

NEW TRIPS for Families, Foodies

REAL ESCAPES FOR ALL AGES P. 82 ▶ ASIA'S SURPRISE CUISINE P. 68

ANNUAL

Best of the
Caribbean

p. 36


ISLANDS

96 Reasons to follow this plane



- 1) This beach
- 2) That water
- 3) Jamaica's resorts
- 4) Cozumel's spas
- 5) St. Lucia's scenery
- 6) Fresh lobster
- 7) Friendliest island people
- 8) Gourmet dishes on St. Martin
- 9) And St. Maarten
- 10) Snorkeling in the USVI
- 11) Sailing through the BVI
- 12) Anything conch

55 Caribbean destinations
at ISLANDS.com





Families have room
to roam at the Villa
Aquamare in the
British Virgin Islands.



THE BEST FAMILY ISLANDS

ISLANDS

**BEST
OF THE
WORLD**

IT'S EASY TO PICK THE ISLAND with the biggest water slide and just take the kids there. Harder — but worth it — is finding the place where the entire family can bond while spying giant sea turtles, searching for hidden beaches and sharing more island experiences. Easy accessibility, fun amenities and big accommodations are important too for any family getaway, and ISLANDS' experts considered those factors as well. Whether for a young family's first island trip or an extended family's best reunion ever, these 14 destinations can spark lifetime memories and a lifelong love of travel.

BY CHRIS TAUBER
AND TONY PERROTTET



Win a USVI VIP Carnival Vacation

Be treated like a VIP as a special guest of the USVI and *Islands* magazine. Enter to win a customized USVI Carnival experience with your very own concierge.

Three Prizes:

Three separate trips will be given away—one to each of the three U.S. Virgin Islands. Each prize includes deluxe accommodations, round-trip airfare and a concierge guide.

To enter, go to:
Islands.com/carnival



U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS™
st.CROIX st.JOHN st.THOMAS
VISITUSVI.COM

ISLANDS

turtles alongside a "turtle tutor." You can't help but learn something new. Rates from \$1,000. sandylane.com

BEST ALL-AMERICAN ESCAPE

Duck Key, Florida

► Imagine a Norman Rockwell version of the Florida Keys. Duck Key is a place where families can enjoy the island chain's isolated, timeless beauty minus a big leap offshore. Within a sprawling 60 acres of landscaped waterways, the resort of Hawks Cay has more than 100 suites and villas, five pools and five restaurants genteely placed on tree-lined lanes. Stay in a two-, three- or four-bedroom villa with a full kitchen, and leisurely stroll along boardwalks as sailboats drift past and fathers fish with sons. A serene ocean-side enclosure has marine biologists on hand for small-group encounters with bottlenose dolphins. The AquaJam program sets up teenagers for three days of snorkeling, diving, sailing and fishing. At dusk, families gravitate toward the open fires magically lit around the main pool, snuggling in towels. There you can still enjoy the most delicious mojitos north of Havana. Rates from \$149. hawkscay.com

BEST SWIMMING POOL

Bora Bora, Islands of Tahiti

► "How big is the pool?" Kids often zero in on that one amenity to pick a vacation destination. So consider the magnifi-

cent lagoon surrounding Bora Bora the world's biggest, best, bluest swimming pool. For even more aquatic delight, the new Four Seasons Bora Bora has an infinity pool (with attendants bearing chilled towels). Next door is the Tamari'i Club for 5- to 12-year-olds, with a splash pad, turtle visits, snorkel sessions and French-food tastings. Teenagers get their own isle, Chill Island, with a private beach, hands-on reef research and stand-up paddleboarding. Everyone can go into the inner lagoon with the Four Seasons' marine biologist. The only downside to this vacation: No other pool may ever compare. Rates from \$1,000. fourseasons.com

BEST FOR HISTORY LESSONS

Capri, Italy

► If your kids think that history is boring, give them a more interesting lesson in the infinity pool at the **Hotel Caesar Augustus** on the island of Capri, Italy. Perched on the edge of a 1,000-foot cliff, it has a magnificent view of the Mediterranean — a jaw-dropping panorama across the sparkling Bay of Naples. Capri was where the ancient Romans chose to spend their vacations, and on a clear day you can see Vesuvius, the volcano that buried Pompeii in A.D. 79. At the hotel, a statue of Augustus himself recalls the first emperor who admired Capri's beauty so much that



Hotel Caesar Augustus, Capri

BERMUDA

feel the love



Elbow Beach, Bermuda

A Mandarin Oriental managed property - is the ultimate island getaway. A combination of main hotel and cottage colony: the resort enjoys prime locale overlooking stunning South Shore.

1-800-223-7434 • 441-236-3535
 ebda-reservations@mohg.com
 www.mandarinoriental.com/bermuda



Grotto Bay

Full service recently renovated resort spread among 21 lush landscaped acres along the water's edge. Tennis, watersports, diving, nearby golf, spa, 3 great restaurants! All inclusive package available. Special: Save \$400 on 4 nights or more. BERMUDA'S BEST VALUE!

1-800-582-3190
 simons@grottobay.com • www.grottobay.com



Rosedon Hotel

Quiet, friendly and relaxed, Rosedon offers the most discerning visitor a wonderful vacation away from it all. Surrounded by lush tropical gardens, Rosedon Hotel offers 44 rooms individually decorated with traditional English and island flair. Located in the heart of Bermuda, within walking distance of Hamilton.

1-800-742-5008 • 441-295-1640
 info@rosedon.bm • www.rosedon.com

WWW.BERMUDATOURISM.COM

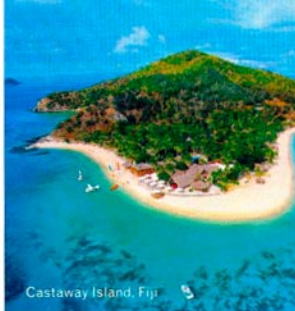
he took the island as his private preserve. In ancient times, these giddy heights, which could only be reached by a thousand-step stone stairway called the Scala Fenicia, were dotted with luxury villas, whose excessive grandeur the 55-room Hotel Caesar Augustus casually echoes today. Sit down to an alfresco banquet at the Lucullo Terrace restaurant, and the kids (the hotel welcomes ages 10 and up) might even declare that history is pretty cool after all. Rates from \$600. www.caesar-augustus.com

BEST UNPLUGGED EXPERIENCE Kauai, Hawaii

➤ The spirit of Old Hawaii remains vibrant on the north shore of Kauai. Here, you'll find the makings of a hiking and snorkeling adventure from the cliffs of the Na Pali Coast to the beach-rimmed waters of Hanalei Bay. The very laid-back Hanalei Colony Resort is as much known for its proximity to those wonders as it is for its "no phones, no TVs, no stereos" room policy. Family reunions can take up as many as needed of the 48 two-bedroom condos, each with full kitchens. Not that you'll be in them much. Instead, have breakfast together on the beachfront lanai; then enjoy a morning of ecological "voluntourism" for ages 14 and up, tending to plants in the nursery at nearby Limahuli Garden. At the resort's intimate restaurant, a new weekly luau fires up kalua pork, fresh fish and more, capped with a family of fire-knife dancers. Learning how to dance like that can be your next adventure. Rates from \$240. hcr.com

BEST FAMILY COMPOUND Jumby Bay, Antigua

➤ The family compound is a great idea. If you can't collect all the generations under one roof, use multiple roofs. In Antigua, a 300-acre private island is the setting for Jumby Bay, re-opening Nov. 1 after a multimillion-dollar, resort-wide renovation. The luxurious hideaway features 40 suites (including 28 new ones steps from Jumby Bay Beach), 16 villas with private



Castaway Island, Fiji

pools and six estate homes. La Casa, for example, has a three-bedroom main house, plus three guest cottages. And on the grounds of this compound are a croquet lawn, lighted tennis court, pool with Jacuzzi and gym. To get around the island, every family member gets a bike on arrival — except for babies, who get Silver Cross prams. Children can enroll in the new Camp Jumby to see the natural side of this island, and camp staffers can help the whole family on reservations, outing ideas and the ever-important babysitters. Rates from \$950. jumbybayresort.com

BEST EASY EXOTIC Castaway Island, Fiji

➤ There's a long list of reasons why any island traveler will love Fiji. Thankfully, there's also a long list for why any parent will love Castaway Island, including fashion shows with make-your-own Fijian costumes, legends of Fiji told around the bonfire and crab hunting by torch light. In fact, the staff can keep kids and teens entertained for most of the waking hours from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. And of the 66 bures on the western tip of this otherwise naturally green private island, many sleep up to five people. Bigger families will want to reserve the one 10-person bure on the beach. After the activities and amenities, the sunset over the South Pacific is at the top of any list about why to come to Fiji. Rates from \$325. castawayisland.com

BEST OFF-ROAD FUN Green Turtle Cay, Bahamas

➤ Even for theme-park-savvy kids, the Unstoppable Golf Cart is an unbeatable ride. Rent a rugged, knobby-tire golf