

Best Family Vacations - At Any Age

Ages 0 - 2

THE WORLD IS YOUR OYSTER

With babies between the ages of 0 and 2, you can travel wherever you please. All-Inclusive resorts, cruises and villa rentals are good options, but consider train travel through Europe. As long as provisions are available, children this age are great travelers.

Ages 3-5

GET THE JIGGLIES OUT

Kids this age are on the move. Look for vacations that allow them to do that. Resorts, cruises and villa rentals are still great ideas. But now is the time to find locations with kid's programs and childcare options.

Ages 6-11

THE SWEET SPOT

These kids are ready for anything. If you've been cruising, now is the time to try an adventure cruise like visiting The Galapagos. If all-inclusive resorts are your style, try one with adventure options nearby. Remember that a little culture goes a long way with this age group.

Ages 12 - 18

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Twins and Teens have strong opinions about how to spend their time. Getting their ideas about travel is the best way to make sure that everyone is happy. Resorts and cruises with teen clubs will work, but consider vacations that will feed their interests - like surfing or skiing.

College Students

INVOLVE THEM IN PLANNING

The plus side of college kids is that they still have a holiday schedule you can work with but you must respect that they are adults. So make sure you are doing trips that interest THEM! Be prepared to allow them more freedom than you are used to - they've been on their own for a while now and will expect independence.

Destinations

Ages 0 - 2

Before your tot is walking, you are free to travel wherever you desire. However, keep in mind that they still have schedules, it's important to make sure that you don't overplan.

There are all-inclusive resorts all over the world and most of them are family friendly. This is a great time to consider a train trip through Western Europe. There are plenty of accommodations to suit your needs there and babies are generally accepted. In Ireland, for example, they are welcome in pubs until evening.

Ages 3-5

At this point, your child is very curious and on the move. In addition to all-inclusives and cruises, villa rentals are a great option. From small ones to huge homes that will accommodate multiple generations, there is a home out there for everyone. Some are staffed and can arrange for childcare if the adults are away. Day tours and activities can be arranged for travelers of all ages, so everyone gets what they need to enjoy the holiday.

Ages 6-11

These kids are ready for adventure. From dude ranches to adventure cruises, they are looking for a little bit of excitement and some independence. If you are looking for adrenaline, try Costa Rica. If animals are their thing, it's time to look at an African safari! City visits can be great too - just plan a bike tour instead of all day in museums. One or two will be more than enough for this crew.

Ages 12 - 18

Most of the trips that you've done until now will still work with older teens. If you like cruising, now is the time to try a river cruise. Perhaps a week on the Mekong? If hiking and the outdoors appeal - Iceland is perfect. Discovering their passions is what this time is all about. From circus school to film festivals and ski school to surfing, there are tons of options to help these "near-adults" explore while showing them the world.

College Students and beyond

Now is the time to show your kids that traveling as a family can continue long into their adulthood. Big adventure trips are great now - a cruise to Antarctica or scuba-diving on the Great Barrier Reef. If your student is lucky enough to study abroad for a semester, join them. You will get to explore a new city together and you'll have peace of mind knowing they are safely settled.