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Family Travel Guide Magazine

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Swimming Whale-sharks Maldives

Family traveling



From our family to
yours...

Travel is the perfect way to create lasting family memories, strengthen bonds with children and having fun together. But, traveling with children is different.

As family of 5, we know this. That's why we started Family Travel Guide, helping other families to make travel most family-friendly while exploring the world together.

In each edition, you'll find our personal travel highlights, with local insider tips from families with child-friendly activities.

*Happy family-traveling,
J & C*

Family Travel Guide



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Seychelles



The Seychelles, a stunning collection of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean, is famed for its lush landscapes, granite-framed beaches, and crystal-clear waters. Often called the “Jewel of the Indian Ocean,” it’s an idyllic escape for romance, family retreats, or adventure.

The main islands for tourism—Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue—each offer unique charm. Mahé, home to the capital Victoria, combines vibrant markets with hiking trails and luxury resorts. Praslin is known for the Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve and tranquil beaches like Anse Lazio, while La Digue charms visitors with its iconic granite formations and relaxed, bike-friendly vibe. Convenient ferries and flights make exploring these islands seamless.

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Our favourite hotels in Seychelles

Finding the right hotel when traveling as a family can significantly enhance your trip. A family-friendly hotel in a great location that feels like a home away from home can make all the difference. Since traveling can be exhausting, it's essential to choose accommodations that support your plans and help you relax. Below, we've listed some of our favorite hotels that we've personally experienced and recommend.



Constance Ephelia [Mahe]

Nestled between lush forests and a turquoise lagoon on Mahé, Constance Ephelia is perfect for families, offering spacious suites, kids' clubs, and activities like zip-lining and snorkeling. Parents can unwind at the world-class spa while little ones enjoy tailored adventures. With its five pools and variety of dining options, the resort ensures relaxation and excitement for all ages. The resort's proximity to some of the island's most stunning beaches and nature reserves adds an extra layer of adventure.

Address: Port Launay, Mahé, Seychelles

Website: www.constancehotels.com/en/hotels-resorts/seychelles/ephelia



Four Seasons [Mahe]

Perched on a hillside overlooking Petite Anse Bay, this luxurious resort combines stunning views with family-friendly amenities, including private villas with pools, a vibrant kids' club, and family-focused excursions like snorkeling and Creole cooking classes. The resort's personalized service and serene beach create a perfect balance of fun and tranquility for families. Its focus on creating meaningful experiences ensures every family leaves with cherished memories.

Address: Petite Anse, Baie Lazare, Mahé, Seychelles

Website: www.fourseasons.com/seychelles

Our favourite hotels & resorts



Raffles Seychelles [Praslin]

Located on the pristine island of Praslin, Raffles offers spacious villas with private plunge pools and family-friendly experiences, from exploring the nearby Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve to curated kids' activities. With its world-class spa and culinary delights, the resort caters to both adventure and indulgence for every family member. Easy access to Anse Lazio, one of the world's best beaches, makes this a standout family destination.

Address: Anse Takamaka, Praslin, Seychelles

Website: www.raffles.com/seychelles



Club Med [Saint Anne Island]

Situated on its own private island directly opposite Mahe, Club Med blends luxury with all-inclusive club resort convenience. Families will love the dedicated kids' clubs, endless water sports, and eco-friendly activities, creating unforgettable memories in a tropical paradise. Its lively atmosphere and all-day entertainment make it a vibrant choice for families of all sizes. The resort's focus on sustainability provides an educational and enriching experience for children and parents alike.

Address: Sainte Anne Island, Seychelles

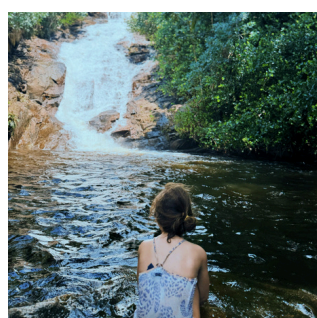
Website: www.clubmed.us/r/Seychelles/y

Top activities and Tours



National Botanical Gardens

Located in Victoria, these gardens offer a peaceful escape with lush tropical plants, endemic species, and giant Aldabra tortoises. It's a beautiful spot to learn about the local flora and fauna.



Takamaka Waterfalls

Seychelles is home to some stunning waterfalls like Takamaka Waterfall on Mahé or Vallée de Mai Waterfall on Praslin. Hike through the island's lush jungles to discover these natural wonders, where you can enjoy a refreshing swim, very family friendly



Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve

A UNESCO World Heritage site on Praslin Island, Vallée de Mai is home to the famous Coco de Mer palm. Explore its enchanting trails, where you may spot rare bird species like the Seychelles black parrot.



Anse Source d'Argent

Considered one of the most photographed beaches in the world, Anse Source d'Argent on La Digue is famous for its dramatic granite boulders, crystal-clear waters, and powdery white sand—perfect for relaxing or taking in the stunning scenery.

Local insider tips

- **Currency:** While Seychellois Rupees [SCR] are the local currency, many establishments accept Euros or credit cards. However, carry some cash for small vendors, local markets, or island ferries.
- **Pack for Humidity:** Seychelles is hot and humid year-round. Lightweight, breathable clothing is a must, and quick-dry gear is ideal for beach days and hikes.
- **Getting Around:** Renting a car is the best way to explore island with your family, especially on Mahé. On La Digue, bikes are the preferred mode of transport.
- **Island Hopping:** While ferries connect major islands like Mahé, Praslin, & La Digue, smaller islands often require private charters. Plan ahead as ferry schedules limited.
- **Best Time to Visit:** April, May, October, and November are shoulder months with calmer seas, making them ideal for swimming, snorkeling, and island-hopping.
- **Wildlife Awareness:** Watch out for jellyfish during certain months & use bug repellent to keep mosquitoes at bay.
- **Tap Water:** Tap water is safe to drink
- **Emergency :** Dial 999 for police, fire, or medical emergencies.
- **Hospital:** Seychelles Hospital, located in Victoria on Mahé, has a dedicated pediatric unit for children's emergencies.



Maldives



The Maldives, a dazzling archipelago in the Indian Ocean, is the epitome of paradise. With its turquoise lagoons, powdery white sand beaches, and luxurious overwater villas, it's a destination that promises both relaxation and adventure. Comprised of 26 atolls and over 1,000 islands, the Maldives offers a serene escape where the rhythm of the ocean sets the pace.

Travelers will find that the Maldives' year-round tropical climate makes it an inviting destination, though the dry season from November to April offers the clearest skies and calmest waters. Getting there typically involves a scenic speedboat or seaplane transfer from Malé International Airport to private-island resorts, each offering unique experiences and unmatched privacy.

Our favourite hotels & resorts



Hideaway Beach Resort & Spa

Hideaway is a family-friendly paradise that offers spacious beachfront villas and overwater suites, providing ample space for families to unwind in privacy. The resort features a dedicated kids' club with a variety of activities, including arts and crafts, water sports, & nature walks. Families can enjoy snorkeling, kayaking, and exploring the island's lush surroundings, or indulge in family spa treatments. The resort's serene atmosphere, combined with easy access to activities and facilities, makes it an excellent choice for families looking for a balance of adventure and relaxation. One of the highlights is the very Kids friendly house reef, few meters away from beach villas.

Address: Dhonakulhi Island, Haa Alifu Atoll, Maldives

Website: www.hideawaybeachmaldives.com



Como Maalifushi

COMO Maalifushi offers a luxurious yet family-friendly retreat with spacious overwater and beach villas, perfect for families seeking privacy and comfort. The resort's Kids' Club provides a range of activities, from water sports to arts and crafts, ensuring younger guests. Families can enjoy shared experiences like snorkeling in vibrant coral reefs, dolphin watching, or taking private excursions on a traditional Maldivian dhoni. COMO Maalifushi also offers family-friendly spa treatments.

Address: Thaa Atoll, Maldives

Website: www.comohotels.com/maalifushi

Our favourite hotels & resorts



Coco Bodu Hithi

Coco Bodu Hithi is an ideal family destination, offering spacious villas with private pools and direct beach access, with the Beach Villas being particularly large, providing ample space for families to relax and enjoy their surroundings. The resort features a kids' club with engaging activities. Families can also explore the resort's lush tropical surrounding. Easy transport to the resort is provided via a short speedboat ride, ensuring a seamless arrival and departure experience.

Address: Bodu Hithi Island, North Malé Atoll, Maldives

Website: www.cococollection.com/en/boduhithi



Soneva Fushi

Renowned for its family-friendly ethos, with spacious beachfront villas, an immersive kids' club, and eco-conscious activities. The resort's "Soneva Kids" program allows children to explore the island's natural wonders while learning about conservation and sustainability. Families can also enjoy the resort's vast outdoor space for biking, nature walks, and stargazing at the observatory. The resort has high commitment to sustainability and showcase how luxury can align with environmental responsibility.

Address: Kunfunadhoo Island, Baa Atoll, Maldives

Website: www.soneva.com/resorts/soneva-fushi

"The right hotel is a second family home for exploring new parts of the world"

Jo [Founder Family Travel Guide Magazine]

Inside: Hideaway Beach Resort & Spa



Beach & Water Villas

Hideaway offers exceptional water villas and beach villas, perfect for families seeking space and privacy. With expansive layouts, separate living areas, and private pools, these villas ensure comfort and unforgettable moments for every member of the family.



Restaurants

The 5 restaurants cater perfectly to families, offering diverse cuisines in stunning settings. With kid-friendly menus, fresh local ingredients, and breathtaking views of the ocean or lush gardens, dining here is a delightful experience for all ages.



Family & kids facilities

From a Kids Club with engaging programs to family snorkeling adventures just a few meters from the villas, the resort's vibrant house reef provides an unforgettable underwater experience teeming with colorful marine life.



Festive activities

Festive program is packed with magical experiences. Children can write a heartfelt letter to Santa, gingerbread men, join in the joy of singing carols and enchanting Santa Show, bringing holiday cheer to all with surprises and laughter

Visit & book here:

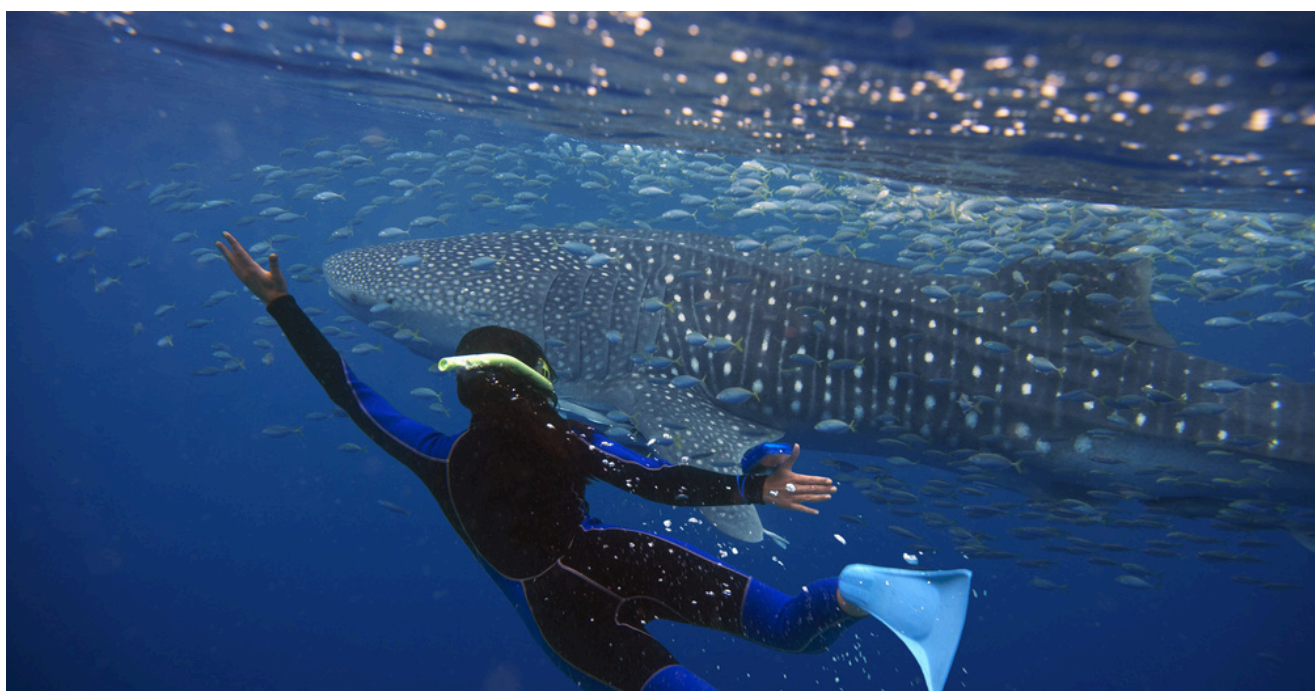
www.hideawaybeachmaldives.com

Swimming with whale sharks

The Maldives offers one of the best opportunities in the world to swim with whale sharks, the ocean's gentle giants. South Ari Atoll is the prime location, home to a resident population that can be seen year-round, particularly along the reef edges. The best time to visit is during the southwest monsoon season (May to December) when plankton blooms attract them closer to the surface, but sightings are also possible during the dry season (January to April).

In addition to South Ari Atoll, whale sharks can occasionally be spotted in other areas, including Baa Atoll's Hanifaru Bay, known for manta rays, and in the less-visited Gaafu Alifu, Thaa, and Laamu Atolls, especially near deeper channels during plankton-rich periods.

For a memorable experience, join eco-conscious snorkeling or diving tours led by local experts, who know the best spots and adhere to sustainable practices. Always maintain a respectful distance of at least three meters and avoid touching these magnificent creatures. Swimming alongside a whale shark in the Maldives' turquoise waters is an unforgettable experience, offering a glimpse into the wonders of the ocean.



Snorkeling tips for kids



- 1. Choose the Right Location:** Start in shallow, calm waters with good visibility, such as lagoons or sheltered bays. Avoid areas with strong currents or rough waves. Maldives and Seychelles have great spot for this
- 2. Gear That Fits:** Equip kids with properly fitting masks, snorkels, and fins designed for children. Test the gear beforehand to ensure it's comfortable and doesn't leak.
-> Recommendation: Cressi masks [e.g. Junior Moon mask] and snorkels [e.g. Gamma] <https://store.cressi.com>
- 3. Practice First:** Let kids get used to their gear in a pool or shallow water. Teach them how to breathe through the snorkel, clear it if water enters, and adjust their mask.
- 4. Safety First:** Use a snorkeling vest or flotation device to keep kids buoyant and make them easy to spot. Always stay close to them, especially in deeper water.
- 5. Sun Protection:** Protect kids from the sun with reef-safe sunscreen or long-sleeved rash guards. A wide-brimmed hat can also be useful while the kids are on the surface.
- 6. Make It Fun:** Turn snorkeling into a game by spotting fish, identifying colors, or pretending to search for treasure. This keeps kids engaged and excited about exploring. So much to explore on both islands.
- 7. Teach Respect for Nature:** Encourage kids to observe marine life without touching or chasing animals, and to avoid stepping on coral to preserve delicate ecosystems.
- 8. Keep It Short:** Limit sessions to 20-30 minutes at a time, depending on the child's age and comfort level. Frequent breaks help prevent fatigue or overwhelm.

Family beach outfit



Luxury Swimwear for Stylish Beach time

For families seeking comfort, style, and durability on their beach vacation, Vilebrequin is the perfect swimwear choice. Known for its high-quality, quick-drying fabrics, the brand offers matching swimwear for the entire family, from father-son sets to mother-daughter designs.

With vibrant prints, timeless styles, and a commitment to sustainability, Vilebrequin ensures families not only look great but feel comfortable during their seaside adventures. Whether you're in the Maldives or the Seychelles, Vilebrequin brings luxury and style to your family getaway.



Local insider tips

- Payments: The Maldivian Rufiyaa [MVR] is the official currency, but US Dollars are widely accepted, especially in resorts and larger shops. Most resorts and guesthouses operate cashless systems, but small cash is useful for tips or local island purchases.
- Transportation between islands: The Maldives relies heavily on inter-island travel. Resorts often arrange transfers via speedboats or private seaplanes. Key domestic airports include Velana International Airport [Malé], Maamigili Airport [Ari Atoll], Dharavandhoo Airport [Baa Atoll], and Gan International Airport [Addu Atoll].
- Time: The Maldives enjoys warm weather year-round, but May to October sees higher humidity and occasional rains due to the monsoon season. November to April is drier and ideal for water activities.
- Water: Tap water is generally desalinated but not always drinkable. Resorts provide filtered or bottled water.
- Time Zones: Some resorts operate on “island time,” one or two hours ahead of Malé to maximize daylight hours. Confirm the time difference to avoid confusion.
- Emergency: Dial 119 for emergencies.
- Hospital: Many resorts have first-aid facilities. For serious medical issues, ADK Hospital in Malé is the largest private hospital.



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Contact us



Your main content goes here. Feel free to use long paragraphs or break them up.

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