

Condé Nast Traveller

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Shiny happy people

THE WORLD'S BEST FAMILY HOTELS

FROM HALF-TERM HOPS TO WINTER SUN - FROM GREECE TO THE MALDIVES

A FRESH LOOK AT MAURITIUS

THE INSIDER RESTAURANTS,
SHOPS, HOTELS AND BEACHES

WHAT'S COOKING IN JAPAN?

ZONING IN ON THE HOT PLATE
OF ALL FOOD TRENDS

MOST STYLISH PLACES TO STAY IN ROME

CABIN FEVER

THE NEXT GENERATION
OF CHIC SHACKS

+ ERIC BAN
JOSEPH FIENNE
GAL GADOT

*Crazy
beautiful*

LISBON • SRI LANKA • CAMBODIA • INDIA • AUSTRALIA



An aerial photograph of a coral reef in clear turquoise water. Several divers are visible swimming over the reef. The water is exceptionally clear, showing the intricate patterns of the coral below. The overall scene is vibrant and serene, capturing a moment of underwater exploration.

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IN ASSOCIATION WITH

One&Only

Off the coast of One&Only Hayman Island. Photographed by Alistair Taylor-Young

NIHIWATU, SUMBA, INDONESIA

Bali, we are familiar with. Lombok, some people have ventured to, but Sumba, which is closer to Darwin than to Jakarta, is pretty much uncharted territory. And Nihiwatu, on the south-west coast of the island, is a game-changer for people who want a little down time while their gang gets stuck into the action. What sets it apart as a hotel is its window into a little-known culture and its commitment to return all profits to the community. Ninety per cent of the staff are Sumbanese and the service is friendly, thoughtful and energetic. Yes, there are personal butlers but it couldn't feel less like a stiff high-end resort. Three-bedroom Mamole Tree House opened at the end of last year and is a thrilling retreat for families, with circular rooms on stilts amid the rustling palm and papaya trees, linked by bamboo bridges. Not that anyone lingers here for long. Older kids want to hang out at the Boathouse from where they can snorkel, dive, jet-ski, paddle-board and refine their surfing techniques on Nihiwatu's famous left-hand break. Horse-mad tweens head to the Sandewood Stables to learn to ride and canter down the pristine beach. For younger children, there are board and beach games, rockpooling, sand sculpting and exploring. Join in the fun or choose a Spa Safari, which involves a trek to Nihi Oka valley, a yoga session and treatments in a private cabin overlooking the sea. Then hook up with everyone again for an Indonesian feast.

INSIDER TIP Do visit one of the nearby clinics or schools with the Sumba Foundation, the charity founded by the hotel, which has sunk more than 60 wells and 240 water stations in the area.

JOURNEY TIME A 17-hour flight to Bali via Singapore, a 50-minute flight then an hour-and-a-half drive. **TIME DIFFERENCE** +8 hours

BOOK IT Red Savannah (+44 1242 787800; redsavannah.com) offers seven nights from £7,614, based on two adults and one child sharing, full board, including flights and transfers.



PORTO ZANTE, ZAKYNTHOS, GREECE

This private hideaway on the Ionian island of Zakynthos has nailed the villa vibe but with all the services of a full-throttle hotel: a fantastic restaurant, an incredibly comprehensive spa, a chill-out bar and 24-hour room service. Its eight houses, which are built into the rocks overlooking a secluded, sandy beach, are smart but not unnervingly so. There are Armani Casa sofas and lamps, mythological paintings by prominent Greek artist Alekos Fassianos, some of the whizziest gadgets from Bang & Olufsen, Bernardaud porcelain and Bulgari lotions and potions in the bathrooms, but sticky fingers are certainly not frowned upon (maybe steer them away from the Christofle wine glasses though). Pre-order cots and high chairs (and some plastic plates and cups too). Once here, babysitting and daily activities can be organised in a jiffy, and the pool filled with toys. There's a sweet little playground and mini-golf, table tennis and pony riding from the nearby stables. Just in front of the villas, down the stone steps straight into the water, there is excellent snorkelling, jet- and water-skiing, wakeboarding, and banana and donut rides in the next bay. Break out of the bubble and visit Marathonisi island to see loggerhead sea turtles – the largest hard-shelled turtle in the world. Charter the speedboat for the day or go at an easier pace on the sailing yacht, discovering hidden coves on the way to Navagio Beach, with its crystal-clear waters and the rusting wreck of a Greek freight ship.

INSIDER TIP Some of the charter flights from the UK arrive and leave at ungodly times of the night, so request early check-in and late check-out. The staff here are amazingly accommodating.

JOURNEY TIME A three-and-a-half-hour flight then a 20-minute drive **TIME DIFFERENCE** +2 hours

BOOK IT +44 20 8882 6767; portozante.com. One-bedroom villas from about £910 per night.

