



Travel Guide | Families

UNLOCKING EUROPE'S MOST SPECTACULAR DESTINATIONS



EXCLUSIVE
INSIDER TIPS



Europe for Families

Embark on a family adventure like no other in Europe, where the continent's rich tapestry of history, breathtaking landscapes, and tantalising cuisines converge to create an unforgettable experience for all. From exploring ancient ruins and interactive museums to hiking through majestic mountains and lounging on sun-drenched coastlines, Europe offers a wealth of opportunities for historical immersion and outdoor exploration that will captivate both adults and children alike. And when it comes to culinary delights, each country in Europe presents its own enticing array of flavours, from mouthwatering gelato in Italy to savory Portuguese tarts and indulgent Swiss fondue. Whether you're strolling through bustling markets, participating in hands-on cooking classes, or simply savouring a leisurely meal together as a family, Europe's diverse culinary scene promises to delight every palate. With Ormina Tours as your guide, let us help you uncover the wonders of Europe and create cherished family memories that will last a lifetime.



Amalfi Coast, Italy

WHEN TO VISIT

Determining the best time to visit Europe with your family depends largely on the type of experience you're seeking. Whether it's basking in the summer sun, immersing in a winter wonderland, or exploring vibrant Christmas markets, Europe offers something for every season.

Different times of the year can significantly impact seasonal rates, affecting both accommodation prices and activity costs. For instance, while summer may offer sunny beach days and bustling city streets, it often comes with higher prices and larger crowds. On the other hand, traveling during the shoulder seasons of spring and fall can provide a balance of favourable weather, fewer tourists, and more affordable rates. Winter brings its own charm, with opportunities for skiing, festive markets, and cosy family gatherings, but it's important to prepare for colder temperatures and potential travel disruptions. By carefully considering your family's preferences and budget, you can choose the best time to visit Europe and ensure a memorable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

ACCOMMODATION TYPES

HOTELS: Staying in a hotel brings added perks like convenient services and amenities such as pools, ideal for families seeking a hassle-free getaway. Many hotels provide interconnecting rooms, offering a good alternative for space and privacy, especially with older kids. At Ormina Tours, we take pride in presenting a handpicked array of European hotels tailored for families, promising a stay that's both comfortable and accommodating.

APARTMENTS: Ideal for families of all types, apartments provide the freedom and space needed for a relaxing stay. With separate bedrooms, parents can unwind while children nap, and many apartments feature kitchenette facilities, allowing families to enjoy home-cooked meals and sample local produce from nearby markets, thereby saving on dining expenses.

VILLAS: Perfect for larger families or groups, villas offer ample space for everyone to gather and enjoy activities both on-site, as well as local day trips. Keep in mind that most European villas require a minimum 7-night stay (Sat to Sat), making them best suited for those planning day trips from a central base.

GETTING AROUND

PRIVATE DRIVERS: For a hassle-free experience, consider booking private transfers to navigate between cities. Not only does this option eliminate the stress of planning and navigating, but it can also prove to be a cost-effective solution for families in some European countries.

TRAINS: Europe's extensive rail network makes trains an attractive option for both local and cross-country travel. Countries like Italy and Switzerland boast efficient and affordable rail systems. However, it's important to note that in some countries, such as Spain, train fares between cities can be pricey (e.g. €100+ per person), potentially making private drivers or car rentals a more economical choice. Additionally, families should consider the logistics of carrying luggage on and off platforms, as this may entail additional costs if not included in the ticket fare.

SELF-DRIVE: Ideal for families seeking independence and flexibility, self-driving allows you to explore at your own pace while keeping costs under control. However, it's crucial to consider factors such as the amount of luggage your family will be carrying, as all belongings must fit comfortably in the car.



Tuscany, Italy



Nice, France

Creating Family Itineraries

Creating the perfect family itinerary in Europe requires thoughtful planning and consideration. Start by identifying your family's interests and preferences, then research destinations and activities that align with them. Consider factors such as travel logistics, accommodation options, and seasonal variations in weather and crowds. On the following pages Ormina Tours has put together a wealth of insider knowledge and expert guidance in a range of European destinations to help get you started.



ADD THESE Family Friendly Activities to the Itinerary

MUSEUMS

Explore the diverse array of museums across Europe, spanning archaeology, art, and science. Many museums offer interactive experiences and captivating displays that vividly bring the city's history and culture to life. Additionally, don't miss out on visiting world-renowned zoos and aquariums, offering exciting experiences for kids of all ages.

PLAYGROUNDS

Discover some of the world's best playgrounds in European destinations like Portugal or nestled amidst the breathtaking Dolomite Mountains. Exploring these local playgrounds offers you a nice way to disconnect from the hustle and bustle of the tourist scene, as well as a more authentic, insider experience of the city, providing an opportunity to connect with locals and create lasting memories.

BIKE TOURS

Explore Europe's picturesque landscapes and charming cities on family-friendly bike tours. Tours often utilize e-bikes, making them suitable for every fitness level, and are most appropriate for ages 8 and above, offering an enjoyable and accessible way for families to discover the beauty of Europe together.

COOKING CLASSES

Delight in the flavours of Europe by joining interactive cooking classes where families can learn to prepare local dishes together. Even the little ones can enjoy a tactile, hands-on experience with pasta making and sampling new foods in a fun environment. It's not just a delightful activity, but also a valuable skill to bring back home and relive the memories.

TREASURE HUNTS

Many European cities & museums offer tours catering for kids to help engage and educate. For example the Louvre in Paris has a Treasure Hunt style tour offering a fun and interactive way for families to discover Europe's cultural treasures. Alternatively, parents can involve kids in creating their own treasure hunt maps prior to traveling, marking off cities, sites, and experiences along the way.

Tips for planning

- > Get everyone involved: Show kids the places you'll visit and read about what's most interesting about each one. Ask them what they'd be most excited to see to grow their anticipation, such as throwing a coin and making a wish in the Trevi Fountain.
- > Learn the language: Try to learn a few words in the local language such as hello, goodbye, please, thank you and perhaps some favourite foods.
- > Give kids choices: Kids like to feel as if they have contributed in some way, and this will help grow their excitement for the trip, instead of feeling dragged around. Would they prefer to make pizza or gelato in a local cooking class?
- > Keep key interests in mind: Consider what your kids enjoy when planning your trip – do they love history, adventure or arts & crafts? There are a variety of options to suit kids, from interactive science museums, city treasure hunts and crafty workshops.
- > Don't underestimate downtime: Some relaxing time in the hotel pool, or a local park can help recharge youngsters (and parents) and let off steam.

Italy for Families

Italy offers families a rich tapestry of experiences, blending history, culture, and gastronomy into unforgettable adventures. Wander through ancient ruins and cobblestone streets, participate in gladiator schools, and embark on interactive museum tours to bring history to life for the whole family. Beyond its storied past, Italy's diverse landscapes—from sun-drenched coastlines to rolling countryside—provide endless opportunities for outdoor exploration and relaxation. Indulge in delicious Italian cuisine, with cooking classes offering a hands-on experience for even the youngest travellers. With its welcoming atmosphere and abundance of family-friendly attractions, Italy is the perfect destination for a memorable family holiday.

Accommodation



AMALFI COAST – Hotel Corallo, Interconnecting Rooms

Nestled in the charming town of Sant'Agnello, Hotel Corallo boasts a prestigious 4-star rating and a breathtaking clifftop location. With panoramic terraces offering sweeping views of the Gulf of Naples, Vesuvius, and the Sorrentine peninsula, guests are treated to unparalleled vistas. Originally an elegant patrician house, the hotel's rich history dates back to 1910 when it transformed into 'Hotel Cappuccini', frequented by esteemed artists and intellectuals like Luigi Pirandello in the 1930s.



AMALFI COAST – La Piazzetta Guest House, Apartments

La Piazzetta Guest House, nestled in Sorrento's historic heart, offers refined yet homely accommodations. With Rooms and Apartments featuring distinctive designs and modern comforts, it's an ideal base for exploring the Peninsula's attractions year-round. Conveniently located near Sorrento's main sights, it's the perfect blend of comfort and accessibility for families to enjoy cultural pursuits and immerse in local social life.



FLORENCE – Palazzo Gamba, Luxury 2&3 Bedroom Apartments

Palazzo Gamba, located opposite Florence Cathedral, extends a warm welcome to families, offering individually designed apartments with fully equipped kitchenettes. Many apartments boast stunning cathedral vistas, while nearby attractions like Palazzo Vecchio and the Uffizi Gallery await just meters away. With spacious layouts, and elegant designs, including some with frescoed ceilings or balconies, each apartment ensures a comfortable and memorable family retreat in the heart of Florence.



FLORENCE – Grand Hotel Baglioni, Family Rooms

Experience a century of hospitality at The Grand Hotel Baglioni, centrally located in Florence. Housed in a stunning 19th-century building, it seamlessly blends past and present, embodying Florentine tradition. Rooms exude unmistakable Florentine style, featuring wooden furniture, wrought iron finishes, and coffered ceilings. Family-friendly accommodations offer all necessary amenities, including comfortable sofa beds, ensuring peaceful stays for travellers with younger members.



ROME – Fontana Di Trevi, Apartments

Fontana Di Trevi presents an ideal retreat for families seeking comfort and convenience. With spacious lounge areas, fully equipped kitchenettes, and a variety of apartments with 2- to 4- bedrooms available, guests can tailor their stay to suit their needs. Situated in the Trevi area, surrounded by a number of restaurants, families can enjoy homemade meals and authentic Italian cuisine. Explore boutique shops, art museums, and ancient ruins nearby, ensuring an unforgettable family experience in the heart of Rome.



VENICE – Splendid Venice, Interconnecting Rooms

Located just steps away from Venice's iconic attractions, Splendid Venice exudes charm and luxury, mirroring the elegance of the city itself. Dating back to the sixteenth century, it was once known as the Black Hat Inn during Venice's Republic heyday. The hotel offers spacious, cosy, and bright rooms, with plenty of gadgets, surprises, special menus, and dedicated services for families traveling with children. Additionally, two children under 16 stay for free when sharing a room with at least one adult.



ROME – Hotel Stendhal, Interconnecting Rooms & Suites

Hotel Stendhal presents an unparalleled 4-star experience in the heart of Rome. Families travelling together will find the Family Suites particularly appealing, featuring spacious layouts for up to four people, including a large double bed, separate seating area with a pull-out sofa bed, and two bathrooms. Alternatively, the option of connecting Family Deluxe rooms is available. Conveniently located near Piazza Barberini, Hotel Stendhal offers easy access to iconic landmarks such as the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, and Pantheon, ensuring an unforgettable stay in the Eternal City.



VENICE – Hotel Palazz Sant'Antonin, Family Rooms

Housed within a charming 16th-century building adorned with period furniture, Hotel Sant'Antonin invites families to experience its warm hospitality. Boasting a panoramic terrace and a garden adorned with sculptures, the hotel is just a 10-minute stroll from St. Mark's Square. Families can feel at home in one of the 13 guestrooms, some accommodating up to 5 guests.



Fortezza Rossa

Our Luxury Tuscan Villa Collection

DOWNLOAD THE TUSCAN VILLA GUIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Experience the perfect blend of luxury, culture, and history by staying in an authentic Tuscan villa. Whether you're travelling with family, friends, or a larger group, a villa provides a perfect retreat to relax and unwind amidst breathtaking natural beauty. As experts in Tuscan villa accommodation, Ormina Tours offers a carefully curated selection of the best luxury villas on the market, each one located close to charming towns and villages that you will likely have on your itinerary. Enjoy easy access to the region's iconic landmarks, culture, and gastronomy with a range of price points and bedroom options to suit your Tuscan getaway. **When planning, remember that most villas require a minimum 7-night stay from Sat - Sat, especially during the peak months of June to August. Contact Ormina Tours today to learn more about our villas and start planning your unforgettable Tuscan villa experience.**



Italy Family Activities

AMALFI COAST

Pompeii & Herculaneum

Explore the ancient ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum, perfect for families with curious young minds. Kids can immerse themselves in history, discovering the secrets of these ancient cities buried by Mount Vesuvius. Witnessing the preserved artifacts and structures offers a unique learning experience suitable for children, fostering their interest in archaeology and ancient civilizations.

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TIP

Visit the National Archaeological Museum in Naples to see the plaster casts of the victims, frozen in time.

Seaside Discovery

Embark on an unforgettable adventure along the breathtaking Amalfi Coast, ideal for families seeking fun and relaxation. Depending on your children's swimming capabilities, they can enjoy boat tours, snorkelling in crystal-clear waters, and exploring the enchanting Blue Grotto of Capri. The stunning coastal landscapes provide the backdrop for countless family memories.

Pizza Making In Naples

Delight your taste buds and unleash your inner chef with a pizza-making experience in Naples, the home of Italian pizza! Engage kids in hands-on activities as you knead dough, choose toppings, and bake your own delicious pizzas, and enjoy a delicious feast. This interactive culinary adventure will satisfy hungry tummies, as well as educate children about Italian cuisine and culture in a fun and memorable way.

Lemon Grove Tour

Take your family on a sensory journey through the fragrant lemon groves of the Amalfi Coast. Explore the vibrant orchards, learn about traditional lemon cultivation, and sample freshly squeezed lemonade. This refreshing experience amidst stunning scenery provides a delightful escape from the hustle and bustle, offering families a chance to connect with nature and each other.

FLORENCE

Bike Tour Of Florence

Pedal through the charming streets of Florence on a family-friendly bike tour, suitable for children aged 8 and above. Explore iconic landmarks, picturesque squares, and hidden gems while enjoying the fresh air and scenic views.

Leonardo da Vinci Museum

Ignite your children's imagination with a visit to the Leonardo da Vinci Museum in Florence, suitable for curious minds. Explore the genius of one of history's greatest inventors through interactive exhibits, hands-on experiments, and replica inventions. This immersive experience sparks creativity, curiosity, and a deeper understanding of Leonardo's ground breaking contributions to art and science.

Gelato Making Workshop

Florence, with its rich culinary heritage, played a significant role in the evolution of gelato. So where else better to learn and make this delicious treat! Indulge your family's sweet tooth and create lasting memories in a gelato cooking class.

Market Tour

Immerse your family in the vibrant atmosphere of Florence's bustling markets. Wander through stalls brimming with colourful produce, aromatic spices, and artisanal crafts, engaging all your senses. Let your kids interact with local vendors, taste delicious treats, and learn about traditional Tuscan ingredients, fostering their appreciation for food and culture in a lively setting.



Colosseum, Rome



Venetian Carnival Masks



Gondola Ride, Venice

ROME

Gladiator Themed Colosseum Tour

Give your family a unique Colosseum experience with interactive learning as your guide unveils the heroic feats of Gladiators. Dynamic storytelling and quizzes, immerse children in the life of Flavius Attilius, creating an educational and unforgettable memory. Ideal for families seeking history and fun, this tour offers a captivating glimpse into ancient Rome's arena spectacle.

Underground Catacombs Discovery

Explore a darker side of Rome on a catacombs tour, delving beneath the surface to uncover its mysterious underworld. Begin at a crypt adorned with thousands of skeletal remains. Journey along the historic Appian Way, leading to ancient Christian catacombs where you will delve into Rome's hidden history of Christian persecution and unconventional religious practices. Experience the city's multi-layered past on this unforgettable underground journey.

Bike Tour Of Rome

Embark on an exhilarating bike tour of Rome, perfect for families with active kids. Pedal on an e-bike through the ancient streets of the Eternal City, where every corner reveals a story from its illustrious past as the heart of the Roman Empire. From iconic landmarks like the Colosseum and the Roman Forum to charming piazzas and majestic fountains, cycling allows you to cover more ground while immersing yourselves in Rome's rich history and vibrant culture. This eco-friendly adventure promotes physical activity, cultural immersion, and family bonding, creating unforgettable memories against the backdrop of Rome's timeless beauty. So hop on your bikes and discover the wonders of Rome in a fun and active way!

VENICE

Venetian Mask Workshop

Unleash your family's creativity with a Venetian mask-making workshop. Dive into the enchanting world of Venetian masquerade traditions, learning the art of mask design and decoration from skilled artisans. Discover the rich history and cultural significance of carnival and masks in Venice, where the annual Carnevale di Venezia has been celebrated for centuries as a time of revelry, mystery, and disguise. This hands-on experience allows kids to express themselves artistically while immersing themselves in the magical ambiance of Venetian festivities, creating cherished memories and unique souvenirs to commemorate their time in Venice.

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TIP

Venetian masks are perfect for show-and-tell at school or as a delightful gift to bring back for friends!

Lost Treasure Tour

Embark on a captivating journey through 13th-century Venice, uncovering the legends of one of its most illustrious residents, Marco Polo. Begin at Polo's former family home, where rare treasures were unearthed during a modern renovation, offering glimpses into his extraordinary life. Explore the customs of Venetian traders at the historic Rialto Market before cruising to Murano. There, witness a master glassblower recreate an ancient glass sphere owned by Polo, adding a tangible element to his storied legacy.

Gondola Ride

Embark on a magical gondola ride through the picturesque canals of Venice, suitable for families with children of all ages. Glide past historic palaces, quaint bridges, and hidden corners, immersing yourselves in the timeless charm of the Floating City.

Kid's Walking Tour

Families will enjoy a captivating walking tour of Venice tailored specifically for young explorers. Follow engaging guides through the city's labyrinthine streets, discovering hidden treasures, intriguing legends, and fascinating history along the way. Interactive storytelling and hands-on activities keep children entertained and educated, making learning about Venice's rich heritage a fun and memorable experience.

Spain for Families

Spain beckons families with its vibrant culture, stunning scenery, and warm Mediterranean climate. Dive into the heart of Spanish culture with lively festivals, flamenco performances, and traditional fiestas that will captivate the entire family. Relax on beautiful beaches, where kids can build sandcastles and splash in the waves to their heart's content. Explore historic cities brimming with kid-friendly attractions like castles, palaces, and interactive museums, offering an educational and entertaining experience for all. Don't miss the opportunity to discover Spain's breathtaking natural parks, where families can hike through rugged mountains, spot wildlife in lush forests, and marvel at dramatic landscapes. With its diverse array of activities and welcoming atmosphere, Spain promises an unforgettable family holiday filled with sunshine, laughter, and cherished memories.

Accommodation



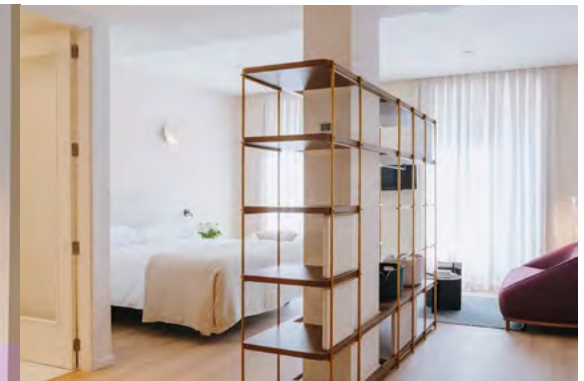
BARCELONA – SixtyFour Apartments

Situated in the heart of Paseo de Gracia, Sixtyfour Apartments offers families an ideal retreat in Barcelona's most exclusive area, surrounded by renowned fashion shops. With 18 spacious and bright flats ranging from 1 to 3 bedrooms, guests can enjoy views of Paseo de Gracia or the serene courtyard of the Eixample. Each fully equipped flat features a living room and kitchen, ensuring comfort and convenience for families. Thoughtfully designed with Nespresso coffee machines, kettles, and baths with showers, every detail is tailored to create an authentic and relaxing experience.



SAN SEBASTIAN – The Passage Apartments

Discover The Passage, a beautifully restored historic gem nestled in San Sebastian's heart. Offering 16 luxury apartments with 1-, 2- and 3- bedroom options, including a stunning penthouse, each meticulously decorated for both design and comfort. Accessibility features ensure convenience for all guests. With its prime location just moments from La Concha beach and the Old City, it's the perfect family retreat.





Park Güell, Barcelona



Madrid Río Park, Madrid



Gaztelugatxe, Spain

Spain Family Activities

Discover Gaudi

Embark on a family adventure through the whimsical world of Antoni Gaudí in Barcelona, where every corner holds a delightful surprise.

La Pedrera and Casa Batlló: Marvel at the architectural wonders of La Pedrera and Casa Batlló, where cultural activities tailored for children await. La Pedrera invites young minds to explore its history through interactive games and handicrafts, while Casa Batlló brings Gaudí's visionary art to life with theatrical activities and exhibitions.

G-Experiencia: Step into the immersive world of G-Experiencia, where augmented reality activities engage both young and old in the wonders of Antoni Gaudí's creations. From 4D films to interactive screens and impressive models, this experience promises endless exploration and discovery.

Park Güell: Don't miss Park Güell, a fantastical playground adorned with Gaudí's colorful mosaics and imaginative designs. Challenge your children to find the iconic ceramic dragon or marvel at the dragon stairway and the hall of the hundred columns. With its whimsical charm, Park Güell guarantees an unforgettable adventure for the whole family.

Time Travel Train Adventure

Embark on a delightful journey aboard the Strawberry Train from Madrid to Aranjuez, where families are transported back in time with characters dressed in period costumes. Actors enliven the experience with playful scenes, while ladies in 19th-century attire serve strawberries during the ride. Explore the charming town of Aranjuez and its Royal Palace in a whimsical adventure that promises fun for the whole family.

World Renowned Parks & Playgrounds

Explore the wonders of Madrid and Barcelona through their world-renowned parks and playgrounds, perfect for family adventures. In Madrid Río Park, children can unleash their creativity in 17 play areas featuring swings made from sustainable materials and adventurous climbing structures. Beat the summer heat at Madrid Río Beach, where cooling jets of water provide endless fun for kids and adults alike. Meanwhile, in Barcelona's Parc del Laberint d'Horta, families can wander through the oldest garden in the city, with kids delighting in navigating the maze. At Poble Espanyol, also in Barcelona, experience a miniature Spain with life-size replicas of buildings and artisan workshops, offering a cultural journey for the whole family to enjoy together.

Game of Thrones Pilgrimage: Gaztelugatxe

All Game of Thrones fans will enjoy this thrilling family adventure to Gaztelugatxe, just north of Bilbao, where the rugged beauty of the Basque coastline awaits. Gaztelugatxe holds an extra allure as the real-life setting for Dragonstone, capturing the imaginations of both young and old alike. Join the ranks of pilgrims, both fictional and real, as you explore this legendary destination with your family. A 45-minute drive brings you to this iconic pilgrimage site, where 241 steps lead up a winding stone causeway to the hermitage perched atop the wind-beaten islet. Marvel at the breathtaking views and feel the power of the Bay of Biscay's crashing waves below.

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Legend has it that at the island's summit, a church awaits with a bell adorning its facade. Tradition dictates that after completing the climb, one should ring the bell three times and make a wish.

Museum of Illusions

Step into the captivating Museum of Illusions in Seville, where families are transported to a world where reality is twisted and turned on its head. Perfect for young scientists and curious minds, each room offers mind-bending illusions and challenging 3D puzzles to solve. Get ready to be amazed and bewildered as you explore this wacky museum together, where every corner holds a new surprise waiting to be discovered.

Portugal for Families

Portugal stands out as one of the most family-friendly countries in Europe, embracing a child-centric culture that warmly welcomes little ones everywhere—from museums and restaurants to town squares and theatres. Cities abound with parks and playgrounds, providing endless opportunities for kids to run, play, and make new friends. Beyond the bustling urban centres, Portugal's untouched landscapes and magical palace gardens create a natural paradise for families to explore, offering a welcoming haven where cherished memories are made. With its rich history, delicious cuisine, and warm hospitality, Portugal promises an unforgettable family holiday filled with discovery, adventure, and moments of pure joy.

Accommodation



LISBON – Villa Baixa, Luxury Apartments

Nestled between São Jorge's castle walls and the iconic Santa Justa lift, Villa Baixa offers a serene retreat steeped in history. Its 14 elegant apartments, adorned with traditional Portuguese tiles from the Viúva Lamego factory, exude timeless charm and modern comfort. Ideal for families, these spacious accommodations feature harmonious colours and essential details, providing an enchanting backdrop for unforgettable Lisbon adventures.



SINTRA – Hotel Casa Holstein Quinta Sao Sebastiao, Family Rooms

Hotel Casa Holstein Quinta Sao Sebastiao offers a stunning Boutique Hotel experience in Sintra's historic centre. Enjoy air-conditioned rooms, perfect with a swimming pool and garden views. The Garden Villa, perfect for families, boasts 2 master bedrooms and 2 living rooms, elegantly furnished with modern amenities and named after historical figures. With private terraces and gardens, it's your tranquil retreat in Sintra.





Livraria Lello Bookstore, Porto. Photo by Miguel Pereira



The Initiation Well at Quinta da Regaleira, Sintra



Portugal dos Pequenitos

Portugal Family Activities

Lisbon Oceanarium

Dive into an immersive underwater adventure at the Lisbon Oceanarium, one of Europe's largest and most renowned aquatic attractions. Explore mesmerizing interactive exhibits, providing hands-on opportunities for families to discover the wonders of marine life up close. With its educational programs and captivating displays, the Oceanarium offers an enriching and unforgettable experience for children of all ages, making it a must-visit destination for families visiting Lisbon.

Magical Libraries

Embark on a captivating journey through Portugal's literary wonders, perfect for families with young bookworms and fans of magical tales. Step into the ornate world of Livraria Lello, in Porto, one of Portugal's oldest bookstores, where intricate woodwork and a stunning spiral staircase create a mesmerizing atmosphere straight out of a storybook. Discover the enchanting inspiration behind J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series as you explore this historic gem. Then, venture to Coimbra University Library, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the film set for Beauty and the Beast, where the magic of literature comes to life.

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Each entry to Lello Bookstore gives you credit to purchase one of the classic books - the perfect souvenir!

Enchanting Gardens & Palaces

Experience the enchanting wonders of Sintra with a family visit to Pena Palace and Quinta de Regaleira. Dive into the fairy-tale world of Pena Palace, a UNESCO-listed gem boasting colorful terraces, diverse gardens, and panoramic views that are rumored to have inspired Walt Disney himself. Then, journey through the mystical gardens of Quinta de Regaleira, crafted by visionary architect Luigi Manini, where hidden symbols and magical architecture await exploration. Together, these historic sites offer an unforgettable adventure for families seeking whimsical charm and architectural marvels in Sintra.

Playgrounds & Parks

Portugal is renowned for its family-friendly recreation spaces. We recommend at Parque Eduardo VII in Lisbon, where you can enjoy expansive green areas, a charming duck pond, and the opportunity for kids to sail electric toy boats, it's a haven for families. Meanwhile, Crystal Palace Gardens in Porto is perfect for young botany enthusiasts and is adorned with romantic architecture, features a serene lake, numerous fountains, and a modern public library.

Miniature Palaces at Portugal dos Pequenitos

Step into the captivating Portugal dos Pequenitos in Coimbra, a miniature park where kids can explore scaled-down Portuguese houses and monuments. Each pavilion tells a story of heritage and wonder, offering a journey through time for both kids and adults.

The Ultimate Balancing Act

Adventure atop the ancient city walls of Óbidos, encircling the town since the 8th-11th centuries. Spanning 1.5km around the town's perimeter, the walls offer unique viewpoints with some sections feature shortcuts leading to beautiful viewpoints. Reaching a height of 13m in the highest part, families can marvel at the historic charm and stunning vistas below. Caution: Not for small children and beware those afraid of heights.

Mountain Adventures

The Dolomites and Switzerland beckon families with their majestic mountain landscapes, offering a playground of adventure and exploration for all ages. Lace up your hiking boots and hit the trails, where breathtaking vistas and hidden alpine lakes await around every bend. In winter, carve up the slopes on skis or snowboards, or try your hand at snowshoeing and sledding for a true mountain experience. But the excitement doesn't stop there—countries like Switzerland offer a huge array of fascinating activities suitable for families year-round. Explore charming alpine villages, visit traditional Swiss farms, or embark on scenic train journeys through picturesque valleys. With efficient and convenient train systems, getting around is a breeze, allowing families to easily access the region's diverse attractions and create unforgettable memories amidst some of Europe's most stunning scenery.

Accommodation



DOLOMITES, COVARA – Residence Amonit, Hotel Marmolada, Apartments

Welcome to Hotel Marmolada, located in the picturesque Val Badia amidst the UNESCO World Heritage Dolomites. Experience a warm, family-friendly atmosphere and indulge in gourmet cuisine. The alpine-style wellness zone ensures relaxation after outdoor adventures. Residence Amonit offers well-appointed 2- and 3- bedroom apartments, with modern amenities and stunning mountain views, perfect for a memorable family holiday.



GRINDELWALD, SWITZERLAND – Sunstar, Family Rooms

Nestled at the base of the majestic north face of the Eiger, Sunstar Grindelwald offers a comprehensive service catering to families. Whether young or young at heart, guests can find comfort and relaxation in the wellness oasis featuring a large swimming pool and log cabin sauna. With two types of family rooms available, everyone can enjoy style, comfort, and stunning mountain views, promising an unforgettable stay.



DOLOMITES – Hotel Winkler, Family Suites

Hotel Winkler isn't just a hotel; it's a luxury spa retreat, a haven for sports enthusiasts, and a family-friendly resort nestled in the Dolomites. With its blend of luxury, design, and exclusive offerings, it promises an unparalleled holiday experience. Miriam Winkler and Christof Schuster extend a warm welcome to families seeking relaxation and wellbeing. The hotel features luxurious rooms and suites equipped with modern amenities, ensuring a comfortable stay for families of up to six people per suite.



ZERMATT, SWITZERLAND – Zermatt Luxury Chalets & Apartments

Make yourself at home in Zermatt in a luxury chalets, offering both catered or self-catered accommodations. With a focus on families, their local team provides personalised services on the ground. From cosy historical chalets to designer spaces, their range of accommodations caters to all tastes and needs, ensuring a memorable experience for families of all sizes.



Valley of Val Badia, Dolomites



Peak Walk at Glacier 3000



Grindelwald First, Mountain Cart

Family Activities in the Mountains

THE DOLOMITES

Playgrounds in the Mountains

Discover a multitude of children's playgrounds nestled amidst the breathtaking Dolomite mountains, offering families a perfect blend of fun and natural beauty. Experience stunning views and invigorating fresh air as you explore these enchanting play areas. Among them, Playground Kurpark stands out as one of South Tyrol's largest and most attractive, featuring a variety of amenities suitable for children of all ages. From sandpits with excavation machines to slides of all sizes, a play castle, climbing pyramid, swings, cableways, seesaws, and merry-go-rounds, there's something to delight every young adventurer. Gather your family and embark on an unforgettable journey amidst impressive mountains, idyllic lakes, picturesque landscapes, and the warm hospitality of the locals.

Dog Sledding

Embark on an exhilarating dog sledding adventure through the snow-covered woods of the Dolomites, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the picturesque valleys of South Tyrol. With the sled pulled by energetic huskies, families can explore enchanted landscapes straight out of a fairy tale. Led by experienced tour guides, this alternative winter activity promises satisfaction and thrills, offering a unique opportunity to venture into spectacular and remote locations. Perfect for families seeking unforgettable experiences, dog sledding is a must-try winter adventure in the Italian Alps.

Snowshoeing & Hikes

Snowshoeing expeditions and hikes through the snow-covered trails of the Dolomites are perfect for families seeking winter adventures outside skiing and snowboarding. Traverse the pristine white landscapes, immersing yourselves in the tranquility of nature while enjoying panoramic views of majestic peaks. With trails catering to all skill levels, from beginners to seasoned hikers, families can create cherished memories amidst the awe-inspiring beauty of the Italian Alps.

Deer Farm

Discover the charm of the Dolomites at the deer park Sompunt, where you can explore picturesque meadows and forests and see the majestic deer. Established by young farmer Klaus Castlunger in 1999, the park is home to the first bio-certified BIOLAND deer in South Tyrol and Italy. With over 7 hectares of meadows and forest, the park serves as a symbol of breeding and protection for red deer and fallow deer, fostering harmony among more than 30 species. Step into this sanctuary, where nature's beauty and wildlife conservation come together in perfect harmony.

SWITZERLAND

Jungfrauojoch

Elevate your family adventure to new heights at Jungfrauojoch, Europe's point, situated 3,454m above sea level amidst the stunning Swiss Alps. Embark on a scenic journey aboard the new express gondola from Grindelwald Terminal. At the top, marvel at panoramic views of the Swiss Mittelland and the majestic Aletsch Glacier. Explore the magical Ice Palace, where artists create intricate ice sculptures amidst frosty corridors, adding to the enchantment of this icy wonderland. With a Lindt chocolate shop and multimedia tour experience, there's something for every member of the family to enjoy amidst the breathtaking beauty of Jungfrauojoch.

Glacier 3000

Immerse your family in a world of wonder at Glacier 3000, where breathtaking panoramas and thrilling activities await amidst a fascinating glacier landscape. Embark on a glacier walk or enjoy snowparks, dog sledding, and the iconic suspension bridge peak walk, offering exhilarating experiences for all ages.

Grindelwald First

Grindelwald First is sure to offer an unforgettable family experience where adrenaline-pumping activities await amidst the breathtaking Bernese Alps. Soar through the air on the First Flieger or glide down the mountain on the First Mountain Cart, catering to thrill-seekers of all ages. Take in unparalleled views from the "First View" vantage platform, perched atop the First peak, before embarking on a scenic journey along the First Cliff Walk by Tissot. Important to note that some activities do require a specific height or weight.

Lindt Home of Chocolate

Indulge your family's sweet tooth at Switzerland's largest chocolate museum. Step into an interactive world of cocoa delights, where young and old can immerse themselves in the rich heritage of Swiss chocolate. Explore the 500 m2 Lindt Chocolate Shop, marvel at the spectacular Lindt chocolate fountain, and embark on an interactive chocolate tour showcasing the artistry and history behind this delectable treat.

Christmas Wonderland

Experience the magic of the holiday season in Europe, where festive markets, twinkling lights, and seasonal traditions create an enchanting atmosphere for families to enjoy. Wander through charming Christmas markets, savouring the scent of mulled wine and roasted chestnuts as you shop for handmade gifts and decorations. Join in the fun with ice skating, holiday concerts, and visits with Santa Claus, bringing joy and laughter to kids of all ages. Explore historic cities adorned with festive decorations, where dazzling light displays and cheerful carollers create a winter wonderland straight out of a storybook. From picturesque villages to bustling city streets, Europe during Christmas time offers a magical escape for families seeking to create cherished holiday memories together.

Accommodation



CISON DI VALMARINO – CastelBrando, Christmas Castle Stay

Nestled in the picturesque villages of Cison di Valmarino, CastelBrando exudes the timeless charm of a fairy tale castle. Set amidst the snow-covered Prosecco hills, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this majestic fortress offers a magical Christmas experience. Families will love the enchanting ambiance of the historic wing, where the hotel hosts a special Christmas feast, adding an extra touch of warmth and joy to the holiday season.



SALZBURG – Hotel Sacher, Interconnecting Rooms

Immerse yourself in the legacy of Mozart's birthplace at Hotel Sacher Salzburg. Experience 5-star luxury alongside the warmth of family-friendly accommodations. With interconnecting rooms available, families can stay close while exploring Salzburg's rich history and cultural treasures. From Mozart's birthplace to the Salzburg Festival, indulge in excellence, comfort, and hospitality at the heart of this historic city.





Christmas Markets



Neuschwanstein Castle, Germany



Ice skating, Strasbourg, France

Christmas Family Activities

Christmas Markets

Experience the enchantment of Europe's best Christmas markets, where families can immerse themselves in a magical winter wonderland. From the historic charm of Strasbourg's Christmas Market, known as the "Capital of Christmas," to the traditional wooden stalls of Nuremberg's Christkindlesmarkt, these markets offer a festive atmosphere like no other. Explore Vienna's numerous Christmas markets, Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens transformed into a winter wonderland, and the picturesque setting of Tallinn's Christmas Market in the medieval Old Town. With twinkling lights, festive decorations, and a wide array of culinary delights and handcrafted gifts, these markets promise cherished memories for families amidst the holiday cheer.

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See the Christmas Markets, Castles, and Prosecco itinerary as a great starting point to incorporate all these magic white Christmas elements into your family vacation.

Swarovski Crystal Gardens

Step into a world of wonder at the Swarovski Crystal Gardens in Austria, where families can explore contemporary art, ancient history, and unique pleasures amidst 7.5 hectares of park landscape. Marvel at unparalleled art installations, play and climb in the multi-level play tower, and be mesmerised by the sparkling Crystal Cloud and Mirror Pool. With something for everyone, from the Carousel to the Roman Excavations, this magical experience promises beauty, inspiration, and unforgettable moments for families.

Neuschwanstein Castle

Neuschwanstein Castle is the perfect day trip from Munich. As the real-life inspiration behind Disney's iconic logo and the castle in "Cinderella", this castle will be sure to delight the whole family. Explore the castle's interior on a guided tour, where you'll discover the king's bedroom, the Singer's Hall, and the cave-like grotto. Despite Ludwig's grand plans, only 14 rooms are currently finished, but the castle's fairy-tale charm and breathtaking views make it a must-visit destination for families seeking a touch of magic in Bavaria.

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One of the best view points can be found at Marienbrücke, or Mary's Bridge.

Salzburg Salt Mines

Delve into a world of fun, fascination, and mystical moments at the Salzburg salt mines, where families can ride the original mine train deep into the mountain and slide down to a fantastic show on a subterranean salt lake. Follow in the footsteps of the Ancient Celts and marvel at prehistoric finds in the Hallein Celtic Museum. With panoramic views from the sun terrace, this ancient realm of "White Gold" offers an unforgettable experience for visitors of all ages.

Ice Skating

Create magical memories with your family as you glide across real ice skating rinks scattered across Europe. From historic city centres to picturesque winter villages, these ice rinks offer a charming backdrop for family fun. Skate against the stunning backdrop of Somerset House in London or the impressive Vienna City Hall at Wiener Eistraum in Vienna. Experience the magic of skating under the glass roof of the Grand Palais in Paris or amidst the festive atmosphere of Munich's Wiener Weihnachtstraum. Whether you're twirling under the stars or holding hands with your loved ones, the joy of ice skating brings families together in a magical winter wonderland, where laughter and warmth abound amidst the glistening ice.



Ormina Tours

Head Office: Level 45, 680 George St,
Sydney NSW 2000

Mailing: PO Box 123,
Leederville WA 6902

Reservations

Sydney + 61 2 8076 2295

Perth +61 8 9200 4495

Email

info@orminatours.com

Website

www.orminatours.com

 @OrminaTours

 /OrminaTours



Santorini, Greece