



WHERE TO STAY

From a tram to eco-farm accommodation, Heidi Fuller-Love picks out Holland's top family-friendly places to stay

CONTROVERSY TRAM HOTEL

The lowdown: What could be more fun for kids than sleeping on a tram near Amsterdam? Frank and Irma Appel took two cars and turned them into cosy rooms. The children will also love clambering on the Mig fighter plane outside the property.

Contact: controversy.nl

MULTATULI GUEST HOUSE

The lowdown: Named after the 19th-century satirist who grew up here, this classic Amsterdam townhouse is a real find in the Dutch capital. Just a short hop from a pretty canal and a step away from the city's main sights and station, it offers spacious rooms and comes decked out with toys and equipment for young children.

Contact: kidandcoo.com

UYLENBURG COUNTRY ESTATE

The lowdown: A two-minute drive from Delft's historic city centre, this rural estate has a dozen cosy rooms. The hotel backs on to the Bieslandse Bos nature reserve, with its meandering labyrinth of cycle paths and a network of lakes where families can swim, boat or fish.

Contact: uylenburg.nl

CENTER PARC DE HUTTENHEUGTE

The lowdown: This Center Parc, set in rolling countryside near the charming town of Enschede, is equipped with child-proof cottage accommodation. There are also baby swims and massages for tiny tots on offer and older family members can enjoy activities ranging from hut building to Nordic walking.

Contact: centerparcs.com ➤

IMAGE: JAAP WOETS

HOLLAND

SS ROTTERDAM

The lowdown: If you're after a stylish pad in this city famed for its architecture, climb aboard the *SS Rotterdam*. A luxury cruise ship launched by Queen Juliana of The Netherlands in the 1950s, this liner is now a hotel with a pool and is located minutes from a multitude of family-friendly attractions on dry land.

Contact: westcordhotels.com



HOTEL HOUTEN

The lowdown: Centrally situated in Utrecht and perfect for exploring the lively student city, this welcoming hotel has spacious suites and family-friendly perks, including special evenings where the kids can pick up culinary skills as they cook dinner with the hotel's chefs. Nearby are the indoor playground Ballorig and De SpeelHeuvel playground and farm, while a 20-minute drive will see you at indoor attraction park Kidzcity, which is sure to keep the little ones entertained.

Contact: hotelhouten.nl

ROOMPOT BEACH RESORT

The lowdown: Children love this five-star seaside resort on one of Zeeland's prettiest strips of sand, where accommodation is in sturdy chalets or beach houses on stilts. Kids of all ages will be kept entertained while gaming in the ChillZone, doing arts and crafts at the Koos kids' house play area, splashing around in the subtropical swimming pool or paddling from the resort's long sandy beach. The nearby towns of Veere and Zierikzee also make for great excursions.

Contact: roompot.com

B&B IN GENNEPER PARK

The lowdown: Housed in a gorgeous old Eindhoven farmhouse dating from 1920, this property in the heart of the lovely Genneper Parks nature reserve is a wonderland for children. Activities on site include Europe's largest swimming complex, a subtropical water park with slides, miniature golf and the Eindhoven Museum, while the 18-bed guesthouse has stables where the youngsters can pet the horses or learn to ride.

Contact: genneperparken.nl/lekker-relaxen/index.html

IMAGES: SS ROTTERDAM; B&B IN GENNEPER PARK; HOTEL MOZAIK



HOTEL MOZAIC

The lowdown: This hotel in the historic heart of The Hague, with spacious family suites and childcare facilities, including cots for toddlers and baby care, is also within easy walking distance of attractions like the miniature Madurodam park and Scheveningen beach.

Contact: mozaic.nl

ECO TOURIST FARM, BIEZEN

The lowdown: Animal-loving children and health-loving parents adore this farm-based guesthouse a short drive from Eindhoven. Set in a centuries-old farmhouse, rooms with low beams are heated with potbelly stoves in winter, or guests can camp out surrounded by grazing cows.

Contact: eco-touristfarm.com

HOTEL SNEEK

The lowdown: At the heart of the Sneek region in South-west Friesland, this hotel is ideal for families who love outdoor activities. Rooms are large and bikes are available for exploring the surrounding canal towpaths, or the local town with its chic boutiques and old-fashioned sweet shops.

Contact: hotelsneek.nl

HOTEL DUIVEN

The lowdown: Well-situated for hopping on a trolleybus to explore Arnhem's fascinating sights, this hotel has good-sized rooms and allows pets to stay. It offers a Family Fun package, where activities include admission to Burger's zoo, with its reproductions of biospheres ranging from tropical rainforest to East African savannah. There is also access to the hotel's well-equipped swimming pool and watersports area, while for parents there's a sauna and fitness facility.

Contact: hotelduiven-arnhem.nl ■



B&B in Genneper park.
Top right: Hotel Mozaic