Beach break? Mountain trek? Wildlife adventure? African odyssey? Summer is that sublime time of year when families can travel unencumbered by school schedules. And choices abound. Some destinations are all about kids, all of the time. Other properties may tolerate children but certainly do not lay out a welcome mat. Then, there is that idyllic place in between: properties that cater to families with thoughtful perks and culturally rich activities.

This list is designed for parents looking for something out of the ordinary. From turtle-hatching programs to a close encounter with an elephant, an expedition to forage for your own clams for dinner or kayaking through tidal inlets, these retreats offer experiences the whole family can enjoy together. Whether staying on American soil or trekking to parts unknown, we guarantee a Dropbox full of memories.
Round Hill Hotel & Villas in Montego Bay, Jamaica

Round Hill does not roar with opulence. Instead, luxury is whispered in the classic Colonial architecture, the understated elegance of the Ralph Lauren-designed guest rooms, and the quiet, secluded nature of the former plantation property. The resort’s impeccable service is neither hovering nor haughty, helping your kin to truly unwind. On-property activities include glass bottom boat outings, a speedboat trip through secret lagoons, snorkeling, kayaking, hiking, and tennis. Little ones can be dropped at The Pineapple Kids Club, where Caribbean-themed activities are endless: reggae lessons, shell hunts, fish feeding, and talent shows. A new Family Memories package offers a private tour of the organic garden and a cooking lesson with the chef. Either way, spend at least one perfect afternoon crafting sand castles under the shade of decades-old sea almond trees. From $249 a night.