The 10 best holidays for families with babies and toddlers

Head to the calmest sandy beaches in Europe for villa or hotel escapes to suit families with young children

Gift this article free

Shallow and relatively calm waters are features of many of Europe's best family-friendly beaches Credit: Guido Mieth/Digital Vision

Sara Sherwood
24 June 2025 12:00pm BST

Expert guides to family holidays

Italy

Sicily's northern coast and the east of Sardinia are loved by locals for their relatively gentle waters, but you could also easily find your family's ideal break along the Amalfi coast or in sleepy Puglia.

7. Ugento, Puglia, Italy

Have a go at being a relaxed, chic Italian parent at the all-inclusive resort of Vivosa on the southernmost tip of Puglia. The series of low-rise rooms scattered in olive groves is just a short stroll through pine forest to the sea, around three-and-a-half miles from Ugento's national park. It offers separate pools for toddlers and primary school children, plus an adults-only soaking pool at the sleek, award-winning spa. The kids' club, which has a distinctly Italian accent, takes children from age two.

The good-quality buffet food means that you can happily stay put for a week, shuffling between naps on loungers in an olive grove, and relaxing on the private beach – which is lively in the crowded summer months. There's also a golf course (lessons are available), a fitness centre with nutritionist and tennis courts, as well as evening entertainment.

A six-night stay at Vivosa Apulia Resort in June for two parents and a baby costs from £1,382. Alternatively, stay for just a few nights and take a road trip around other parts of Puglia; summer months have a minimum stay of two nights.