

THE WORLD'S BEST FAMILY HOTELS

CLAYOQUOT WILDERNESS RESORT, CANADA



Clayoquot Wilderness Resort, Canada

There's something about swooping in by seaplane, rather than rumbling along asphalt, that makes coming here the most thrilling Tintin escapade. You soar over forested hills and valleys and land into what feels not just like a different place, but a different time, too. It's alive with animals. There are

dogs of every kind imaginable. Cowboy John, who wears an enormous stetson, gives a stern speech to fresh arrivals about the dangers of cougars, which feels rather ridiculous until you spot the warning signs everywhere. It's a wild, Waltons-esque wonderland, the most exhilarating outdoorsy playground. There are no iPads, no DVD sessions; instead, you all head out to try paddleboarding and zip-lining, get into the boat for whale-watching and dolphin-spotting. Even children who are little and a bit timid find themselves strapped into a Western-style saddle for a hack into the woods, picking huckleberries along the way. And the staff could not be more free and easy. When you've planned to go kayaking at 10am and then turn up at 11am, it couldn't be less of a problem. And if riding is booked for all five of you but, when the time comes, only two want to go - no worries at all. At night everyone camps out: under canvas, but in the most glorious frontier tent imaginable, with top-dollar bathrooms and full-throttle water pressure (after all that activity and fresh air, everyone's so wiped out that the sleep is deep). There are spa tents as well, strung out over the water, with incredible masseuses (this is a place that gets it right for parents, too). The dining room has huge windows looking out over the lawns, and those dogs. Children come out of their shells in minutes and, at night, yomp around in huge packs, making s'mores by the campfire with their new buddies while you feast on grilled oyster chowder.

JOURNEY TIME A nine-and-a-half-hour flight to Vancouver, then a 45-minute flight to Tofino

TIME DIFFERENCE -8 hours

INSIDER TIP If you're looking for a properly invigorating wilderness trip, this is the place to do it, rather than in the USA where it is more of a clipped, health-and-safety experience.

BOOK IT Brown & Hudson (+44 20 3358 0110; www.brownandhudson.com) offers three nights from £3,600 per person per night based on two adults and one child, including all activities, meals, flights and transfers.