

Condé Nast

Traveller

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INDIAN OCEAN

THE ISLAND IN A WORLD OF ITS OWN

KASHMIR
THIS YEAR'S BIG ADVENTURE

ON HOLIDAY WITH
SIENNA MILLER

TINIE TEMPAH'S
FAVOURITE HOTELS

THE BEST
BRITISH PUBS
WITH ROOMS

HIDDEN AFRICA

ON A FAMILY SAFARI IN DEEPEST BOTSWANA



La Boqueria



Vioko



Papabubble




Tibidabo Park

SWEET TREATS

It wouldn't be Barcelona without an ice cream in hand. **Vioko** (www.vioko.es), on the harbour by Barceloneta beach, is the coolest joint in town, with fantastic flavours from pistachio to rose and violet, plus oodles of chocolate.

For more of the dark stuff, make for the **Chocolate Museum** (www.museu.xocolata.cat). Some of the displays are a bit dodgy (Picasso's *Guernica* rendered in chocolate) but the workshops are fun, and there's a great café and shop for pastries and choccy specialities. Or in

Papabubble (www.papabubble.com), a super-chic sweet shop, you can watch skilled artisans at work on sheets of caramel and fruit candies.

Make sure you try at least one paper cone of *churros* (Spanish doughnuts), best munched on the hoof from the minimalist **Xurreria** café on Banyes Nous, as you amble the alleys of the Barri Gòtic, getting an eyeful of the quirky shops and glorious architecture. Alternatively, staff at **La Granja** on the same street won't mind if you take your *churros* inside to dip them into one of their rich, thick hot chocolates. 

the ultimate family-friendly meal, with everyone able to try something new from an array of small tasting dishes. The little counters at **La Boqueria** (www.boqueria.info), one of the world's most colourful, characterful markets, are your best bet.

For gastronomic Catalan, preferably without the offspring, make for the Michelin-starred **Moments** at the Mandarin Oriental (www.mandarinoriental.com/barcelona); with the brood in tow, the hotel's **Blanc Brasserie and Gastrobar** has excellent tapas as well as child-friendly hot dogs and pasta.

Paella is another great dive-in-and-share dish. To try the Barcelona version, head for the seafront **El Xiringuito** (www.xiringuitoescrība.com) near the Port Olímpic, which serves a few different versions, including classic seafood and 'mar y muntanya' (with wild mushrooms and bacon or sausage) in a hectic, sociable atmosphere where no one will mind your own gang's joyful din.

WHERE TO STAY

The duplex apartments at the seafront **Hotel Arts Barcelona** (www.hotelartsbarcelona.com); two-bedroom apartments from €2,000) with its iconic Frank Gehry fish sculpture, are the ultimate crash pads. Occupying the top floor of the 44-storey building and flooded with seaside light, they have up to three bedrooms and come with butler service, telescopes for pirate-spotting out at sea and a Mini Cabrio for exploring the city. For parents, a massage in the Six Senses spa is thrown in, and there's a great outdoor pool and hot tub within the terraced gardens. Of the five restaurants (one with two Michelin stars), the most child-friendly is the relaxed, all-day Bites, but all offer a kids' menu - tagliatelle, grilled chicken, pizza, brownies - plus a drawing book.

All-white rooms within a cool city-centre Modernist building with furniture by Jacobsen, Eames and Van der Rohe might sound like a parent's idea of pure stress, but in fact **El Palauet** (www.elpalauet.com; suites from €700) welcomes all ages. You

can hire iPads and PlayStations, as well as DVDs, and your assigned personal assistant will pre-order any supplies you need for your arrival, whether it's nappies or your teenager's favourite snacks. There are kitchenettes in each of the six two-bedroom suites and 24-hour room service, but El Palauet's terrific Passeig de Gràcia location means there's a great culinary scene on your doorstep.

Set in an elegant, late-19th-century building just off the buzzy, central Plaça de Catalunya, **The Five Rooms** (www.thefiverooms.com; doubles from €135, extra bed €30) is Barcelona's best boutique B&B choice for families. There are now actually 14 rooms, all with exposed brick walls and original floors; get an extra bed, book adjoining suites, or take an apartment with an extra sofabed in the living room and a private terrace. Continental breakfasts are laid out in the dining space and there's an honesty bar; staff shine when it comes to local restaurant recommendations.