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THE EDIT

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BEST FAMILY ADVENTURES FOR 2020 AND BEYOND

DESTINATIONS TO DREAM ABOUT

> Off-grid address book QUIET ISLANDS

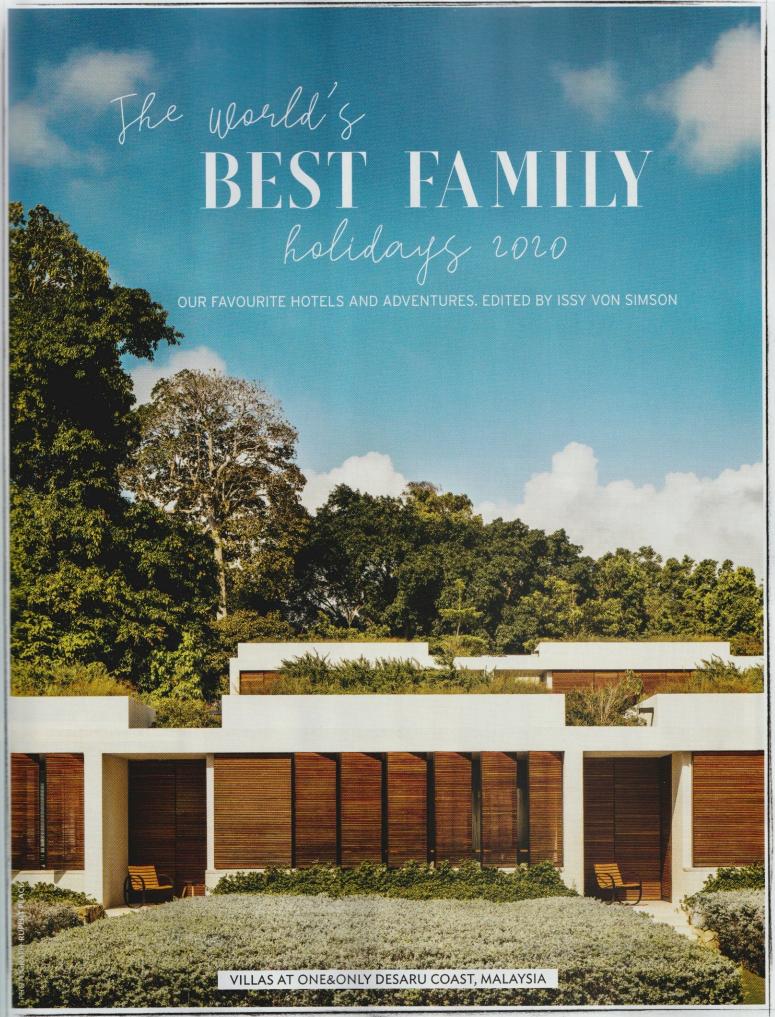
MEANINGFUL VOLUNTOURISM ROOTSY FOOD

STAYCATIONS

NEW BRITISH PRIVATE HOUSES TO RENT A COUNTRY WEEKEND HIDEOUT

THE GAME-CHANGING UK WELLNESS RETREAT





BEST FAMILY holidays

HOTEL ESENCIA

TULUM, MEXICO

This former home of Italian duchess Rosa de Ferrari is spirited away down a dusty path off the road between Cancún and Tulum. In 2014 Hollywood entrepreneur turned property mogul Kevin Wendle fell for the whitewashed hacienda and cotton-soft Xpu-Ha beach and turned it into one of Mexico's loveliest places to stay. Baby sea turtles wriggle in the sand at dusk, waiting to be returned to the water - a thrill for inquisitive marine biologists. A palo-santo-waving shaman presides over the spa, making potions out of Yucatán lime and hibiscus - a must for budding botanists. But while a feeling of myth and natural wonder prevails at this fairly low-key, feet-inthe-sand set-up, poolside sarongs are still by Chanel. The main mansion is filled with art, with pieces by Picasso, Fernando Botero and Eduardo Santiere; the beach is pristine (when the seasonal seaweed storms relent); and there are two pools for everyone to spread out. Bedrooms are minimalist with flashes of geometric colour - like a monk has had a spending spree in Hermès. Villas have a plunge pool in their garden, and terraces in all rooms provide a spot for parents to sit at night drinking in the sounds of the waves over a spiced mezcal Margarita; larger troupes should nab the three-bedroom Yum-Ha private house. A thoughtful pre-breakfast treat of coffee and pastries is left outside the door every morning in a box, to thwart avian visitors. At Mistura restaurant, dishes are on-trend for the avo-loving wellness generation - sea-bass ceviche with habanero sauce packs a punch. It's hard to reconcile haute-hippy Tulum with the hang-your-hammock gap-year territory it once was, with upcycled kaftans commanding huge price tags and legendary queues at Hartwood restaurant. But it's buzzy and perennially popular. And Esencia, in its tucked-away bird-and-plant-filled jungle setting, gives glorious respite.

INSIDER TIP Driving here is easy, and the Tulum ruins are only half an hour away, so resist the temptation of just staying horizontal on a sunbed.

BOOK IT Turquoise Holidays offers seven nights from £6,999 for two adults and a child, including flights and transfers.

+44 20 7147 7087; turquoiseholidays.co.uk

