




19 Best Family Resorts and Hotels in the U.S.

The best family resorts in the U.S. aren't just hotels, they're kid-friendly family vacation destinations in their own right.



 Rush Creek Lodge is a half mile from the entrance to Yosemite (Photo: Kim Carroll/Rush Creek Lodge)

The best family resorts in the U.S. aren't just places to sleep during your family vacation, they can actually play a starring role in a fun vacation with kids. Hotels and resorts that dazzle on the kid front work hard to delight families with kid-friendly activities, amenities, and menus.

I always say it takes more than a swimming pool and chicken fingers to make a hotel family-friendly. And that's why when I plan vacations with my kids, I put in the extra legwork to find resorts for kids that go above and beyond with offerings like water slides, amazing pools, activities like horseback riding, easy [theme park](#) access, and other kid-friendly offerings like great [kids' programs](#) and restaurants that make families feel welcome.

Best Family Resorts in the U.S.

A great family resort is a vacation all by itself, so when you're brainstorming [family vacation ideas](#), it can be super helpful to lead with a great place to stay. Here are my picks for the best family resorts in the U.S. They shine with some outstanding kid- and adult-friendly, offerings from epic waterslides to cozy beach s'mores and singalongs.

18. Rush Creek Lodge

Groveland, California (Yosemite)

Yosemite is such a must-see with kids, and a stay at [Rush Creek Lodge](#), just a half mile from the Highway 120 west entrance (and about a beautiful 30-minute drive from the famed Yosemite Valley) offers an incredible base for the adventure.

This is a seriously kid-friendly resort, with rooms where families can share space comfortably (there are some larger suites in the main lodge plus villa suites with separate rooms). Around the grounds are zip lines, giant slides, outdoor giant Connect 4, and fire pits for s'mores. There's a big game room and a lounge in the main lodge, kids' menus at the tavern and restaurant, and organized activities on the property. There's also a big heated pool and both family and adult hot tubs. Oh, and the spa? It has family hours when you can bring kids to enjoy the warm waterfall cove, sensory room, and cool mist room.

The resort leads guided tours into the park, though you can also go on your own. For a great easy hike in the valley, try Lower Yosemite Falls, which has a paved path good for strollers if you take the part of the loop that's on the left. And though it's a bit of a hike, it's an incredible experience to see the massive giant sequoias in one of the park's three groves (Mariposa, Merced, and Tuolumne groves—Tuolumne is a short drive from Rush Creek).