

7 Exceptional Family-Friendly Vacations

by CHRISTINA LIAO
SEPTEMBER 4, 2015

Vacationing with children can seem daunting for even the most seasoned of travelers. A two-year-old isn't going to withstand a day of quiet museum hopping in Paris, a high school sophomore doesn't want to do *anything*, and the parents just want a break. If the idea of shipping off to an amusement park for the hundredth time is unbearable, and Grandma and Grandpa aren't up for babysitting, all is not lost. Family-friendly resorts might conjure nightmares of cheesy all-inclusives and endless buffet lines, but a few standouts are brilliantly mixing all-out luxury with clever programs to keep the little ones occupied. Here are seven family-friendly resorts that you'll want to visit with (or even without) your little munchkins.



[Carmel Valley Ranch, California](#)

For the parents: Sitting pretty on 500 acres of lush California land, this recently renovated resort is essentially a year-round summer camp for the whole family. There's a treetop spa that employs lavender and honey harvested from the hotel grounds, barre and yoga classes, a pool with cabanas and an infinity hot tub overlooking the new pinot noir vineyard, eighteen-hole golf course, and tennis complex, not to mention romantic concrete soaking tubs off many of the new suites.

For the kids and the whole family: In addition to the daily camps (with programs designed by certified teachers), there are archery classes, butterfly garden expeditions, geocaching treasure hunts, an

equestrian program with trail and pony rides, farm adventures including Chicken Chats, and a beekeeping experience. But a night at Carmel Valley Ranch isn't complete without toasting up a s'more around the fire pit to satisfy that late-night sweet tooth.

Photo: Courtesy of Carmel Valley Ranch