

tribal GATHERING

From Mauritius and the Maldives to destination Dubai: One&Only Resorts has perfected five-star family fun in the sun



One&Only Resorts does ultra-luxury unlike any others, seamlessly combining five-star style with 100 per cent family-friendly focus. Found in some of the world's dreamiest locations, accommodation comes in all sorts of shapes and sizes, catering for small families and large multi-generational groups. There are oodles of activities for young and old; exceptional restaurants and spas; kids and teen clubs to give adults some rare 'us-time', and faultless service. One&Only holidays are about time: time to yourself and time together; places to pause, reconnect and enjoy the unique experience of the resort. Here are three family favourites for 2016.

Mauritius has been on the family travel map for many years and it rarely disappoints. Guests love this vibrant,



friendly island off the coast of Madagascar, blessed with white beaches, turquoise waters, vast sugar cane plantations and dramatic mountains. On a secluded east coast peninsula is the island's first luxury hotel, One&Only Le Saint Géran. With the whole of Mauritius to choose from, it stole the best spot and the name does not lie: this resort is truly unique. The mile-long crescent of talcum-soft sand whispers wow factor, and the electric blue water teams with shoals of

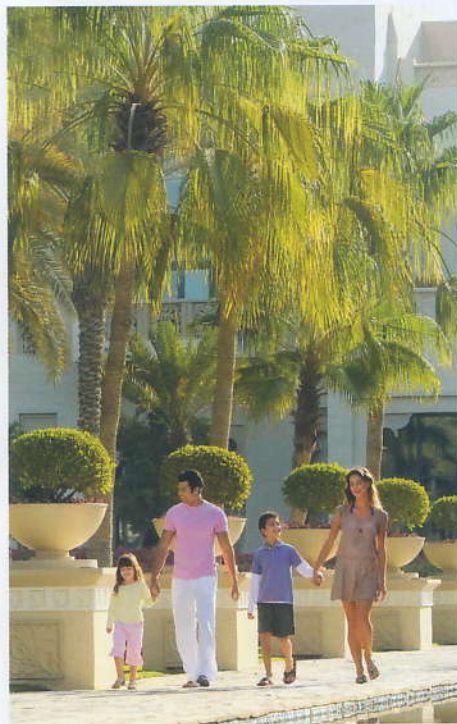


psychedelic fish. There's kitesurfing, paddleboarding, kayaking, wake boarding, sailing and glass-bottom boat trips to name just a few aquatic activities. For parents wanting to sneak away for a while, the complimentary KidsOnly club is flat-out brilliant, organising everything from arts and crafts to junior yoga. There's also an excellent Teens Club and a children's menu. And while the kids hang out with new friends, parents can sink into the One&Only Spa, play the golf course, relax on the beach (complete with butler service) or indulge in melt-in-the-mouth dishes at Indian Pavilion. What's more, the interconnecting suites and two-bedroom Ocean Suites are perfect for families. Alternatively, go all-out and book The Villa Residence complete with chef and butler.

Once it was mainly honeymooners heading to the Maldives, now families are hotfooting it to this string of Indian Ocean atolls. And sprawling across one of these idyllic dots is One&Only Reethi Rah, an all-villa paradise that more than lives up to its name. The villas are vast and secluded (whether beach or water); there are 12 drop-dead gorgeous beaches and a host of mindboggling facilities including a PADI dive centre. Little kids can spend hours cavorting around in the sea while big kids will love Splash, the epic water sports centre with water-skiing, fishing and pantone-coloured

snorkelling trips. On land there is tennis, even a football field with synthetic grass, and we love ClubOne, an on-it beach club with art studio, climbing wall, billiards and table tennis. There is truly something for everyone. The KidsOnly Club has a super-friendly vibe and teenagers consistently give OneTribe rave reviews. For adults breaking free, there's the must-book spa with its Relax, Restore and Elevate rituals and Watsu in-water massage (both out of this world), the Rah Bar for cocktails, contemporary Japanese at Tapasake and excellent Arabic dishes at Fanditha, in addition to other exquisite dining experiences. Bliss all round!

Dubai should have the word 'family' emblazoned in neon lights across its skyline. The Emirates' can-do attitude has delivered the ultimate playground for young and old, home to adventures galore and a host of destination hotels. Among these, is the unassumingly brilliant One&Only Royal Mirage, a place that recalls the romance of Old Arabia with its



intricate arches, domes, towers, courtyards and sense of place. A three-in-one resort, families should check into Arabian Court or The Palace (Residence & Spa is a childfree zone). For an urban resort, the space is amazing with 65 acres of landscaped gardens and a 250-acre-long private beach. There are four pools, three tennis courts, a plethora of water sports, two playgrounds and an excellent KidsOnly Club offering everything from henna painting to sand sculpturing. Sign up for some of the resort's excursions: cruise down Dubai creek aboard a wooden abra; take a camel caravan to the garden city of Al Ain, try sand skiing or camp in the desert under a thousand stars. This is also Dubai's foodie resort, so get the babysitters in and enjoy mouthwatering Moroccan at Tagine, contemporary

Clockwise from top left: Aerial view of One&Only Reethi Rah, Maldives; Family stroll at One&Only Royal Mirage, Dubai; Water Villa at One&Only Reethi Rah, Maldives; Tipi at One&Only Le Saint Géran, Mauritius; One&Only Royal Mirage, Dubai. Centre: Lap pool at One&Only Reethi Rah, Maldives

Indian at Nina and modern-fusion at EauZone. The elegant beachside Jetty Lounge is the ultimate place for pre-dinner drinks at sundown. It would also be sacrilege to leave without a treatment at the vast One&Only spa and a family trip to the nearby thrill-seeking Aquaventure.

With One&Only Resorts you can be sure of two things: happy parents and ultra-happy children. **For further information visit oneandonlyresorts.com/cnt**

