The New York Times
TRAVELSHOW

SUNDAY
JAN 25, 2015

Top Value Family Escapes

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Family Travel Forum
have kids, still travel

@familytravassoc

FAMILY TRAVEL ASSOCIATION
Changing Lives Through Travel

@takingthekids

Taking the kids

@familyvacation

family vacation critic

Kyle McCarthy, Editor
Family Travel Forum

- MyFamilyTravels.com – Find the right vacation by age, interest, destination
- TheFamilyVacationist Blog & e-newsletter – Find the latest deals
- FamilyTravelConsulting.com – Helping the industry improve family trips

family vacation critic

Lissa Poirot, Editor

FamilyVacationCritic.com

Family Vacation Critic

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Eileen Ogintz – Taking the Kids

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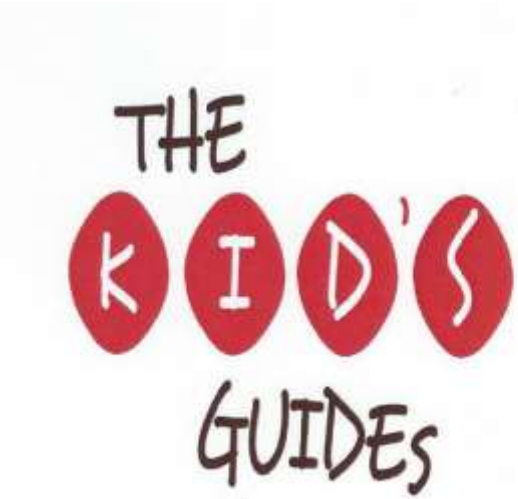

Rainer Jenss – President & Founder

FAMILY TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

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Top Value Family Escapes

Finding the Best Family Resort Vacations

Lissa Poirot, Family Vacation Critic

Resorts: Value Escapes from the Mid-Atlantic

Photo: Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau/Russ Schleiplman

Nearby Escapes

- **Pennsylvania:** Pocono Mountains and Hershey
- **New York:** Catskills, Hudson River Valley, Adirondacks
- **Washington, D.C.**

Further Afield

- Southeast beaches
- New England beaches
- Niagara Falls

Where to Stay in the Pocono Mountains with Kids

Photo: Woodloch Pines

Photo: Great Wolf Lodge

Woodloch Pines

- A “cruise on land”
- American Plan includes meals, accommodations & activities

Great Wolf Lodge

- 79,000 square foot indoor waterpark
- Kids’ spa, nightly story time & more

New in 2015

- Camelback Lodge & Indoor Waterpark (March 2015)
- Kalahari Resorts (Summer 2015)

• Finding Value in a Family Vacation

✓ Consider an all-inclusive resort

- Vermont: Tyler Place Family Resort
- Maine: Migis Lodge
- New York: Rocking Horse Ranch

✓ Look for hotels with suites

- More space means your family doesn't have to split up
- In-room kitchen can help save on the cost of eating at a restaurant for every meal

✓ Keep an eye out for hotel perks

- Free breakfast
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Kids' clubs

Resort Packages: Budget Airlines in Mid-Atlantic

- **Frontier**
- Trenton/Princeton, NJ
- Wilmington, DE

Southwest

- New York
- Philadelphia
- Baltimore

Spirit

- New York
- Philadelphia
- Atlantic City
- Baltimore

Photo: Spirit Airlines

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- **Additional Travel Inspiration and Advice**

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Top Value Family Escapes

Finding the Best Family Cruise Vacations

Eileen Ogintz, Taking The Kids

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Cruises: Now the Fun Starts

- Anticipation and planning are fun too
- Get the kids involved early
- Take their recommendations seriously
- Cruising is a great bet for multi-gen trips

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Cruise Away from New York

- Cruise all year on Norwegian, Royal Caribbean and Celebrity
- In summer, choose from seven cruiselines
- Wave Season – January thru March – is bargain time
- Biggest plus – no airline hassles

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Choosing smart

- Use a travel agent who is a cruise expert
- Consider:
  - What size ship?
  - Cabin: inside or outside?
  - Teen program?
  - Kids club?
  - Day care?
  - Specialty restaurants
  - Itinerary
  - Entertainment

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Fun ashore

- Plan smart to avoid busting your budget with shore excursions
- Consider booking your own guide
- Splitting costs for private tours can be cost-effective
- What matters most to your gang

tours by locals.com
Connecting travelers with local guides. Worldwide. Since 2008.

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It pays to plan ahead

- Reserve special activities: spa, pop entertainment
- Book specialty restaurants – Norwegian has discounts
- Popular shore excursions sell out early
- Day care and babysitting, if available, is limited

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Finding the Best Family Adventure Vacations

Rainer Jenss, Family Travel Association

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Family Adventures – Things To Consider

- ✓ Age of Children
- ✓ Soft vs. Hard Adventure
- ✓ Fly vs. Drive
- ✓ What *then* Where
- ✓ U.S. or Abroad
- ✓ Expense
- ✓ Tour Operators
- ✓ **TIME!**

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Family Adventures – Close To Home

- ✓ Breakneck Ridge
- ✓ Lake Placid
- ✓ Quebec
- ✓ Cape Cod
- ✓ Acadia NP
- ✓ Rafting Delaware
- ✓ Fly Fishing
- ✓ Lake George

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Family Adventures – All-American

- ✓ Dude Ranches
- ✓ U.S. Virgin Isles
- ✓ San Juan Islands
- ✓ Arizona/Utah
- ✓ RV Road Trip
- ✓ Alaska
- ✓ Hawaii

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Family Adventures – Abroad

- ✓ Costa Rica
- ✓ Galapagos
- ✓ Switzerland
- ✓ New Zealand
- ✓ Australia
- ✓ Thailand
- ✓ Iceland
- ✓ Egypt
- ✓ Africa

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Family Adventures – Tour Operators

- ✓ Thomson Adventures
- ✓ National Geographic
- ✓ Smithsonian
- ✓ Int'l Journeys
- ✓ Kids Sea Camp
- ✓ A&K
- ✓ G Adventures

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Finding the Best Family Cultural Vacations

Cultural Vacations to Washington, D.C.

Budget-Friendly

- Centrally located – can drive, fly or take the train
- 17 Free Smithsonian museums & National Zoo

Photo: Destination DC

Plenty of Activities for All Ages

- Museums, memorials and monuments
- Activities can be tailored to different ages

Easy to Explore

- Plenty within walking distance or the Metro
- No guide needed, but plenty of tours available

Photo: Destination DC

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Culture in Mexico!

- History
- Marine Life
- Chance to practice Spanish
- Learn how to make tortillas!

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Family Cultural Vacation - Japan

- ✓ Beyond Tokyo
- ✓ Hiroshima
- ✓ Anime
- ✓ Sushi
- ✓ Baseball
- ✓ Sumo
- ✓ Ryokans
- ✓ Kaiseki

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SAFE TRAVELS!
STAY IN TOUCH!

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