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ANNABEL KARMEL'S PICNIC TREATS



THIS MONTH *we love*

Hotel Wiesenhof, Tyrol, Austria

Ruth Ellis, her husband Martin and their daughter Molly, two, blissed out in a stunning mountain valley

'I'd always thought of Austria as a winter destination but it has so much to offer in summer. Stripped of snow, the mountains are even more beautiful and Hotel Wiesenhof has stunning views. The rooms are clean and modern, with access to baby essentials such as changing mats, bottle warmers and monitors; there's also a swimming pool, playroom and babysitting (10 euros an hour); perfect for when you want to visit the spa.

'Outside, the hotel's extensive grounds are home to alpacas, ducks and horses. We all loved the clay oven where children can help bake bread, while guests receive discounts for the local cable car, golf course and buses.

'All this fresh air meant we worked up big appetites for the delicious buffet meals – the children's menu includes home-made burgers, nuggets and spaghetti bolognese. As a treat, kids can go into the kitchen to choose their own desserts, including 100% pure fruit whipped up into sorbets. For us, it was also important to know Hotel Wiesenhof is eco-friendly and largely self-sustainable.

'The hotel's motto is, "Arrive as a guest, leave as a friend" – and that's exactly how we felt when it was time to say goodbye.'

CP BF BS HP M C

THE BEST OF THE REST



BEST FOR SUNSHINE

Garden Beach Resort, Sardinia

This rugged island offers a family-friendly atmosphere and year-round sun. Soak up the rays at the Garden Beach resort, which has a brilliant range of activities including kayaking, riding and diving. There's a toddler club (£180 a week) and free evening crèche. Accommodation is in chic bungalows. From £649 *pw inc flights*. (0871 703 3889; markwarner.co.uk.)

BF BS



MOUNTAIN

BOOK IT!

VERDICT A brilliant year-round spot with lots to see and do.

WHEN TO GO Summer season is May to September; winter is October to March.

PRICES From 1554 euros per week for a family of four, half board. EasyJet offers cheap flights to Innsbruck.

CONTACT wiesenhof.at



RUTH'S TOP TIPS

DO hire one of the hotel's electric cars for an hour (24 euros) and drive to the village.

DON'T pack a book. The hotel has a good range of English novels in its library.

DO visit the shale-oil museum. The region is well known for this natural healing oil.

DON'T miss the fantastic spa treatments, especially the Steinolbad bath in shale oil.

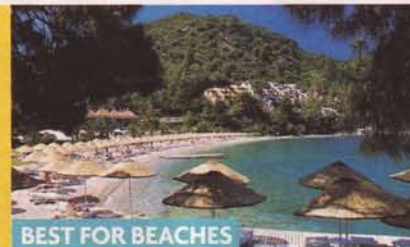


BEST FOR LONG DAYS

Ålesund, Norway

A great base for exploring the fjords – breathtaking glaciers that rise out of the sea. The short nights are the best thing about summer in this art nouveau town – you'll still see the sun at midnight. *The Radisson Blu*, £158 *pn B&B*. (+47 7016 0000; radissonblu.com.) Flights from £192 at *flights.com*. See *visitaalesund-geiranger.com/en* for more on the area.

CP BF HP



BEST FOR BEACHES

Hillside Beach Resort, Fethiye, Turkey

This chic, child-friendly resort has its own private Blue Flag beach. Get creative in the art studio, visit the ancient temples or have a go at the watersports. There's a spa and kids' club, a range of restaurants and bars, plus events with international DJs. From 137 euros *pn fb*. (*hillsidebeachclub.com*.) Flights to Dalaman from £30.99 each way. (*monarch.co.uk*.)

CP BF BS HP M

KEY CP Cots provided

BF Baby food available in nearby shops

BS Babysitting/listening available

HP Highchairs provided

M Monitor provided

Find tips for travelling with a baby, reviews of family-friendly holidays in the UK and abroad, plus tactics for a stress-free

