



# Condé Nast Traveller

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# THE WORLD'S BEST FAMILY HOTELS



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★ EUROPE ★ WINTER SUN ★ CITY ★ ACTION STATIONS

EDITED BY DAISY FINER



Mount Nelson, Cape Town





## ANASSA Cyprus

Cyprus is gloriously hot at Easter and autumn half-term, but its trump card for those travelling with under fours is that it's less than five hours on a plane from London, saving you the hell of long-haul. And luckily, the nannies from Scott Dunn (English-speaking, young, smiley) are on hand to absolve you of a moment's guilt about disentangling yourself for a few hours (or 9.30am–5.30pm, if you prefer). The club sits between the beach and the heated children's pool; little ones are cared for in the air-conditioned playroom, divided into different areas to suit various ages (there's even a sleep room, so that babies return well-rested rather than scratchy). Under the shade of pine trees is a playground and two ping-pong tables for older siblings. And the Baby Go Lightly service ensures you have all the kit – buggies, monitors, baby walkers, cots and bottle warmers – and will provide baby food, wipes and nappies. But best of all this is a stunning, California-comes-to-Cyprus hotel with a whitewashed grandness that's so pretty and sophisticated you could even bring the grandparents. There are rolling lawns, huge bowls of scented lilies, geraniums and a grown-up but unintimidating spa. Many of the 166 rooms, and all the suites, face the gorgeous blue glitter of Chrysochou Bay; some have their own plunge pools. It's perfect for big family get-togethers, with lots of interconnecting family rooms, a watersports centre with kitesurfing and scuba diving and two tennis courts. And that beach, just along from the fishing village of Latchi (far from the carnage of Paphos) is lined with sleek sunbeds and has service as smooth as honey.

**JOURNEY TIME** A four-and-a-half-hour flight, then a one-hour transfer

**TIME DIFFERENCE** +2 hours

**INSIDER TIP** Pack your babies into a buggy to walk up into the sage-scented Akamas peninsula to find Aphrodite's pools.

**BOOK IT** Scott Dunn (+44 20 8682 5040; [www.scottdunn.com](http://www.scottdunn.com)) offers seven nights from £1,111 per person based on two adults and two children, half board, including kids' club access and transfers.



## ESPLENDIDO Mallorca, Spain

A seriously useful Spanish address to have up your sleeve, this green-shuttered, balustraded 1950s hotel is tucked away on the north-west coast in Port de Sóller, a horseshoe-shaped scoop out of the Tramuntana mountains. It's a million miles from the egg-and-chips package tours of Magaluf. Here you have a rather charming seaside town, a pedestrianised waterfront, a curving stretch of sand backed by tavernas and beach restaurants, and the Esplendido right in the very middle. Swedish couple Mikael and Johanna Landström (who also own the Hotel Portixol in Palma) have transformed it from rather fusty-dusty traditional lodgings into a gleaming-fresh temple of Scandinavian chic. The bright and airy bedrooms, retro-cool with mid-century armchairs and fern-frond-printed wallpaper, have views either out to the water or to the terraced gardens behind, planted with olive trees, red geranium and bougainvillea. And because there's no traffic, you really can go to sleep to the sound of waves lapping the shore. Your mini-bar comes stocked with complimentary drinks; the wardrobes contain help-yourself flip-flops and beach bags; bathrooms are loaded with thick, white towels and delicious Korres bottles in the showers. Mineral water by the bed is topped up nightly and the Wi-Fi (crucial for any charges glued to Snapchat or Instagram) is free and everywhere. If your brood is made up of under-10s, they'll love the electric juicer at the breakfast bar, with bowls of grapefruits, oranges, limes and lemons ready to be squeezed. There's a kids' menu in the bistro, a family pool (and one for the grown-ups), baby bedding, highchairs and cots all available, as well as junior treatments in the spa. While there's no kids' club, the shallow waters of the bay are great for timid paddlers and eager snorkellers, and there are pedalos for those needing to burn off excess energy as well as boat trips out of the harbour to coves further up the coast. In the early evening, when temperatures cool, take the wooden tram to Sóller town for a drink while the youngsters wheel around the smooth stones in the main square. And if you manage to get everyone to bed in time when you're back, make a beeline for one of the striped, nautical chairs on the terrace. Order a stiff gin and tonic and marvel as the sun drops straight between the cliffs and sets behind the bobbing boats.

**JOURNEY TIME** A two-hour and 20 minute flight to Palma and then either a 45-minute drive or an hour's train journey via Soller

**TIME DIFFERENCE** +1 hour

**INSIDER TIP** If you ask to be in a room on one of the lower floors, you'll find your baby-monitor signal reaches to the restaurant.

**BOOK IT** i-escape (+44 117 946 7072; [www.i-escape.com/kids](http://www.i-escape.com/kids)) offers three nights from £750 based on two adults and two children sharing a two-bedroom family suite, including breakfast.