

DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD news

Essential travel intelligence

July 2025

PORTUGUESE PERFECTION

Delving into architecture, wine
and books in the city of Porto

NO REGRETS

Marco Pierre White on
life after the kitchen

FLOATING ON A CLOUD

Sailing the Adriatic
Sea in style aboard
Sea Cloud II

EUROPEAN EXCELLENCE

MAGNIFICENT MOUNTAIN ESCAPES AND SEASIDE
SOJOURNS, FROM ICELAND TO ALBANIA

EXCLUSIVE TIMEPIECES



EXQUISITE JEWELS



UNIQUE ESCAPES



LUXURY CARS



NO ADULTS ALLOWED

Discover our edit of the best child-friendly things to do and the finest places to be this month



DISCOVER THE KINGDOM

If you're looking for a stay close to home that strikes just the right balance between luxurious and family friendly, Mandarin Oriental Al Faisaliah, Riyadh has the perfect package. Providing the entire family with plenty of space to relax and unwind, the Families by M.O experience offers a 50 per cent discount on second rooms, a daily buffet breakfast with plenty of kid-friendly options and many other benefits. The bespoke children's amenities—including slippers, bathrobes and drawing books—and daily passes to the enormous My Town Adventure Park at Al Faisaliah Mall, are sure to cause much excitement, while the prime location puts you in the ideal spot for discovering the city's many world-class attractions, shopping opportunities and unique hidden gems. Combining contemporary amenities with Arabian designs, the rooms and suites are stunning, while the tranquil spa provides grownups with a welcome dose of pampering. Mandarinoriental.com

STARLIGHT PADDLES

The UAE's hot summer temperatures limit the time you can spend outdoors, but Anantara Sir Bani Yas Island's Al Yamm Villa Resort is offering a new way for those of all ages to connect with the natural world all year round. Complementing its beautiful, Bedouin-inspired beachfront villas and the island's vast populations of rare and endangered wildlife, the resort has introduced a new mangrove night kayaking experience that invites families to enjoy gliding through the lush trees under the starry night sky and relish in the amazing quiet of the island in peace. Back at your villa you'll also have access to your own private pool, incredible beach or mangrove views and the option of dining at a choice of premium restaurants that both kids and adults are sure to love. Anantara.com



ALPINE ADVENTURES

There are few places more idyllic than the French Alps in summertime. This year, Château de Candie, the 25-room, immaculately restored 14th-century chateau-hotel has introduced a wide array of new family experiences that allow everyone to absorb the wonders of France's untouched natural landscapes and amazing mountain ranges. From canyoning and climbing to stand-up paddle boarding, sailing and kayaking on the glacial Lac du Bourget, vineyard picnics in the sunshine and cultural visits to local towns and villages, there's plenty to keep you busy. Set against breathtaking views of snow-capped mountains, young daredevils can also try water-skiing and wakeboarding lessons, while the thrilling private plane flight over the towering Mont Blanc and the regal peaks of Switzerland, Italy and France is an excursion that every member of the family will treasure forever. Purplesummer.com

WORDS: HARRIET SHEPARD



STORYBOOK SUITES

Forget hotel rooms, Island Shangri-La, Hong Kong has launched a whole array of intricately designed, fairytale-like family suites that are sure to spark the imagination of every young guest. Spread across the new dedicated family floor, little ones are invited to sleep in enchanted castles, fairy garden-inspired carriages, amazing airships and more spectacular bunk beds that all come

complete with slides, themed décor and striking skyline views. Ensuring that every family has everything they need throughout their stay, the new The Hangout area provides games, activities and healthy snacks, while The Pantry is always fully stocked with baby food, laundry facilities, kids' toiletries and every other essential that families could ever want. Shangri-la.com



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