

Cookie



COOKIE'S SECOND ANNUAL

BEST OF FAMILY TRAVEL

You may be obsessively Googling in search of the perfect family vacation—the one that will work with your schedules and budget and, oh yes, will supply some childhood-defining moments for the kids. But may we gently suggest that you're overthinking it? Sometimes all you need to just book it already is an inspiring starting point: knowing that a hotel makes the best churros in the world, or shows outdoor movies by the beach, or has a waterslide and a swim-up bar. Here, we offer 53 suggestions to get you going, from our hands-down favorite hotels to specific, incredible amenities that will make your life easier. Which, as you may need to be reminded, is what vacation is all about.

BY YOLANDA EDWARDS AND MIRANDA CROWELL

STAYING THERE



To all the hotels on these pages: Thank you for getting it. Whether you fulfill our children's ultimate fantasies (a Lego room!) or ours (morning babysitting!), you know how to make a family very happy.



2008 TOP-FIVE WINNER

Nick's Cove & Cottages
TOMALES BAY, CALIFORNIA

WHY WE LOVE IT A little Scotland-craggy, a little California-crunchy, Tomales Bay is one of the most mystical spots in the country. The 12 newly revamped cottages here, an hour north of San Francisco, make the most of the area's beauty, with nautical interiors and picture windows looking onto the dock and the calm bay. Days are meant for decompressing, whether you're hiking in the grassy hills, fishing, or stuffing yourself with oysters, which are as common as hot dogs here. Most cell phones don't work in the area. Thank God.

DETAILS From \$295 a night, nickscove.com.