



TRIP FOR THE AGES

WHETHER YOU'RE A CLAN OF ADVENTURERS, NATURE LOVERS OR SERIOUS R&R PEOPLE, WE'VE ROUNDED UP MULTIGENERATIONAL FAMILY TRIPS TO PLEASE EVERYONE.

BY MARIDEL REYES

For relaxers **CRUISES**

WHY THEY'RE CROWD-PLEASERS

Up-front pricing means you can control your budget. A full roster of activities keeps every family member entertained: Kids can learn to DJ at teen-only clubs, and seniors can relax with bridge games.

WHERE TO SET SAIL

Alaskan Adventure Princess's Alaska cruises have teamed up with the California Science Center for a Science on the Seas program, complete with marine biology experiments. The highlight of the journey is a day of cruising through Glacier Bay National Park, where epic icebergs dramatically drop ice into emerald-green waters as you spot black bears and bald eagles. Junior chefs can take cooking classes while adults stay busy with intriguing talks from the likes of a former Iditarod champ. *Eleven-day Alaska cruise, round-trip from San Francisco on the 2,600-passenger Star Princess, princess.com, from \$998 double occupancy*

Caribbean Castaway Dream Disney's seven-night eastern Caribbean cruise offers up to four destinations: San Juan,

Puerto Rico; St. Thomas/St. John; St. Maarten; and Disney's private island, Castaway Cay. The latter has all the charms of the Caribbean: You can board a glass-bottomed boat at Marge's Barges & Sea Charter Dock, or send the kids to Teen Beach for biking and kayaking while you relax on the sand at adults-only Serenity Bay. *Seven-night eastern Caribbean cruise, round-trip from Port Canaveral, Florida, on the Disney Fantasy, disneycruise.disney.go.com, from \$1,085 per person*

Siesta and Fiesta on the Mexican Riviera

Norwegian Cruise Lines' "freestyle" concept means everyone can do what they want, whenever they want—including dining. The entire family can enjoy a whale-watching tour of Banderas Bay, which has one of the world's largest concentrations of humpbacks. *Seven-day Mexican Riviera cruise on the Norwegian Star departing from Los Angeles, ncl.com, from \$479 per person*

SMOOTH-SAILING TIP

Be sure to experience everything on your list by prebooking tickets to complimentary comedy shows and Broadway-style musicals, and make reservations for specialty restaurants and spa services.

For outdoorsy types **NATIONAL PARKS**

WHY THEY'RE CROWD-PLEASERS

Families have flocked to national parks for decades to experience stunning natural wonders firsthand—and to save some bucks, since camping or rolling in with an RV can reduce lodging costs. Plus, the great outdoors practically forces you to unplug, so it's a surefire way to get your clan out of their daily routine and reconnect.

WHERE TO SET UP CAMP

Glacier National Park Glacier offers all the dramatic mountain vistas and abundant wildlife of Yosemite, without the crowds. For a novel way to view the park (also great for those with physical limitations), sign up for a boat tour of one of the area's four major lakes.

Shenandoah National Park

The Blue Ridge Mountains are a stunning backdrop to the gorgeous Skyline Drive. Shenandoah has 500 miles of trails, including 101 miles of the Appalachian Trail. The easiest is the 1.3-mile Lumberlost Trail, a circuit hike for all ages with a 5-foot-wide crushed greenstone walkway on a gentle grade with plentiful benches, a boardwalk and a bridge.



HOME AWAY FROM HOME

To save serious dough, skip the hotels and opt for a condo or house rental instead. Websites like HomeAway.com and Airbnb.com make it easy to find and book all types of accommodations across the country, from beach houses to mountain cabins to city town homes.

Yellowstone National Park The country's first National Park offers 2.2 million dramatic acres of forests, canyons and geysers. While there are plenty of opportunities to explore by foot, you can check out the area's many attractions by driving Yellowstone's Grand Loop Road.

GREAT OUTDOORS GOTTA-KNOW

Campground reservations and wilderness permits can fill up months in advance, so plan ahead and reserve online at recreation.gov. Before your trip, get grandpa or grandma (or anyone 62 and older traveling with you) an America the Beautiful Senior pass. A one-time \$10 fee allows your entire carload (up to four adults) into every National Park for free.

For DIY explorers ROAD TRIPS

WHY THEY'RE CROWD-PLEASERS

The journey is the destination—and driving is cheaper than flying as a group. The adventure lies in the unexpected. Plus, road tripping is a great way to see the U.S. Multiple cars allow everyone to travel at their own speed.

WHERE TO HIT THE ROAD

California Coast The third-largest state is road-trip nirvana: California has the second-most total miles of highway in the U.S. Cruise up the coast on scenic Highway 1, starting from Big Sur. Stop at Big Sur Bakery and Restaurant for a picnic lunch before hitting Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, which features an 80-foot waterfall that drops from granite cliffs into the ocean from the Overlook Trail. On the next leg, visit the historic Point Reyes lighthouse and watch for sea

lions (and migrating gray whales from January through early May). At Redwood National and State Parks, stand in awe of 600- to 2,000-year-old trees.

Cowboy Country Hey, dude! Round up the gang for a Dallas-to-Oklahoma City road trip that packs major yeehaw. Stop by the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, spread over 66 acres. In Norman, Oklahoma, visit the dinosaur exhibits at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History—teens, tweens and grown-ups will love the “dino-vator,” a glass elevator that takes you 26 feet into the air so you can look the Apatosaurus in the eye. Then swing by Oklahoma City's historic Stockyards City district for live cattle auctions and cowboy-boot shops.

New England Retreat You'll gasp as you gaze out the car window at the Northeast's glacier-tinged mountains, lush forests and craggy coastline on a jaunt from Bar Harbor, Maine, to the White Mountains of New Hampshire to Burlington, Vermont. Indulge in the famous popovers at The Jordan Pond House Restaurant in Seal Harbor, just 7 miles from Bar Harbor, then drive Acadia National Park's Park Loop Road for a 27-mile scenic route where mountains and forests touch the ocean. Once you get to the White Mountains, zipline through them or ride the roller coaster at Cranmore Mountain. In Burlington, let someone else do the driving as you take in the views of the Adirondacks.

BEFORE YOU SET CRUISE CONTROL

If you want to travel at your own pace, plan stopping points and meeting places in advance so that everyone can rendezvous at the end of the day.

ISN'T IT GRAND?

Age is just a number at these activity-filled summer camps dedicated to grandparent-and-grandchild bonding.



GREAT GRANDS CAMP

Raquette Lake, New York
roadscholar.org

Have a girl's week at the Grandmothers & Granddaughters camp—complete with arts and crafts, storytelling and a campfire—and let the boys in on the fun for the Grandparents & Grandchildren sessions.



GRAND CAMPS

Browns Summit, North Carolina
ncparks.gov

From daytime activities like hiking, fishing and canoeing to toasty nights by the campfire, the delight never stops at Haw River State Park.



INTERGENERATIONAL WORLD OF THEATRE

Ashland, Oregon
roadscholar.org

Enjoy three shows at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival—including *Into the Woods*—go behind the scenes to meet the actors, learn the ins and outs of set building and participate in a performance.



JUST FOR GRANDPARENTS AND GRANDKIDS

Nevada City, California
sierraclub.org

For a nature-filled experience, hike some of the Pacific Crest Trail, go kayaking and swim in mountain lakes at Tahoe National Forest.

—Cristina Corvino