

MEN'S JOURNAL

SUMMER ADVENTURE

15 Family-Friendly Hotels Mom and Dad Will Love Too

By [Terry Ward](#)



Sesame Street-themed dinner shows and massive buffet lines? We'll pass. A "family-friendly" hotel can truly be anything you want it to be. We gravitate toward destinations and properties

where the outdoors comes in and there's something new for everyone to try. And all the better if your hotel comes with those three magic words: complimentary kids club.

Credit: Half Moon



Dorado Beach, a Ritz Carlton Reserve

There's no need to have all the kids' passports up-to-date for a Caribbean getaway. And this [Ritz-Carlton property](#) on Dorado Beach, on Puerto Rico's northern Caribbean coast, is one of the island's finest properties for a family vacation that doesn't feel like one. A kids' activity center with marine-biology-focused activities keeps them entertained while you partake in one of the three world-class 18-hole golf courses onsite. There's also an 11-mile nature trail to hit up for a jog or family biking outing. And don't miss snorkeling excursions to the reefs at Sardinera Bay. You remembered to pack that waterproof GoPro, right?

Credit: Dorado Beach



Shore Lodge, Idaho

You're just a two-hour "are we there yet" from Boise's airport through spectacular mountain scenery to reach this [upscale outdoorsman's resort](#). Located in Idaho's Salmon River Mountains, the resort's impressive nature pursuits – hot springs, mountain biking, and snowmobiling trails in winter, to name a few – are just out the door. The 77-room lodge fronts Lake Payette, most of which is a protected state park. And when you're not foraging with the gang for huckleberries, kayaking, or hiking nearby trails, you can soothe active muscles at the rustic spa (think: lanterns, wood-drenched décor, and a hot tub flanked by rock formations) for an invigorating sports massage

Credit: Shore Lodge



Tambo del Inka, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, Valle Sagrado, Peru

With its incredible coastal and Andes scenery accessible by a good train network (Peru Rail), Peru makes for an intrepid and exciting family getaway. And brand new nonstop flights from Washington Dulles to Lima on [LATAM Airlines](#) make it that much easier to get there. For a fun way to access Machu Picchu, stay at this spectacular [128-room hotel](#) in the Sacred Valley with views of the Vilcanota River. The kids will love that the hotel has its own railway station, with daily connections to Machu Picchu via scenic views at every bend. Swing by the tour desk to arrange a rafting or mountain biking excursion, or more leisurely strolls through the Incan ruins.

Credit: Libertador Hotels, Resorts & Spas



Round Hill Hotel & Villas, Jamaica

Ralph Lauren's luxe Montego Bay hideaway (he designed all the hotel rooms here and owns two villas on the property) is one of Jamaica's most spectacular spots for a family trip. [Round Hill](#) occupies its own commanding cove, with Hobie cats, paddleboard, and kayaks free for guests to use and a stunning infinity pool that gazes out over the Caribbean Sea. A complimentary kids club, available all day, makes grabbing a cocktail, a beach nap or a couples massage a no-brainer. What few people know is that you can book just a room or two in one of the four to six bedroom villas (based on availability, of course) and have access to a private pool and personal chef for your gang.

Credit: Round Hill Hotel & Villas



Sea Island, Georgia

Sailing, stargazing, salt marsh kayaking, and excursions to see nesting sea turtles are a few of the cool activities for families at this [private island resort](#) off the southeast coast of Georgia. Take time away from your entourage, too, to slip away onto a fishing charter with just mom and dad. Some of the East Coast's best catches – redfish, cobia, tarpon, and more – can be hooked just offshore. The best thing about Sea Island is you can get as into the family fun or away from it as you please – whether family bingo gatherings in your Sunday best (remember, this is the South) with up to 400 players is your group's thing, or you'd rather just go for a stroll on the five-mile-long private beach.

Credit: Sea Island



Primland, Virginia

This might be the best East Coast mountain resort you've never heard of. World-class golf, a bow and air rifle range, kayaking, fishing, and even geocaching all await in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. [Primland](#) sits on 12,000 acres, with cottages, mountain homes, and even tree houses as your sleeping options. One of the coolest activities here has to be tree climbing – harness up with the kids and follow a pro guide's lead up some dizzying trunks. Going in the autumn? Pack your new drone; the fall foliage here is enough to make it a very, very happy toy.

Credit: Primland



Mukul Beach Golf & Spa, Nicaragua

Nicaragua's [first five-star hotel](#) has a lot to love. For starters, there are the private two-bedroom family beach villas where you bed down – each with wraparound decks, outdoor showers, and private swimming pools. If wildlife is your thing, arrange a tour where you'll see majestic birds, endangered turtles, and more. Toss in the complimentary kids club, day trips to the Colonial city of Granada (only an hour away), and the resort's private Pacific beach and fishing yacht, and a family vacation never seemed like a better idea.

Credit: Marianna Jamadi



Gleneagles, Scotland

Win the family over with classic bourgeois Scottish pursuits such as gundog school and falconry. Then book something entirely more civilized – a tee-time at the inimitable King's Course, which dates to 1919, or one of the other two championship golf courses that make Gleneagles legendary. Other [onsite](#) pursuits to keep everyone in good spirits include archery, horseback riding, spa treatments, and two-Michelin-star restaurant, The Strathearn.

Credit: Gleneagles



Andaz Peninsula Papagayo Resort, Costa Rica

Cottages with curved roofs wrought from natural materials give this [luxury resort](#), conveniently perched by some decent surf breaks, a good dose of Robinson Crusoe–style appeal. With rooms overlooking Culebra Bay here, pool time comes with killer views of the coastal mountains (start out with the family pool, but by day three, you'll probably want to take a dip in the adults-only waters). Rent a 4x4 to explore on your own or go through the concierge to visit nearby national parks such as Rincon de la Vieja, with its volcano views, boiling mud pools, and hot springs for dipping. Did we mention there's a kid's club?

Credit: Andaz Peninsula Papagayo Resort



Vista Verde Guest Ranch, Colorado

North America is full of options for family ranch vacations, but this [luxury ranch](#) in Steamboat Springs stands apart for its level of luxe and comprehensive offerings. All-inclusive activities include things like trail rides, fly fishing, mountain biking, snowshoeing and tubing (in winter), barn dances led by local cowboys, and cooking classes. With all there is to do here, the only challenge will be wrangling the kids to spend any time with you. Considering the private cabins have their own outdoor hot tubs overlooking stunning landscapes of mountains and pastures, lazing around and doing nothing is also a totally acceptable choice.

Credit: Vista Verde Guest Ranch