

ISLANDS

p. 36



THE BEST FAMILY ISLANDS

IT'S EASY TO PICK THE ISLAND with the biggest water slide and just take the kids there. Harder — but worth it — is finding the place where the entire family can bond while spying giant sea turtles, searching for hidden beaches and sharing more island experiences. Easy accessibility, fun amenities and big accommodations are important too for any family getaway, and ISLANDS' experts considered those factors as well. Whether for a young family's first island trip or an extended family's best reunion ever, these 14 destinations can spark lifetime memories and a lifelong love of travel.

ISLANDS
BEST OF THE WORLD

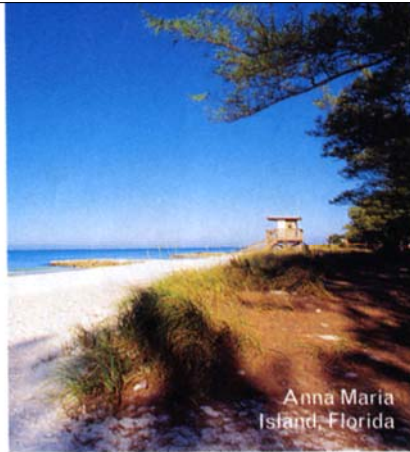
BY CHRIS TAUBER
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THE BEST

BEST QUIANT ISLAND
Anna Maria Island, Florida

> Big resorts? No. Chain restaurants? No. Miles-long beach? Oh yes. All that makes for beautifully charming days on Anna Maria Island, just a drawbridge removed from the Florida mainland. Start by watching the kids engulf slabs of crème brûlée French toast at Ginny and Jane E's at the Old IGA — part bakery, part country store, part flower shop in an old corner grocery. At the beach, let the kids run free. Have lunch at the Sandbar, where the dining patio spills onto the sand. Swim in the warm Gulf of Mexico water. Take out jerk grouper sandwiches from the Banana Cabana for a sunset picnic at Coquina Beach. Retire to one of the Bay Front villas at the Tortuga Inn Beach Resort and schedule one of the new in-room massages from Acqua Aveda Salon & Spa while the kids swim in the pool. Sleep and repeat. Rates from \$120. tortugainn.com



BEST DIRECT-FLIGHT SURPRISE
Tenerife, Canary Islands

> The Canaries are in reach with a new direct flight from Miami to Tenerife on Air Europa. Put your stay in the hands of the new family concierge at the Gran Meliá Palacio de Isora. The resort's service will open the door to a dedicated family check-in area, family-friendly suites, a social area reserved for families with its own waiter service and if you really need it, a Wii. Kids should be happily occupied at the palatial resort, but wonders farther afield include the Crater de Bandama, a volcanic reminder

of the island's origins. The great drive up famous Mount Teide is also a must-do. The otherworldly sights prevent any "Are we there yet?" comments. Rates from \$875. gran-melia-palacio-de-isora.com

BEST QUICK WEEKEND TRIP
Catalina Island, California

> Many visitors to Catalina hop off the ferry, tool around Avalon, then head back. Stay and feel like your family summers here at the Banning House Lodge in the much smaller town of Two Harbors. You can enjoy the Cliff House East or West — king bed, queen-pullout bungalows detached from the main house with harbor views. Lounge in the main lodge under an enormous buffalo head, or see the buffalo still roam in the island's interior. Take the free shuttle down to the village of Two Harbors. You'll feel at home in no time. Rates from \$95. visitscalinaisland.com

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