



**How To Have A Great Family Vacation—
A Primer For Parents and Grandparents
A Report Prepared by Eva's Best Travel**

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How To Have A Great Family Vacation: A Primer for Parents and Grandparents

Why Travel With Your Family and Friends

Great Travel Made Easy. You have as your travel planning resource family expert travel advisors who are passionate about family travel and firm believers in traveling with your children and grandchildren. We have traveled with our children, now ages 23 and 28, domestically and internationally via land and sea, from the time they were very small. You benefit from our expertise, experience as seasoned travelers, award winning professionals and knowledgeable family travel advisors and our close relationships with the finest family travel partners to provide you and your family with travel value, wonderful amenities and the ultimate, enjoyable vacation experience tailored exactly to match your dreams and exceed your expectations!

Top 10 Benefits of Traveling With Your Children and Grandchildren:

1. Create lasting memories for them and you
2. Unwind as a family
3. Experience new things together
4. Teach children about the world – often times more than they learn in the classroom
5. Instill a sense of adventure
6. Enjoy quality time together
7. Bring the family together from across the country and the world
8. Show your kids your fun and playful side
9. Instill a love of learning – new foods, new cultures
10. Teach your kids patience, tolerance, appreciation of themselves and others

Top 10 Tips When Traveling with Your Children and Grandchildren:

1. Take it slow, don't overprogram
2. Be flexible
3. Strike a balance between things the kids will enjoy and the things Mom and Dad will enjoy
4. Take frequent breaks – you will need them as well as your children
5. Allow and encourage your kids to be part of the trip planning process
6. Pack light
7. Expect the unexpected. Often times that is what you will remember most
8. Keep the children busy with toys, puzzles, books, games
9. When traveling long distances, allow an extra night to allow your children time to rest and get used to the new location
10. Call us to plan your next family trip: 203-221-3171, or 203-221-3173, Eva@EvasBestTravel.com.

What's New in Family and Multi-Generational Travel?

1. More kids programs on cruises, river cruises, all inclusive resorts and tours, segmented by age with age-appropriate activities.
2. More kid friendly and family-oriented educational and experiential tours that keep the children stimulated and happy while parents and grandparents have their tours.
3. More adjoining rooms on cruises to accommodate children and multi-generation.
4. Larger rooms, more suites with separate bedrooms and living room/dining rooms to accommodate larger families and multi-generation.
5. Vacation homes and villa rentals are wonderful for large families, multiple families and multi-generation.
6. Resorts and cruises offering new, special, activities for children such as sailing, circus school, Zumbatomics, water splash parks, cooking lessons, art exploration, stand-up paddle boarding, music lessons, language lessons, slumber parties and much more!
7. Kids stay, eat and play free at many resorts
8. Kids at reduced rate in cruises as the 3rd and 4th passenger. Some cruise lines will run a "kids stay free" special.
9. Family vacations are more active nowadays, not just lounging at the pool or beach.
10. Favorite spots include: Disney, Universal, Vegas, California, Europe, Asia, African Safaris, all-inclusive resorts in the Caribbean, all cruises.

Four Great Family Travel Options

The family dilemma: Where to take the family on vacation, where the kids are going to have fun as well as the parents? As parents, we all know that if the kids have fun, we're having fun. And now with multi-generation travel (grandparents, parents and kids) on the rise, what can possibly suit everyone? This is a question we get often at Eva's Best Travel.

Here are four wonderful family and multi-generation travel options with enough fun, excitement, relaxation, education (shh, don't tell the kids!) togetherness and separateness to keep everyone happy:

1. **Tauck Bridges:** This is an offshoot of the well-known Tauck Tours, based in Connecticut. They offer inclusive, fun family vacation land tours for every age to enjoy together in the US, Canada, Latin America, Europe and Africa and cruises in the Mediterranean and Alaska. Take a family safari in Kenya or Zambia, travel to the magnificent Canadian Rockies, get an insider's view of the "real Europe", marvel at the glaciers, rainforests, canyons and volcanoes of Central and South America, and get "insider access" to America's must-see destinations.
2. **Beaches:** This is the family-friendly all-inclusive resorts cousin of Sandals (which are adults-only). Located in Turks and Caicos, Negril and Ocho Rios, they offer amazing kids programs, designed for each age group. For infants and toddlers there are Sesame Street characters culminating in a parade and a special water park. For kids ages 3-12 there is the Junior Golf Club and Kids Scuba Program. For your Tweens there is Club Liquid, the DJ Academy, where your kids learn how to become DJs, swim up juice bars, sailing, bonfire parties and sports Olympics. Your teens will enjoy waterskiing, windsurfing, boat cruises, reggae jam sessions, karaoke, talent shows and scuba and

snorkeling. All of this while the adult relax and play. All-inclusive means that all of your meals, snacks, drinks (soft and alcoholic), daily activities and nightly entertainment are included in one price. They also have special pricing and added amenities if you hold a family reunion.

3. **Adventures by Disney:** First it was the Disney theme parks and resorts, then came the Disney cruises, now Disney has created family adventure tours to Asia, Africa, Australia, Central and South America, Europe, the US and Canada and cruises to the Mediterranean and Alaska. Two Adventure Guides accompany you, along with local guides, creating both adult and Junior adventure activities that connect you to the people, culture and traditions of the places you visit. You get insider access and unique behind-the-scenes views into exotic locales and events around the US and the world.
4. **Cruises:** I could and should write a book about kid's programs on cruises. They are growing and offering more all of the time. Some trends we are seeing: More space and attention being given to teens and tweens, with a range of special options like spa treatments, special shore excursions, and more freedom to travel around the ship. Along with that comes more adult-only quiet areas. More cruise lines have larger staterooms to accommodate families of 5 or 6. Cruise ships have rock walls, mini golf, zip lining, bowling alleys, water parks, surf simulators, outdoor movies, and yes, bumper cars on the new RCL Quantum of the Seas! Meet the DreamWorks characters on Royal Caribbean, Nickelodeon characters on Norwegian Cruise Line, Disney characters on Disney Cruises and rock and country music stars on Carnival Cruises. Dining is becoming more flexible on all of the cruise lines and there are more outdoor casual dining options on many of the lines. We are even seeing the introduction of kids programs and tours on smaller, luxury lines and river cruises during school vacations. Cruises are also wonderful for groups and family reunions.

More about cruises for families:

Onboard programs and facilities for families continue to expand. Here are a few interesting evolutions:

More attention and space are being dedicated to teens and tweens. While many lines previously grouped all teens (ages 13 to 17) together, most new ships are now separating tweens (ages 12 to 14) into separate facilities. Teens-only programs incorporate a range of shipwide options, from spa treatments to shore excursions, and most programs allow them to come and go freely.

Ships are catering to multigenerational families. In addition to the focus on creating better spaces just for kids, more attention is being paid to adults-only and quiet areas on newer ships in an effort to woo extended families, and with good reason. Multigenerational cruising has become a major trend.

Family staterooms and suites are within reach of more families. Many cruise lines building new ships have designed their vessels to incorporate more family accommodations. Norwegian,

Royal Caribbean, Carnival and Disney all have options that sleep five or six passengers.

"Megaship" has taken on a new meaning. Bigger ships offer more space, more activities and some pretty amazing features that would have seemed unthinkable several years ago. Where rock walls and miniature golf once seemed an extravagance, kids now have access to bowling alleys, elaborate water parks with massive slides, surfing simulators and outdoor movies.

Entertainment has been taken to a new level with themed cruises, now available on several ships. Families can opt for a "DreamWorks experience" on Royal Caribbean (Oasis of the Seas, Allure of the Seas, Freedom of the Seas and Liberty of the Seas), during which they'll get to meet characters like Shrek and Kung Fu Panda.

More outdoor spaces on newer ships are ideal for families. Newer ships like Norwegian Breakaway and Royal Princess have more outdoor casual dining options, and outdoor play areas are being added to all of the kids' clubs on Royal Princess.

Dining options and times for families are increasing. When you're traveling with kids, set dining times and show times can be tough. Ships are accommodating families with more flexible dining times, and special menus for tykes are offered in a variety of dining venues.

At award-winning* Eva's Best Luxury Travel, we get to know you, your interests, desires and budget and customize your trip. We save you a lot of money, time and stress. We are fun, friendly and passionate travelers and expert travel advisors.

We are affiliated with Travel Leaders Group, the largest travel consortium of travel agencies. With our volume buying power we get you the best travel deals, and the most amenities and insider access! Our hallmark is our customer service to you, before, during and after your trip. Travel with peace of mind: If any issues arise while you are away, we are one call away and we handle it for you!

Call us at: 203-221-3171 or -3173, Eva@EvasBestTravel.com, text us at: 203-554-4462, check our website at: www.EvasBestLuxuryTravel.com for travel news, tips and sign up for exclusive weekly travel specials from us.

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*Winner, 5 years in a row, Best of Westport (CT) Award Best Travel Agency for 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015. 2016 and winner of the Westport Business Hall of Fame for 2016.

