

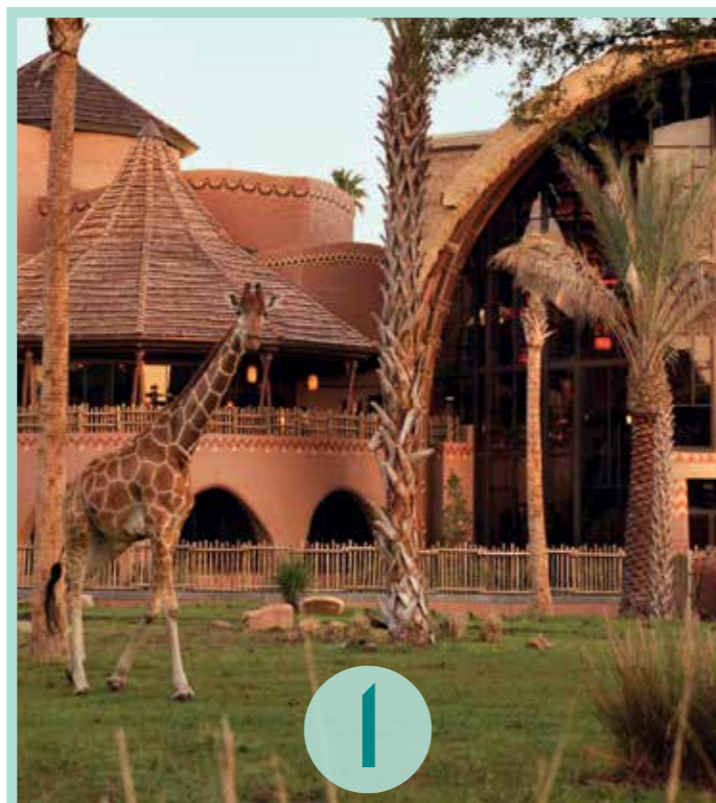
of the BEST

FAMILY ROOMS

Wondering where to send families looking for a standout hotel room for all the clan to share? **Laura French** has the lowdown

Pleasing a family is no mean feat when it comes to booking clients a holiday, with mum, dad and the kids all possessing their own – frequently incongruent – ideas of what makes the perfect trip.

Fortunately, there's a pretty robust array of family-friendly rooms and suites that mean even the most demanding of clients can be catered to, with everything from budget-friendly apartments with sofa-bed lounges to ultra-luxe penthouse suites with private pools and butlers available to satisfy every whim and fancy. We've spoken to the experts to find some of the best.



1

DISNEY ANIMAL KINGDOM LODGE, ORLANDO

Clients like the idea of spotting a giraffe from their window? Look no further than the Savanna View rooms at Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom Lodge. Themed on the African savanna, they look directly out on to an expanse of lush-green surrounds, where more than 30 wildlife species – including zebras, giraffes, gazelles and flamingos – roam. The rooms range from bunk-bed affairs to two-bedroom suites, with several accessible options that make it ideal for multigenerational trips.

Book it: Travel 2 offers seven nights in a Savanna View room from £2,039 per person, including a 14-day Ultimate Ticket, Disney Dining Plan, Magical Express transfers and a \$300 gift card, flying on July 20. travel2.com



2

CLUB MED MICHES PLAYA ESMERALDA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

For family rooms with a dose of tropical flair, suggest the Interconnecting Deluxe Rooms – Caribbean Paradise at Club Med's soon-to-open, eco-friendly outpost in the Dominican Republic. Designed to reflect the island's exotic flowers, they're striking in style with contemporary, colourful decor, plus a private terrace and separate interconnecting areas that make it ideal for kids (and parents) wanting a bit of space. With room for six, they're suited to bigger families who want to get active in the resort, where four 'villages' play host to different themes.

Book it: A week at Club Med Michès Playa Esmeralda costs from £8,770 for a family of four, departing on April 11, 2020, with flights from London and transfers. clubmed.co.uk



3

PRINCESA YAIZA SUITE HOTEL RESORT, LANZAROTE

If it's vast space and excellent facilities families are after, direct them to this all-suite resort, says Joanne Colchester, purchasing manager for Classic Collection Holidays. "It's difficult to beat. The Royal Kiko Suites are mightily impressive, spanning 88sq m with huge furnished balconies," she says. They form part of a dedicated family building, connected to the hotel by a passage filled with tropical aquariums, and each feature two bedrooms, two bathrooms and a living room, plus a children's kit complete with welcome gift and PlayStation. Beyond the rooms there's plenty going on, not least Kikoland, a sprawling adventure area with a full-on activity schedule.

Book it: Classic Collection offers a week's B&B in a Royal Kiko Suite from £9,398 for five in half term, including flights and private transfers. classic-collection.co.uk

4

ESPERIDES BEACH FAMILY RESORT, RHODES

Got a family on a budget? Olympic Holidays suggests Esperides Beach Family Resort. "It offers great family rooms with a partition to provide privacy, and bunk beds for the children" says Ricky Wason, head of product and purchasing for the operator. "But the whole hotel is a children's playground, with pools, waterslides, a kids' club, cinema, soft-play area and a new children's food area with lower counters, all right by the beach." The resort also owns a water park that is a 10-minute walk away. Superior family rooms are available for those wanting some extra comfort.

Book it: A week's all-inclusive starts at £731 per person, based on four sharing a Family Room, flying from Gatwick on August 6, 2020.

olympicholidays.com



5



PRINSOTEL LA DORADA, MAJORCA

Jet2holidays recommends this four-star-plus property for families seeking the privacy and seclusion of their own apartment, plus the facilities that come with a hotel – think splash park, kids’ club and lagoon-style pool. Accommodation options range from Family Apartments to luxury pads with a private terrace and plunge pool, and all come with a complimentary baby pack. Among the standouts is the One Bedroom Apartment with Royal Terrace, complete with outdoor shower, two TVs, a games console and access to the PrinsClub area.

Book it: Jet2holidays offers a week’s self-catering in a Family Apartment from £759 per person based on a family of four sharing, flying from Stansted on August 5, 2020.
jet2holidays.com



Look for interconnecting rooms for families wanting a halfway house that gives kids privacy while providing their parents with peace of mind.

For clients after space while still having the benefits of a resort, suggest a self-catering apartment set on a resort-style complex.

If families are travelling with younger children, choose resorts that offer in-room baby/toddler packs and kids’ clubs for all ages. Neilson, Mark Warner, Club Med, Tui and First Choice all excel on the latter.

Encourage booking early to get the best deals – Jet2holidays and Tui have kids-go-free places at certain resorts, so push these to clients looking for a bargain.

6

PARADISUS PLAYA DEL CARMEN LA ESMERALDA, MEXICO

Picture swimming straight up to your room and you’ve got Paradisus Playa del Carmen La Esmeralda, whose Family Concierge One Bedroom Master Swim Up Suites are directly above the pool. Measuring 80sq m, they can accommodate up to six with two king-size beds, a lounge, kitchenette and dining space, plus a whirlpool bath on the private deck, a games console and a minibar with kids’ drinks. The Family Concierge service also offers access to a private beach, lounge area and pool with swim-up bar, as well as butler service.

Book it: Kuoni offers a week’s all-inclusive in a Paradisus Junior Suite Swim Up from £7,449 per family, including flights from Gatwick and transfers, for select departures in April 2020.
kuoni.co.uk





BEST OF THE REST

Ikos Aria, Kos: The newest addition to the Ikos family, Aria's Deluxe One Bedroom Bungalow Suites in Kos are Cyplon Holidays' top pick, thanks to panoramic windows, separate bedrooms and spacious balconies, plus other bonuses such as free use of a Mini.

The Reef, Atlantis Paradise Island, the Bahamas: This recently refurbished hotel has family options that range from studios to three-bedroom penthouse suites, with sizeable living areas and kitchens, all set beside white-sand shores.

Beaches Turks & Caicos: For luxury seekers, suggest the Key West villas at Beaches' flagship resort. All come with butler service and the biggest sleeps up to 10, with its own private pool.

Mark Warner Levante Beach Resort, Rhodes: Private pool suites with views over the sea are the order of the day here. Sliding doors separate a lounge with a sofa-bed from the parents' double bedroom.

HOLIDAY VILLAGE TURKEY

For exceptional value, Turkey is hard to match, so capitalise on its cluster of child-friendly hotels for families seeking luxury without a whopping price tag. The four-star Holiday Village in Sarigerme dishes up the latter, with various interconnecting rooms available. Highlights include the Select Room – featuring a bedroom split into two areas, and a hydro-massage bathtub – and the rather exclusive Jacuzzi Suite, which adds extra space for those wanting to spread out a little (and minimise the family disagreements).

Book it: First Choice offers seven nights' all-inclusive from £812 per person, based on two adults and two children sharing, including flights from Manchester on May 23, 2020, and transfers. firstchoice.co.uk



SAINT PETER'S BAY, BARBADOS

For clients looking to push the boat out, let this ultra-luxe retreat oblige, says Caribtours' head of product, Jenny Peart. "The beachfront residences are beautifully furnished with between one and five bedrooms," she says. "They're ideal for independent families, as there's the option to self-cater, but all the facilities of the resort are on hand." Each features a living area, kitchen, balcony with Jacuzzi and outdoor dining area, while a lift takes guests straight to the pool or beach. If that's not enough, there's a Five Bedroom Deluxe Penthouse boasting its own rooftop terrace with dining area and pool overlooking the glistening ocean.

Book it: A week's room-only in a Two Bedroom Premium Beachfront Villa costs from £2,145 per adult and £1,929 per child, including flights and private transfers. caribtours.co.uk



PICTURES: Felix Hug/eyesonasia.net; Emma Tibbets