



FREE GUIDE · WORLDWIDE


10 Family Destinations at Half the Price


Real family-of-4 numbers for 10 destinations that beat their famous neighbor.


INSIDE THIS GUIDE


- **Albania**
vs Greek Islands, 50-60% cheaper
- **Georgia**
vs Switzerland, 70% cheaper
- **Morocco**
vs Mykonos / Santorini, 60% cheaper
- **Vietnam**
vs Thailand, 40-50% cheaper
- **Bali**
vs Maldives, 70% cheaper
- **Colombia**
vs Tuscany, 50% cheaper

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All numbers verified the month of publication. Prices are directional and shift with season · verify at the source before booking · updates quarterly · corrections welcome at hello@driftvistas.com.



The rules



Photo: Tung Do · Pexels

TO MAKE THIS LIST, A DESTINATION HAS TO CLEAR THREE HONEST TESTS:

1. **Roughly half the price of the famous alternative** at the same comfort level. Mid-tier 4-star, not lavish, not roughing it.
2. **Worth the flight.** A trip you'd recommend even if it cost twice as much.
3. **Doable for a normal family** with kids in tow. Not just for hardened backpackers.

Daily ranges below cover a **family of 4**: hotel + food + local transport + one activity per day.

Not included: international flights, travel insurance, visa fees, or major excursions (called out separately).



The ten



Photo: Nico Batiancela · Pexels

1. Albania - \$140 to \$380/day for a family of 4

vs Greek islands: 50 to 60% cheaper

Sea-view family rooms in Sarandë at €100 to €140 peak, €60 to €90 off-season. Coast (Sarandë, Ksamil) plus Ottoman old towns (Berat, Gjirokastër) plus mountains (Theth, Valbona).

- **Best months:** May to June, September
- **Honest:** roads are slower than the map says. Add 30% to drive times.

2. Ha Long Bay & northern Vietnam - \$140 to \$360/day

vs Thailand (Phuket): 40 to 50% cheaper

The Ha Long overnight cruise adds **\$560 to \$1,120 once** for the family (worth it, budget separately).

- **Best months:** October to April (avoid typhoon season July to September)
- **Honest:** Hanoi traffic is a sport. Hold kids' hands.

3. Bali (Ubud or Amed) - \$180 to \$450/day

vs Maldives: 70% cheaper

Skip Kuta. Stay in Ubud (rice terraces, kid-friendly cafés, family villas with pools), Amed (diving, quiet), or Sanur. Canggu and Seminyak run ~40% above Ubud.

- **Best months:** May to September (dry season)
- **Honest:** the south coast is overdeveloped. Go east or central.

4. Chefchaouen & northern Morocco - \$150 to \$450/day

vs Santorini / Mykonos: 60% cheaper

The blue town, Fes (medina), Tangier (port city). Sahara adds 3 to 5 days.

- **Best months:** March to May, September to November
- **Honest:** in Fes you will get lost in the medina. Hire a guide for day one.

5. Cocora Valley & Salento, Colombia - \$200 to \$480/day

vs Tuscany: 50% cheaper

Wax palm valley, coffee country, plus Medellín for city days.

- **Best months:** December to March, July to August (drier)
- **Honest:** altitude. Bogotá is 2,640 m. Take day one slow with kids.

6. Tbilisi & Georgia - \$180 to \$460/day

vs Switzerland Alps: 70% cheaper

Cobblestone old town, Caucasus mountains an hour away, wine country east.

- **Best months:** May to June, September to October
- **Honest:** the Tbilisi to Kazbegi road is dramatic and stressful. Hire a driver (\$60 to \$80) rather than self-drive.

7. Lake Bled & western Slovenia - \$240 to \$520/day

vs Lake Como: 40% cheaper

Most family-friendly destination on this list for under-10s.

- **Best months:** May to June, September
- **Honest:** Bled in July is shoulder-to-shoulder. Go off-season.

8. Sri Lanka south coast - \$150 to \$380/day

vs Phuket/Bali peak: 40% cheaper

Galle, Mirissa, Ella (inland). Beaches, surf schools, the famous train.

- **Best months:** December to March on south/west coast
- **Honest:** the train from Kandy to Ella with kids: sit in unreserved 2nd class with open doors, not AC.

9. Romanian mountains - \$180 to \$420/day

vs Austrian Alps: 60% cheaper

Braşov, painted monasteries, Transfăgărăşan road. Kid-friendly castles.

- **Best months:** June to September (Transfăgărăşan closed Oct to Jun)
- **Honest:** bears are real. Don't leave food in your tent if you camp.

10. Laos - \$130 to \$320/day

vs Cambodia high season: 30% cheaper, half the crowds

Luang Prabang temples and alms ceremony, Vang Vieng tubing, Si Phan Don slow days.

- **Best months:** November to February
- **Honest:** the Mekong slow boat is slow. Bring books and snacks for kids.

☆ How the daily numbers work



Photo: Tony Wu · Pexels

A typical family-of-4 day at peak Albanian-coast prices:

CATEGORY	COST
Hotel (4-star family room)	€100 to €140
Food (3 meals for four)	€60 to €90
Local transport (rental car + fuel)	€40 to €60
One activity	€30 to €60
Family-of-4 daily total (peak)	€230 to €350 (≈ \$250 to \$380)

Off-season: subtract 30 to 40%.

Not included: flights (\$700 to \$1,500/person from the US), insurance, visa fees, big-ticket excursions.

☆ Three things nobody tells families



Photo: Виктор Соломоник · Pexels

1. **Visas matter more than the daily rate.** A \$700 flight to Laos vs \$200 to Albania often makes the closer destination cheaper overall for a one-week family trip.
2. **Off-season is the family cheat code.** September in Albania is half July's cost with better weather.
3. **Family rooms vs two connecting rooms.** Some 4-stars charge less for one family room than for two doubles. Always check both options.

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The Half-the-Price Family Trip Planner

Four realistic trip lengths - 3-5, 7, 10, and 14 days - for six destinations at half the price of their famous alternatives. With named hotels, restaurants, and family attractions.

- ✓ Four trip lengths: 3-5, 7, 10, 14 days + 21-day bonus combo
- ✓ Named hotels with Booking links + named restaurants per destination
- ✓ Top family attractions with kid-rating + ages + cost
- ✓ Family-of-4 daily ranges by season for every country
- ✓ Visa fees × 4 + flight-stack timing for 4 tickets
- ✓ Scam + safety map per country (written for travel with kids)

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