

TRAVEL

# RIGHT EXPOSURE

Family holidays will no longer be hell days. From Kenya to Cappadocia, AARTI VIRANI draws an exciting film-inspired itinerary for you and your tiny tots that may just outdo the 70mm dream

## IT'S A **JOLLY** HOLIDAY

FILM: **MARY POPPINS**  
 DESTINATION: **LONDON, ENGLAND**

Sing to the birds at St Paul's Cathedral and wander on a rustic rooftop—sweeping is optional—alongside a charismatic tour guide who takes on the role of the iconic British nanny as she leads visitors on a two-hour walk inspired by the 1964 classic ([Americantourguideinlondon.com](http://Americantourguideinlondon.com)). For the prettiest panorama of London, there's no better spot than Parliament Hill. If the breeze is right, pluck a page from the Banks's playbook and fly a kite on this expansive, grassy knoll. If it's a Saturday, don't miss a walk through the park's namesake farmers' market ([Lfm.org.uk](http://Lfm.org.uk)) and assemble a delectable picnic basket stocked with local breads, cheeses, jams and honey. Then head east to the Discover Children's Story Centre ([Discover.org.uk](http://Discover.org.uk)), a delightful museum that teems with attractions like an indoor story trail and a brand-new Dr Seuss exhibit, which brings classics like *Green Eggs And Ham* and *The Lorax* to life.

## FOR YOUR PETIT **GOURMAND**

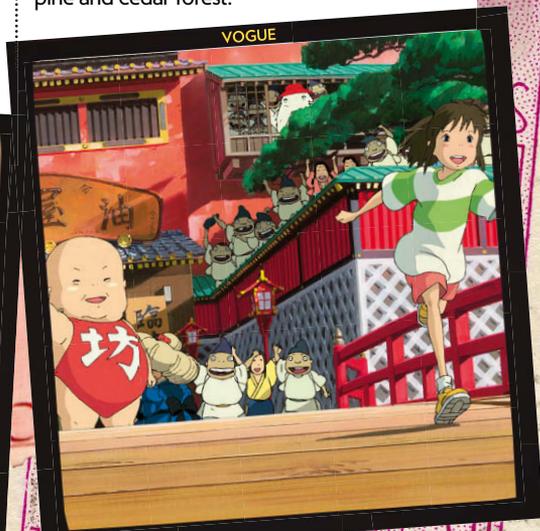
FILM: **RATATOUILLE**  
 DESTINATION: **PARIS, FRANCE**

If you've got a budding chef on your hands, like Remy the Rat, take a generous bite out of the French capital. The city of lights offers an array of inventive children's culinary classes, ranging from a beginner's course on traditional desserts like jam shortbread, berry parfait and molten lava cake ([Cookwithclass.com](http://Cookwithclass.com)) to lessons that fuse art and cookery—pizzas inspired by the works of Joan Miró, for instance—held in the atelier of a fashion-merchandise-turned-chef ([Cookingbazar.com](http://Cookingbazar.com)). The whole family can embark on an unforgettable gourmand's tour, courtesy of food critic and author Rosa Jackson ([Edible-paris.com](http://Edible-paris.com)), whose customised itineraries satisfy even the pickiest of palates. Her suggestions might include decadent bowls of cheese onion soup at Au Pied de Cochon ([Pieddecochon.com](http://Pieddecochon.com)), a rustic brasserie opposite Saint-Eustache Church. Or a stop at Patrick Roger ([Patrickroger.com](http://Patrickroger.com)), a charming 6th Arrondissement confectionery filled with intricate chocolate sculptures.

## ATTENTION, **ANIME** GEEKS

FILM: **SPIRITED AWAY**  
 DESTINATION: **HAKONE, JAPAN**

In Hayao Miyazaki's celebrated animated fantasy, a young girl and her parents stumble upon a deserted amusement park, a haven for ghosts and spirits. Rest assured no supernatural beings greet you at Hakone Kowakien Yunessun ([Yunessun.com/english](http://Yunessun.com/english)), a sprawling spa and pool park in the shadow of Mount Fuji. What you will encounter, though, are 15 unorthodox baths enriched with everything from green tea, coffee and, on occasion, chocolate (all in the name of superior skincare), a clutch of water slides, Jacuzzis and a sauna. When you and the brood are rejuvenated, make your way to the Hakone Open-Air Museum ([Hakone-oam.or.jp](http://Hakone-oam.or.jp)), a park for art lovers, standing on a leafy hillside—for you, there's a Picasso Pavilion and a succession of Rodin sculptures; for the kids, a crocheted playground and a Plexiglas maze. Round off your outdoor adventures at the Hakone Shrine, a revered Shinto site nestled in a lush pine and cedar forest.





AHOY, **AQUATIC** TION

FILM: **PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN**  
DESTINATION: **BORACAY, THE PHILIPPINES**

This stunning, sun-kissed speck, only 7km long, is the ideal backdrop for channelling your inner Captain Jack Sparrow. Swarms go for the silken sands on White Beach, Boracay's indisputable claim to fame—in actuality, it's finely ground coral they're sinking their toes into. But you and your pint-size pirates can explore its perfect snorkel sites (where you'll run into jewel-toned angelfish and the occasional sea cucumber), caves and the neighbouring isles, Panay and Carabao, on a bamboo paraw, the local name for an outrigger sailing boat ([Red-pirates.blogspot.co.uk](http://Red-pirates.blogspot.co.uk)). Or soak in the island's jungle paths on horseback—a cluster of stables stand by Yapak Beach. To amp up the expedition factor, take a day-long white-water-rafting journey ([Tribaladventures.com](http://Tribaladventures.com)), which also includes a hike across rainforests and rice terraces—no swashbuckling allowed.

TAKE A WALK ON **THE WILD** SIDE

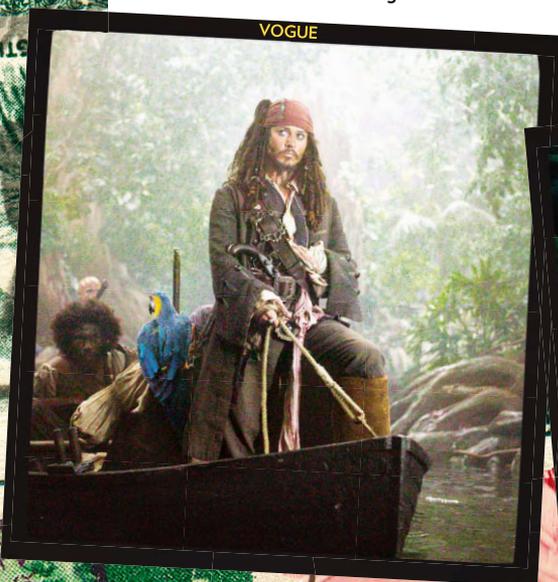
FILM: **THE JUNGLE BOOK**  
DESTINATION: **KENYA, ZAMBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA**

There's a dizzying range of options when it comes to African safaris and wildlife sanctuaries, but here's a trio of kid-friendly stars that go well beyond the bare necessities: Kenya's Lewa Wildlife Conservancy ([Lewa.org](http://Lewa.org)), a luxurious spin on a bush home, boasts swanky flourishes like an infinity pool and biplane tours of the surrounding savannah. The staff here includes members of the local Maasai community, who give young guests a crash course in traditional crafts, such as bow-and-arrow making. Further south, in Zambia, Robin Pope Safaris ([Robinpopesafaris.net](http://Robinpopesafaris.net)) offers a dedicated on-site babysitter and roomy chalets that can accommodate up to eight guests. Here, the little ones are even treated to special kids-only perks, like nature walks and stargazing. At South Africa's Samara Private Game Reserve ([Samara.co.za](http://Samara.co.za)), children and young teens can enroll in the Aardvark Program, a series of educational excursions that offer tutorials on orienteering, storytelling and Bushman painting, every summer.

CALLING ALL **INTREPID** EXPLORERS

FILM: **UP**  
DESTINATION: **CAPPADOCIA, TURKEY**

Take in Central Anatolia's lunar landscape on a hot-air balloon ([Hotairballooncappadocia.com](http://Hotairballooncappadocia.com)), à la Carl Fredricksen, the adventurous protagonist in the award-winning 2009 Pixar flick. As you climb 1,000 metres into the sky, you'll marvel at the area's fruit orchards and "fairy chimneys" or rock-and-stone spires on an unforgettable 90-minute flight. Back on land, let your imagination run wild in dreamy Devrent Valley, where a stretch of pink, otherworldly rock formations (there are camels, snakes, dolphins, seals and even kissing bird-shaped rocks) lend a zoo-like vibe to an ancient moonscape. Cappadocia is the site of 36 subterranean cities, dug deep into volcanic rock; they were originally built to protect local communities from invading armies. So opt for a tour of the most elaborate and user-friendly—Kaymakli Underground City. Here, you'll discover a labyrinth of over a hundred centuries-old tunnels that connect stables, churches and kitchens. Miraculously, some are still used by the area's residents even today. ■



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