ARE WE THERE YET?
15 five-star itineraries—
kids included.

By Klara Glowczewska

What’s your pleasure? A roomy resort or a camp in the wilderness? Sleeping under Baroque frescoes or seeing hundreds of beluga whales? Whether you want to zipline in Dubai, go Instagram-crazy in Japan, or take a sleigh ride to dinner in Montana, we have the trips for you (plus the specialists who can book them). Your job? Getting everyone in your group to agree.

Contributors: Elizabeth Cantrell, Sarah Khan, Leena Kim, Jen Murphy.

HEADS UP
Ol Jogi, in Kenya, was the Wildenstein family’s private compound and wildlife sanctuary before it opened to the public. You’ll have its 58,000 acres to yourselves—it sleeps 14.
WILDLIFE TRIPS: Because kids should see who we share the planet with.

HOW TO TRACK BIG CATS IN RAJASTHAN

Does your brood have its own mini-Mowgli clambering for a *Jungle Book* experience? Time for a deep dive into India’s wilder terrains. Rajasthan’s Ranthambhore National Park is one of the country’s prime tiger hot spots, and leopards abound in the ethereal landscape of Jawai Bandh. In both regions, the Sujan hotel group has the lock on top real estate: Sher Bagh borders Ranthambhore, with 12 colonial-inspired tents (a tiger named Lightning is fond of the camp, so don’t be surprised if you see a paw print near the pool), and Jawai Leopard Camp has nine tents with an industrial-chic slant: chrome, splashes of red and black. While the focus is on finding the best vantage points to spy on real-life Shere Khans and Bagheeras, the family-owned Sujan sees to it that the magic continues back at camp. There’s a junior rangers program, wildlife photography, and tracking instruction, and nearby nature trails and organic farms to explore. The youngest kids can hang out at the cubs den for arts-and-crafts projects like traditional Rajasthani block printing. But you don’t have to bypass the palace circuit altogether—end your trip with a stay at the Sujan Rajmahal in Jaipur, where a princess-in-training can find bliss amid the pink and purple rooms of an ultramodern royal abode. TO BOOK BERTIE DYER, BERTIE@INDIABEAT.CO.UK. S.K.

TIGER MOM
See this kitty for real in the Sher Bagh camp in Rajasthan.

HOW TO LOOK A GIRAFFE IN THE EYE IN KENYA

With Kenya Airways’ direct flights from New York, you can finally have a one-week safari in East Africa, like this all-star: two nights at Giraffe Manor (you’ll be there by lunchtime) with trips to the Sheldrick elephant orphanage and Karen Blixen’s house; two nights at the gorgeous Sasaab lodge in Samburu National Park; and three at Laikipia Plateau’s Ol Jogi, the most all-for-you experience in Africa. The luxuries and surprises are complemented by an impressive conservation program you are encouraged to take part in—including a wildlife hospital. TO BOOK CHERRI BRIGGS, CHERRI@EXPLOREAFRICA.NET. K.G.

HOW TO FEEL BEARISH IN CANADA & ALASKA

We forget that viewing wild things doesn’t have to mean crossing oceans. Our north (i.e., zero jetlag) teems with animals, on land and in the sea. Seal River Heritage Lodge in Manitoba puts you as close as you can safely get to polar bears. At Arctic Watch, the world’s northernmost lodge, you’ll stand on the shore next to hundreds if not thousands of congregating beluga whales—surely the most uncannily beautiful creatures on earth. At Alaska’s Crystal Creek Lodge, seaplanes (and your own feet) get you close to everything from brown bears and walruses to the king of shagginess, the musk ox. Each is about a seven-day trip. TO BOOK MARC TELIO, MARC@ENTREEDESTINATIONS.COM, 888-999-6556. K.G.

ALSO RECOMMENDED

British Columbia’s Tweedsmuir Park Lodge, for its fauna-filled forest.