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Why This Far-Flung Family-Friendly Destination Should Be On Your Radar



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Travel

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There are plenty of activities to keep families busy in the Maldives. KURAMATHI

The Maldives, a beautiful island-country located in the Indian Ocean, is often thought of as a haven for honeymooners. And it is. But many of the resorts have decided to focus on another market: families. And with over

96% of the hospitality industry in the Maldives vaccinated against Covid, and all travelers required to show a negative Covid test, families can travel here with a strong sense of relief (and security) knowing that the Covid numbers are so low. Add to that the fact that the Maldives is a one-island, one-resort destination (which limits the number of people travelers come in contact with), and it's no wonder these beautiful islands are appealing to those traveling with kids.

Here's a look at three properties that are family-friendly.

Kids Adventure Abounds



Kuramathi has an extensive kids club and plenty of space for exploration and fun. KURAMATHI

Kuramathi, located in the Rasdhoo Atoll, has plenty of options to keep kids entertained at the Bageecha program (aka the kids' club) which is complimentary. It's open to all kids 3-12 years old from 8:30 in the morning until 7:30 at night.

This expansive club has a spacious outdoor area with a whale seesaw; a swing set; sandpit; barbecue area; a big splash pad for big kids; a separate splash pad for small children; a tree house and a large children's swimming pool.

If parents want to go diving, or spend the afternoon in the spa, they can feel confident that their child is having a good time with other kids. The eco-center is the real star—run by their marine biologist, kids will learn about and get up close to fish, coral, plants and animals that are found in Kuramathi. Additionally, each day activities change. One day might be beach volleyball, football, sandcastle building and beach-art. Another day might be music and dance focused. Or the kids can take part in a cooking class—kids can learn to cook sausage, corn, chicken skewers and desserts under the tutelage of the kids' club leaders. Water games at the pool; movie with popcorn and snacks; and arts and crafts in the design corner; and decorating sessions where kids learn to make fish and flower sculptures with coconut palm leaves is all part of the fun. The junior set can also become mini gardeners and learn how to grow local vegetables, herbs and flowers. One of the most popular activities is the island treasure hunt complete with map and treasure, face painting (you have to look the part) and obstacles to overcome.

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For families with kids under three, babysitting is available.

Of course kids and parents can play together as a family and utilize the on-site activities including kayaking, SUP, snorkeling, swimming at the pools, tennis and more.

Upscale Family Fun



Kids at Lux North can take part in the kids' club where activities change regularly. LUX NORTH MALÉ ATOLL

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Lux North Malé Atoll is a high-end luxury resort for families who want to travel in style. They have spacious two- and three-bedroom villas (both over-water and beach options) to cater to families. Each villa has a private butler that can set up activities for kids. A highlight (for adults and kids) is movie night under the stars. Each villa has an expansive rooftop space perfect to set up a movie projector. The butler will bring popcorn, drinks and other snacks and kids can choose from an in-depth movie selection (including movies still in theaters). Once the kids go to sleep, parents can watch their movie choice as well.

This property also has a kids' club. Kids 3-11 can take part in kids' yoga; cake decorating; art classes and more. Teens between 12-17 can get in on the fun as well with art studio classes and eco-marine adventures.

For families traveling with younger kids, the resort has a range of gear including bottle warmers and strollers and they have an extensive selection of baby foods and specially-created kids' menus.

Many family excursions are offered including fishing, manta ray trips, turtle quests, snorkeling, banana boat and doughnut rides and dolphin sailings.

Kids of all Ages





The Maldives offers some of the best snorkeling in the world. GETTY

At Robinson Club Noonu Maldives the kids club is broken down into ages with specific activities targeted that demographic. Families traveling with babies don't have to pack a lot of gear. The resort provides complimentary baby bath, changing mat, bottle warmer, crib, play mat, potty or toilet seat, diaper pail and fresh baby food. For an additional charge they have diapers, wipes and babysitting services.

For kids 3-12 the kids' club is open each day from 9am to 6pm and then again from 7:30pm to 9pm. In addition to daily activities for kids the resort also has an indoor play room and an outdoor playground.

For families who want to stick together during the day, activities abound for families including snorkeling; jet skiing; diving (for kids older than 8); catamaran sailing; water skiing; wakeboarding, kayaking and SUP.

Check out my [website](#).



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