

# 10 best Caribbean family resorts

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## Enjoy fun in the sun from the Dominican Republic to Mexico

There's something special about teaching your seven year-old to snorkel and then sharing the underwater wonders of rainbow-colored fish and delicate coral with her. In the Caribbean and the Bahamas, depending on the resort you choose, you and your children can snorkel and dive, search for monkeys in the rainforest, zoom down waterslides, swim with dolphins, get wicked good at tennis and golf and also enjoy such time-honored pleasures as sunning, swimming and sand castle-building. It all depends on the resort you choose. Here are ten top properties to consider.

### Turks & Caicos: Beaches, Providenciales



The expanded, 45,000-square-foot Pirate's Island Waterpark and the two-bedroom family suites, part of a 2009 \$125 million renovation, are just some of the reasons families enjoy this 615-room, all-inclusive [resort](#). Beaches, long known for programs for younger kids, offers complimentary care and play for children, from infants to 2-year-olds, as well as supervised activities for those 3 years old and older. Pre-schoolers and gradeschoolers delight in twirling with Zoe, baking cookies with Cookie Monster and parading

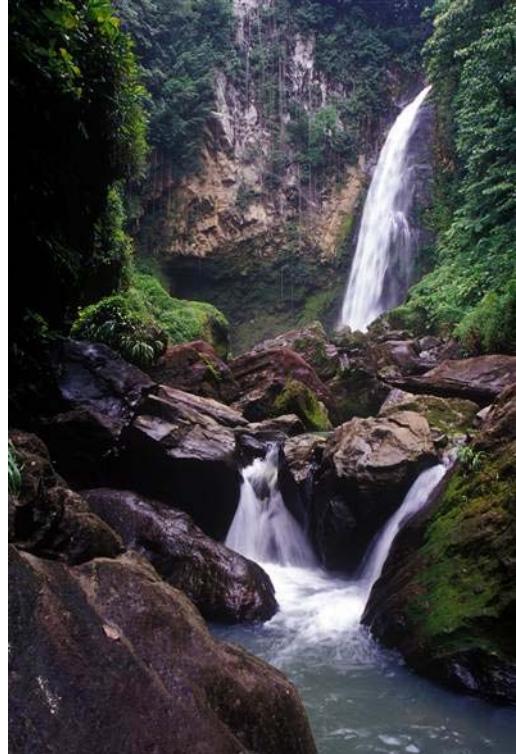
with the Sesame Street characters. T'weens and teens mingle while learning to spin discs at the Scratch D.J. Academy; dancing at Liquid, an under-21 nightclub; and playing computer games at the Xbox 360 Game Garage.

**Best for:** families with tots, toddlers and 'tweens who like budget-friendly, mega-sized all-inclusives.

### **Dominican Republic: Club Med Punta Cana**

Babies through teens keep busy at this all-inclusive, recently upgraded to add oceanfront, two-bedroom family suites with televisions and room service. New bedspreads and decor brighten the regular rooms. Children — broken into 4 to 5, 6 to 7 and 8 to 10 age groups — try flying on a trapeze, play tennis and basketball and splash through the fountains, sprays and pools at the Club's own waterpark. At Passworld, teens hang out, go rollerblading and learn the latest hip-hop moves. Caregivers play with tots (4 months to 23 months) and kids 2 to 3 years for an additional fee. Go snorkeling, swimming or strolling along the three miles of white, sandy beach with your kids.

**Best for:** active families with kids, ages 4 through teens, who like budget-friendly all-inclusives.



### **The Bahamas: Atlantis**



At this water-themed mega-resort, which boasts more than 2,500 rooms, get your thrills by zooming down waterslides, floating on a faux river with rapids and swimming with dolphins or meeting sea lions. Young kids like the rope bridges and cannon sprays at Splashers, and everyone finds a favorite among the property's 11 pools. Encounter more marine critters by walking through an acrylic tunnel, where toothy sharks zig-zag above you, and by viewing

piranhas, lionfish, giant rays and schools of tropical fish at the resort's aquarium. Teens congregate at Club Rush for dancing and Nintendo Wii games. In December 2009, a new Atlantis Kids Club facility for ages 3 to 12 will debut. Parents can indulge at the spa, shop the boutiques in the Village and try their luck at the casino.

**Best for:** families craving big, boisterous resorts with nightlife and a casino.

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