

TRAVEL ADVICE

Ask the team: child-friendly stop-offs in France

Our experts answer your travel queries

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Go barefoot at Veranda Pointe aux Biches, Mauritius

In April, my friend and I want to spend an all-inclusive week in a beachside, non-corporate, barefoot escape, without our husbands and children. Our budget is £1,300pp. We were wondering about Costa Rica, the Caribbean or Mauritius.
Karen Whittingham, Shropshire

Susan d'Arcy replies: Veranda Pointe aux Biches, in Mauritius, suggests that guests take off their shoes on arrival, so that's the barefoot bit sorted. The tropical-chic decor is looking particularly good after a facelift in August last year. It's on the beach and has free shuttles into the lively village of Grand Baie. Hayes & Jarvis has an all-inclusive week in April from £1,299pp (hayesandjarvis.co.uk).

In the Caribbean, St Lucia is worth considering. The St Lucian by Rex Resorts is on Reduit Beach, the island's best bay. The rooms are simple, but it is such good value that you'll be able to treat yourselves to massages in the swanky spa at its sister property, the Royal, next door. Tropical Sky has an all-inclusive week in April from £1,119pp (tropicalskey.co.uk).

New direct flights mean Costa Rica is much more accessible. An all-inclusive week at the five-star Hotel Riu Guanacaste costs £1,249pp with Thomson (thomson.co.uk). Though it has 701 rooms, the hacienda design means it feels intimate, and the setting is wonderful — right on Matapalo beach, with a backdrop of mountains swathed in rainforest.