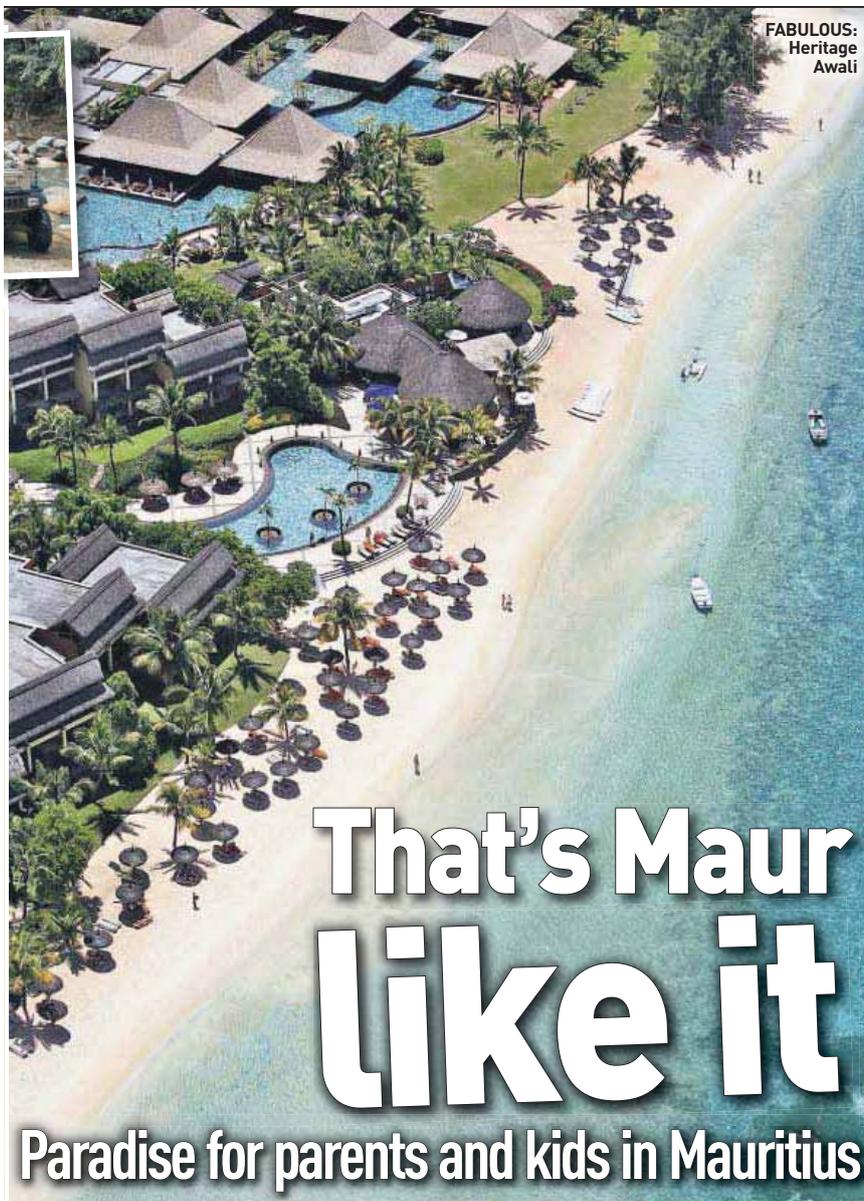


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# Travel



# That's Maur like it

## Paradise for parents and kids in Mauritius

by **Helen Wright**

**YOU can usually kiss goodbye to romantic escapes when you've got the kids in tow.**

But parents don't have to put up with noisy restaurants that serve meals with a pot of crayons on the side. There's a tropical paradise in Mauritius that suits everyone from honeymooners to baby boomers.

The Heritage Awali Golf and Spa resort is a luxury resort that fully caters for children without compromising on elegance.

While we were there the large private beach never felt overcrowded and there were always spare loungers and umbrellas available.

The resort has its own kite surfing school and there are plenty of other watersports, including kayaking, paddle boarding and snorkelling.

Wanting to explore more than the resort, we also took a 4x4 bike tour of the Heritage Nature Reserve, which was great fun. There were also cooking classes, walking tours and shopping trips to choose from.

And our little boy Finn had the time of his life too.

### **Thrilled**

A major perk of the Heritage Awali is the fully inclusive childcare. And as soon as we got a glimpse of the Timomo Kids' Club, we knew we were in safe hands.

The beautiful nursery had everything we knew he would love – soft play, a paddling pool, swings, slides, painting and messy play, as well as a dimly lit air-conditioned room with full-size cots for nap time.

The wonderful nursery nurses use WhatsApp to stay in contact, so we felt even more secure leaving him in their care.

The kids' club is open from 8.30am to 11pm, meaning free childcare for kids aged three to 11, with no booking required. Babies and toddlers up to 35 months are also cared for until 4pm.

Dropping Finn off, he was thrilled with his choice of new toys.

So we made our escape, heading straight to the Seven Colours Spa for a treatment and to chill out by the infinity pool, surrounded by lush



tropical gardens.

When you're on an all-inclusive, you can get slightly obsessed with the food. And it's important that quality matches quantity.

Fit foodie Joe Wicks, aka the Body Coach, was recently spotted at the resort. If it's good enough for that health guru, it definitely ticked our boxes.

There are six restaurants in total. The main one, Savana, doesn't require booking and has a daily themed buffet.

From fresh fish, tasty curries, sushi and Italian dishes, even if we'd

eaten here every night, I doubt we'd have been bored.

Other specialist restaurants include beachfront Infinity Blue and the adult-only Zafarani, an upscale Indian. Some restaurants require a supplement but there were two we felt were worth the treat.

African-themed Boma included a dancing show and dinner is served around a roaring bonfire.

Guests travel to the beach along with the musicians and fire throwers. Dancing through the hotel while other guests clap and sing was quite the experience.

Holding my sandals and spinning around under the stars, I realised I had managed to unwind for the first time in ages.

And for a grown-up, opulent evening, there is Heritage le Chateau. It is a 19th-century

plantation house, decked out at night with fairy lights and with live piano music.

For a treat we splashed out and booked a candlelit beachfront cabin for our last night. These romantic nooks allow you a private dining experience with a delicious taster menu served as you relax with a bottle of champagne.

Finding a resort you can trust and where you can truly unwind can be tough for parents. So I was not surprised to meet lots of guests who were back for their third visit.

Because why should the kids have all the fun on holiday?

**FACTFILE** Heritage Awali offers accommodation on an all-inclusive basis. A deluxe room starts from

£276 per night, based on two sharing, [heritageresorts.mu](http://heritageresorts.mu). Kuoni offers packages for £1,592 per person, for seven nights in a Garden Deluxe Room, all inclusive, including economy flights from Gatwick, [kuoni.co.uk](http://kuoni.co.uk).



**FUN:** At Boma restaurant

**TRAVEL TIPS**

- THE best time to visit Mauritius is from May to December, when it is sunny and there's less rain.
- THE Heritage Awali provides in-room baby facilities, including a cot, baby bath and on-demand fresh purees. So no need to pack too much baby junk.
- MAURITIUS is a 12-hour flight away. It can get unexpected rainfall all year round, so pack waterproofs along with your shorts and sunglasses.

