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Turks and Caicos

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We'll take care of the rest.

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Our agency belongs to Ensemble Travel Group, an organization of more than 350 independently-owned travel agencies across Canada. Our travel advisors know which beach resort has the best food, which cruise ship has the best kids' program, and which land tour will make your family voluntarily put their phones down.

We do all the heavy lifting, so all you have to do is sit back, enjoy, and reconnect.

To book your next family vacation, please call our trusted travel advisors.

ENSEMBLE

**Ultimate Family
Vacations**

Creating memories that last a lifetime





THE ULTIMATE FAMILY TIME



BRING YOUR CREW TO MEET OUR CREW

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7-Day Mexican Riviera

Roundtrip San Diego

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Exclusive offer: Up to \$50 onboard spending money per stateroom

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SAVOR THE JOURNEY

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—
&
—

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- Pre-boarding for families
- Dedicated pool areas for kids²
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Play and Play MORE programs: Only applicable to new bookings made by November 30, 2019, for travel to Mexico and the Caribbean between December 1, 2019 and April 30, 2020. A minimum of 1 child must be booked per room. Only valid on Flight & Hotel package bookings at participating hotels and resorts. Not applicable to groups. Subject to availability. Programs are subject to change without notice. For participating resorts, visit aircanadavacations.com. Holder of Quebec permit #702566. TICO registration # R50013536 / W50013537. ■ *Conditions may apply and vary by resort. Based on maximum hotel room occupancy. ¹Only available at select all-inclusive resorts in Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America. ²Not applicable to children under 2. ³\$10 per flight segment. Does not apply to connecting flights. ■ ⁴Only applicable to new bookings made by November 30, 2019, for travel to Mexico and the Caribbean between December 1, 2019 and April 30, 2020. A minimum of 1 child must be booked per room. Offer is exclusive to Travel Ensemble. ⁵Air Canada Vacations is a registered trademark of Air Canada, used under license by Touram Limited Partnership, 1440 Ste Catherine St West, Suite 600, Montreal, QC, H3G 1R8, 6925 Airport Road, Suite 700, Mississauga, ON, L4V 1W1.



AIR CANADA VACATIONS

Making your
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KID'S corner

Having the right kind of gear for kids can make your travels that much more fun – and easier on parents! Check out our top picks for everything from family games to adorable necessities.

By Karen Leiva



CANDY-COLOURED CAMERAS

With an assortment of hues like cobalt blue, lime green or flamingo pink, Fuji Film's Instax Mini 9 injects a little more fun into all the photos you'll be taking on vacation. There are also cameras in seashell pink and surf blue with a little pompom attached. A mirror next to the lens makes this camera handy for selfies as well. The best part is you'll have keepsakes from your vacation to take home with you.

\$89.99, [bestbuy.ca](#)



COMPACT BABY GEAR

The BabyBjörn Play Yard Light is like the Cadillac of travel cribs. It's so lightweight (only 11 lbs) that it's easy to carry pretty much anywhere. On airplanes, you can check it in as baby equipment (check with your airline how many pieces of equipment you can bring for free). Not only is it compact, but it's super easy to set up – you just pull the structure out of the bag and it nearly sets itself up.

\$339.95, [amazon.ca](#)



BEACH READY

Little kids will love wrapping up in the Lassig Beach Ponchos after a dip in the water, and moms and dads will love that not only are they UVF protected, but these ponchos are made with sand-repellent material. There are matching swim diapers and reversible sun hats too.

From \$27.96 to \$79.96, [well.ca](#)



CLASSIC FAMILY FUN

When you're travelling with kids, it's always helpful to have something in your back pocket to keep them entertained or help them wind down after a big day of vacation fun. A classic card game like Uno literally fits in your back pocket! Also, check out the Flip-to-Win Hangman travel game with erasable whiteboard and dry-erase marker. There are no loose pieces, making it easy to take on the go.

*Uno, \$6.93, Walmart
Hangman, \$18.11, melissaanddoug.com*



FAMILY GAMING

Get ready to help Mario and Luigi save the Mushroom Kingdom in this Nintendo Switch game that will have kids collecting coins and powering up for hours – precious time to keep them occupied and happy on long-haul trips. The best part is that many Super Mario games are suitable for all ages. Nintendo Switch gaming systems can be played at home or on the go.

*Nintendo Switch, \$399.99, bestbuy.ca
Super Mario Bros. U Deluxe, \$79.99, bestbuy.ca*

ADORABLE NECESSITIES

These made-in-Canada sun hats for babies and toddlers are not only adorable, but they are perfect for keeping the sun off baby's face and neck. The Adventure Awaits bonnet has a full brim for shade and a flat back making it perfect for wearing while baby is in a carrier. The Vintage Vacation Sun Hat for toddlers has an adjustable toggle so that the hat fits perfectly.

*Bonnet, \$29.99, snugglebugz.ca
Sun Hat, \$34.95, snugasabug.com*



ON-THE-GO LUNCH BOXES

The Yumbox is a favourite among moms because it's easy for kids to open, it keeps all their kids' favourite foods in separate sections and it's leak-proof. It is compact enough to fit into your children's carry-on so that they have all their favourite snacks on the plane or on the road. Use it again on vacation for days when you are out on an adventure so that you always have an assortment of snacks – perfect for even the pickiest eater.

\$41.98, well.ca

SPOTLIGHT:

Turks and Caicos

By Fiona Tapp

People come to the Turks and Caicos Islands to swim in impossibly clear waters and walk along white-sand shores. But there's so much more to do on and off the beaches than just soak up the sun.



PROVO PONIES ©TCI TOURIST BOARD

RIDE WITH PROVO PONIES

Provo Ponies, located in Providenciales, or Provo, as locals call it, started out as a rescue operation for abused and malnourished horses. It now offers visitors the chance to ride ponies through the surf and on trails during a three-hour excursion. This is an incredibly popular tour so you will need to book in advance. Children aged seven and up are warmly welcomed.

VISIT IGUANA ISLAND

Also known as Little Water Cay, Iguana Island is a great place to get an up-close look at rock iguanas. It's easy to arrange a boat tour from nearby Grace Bay Beach to Little Water Cay where you can spend a few hours or even have a picnic. There isn't anything else on the island except iguanas so bring any beach toys or snacks you may need along with you and spot these creatures as you wander along the boardwalks. Don't forget that iguanas are endangered, and it's forbidden to feed them.



GRACE BAY BEACH, TURKS & CAICOS



TURKS AND CAICOS FISH FRY



ATTEND THE THURSDAY FISH FRY

Every Thursday night at Bight Park, musicians, vendors and food merchants come together for a big outdoor party. Pick up souvenirs, enjoy some great food and mingle with locals and visitors alike at this family-friendly weekly event.

GO SNORKELLING

The islands offer so many opportunities for scuba divers to see a huge array of marine life, but by taking a snorkelling trip, even little kids can experience the same sort of underwater wonder. Most boat tour companies in the Turks and Caicos allow children to come along at a reduced price. Some even have boats with a slide and include a snack and a drink. At the Bight Reef (Coral Gardens), you can expect to see colourful collections of reef fish, and even stingrays and turtles. Alternatively, those with young children may prefer to just simply swim out into the ocean with a mask and flippers and see what you can all find in the waves.



SNORKELLING



BALL PIT

PLAY INSIDE ON RAINY DAYS

Even in paradise, sometimes it rains. On those days, the fun doesn't have to stop if you take the whole family to PlayLand, an indoor playground at the Regent Village. This soft play centre is suitable for children aged two to 12 and features ball pits, slides, inflatables, and climbing walls.



KAYAKING THROUGH THE MANGROVES

KAYAKING, WILDLIFE SPOTTING

The Turks and Caicos have more than 40 islands and cays to discover, but some are best seen by kayak. Local tour operators take guests on tours near Princess Alexandra National Park. The only sound you'll hear will be the gentle slap of water against the blade of your paddle, as you kayak soundlessly through the mangroves. Even small children are lulled into silence as they search the waters for turtles and fish while learning all about this unique environment.



Barceló
HOTEL GROUP



Waves and waves of family fun

Barceló has built elaborate playgrounds for your family down south. Make like buccaneers at the Pirates Island Water Park or break out of the escape room at Barceló Bávaro Palace in Punta Cana. In Riviera Maya? Leave no pin standing at bowling or zip-line above the jungle at Barceló Maya Grand Resort.

And at night, retreat to your spacious family rooms at these resorts. Playing all day is hard work, you know.



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Fun for Everyone: *Glasgow*

By Lola Augustine Brown

Scotland's biggest city serves up history and culture that ranges from Medieval architecture to haggis to deep-fried Mars bars, and a host of engaging family-friendly attractions. Here are eight must-see Glasgow spots that'll please adults and kids alike.

KELVINGROVE ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM

This massive and awesome museum is housed in a grand Victorian building that holds art exhibits, animal displays, exhibits on ancient Egypt, rainforests, and there are visiting exhibits such as a massive diplodocus that fills the lobby. There are also kids' activities throughout, and a café downstairs that offers lunch boxes for kids.

HIDDEN LANE TEAROOM

Tucked into Hidden Lane, a back alley in trendy Finnieston, is the sweetest place to go for afternoon tea, complete with fancy sandwiches, scones with jam and clotted cream, and delicious cakes. Stay in Finnieston to explore great restaurants, coffee shops, and fun boutiques and galleries (there are several of these in Hidden Lane).

GLASGOW SCIENCE CENTRE

With more than 400 interactive exhibits, this place is all about hands-on learning to engage young minds (as well as curious adults). There are toddler-friendly play areas, and regular Little Explorer days with extra programming for three- to five-year-olds, as well as tons of exhibits that bigger kids will love such as Lego engineering challenges, tools for measuring physical performance, a quantum technology centre, and live science experiments to thrill everyone in your family. There's also a planetarium, and Scotland's biggest IMAX screen showing educational movies. Bonus: It has autism-friendly hours.

CALDERGLEN COUNTRY PARK

Perfect for letting off steam, this beautiful park offers plenty of varied activities. There are two playgrounds – one designed for little kids, and the other a challenging adventure playground with thrilling slides and tall structures to clamber up and over that is perfect for big kids. There are riverfront nature trails, gardens, a conservatory filled with tropical plants, and a kid's zoo (home to meerkats, wallabies, marmosets, owls, and other cute critters, as well as reptiles and fish).

GLASGOW BOTANIC GARDENS

With its impressive tropical Victorian greenhouses (a steamy retreat on a chilly day), and plenty of outdoor gardens, this is a lovely spot to explore but has extra appeal for kids because of the children's garden and adventure playground. You'll also find food trucks parked around the garden to replenish all that energy the kids have burned off.

RIVERSIDE MUSEUM

Though it is billed as a transport museum, exhibits at this museum on the south bank of the River Clyde include skateboards, trains, strollers, fire trucks, and even a Stormtrooper. There's a wall of



motorbikes, loads of cars, and even a tall ship moored on the river outside that is crewed by costumed interpreters. Interactive displays tell the story of Glasgow's shipbuilding past, and weave that into other aspects of the city's history.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Rumoured to be the inspiration for Hogwarts, this campus is a delight to walk around (you can do a self-guided tour or there are guided tours hosted by students that explain more than 550 years of university history). Check out the majestic stone arches of the Cloisters, where scenes from Outlander were shot, an on-site art gallery and museum, chapel, and generally beautiful architecture throughout. Close by is Ashton Lane, a little alley with cafés and bars that is said to have been the inspiration for Diagon Alley in Harry Potter.



DESTINATION: CRUISE SHIP

Cruise ships have become such fun all-inclusive floating resorts for families that the ship itself is the destination.

By Diane Tierney



ENCHANTED PRINCESS ©PRINCESS CRUISES

How would you like to go on vacation with your kids and never hear "I'm hungry" or "I'm bored" or the dreaded, "Are we there yet?" It's almost guaranteed if you go on a cruise for a family vacation. Ships are so much fun for kids of all ages – from toddlers to teens and everything in between – that the ship itself is *the* destination.

There's so much to do (and even more to eat) that a ship is like an all-inclusive floating resort with a theme park, so it really doesn't matter where it sails.

Incredible features amuse all ages such as waterparks, slides, go karts, laser tag, rock climbing, ropes courses, zip lining, bumper cars, skating rinks, aerial bicycles, sports courts, trampolines, arcades, 3D and 5D movie theatres, surfing and skydiving simulators and more. Aside from fancy features, ships also have enormous childcare and teen centres stocked with toys, games and computers. Centres

are staffed with caring counsellors who lead age-appropriate activities from treasure hunts to talent shows. And babysitting is available.

For meals and snacks, there are a dozen places to dine, with pizza and ice cream available almost anytime. Spectacular entertainment ranges from laser shows and outdoor movies under the stars (popcorn included), to musicals and magicians.

Family cabins have connecting doors, suites have several bedrooms that can sleep up to six passengers. Many ships also have dedicated family areas where a dozen or more cabins have their own private family lounges, game rooms and snack areas so you can feel confident that your cruise neighbours are also families with similar interests and your kids can make friends easily.



WATERWORKS © CARNIVAL CRUISES
ARTIST'S RENDERING



BEACH POOL © CARNIVAL CRUISES
ARTIST'S RENDERING

Here's a look at some of the family perks on top destination ships.

Carnival Cruises is a leader in kid-friendly cruising and carries about 900,000 children annually. Its waterparks are huge and cleverly designed with fast slides for teens and splash pads for younger kids. Carnival Cruises also recently upped the game by announcing it is building the first rollercoaster at sea on its *Mardi Gras* ship launching in 2020. The coaster, Bolt, will feature a 245-metre-long track with twists, turns and drops, that's built 57 metres above sea level. Riders sit on electric vehicles that resemble motorcycles and can reach speeds of up to 65 kilometres per hour.

There's so much going on that Carnival Cruises helps guests keep track of programs with the industry-leading HUB app. With the app, you can be sure not to miss family comedy performances, Build-a-Bear workshops, Hasbro game shows for families, and more.



MARDI GRAS © CARNIVAL CRUISES
ARTIST'S RENDERING



ULTIMATE FAMILY SUITE © ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL

Royal Caribbean International caters to all ages, however, its ships are well-suited to tweens and teens because they have more challenging features like surf simulators, skydiving simulators, trampolines, skating rinks, zip lining and more.

The cruise line recently announced an upcoming lineup of new features on its *Allure* ship sailing the Mediterranean in 2020. Features include the Ultimate Abyss, the tallest slide at sea; The Perfect Storm trio of waterslides; and completely redesigned Adventure Ocean kids and teens spaces. There will also be glow-in-the-dark laser tag in Clash for the Crystal City and an escape room, the Royal Escape Room – Apollo 18: Lunar Landing.

Several of Royal Caribbean International's ships now carry more than 5,000 passengers, so there's simply a lot more of everything from ship features to shows – and many more kids to meet. Also, ask about Royal Caribbean International's family rooms on *Symphony of the Seas* with two-storey lofts and a slide from the bedrooms down to the living room.

Norwegian Cruise Line

recently launched top deck go-karting, and its new ship, *Encore*, arriving in November 2019 has a 335-metre track that's longer than three football fields. It has four high-speed curves that extend four metres over the side of the ship, so you'll see the ocean below. Spectators can also now get in on the action. From a viewing area in the middle of the track, you can use laser guns to turbo-boost your favourite racer to win the race.

An enormous laser tag area covers the entire back of *Encore* and is designed to look like the lost city of Atlantis. While trying to complete your mission, you can hide behind ruins and run past the tentacles of giant sea creatures. A new twist is that you can also uncover hidden treasures using augmented reality.

Norwegian Cruise Line also launched daring waterslides that are 48 metres



GO KART TRACK © NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

high and hang three metres over the side of the ship. The initial drop is so steep and fast that you might be completely airborne for a few seconds inside the clear tube. There are also double loops where you can view the

ocean. Norwegian Cruise Line is also known for some of the largest ropes courses at sea including a walk-the-plank feature that extends over the side of the ship.



PHANTOM BRIDGE ©PRINCESS CRUISES



DISCOVERY EVENT ©PRINCESS CRUISES

Princess Cruises is partnered with Discovery™ so there's a strong focus on educational activities based on the themes of its TV shows about nature, animals, sea life, and the environment. Ships also feature pools and splash zones and the overall atmosphere is low-key, yet still fun.

The cruise line also recently announced a digitally enhanced escape room experience to be available on two of their newest ships coming soon, *Sky Princess* and *Enchanted Princess*. Called Phantom Bridge, it's an interactive space that offers a game experience with more than 700 different outcomes of the adventure. It blends physical and digital games, puzzles and knowledge testing in a game that lasts 23 minutes and can accommodate up to six people.

When choosing, keep in mind that not every ship of every line is ideal for families. Do your research about the exact ship you're interested in to confirm it has the features you want. And don't feel you'll never get a break from an active atmosphere. Many ships have adults-only areas so you can enjoy some quiet time while your kids are having a blast. In fact, the toughest part of your cruise may be trying to get your kids to leave the ship.

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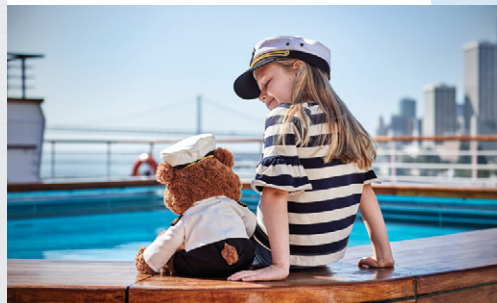
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wave runner

It's a beach party kind of day. Mom tries paddle boarding for the first time. With her "eyes on the horizon," as the guides say, she stays upright long enough to catch dolphins in the distance. We're pulled to the underwater world and make a break for the waves. Tomorrow, dibs on the paddle board!

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Vacation Better

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4 Reasons to Love Guided Vacations

By Karen Leiva

SUSPENSION BRIDGE IN COSTA RICA

From history lessons to eco adventures, when it comes to family travel, the world is your playground.

Guided vacations created specially for families are becoming increasingly popular with more itineraries cropping up – and with good reason. On family trips, not only will your kids be exposed to new countries and cultures, you can focus on having fun, and let guides handle the rest. Trafalgar, a leader in family vacations, continues to evolve and grow its family travel offerings in Europe, North and Central America. Here are four reasons families will love Trafalgar.

1 GLOBAL EDUCATION: Travelling with kids on a guided vacation will be so much fun that kids won't even realize they are learning important lessons about history along the way. Look for Trafalgar's top-selling *Gladiators, Gondolas and Gold* trip; on this 10-day itinerary from Rome to Venice, kids learn about ancient Romans and can even train to be a gladiator. There are also opportunities to paint Venetian carnival masks or learn to make authentic Italian pizza, and, of course, taste a local favourite: gelato. "Many families enjoy the educational and social component of travelling with like-minded travelling families and exposing their children to real attractions and hands-on experience in the destination," said Wolf Paunic, President, Trafalgar. "We offer truly unique and authentic experiences."

2 CULTURAL IMMERSION: One of the great things for travellers of any age is the opportunity to see the world from a different lens. Cultural experiences are a big part of the fun on Trafalgar's family vacations. Its new *Shamrocks and Leprechauns* itinerary takes travellers on a 10-day cross-country tour of Ireland. One of the highlights is a stop at a local sheep farm, where owner Martin Feeney shows travellers how his champion sheepdogs masterfully keep sheep in order on a typical Irish farm. This guided family vacation also includes a visit to the Titanic Belfast centre, the world's largest Titanic visitor experience with nine interactive galleries with everything from full-scale reconstructions, electronic rides and original artefacts.



3 INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ECO WARRIORS: A favourite trip among Canadians choosing Trafalgar vacations is the eight-day *Monkeys, Jungles and Volcanoes* itinerary. In between zip lining and a walk on the Arenal Hanging Bridges, families visit the Tortuguero National Park. Kids can learn about the work of the Sea Turtle Conservancy and meet a conservation specialist. Trafalgar also weaves in a visit to support a local community with a visit to a family-run wildlife refuge protecting...snakes!



4 FAMILY BONDING: When you get to leave behind your day-to-day responsibilities and stresses, and you don't have to spend your energy planning every move in your vacation, you can focus on having fun with your children. Trafalgar recognizes this is one of the key reasons why families choose its experiences. "Families can truly bond and engage with each other when the logistics of travel is expertly covered, and hours are spent together in a fun and relaxing environment," said Paunic. Trafalgar also notes that multi-generational travel is growing in popularity. "We are seeing parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles gifting these trips to celebrate special milestones such as graduations, anniversaries and birthdays. They want to create these lasting memories with their loved ones," he said. "Our programs are curated to satisfy both young and mature travellers, while the company of young travellers stimulates social interaction and sharing of impressions and values. We are our best selves when we travel – regardless of age." Trafalgar calls this 'the good life' – and we couldn't agree more.

A photograph of two children in Roman-themed costumes. The girl on the left is wearing a red tunic and holding a shield with a yellow eagle design. The boy on the right is wearing a pink tunic, a metal helmet with a face guard, and holding a shield with a yellow eagle and a sword. They are standing in a garden with green foliage and white flowers in the background.

TRAFALGAR

MAKE YOUR TRAVEL DREAMS REAL

SAVE C\$100 OFF* per person
+ 10% early payment discount savings

Full payment by December 18, 2019. Promo code: PPTEN100

The
GOOD
Life

Terms: *Save C\$100 per person on all new Trafalgar 2020 bookings from now until December 18, 2019. Combinable with brochures discounts and must be paid in full by December 18, 2019 to save 10% on select trips. Not combinable with Cost saver, custom groups or any other offers. Subject to availability and maybe withdrawn at any time. TICO #R50015870

THE ULTIMATE BEACH VACATION IS ACTUALLY A CARNIVAL VACATION.

It isn't always an easy choice choosing fun, but Carnival helps you make it. It's also not every day you take the whole family on vacation. So it's got to have something for everyone. And that's exactly what you'll find on a Carnival cruise. A vacation that's got your whole family covered, with kid-friendly dining, accommodations, entertainment, amazing destinations and so much more!

6 Day Western Caribbean From Miami, FL

January 5th & 19th, 2020

Carnival Horizon®

Ocho Rios; Grand Cayman; Cozumel

7 Day Mexican Riviera From Long Beach, CA

January 4, 2020 - April 24, 2021

Carnival Panorama™

Cabo San Lucas; Mazatlán; Puerto Vallarta

8 Day Eastern Caribbean From New York, NY

July 8, 2020

Carnival Radiance®

Grand Turk; San Juan; Amber Cove



1

CANADA RESIDENT SPECIAL

Receive up to \$50 USD to spend onboard on sailings through April 2021.

Book by December 31, 2019.

Onboard credit offer is non-transferable. Onboard Credit is provided as a non-refundable credit to your Sail & Sign account of up to a maximum of \$12.50 USD per person up to \$25 USD per stateroom on 2-5 day sailings. Onboard Credit is provided as a non-refundable credit to your Sail & Sign account of up to a maximum of \$25 USD per person up to \$50 USD per stateroom on 6+ day sailings. Guest selects stateroom number. At least one person in the stateroom must be a resident of an eligible Canadian Province to book this rate. Proof of residency required at the time of embarkation. Changes made to the reservation may result in the assessment of cancellation penalties or service fees. Offer is capacity controlled and is not combinable with any other discount or promotional offer. Rates may vary by ship, stateroom type and sail date. Category restrictions and exclusions apply. Carnival reserves the right to withdraw and/or change offer at any time without prior notice. Offer is for the cruise fare only and does not include Taxes, Fees and Port Expenses. Taxes, Fees and Port Expenses range from \$54.06 USD to \$372.40 USD, and are assessed on a per guest basis for all guests according to the itinerary. Offer bookings made as part of a group will include amenities. © 2019 Carnival Corporation. Carnival® and the Carnival logos are trademarks of Carnival Corporation. All rights reserved. Used under license. Ships' Registry: The Bahamas, Panama and Malta.

 **Carnival®**
CHOOSE FUN®

Mom and Daughter Trip to *Pasadena*

By Lola Augustine Brown



PASADENA SKYLINE © JAMIE PHAM, VISIT PASADENA

Located just 20 minutes from downtown Los Angeles, the historic City of Pasadena is an awesome place to head with older kids – and a worthy vacation spot in its own right. My daughter, Perdida, 12, had always wanted to see California, so she was excited to head there and soak up the culture, food scene, and natural beauty of the Golden State. Pasadena gave us a perfect break together. Here's why you need to take your preteen or teen:



WRITER LOLA WITH DAUGHTER PERDIDA
© LOLA AUGUSTINE BROWN

THE SUPER FUN FOOD SCENE

Pasadena is considered a foodie destination by many who live in Los Angeles and we were a little overwhelmed by the choices there (but made a really good effort at eating as much as we possibly could!). We loved the Crack Shack, a southern-inspired chicken joint with a gourmet feel where the juicy sandwiches are served on toasted brioche, the biscuits come with miso butter, and shakes like the minty *Cookie Monster* are swirled with cookie crumbs and chocolate syrup.

Tiny café Braise and Crumble gave us a second opportunity to gorge on southern food, where we stuffed ourselves with shrimp po'boys and deep-fried mac and cheese (studded with bacon and jalapeños) but still found room for a slab of their perfect key lime pie.

Pasadena has so many kinds of restaurants though, and every place we ate at was superb. We loved the churros and drinking chocolate at Venezuelan café Amara Chocolate & Coffee, feasted on seven-hour braised lamb shank at Café Santorini, and had perfect pastries at the highly instagrammable Lincoln Café.

A WALKABLE HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

Strolling down Colorado Boulevard, Old Pasadena's main drag, you'll see lots of upmarket chain stores housed in gorgeous historic buildings, but also popular indie stores such as Vroman's. Southern California's oldest independent bookstore, Vroman's is spread over two floors with a wide variety of locally inspired gifts and books. Another shop is Gold Bug, full of taxidermy and bugs turned into jewelry, and emo-inspired art. You'll find most of the city's independent restaurants and coffee shops along and just off of Colorado Boulevard, so staying nearby means you can walk pretty much everywhere you want to go. Perdida loved that Pasadena had lots of cool stores that you don't find in Canada – even if most were way more than her pocket money could stretch to!



CRACK SHACK V-C MILKSHAKE © VISIT PASADENA



CRACK SHACK CHICKEN © JESSICA YEH, VISIT PASADENA



ACCESS TO NATURAL BEAUTY

Located in the San Gabriel Valley, the Pasadena area offers several excellent hikes, including the six-kilometre Eaton Canyon Falls Trail that leads you through cacti and wildflowers to a waterfall, and offers climbs that give amazing views out over L.A. My daughter and I went with a local guide and learned much about the history of the area as well as the flora and fauna. The 120 acres of botanical gardens at the Huntington Library are divided into themed areas that include a rose garden, deliciously fragrant herb garden, Japanese garden, Australian garden, desert garden, and many other areas showcasing some 15,000 different varieties of plants.

FLEA MARKET HEAVEN

If your kid loves to thrift – and mine certainly does (“Thrifting is so in right now,” she says) – then be sure to plan to be in Pasadena around the second Sunday of the month when the Rose Bowl Flea Market operates. With 2,500 vendors selling everything from vintage clothing and furniture to new on-trend pieces, local art, and all manner of weird and wonderful specialty items, the flea market is an excellent way to spend a morning. There are entertainers throughout, and plenty of food vendors.

SOAK UP ARTS AND CULTURE

Besides gardens, the Huntington Library has an impressive collection of books, including 700-year-old manuscripts, a display of important letters by scientists including Einstein and Tesla, and the largest collection of 18th-century British portraits outside of the U.K. (lots of ladies in floaty dresses). We toured the Gamble House, a perfectly preserved craftsman house and architectural masterpiece on Pasadena’s chi-chi Millionaire’s Row that also happened to serve as Doc Brown’s house in *Back to the Future* (many movies and TV shows are, and have been, filmed in Pasadena).

At the Norton Simon Museum we were in awe of the huge collection of works by pretty much every famous artist we could think of – Degas! Picasso! Monet! Manet! Van Gogh! – and loved the sculpture garden set around a lily pad-filled pond. What made this museum extra special for my ballet-dancing tween was the presence of one of Degas’ *The Little Fourteen-Year-Old Dancer* statues, which she posed by, as well as the numerous ballet portraits by the artists hung on the walls of the museum.

Pasadena wowed us, and there was still so much we had left to do but couldn’t fit in. We had a blast – it’s a perfect city for visiting with preteens and teens.



A family vacation should be filled with fun, excitement and memorable moments for everyone. WestJet Vacations has resorts that are perfect for family time – and which also ensure the grown-ups get quality adult time. Their on-site kids' clubs, supervised activities, kid-friendly menus and more make for the perfect combo of play plus downtime, all in a safe, secure environment.

TRAVEL BY OCTOBER 31, 2020

Hotel Packages in our Exclusive Family Collection Include¹:

FLIGHTS

- Pre-reserved seating on the aircraft²
- Pre-boarding for families

HOTELS

- Early check in and late check out (subject to availability)
- Connecting rooms (based on availability and upon request)
- Complimentary Wi-Fi⁵
- Kids club
- Kids play area and pool⁶
- Kids menu at select restaurants
- Bottled water in-room daily³
- Unlimited à la carte dining⁴

AVAILABLE AT SELECT PARTICIPATING HOTELS IN:

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
Montego Bay, Jamaica
Ocho Rios, Runaway Bay, Jamaica
Cancun, Mexico
Riviera Maya, Mexico
Cozumel, Mexico
Huatulco, Mexico
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
Los Cabos, Mexico





Estudio Playa Mujeres, opening fall 2019, is the newest family-friendly resort in the Playa Mujeres area. Enjoy the beautiful views showcasing the mangroves of the region and the turquoise Caribbean Sea. It's the epicenter of fun for children and a relaxing experience for adults who want to share family time in an atmosphere of sophistication, luxury and the incomparable beauty of the Mexican Caribbean.

In Estudio Playa Mujeres there is a place specially created for small guests, where fantastic things happen all the time. Doodle Land® is an innovative concept that fosters creativity in a fun environment with interactive programs, gastronomic workshops and interesting activities of contemporary Mexican art.



KIDS STAY FREE

Up to two kids 14 years and under stay free.

Booking window: October 7 - November 30, 2019

Travel window: January 2 - April 18, 2020

EXCLUSIVE OFFER
SAVE on great introductory rates

PALLADIUM HOTEL GROUP

Receive a \$1,500 USD resort credit booklet
with a minimum five-night stay at participating Palladium Resorts.

Grand Palladium Costa Mujeres Resort & Spa, Cancun ★★★★★
Grand Palladium Lady Hamilton Resort & Spa, Montego Bay ★★★★★+
Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort & Spa, Montego Bay ★★★★★
Grand Palladium Vallarta Resort & Spa, Puerto Vallarta ★★★★★
Grand Palladium Bavaro Suites Resort & Spa, Punta Cana ★★★★★+

Grand Palladium Palace Resort, Spa and Casino, Punta Cana ★★★★★+
Grand Palladium Colonial Resort & Spa, Riviera Maya ★★★★★+
Grand Palladium Kantenah Resort & Spa, Riviera Maya ★★★★★+
Grand Palladium White Sand Resort & Spa, Riviera Maya ★★★★★+

GRAND PALLADIUM COSTA MUJERES RESORT & SPA, CANCUN ★★★★★



Booking window: October 7 - November 30, 2019
Travel window: October 8, 2019 - April 30, 2020

GRAND PALLADIUM VALLARTA RESORT & SPA, PUERTO VALLARTA ★★★★★





Marival® puts the Family Emotion holiday experience at your fingertips, and allows you to create a personalized vacation with facilities and services that every member of your family will enjoy. Imagine what the All-Inclusive Marival® Emotions Family Program can do for your vacation. You and your family deserve it!

Marival Emotions Resort & Suites, Puerto Vallarta ★★★★★

Marival Armony Luxury Resort & Suites, Puerto Vallarta ★★★★★

Marival Distinct Luxury Residences, Puerto Vallarta ★★★★★



KIDS STAY FREE

Up to two kids 12 years and under stay free when sharing a room with two paying adults at Marival Armony Luxury Resort & Suites. Minimum 5-night stay required.

Book by: December 12, 2019

Travel by: December 16, 2019

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

Receive a complimentary upgrade to the Family Emotion Program.

Booking window: October 7 - November 30, 2019

Travel window: October 7, 2019 - April 3, 2020

Blackout dates: December 22, 2019 - January 5, 2020



RIVIERA CUNCUN

By Karisma

★★★★★

Azul Beach Resorts offers your younger adventurers the Azulitos Playhouse experience, so guests of all ages get a vacation that feels designed just for them.



★★★★★

The supervised Eko Kids Club™ at Generations Riviera Maya is a made-for-kids world complete with ball pits, slides, video games, toys and more.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

Receive \$500 USD in resort credit with a minimum 3-night stay at select Karisma Resorts in Riviera Maya.

- 5 x \$20 wine credit
- 4 x \$50 Spa credit towards massage
- 1 x \$50 credit towards candlelight dinner
- 1 x \$140 credit towards room upgrade

(to be used during hotel check-in. Based on availability - not guaranteed).



AZUL BEACH RESORT, RIVIERA MAYA



GENERATIONS RIVIERA MAYA

Booking window: October 7 - November 30, 2019

Travel window: November 1, 2019 - April 30, 2020



The possibilities are endless with Palace Resorts. Soak in family fun on the glistening white sand beaches of the Caribbean Sea. These family-friendly resorts are truly a paradise for kids and teens. Little guests will enjoy the state-of-the-art Playroom, while teens can explore a world of their own.



PLAYROOM AT THE GRAND MOON, CANCUN

THE PLAYROOM KIDS CLUB

The Playroom is a state-of-the-art kids club with a variety of amenities* for the youngest members of your party to enjoy, including video games, arcade games, pretend stations, daily activities and more. Children are always under the watchful eye of trained staff, so you can relax and enjoy yourself, knowing they're doing the same.

TEENS

This is a world brimming with arcade and console video games, internet access and a menu of tasty sweet and savoury snacks to feast on; all this in an ultramodern kingdom where you can play to your heart's content.



GRAND MOON, CANCUN

KIDS AND TEENS STAY FREE AT PARTICIPATING PALACE RESORTS

Book by: December 20, 2020

Travel by: December 23, 2020

Moon Palace Cancun, Riviera Maya ★★★★★

The Grand at Moon Palace, Cancun ★★★★★

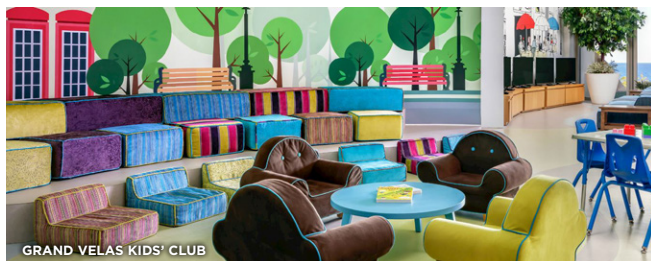
Beach Palace, Cancun ★★★★★

Playacar Palace, Riviera Maya ★★★★★

Moon Palace Jamaica, Ocho Rios-Runaway Bay ★★★★★

★★★★★

Even the youngest guests can enjoy unforgettable experiences at Cabo's most luxurious all-inclusive resort. Velas Los Cabos has designed an exclusive Kid's Club reserved especially for kids between the ages of 4 and 12. Enjoy storytelling, board games, arts and crafts and bingo. Watch movies in the theatre or play Xbox and Wii. Activities are tailored to your children's age and interests.



GRAND VELAS KIDS' CLUB

KIDS' CLUB

The Grand Velas Kids' Club program lets kids play and explore under the supervision of trained staff. Your kids can learn how to make piñatas, masks and kites, play board games, bingo, Wii or Xbox and enjoy stories told by our energetic staff.

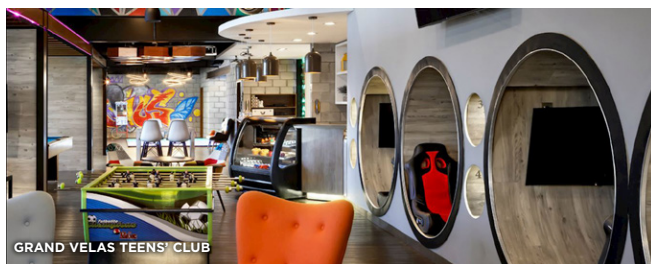
TEENS' CLUB

Developed for teens 13 to 18 years old, the supervised Teens' Club is the perfect place to dance, with hot tunes pumping from the nightclub-worthy sound system. A stylish bar serves non-alcoholic drinks, and a pool table, ping pong, karaoke and gaming pods provide even more entertainment.

LIMITED-TIME DISCOUNT

Kids ages 4-15 years stay 50% off with paying adults in select Ambassador Suites. Minimum 5-night stay required.

Book by: October 30, 2019 | **Travel by:** December 18, 2019



GRAND VELAS TEENS' CLUB



LOS CABOS ALL INCLUSIVE

★★★★★

Holiday Inn Resort® Los Cabos All-Inclusive Hotel with its tropical environment, offers three different ambiances: a quiet adult-only section, perfect as a relaxing hideaway; an activities section with a big pool, where scheduled games and activities take place during the day; and a family section with a pool and a special kids' playground where your children can have fun in the sun.

KIDS STAY FREE

Up to two kids 12 years and under stay free with two paying adults. Minimum 4-night stay required.

Book by: December 13, 2019 | **Travel by:** December 20, 2019



HOLIDAY INN, LOS CABOS POOL



CANCUN . PUNTA CANA . VALLARTA
RIVIERA MAYA . LOS CABOS
AN ALL-INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

Who says grown-ups get to have all the fun? Kids need a place where they can have an adventure that's exclusively theirs. Hard Rock Hotel's signature, kid-friendly hangouts are part of an adult-free zone, each with its own unique energy and schedule of activities.



HARD ROCK HOTEL, RIVIERA MAYA

HARD ROCK ROXITY KIDS CLUB™

In the Little Big Club, kids can join in the fun with their favourite characters. They'll sing, dance, build, and learn with Bob the Builder Construction Zone, Thomas & Friends Activity Depot, Barney's Music Room, and Angelina Ballerina Dance Studio. The LBC has all the games, crafts, and happenings your little one could hope for in a fully supervised atmosphere with friendly, well-trained staff.

TEEN SPIRIT

Teens get a hangout, too, at these kid-friendly hotels with a backstage experience complete with games, TVs, activities, and music for when they want to a little alone time on their family vacation. With staff supervision, adults can feel comfortable letting their teens stay and play, while they enjoy a cocktail or time at the spa.

Book by: December 21, 2019

Travel by: December 18, 2020

Blackout dates:

December 15, 2019 - January 3, 2020 and April 4 - 11, 2020

Up to two children under 12 years stay FREE at select Hard Rock Hotels in Mexico and the Caribbean.

Hard Rock Hotel Riviera Maya, Riviera Maya ★★★★★

Hard Rock Hotel Vallarta, Puerto Vallarta ★★★★★

Hard Rock Hotel, Cancun ★★★★★

Hard Rock Hotel, Los Cabos ★★★★★

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Punta Cana ★★★★★



HARD ROCK HOTEL, CANCUN POOL



HARD ROCK PUNTA CANA - FAMILY POOL



WESTJET VACATIONS EXCLUSIVE ADDED VALUE

Kids 11 years and under ride free with Karmel Airport Shuttle service between Anaheim Resort Area and Angeles International Airport (LAX) or John Wayne Airport (SNA)¹.

Plus, receive added values with your stay at select hotels near *Disneyland* Resort in Anaheim.



RESIDENCE INN, ANAHEIM RESORT/CONVENTION CENTER

DELTA HOTELS BY MARRIOTT ANAHEIM GARDEN GROVE ★★★★★

Complimentary transportation to *Disneyland* Resort, free parking and Wi-Fi at the resort.

COUNTRY INN & SUITES BY RADISSON, LOS ANGELES ★★ + RESIDENCE INN AT ANAHEIM RESORT/CONVENTION CENTER ★★★★★

Complimentary daily hot breakfast buffet, free parking and Wi-Fi at the resort.

HAMPTON INN AND SUITES, ORANGE COUNTY ★★ +

Complimentary hot breakfast buffet or receive breakfast to go.



HYATT HOUSE ANAHEIM RESORT/CONVENTION CENTER

HOLIDAY INN ANAHEIM RESORT, ORANGE COUNTY ★★★

Receive a 5th night free from November 1 - December 19, 2019 and free parking at the resort.

Plus, kids 12 and under eat free from the kids menu with paying adults.

HOMWOOD SUITES BY HILTON ANAHEIM RESORT/CONVENTION CENTER ★★★★★

Complimentary daily breakfast and evening social reception Monday through Thursday.

HYATT HOUSE ANAHEIM RESORT/CONVENTION CENTER ★★★★★

Complimentary daily hot breakfast and free Wi-Fi at the resort.

PORTOFINO INN AND SUITES, ORANGE COUNTY ★★ +

Receive a 4th night free from October 28 - November 29, 2019

THE ANAHEIM HOTEL, ORANGE COUNTY ★★★

Free Parking and Wi-Fi at the resort.



PORTOFINO INN AND SUITES, ORANGE COUNTY

Book by: December 16, 2019

Travel by: December 18, 2019

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

These offers are provided by and must be booked through WestJet Vacations.

EXCLUSIVE FAMILY COLLECTION: Legal, restrictions and terms and conditions. ¹Applicable on travel from May 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020. Minimum 5-night stay at select Exclusive Family collection hotels with at least two kids per room. Offer subject to change or expiry without notice. Offer may vary by property or time of year and may be subject to availability. Applies to new bookings only. Offer is applicable to all room categories (unless noted otherwise). Offer is exclusive for WestJet Vacations guests only. Not applicable to group bookings. This offer may not be combined with any other offer. Early check in and late check out is subject to availability. Connecting rooms is based on availability and upon request. ²Pre-reserved seat fee is waived for one adult and one child (under 13) seated adjacent to one another. One adult per child required. If child is travelling with more than one adult, seat fee will only be waived for one adult and the child. Pre-reserved seats must be added by calling our Contact Centre (1-877-737-7001) or your Travel Agent. ³Bottled water may not be available in room for all hotels. At Sandos Caracol Eco Resort an hotels. At all-inclusive resorts, reservations may be required. Dress code may be in effect. Not applicable at Grand Bahia Principe Resorts. ⁵Complimentary Wi-Fi may not be available in all areas of the hotel or resort. At Sandos Caracol Eco Resort Wi-Fi is not available in Standard Rooms. ⁶Meliá Braco Village, Hyatt Ziva Rose Hall, and Jewel Grande Montego Bay Resort and Spa do not have a kids play area and pool. Meliá Nassau Beach All Inclusive has a family pool. Blackout dates may apply. Other restrictions may apply. Inclusions need to be verified by the guest with the hotel at time of check in.

ESTUDIO PLAYA MUJERES: Advance booking required. Non-refundable and non-transferable. Offer limited and subject to availability. Offer subject to change and expire without notice. New bookings only. Not valid on group bookings. Other restrictions may apply. Package price will automatically reflect the discount when searching for qualified vacations. Airport transfers to/from the hotel are included. Kids/teens must be 15 or younger at the time of travel in order to qualify. Offer is applicable to all room categories. Blackout dates may apply. This offer may be combined with any other offer.

PALLADIUM RESORTS: Advance booking required. Non-refundable and non-transferable. Offer limited and subject to availability. Offer subject to change and expire without notice. New bookings only. Offer is not valid on group bookings. Offer is combinable with other offers currently in place. A minimum 3-night stay is required. Blackout dates may apply. Other restrictions may apply. Resort credit booklet will be distributed to guests upon arrival at the time of check-in. Offer based on double occupancy. Airport transfers to/from the hotel are included. Offer is not cumulative. Resort credits are non-combinable. Promotion does not apply to: travel agent or employee rate, incentives stays, fam-trips or complimentary stays. Resort credit cannot be redeemed for cash, products or merchandise. No cash reimbursement for unused credits. All services require reservation at least 24 hours in advance and voucher must be presented at the participating location. Voucher will not be replaced in the event of loss or theft. Resort Credits may be used for room upgrades based on availability. For further details, please see hotel front desk.

MARIVAL*: Advance booking required. Non-refundable and non-transferable. Offer limited and subject to availability. Offer subject to change and expire without notice. New bookings only. Not valid on group bookings. Other restrictions may apply. Two kids 0-12 stay free when sharing a room with two paying adults. A minimum 5-night stay is required. Room upgrade will take place at time of check-in at the hotel. Airport transfers to/from the hotel are included.

PALACE RESORTS: Advance booking required. Non-refundable and non-transferable. Offer limited and subject to availability. Offer subject to change and expire without notice. New bookings only. Applicable to wedding and leisure groups of 25 rooms or less. Other restrictions may apply. Package price will automatically reflect the discount when searching for qualified vacations. Airport transfers to/from the hotel are included. A minimum 3-night stay is required. This offer is valid for all kids and teens per reservation. Kids/teens must be 17 or younger at the time of travel in order to qualify. Offer is applicable to all room categories. Minimum and maximum occupancy rules apply per room category. Blackout dates for travel to The Grand at Moon Palace: December 24, 2019 - January 3, 2020. Blackout dates may apply. This offer may be combined with any other offer.

KARISMA RESORTS: Advance booking required. Non-refundable and non-transferable. Offer limited and subject to availability. Offer subject to change and expire without notice. New bookings only. Offer is valid on group bookings. Offer is combinable with other offers currently in place. A minimum 3-night stay is required. Blackout dates may apply. Other restrictions may apply. Resort credits will be distributed to guests upon arrival at the time of check-in. Offer based on double occupancy. Airport transfers to/from the hotel are included. Offer is not cumulative. Resort credits are non-combinable. Credits have no cash value and will expire upon check-out. One \$500 Resort credit per room, per stay. Offer excludes Royal Suites & Presidential Suites. Quebec licensee. Ontario travel agents are covered by TICO. Mailing address: 6085 Midfield Road, Toronto ON L5P 1A2. TICO registration number: 50018683.

HARD ROCK HOTELS: Advance booking required. Non-refundable and non-transferable. Offer limited and subject to availability. Offer subject to change and expire without notice. New bookings only. Other restrictions may apply. Valid for up to two children ages 4-12 per room, per stay when accompanied by one full paying adult. Kids stay free offer not applicable at Hard Rock Hotel Riviera Maya-Heaven Section. Reservations with overlapping dates will qualify, the discount will apply for nights within the travel window. Other blackout dates apply. Please note: Kids clubs and activities vary by property. This is only a sampling of kid-friendly amenities Hard Rock Hotels offer. Check with individual Hard Rock Hotel locations for details.

ANAHEIM HOTELS: Advance booking required. Non-refundable and non-transferable. Offer limited and subject to availability. Offer subject to change and expire without notice. New bookings only. Not valid on group bookings. Other restrictions may apply. Package price will automatically reflect the free night (where applicable) when searching for qualified vacations. Airport transfers to/from the hotel are not included. Added values have no cash value and will expire upon check-out. Complimentary inclusions available at no extra cost. Inclusions can be changed or withdrawn at any time without notice. ¹One child rides free (ages 11 years and younger) per paying adult on Karmel Shuttle Service for a shared van transfer from/to LAX or SNA and is applicable to all Anaheim hotels.

GRAND VELAS LOS CABOS: Advance booking required. Non-refundable and non-transferable. Offer limited and subject to availability. Offer subject to change and expire without notice. New bookings only. Not valid on group bookings. Other restrictions may apply. Package price will automatically reflect the discount when booking qualifying room types. Spa credit cannot be combined with other Spa promotions. Spa credit is not applicable to SPA Boutique, beauty salon, hydrotherapy circuit nor spa cabanas. No connecting fees on select Suites is subject to availability upon request. Connecting suites available connect King Bedded Suites to Two Queen Bedded Suites. Both Suites have to be paid. Added values have no cash value and will expire upon check-out. Complimentary inclusions available at no extra cost. Inclusions can be changed or withdrawn at any time without notice. For any further details, please see hotel front desk.

HOLIDAY INN LOS CABOS ALL-INCLUSIVE: Advance booking required. Non-refundable and non-transferable. Offer limited and subject to availability. Offer subject to change and expire without notice. New bookings only. Not valid on group bookings. Other restrictions may apply. Blackout dates may apply. Package price will automatically reflect the discount when searching for qualified vacations. A minimum 4-night stay is required. Offer based on double occupancy. Airport transfers to/from the hotel are included. This offer may be combined with any other offer. Children (0-12 years) stay and eat free with their parents (1 child per adult, maximum 2 children).

QUEBEC LICENSEE.

Ontario travel agents are covered by TICO.

Mailing address: 6085 Midfield Road, Toronto ON L5P 1A2.

TICO registration number: 50018683.



LIVE THE ALL PLAYA EXPERIENCE



Oceanfront water park for kids

Miniature golf course for the entire family

Located on an amazing white sand beach

Different themed parties on the beach every day of the week

A wide range of food options in buffets and à la carte restaurants

Dazzling nightly performances for the entire family

Kid's Club

GUIDE

By Natalie Preddie

Choosing a resort with a kid's club is important. Everybody needs a little time away – even the youngest members of your family.

My first experience with a kid's club was when my son was one and I was in need of an adult-only meal. While I enjoyed a civilized glass of wine, my son was fed, entertained and cared for by trained childcare workers: win-win. Since then, I've never booked an all-inclusive vacation without researching the resort's kid's club offerings.

Here is what you need to know about kid's clubs for your baby and tots, school-aged kids, tweens or teens.

Baby + Tots

Not many all-inclusive resorts have kid's clubs catering to kids under age four. Luckily, a few resorts have started baby clubs; daycare services for their youngest guests.

Some Paradisus and Melia resorts take babies from the age of four months while others accept babies from eight months or a year. Their daycare centres have high chairs, cribs, baby swings, padded floors, bottle sterilizers and more. There are toys, indoor and outdoor playgrounds, a wading pool and, in some locations, a baby spa. Whether you're looking to drop off the little one for an hour while you have dinner or a few more hours while you enjoy some adults-only time, this daycare service is available from morning to night.

I like to take a walk through a kid's club with my sons before leaving them with someone else, regardless of their qualifications. At nine months, my youngest son's separation anxiety is high and I want him to feel comfortable with the people onsite. I like to know that staff are employed solely at the resort, meaning that priorities are entirely focused on caring for children and making sure that my baby is happy, safe and comforted.

At most properties, kids have a dedicated food space within the club but if not, food is delivered. If your child has a favourite snack or is still on the bottle, bring those along.

INFANTS PLAYING WITH TOYS



SUNSCAPE MONTEGO BAY EXPLORER'S CLUB INFANT'S POOL



KID'S CLUB AT SANDOS CARACOL



School Aged Kids

I can't wait for my sons to reach the golden age for kid's club: four-12. The majority of kid's clubs are tailored for this age group so rest assured that no matter which all-inclusive you visit, there is likely to be something to entertain your little ones.

For example, at Sandos Playacar, the kid's club has a dedicated children's pool, a treehouse and mini golf. From face painting and dance parties to water polo and sandcastles, children's activities take place both inside and outside which is perfect if you have very active kids, like me. Open from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m., there is also an option for kids to eat lunch at the kid's club, leaving parents to enjoy an entire kid-free day.

Azul Resorts recently launched their new Azulitos Experience in their Azulitos Playhouse. Parents are invited to drop off their little ones or join in enriching activities such as planting herbs in the garden, an Eco Scavenger Hunt, cooking, flying kites or roasting sweets over a bonfire when the sun sets.

At AMResorts' Sunscape properties in places like Jamaica, Curaçao and Puerto Vallarta, look for their signature Explorer's Clubs. These kid's clubs for ages three-12 is open from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. with activities ranging from arts and crafts to movie

nights (popcorn included!) and sandcastle competitions. There's even a weekly camp-out where kids can experience a night in a tent.

It's important to let your kids know that they don't HAVE to stay all day if they don't want to. Once kids are registered, they are welcome to come and go (supervised, of course), or in some cases, have parents participate in activities with them.



KID'S CLUB AT SANDOS PLAYACAR

KID'S CLUB AT SANDOS PLAYACAR



KIDS RUNNING IN THE OCEAN
©SUNSCAPE



Tweens

At the high end of the kid's club age range, these kids are happy to fly kites and bake with the young ones, but not particularly keen on puppet shows and simple crafts. Luckily, many resorts have a range of activities that will entice this age group too.

For example, the children's spa at Azul Resorts offers relaxing treatments, mani and pedis and age-appropriate skin care, make-up application and hair styling lessons.

The Reserve at Paradisus Punta Cana has a Kid Zone with an action-adventure jungle gym and a waterpark with pools, water features and water slides that I may or may not have tried out myself. The Kid Zone also has a surround sound cinema, a video game room (with PS3, Xbox 360, Wii) and an overnight camping experience. The onsite buffet, as well as readily available fruit and snacks, means that older kids can stay and play all day.

Make sure you send your tweens with sunscreen and swim gear and ensure that a lifeguard will be supervising the pool. Staff will help your kids practise sun and water safety.

Exciting evening entertainment like interactive Disney-themed shows, superhero shows, and movie trivia include the whole family, ideal for those tweens who want to stay up later than normal but don't quite have the energy for an all-night dance party.

That is saved for their teenage counterparts.



SUNSCAPE PUERTO VALLARTA CORE ZONE

Teens

Some resorts offer programming to keep your teenager busy from morning till the wee hours.

Sandos Playacar has the Lite Teen Club for those aged 13-17. The Lite Teen Club offers daily sports and nightly events with themes such as Harry Potter, Glow Party and Jamaican Games. Their dedicated teen space has an arcade with air hockey tables, pool tables, bike and car racing games. There is also a bar serving non-alcoholic drinks and mocktails next to the light-up interactive dance floor where events and parties are hosted every night.

At some Sunscape Resorts, including those in Cozumel, Puerto Vallarta and Montego Bay, there is the Core Zone Teens Clubs from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. These clubs are ideal with everything from video games to movies and water sports. It's a great way for teens to make new friends and enjoy their vacation (without having to hang out with their parents all the time!).

Before booking a family vacation, do your research to ensure that a destination can provide your entire family with a memorable experience. A well-staffed, organized and thoughtful kid's club is part of an enriching family holiday that you and your kids will never forget.



TEENS PLAYING POOL



SOLO

PARENT TRAVELS IN SUNNY

St. Lucia

By Miriam Porter

PITONS ST. LUCIA

Whether you zip line through the rainforest, take a mud bath, or explore a volcano, St. Lucia sets the stage for family bonding.

My son, Noah, and I are huddled together in the middle of a queen-sized bed under mesh mosquito netting. We stare at the massive black insect slowly crawling on the other side of the net, taunting us with beady eyes. At least I think it's on the other side of the net. I really don't want to cuddle with this creepy-crawly. Noah went to bug camp when he was younger, so I assumed he still loved bugs. I was wrong. Cute bugs in daylight become monsters after sunset, even in the tropical rainforests of gorgeous St. Lucia.

St. Lucia, one of the last European colonies to affirm independence, has a long history with multiple cultures and influences including Caribbean, African, English, French and Dutch, making it a diverse island to explore. Equally as diverse as St. Lucia's heritage are the island's incredible landscapes.

I began travelling with Noah once he could wheel his luggage through the airport at age five. Travelling as a single mom for years taught me to be prepared for the unexpected including hurricane and tornado warnings. But I don't have a bug plan. Luckily, our exhaustion wins, and we eventually fall asleep, all three of us.



PINK TORCH FLOWER



WRITER MIRIAM WITH SON NOAH
IN THE RAINFOREST ©MIRIAM PORTER



NOAH ZIPLINING ©MIRIAM PORTER



CASTRIES HARBOUR



SULPHUR SPRINGS IN ST. LUCIA



CASTRIES MARKET
ST. LUCIA

"It sure stinks here," Noah giggles. Our tour guide explains the smell: "It's from hydrogen sulfide gas" – which can only be described as smelly rotten eggs. Soufriere translated from French means sulfur in the air, which is fitting. The last volcanic eruption was in 1766 and this geothermal area is now dormant. We walk around the crater and watch steam rising. Hot springs bubble and burp in unison.

Nearby is the famous Black Water Pool packed with visitors covered in sticky mud. This open-air pool contains volcanic minerals great for skin rejuvenation. Noah looks at me horrified when a local tells us a dip in these magical waters makes everyone look 10 years younger. "This doesn't apply to kids," I reassure him.

To appreciate St. Lucia's diversity, make sure to visit not only the south, but the north of the island as well. The north is the most developed with Rodney Bay, Pigeon Island National Park, the city of Castries, and gorgeous beaches with endless water activities. We drive north with the rainforest on one side, and banana plantations and wild roaming goats on the other. Our expert driver weaves us through small fishing villages and past pastel-coloured houses. If you have an appetite for local cuisine and bargaining, stop by Castries Market, a huge open-air marketplace. Noah and I walk up and down aisles packed with artwork, jewelry, clothing, handmade soaps, straw bags, and fresh fruit. I purchase roasted cashews and authentic spices packed in coconut shells. And then we see them – thick dark brown cocoa sticks in all their glory ready to be grated and boiled in hot water. Now we can savour the memories of our trip to St. Lucia in a cup of hot cocoa upon returning home.

The next morning, we wake to singing birds and a shining sun. It's a magical world with exotic colourful flowers, coconuts, bananas, vegetables, and tropical fruit trees. A 135-acre working cocoa plantation dating back 250 years surrounds us.

Phillip, a kind employee at our resort, takes us on a tour and skillfully climbs tall trees with graceful ease. From the top, he tosses Noah apples and, later, he peels a huge juicy grapefruit for us. We nibble and walk in awe. Phillip shows us cloves, a decorated flower called a lobster claw, ginger lily, and pink cattails. He opens cinnamon and cocoa beans for us to smell and tells Noah to hold a pink torch lily flower high over his head with outstretched arms. Minutes later, a tiny hummingbird arrives to sing us a song.

If you are not used to driving on the left side of the road on the edge of a cliff at super-fast speeds, hire a driver or taxi service. Our first stop is zip lining through the rainforest at Morne Coubaril Estate in Soufriere. We love eco-adventures and with matching harnesses and funny-looking helmets, we swing like monkeys from trees. Noah loves it (I am terrified) and we zip with views of the Pitons and over a bamboo gorge below. "It's not as scary if you scream," Noah shouts, laughing.

With our feet firmly (and finally) back on land, we head to Sulphur Springs Park, the Caribbean's only drive-in volcano.



COCONUT PLANTATION IN ST. LUCIA



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190005 (07/2019)

Jumping in to Explore the Coast of Croatia

By Rosalind Stefanac

Croatia's abundant coastline provides the perfect backdrop for a family adventure.



I can feel my heart beat quicken as I watch my teenage sons climb the jagged rocks that lead to a tiny ledge five metres up. As they hesitate near the top, I hear words of encouragement coming from the local kids waiting their turn (many of whom seem barely school-aged themselves). With some prodding, the boys eventually step onto the stone and take their first leap into Croatia's Adriatic Sea – and then there's no turning back.

By the end of this trip my sons, ages 13 and 16, will have catapulted off the tops of boats and rock cliffs that look much scarier. They'll even convince me to jump a couple of times and I'll understand the appeal. Croatia's translucent, turquoise waters look so inviting, it's no wonder people jump in whenever the opportunity arises.

Located between Central and Eastern Europe, Croatia is replete with charming towns, ancient monuments, picturesque parks and mountains. But what I've discovered after several visits here is that Croatia's ultimate jewel is its coastline. Stretching nearly 1,800 kilometres from the Istria peninsula in the north to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre of Dubrovnik in the south, this coveted stretch of sea side has been drawing



tourists from European countries and further for centuries. Add in Croatia's more than 1,200 islands and islets and there's another 4,000 kilometres of coastline to explore.

We land in the capital city of Zagreb, claim our rental car at the airport and start the first of many scenic drives along the coastline. We skip the crowds of Dubrovnik entirely and spend our time in the central and northern regions. Our first stop is my husband's hometown of Sibenik, an historic city dating back to 1066 located in an area called Dalmatia. Only a 15-minute drive from the beautiful Krka National Park, and a mere 87 kilometres from the popular city of Split, it's an ideal base from which to explore numerous towns, parks and beaches.

We don't find many sand beaches along the coast, but we quickly acclimatize to the paved and pebbly rock variety where, for a nominal fee, we get comfy chairs with umbrellas – and sometimes coffee and bar service too. (Water shoes, available from local shops, are a must to avoid hot stones and the occasional prickly sea urchin.) We rent paddleboats by the hour and the boys revel in finding their balance while windsurfing or jumping off water trampolines. In addition to typical fast food fare, beach vendors sell hot corn and crepes filled with jam or chocolate. Freshly grilled squid served with crispy fries becomes another of our favourite seaside snacks.

Now that we've found our sea legs, our next stop is Kornati National Park, which is comprised of 89 uninhabited islands,

islets and reefs. This sailor's haven is also accessible by helicopter for a stunning panoramic view. But we arrange for a motorboat tour where our captain, Marko, entertains us with tales from his wild youth. At one point he anchors the boat and invites whoever is willing to jump off the roof. The water is so clear I can see the sandy bottom, and soon we're all stripping into our bathing suits to take a mid-morning dip. We stop at an island restaurant to feast on freshly caught tuna and sea bass, grilled over a wood fire. During lunch, two donkeys wander over to investigate and my city slicker sons are completely enraptured.

Eager to continue our island hopping, we head north to Cres, one of Croatia's largest islands near the region of Istria. We settle in a place called Mali Losinj, dubbed the Island of Vitality for its more than 200 days of yearly sunshine, superb air quality and 280 kilometres of foot-paths and bike trails. Every day there, we hike or bike a different path which takes us through fragrant pine forests and bustling campgrounds. We stop when the mood hits to take a dip in the sea or grab an ice cream on the way. The island is also home to several hundred bottlenose dolphins and one morning we're lucky enough to spot several in the distance.

On our last day, we wake particularly early to get on the road toward home. Only it's a lovely sunny morning already and my oldest has a request I can't refuse. I watch as he makes his way towards the Adriatic a few metres away to take one last dip.

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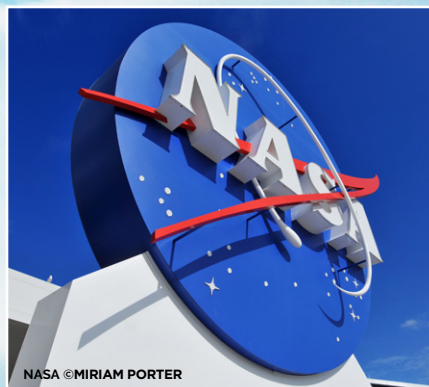
Get Ready to Explore

NASA

By Miriam Porter

Families can explore the past, present and future of America's Space Program at NASA.

While visiting Orlando, my son, Noah, and I take a road trip to NASA's Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. We love all things space themed (thanks for the inspiration, Chris Hadfield!), and this is the perfect adventure to celebrate Neil Armstrong landing on the moon 50 years ago.





WITH ASTRONAUT FRED GREGORY ©MIRIAM PORTER

DINE WITH AN ASTRONAUT

We enjoy a delicious buffet lunch and listen to inspiring astronaut Fred Gregory, who logged approximately 455 hours in space over three missions and was a pilot for the Orbiter Challenger. Dine With An Astronaut is the perfect opportunity to be part of a group and listen to astronaut stories about living and working in space. Afterwards, you can ask the astronaut questions and take photos.

EXPLORE SPACE SHUTTLE ATLANTIS

We were wide-eyed at the close-up view of the iconic Space Shuttle Atlantis. This space shuttle transported astronauts to space and back for 30 years and is the only space shuttle displayed in flight. There are also more than 60 interactive exhibits about the history and technology used in the Space Shuttle Program. We love the astronaut training simulators, shuttle launch experience and Hubble Space Telescope replica. We pay our respects at the Forever Remembered Memorial honouring astronauts who lost their lives during space missions.

RIDE THE TOUR BUS

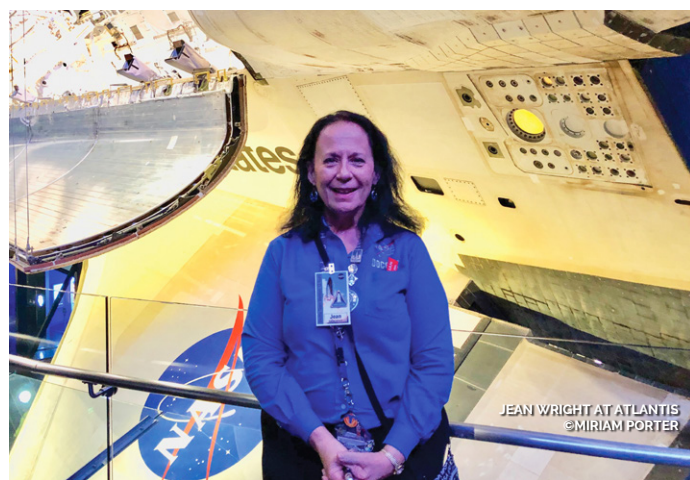
This behind-the-scenes bus tour lets visitors access restricted areas of the Kennedy Space Center. We drive by critical mission facilities and learn about launch sites, including Launch Complex 39B, for deep space missions to the moon and Mars. It's where Apollo 10 rehearsed the first moon landing in 1969. The 45-minute tour ends at the Apollo/Saturn V Center where we see the largest rocket ever flown, visit the Firing Room, and touch a moon rock estimated to be 3.7 billion years old.

WATCH A ROCKET LAUNCH

Plan your trip accordingly to be part of a live rocket launch viewing at the Space Center or Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Watch in amazement as the countdown to lift off starts with the rocket engine igniting to flashing fire and the world around you rumbles as it soars into space. Check the Kennedy Space Center website for upcoming launch dates.

MEET BEHIND-THE-SCENES HEROES

While touring Atlantis, we meet volunteer Jean Wright. She captivates us with stories about following her dream since she was little to work for NASA. She worked as an Aerospace Tech for seven years and sewed together critical shuttle flight hardware for space missions. We examine shuttle fabrics while listening to her stories about the human element behind the technological science of space, never giving up on your dreams, and always reaching for the stars.



JEAN WRIGHT AT ATLANTIS
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