enjoy the activities on offer.

As the world's leading operator of luxury hotels, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts currently manages 95 properties in 39 countries. Open since 2009, Four Seasons Resort Seychelles offers an experience of unlimited variety and the highly-personalised, anticipatory service that Four Seasons guests expect and value around the world. Recent awards and honours include 3rd Best Spa in the world in Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice 2014, Best Resort in the Indian Ocean by Gallavanter's Guide readers, and inclusion in Top 25 Best Hotels and Most Romantic Hotels in Africa in the TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Awards 2015.

### Four Seasons Resort Seychelles

Petite Anse, Baie Lazare  
Victoria Mahé Seychelles  
General Enquiries: +248 439 3000  
Reservations: +248 439 3333  
[www.fourseasons.com/seychelles](http://www.fourseasons.com/seychelles)



Kids can live like Eloise at The Plaza

**LIVE LIKE ELOISE**

THE GRANDE dame of New York City, The Plaza is also the setting of the children's book series, *Eloise*, whose eponymous character resides in the hotel. Now real-life children can live out their *Eloise* fantasies with a number of *Eloise*-themed activities, from a pyjama party brunch to ballet and yoga classes. The most outrageous of all the *Eloise* fun may be the Betsey Johnson-designed Eloise Suite, a two-bedroom wonderland of candy-striped wall panels, zebra-print carpets and a bedroom with glittering pink décor. The Eloise Suite from US\$2,043 per night Tel: +1 646 599 8365; www.theplazany.com



The Eloise Suite in The Plaza



Trump SoHo

**MINI MOGULS**

IF YOUR CHILD is already running lemonade stands or dominating the local paper route, you may have a pint-sized Trump in the making, so next time you're in New York City, consider staying at Trump SoHo, home to Young Entrepreneurs, a programme ready to groom a new generation of business masterminds. Targeted to mini moguls aged between three to 17, kids who join the programme receive a personalised set of business cards and personalised robe, in-room milk and cookies and exclusive invitations to cooking classes and beauty days at The Spa at Trump. Travelling families will also appreciate complimentary amenities like strollers, baby carriers and gaming consoles. From US\$325 per night; Tel: +1 212 842 5500 www.trumphotelcollection.com

Photo: Trump Hotel Collection

**JUNIOR ARTISTS**

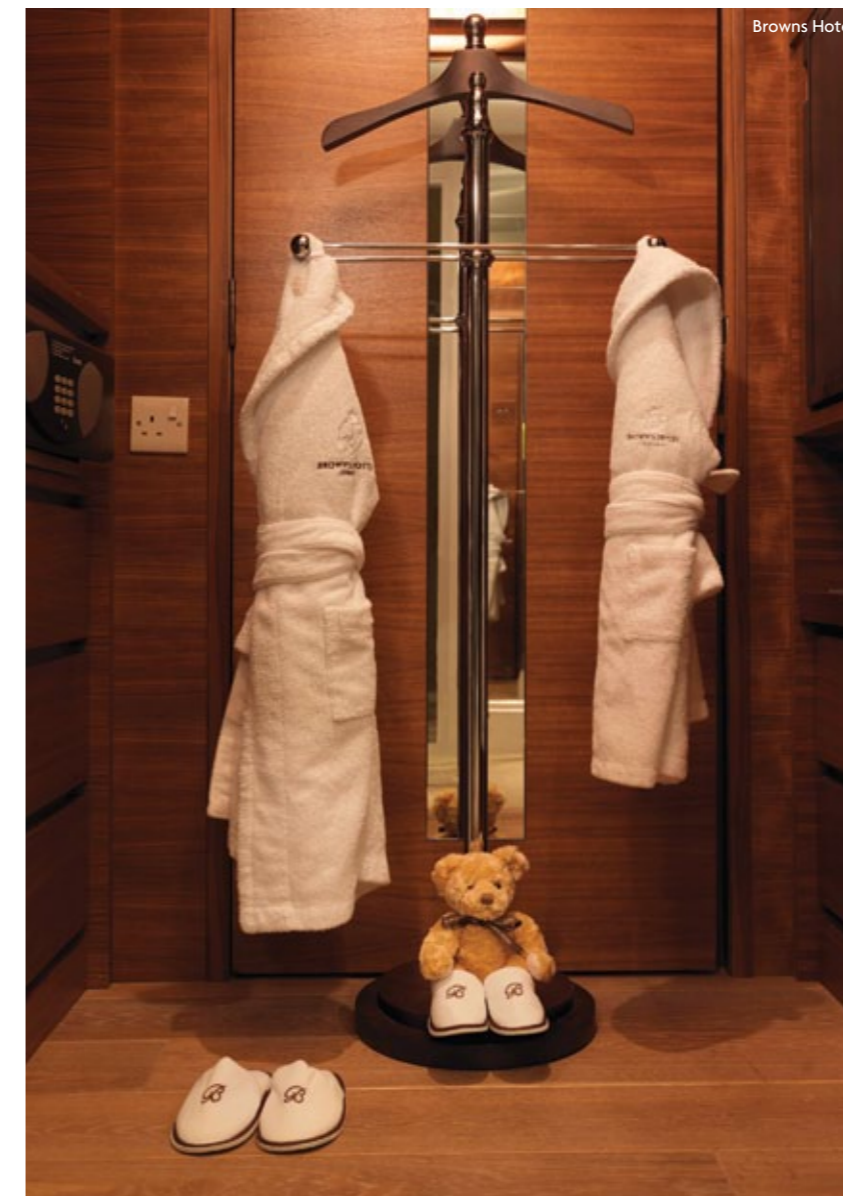
SET UP A FAMILY pied-à-terre in Spain at Hotel Arts Barcelona in one of Europe's most cultural cities. The Luxury Family Package includes a two- or three-bedroom duplex apartment with a telescope and panoramic views of the sea and town. With plenty of family activities nearby (try the CosmoCaixa museum for science or the Museu de la Xocolata for chocolate lovers) a four-seat MINI Cooper included in the package makes local exploration easy, while kids can embark on a treasure hunt through the hotel and gardens. From: US\$1,788 per night; Tel: +34 93 2211 1000 www.hotelartsbarcelona.com



Hotel Arts Barcelona



THE YOUNGEST RECEIVE A PLUSH BROWNS' BEAR WITH THE TEDDY TURNDOWN SERVICE, WHILE KIDS OF ALL AGES CAN CURL UP WITH *THE JUNGLE BOOK*

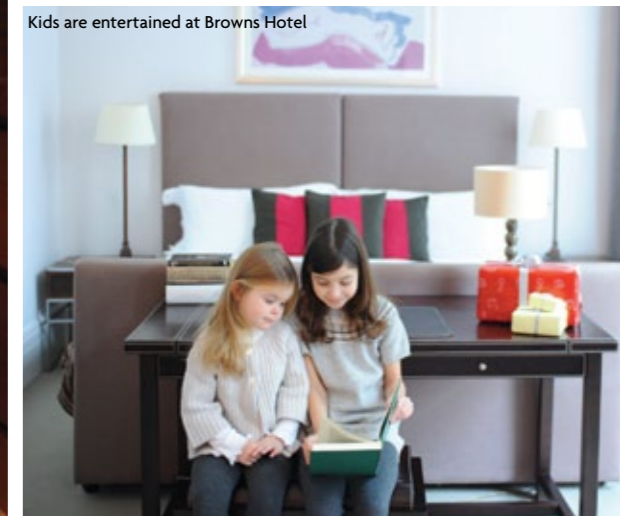


Browns Hotel

**FIVE-STAR KIDS**

KIDS BECOME verified VIPs as soon as they walk through the door of Browns Hotel in London with a Five Star Kids Programme granting them a Children's VIP card on arrival along with special treats for various age groups. The youngest receive a plush Browns' bear with the Teddy Turndown Service, while kids of all ages can curl up with their own copy of *The Jungle Book*, which was written in Browns. Teens can indulge in special spa treatments and receive top concierge tips on the hottest places to hang out in town. From US\$650 per night; Tel: +44 20 7493 6020 www.roccofortehotels.com

Kids are entertained at Browns Hotel



# CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Exploring the far-flung corners of the earth with the family doesn't mean roughing it, writes **Laurel Munshower**, with private villas, yachts and bespoke itineraries offering families an adventure with ultimate indulgence



Photo: Shutterstock

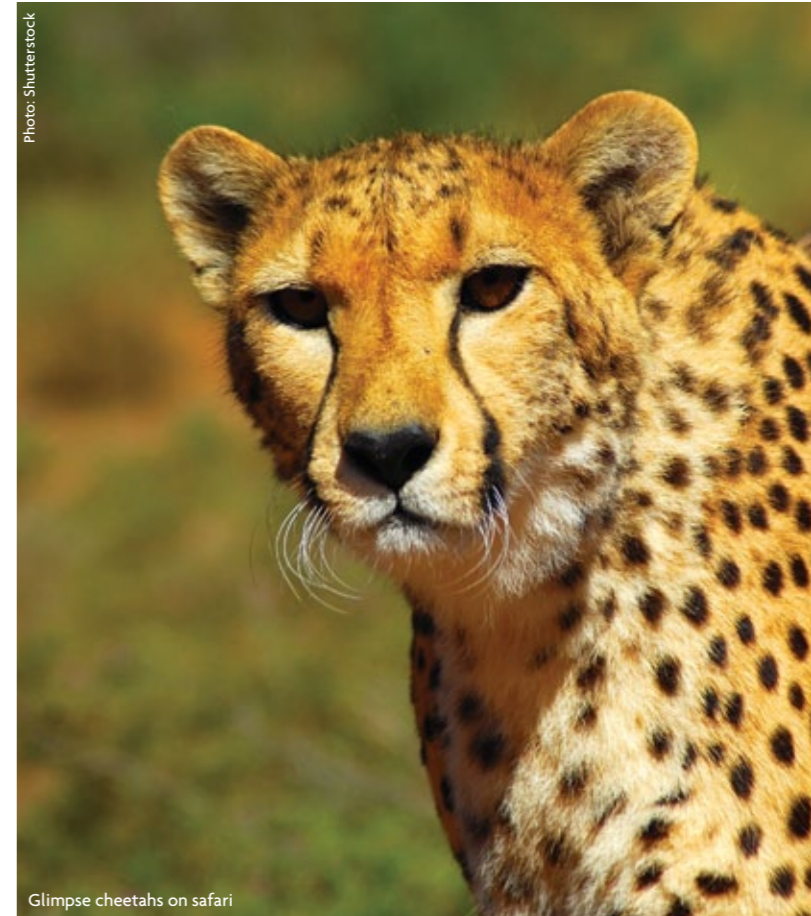


STAY IN A VILLA WITH A PERSONAL CHEF AND BUTLER TO ATTEND ANY WHIMS



Phinda Homestead

Photo: Shutterstock



Glimpse cheetahs on safari

Kids are entertained at Phinda Homestead



### SOUTH AFRICA

FOR A SUMPTUOUS SAFARI

Swap tents and mosquito nets with luxury yachts and butler-staffed villas on this indulgent excursion around South Africa with &Beyond. With stops that include Johannesburg, Madikwe and Phinda game reserves, Plettenberg Bay, Franschhoek and Cape Town, travellers are treated to a little bit of everything that the country has to offer during the 16-day tour. In Johannesburg, historian Robin Binckes leads guests on a thorough tour around the city, inspiring children with his passion for the country's history. Heading out into the bush, your little animal lovers will be thrilled to spot the Big Five, which is almost guaranteed when accompanied by a dedicated ranger and tracker in a private vehicle. When in Plettenberg Bay, your family will stay in a villa with a personal chef and butler to attend to any whims, leaving you with plenty of time to explore the surrounding meadows or watch for whales and humpback dolphins from a boat in Knysna Lagoon. Adults will enjoy the next stop, Franschhoek, known for its excellent vineyards. Here, La Clé des Montagnes' Le Colonial Villa

serves as a temporary family home, decorated with a fusion of African aesthetics from the east and west. The family's final adventure takes place in Cape Town with horseback riding on the beach, gourmet dinners and a penthouse at the One&Only Cape Town that includes two swimming pools on the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. Could there be a better – or more luxurious way – for the family to discover South Africa?

From: US\$32,995 per person

Tel: +27 11 809 4300

[www.andbeyond.com](http://www.andbeyond.com)

Boulder Beach outside of Cape Town



Photo: Shutterstock



Cape Town

Photo: Shutterstock



Iconic Roman sights include the Colosseum



JAPAN'S FORMER CAPITAL BRIMS WITH CULTURAL SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES LIKE THE SHOGUN'S CASTLE

**FLORENCE & ROME**

FOR CULTURE VULTURES

A holiday to Italy's most impressive historic and cultural centres may look daunting when travelling with young children but you can leave all the planning to Nancy Aiello's team of expert guides, who specialise in family tours to Rome and Florence. Each tour is unique and created on a family-by-family basis with itineraries considering children's ages, current

school curriculum and personal interests to engage, educate and (most importantly) make sure the whole family has fun. In the Eternal City, a driver and personal guide accompany the family through town and keep kids occupied with colourful storytelling in must-visit sites like the Colosseum and the Sistine Chapel; while in Florence, the birth of the Renaissance is discovered in expansive museums – with no need to wait in line at popular stops like the Uffizi Gallery – filled with well-known masterpieces. Saturated with knowledge about local accommodation, they're well-equipped find just the right blend of luxury and child-friendliness to suit every individual family.

From: POA  
Tel: +39 331 746 26862  
www.nancyaiellotours.com



Florence Cathedral



Japan's famous Mount Fuji

**JAPAN**

FOR EXOTIC HERITAGE

Japan is on the bucket list for many world travellers, so why not make a family excursion out of it? Experience the most fascinating elements of the country's culture from Tokyo's frenetic urban cacophony of sights, lights and sounds to a heritage richly preserved in subdued Kyoto. Starting in Tokyo, Butterfield & Robinson's 10-day journey begins with tours of Tokyo neighbourhoods like Harajuku and Omotesando – the latter a hotspot for incredible shopping. After experiencing the famous Tsujiki fish market and letting the kids in on a bit of swordplay, or Japanese *kendo*, Kyoto calls. Inhabited by an impressive 17 UNESCO World Heritage sites, Japan's former capital brims with cultural sights and activities like the Shogun's castle, Arashiyama's bamboo-

All Photos: Shutterstock



Tokyo

lined paths, and kids will be fascinated by the opportunity to meet geisha and be entertained by cute monkeys in a park. There's a lot to explore but plenty of time to refresh in luxe digs at each destination, like The Palace Hotel, located across from the gardens of Tokyo's Imperial Palace, or the mountain-set Ryokan Hakone-Ginyu spa resort.

From US\$9,995 per person  
Tel: +1 416 864 1354  
www.butterfield.com



Learn Japanese crafts



King penguins



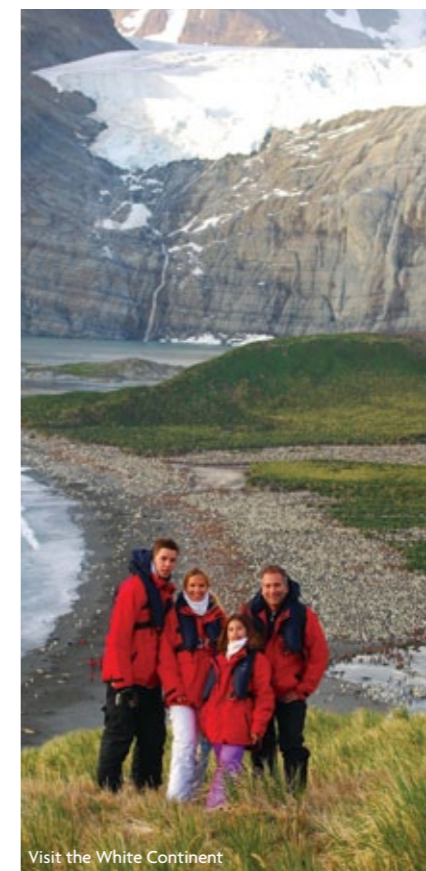
Arctic ice floes and seascapes

Photo: Shutterstock

**ANTARCTICA**  
FOR LITTLE EXPLORERS

There are few places that inspire the explorer within more than Antarctica's vast wilderness. For families with a thirst for adventure and a passion for scientific discovery, Abercrombie & Kent's luxury expedition cruise visits Antarctica, South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. Accompanied by the A&K Expedition Team and Young Explorers Guides, passengers set off for 17 days aboard the luxury expedition cruiser *Le Boreal*, which has every modern comfort on board and private balconies ideal for humpback whale watching.

Departing from the southernmost tip of South America, Ushuaia, Argentina, it's not long before the first penguins appear at the Falkland Islands. Kids can then head to shore for a scavenger hunt ending with a visit to the local museum. As the journey continues, more of Antarctica's wildlife – Gentoo penguins, elephant seals, orcas – appear alongside enormous glaciers and sandy beaches on the world's edge. A kids-only Zodiac (inflatable boat) cruise departs as *Le Boreal* nears the White Continent, gliding through ice floes to hopefully catch a glimpse of a leopard seal.



Visit the White Continent



**ANTARCTICA'S WILDLIFE APPEARS ALONGSIDE ENORMOUS GLACIERS AND SANDY BEACHES ON THE WORLD'S EDGE**

Back on board, the Young Explorers Guides entertain and educate children with fish specimens, trips to the bridge and marine biologist talks – even creating Japanese fish prints with ink rubbings.

Stepping foot on the Antarctic continent and visiting an active scientific research station where scientists field questions may be the highlight of the trip, but kids are sure to find a cruise through this untouched region an enchanting experience from start to finish.

From: US\$18,995; kids 7-18 from US\$9,495

Tel: +44 1242 855 124

[www.abercrombiekent.co.uk](http://www.abercrombiekent.co.uk)

Photo: Shutterstock

# JET-SETTING JUNIORS

With nursery facilities, nannies, dedicated family rooms and plenty of Lego on hand, airlines are pulling out all the stops to cater to flying families, writes Georgina Wilson-Powell





# FREQUENT (MINI) FLYER

*When welcoming younger passengers, kids are First Class as far as these airlines are concerned*

QANTAS ([www.qantas.com.au](http://www.qantas.com.au)) is ahead of the game when it comes to making sure kids are treated as well as adults. The new Joey Club gives each junior traveller between three and 10 years old their own Qantas “passport” to record their flight, and just like their parents, children are able to collect Frequent Flyer miles. In the airline’s domestic lounges, kids are treated to their own menus including animal-shaped sandwiches made to order and healthy snacks like popcorn and fruit. And it’s just as kid friendly once you’re up in the air: Babies under two are catered for with top brand baby food, milk, cereals and rusks while older children can choose from their own kiddies’ menu. Those between three and 10 get a special Joey Club kit when they join – and the time to do so is now as the joining

fee has been waived until the end of the year. Most airlines offer variations on this theme with things to do and special menus. British Airways ([www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com)) has a dedicated kids’ menu and a kids served first policy; it also gives children cool Skyflyer activity swimming style bags with colouring books for younger kids and puzzles for older ones. Virgin Atlantic ([www.virgin-atlantic.com](http://www.virgin-atlantic.com)) also offers a kids’ menu designed to delight even the fussiest eaters, and allows

you to seat your kids in their car seat as long as it meets current health and safety laws (Economy only). Over at Emirates ([www.emirates.com](http://www.emirates.com)), younger kids receive a backpack and magazine filled with colouring books and puzzles along with blanket buddies that attach to their seatbelts and cuddly toy monsters to play with. For the slightly older crowd, Quiksilver has put together a special Emirates pack with surfing, skating and snowboarding related activities.



Kids’ kit from Qantas



KIDS ARE TREATED TO THEIR OWN MENUS INCLUDING ANIMAL-SHAPED SANDWICHES MADE TO ORDER AND HEALTHY SNACKS



Helpful service from Qantas



Sweet treats from Qantas



Gulf Air

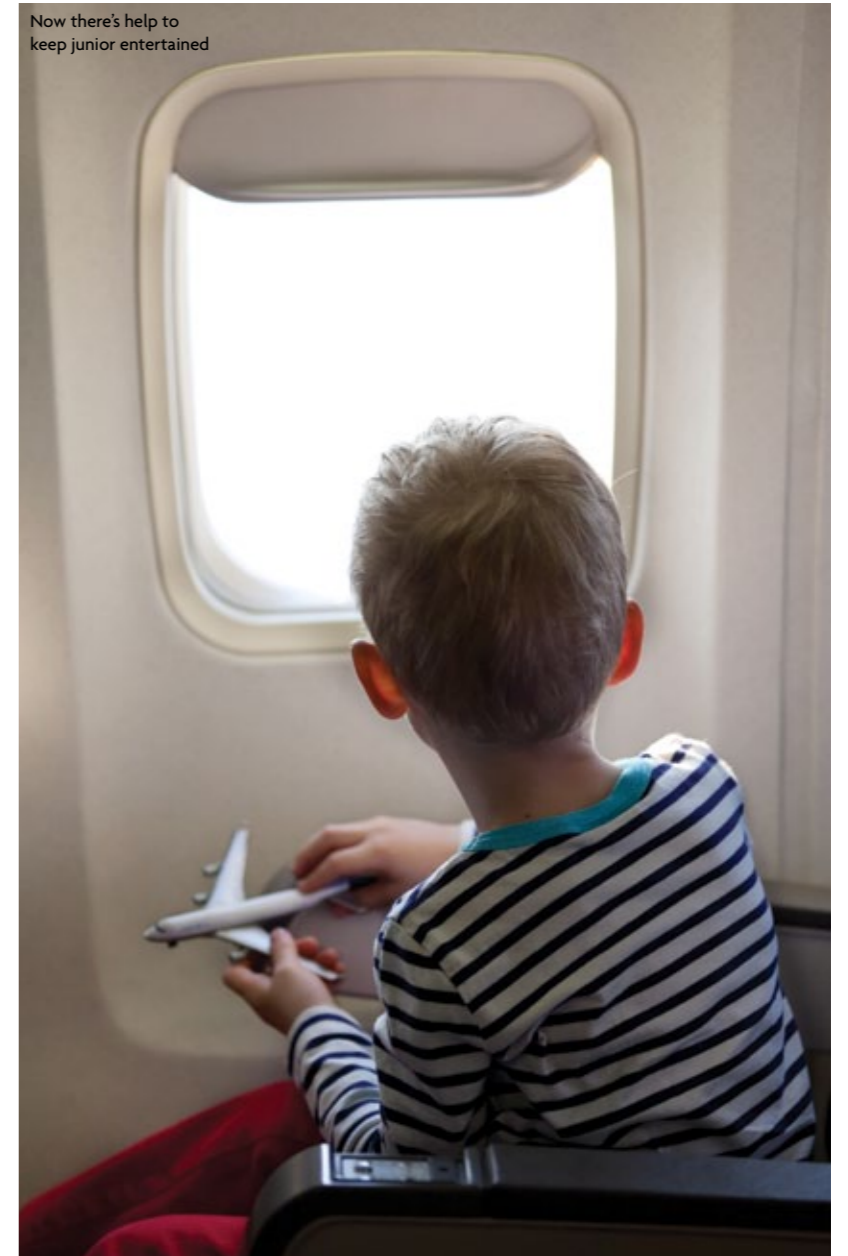
GULF AIR has had a Sky Nanny service in place since 2003 (it was the first to do so globally) and has won a slew of awards for its family-friendly service and excellent Arabian hospitality. The Sky Nanny service, which can start from check in, is free for all Gulf Air customers and includes setting up bassinets for babies on board and keeping children up to 12 amused with activities during the flight. They can also arrange special meals for kids, taking the stress away from when you’re eating and help to take the little ones’ minds off any fears or discomfort when the plane is landing. As part of the service, nannies can assist with children flying as unaccompanied minors. Like most airlines, Gulf Air also offers a kids’ menu full of healthy favourites plus a pack of healthy snacks children can keep with them to tuck into whenever they want.

[www.gulfair.com](http://www.gulfair.com)

## FLYING NANNIES

*Flying with children can strike fear into the hearts of the most savvy parents, but thanks to some airlines, childcare assistance is on hand*

WITH AN IMPRESSIVE 1,000 nannies in the skies across its long-haul network, Etihad Airways has had overwhelmingly positive feedback from travelling families. The airline’s flying nannies are easily identifiable in orange aprons, with two nannies on board the most popular routes such as London. Where possible, a flying nanny will meet children at the gate, and during the flight, help to entertain them with activities such as arts, crafts and games. Each nanny has a special “Flying Nanny’s Kit” filled with things to do (magic tricks anyone?) and will introduce children to the Etihad characters of Jamool the Camel and Kundai the Lion. They can also help refill feeding bottles, make sure kids are fed early and take older children on tours of the plane. Each nanny has been trained by Norland College, which has schooled nannies to amuse and comfort children since the 19th century. The service is free of charge for long haul flights, and while you can’t book a Flying Nanny, you can be sure they will be as attentive as they can throughout the flight. [www.etihad.com](http://www.etihad.com)



Now there’s help to keep junior entertained



Gulf Air Falcon Gold Lounge



Qatar Airways

# THE BEST AIRPORT LOUNGES

Child-friendly lounges take the stress out of delays, time zones and dull international airports

## BAHRAIN

Gulf Air's Falcon Gold Lounge caters to little ones with tailored kids' zones and special play areas equipped with Xboxes, all under the watchful eye of the airline's Sky Nannies.

[www.gulfair.com](http://www.gulfair.com)

### DON'T MISS

Catch 40 winks in the lounge's new "Quiet Lounge" in Bahrain International Airport, complete with duvets, cotton sheets and a flat-screen TV with wireless headphones.

## DOHA

Qatar Airways has an indoor playground at Hamad International Airport departures and transfers terminal. First and Business Class passengers have access to nursery facilities.

[www.qatarairways.com](http://www.qatarairways.com)

### DON'T MISS

Al Mourjan Business Lounge has private family rooms that come with large TVs, leather sofas and plenty of space for kids to play.

## ABU DHABI

Etihad's First and Business Class guests can relax in family rooms stocked with books, toys, TV and a dedicated menu. The rooms also come with qualified nannies, meaning you can take a walk or hit the shops.

[www.etihad.com](http://www.etihad.com)

### ADULTS ONLY

While the kids are busy playing, indulge in a relaxing treatment at the in-house Six Senses Spa. The Realignment massage is ideal to work out any kinks before a long-haul flight.

## DUBAI

Kids won't want to leave the Emirates First Class Lounge in Dubai, which has a colourful kids' area catering to all ages with games and toys, and a buffet just for the little ones.

[www.emirates.com](http://www.emirates.com)

### ADULTS ONLY

The First Class Lounge has its own duty free boutique for last minute shopping and a

wine cellar with exclusive vintage tipples and premium brands.

## FRANKFURT

Lufthansa really lives up to its promise to look after families. The Business Lounge has a special children's area with a play corner, drawing tables, games consoles, a cinema and plenty of comfy beanbags to chill out on.

[www.lufthansa.com](http://www.lufthansa.com)

### ADULTS ONLY

First Class passengers are treated to their own dedicated Cigar Lounge.

## LONDON

The Concorde Room for First Class passengers at Heathrow's Terminal 5 have sumptuous facilities including private dining booths, personal waiters, private cabanas with daybeds and an en-suite bathroom complete with the kind of décor you'd expect in a five-star boutique hotel.

[www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com)

### DON'T MISS

Kids can let off steam at the Stay & Play soft play area in Terminal 5, complete with slides and different areas for older and younger children.

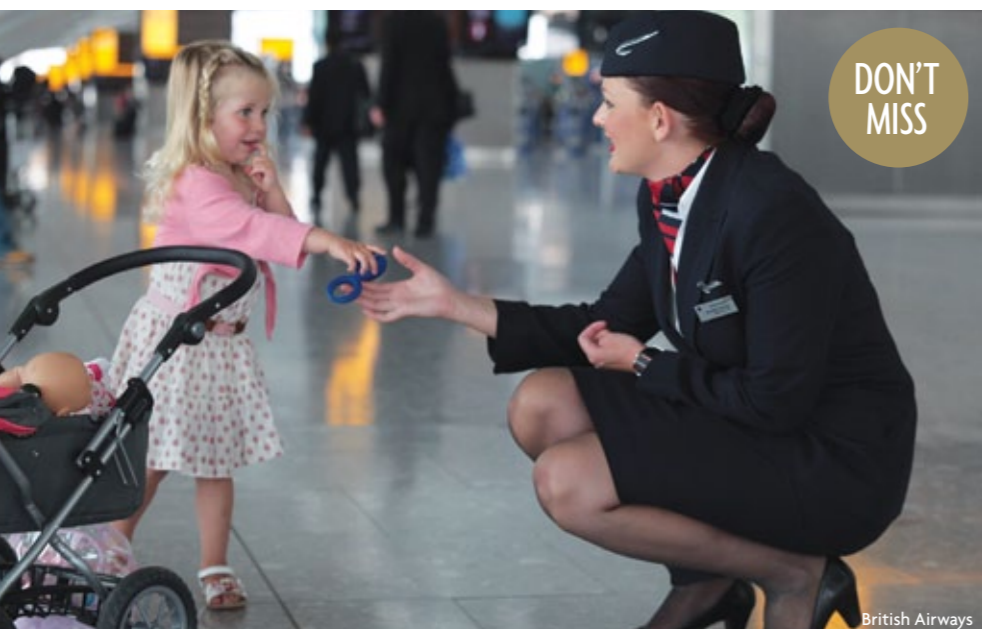
## AMSTERDAM

You can pay KLM to look after your kids for a couple of hours in the Junior Jet Lounge while you have a relaxed meal ahead of your flight. Kids will be amused with Lego, movies, computer games and toys under the watchful eye of fully trained childcare experts.

[www.klm.com](http://www.klm.com)

### ADULTS ONLY

While the kids are busy, take in a spot of culture at the in-house Rijksmuseum exhibit that changes every month or so and usually features plenty of Dutch masters.



DON'T MISS

British Airways



A Royal Jet aircraft

“

IF YOU'RE TRAVELLING WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN, ROYAL JET ADAPTS THE ENTIRE EXPERIENCE TO CATER FOR THE SMALLER MEMBERS OF YOUR PARTY

# THE ROYAL EXPERIENCE

From bespoke themed interiors to picking up a milkshake for your teen, nothing is impossible for families flying with a private jet company where your – and your little ones' – every wish is their desire

FOR DISCERNING FAMILIES, flying privately rather than commercially means that every facility and element of service is geared towards your needs. Royal Jet (recently voted the Middle East's best private jet charter at the World Travel Awards) prides itself on offering every family a completely bespoke service that includes everyone travelling in your group – from babies and grandparents to assistants and even your child's friends. The airline can cater for families up to 52 people, with 11 different sized aircrafts to meet your family's needs. From having your favourite meals served on board to making sure your children's favourite magazines or films are available, Captain Patrick Gordon, the acting president and CEO of Royal Jet, assures passengers that "nothing is too much trouble".

If you're travelling with a large number of children, Royal Jet adapts the entire experience to cater for the smaller members of your party. It can theme the interior of the plane to reflect your child's interests, such as a favourite superhero or colour, and if your child is celebrating a birthday (or indeed if you are), the plane can be decked out in bespoke decorations with special menus and a birthday cake on board, allowing you to make a fuss



Royal Jet

no matter what time zone you're in. For the teens, the airline can cater to specific tastes by picking up their favourite Starbucks coffee or takeaway milkshake. No request is too complex and the team will endeavour to make the flight as comfortable and as exclusive as possible.

Founded 12 years ago, the airline is used to dealing with foreign dignitaries, royalty and VIPs, so a higher level of privacy is another benefit – as is the accessibility to the location

of your choice. Last year the company flew to 250 airports, including locations that are less accessible or metropolitan.

Royal Jet can take you directly to airports that commercial airlines either don't fly to or have limited service, without the need for endless transfers and layovers. Which, as any parent will appreciate, cuts out a lot of the stress of travelling with young children.

[www.royaljetgroup.com](http://www.royaljetgroup.com)



# FAMILY LUXURY AT SEA

Setting sail for far-flung destinations with your family is easier than ever, writes **Georgina Wilson-Powell**, with today's cruise liners offering a cavalcade of activities for the kids and modern luxuries for the grown-ups

# AHOY, ALASKA

*The Last Frontier is your first choice for an exciting family cruise*

## PRINCESS CRUISES

HEAD NORTH for the unique Alaska cruise from Princess cruises, which is supercharged with plenty of amazing things to do for the young ones. If your kids are between three and seven, they'll be happy in one of the Princess Pelican clubs where they can enjoy ice cream and pizza parties, indulge their creativity with endless art projects or curl up with a movie. The club also throws theme nights, dance parties and pyjama parties, guaranteed to go down a storm with the little ones. If you're with slightly older children, they can take part in treasure hunts, talent shows, video gaming and sports tournaments. The Alaska cruise also has National Park Service Junior Ranger programmes to teach kids about glaciers, Alaskan wildlife and the environment, where they can also get involved in whale watching trips and chemistry experiments. Older children can also work toward earning a Junior Ranger badge by learning about endangered species. Younger kids can take part in the Pete's Pals Programme (and they'll get a special plush toy to take home). Teenagers are



Princess cruises

also well looked after on board, with dance parties, late night (but not too late) movie sessions, sports and talent competitions – they can even learn how to DJ, make mocktails or take hip hop dance classes. There's also a formal teens-only dinner, giving them the chance to dress up and impress their new friends. We guarantee even the most reluctant, hormone-riddled teenager will have a ball on this trip. For exhausted parents, the ship also offers late night babysitting with fully trained counsellors so you can have a night out without a worry in the world. Or if you want to have a day trip at one of the many port stops, the kids and teen centres can look after your children and keep them amused until you get home. It's the best of both worlds. [www.princess.com](http://www.princess.com)

## ADULTS ONLY

Head to the adults-only Sanctuary level for alfresco massages and sunset yoga sessions. Or just curl up in one of their couples' loungers.



Alaskan totem painting



THERE'S ALSO A FORMAL TEENS-ONLY DINNER, GIVING THEM THE CHANCE TO DRESS UP



Kids can tour the MS Europa 2

seven family suites, each with two separate living areas – giving everyone a little bit of space but remaining family-centric with connecting door links and joint verandas. For parents with a child under three, you'll receive a Baby Welcome Package containing a changing bag, bibs, nappies, food and milk formula, while baby monitors and cots are provided for free. If you're after a night out without the kids, MS Europa 2 can provide babysitters, and if you need a lie in, you can arrange a late riser service for days at sea – staff will collect your kids from 8am and amuse them until you're refreshed and ready to start your day. [www.hl-cruises.com](http://www.hl-cruises.com)

# BUBS & CLUBS

*The MS Europa 2 leaves no stone unturned for families on the high seas*

## MS EUROPA 2

WINNER of five stars from the Berlitz Cruise Guide 2015, children under 11 travel for free on all Europa 2 cruises and the MS Europa 2 is fully geared up to ensure your kids have a ball, no matter their age. The Knopf Club takes care of the two- to three-year-olds with a Steiff snuggle lounge where toddlers can have cuddles with the iconic bears. Children under 11 can make friends in the Kids' Club – which has a stack of activities like treasure hunts and excursions, and also has its own research laboratory, a library,

a theatre and even a climbing wall. Keeping teenagers occupied is always a challenge, but the Teens' Club (ages 11-15) creates a cool hangout space with table football, a disco, iPod chairs and gaming consoles. Staff can also organise trips around the boat to areas like the spa. On 17 family cruises, MS Europa 2 arranges special family-gearred shore excursions, such as sandcastle building or hitting local amusement parks – and for those looking for something more personalised, bespoke trips are possible. As for the accommodation on board, there are

## ADULTS ONLY

MS Europa 2 is well-known for booking world-famous stars across music, art, fashion and food. Catch amazing performances, attend lectures or join workshops and broaden your mind.

Generous space for kids on MS Europa 2



Photos: Hapag-Lloyd Cruises



THE SHIP EVOKES A SENSE OF GRANDEUR THAT BOTH KIDS AND ADULTS WILL RELISH



Queen Mary 2

# HAVING A ROYAL TIME

Board the Queen Mary 2 for a journey full of rich experiences and unique entertainment fit for a prince or princess



The Zone

### QUEEN MARY 2

KIDS WILL FEEL like royalty on the Queen Mary 2, one of the most premium cruise ships on the seas today; the ship evokes a sense of grandeur that both kids and adults will relish. For supervised activities, little ones under seven can attend the daily PlayZone where staff trained in early years development oversee a fun schedule of activities with plenty of toys, books, puzzles and games. Older children (up to 17) can hang out with games consoles, table tennis and a range of sports competitions geared to help them make friends in The Zone. But the Queen Mary 2 isn't just about dedicated play areas – the whole ship is one huge playground for the whole family. Fancy a spot of indulgence? Take the kids for a grand afternoon tea. The seas' only on-board planetarium

will capture their imagination, whether they want a bit of escapism or to learn about the world around them. With virtual trips into space and the latest movies on offer, the cinema even shows films in 3D. The planetarium's shows change daily, so kids will never get bored, while a programme of musicals at the Theatre Royal will prove a real treat of a night out for older kids. For parents who need a night out of their own and have young kids, the ship has its own Night Nursery open from 6-11pm that can take care of kids under two, plus there's a babysitting service. To let off some energy, kids can practice their serve on the tennis courts or learn to swim at one of the many pools on board. In other words, there's plenty to tire them out.

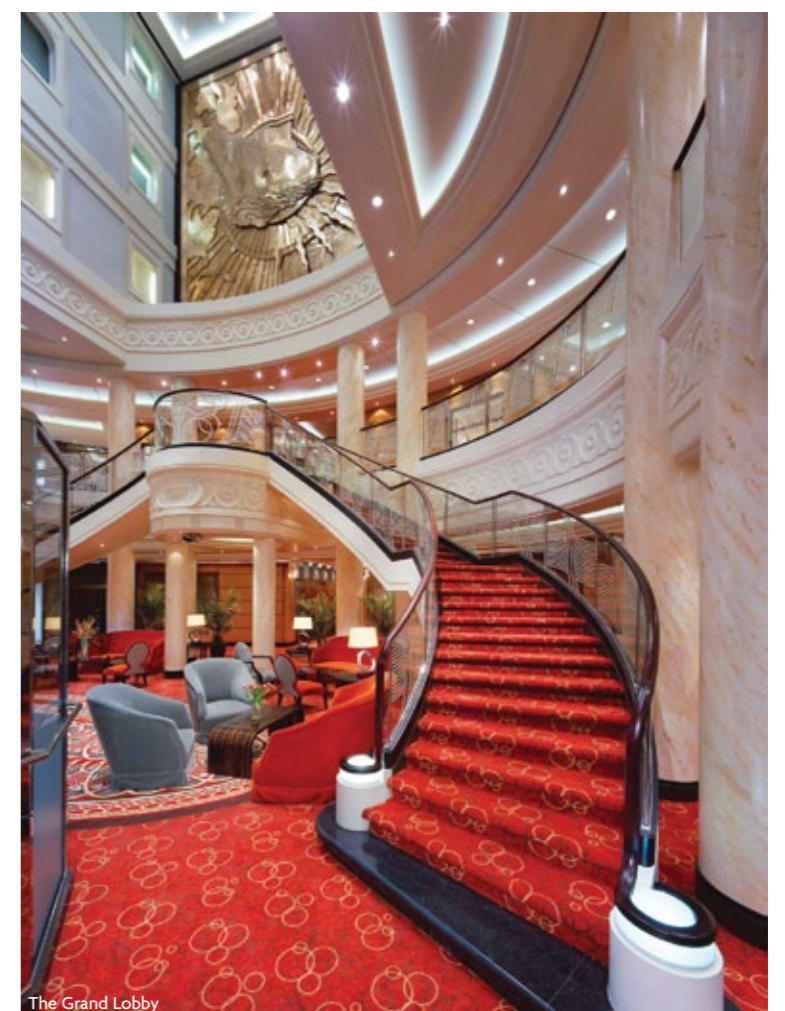
[www.cunard.co.uk](http://www.cunard.co.uk)

### ADULTS ONLY

Don't miss the afternoon art auction at the Winter Garden, a lush interior spa inspired by London's Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.



The on-board planetarium



The Grand Lobby



In-suite fun

# SPOILT ROTTEN

THE BURJ AL ARAB is renowned for its lavish seven-star rating. But what does seven-star luxury mean for your little prince or princess? Not much more really – only a bespoke bed, matching parent-child robes and slippers, personalised infant and child menus, an in-suite PlayStation, 21” iMac and the small mention of a 24-carat gold iPad. Well-heeled travellers couldn't dream up a more luxurious – or fun-filled hotel stay for their children. Just imagine morning playtime on the hotel's private beach, watching your child coo at the turtles at the Jumeirah Group's Turtle Rehabilitation Project, or splashing and squealing on the rides at Wild Wadi Waterpark. Parents won't have to haul their entire life to the hotel either, with air sterilisers, baby monitors and even a private toy library for your children arranged for the duration of your stay. With the addition of the Sweet Train, which comes a-chugging to your suite every day with scrumptious treats, we can safely predict your children won't ever want to go home. The Spoilt Rotten service is available for all guests staying at Burj Al Arab  
Tel: +971 4 301 7777; www.jumeirah.com



Bathtime luxury



Burj Al Arab

“  
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TRAVELLERS  
COULDN'T DREAM UP  
A MORE LUXURIOUS –  
OR FUN-FILLED HOTEL  
STAY FOR THEIR  
CHILDREN



THE ESSENCE OF MALDIVES.  
THE SOUL OF SERENITY.



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Kids Club at Jumeirah Vittaveli



Fenesse at Jumeirah Vittaveli



Johara at Jumeirah Dhevanafushi

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For more information on our special offers, please visit [Jumeirah.com/Maldives](http://Jumeirah.com/Maldives) or contact your local travel agent.

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MY MAGNIFIQUE VOYAGE  
N° 115



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