

SPRING/SUMMER 2020

# SUNDOWNER

## Look of love

FALLING FOR MONGOLIA'S WILDS

## 18 SUMMERS

A CHILDHOOD'S WORTH  
OF FUN FAMILY HOLIDAYS

## BELIEVE THE STRIPE

TIGER SPOTTING  
IN RANTHAMBORE

Abercrombie & Kent

# 18 SUMMERS

THE DAYS MAY BE LONG, BUT THE YEARS ARE SHORT. THE SCARY FACT IS THAT THERE ARE ONLY 18 SUMMERS IN YOUR MINI-ME'S CHILDHOOD AND YOU SHOULDN'T SQUANDER A SINGLE ONE OF THEM



**U**ninterrupted family time – every parent wants it and every child needs it. As Sally Peck, *The Telegraph's* family editor, recently told *Sundowner*: “With work, school, and ever-present smartphones, we spend so little uninterrupted time with our children: holidays are the one chance we have to really engage and interact, in a relaxed setting, without the intrusions of mundane life.”

Pre-school summer holidays – when there's more flexibility and you're not a slave to your child's education – pass by in a happy haze of armbands and ice cream. All holidays offer the

opportunity for memory-making and family-fun time, but during primary and secondary school summer breaks, can you also travel smarter and fight holiday-time “learning loss”?

There are a multitude of reasons why travelling is a great form of education; it's a fun way to reinforce learning and keep young minds sharp when school isn't in session. Research indicates that children who enjoy learning opportunities during the summer retain more knowledge over the holidays than their peers who do not. So read on for our ultimate guide to 18 summers that combine family fun times and edu-travel.

WORDS: ALICIA DEVENEY



**SUMMER #1**  
**CYPRUS**

Anassa: a touchstone for new parents. Spoken about in hushed, awed tones by mums and dads who had previously resigned themselves to a few years of staycations. Located in Cyprus, Anassa is a lap-of-luxury hotel that offers an all-encompassing and sanity-saving Baby Go Lightly service. Prior to arrival, parents can order items such as car seats for airport transfers, potties, training seats, highchairs, carriers, buggies, bottles and teats, sterilisers, bottle warmers, baby gyms, baby walkers, baby bathtubs, dry/swimming nappies, nappy bins, wipes, and much more besides. But that's not all: as well as the baby kit, there's also a phenomenal crèche and babysitting service. It's a utopia for parents.

**FAMILY QUARTERS:** ANASSA, CYPRUS



**SUMMER #2**  
**FRANCE**

At this age, no parent is willing to mess with the mid-day nap. One hour, two hours, sometimes three – these hours of early afternoon sleep are vital at this age, so you need to factor this into any possible holiday and be somewhere that you don't mind being stuck for half a day. Enter stage left: a luxurious villa in France. It's good for baby: child-friendly garden, safe pool area, interconnecting rooms, cots, monitors, highchair, buggy... tick, tick, tick, tick, tick, tick. And it's good for mum and dad too: saltwater swimming pool, terrace for sunbathing, shady nooks for book reading, dining spaces for alfresco eating and barbecues. That's nap time sorted then.

**FAMILY QUARTERS:** LE MAS D'ARTISTE, PROVENCE, FRANCE



**SUMMER #3**  
**SICILY**

Celebrities flock here: Harry Styles, Bradley Cooper, and Leonardo DiCaprio have all stayed. Google's legendary conference is also held here annually. With its award-winning, 4,000-square-metre spa, championship golf courses, and proximity to the Greek temples of Selinunte and Agrigento, Sir Rocco Forte's sprawling Verdura resort on Sicily's south coast is perfect for grown-ups. So what happens if that grown-up happens to be the parent of a toddler? Tailored to two-years-olds to a tee, the RBabies area of Verdùland has a baby pool, outdoor space, sleep zone, and indoor play zone. It's an ideal place for a two-year-old to spend a few hours while you have some much-needed, recharging 'me time'.

**FAMILY QUARTERS:** VERDURA RESORT, SICILY



**SUMMER #4**  
**MAURITIUS**

With a three-year-old in tow, you're potentially travelling a little lighter and life isn't a complete nightmare if naps are occasionally skipped – however you are navigating the choppy waters of life with a 'threenager' who is exploring his or her independence. It's the perfect opportunity for a holiday that includes time at a fantastically fun kids' club. This luxurious island escape is fabulous for all ages but 'Play' welcomes those aged three upwards. There's a splash pool, an outdoor culinary corner, an e-zone, a reading corner, and a quiet zone. Fun-loving and full of energy, the resort's qualified childminders organise beach games and other outdoor pursuits guaranteed to burn energy. No 'mares here – just a dream holiday.

**FAMILY QUARTERS:** LUX\* BELLE MARE, MAURITIUS