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TRAVEL+LEISURE family

WORLD'S BEST HOTELS **FOR FAMILIES**

Top Adventure Outfitters
and Cruise Lines

Reported by Lesley Savage



MODELS: ISABELLA BOWMAN, COLLIN BEESE, AND ISAAC BOWMAN FOR DENISE CAROL MODELS



THE 2013 WINNERS FOR FAMILY TRAVEL

Whether you're looking for a laid-back getaway on the shores of Florida, an art-themed trip to Europe, or a safari in the wilds of Africa, our global list—chosen by *Travel + Leisure* readers in our annual World's Best Awards survey—is a go-to resource for your next family vacation. Read on for highlights of the top regional winners.

- 10 **Disney's Beach Club Resort** Lake Buena Vista, Florida **93.80** disneyworld.com. \$\$\$
- 11 **Disney's Wilderness Lodge** Lake Buena Vista, Florida **93.79** disneyworld.com. \$\$\$
- 12 **Kahala Hotel & Resort** Oahu, Hawaii **93.68** kahalaresort.com. \$\$\$
- 13 **Beaver Creek Lodge** Colorado **93.33** beaver-creeklodget.net. \$\$\$
- 13 **Four Seasons Resort, Hualalai** Hawaii, the Big Island **93.33** fourseasons.com. \$\$\$\$
- 15 **Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa** Anaheim, California **93.03** disneyland.com. \$\$\$
- 16 **The Greenbrier** White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia **92.83** greenbrier.com. \$\$\$
- 17 **Disney's BoardWalk Inn & Villas** Lake Buena Vista, Florida **92.82** disneyworld.com. \$\$\$
- 18 **Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa & Marina** Cambridge, Maryland **92.73** hyatt.com. \$\$\$
- 18 **Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort & Spa** San Antonio, Texas **92.73** hyatt.com. \$\$\$
- 20 **Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort & Spa** Avon, Colorado **91.89** park.hyatt.com. \$\$\$\$
- 21 **Sunset Key Guest Cottages, a Westin Resort** Sunset Key, Florida **91.85** westin.com. \$\$\$\$
- 22 **Ritz-Carlton Key Biscayne** Miami **91.84** ritzcarlton.com. \$\$\$

UNITED STATES

NO. 1

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida **96.84**

Name an activity that kids might dream up for their perfect vacation and the 300-acre Ponte Vedra probably has it—from organized lawn games and arts-and-crafts classes to tennis and golf lessons.

Parents Love The bikes (\$45 per day) for early morning rides along the beach at low tide. **Kids Love** The seashell and scavenger hunts, and the library of more than 100 DVD's for the odd rainy day.

Room to Book Any of the first-floor waterfront suites. pontevedra.com. \$\$\$

2 **WaterColor Inn & Resort** Santa Rosa Beach, Florida **96.28** watercolorresort.com. \$\$\$

3 **Stowe Mountain Lodge** Vermont **95.92** stowemountainlodge.com. \$\$\$

4 **Disney's Vero Beach Resort** Florida **95.83** disneyworld.com. \$

5 **Mohonk Mountain House** Hudson Valley, New York **95.68** mohonk.com; all-inclusive. \$\$\$\$

6 **Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa** Lake Buena Vista, Florida **94.90** disneyworld.com. \$\$\$\$

7 **Tides Inn** Irvington, Virginia **94.67** tidesinn.com. \$\$

8 **Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge** Lake Buena Vista, Florida **94.62** disneyworld.com. \$\$\$

9 **Cloister at Sea Island** Georgia **94.60** seaisland.com. \$\$\$

\$ Less than \$200 \$\$ \$200 to \$350 \$\$\$ \$350 to \$500 \$\$\$\$ \$500 to \$1,000 \$\$\$\$\$ More than \$1,000

Price key reflects the starting nightly rate in November for a family of four staying in one room or closest alternative arrangement; for resorts, rates indicate the starting price in high season. Age restrictions and/or discounts may apply. All-inclusive accommodation as marked.

- 23 **Palmetto Dunes Oceanfront Resort**
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina
91.82 *palmettodunes.com*; three-night minimum. \$\$
- 24 **Inn at Palmetto Bluff, an Auberge Resort**
Bluffton, South Carolina 91.64
palmettobluff.com. \$\$\$\$
- 25 **Big Cedar Lodge**
Ridgedale, Missouri
91.54 *big-cedar.com*. \$
- 26 **Disney's Yacht Club Resort** Lake Buena Vista, Florida 91.30
disneyworld.com. \$\$\$
- 26 **Ritz-Carlton Dove Mountain** Marana, Arizona 91.30
ritzcarlton.com. \$\$
- 28 **Disney's Polynesian Resort** Orlando, Florida 91.29
disneyworld.com. \$\$\$\$
- 29 **Trapp Family Lodge**
Stowe, Vermont 91.25
trappfamily.com. \$\$
- 30 **Hotel Hershey**
Hershey, Pennsylvania
91.16 *thehotelhershey.com*. \$\$
- 31 **Hammock Beach, a Salamander Golf & Spa Resort** Palm Coast, Florida 91.11
hammockbeach.com. \$\$\$
- 32 **Hilton Waikoloa Village** Hawaii, the Big Island 91.06
hilton.com. \$
- 33 **Wild Dunes Resort**
Isle of Palms, South Carolina 90.94
wilddunes.com. \$\$
- 34 **Grand Wailea Resort: a Waldorf Astoria Resort** Maui, Hawaii
90.85 *grandwailea.com*. \$\$\$
- 35 **Loews Royal Pacific Resort at Universal Orlando** Florida 90.81
loewshotels.com. \$\$
- 36 **Omni Mount Washington Resort**
Bretton Woods, New Hampshire 90.77
omnihotels.com. \$\$\$
- 37 **Weekapaug Inn**
Westerly, Rhode Island
90.67 *weekapauginn.com*. \$\$\$\$
- 38 **Arizona Grand Resort & Spa**
Phoenix 90.59 *arizona-grandresort.com*. \$\$
- 38 **Sun Valley Lodge**
Idaho 90.59
sunvalley.com. \$\$\$
- 40 **Ritz-Carlton Naples**, Florida 90.56
ritzcarlton.com. \$\$\$\$
- 41 **Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa**
Hawaii 90.43
hyatt.com. \$\$\$\$
- 42 **Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island**, Florida 90.35
ritzcarlton.com. \$\$\$
- 43 **Sunriver Resort**
Sunriver, Oregon
90.35 *sunriver-resort.com*. \$\$
- 44 **Grand Del Mar**
San Diego 90.14
thegranddelmar.com. \$\$\$
- 45 **Fairmont Heritage Place, Ghirardelli Square** San Francisco
90.00 *fairmont.com*. \$\$\$
- 45 **Lodge & Cottages at Primland** Meadows of Dan, Virginia 90.00
preferredhotels.com. \$\$\$
- 45 **Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation**
Greensboro, Georgia
90.00 *ritzcarlton.com*. \$\$\$
- 45 **Terranea Resort** Rancho Palos Verdes, California
90.00 *terranea.com*. \$\$\$\$
- 45 **Wequassett Resort & Golf Club** Harwich, Massachusetts 90.00
wequassett.com. \$\$\$\$
- 50 **Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch**
Avon, Colorado 89.76
ritzcarlton.com. \$\$\$\$



Kids Are King
Wickannish Inn, in Tofino, British Columbia (No. 3 in Canada), treats little ones like royalty, offering junior-size robes and bikes, gift baskets, and in-room movie nights.

CANADA

NO. 1

Four Seasons Resort

Whistler, British Columbia 92.94

An ideal location at the base of Blackcomb Mountain means easy access to slopeside activities, including horse-drawn sleigh rides, ice-skating, and even dog-sledding. At the end of a long day, it's not just adults who can indulge in some pampering. The property's new "Glacier Kids" program offers wraps, massages, and more.

Parents Love Locally sourced wine and charcuterie plates at the Sidecut restaurant.

Kids Love Chocolate-chip cookies and hot cocoa served at the bottom of the mountain, courtesy of Four Seasons staff. **Room to Book** A two- or three-bedroom Private Residence, with a 24-hour butler at your service. *fourseasons.com*. \$\$\$

2 Fairmont Chateau

Whistler British Columbia 88.52
fairmont.com. \$\$\$

3 Wickannish Inn

Tofino, British Columbia
88.33 *wickinn.com*. \$\$\$\$

4 Fairmont Pacific Rim

Vancouver 86.90
fairmont.com. \$\$

5 Fairmont Château

Laurier Ottawa 86.67
fairmont.com. \$

6 Fairmont Waterfront

Vancouver British Columbia 86.15
fairmont.com. \$\$

7 Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise

Alberta 86.13
fairmont.com. \$\$\$

8 Ritz-Carlton

Toronto 85.93
ritzcarlton.com. \$\$\$\$

9 Fairmont Jasper

Park Lodge Jasper, Alberta 85.26
fairmont.com. \$\$\$

10 Westin Resort & Spa

Whistler, British Columbia
85.19 *westin.com*. \$\$\$



EUROPE

NO. 1

Castello di Casole—a Timbers Resort
Casole d'Elsa, Italy **95.46**

Old meets new at this stylish, 41-suite hotel in the rolling hills of Tuscany. Take a leisurely family stroll around the surrounding olive grove or go for a dip in the infinity pool; for the more adventurous, there are early-morning animal-watching tours with the game warden on the resort's reserve, and sightseeing trips to nearby Florence. **Parents Love** The on-site cooking classes led by executive chef Daniele Sera, who will guide you through the hotel's vegetable garden to pick herbs. **Kids Love** Pizza-making classes, followed by gelato tastings.

Room to Book Looking to splurge? The three-bedroom Bargagli Penthouse Suite has reclaimed-wood-beamed ceilings and a terrace that looks out onto Casole d'Elsa and Mensano. castellodicasole.com. **\$\$\$\$\$**

2 Çiragan Palace Kempinski Istanbul
91.30 kempinski.com.
\$\$\$\$\$

3 Milestone Hotel
London **90.67**
milestonehotel.com.
\$\$\$\$\$

4 Ashford Castle
County Mayo, Ireland
90.40 ashford.ie. **\$\$\$\$\$**

5 Rubens at the Palace
London **90.00** rubenshotel.com. **\$\$\$**

6 Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace
Budapest **89.47**
fourseasons.com. **\$\$\$\$\$**

7 Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at the Bosphorus **88.80**
fourseasons.com.
\$\$\$\$\$

8 Hotel Alfonso XIII, a Luxury Collection Hotel Seville, Spain
88.75 luxurycollection.com. **\$\$\$\$\$**

9 Four Seasons Hotel Firenze Florence **88.67**
fourseasons.com. **\$\$\$\$\$**

10 Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa
Interlaken, Switzerland
85.71 victoria-jungfrau.ch. **\$\$\$**



Little Artistes

Become a block-print artist at the Oberoi Rajvillas, Jaipur (No. 8 in Asia). Kids learn to use traditional, hand-engraved Rajasthani wooden blocks and dip them in vibrant colors to make paintings or scarves.

CARIBBEAN, BERMUDA + BAHAMAS

NO. 1

Beaches Turks & Caicos Resort Villages & Spa
93.33

There's something for every type of traveler here: a Camp Sesame crafts center, a spa, a Scratch DJ academy, and crystal-blue waters teeming with marine life. Sign up for a group or private family scuba lesson through the world-renowned diving program.

Parents Love Hot-stone couples massages on the beach. **Kids Love** The massive Pirate Island water park, one of the largest in the Caribbean, complete with waterslides, lazy rivers, and a surf simulator. **Room to Book** A Family suite with two or three connecting rooms; each has an Xbox 360 and a fully stocked granite wet bar for

parents. beaches.com; three-night minimum.
\$\$\$

2 Ocean Club Resorts
Turks and Caicos
90.44
oceanclubresorts.com.
\$\$\$

3 Casa de Campo
La Romana, Dominican Republic **90.00**
casadecampo.com.do.
\$\$\$

3 Gran Meliá Puerto Rico Golf Resort
Rio Grande **90.00**
meliacom.com. **\$**

3 Round Hill Hotel & Villas Montego Bay, Jamaica **90.00**
roundhill.com. **\$\$\$\$\$**

6 Ritz-Carlton Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands **89.70**
ritzcarlton.com. **\$\$\$\$\$**

7 Oyster Bay Beach Resort St. Maarten
88.89 oysterbaybeachresort.com. **\$\$\$\$\$**

8 Somerset on Grace Bay Turks and Caicos
88.75 thesomerset.com. **\$\$\$\$\$**

9 Four Seasons Resort
Nevis **87.76**
fourseasons.com. **\$\$\$\$\$**

10 Half Moon, a RockResort Montego Bay, Jamaica **87.74**
halfmoon.com. **\$\$\$\$\$**

MEXICO

NO. 1

Pueblo Bonito
Mazatlán **97.33**
Every suite at the pink-colored Pueblo Bonito Mazatlán has a balcony or patio with views of the Pacific Ocean. And the resort's position in the heart of the Golden Zone is optimal: on a prime swath of sand, but still a short drive to historic Old Mazatlán.

Parents Love The free Spanish classes for beginners. **Kids Love** Snorkeling off nearby Stone Island. **Room to Book** Any of the Beachfront suites, with fully equipped kitchens for cooking family meals. pueblobonito.com. **\$**

2 Pueblo Bonito Emerald Bay
Mazatlán **94.74**
pueblobonito.com. **\$**



TUSCANY'S
CASTELLO DI
CASOLE

NO. 1 FOR
FAMILIES
EUROPE

3 Grand Velas Riviera

Maya Playa del Carmen **91.85**
grandvelas.com; all-inclusive. **\$\$\$\$\$**

4 Four Seasons Resort

Punta Mita **89.52**
fourseasons.com. **\$\$\$\$\$**

5 Rosewood Mayakoba

Riviera Maya **89.41**
rosewoodhotels.com. **\$\$\$\$\$**

CENTRAL + SOUTH AMERICA

NO. 1

Arenas del Mar Beachfront & Rainforest Resort
 Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica **89.41**

Hidden in 11 acres of rain forest, Arenas resort is a quintessential getaway for adventure seekers. There are white-water rafting trips, wildlife treks, horseback rides, dolphin-spotting tours—the list goes on.

Parents Love The Easy Being Green program, where adults and little ones learn about the importance of conservation during guided field trips to the on-site nursery. **Kids Love** Ziplining excursions in the jungle. **Room to Book** One on the ground floor, just steps from Playitas pool and beach. arenasdelmar.com. **\$\$\$**

2 Llao Llao Hotel & Resort, Golf-Spa

Bariloche, Argentina **88.75**
llaollao.com. **\$\$\$**

3 Nayara Hotel, Spa & Gardens

La Fortuna, Costa Rica **88.37**
arenalnayara.com. **\$**

4 Westin Golf Resort & Spa Playa Conchal

Guanacaste, Costa Rica **88.00**
westin.com; all-inclusive. **\$\$\$\$\$**

5 Four Seasons

Resort Costa Rica at Peninsula Papagayo

87.39 *fourseasons.com*. **\$\$\$\$\$**

ASIA

NO. 1

Discovery Shores
 Boracay, Philippines **95.81**

This roughly five-mile-long island had little in the way of chic family retreats until the opening of Discovery Shores. After your kids have had their fill of the crystal-clear water, drop them off at the Sandbox playroom, filled with puzzles, games, books, and videos. At night, head to the entertainment room for karaoke.

Parents Love The island's many restaurants and lounges, especially for those moms and dads looking to enjoy some nightlife. A favorite? The waterfront Kasbah, serving Moroccan small plates. **Kids Love** Cupcake-decorating and puppet-making classes every day at 4 p.m. **Room to Book** The loft-style one- and two-bedroom Suite Premier rooms, with Jacuzzis. discoveryshoresboracay.com. **\$\$\$**

2 The Peninsula

Shanghai **93.33**
peninsula.com. **\$\$\$\$\$**

3 Shangri-La's Mactan Resort & Spa

Cebu, Philippines **93.04**
shangri-la.com. **\$\$\$**

4 Nam Hai Hotel An,

Vietnam **92.50**
thenamhai.com. **\$\$\$\$\$**

5 Oberoi Udaivilas

Udaipur, India **91.43**
oberoihotels.com. **\$\$\$\$\$**

6 Sofitel Legend

Metropole Hanoi,
 Vietnam **91.11**
sofitel.com. **\$\$\$**

7 The Oberoi

Mumbai **91.00**
oberoihotels.com. **\$**

8 Oberoi Rajvilas

Jaipur, India **90.91**
oberoihotels.com. **\$\$\$\$\$**

8 Shangri-La's Boracay Resort & Spa

Philippines **90.91**
shangri-la.com. **\$\$\$\$\$**

10 JW Marriott Phuket

Resort & Spa Thailand **90.44**
marriott.com. **\$**

AFRICA + THE MIDDLE EAST

NO. 1

Londolozi Private Game Reserve
 Sabi Sand Reserve, South Africa **94.74**

This family-run property on the Sabi Sand Reserve is home to elephants, buffalo, white rhino, and lions, but its star attraction is the leopards. Morning and afternoon game drives with experienced trackers bring you face-to-face with the animals. What's more, a dedicated kids' safari program, Londolozi Cubs, teaches children about the wild. **Parents Love** Romantic candlelit dinners, where chefs whip up organic, meat-centric dishes. **Kids Love** How the experience continues long after you leave the resort. Children are encouraged to read and write about their adventures for the lodge's *Cubs Den* blog. **Room to Book** A two-bedroom chalet at one of the two camps geared toward families—Varty and Founders—with an expert naturalist on hand to lead hikes through the wilderness. londolozi.co.za; all-inclusive. **\$\$\$\$\$**

2 Sabi Sabi Private

Game Reserve Kruger National Park Area, South Africa **93.33**
sabisabi.com; all-inclusive. **\$\$\$\$\$**



**SOUTH AFRICA'S
LONDOLOZI
PRIVATE GAME
RESERVE**

NO. 1 FOR FAMILIES
AFRICA +
THE MIDDLE EAST

3 Singita Kruger National Park Kruger National Park, South Africa **93.00** singita.com; all-inclusive. \$\$\$\$\$

4 Singita Sabi Sand Sabi Sand Reserve, South Africa **92.50** singita.com; all-inclusive. \$\$\$\$\$

5 Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge Tanzania **92.00** sopalodges.com. \$\$\$\$

6 Mount Nelson Hotel Cape Town **89.60** orient-express.com. \$\$\$\$

7 Fairmont Mara Safari Club Masai Mara National Reserve, Kenya **89.17** fairmont.com; all-inclusive. \$\$\$\$

8 Amboseli Serena Safari Lodge Amboseli National Park, Kenya **88.75** serenahotels.com; all-inclusive. \$\$\$\$

9 Chobe Game Lodge Chobe National Park, Botswana **88.57** chobegamelodge.com; all-inclusive. \$\$\$\$\$

10 Cape Grace Cape Town **88.24** capegrace.com. \$\$\$\$

AUSTRALIA + NEW ZEALAND + THE SOUTH PACIFIC

NO. 1

InterContinental
Sydney **84.21**

Rising from the sandstone façade of the 1851 Treasury Building, the InterContinental has a covetable spot in central Sydney within walking distance of the city's major sites—the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney Opera House, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia. **Parents Love** The 30-minute seaplane flight over the city, arranged by the concierge. **Kids Love** Day trips to the nearby Sealife Sydney Aquarium and Taronga Zoo. **Room to Book** A suite facing Harbour Bridge, which lights up at night. ihg.com. \$\$\$\$

2 Park Hyatt Sydney 81.82
park.hyatt.com. \$\$\$\$

3 Sheraton on the Park
Sydney 81.25 starwood
hotels.com. \$\$

**4 Sydney Harbour
Marriott at Circular
Quay** 80.83
marriott.com. \$\$\$

5 Park Hyatt Melbourne
80.00 park.hyatt.com.
\$\$\$

3 Carnival Cruises 80.48
carnival.com.

4 Costa Cruises 79.64
costacruise.com.

5 Norwegian Cruise Line
78.36 ncl.com.

LARGE-SHIP CRUISES

**1 Royal Caribbean
International** 82.95
royalcaribbean.com.

2 Norwegian Cruise Line
75.80 ncl.com.

3 Holland America Line
74.57
hollandamerica.com.

4 Princess Cruises 74.51
princess.com.

5 Celebrity Cruises 72.45
celebritycruises.com.

SMALL-SHIP CRUISES

1 Paul Gauguin Cruises
66.96 pgcruises.com.

2 SeaDream Yacht Club
63.05 seadream.com.

**3 Regent Seven Seas
Cruises** 62.83 rssc.com.

4 Seabourn 60.99
seabourn.com.

5 Windstar Cruises 60.92
windstarcruises.com.

RIVER CRUISES

**1 Uniworld Boutique
River Cruise Collection**
86.26 uniworld.com.

2 Viking River Cruises
73.02
vikingrivercruises.com.

3 Avalon Waterways
70.88
avalonwaterways.com.

**4 Grand Circle Cruise
Line** 70.43 gct.com.

5 AmaWaterways 69.95
amawaterways.com.

TOP ADVENTURE OUTFITTERS

1 Rothschild Safaris
97.52
rothschildsafaris.com.

2 Micato Safaris
97.50 micato.com.

**3 Adventures by
Disney** 95.00
adventuresbydisney.com.

4 Classic Journeys 94.42
classicjourneys.com.

5 Thomson Safaris 93.91
thomsonsafaris.com.

TOP CRUISE LINES

MEGA-SHIP CRUISES

1 Disney Cruise Line
96.97 disneycruise.
disney.go.com.

**2 Royal Caribbean
International** 82.22
royalcaribbean.com.



To the Rescue

The *Disney Magic* cruise ship (No. 1 in Mega-Ship Cruises) has been reimagined to include a Marvel's Avengers Academy, complete with superhero equipment (Iron Man's suit of armor; Thor's hammer), special missions, and crime-fighting training.



PARK HYATT
SYDNEY

NO. 2
FOR FAMILIES
AUSTRALIA + THE
NEW ZEALAND + THE
SOUTH PACIFIC