

# Have kids, WILL TRAVEL (*in style*)

*Already a go-to for booking a romantic minibreak, the clever people at Mr & Mrs Smith have now created a family-friendly collection. We got a sneak peek*

## SCORING AUNT-POINTS IN PARIS

Red's entertainment editor, Rosamund Dean, rented a Paris apartment with her sister, niece, four, and nephew, 18 months

WHEN PLANNING A FAMILY-FRIENDLY break, Paris is not the first place that springs to mind. Jumping on the Eurostar may be more small-child-friendly than airport queues, but Parisians aren't known for their tolerance of boisterous families. So I set off to uncover a side of the French capital that is more welcoming to les enfants with my big sister, Ashleigh, and her children, Elise and Harris.

Résidence Nell is a complex of apartments in the 9th arrondissement, right in the heart of Paris. They offer the best of both worlds: the freedom of a self-contained apartment with kitchenette, and the convenience of a 24-hour concierge and cleaning service. Fresh tea and coffee is provided, and a breakfast of croissants, yoghurt and fruit can be delivered on request. Our apartment had a double bedroom and separate living room with sofa bed: perfect for the children - who were delighted with their welcome pack of kids' toiletries and tiger-puppet facecloths. You can also request a baby bath, high chair, bottle warmer and cot at no extra charge.

As for Paris, the kids loved running around the fountains of the Louvre, sitting upstairs on the open-top bus, and brilliant interactive fun at the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle. Restaurants were trickier, though, as Parisian eateries are not child-friendly. Although the wonderful Bofinger on Rue de la Bastille (bofingerparis.com/en/) offered a high chair and a great children's menu.



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: Ros with her niece and nephew, Elise and Harris; her sister Ashleigh with the kids; family-friendly Parisian style at Résidence Nell

At Résidence Nell, of course, you can prepare your own dinner, or the front desk can order takeaway from 15 restaurants. They also have a babysitting service, although this has to be arranged two days in advance.

**RATES:** Doubles, from £129 per night.

**APARTMENTS:** 17, ranging from studios to one- or two-bedroom apartments.

**GETTING THERE:** Eurostar from London St Pancras International to Paris Gare Du Nord, from £69 return for adults and £49 return for children aged four to 11. Children under four travel for free, if they sit on a parent's lap. See [eurostar.com](http://eurostar.com) or call 08432 186 186.

**TO BOOK:** [smithandfamily.co.uk/hotels/paris/residence-nell](http://smithandfamily.co.uk/hotels/paris/residence-nell)



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