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Winter beach getaways for the whole family



Terranea Resort

Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., is a good place to get acquainted with the local animal kingdom and take part in a variety of other outdoor activities.



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Do you long for a sea breeze and sand in your shoes? Here are five family-friendly beach getaways to consider:

1 **Frenchman's Reef & Morning Star Marriott Beach Resort, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.**

Book the Family Island Adventure Package and plan for an island holiday that will include sailing, snorkeling and sport-fishing tours, the chance to touch a baby nurse shark, and a nighttime tour aboard clear-bottomed kayaks. Learn to balance on stand-up paddleboards, swim with turtles at nearby Buck Island, or simply relax on the beach. American citizens can leave their passports at home. Use promo code ZJL.

Contact: 1-800-228-9290;frenchmansreefmarriott.com

2 Terranea Resort, Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. Learn the secrets of sky-high falconry from the resort's team of experts. Then head to the sea, where youngsters will discover local creatures including sea stars, slugs and anemones in the education-rich Tide Pool Kids Club. Families also roast s'mores, play Beach Blanket Bingo, and go horseback riding and whale watching. Juniors are welcome on the resort's coastal golf course, where players are regularly distracted by views of the Pacific Ocean and Catalina Island in the distance.

Contact: 1-866-802-8000; terranea.com

3 Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort, Amelia Island, Fla. Tucked on the tip of a barrier island off the Sunshine State's northeast coast, the 404-room resort has recently undergone an \$85 million "reimagination." Beyond access to more than 3 miles of beach, the hotel further entices families with a 10,000-square-foot pool, a water playground, a kids camp and nature center as well as a teen lounge. Tour the expansive property on Segways or motorized carts; fish, kayak and paddleboard. Golfers will appreciate the 54 holes of championship golf designed by Pete Dye and Bobby Weed.

Contact: omnihotels.com/findahotel/ameliaisland.aspx

4 Brac Reef, Cayman Brac. From this small, family-friendly island, your crew can enjoy a beach vacation that includes the option of learning to dive in the pristine waters around Cayman Brac as well as nearby Little Cayman Island. The on-site dive shop provides personalized attention to the soon-to-be certified as well as the seasoned diver. The all-inclusive, family-owned resort also provides free bike loans to explore the island, spa services, kayaking, snorkeling and volleyball.

Contact: 1-800-594-0843; bracreef.com

5 Destination Resorts Hawaii, Maui. Multigenerational clans, or those eager for a little elbow room, will want to know about vacation homes offered as part of Wailea Winter Deals. From now through April 2014, families can take advantage of 30 percent savings on one- to five-bedroom private homes and villas with easy access to the beach or golf. Guests get free Wi-Fi as well as concierge services to assist in planning activities from snorkeling and whale-watching tours to golf and tennis outings. The deal also includes discounts and special services at local restaurants and shops.

Contact: destinationresortshawaii.com

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