

Top 10 Family Vacation Places in the World

1. Orlando, Florida, USA



Orlando, located in Orange County, Florida, is a dream destination for families traveling with children. Orlando has transformed from a simple theme park town to a huge maze of attractions. From kid-friendly lodging, to meals and amenities, Orlando has thought of everything to help families make the most of their vacation experience. The most popular Walt Disney World Resort located in Lake Buena Vista near Orlando comprises of four theme parks, two water parks, dozens of hotels, shopping and dining districts, golf courses and much more. Close to International Drive is Universal Orlando Resort, which includes two theme parks, hotels and a large shopping district. SeaWorld Orlando is a marine theme park featuring Kraken, the biggest rollercoaster in the Orlando area, as well as Believe, the new Shamu adventure. Not far from Disney World lies the Alligator Capital of the World: Gatorland. Just northeast of Universal is the Holy Land Experience and also the water park Wet 'N Wild, located right on International Drive.

2. Los Angeles, California, USA



California ranks as one of the best tourist destinations in the U.S. with Los Angeles being one of the top cities to visit. Southern California offers great family vacations. The large number of world-class attractions, from the popular theme park Disneyland to the Mouse Kingdom to the San Diego Zoo, to the Santa Monica boardwalk to Knott's Berry Farm and Universal Studios make it a hot favorite. There are also beautiful beaches, water parks, major zoos and animal attractions, children's museums, family entertainment complexes, sports opportunities and even restaurants! This region has something for every age group as also some great weather. While visiting the theme parks and surrounding metro areas, you can shop at discount outlets, major malls or upscale shops, take a

romantic stroll along a beachside pathway, take a scenic coastline or mountain drive, or explore Hollywood movie-making attractions.

3. Arizona, USA



Nicknamed the Grand Canyon State, Arizona is known for its spectacular scenery, abundant wildlife, numerous golf courses and health spas. Terrain varies from mountainous areas in the north, beaches in the west and desert in the south. Arizona is home to numerous parks including Lake Havasu, Alamo Lake and Red Rock State Park. Grand Canyon National Park, located in the north, is the one of the greatest natural wonders in the world. Arizona is blessed with bright sunshine and fantastic weather year-round, and there are endless places to fish, sail, swim, stroll, run, pedal, paddle and just sit and relax. Exploring canyons and caves, going on historic railway rides, hot air ballooning, paragliding, rafting, horse riding or trips to the many zoos, parks and botanical gardens and other attractions are all fun family activities to do in Arizona.

4. Iceland



Iceland is a refreshingly unconventional destination, in that its geology is still growing. Nature here is unspoilt, exotic and mystical with its spouting geysers, active volcanoes, tumbling waterfalls, towering mountains, vast lava plains, magical lakes, beautiful fjords and glaciers. The country is safe, clean and offers adventurous activities for any age group all around the island. The countryside is one big space for activities, nearly every village has its own outdoor thermal pool, and throughout the island such activities as horse riding, kayaking, angling, bird watching and whale watching are offered. Reykjavík also offers child-friendly activities such as horse-riding tours, the Family Zoo, swimming pools, whale watching trips, angling, the Viking wax museum and more. Iceland offers

great potential for outdoor activities such as snowmobiling, horse riding, cave exploring, hiking, swimming, skiing, river rafting, kayaking and mountain safaris on modified four-wheel drives.

5. New York City, USA



New York City is one of the best spots for an urban family adventure. The buildings are tall and amazing, the sounds of the city have to be heard to be believed and the chaos is grand. A city pass and the pocket-sized NYC coupon book provide a great starting point for a family vacation in the city. There are endless choices of things to see, do, eat, and buy. Although the city might seem huge, the close proximity of museums, parks, stores, and restaurants makes it doable for children. A walk down Broadway in Times Square with the swelling hordes of humanity underneath the flashing lights is exciting for all out-of-towners, especially children. Artists who set up shop on the sidewalks and draw personalized names in a colorful pattern of dragons, pandas, and dolphins are extremely popular with kids. Extremely popular with adults and kids alike is Broadway.

6. Las Vegas, Nevada, USA



Often known as the Sin City and the Entertainment Capital of the World, Las Vegas is situated in the midst of the southern Nevada desert landscape. The city has giant mega-casino hotels, decorated lavishly and with attention to detail to create a fantasy-like atmosphere. Contrary to what one may think, families do go to Las Vegas; this vibrant town has several attractions for kids, some located at major hotels, others independent such as Wet'N'Wild Water Park. There are many free attractions in Vegas, the best being just wandering around the Strip. There are the gardens at the Flamingo, the Fountains at Bellagio, the M&M's World at the Showcase Mall, Mount Charleston, the MGM Grand Lion

Habitat, Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat at the Mirage, a fun children's park at Town Square, the magician Lance Burton at the Monte Carlo, 'Tournament of Kings' dinner theater at the Excalibur, the world's largest Permanent Circus at Circus Circus, numerous buffets, hiking at Red Rock Canyon and the Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay.

7. Oahu, Hawaii



Hawaii can be a magical place for families with white sand beaches and the clear ocean, exotic culture with the right mix of modern convenience and family activities, surfing for the adrenaline lover, luaus for the food buff and the Pearl Harbor for the history buff. Oahu in Hawaii is unique in that it combines big-city convenience with the beautiful beach front. With miles and miles of white sand beaches, dozens of hiking trails, 34 golf courses, and numerous museums and cultural events, it is the perfect vacation for those families interested in outdoor, historic and cultural activities. Whatever their age, kids will be drawn to Waikiki Beach where palm trees sway and waves roll onshore. One of the best things to do on Oahu is walking. Oahu has several excellent snorkeling spots, with the favorites being Hanauma Bay on the south coast just east of Honolulu and Shark Cove in the north. SeaLife Park offers interesting exhibits on sea life, from fish and turtle to dolphins and sharks.

8. Cancun and Mayan Riviera, Mexico



Mexico offers white sands with varied colour seas, mountains that create impressive landscapes, picturesque villages with cobblestone streets, a rich cuisine that varies throughout the regions,

colonial and contemporary architecture in the cities and warm, friendly people. The all inclusive resorts in Cancun and Mayan Riviera are popular spots for family getaways in Mexico. Cancun is the busy and lively resort area with the island of Cozumel, a scuba-diving paradise, and Playa del Carmen a young and vibrant resort area. There is a variety of activities available like water sports including jet skis, diving, snorkeling and a submarine ride, a water park, cinema and lots of shopping and restaurants. The Mayan Riviera, a tranquil haven which also contains also a series of Mayan archaeological sites like: Tulum and Cobá, coral reef, snorkeling lagoons, and Xcaret and other eco-theme parks.

9. Hershey, Pennsylvania, USA



Hershey is popularly known as 'Chocolatetown, USA' and also 'The Sweetest Place on Earth'. Thrilling attractions in the world-class amusement park Hersheypark, leisurely stroll in the breathtaking Hershey Gardens or a trip to the interesting Zoo America; there is something for every season in Hershey. In the winters, the park becomes winter wonderland Christmas Candylane, with half a million tiny lights, a holiday favorite for children of all ages. Other enjoyable activities include a scenic ride on the Middletown & Hummelstown Railroad, an underground visit to the Indian Echo Caverns, miniature golf or go-cart races at Adventure Sports in Hershey. Also popular are the annual meeting of the Antique Auto Club of America (one of the world's largest antique auto shows), the Hershey Halloween Festival and the amazing Hersheypark Balloon Classic held in October.

10. Icehotel, Sweden



The Icehotel in the village of Jukkasjärvi, Sweden was the first ice hotel in the world. Existing each year between December and April, this hotel is listed as one of the Seven Wonders of Sweden. The entire hotel is made out of snow and ice blocks taken from the Torne River. The ice is used for creating ice bar designs and ice glasses, for ice sculpting classes, events and product launches all over the world and the snow is used for building a strong structure for the building. The hotel opens in phases, the first phase opens in the beginning of December and for each week, another part of the hotel opens up for visitors until the entire construction is completed in the first week of January. When completed, the hotel features a bar, church, main hall, reception area and unique rooms and suites for over 100 guests to sit and sleep on blocks of sculpted ice in the form of chairs and beds. The Icehotel is known to be the biggest hotel of ice and snow in the world, spanning over some 6000 m².