

# Catch a Bad Case of the Travel Bug

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Normally, I wouldn't wish a germy bug on anyone, but hey, infect me with the travel bug anytime! And I'll be the first to say that I'll eagerly pass it on to my kids as well. Think of the many benefits of travel: You'll gain a sense of wonder and eagerness to explore the created world. You'll learn to appreciate different cultures and the historical significance of your chosen destination. You'll meet new people and you'll experience new foods and customs. So, ready to embark on a family adventure?

## List dream destinations

Allow your kids to consider locations without restrictions. This will enable them to broaden their horizons and dream big. Think about local day trips, short jaunts within your geographic region, or extended

domestic and international destinations. Even if international travel is out of your budget this time around, you can keep it on your wish list!

## Research family activities

When kids provide input on activities, they will get more out of the family trip. It will allow them to experience the trip in the way that speaks to their heart and mind. One family member may want to visit a famous park while another may want to visit a well-known landmark. Still others may want to be a spectator at a sporting event while yet another wants to eat food at a night market! Incorporating everyone's interest will provide more variety. Keep an open mind about different activities and you can learn to appreciate something new!

## Learn about the local history

What are the historical events that have contributed to the location's significance? Where there any well-known politicians or celebrities from the area? Maybe your chosen location's long history of immigration has led to a change in taste for food in the local cuisine? What is your destination's local industry? How does that industry contribute to the overall local and national economy? Are there significant and special landmarks? There are so many exciting new things to learn!

# Budget for transportation and lodging costs

After imagining your dream vacation for a bit, show your kids practical math by running the numbers with them. Research different costs for flights taken during different days of the week versus the different departure times. Would traveling by train or car be more cost effective? Take a look at different lodging options. Hotels are great for families on the go, but a vacation rental or a vacation home will allow you to go incognito and live like a local!

The travel bug is quite contagious! Are you ready for some family fun?

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