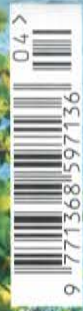


Condé Nast Traveller

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HOTEL ISSUE
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APRIL 2015 £4.10

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FAMILY HOTELS 2015



HIP USA

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IT'S ALL ABOUT
AUSTIN NOW

THE SMARTEST IRISH
CASTLES TO TAKE OVER

HONG KONG

WHY ITS ART SCENE IS THE
HOTTEST ON THE PLANET

RITA ORA
IN MOROCCO

JEFF BRIDGES
IN CALIFORNIA

CHLOE SEVIGNY
IN NEW YORK

BALI'S NEW GROOVE

- ★ BEST SECRET RETREATS ★
- ★ GREATEST BEACHES ★
- ★ COOLEST BARS ★
- ★ INSIDER SHOPPING ★



FOUR SEASONS SHARM EL SHEIKH EGYPT

The famous Four Seasons full-wattage service hits you as soon as you land at the airport. Whizz through fast-track passport control and get ushered into cars for the 10-minute drive through shimmering sand dunes. Zoom up the swanky palm-lined drive and the hotel appears like a pretty Arab-lite village, with trickling fountains and acres of impossibly emerald lawns leading down the hill towards the glinting Red Sea. For big families there are four-bedroom villas, each with a useful kitchen (the washing machine and dryer are a godsend), a pool and outdoor terraces set in lush gardens. If walking is a struggle for young and old there's a platoon of buggies and a little train, which conveniently halts beside the ice-cream stand en route to the beach. Here, it's all about the underwater world. The hotel's house reef, with cheeky clownfish and elegant angelfish, provides a gentle taster of snorkelling and diving for all ages. But the real honeypot for experienced divers lies a boat trip away at Tiran Island or Ras Mohammed National Park, where they might catch a glimpse of a whale shark or leopard shark. Action on dry land is pretty perky, too: the Kids for All Seasons programme delivers age-specific daily activities, including cake decorating, making clay volcanoes erupt and playing at pirates. Emo shade-seeking teens can gather at the Young Adult Social Centre which, despite the name, has it all: billiards, table tennis and console games. There are also three tennis courts, dodge ball, the beach where patrolling pool boys serve fresh mangoes, and, for grown-ups, a full-throttle spa and wellness centre with hardcore Technogym equipment and relaxing yoga. The four swimming pools are on a sliding scale of splashiness from the kids' Aladdin pool to the sleek adult-only lap pool. Although there are five restaurants, the food isn't overly ambitious. However, once little ones are sound asleep in bed, nothing beats a plate piled with mezze, a shisha pipe and a hip-wiggling belly dancer at the open-air Nafoura Lounge on a warm starry night.

JOURNEY TIME A five-hour flight from London then a 10-minute transfer

TIME DIFFERENCE +2 hours

INSIDER TIP It's a baggy type of place, so get ready to stake a claim on your favourite beach or pool spot quick smart and book dinner in advance.

BOOK IT Hayes & Jarvis (+44 1293 735831; www.hayesandjarvis.com) offers seven nights from £3,799 for a family of four, including breakfast, flights and transfers.

ANASSA CYPRUS

Great for a mid-haul sunshine fix (the flight is less than five hours and it's already hot at Easter), this hotel is set in 14 acres of lush lawns with lavender-scented paths above the blue waters of Chrysochou Bay. There are grand cupolas and acres of marble - it isn't short on sophisticated elegance - but thankfully it's not the kind of place where you'll be frowned upon for padding about in a robe and slippers either. Many of the 166 rooms and suites, which are decorated in creamy tones and filled with antiques, have interconnecting doors so it's ideal for extended families to spread out and give grandparents the space they need. In fact, it's a grown-up heaven with Scott Dunn nannies thrown in (leave the kids with brilliant teachers for a few hours, an evening or the whole day), making group get-togethers stress-free rather than something to be endured through gritted teeth and lashings of rosé. Even packing is a doddle, as the hotel offers a Baby Go Lightly service, providing essentials including nappies, baby food, high chairs, baby walkers and bottle warmers. The Explorers Club is age-graded and is for everyone from drooling four-month-olds whose bottles will be prepared in the milk kitchen to energetic under-nines wanting to play rounders on the beach and teens who can escape from parental nagging at the graffitied hangout. Once children are busy, happy and safe, grown-ups can spend time playing tennis, having an Ila spa treatment or lolling on one of the beachside sunbeds. The whole family will want to get involved in watersports, which include paddle-boarding, banana rides, jet-skiing and PADI diving lessons (there's diving for over-10s, too), or pile into a four-wheel-drive for a safari day out at Akamas National Park. With five restaurants, even the trickiest eaters will be happy: tea-time pasta and pesto for toddlers at Amphora; soft-shell crab for a romantic dinner at Basiliko; and moussaka and wagyu beef at alfresco Pelagos.

JOURNEY TIME A four-and-a-half-hour flight from London then a one-hour transfer

TIME DIFFERENCE +2 hours

INSIDER TIP Take a picnic and explore the extraordinary ruins and gladiator mosaics at Kourion, near Episkopi Bay on the southern coast, which date from the fifth century.

BOOK IT Scott Dunn (+44 20 8682 5040; www.scottdunn.com) offers seven nights from £4,950, based on a family of four staying half board in interconnecting studio suites, including flights, transfers and two places in the Explorers Club.

