

Condé Nast Traveller

JUNE 2018 £4.50

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SUNSHINE

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WORLD'S
BEST
FAMILY
HOLIDAYS
2018

A LOVE LETTER TO COMPORTA
BALI BEACH LIFE
SECRET HOTELS IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE



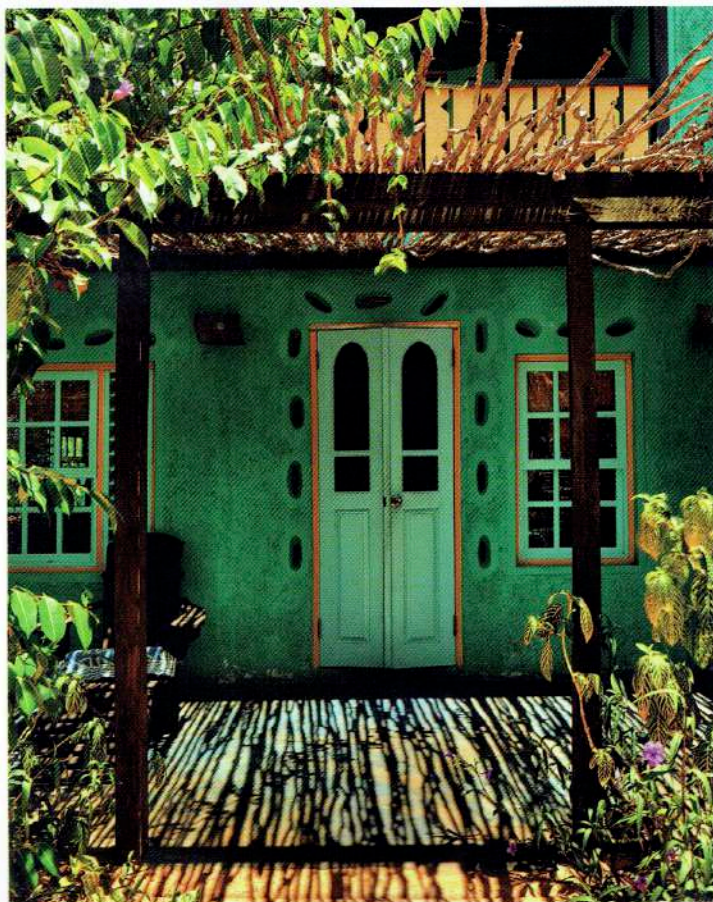
JAKES, JAMAICA

A BOHO BEACH FAVOURITE WITH REAL SOUL

Watching your five-year-old stroll through a fug of marijuana smoke to negotiate his own price on a shark-tooth necklace might not be the stuff of conventional family-travel fantasy. Yet the ramshackle Pelican Bar, built from driftwood and old planks and stuck on a sandbank far out to sea, is the kind of place that burns itself into memories with its Red Stripe-only menu and Rasta-tat stalls selling the Jamaican dream (if you're under 10). Despite being voted one of the best bars in the world, it has that kind of louche, no-worries vibe that is also high on the agenda at Jakes, a barefoot hotel about a 30-minute boat ride down the coast. One of the nicest things about Jakes is how different it is to the Jamaica of the postcards. It's part of a community-tourism scheme on the more rural south side of the island and feels a world away from the hawkers and all-inclusives of Negril and Montego Bay. Instead, its winsome draw comes from cheery painted houses decorated with bright fabrics and seashells, a rugged coastline (though there is a small beach next door) and gorgeous staff who are not just friendly but also fascinating, telling stories about the island's sporting history. There's nothing as organised as a kids' club yet little ones find plenty to occupy themselves with: watching pelicans swooping, counting geckos, learning to snorkel off the jetty, drawing pictures in the sand, jumping in and out of the pool for hours and eating pizza at Jack Sprat. It's also the best spot for a sundowner and, after dark, great (often live) reggae (tip: asking for the music to be turned down might not be the best way to endear yourself so check your cottage location on the online map before booking). The rooms aren't fancy but the outdoor shower and lived-in day-bed on the balcony feel fun, relaxing and safe. By the end of a stay, your children will not only know the words to 'One Love', but they'll have mastered the vibe, too – hanging at the pool bar, knocking back virgin cocktails and doling out fist bumps.

INSIDER TIP Book the kids in for a mosaic lesson for a truly memorable keepsake. It's also fun for adults, as are the farm-to-table dinners using the best local ingredients that happen once a month (so time your trip right).

BOOK IT A two-bedroom family cottage costs from about £175 per night. +1 876 965 3000; jakeshotel.com



ALMYRA, CYPRUS

SHORT HOP FOR GUARANTEED VITAMIN D

There are no primary colours or cartoon characters here. This place has a slick, minimalist aesthetic yet is one of the most family-friendly finds around. Sister to the higher priced and better-known Anassa, an hour's drive north, the Almyra in Paphos is a soothing one-size-fits-all solution for deranged parents needing sunshine, style and some respite from the 24/7 daily grind – and it's just 20 minutes from the airport. There's a Scott Dunn kids' club and a crèche, which takes babies as young as four months old, but also an adults-only zone with a pool and a DJ on Sundays, a gym and super spa with medical-grade, properly anti-ageing QMS treatments: the best around. A fabulous new lap pool was added last spring, which means that the former grown-ups pool has become the domain of the children. It is huge, shallow and has a very gradual incline, plus a sailcloth hangs over it to give shade in the hotter months while the water in the indoor pool is heated to 28°C in the chillier off-season; it's a brilliant place to learn to swim. In the rooms, which all have interconnecting doors, there's been a makeover by Parisian designer Joelle Pleot who's brought in a palette of pale marine colours, and there are new balconies and terraces. Rooms can be kitted out for little ones, too. The hotel offers a (mostly complimentary) 'baby go lightly' service, which means you can leave your whole kit and caboodle at home, and get them to provide a bouncy chair or bottle steriliser, playmat or potty – you can even rent a buggy. There are jolly plastic plates and kiddie cutlery in the restaurants, which include an exceptional buffet serving ice cream every night, an Asian-themed hangout by the pool and, down on the boardwalk, a taverna serving traditional mezze. Take a short stroll along the coast to Paphos Castle afterwards. With the longest summers in Europe, Cyprus – and the Almyra – is the in-the-know choice for Easter or autumn half-term.

INSIDER TIP From May to October, you can take a boat trip up to Lara Bay to watch baby turtles making their way from their nests to the shore.

BOOK IT Elegant Resorts offers seven nights from £2,800 per family, based on two adults and one child sharing, including a complimentary upgrade to half board, flights and transfers (five-night minimum stay). +44 1244 897271; elegantresorts.co.uk