



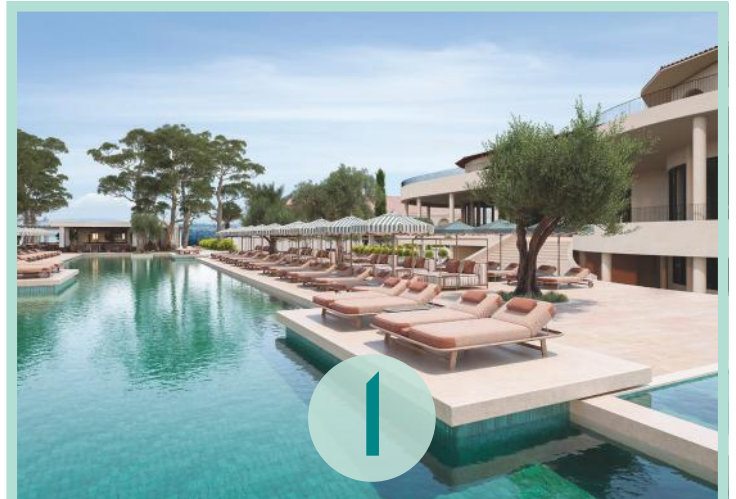
10 of the BEST

NEW FAMILY RESORTS

Get excited for this summer's hottest new hotels, writes **Alice Barnes-Brown**

Families are still prioritising holidays, despite cost-of-living pressures, according to a YouGov survey published earlier this year. It revealed most UK holidaymakers plan to spend the same or more on this year's holiday than in 2025, with 55% of respondents saying they would prefer to spend on shared family experiences than leave a larger inheritance.

Whether parents are looking to relax while the kids make new friends or the whole family is keen to explore a destination together, agents can help make those experiences unforgettable by choosing the perfect base. From South Africa to Spain, a wave of new resorts catering to families is set to open this year – here's our pick of the ones to watch.



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CONRAD CORFU, GREECE

Conrad is making a double debut in Greece this year, with openings in Athens and on Corfu's south coast in May. The Genius Loci Kids' Club offers slides, swings and trampolines nestled in an olive and eucalyptus grove. Families can play a set on one of two tennis courts, soak up the sunshine at the sprawling Aqua Piazza lagoon pool, or enjoy the sandy beach and shallow waters. After dark, clients can kick back at the outdoor cinema or feast at a taverna-inspired beach restaurant.

Book it: Caribtours offers seven nights' B&B from £1,999 for adults and £1,499 for children, based on two adults and one child sharing a King Deluxe Room with Garden View. The price includes flights from Heathrow, departing October 24. caribtours.co.uk

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FALKENSTEINER LAKE GARDA RESORT, ITALY

Families who want to live *la dolce vita* might be enticed by the new Falkensteiner resort on Lake Garda, which opens in May. The forested hideaway is ideally situated for refreshing dips, boat trips and hikes into the Alpine foothills. But when it's time for the kids to play away from their parents, they'll find a world of options. For the youngest members of the family, there are soft-play and baby zones, while outdoorsy programmes for older kids are an engaging way to explore the natural world through science workshops, eco-crafting and bike trails. Teens, meanwhile, will relish their very own spa treatments.

Book it: Azure Collection sells a seven-night stay, with breakfast, from £7,245 for two adults and one child under 10 sharing a Junior Suite. Includes transfers and flights from Gatwick departing October 24. azurecollection.com

DESTINATIONS

FAMILY HOLIDAYS | NEW RESORTS



NEILSON X THE RAVENALA ATTITUDE, MAURITIUS

New to Neilson's collection of Beach Clubs from June 2026, this all-suite resort marks the active brand's first foray into the long-haul market. The Neilson-run kids' club is included in the price and caters for kids up to 13 during school holidays, or up to five at other times, along with activities suited to teens and a Starfish crèche (at a supplement) for babies from four to 23 months. Families can take their pick from tennis, beach volleyball, kayaking, paddleboarding, e-biking and even a snorkel safari by sea scooter, while meals and drinks are all-inclusive, so there's no unexpected ice cream bill at the end of a week away.

Book it: Neilson offers a week's all-inclusive with flights from £1,647 per person, based on four sharing a Family Suite and departing from Gatwick on August 26, with inclusive activities and transfers. neilson.co.uk

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IKOS KISSAMOS, GREECE

Opening in April, the Ikos Kissamos on Crete's spellbinding western edge has delivered the strongest sales for a new resort in the brand's history – so act fast if clients are interested. The beachfront resort will feature 414 rooms, set in 52 acres of landscaped grounds. The kids' club and crèche caters for youngsters from the age of six months to 17 years, with activities ranging from paddleboarding to supper clubs. Four restaurants and a food court, meanwhile, ensure that fussy eaters can find something to their taste. An electric vehicle is included in each stay, making it easier for families to reach the ancient city of Chania, pink-sand beaches of Falasarna or the shallow, turquoise waters of Balos Lagoon – all of which are less than 45 minutes away.

Book it: Tui sells seven nights' all-inclusive from £2,746 per person, based on two adults and a child under three in a Family Room with Pool View. The price includes 20kg luggage, transfers and flights from Gatwick on October 2. tui.co.uk



CORAL STAR HOTEL & APARTMENTS, SPAIN

This family-oriented property in Ibiza is under new management and has been renovated from top to toe, ahead of reopening in June. The rooms have been given a glow-up, with many offering kitchenettes and direct pool access – an extra selling point for families who want to do their own thing. Two pools and a splash park provide the perfect space to cool off from the Spanish sunshine. The kids' club has seen a complete transformation, with mini rock-climbing walls, ball pools and soft-play areas. A new teen area provides older children with a place to read and disconnect, while parents can take advantage of the revamped gym.

Book it: EasyJet holidays sells a five-night B&B stay from £828 per person, based on two adults and two children sharing. The price includes transfers, 23kg luggage and flights departing Gatwick on August 11. easyjet.com/holidays

DESTINATIONS

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ERI, MALDIVES

Indian Ocean hideaway Eri Maldives opened in January and is located just a 45-minute speedboat ride from Malé Airport. The house reef makes snorkelling accessible for all the family – younger guests can walk straight from the shore, get comfortable with their masks in the shallow water and spot turtles, octopuses and a rainbow of tropical fish. Plus, a Padi-certified dive centre means confident swimmers can explore even deeper. On dry land, football, volleyball and table tennis will help guests burn off any excess energy.

Book it: Mercury Holidays sells a seven-night full-board stay from £1,591 per person, based on a family of four sharing. The price includes speedboat transfers, 25kg luggage and flights from Heathrow on July 31. mercuryholidays.co.uk

PARADISUS BY MELIÁ BALI, INDONESIA

The 492-suite Meliá, which opened last month on the sandy shores of Bali's Nusa Dua beach, is filled with thoughtful touches. Check in to a Family Concierge room and children will enjoy their own goodies and exclusive areas. If watersports in the bay aren't enough, the Aquazone water park has four slides for kids to race down. Parents can join the fun or simply relax by the adult-only pool. For culturally inclined clients, suggest upgrading to the Destination Inclusive package to visit temples, watch a Balinese dance performance or try local arts and crafts.

Book it: Kuoni sells seven nights' B&B from £7,229 in total for two adults and two children sharing a Junior Suite Garden View. The price includes transfers and flights from Heathrow on select dates in August. kuoni.co.uk



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CLUB MED SOUTH AFRICA

The first Club Med resort in South Africa is opening in July, offering a comfortable base for a family to combine all-inclusive relaxation with a safari in KwaZulu-Natal. That could mean immersive day trips, or the addition of a night or two at Vikela Safari Lodge, exclusive to Club Med guests aged four and up. The kids' club is divided into babies, toddlers, children up to 10, tweens and teens, so youngsters can get the right level of supervision and mix with others their own age. The resort will also offer Club Med's first surf school, with group lessons starting from the age of four. Older children will also love taking part in flying trapeze lessons, suspended five metres above the ground.

Book it: Club Med offers a seven-night all-inclusive stay from £2,398 per person, based on two adults and two children sharing connected Superior rooms. The price includes transfers and flights departing July 25. Vikela Safari Lodge costs an additional £370 per person, per night. clubmed.co.uk

ASK THE
expert



Natasha Marson,
head of trade distribution,
easyJet holidays

"The main benefit to booking a newly opened or renovated hotel is the guarantee of modern facilities. For families, this can mean improved kids' areas, a greater variety of dining options and contemporary rooms with features designed to impress. Many new hotels also offer attractive discounts during their first few months, so there's an even greater incentive to book. With our Best Price Guarantee, we promise to beat the price if the same holiday is found cheaper elsewhere. So agents who sell new hotels through us know clients are getting the best value."

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