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# Indagare

**Best of Summer Family Travel**

Plus: The Loire Valley, Bolivia, Florence and Peru

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# Indagare Black Book

## Summer Family Travel

From quick escapes with kids to full-throttle teen adventures, summer family trips are some of the most rewarding—and taxing. In this issue, we aim to help you navigate the world with your kids. The **Indagare Travel** team reports.

One of the greatest responsibilities of parenthood—if not *the* greatest responsibility—is bringing up our children to be thoughtful, inquisitive and community-oriented world citizens. Countless studies have demonstrated that children are far more adept at learning languages than adults; their brains are more flexible and better able to absorb new information. They are also more impressionable, making these years a crucial time in which to introduce them to humankind's tremendous diversity in culture, opinions, religion and customs. Seeing the world opens our eyes, encouraging all of us—and most importantly, our children, who will help shape the vision of the next generation—to understand other ways of living.

During the summer, when school is out, the days are long, and the temperature is conducive to a uniform of shorts and T-shirts and a daily schedule that balances exploration and relaxation, parents have the opportunity to bring the entire family together on great adventures. But as any parent will tell you, the right trip for a family with three- and five-year-olds is very different from one with 10- and 12-year-olds. So, in this issue, we outline summer family journeys

for each age range, indicating the best destinations, activities and properties for families with babies, toddlers, little kids, big kids, preteens and teenagers.

In Rome, for example, we suggest introducing feisty preteens to the Colosseum and arranging for them to dress up as gladiators with an expert guide who will show them how those warriors battled one another and wild animals, then heading to a gelato-making class where the whole family can try their hand at creating frozen treats. Once the adrenaline and sugar highs have dissipated, the time will be right to stop at the café where Mom and Dad lingered for an afternoon during their honeymoon or where they met friends when studying in Italy.

Travel is important in helping children learn about the world, but it also presents one of parenthood's greatest pleasures: seeing their kids awestruck by the discoveries they make while reliving a bit of that magic themselves. For the opportunity it presents to experience afresh that sense of wonder and to view the world through the innocent eyes of children—not to mention the joy of a scoop of gelato—we celebrate summer family travel in this issue.

### INDAGAREPLUS+

Indagare members receive preferential rates and/or special amenities, such as room upgrades and late check-out, at these properties.

# On the Road with... Babies and Little Kids

From coast to coast, here are the most pampering and easily accessible resorts for families with kids below the age of six.

When traveling with babies or kids under the age of six, the goal should be to minimize travel hassle while maximizing relaxation and quality family time. For a summer beach vacation, there are many convenient and luxurious family-friendly resorts across the United States and (slightly) beyond that offer wonderful baby-sitting services and kids' clubs to keep young ones entertained. These destinations coddle not just children but their parents, as well, with beautiful settings, excellent dining and pampering spas.

## Sea Island, Georgia

Located in the Golden Isles of Georgia, a haven for the moneyed set for decades, Sea Island is a sprawling, Mediterranean-style resort that draws return guests year after year. Tots will be happiest at the beach club, which fronts a three-mile stretch of sand and calm waters and includes several pools and a café. The excellent Camp Cloister offers games, crafts and adventures for children above the age of three. While kids are under the watchful eye of the camp staff, parents can relax at the spa or play golf or tennis at the resort's renowned clubs.

## Hidden Pond, Maine

Set in the woods outside Kennebunkport, Hidden Pond offers a luxurious take on the classic summer resort. Perfect for families, the two-bedroom cottages have porches, fireplaces, full kitchens and washer/dryers. Each

has a distinct, hip-farmhouse-style décor with charming touches like canary-yellow walls. Hidden Pond offers traditional resort amenities, including a main lodge with a swimming pool, a restaurant and a daily evening bonfire complete with fixings for s'mores. Parents will enjoy the Tree Spa treatments, delivered in three tree houses, and the fine dining at the property's Earth restaurant. Families can also visit the nearby Goose Rocks Beach.

## Four Seasons Biltmore, Santa Barbara

Occupying 22 acres on a promontory on California's southern coast, the Four Seasons Biltmore is a collection of red-brick-tiled Spanish colonial buildings, including the iconic Coral Casino beach club, with its Olympic-size outdoor pool, huge fitness center, kids' pool, direct beach access and beachfront restaurant. The resort's Kids for All Seasons program organizes arts and crafts projects and movie nights as well as providing

access to tennis and croquet courts. Grown-ups will appreciate the hotel's spa and its proximity to Montecito and Santa Barbara, which have wonderful shopping and dining.

## Four Seasons Hualalai, Hawaii

Set on Hawaii's lava-rock-strewn Kona coast, the luxurious Four Seasons Hualalai comprises clusters of bungalows surrounded by gardens and just steps from the water. There are three pools, including one geared to toddlers, and a

“  
We thought the Ocean House was top-notch. From the moment we pulled in, everything was taken care of. Every detail about the service was great. I would go back in a heartbeat”  
~ LEIGH JOHNSON, INDAGARE  
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