

14 ADULTS- ONLY ESCAPES

We love our kids. But absence makes the heart grow fonder. Alexandra Carlton picks the most indulgent child-free getaways for couples

Whether or not you have kids, sometimes everyone needs a grown-ups' holiday where they don't have to supervise messy dinner times – or overhear Cocomelon squawking out of an iPad from a nearby sun lounger. From wild Arctic adventures to all-night parties at sea, these kid-free resorts and cruises are wonderlands for over-18s. So coordinate your annual leave – and book in the grandparents if you have to – and remind yourself why you made such a great couple in the first place.

1 VIRGIN VOYAGES

Forget sedate lounge singers. On Richard Branson's over-18s-only fleet of four ships, you'll find drag shows, DJs and dusk-till-dawn dance parties, as well as Michelin-starred chef-directed food and a spa menu designed by J Lo. Your kids would hate it. You'll love it. virginvoyages.com

2 NOMO SOHO NEW YORK, USA

There's no specific ban on kids at this cool and colourful SoHo hotel, but with no family rooms, they're not exactly welcoming little ones with open arms. Definitely adults-only: the regular specials like the "Sweet or Spicy" Valentine's Day package (which includes a visit to the nearby Museum of Sex) and the permanent "Romance" package, which includes straws and prosecco delivered to your room. nomosoho.com

3 PRESTONFIELD HOUSE EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

If your idea of a Scottish estate is velvet chaise longues, Claret-red flocked wallpaper and peacocks wandering manicured grounds, then you'll want to pull your Rolls-Royce up to the grand entrance of Prestonfield House, Edinburgh's most extravagant hotel. To truly feel like a visiting dignitary, book the Benjamin Franklin suite, named after the great statesman himself, who stayed there in the 18th century. prestonfield.com



Top: The entry to Hotel Wailea in Maui, Hawaii. Left: The hotel's pool. Above: One of Wailea's suites among the lush greenery.



4 TOKORIKI ISLAND RESORT FIJI
Only 72 guests are permitted at this blissful hidden island resort, and none of them will be spinning Beyblades. Instead, adults are encouraged to do a whole lot of tropical nothing: doze in a hammock, sip a papaya Bellini by the pool or relax in your free-standing buré. You can even book an “unlimited” couple’s massage package, for endless downtime. tokoriki.com

5 RABOT HOTEL FROM HOTEL CHOCOLAT ST LUCIA
Your kids may never forgive you for going to a chocolate-themed hotel without them, but tell them they can go when they have their own jobs and money. Meanwhile, you’ll be tasting cocoa-inflected Caribbean cuisine from the resort’s Cacao Bar or lounging on the deck of your private jungle cottage overlooking St Lucia’s pyramid-like Petit Piton mountain. hotelchocolat.com

6 ELYSIAN RETREAT WHITSUNDAYS, QUEENSLAND
Tired of debating with your kids about what they will or won’t eat? On this secluded, 10-villa Whitsundays hideaway, a private chef will be the one asking you the questions, and will tailor gourmet meals to your specifications. Away from the dining room, float lazily in the magnesium pool, go snorkelling from the resort’s private boat or greet the day with dawn yoga. elysianretreat.com.au

7 THE ASA MAIA ULUWATU, BALI
Due a double reset? This 10-suite wellness retreat on Bali’s southwestern tip lets you surrender into complete serenity, times two. Book daily pilates or yoga or let someone else take care of you with full range of massage and spa treatments. The cuisine ranges from vegan to pescetarian, so you’ll return a little bit lighter, body and soul. theasamaia.com

8 ELISSA LIFESTYLE RESORT RHODES, GREECE
Sorry kids, you’re confined to the family-friendly Helea Beach Resort next door. At Elissa, on Greece’s famous “Island of the Sun”, adults can relax in waterfront bungalows with private pools, play a round of tennis or



enjoy a guided sommelier wine tasting at the property’s private cellar. ellaresorts.com

9 FALLOW RIDGE RETREAT SOUTH ISLAND, NZ
Tucked underneath an earth-tussock roof and overlooking endless farmland and rolling hills an hour north of Dunedin, this off-grid two-person cabin is a fairytale adults-only bolthole. There’s a balcony bath – no one will see you except sheep – a hanging glass-sphere fire and barbecue, and hosts David and Sarah Smith can furnish you with a romantic platter of goodies like antipasti, sparkling wine and chocolates. fallowridgeretreat.co.nz

10 JAVRI LODGE LAPLAND, FINLAND
Lapland might be Santa’s stomping ground but there are some spots the big red man leaves for grown-ups. Javri Lodge is an all-inclusive adults’ resort in the tiny town of Saariselkä, 250km north of the Finnish Arctic Circle, where you can indulge in the twin Nordic pleasures of fire and ice: roaring log fires,



From top: Elissa Lifestyle Resort, Rhodes, Greece; Tokoriki Island Resort, Fiji; Sequoia Lodge, Mount Lofty, SA; NoMo Soho, New York.

steamy saunas and chilled pools, plus add-on excursions like dog sledding, reindeer safaris and ice fishing. Round off each adventurous day with a bottle of red from the huge cellar. javri.fi

11 SEQUOIA LODGE ADELAIDE HILLS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Good luck picking a “best bit” of a stay at Sequoia, part of Mount Lofty Estate in the Adelaide Hills. It might be meeting kangaroos on the daily nature walk. It could be dinner at Hardy’s Restaurant – matched with wines from their unbeatable cellar. It might be casual catch-ups with other guests around the pool for drinks and stories. Or it could be the fact there are no kids anywhere. You decide. sequoialodge.com.au

12 VIKING CRUISES
One of the pioneers of adults-only cruising, Viking treats you like the grown-up you are. There is no fussy, white-glove dining, no casinos, and on-board activities include TED talks and lectures from archaeologists and diplomats. The fleet of ocean and river ships sails all over the globe, filled with travellers who cruise with maturity. vikingcruises.com.au

13 BOUTIQUE HOTEL SES BRUIXES MENORCA, SPAIN
With just 16 beautifully refurbished rooms that date back to the early 19th century, this central hotel in the Menorcan capital, Mahon, is an airy, whitewashed Balearic dream. The 40sq m Rooftop Suite has its own private terrace with 360-degree views of Mahon’s ancient rooftops, and dinners are served by candlelight in the courtyard restaurant. hotelsesbruxes.com

14 HOTEL WALEA MAUI, HAWAII
Hotel Wailea, on the island of Maui, is one of surprisingly few resorts in Hawaii that asks you to leave the kids behind. It’s set up like a grown-up Disneyland: you cruise the coast in a ’57 convertible Porsche, have dinner in the treetops or learn to make Mai Tais with a professional mixologist. hotelwailea.com



ESCAPE HOT LISTS Looking for a local romantic getaway? Scan the code for 10 of Australia’s best.