

Life

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THE

HOLIDAYS

ISSUE

HOLIDAY HEAVEN

Whatever your hopes and dreams for your holiday, we have the ultimate destinations covered, whether you're an adventurer, a honeymooner or a sun worshipper. By **Sunshine Flint**



DO YOU WANT TO TAKE THE WHOLE FAMILY?

You're happiest at half-term, when you and the sprogs take wing for various kid-friendly trips around the world.

Your family will know they're in for a different type of holiday when Norwegian draft horses meet you to pull you to the **Clayoquot Wilderness Resort** in British Columbia (open May to September). Stay in one of 20 deluxe tents (there's also an art tent, a library tent, a billiards tent, and so on) deep in the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve, and explore this intact temperate rainforest by land, air and sea. Ocean kayak on a special whale watching tour or bear 'hunt' with experienced guides, not mention rafting, heli-hiking and ziplining. The resort partners with the Nuu-chah-nulth nations and has a First Nations interpretive trail. wildretreat.com

For a unique family beach holiday, head to Nicaragua's southwest coast and the **Inn at Rancho Santana**. The 17-room hacienda recently opened on 2,700 acres between the Pacific Ocean and Lake Nicaragua and the resort's five beaches are the perfect spot for both starter and experienced surfers. While parents enjoy the Clubhouse and Pura Spa, the offspring

will love exploring the local flora and fauna with the Kids Club. At the Kids Club Studio they can take paint or sculpt or partake in programmes that explore Nicaraguan arts and traditions. <https://ranchosantana.com>

If Dubai doesn't have it for kids, just wait, because they are probably building it. Ski Dubai has runs from easy green to black diamond; the Dubai Aquarium has a 48m tunnel and 33,000 sea animals; Aquaventure has the longest zipline in the Middle East – and you haven't even got to the desert yet. Kids will love spending the night at a Bedouin camp on an overnight desert safari where they can ride camels on the golden dunes and watch falcons take flight. The **Four Seasons Resort Dubai** at Jumeirah Beach keeps its little guests in mind with extras such as children's bathrobes and toiletries, plus kids menus in all the restaurants and the supervised Kids for All Seasons



programme. Opening early next year Dukes Dubai will have a becostumed 'Duchess and Dukes' mini afternoon tea. fourseasons.com/dubaijb

Orlando is having a little moment, which makes a visit to the Magic Kingdom, Harry Potter World and all the rest a little more exciting for mum, dad and other sentient adults. The Dr Phillips Center for the Performing Arts opened last year, as did the **Four Seasons Resort Orlando** at Walt Disney World, bringing top-notch service and style (and a Disney Planning Center in the lobby) to town. And this year four

Orlando chefs were semi-finalists for the prestigious James Beard Awards, and with restaurants such as Txokos Basque Kitchen and Swine & Sons, a real food scene has arrived. fourseasons.com/orlando BA flies direct to Vancouver, Dubai and Orlando and via codeshare to Nicaragua from London airports

Water works
Dubai Aquarium.
Below: Four Seasons
Resort Orlando

HOLIDAY PLANS OF THE GREAT AND THE GOOD

I'M GOING to Théoule sur Mer on the Côte d'Azur. I love the antiques market opposite the Palais des Festivals and the boulangerie Envie de Pains, where I always leave with delicious pastries and a big smile on my face, thanks to the boulangère Dominique, who dyes her hair the most astonishing colours. For dining, Cave de mes Terres has a great selection of locally sourced wines and cheeses and Marco Polo restaurant is right by the water and serves simple yet wonderful food with views of the Esterel Massif mountain range rising from the sea. Théoule sur Mer is also wonderfully located for La Colombe d'Or restaurant in Saint-Paul-de-Vence, where you eat amid the works of Sonia Delaunay, Picasso and Alexander Calder. The real beauty of this place, however, is not an address to shop, or a sight to see – it is the beauty that nature provides wherever you lay your eyes.

RJA DOVE
MASTER PERFUMER



WE'RE OFF TO two places this summer. Firstly, we're heading for Finland. A family-owned place near Tammisaari about two hours from Helsinki. Why? Because it's a place where extended family converge, kids still stand with fishing poles at the end of the jetty and the afternoons and evenings are filled with laughter. Mobiles barely work and time stands still. It's our answer to a New England lake house.

Later in the summer we're heading for Texas where we're planning on visiting Dallas, Austin and San Antonio. Texas is like nowhere else I know. The people are friendly, the music is amazing, cowboys still exist (my girls love that) and the service is impeccable. Hell 'all y'all', it's Texas. They take real pride in that and in my mind, using a word my girls use all too often, that's 'epic'.

JUSTIN HOGBIN
GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR FABERGÉ

WHEN I WAS growing up in Denmark, I dreamt of spending my life exploring the greatest places in the world, and here I am now travelling between my companies and clients in Copenhagen, London, Bangkok and NYC, while launching M2's newest project – a global pop group. This has meant I have also spent a lot of time in LA over the past year so I've seen my share of sunshine and blue skies. It is a dream having the world as my playground but travelling really does make your heart pine for home, so this summer I will spend some time in beautiful Denmark among the happiest people in the world.

MADS MUNK
CEO OF M2 FILM



IN LATE JULY I'm flying to Pisa with my wife and two daughters and then driving to a large farmhouse just outside Siena. It's my wife's 40th birthday this year and we have rented the place with her two best friends from university who are also turning 40, one of whom is travelling from Florida where she now lives, and the other from elsewhere in Italy. There will be six adults and seven children all together, and I'm dreaming of splendid isolation, cooking pizza in the wood-fired oven, swimming in the hilltop pool, reading and playing backgammon and Scrabble. I haven't looked forward to a holiday as much in years. If we find the time to explore, I really want for nothing more than a few good walks, a rural village or two, and maybe a decent local restaurant with simple, family cooking. This will be my first proper trip to Tuscany and I don't want to overdo it by cramming too much in. I find it is far better to let a new holiday destination work its magic on you, than to be a slave to guide books and tourist trails.

RUSSELL NORMAN
RESTAURATEUR

I GOT MARRIED last year and moved to a little town on the Welsh borders, so this year I'm staying put. It's so incredibly beautiful and the thought of going abroad seems perverse when I can tramp along Offa's Dyke and climb hills and swim in the local river, where minnows nibble one's legs and where just occasionally you can see an otter. I just love it here and in the summer there's always something happening – rock festivals in the fields, open gardens, pop-up restaurants in unlikely locations, food festivals, a whole lot of stuff. So that's what I'm doing. I just hope it doesn't rain.

DEBORAH MOGGACH
AUTHOR

I AM GOING to my house in Lamu, Kenya. I built a beautiful home there 12 years ago and find it the most relaxing place in the world. There are no cars, no roads, just donkeys, so at night you can literally hear a pin drop!

There is a wonderful sense of community in a beautiful Swahili village where age and wisdom are still deeply respected. You walk through the village on sand so the only possible footwear is flip-flops. It is all absolutely without pretension...make-up and high heels become a memory! The beach is extraordinary. Five miles of pure nothingness. Long walks, early morning rambles with friends and it is wonderfully safe for children as the only thing they could possibly bump into is a Lamu cat! It is a dreamy magical place that takes you back to a quieter more peaceful time.

Roll on August... I can't wait to go back to my other home, and feel very blessed to have my kind cook and house boys to look after me. Life is sweet in Lamu.

**MARY GREENWELL, MAKE-UP
ARTIST EXTRAORDINAIRE**



I LOVE TOKYO and Osaka. Japan is my favourite place in the world – the people, the culture, the architecture. Everything about it just makes me smile. I'm so easily entertained and amused the whole time I'm there, the people are just brilliant and the food is so good – I love Japanese food. It's just such an amazing culture. I'd live in Japan and I don't speak any Japanese. I love it that much.

BEN EINE
GRAFFITI ARTIST