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Travel



Your

QUICKSTART

Family Vacation Guide

YOUR
LIFELONG
MEMORIES

Start Now

CONTENTS

5	Navigate Your Travel Style
6	1. Adventurous
7	2. Educational
8	3. Magical
9	4. Extreme
10	5. Serene
11	Vacation Spotlight: Aulani
12	Budgeting
14	Meet Your Travel Agent



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STEP 1:

Your Family's Travel Style

Every family approaches a vacation differently. Some are looking for a quiet and peaceful week at the beach, while another family may feel rejuvenated by a ten day trek through the mountains. Others love to soak up culture and history learning all they can about the world around them. And of course, you can add all these elements into an amazing eclectic vacation that fulfills ALL of your family's wishes.

In general, though, when I'm working with a client to plan a trip, I start with a few different travel categories which helps to narrow down locations, itineraries and budgets. It gets the travel inspiration juices flowing! Your travel style will guide all other steps of the vacation planning process.

Let's take a look at the five most common types of family vacations. Most families will identify with more than one, but try to choose one that exemplifies your upcoming trip.

Don't worry - we can add in more styles later. For example, maybe you're looking for a relaxing week at the beach; you're a Serene Traveler. BUT, you like a good adventure, too. Great! Sounds like a beachy all-inclusive resort WITH a day excursion to zip-line through a tropical forest would be a fantastic option.

1. *ADVENTUROUS*
These families love to hike, raft, camp, climb, and generally enjoy exploring all nature has to offer.
2. *EDUCATIONAL*
What better way to learn about the world than to immerse your family in history and different cultures.
3. *MAGICAL*
Magical vacations transport your family from everyday reality to fantasy worlds where dreams come true!
4. *EXTREME*
Extreme traveling families push the limits exploring new exotic locations, or take part in heart-pounding excursions.
5. *SERENE*
Escape the hustle and relax! Serene travel involves all things relaxing -
CHILD CARE INCLUDED.

1 | ADVENTUROUS

Family Travel

There's no doubt that exploring new landscapes and embarking on unforgettable adventures will bring a family together! The trick here is to factor in exploration levels of all family members - backpacking across Europe may not be everyone's cup of tea! I suggest adding in smaller, daily doses of adventure to create a family vacation perfect for all your loved ones.

COSTA RICA

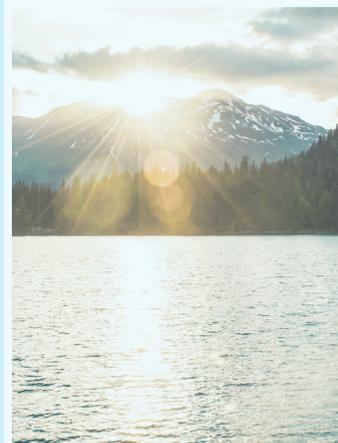


Costa Rica is an adventurer's paradise! Wide blue oceans make for amazing snorkelling, lush rainforests to explore via hiking or zip-lining, hot springs, volcanoes, horseback riding, and more. There's something for every member of the family.

FAMILY TRAVEL SPECIALIST FAVORITE: RIU Palace Costa Rica

This amazing all-inclusive resort is perfect for the entire family and offers water-sports, excursions, golfing and fun for all ages. Enjoy the four pools, sandy beaches, luxury-style restaurants plus an all-you-can-eat buffet and 24-hour room service. Be sure to look for the adorable monkey friends swinging from the trees around the resort. Your family will have the adventure of a lifetime!

ALASKA



Experience majestic Alaska as a family and meet wildlife such as moose, bald eagles and bears. Go whaling and see nature's largest creatures bounding out of the water. Hike amidst glaciers and kayak refreshing waters. Alaska is made for family adventure!

FAMILY TRAVEL SPECIALIST FAVORITE: UnCruise Family Discovery Cruises

Bring the entire family - the fun will span generations on the discovery cruises by UnCruise, tailored to fit family needs! UnCruise features smaller group tours, which allows for more personalized travel experiences. Bond on-board through games, reconnect through parent/child kayak adventures, and snorkel with sea lions! Naturalist-led hiking and even s'mores and bonfires. Plus, it's all-inclusive! Just board your ship and enjoy!

EDUCATIONAL

Family Travel

Nothing teaches more about the world and all it's vast wonder than travel. Give your kids the gift of learning about the world, while making amazing memories together! My hands-down favorite supplier for educational travel is Adventures by Disney. The weaving of storytelling, expertise, local culture and activities for all ages make it an incredible experience and a worthy investment.

WASHINGTON D.C.

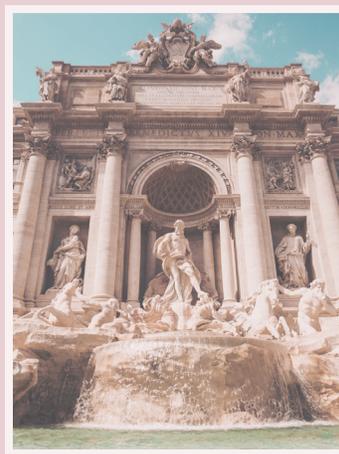


Learn about our founding fathers by walking in their footsteps! Monuments, museums (many of them free!) and amazing culture make D.C. a great family vacation. Add in nearby Boston, and/or Philadelphia, and you'll be history buffs before the end of the trip.

FAMILY TRAVEL SPECIALIST FAVORITE:
**Adventures by Disney Washington D.C.,
 Gettysburg & Philadelphia**

This 7 day all-inclusive tour, guided by the very best storytellers of all, Disney, tell the tale of our own country! You will start in Philadelphia touring Independence Hall, seeing the Liberty bell, and sightseeing Philly by way of trolley. Next, you'll go to the battlefields of Gettysburg where you'll be guided by historical experts. Finally, explore Washington D.C. and also Mount Vernon. It is 7 days cram packed with historical fun!

EUROPE



Ok, I admit Europe is a HUGE destination but it has so much historical fun that I don't think you can go wrong! Trek the streets that have been walked for centuries, visit castles built by true kings and queens and discover delicious culinary surprises!

FAMILY TRAVEL SPECIALIST FAVORITE:
**Adventures by Disney 5 Night Mediterranean
 Cruise Package**

Combine historical touring with Disney Cruise Line fun! Set sail to the French Riviera to explore Cannes, and ride a private motor-coach to Monaco, where you will tour the Prince's Palace! The next day you're privately escorted through Florence, Italy. On day 4 you arrive in Rome for an exclusive tour of the Vatican City Museum. A local expert will guide you through the Sistine Chapel where you can get an intimate look at Michelangelo's awe-inspiring achievement.

MAGICAL

Family Travel

Ever want to escape reality? Magical family vacations do just that! Dance with characters from your favorite films, be dazzled by larger-than-life shows, and ride imaginative attractions as many times as you want! Take the kids (and YOUR inner kid) on a magical getaway they'll never forget.

DISNEY



Nobody knows Magic better than Disney! With theme parks scattered across the world, you can add magic into any family vacation - or dedicate an entire week to fantasy. Experience world-class dining, shows, attractions and more.

FAMILY TRAVEL SPECIALIST FAVORITE: Walt Disney World

While other Disney Park locations are fantastic - I hold Walt Disney World, in Orlando, FL, dear to my heart because there is so much to see and do! The largest of their locations, WDW boasts 4 theme parks, 2 water parks, 20+ resorts and countless shopping and dining. There is truly something for every single member of your family. That is why I recommend Disney as a fantastic multi-generational getaway. Take the grandparents, aunts and uncles, and all the kids, and enjoy a magical week away together!

UNIVERSAL



Universal parks are often overlooked in the shadow of Disney, but I caution against that! Universal is not to be missed and offers a flavor of magic all of their own! As Universal plans to expand in the next few years, there will be so many new experiences to look forward to!

FAMILY TRAVEL SPECIALIST FAVORITE: Wizarding World of Harry Potter

All right, I know that the Wizarding World of Harry Potter is technically a portion of Universal Orlando, but it is so impressive that I HAVE to tell you about it! The theming here is incredible - you're exported to a world of wizards and witches, dark alleys, and goblins. Immerse yourself if this world of wizards - the technology behind the attractions is truly outstanding. Travel through Hogwarts School of Wizardry, visit Gringotts Bank, grab a bite at The Three Broomsticks, and devour a chocolate frog! Truly a must for any Harry Potter fan.

EXTREME

Family Travel

For families who truly want to push the limits, extreme travel is where it's at. Exotic locations, exciting excursions, and once-in-a-lifetime cultural experiences that will stay with your kids forever. Trek the Arctic, cruise the Amazon, or safari in Africa - there are so many extreme travel choices.

AFRICA



Africa is a vast and exciting continent to explore! From the Pyramids in Egypt, down to the savannah, to the gorgeous beaches of southern Africa - culture, wildlife, history and culinary wonders await you.

FAMILY TRAVEL SPECIALIST FAVORITE: **Intrepid South Africa Family Safari**

Designed specifically for parents and their teens, this tour is a 12 day voyage through southern Africa. Along with your local and trained guides, you'll visit a Zulu Village to be introduced to the tribal culture. Then head south to experience hiking, kayaking, and rafting while camping under the stars over Africa. Experience the sights and sounds of the wild, perhaps the roar of a lion as you and your family drift off to sleep!

CARIBBEAN



There's so many ways to get your heart pounding in the Caribbean! ATV tours, zip-lines, shark encounters, river tubing, high-speed boating and more! It's the perfect opportunity to combine gorgeous scenery with thrills of a lifetime.

FAMILY TRAVEL SPECIALIST FAVORITE: **Royal Caribbean Cruise Line**

There's a reason Caribbean is in it's name - they are the experts. They offer a plethora of itineraries that will fit any budget, age, or activity level. Not only will you stop at some amazing ports, your time on-board the ship will be filled with adventure, too. Ice skating, rock climbing, high-speed plummeting water slides, a surf simulator, sky diving, bungee trampolines, escape rooms, trapeze school and the tallest slide at sea - the list goes on and on. Plus, the FREE kids clubs on-board allow Mom and Dad some guilt-free adult time!

SERENE

Family Travel

Sometimes you want to get away and RELAX! You lead a busy life that seems like it never stops, so now is the time to begin planning that intentional time to slow down and reconnect. I recommend smaller, intimate experiences that allow you to bond as a family while everything is taken care of for you.

JAMAICA



White sandy beaches, sunshine and peaceful ocean waves - Jamaica is the epitome of a serene vacation. Known for their surreal sunsets, turquoise waters, and an average temp of 81 degrees year round - it's the perfect spot for a relaxing family getaway!

FAMILY TRAVEL SPECIALIST FAVORITE: Beaches Negril

20 acres of lush beaches and landscape, Beaches Negril is a perfect peaceful escape for all generations. A more intimate resort than its larger sister location in Turks & Caicos, it's perfect for a serene vacation. It is all-inclusive and there truly is something for everyone. 7 miles of sandy beaches, as well as two pools, a water park, 9 restaurants, scuba sports, free kids clubs - they've thought of everything so YOU don't have to. Beaches takes your safety extremely seriously - you'll be in good hands from the start to the end. Sit back and let Beaches take care of everything!

LAKE TAHOE



Lake Tahoe is the largest alpine lake in North America. The perfect relaxation location - the scenery will take your breath away! Plus, there's tons of year-round recreational activities for the entire family. It's a place everyone should visit at least once!

FAMILY TRAVEL SPECIALIST FAVORITE: Resort at Squaw Creek

Looking for the perfect serene vacation, but something a little different than island life? This gorgeous mountainside resort is the perfect family getaway, no matter the time of year. Snow skiing, tubing, and snowboarding are popular in the winter, and biking, water skiing and wind-sailing are available in the warmer months. The on-site kids club will keep your little ones happy and entertained while you hit the sauna and spa facilities. Visit one of the many on-site pools or grab tea and make yourself comfortable inside by the fire



SPOTLIGHT ON:
**DISNEY'S
AULANI RESORT**

A BEAUTIFUL BLEND OF FAMILY TRAVEL STYLES.

Disney's Hawaiian getaway, Aulani Resort & Spa, is the perfect example of a family vacation that weaves together the travel styles. There is something for every member of your family to get excited about. Adventure seekers will love numerous water attractions including a lazy river and water slides, as well as tours featuring wildlife and nature. Escape to the serene spa or the adults-only infinity pool while the kids take part in the complimentary kids club activities. Extreme travellers will get a thrill out of hiking to waterfalls, catamaran tours, or horseback riding on the beach. Learn about Hawaiian culture and history at a traditional Lu'au and gaze through a powerful telescope while a local expert talks about the stars and their role in early navigation. And of course, it wouldn't be a Disney property without some magic! Meet up with Mickey, Minnie and the gang during interactive dining experiences. Discover a family's paradise at Aulani.

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BUDGETING

for your family vacation

Balancing work, school, and daily life in general is a struggle! A much needed family vacation not only recharges your batteries, but also allows time for family bonding. Plus, it's always helpful to have something FUN to look forward to on the horizon! The problem? Most families don't intentionally plan for a yearly or bi-yearly getaway. Then when they're absolutely exhausted at-the-end-of-their-rope and desperately need an escape, the cash just isn't there. Here are some options (plus some bonus Family Travel Specialist tips) to help make your next getaway a reality.

OPTION 1: plan your trip far in advance

If travelling as a family is a priority, there's no reason to wait when planning your next trip. Many locations sell out quickly during busier seasons, so it's best to lock in your spot. Most vacation suppliers only require a small refundable deposit to reserve your space, and then payments can be made at your convenience. I highly suggest booking vacations a year in advance, or as soon as you know your dates. I send my clients an itemized invoice and itinerary which allows them to know all costs ahead of time to fully prepare so there are no last minute surprises when you're planning ahead.

OPTION 2: start a vacation savings fund

Not sure when you're going to be able to go on your next vacation? As a military spouse, I completely understand! I suggest starting a special savings account just for travel funds. Survey your overall budget and select a monthly amount to be automatically transferred to your vacation savings account. That way, by the time you have your dates and location, you've already got funds ready for your deposit and payments.

BUDGET TIPS

to make the most of your hard-earned cash



Purchase Insurance: Don't waste your money - Should you find yourself seriously ill or injured, you will be so grateful for travel insurance.



Give the gift of travel instead of stuff: Your kids will love getting a surprise trip for Christmas or their birthday!



Purchase discounted gift cards from wholesale clubs: As a bonus tip, use a credit card with great cash back rewards to save even more.



Give and Take: Love luxury resorts? Can you compromise and fly economy? Or trade in the fancy meals for an awe-inspiring guided tour.



Commit to eating out one less meal per week: On average this will save you \$2,600 a year! Put the extra cash in your Vacation Savings Fund.



De-clutter your unwanted items: sell unused items in a yard sale or online marketplace. Put the money toward your experiences.



Travel in the off-season: Prices will be dramatically reduced and as a bonus you won't have to deal with huge crowds.



Go all-inclusive: By packaging and paying up front for all expenses, you'll get a better deal. Food and activities can add up!



Explore oversea tours with favourable exchange rates: All-inclusive tours and resorts in Costa Rica and Mexico will give a great bang for your buck!



Skip the souvenirs and opt for memories: Souvenirs are quickly forgotten but your travels will not be.

MEET YOUR FAMILY TRAVEL SPECIALIST



Hi friend! I'm Megan Halberstadt. As a homeschooling mom to four young children, and a military spouse whose husband travels more than he's home, I get it when you say you're BUSY! I knew we needed to invest in quality time together away from home because as much as I try to ignore the piles of laundry or avoid the 16th birthday party of the month, time was coming up short. Instead of having fun together, we ended up stressed out and on edge.

That's why we decided to make travel a priority part of our family culture. As your family travel advisor, I walk you through each step of the planning process making it painless and enjoyable. You just pack your bags and head out on an amazing adventure with the people you love the most.

I've spent countless hours researching, training, investigating, touring, and connecting with travel partners to find the very best resources and suppliers in the family and group travel industry. I've done the legwork, let me know what you're dreaming of and I help you make your wishes come true!

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