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# Condé Nast Traveller

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2009 READERS' TRAVEL AWARDS

## THE BEST TRAVEL EXPERIENCES IN THE WORLD

### Secret Venice

Where the locals go  
(but not the tourists)

A city of  
surprising  
character  
and beauty!

Michael Palin  
explores Calcutta

### Vintage Bordeaux

The best  
wine châteaux

The glory of  
autumn in

### New England

The natural  
beauty of the

### Maldives

### INSIDER BERLIN



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► [exodus.co.uk](http://exodus.co.uk)), designed for teenagers, has a similar itinerary to the one above and costs from £1,169 (adult) and £1,099 (child), including most meals. The temperature in Amman and the north should peak in the low 20°Cs, with lots of sun and very little rain. It is even warmer and drier on the Red Sea and around Wadi Rum.

## BEACH-BASED BREAKS

### MAURITIUS

Hotels in Mauritius have made the family market something of a speciality by focusing on high-quality child-care, kids' clubs and activities. Le Touessrok and the Heritage Resort have a good reputation, but probably the pick of them is The Residence, a hip, lively hotel set on an utterly gorgeous white-sand beach. Its club, in a plantation-style building in the gardens, is called The Planters; and it takes children aged from three to 12. It is



Head for the surf in the Caribbean. Below left, the pool at The Residence on Mauritius; right, a room at Kizingoni Beach on Lamu



open from 9am to 10pm, and daytime activities include treasure hunts, snorkelling, body painting, and glass-bottomed-boat tours; in the evening the entertainment is plays, films or storytelling. Private baby-sitting is also available, from €10 per hour.

■ A seven-night, half-board holiday in a Colonial Garden View Senior Suite at The Residence in October costs from £1,685 per person, based on a family of four, with Trailfinders (0845 054 6060;

[www.trailfinders.com](http://www.trailfinders.com)). There is no charge for The Planters. October is the driest month of the year in Mauritius, and during the hottest part of the day it will be about 27°C.

### LAMU, KENYA

Compared with most long-haul destinations, Kenya has one great advantage: it is only three hours ahead of GMT, so jet-lag is minimal. Lamu, a former Arab trading post, is an island just off the coast, and it has become something

of a celebrity haunt, attracting Sienna Miller, Ewan McGregor and Marianne Faithfull, among others. Its big attraction, for celebrities and children alike, is the beach. Eight miles of golden sands, backed by dunes, stretch from Shela village down to Kizingoni Beach, a small, private group of four- and five-bedroomed thatched villas. Things are very informal at Kizingoni, so no children's club is provided (though babysitting is available from US\$15 an hour). But there is

plenty to do, including beach activities plus, if you are lucky, swimming with wild dolphins.

■ A week in a Kizingoni house with Scott Dunn (020 8682 5000; [www.scottdunn.com/family](http://www.scottdunn.com/family)) costs from £2,520 per adult and £2,023 per child. October is the sunniest month of the year on Lamu, and it should be hot – about 30°C – with very little rain.

### THE CARIBBEAN

The downside of travelling to the Caribbean is the return journey, during which you lose five hours on your body clock. The upside, in October, is that it is the islands' quiet season. The risk of hurricanes is relatively low, and the resorts have not yet geared up to the winter peak. However, you need to be a little careful about which destination you choose: October is the wettest month of the year in St Lucia, Tobago, Barbados and Jamaica, for example. The Turks & Caicos, which have a direct flight from London, are a better bet; and here the best family hotel is Beaches Resort, a smart all-inclusive property on an immaculately groomed white-sand beach. The pre-teen children's 'camps', including a crèche for the under-tuos, are organised in great detail. There are also plenty of distractions for families who want to be together, with seven pools, tennis and complimentary watersports. The new Pirate's Island waterpark includes water slides and tubes, a wave pool and a surf simulator.

■ Seven nights at Beaches with Caribtours (020 7752 0660; [www.caribtours.co.uk](http://www.caribtours.co.uk)) costs from £2,314 per adult and £1,139 per child, all-inclusive, sharing a Turquoise Deluxe Room. The weather will be hot, averaging 31°C. Although you must expect some showers, there should be seven hours of sunshine per day. 