



GENERATION GAMES

From grandparents to babies, get the whole crew in on the action

FAMILY

ONE & ONLY REETHI RAH MALDIVES

The Maldives might seem like they're more suitable for honeymooners than hollering children, but when it comes to families, this place has it nailed. Yes, you'll have to brace yourself for the 10-hour flight, but once that's out of the way, it's all blue skies, crystal-clear waters and breezy island living. There's a surprising amount to keep everyone beaming on this pristine, white-sand utopia. The KidsOnly club for four- to nine-year-olds has a jam-packed itinerary, from crab hunting to coconut painting. Sushi making, jewellery and henna-tattoo sessions, and banana-boat rides at the OneTribe club on the beach should keep the older children busy, and teens can have tennis lessons with a pro and hang out at their own ClubOne outdoor bar sipping smoothies. Meanwhile, parents can cycle along palm-shaded, sandy paths to the Beach Club to soak up Ibiza-inspired beats and tuck into plump grilled prawns the size of fists for lunch (it's next door to the KidsOnly club so you can pop in to check that little ones are polishing off their toasted sandwiches or penne pasta with chicken). Plus, the blown-up slides in the sea are perfect for big-kid dads in need of distraction. Grandparents might try painting with the artist in resident or taking a speedboat to the South Atoll to swim with gentle-giant whale sharks. Opt for one of the beach villas, which are surrounded by greenery and have their own stretch of beach – great for children building sandcastles without disturbing anyone. Each one is a personal palace of Malaysian-influenced mahogany and teak, with a separate dining and sitting room, outdoor pool and shady decks for snoozing. Laundry is free for under-twos – such a help when it comes to lighter packing. At night, book a babysitter for toddlers and send the older kids off to movie night so you can treat grandparents to tempura bites at the fairy-tale overwater Japanese restaurant Tapasake.

JOURNEY TIME A 10-hour flight from London to Malé then a one-hour boat transfer
TIME DIFFERENCE +5 hours

INSIDER TIP Children will love swimming with turtles by the reef. The marine biologist and team have named those they see regularly, so they can keep track of these inquisitive creatures of the deep.

BOOK IT Cleveland Collection (+44 20 7843 3531; www.clevelandcollection.co.uk) offers seven nights from £2,759 per adult and £1,279 per child staying half board in a Beach Villa, including flights and transfers.