

The Ultimate Guide to Weekend Getaways For Bay Area Families

Let's be real: not all hotels are equipped to handle kids. As a travel writer, I have visited my fair share of hotels in the area with my two toddlers and had experiences at all ends of the spectrum. On one end are the high-end posh properties where you can't help but feel all eyes on you as you hover over your kids like a hawk. On the other are the ultra-kid-focused places, like the [Great Wolf Lodges](#) of the world, where your children have a blast but you might end up with a migraine from the sensory overload.

The rare gems are the ones that strike a balance: the ones who go above and beyond to welcome children while primarily catering to the adults. **Here are six family-friendly hotels — from near to far — within driving distance of the East Bay that the whole family will be excited to visit.**

Rush Creek Lodge & Spa | Yosemite

Yosemite is a classic family destination, and hands down, [Rush Creek Lodge](#) is one of the most family-friendly hotels near the national park (and, honestly, even the state of California). Kids will love the large playroom (which has large climbing structure and games), outdoor playground (featuring slides and swings), on-site trails, kids' activity programming, and heated pool year-round. The hotel even lets families use the spa during the morning hours—something I've never heard of before.



Year-round access to fire pits and swimming add to the welcoming Yosemite vibes | Photo: Rush Creek Lodge

Parents will love how convenient everything feels, from the proximity to the park entrance to the spacious rooms to the variety of on-site food options and the gear rentals. Rush Creek's sister property Evergreen Lodge is another great choice, and keep an eye out for the brand's newest property, Firefall Ranch, which is opening in May.

Distance from Oakland: 166 miles, about a 4-hour drive

Location: 34001 CA-120, Groveland

Phone: (209) 379-2373

[Get rates for Rush Creek Lodge >](#)