

BEST FAMILY TRAVEL ADVICE NETWORK'S TOP 10 SPRING BREAK DESTINATIONS FOR FAMILIES

Top family travel experts offer tips for traveling with kids this spring.

Monday, February 21, 2011 --- [Best Family Travel Advice.com](http://BestFamilyTravelAdvice.com), a network of the top family travel experts and bloggers, announced today its **top 10 picks for spring break destinations for families**. The list is a mix of popular destinations and a few unique experiences for families with kids of all ages, budgets and interests, to enjoy a little sun, fun and time to reconnect after the cold winter months.

"We know that travel can mean different things to different families depending on your budget, the age of your kids and your personal interests," said Jen Miner, one of the founding members of Best Family Travel Advice. "At BestFamilyTravelAdvice.com, you can ask questions, get answers and know that you are getting advice from someone who is knowledgeable and understands how families like to travel."

Expert Advice from Real Family Travel Experts

Each of the more than 20 experts at Best Family Travel Advice offers their unique travel style, content and opinions on traveling with kids. Do you seek adventure, or are you taking your first international flight with a toddler? Are you a five-star family and love luxury travel? Are you a Disney fanatic, or is a road trip more your style? At Best Family Travel Advice, we match parents with real experts who know how to travel with kids, providing reliable answers and insight for planning successful family vacations. All of the bloggers at Best Family Travel Advice are dedicated family travel writers and experienced travelers who each take 15 or more trips a year.

Top 10 Spring Break Destinations for Families

For many, spring break is a time for families to shed winter coats, carpool schedules and reconnect with loved ones. Here's a compilation of Best Family Travel Advice's top 10 destinations for spring break travel. To interview an expert, or learn more, you can visit [Best Family Travel Advice](http://BestFamilyTravelAdvice.com).

Go International:

1. Algarve, Portugal (Michelle Duffy, WanderMom)

Spring Break is a great time to visit the Algarve in Portugal. Air fares are typically significantly lower than during the summer months, making it much more affordable family travel destination. It may seem that spring break is too short for such a trip, however, by taking overnight flights from the US and including the weekends before and after school closure days, you can easily spend ten days exploring this beautiful area.

The summer crowds are absent from the streets of Albufeira and the pretty beaches at tiny towns such as Carvoeiro. Houses and apartments are available for rental at off-season rates — a big bonus to any vacation budget. This area is rich in the history of Henry the Navigator and Portugal's seafaring and colonial past, which you can easily learn about on day-trips to the cities and towns along the coast.

2. Costa Rica (Jennifer Miner, The Vacation Gals)

A family looking to take a spring break out of the States, but in that warm, tropical environment that's so popular with US tourists, would do well to consider a vacation in Costa Rica. It's still the dry season in Costa Rica for most of the spring break weeks (December through April is the dry season). The country was rated among the world's happiest, and the cultural affinity for living peaceably with the environment — as compared to trying to conquer it to death — make Costa Rica ideal for an eco-friendly family spring break vacation.

Take time to explore the Arenal Volcano National Park, Guanacaste, Monteverde and Manuel Antonio National Park. Zip lining in the Costa Rica rainforest is an exhilarating experience that provides lifelong memories for kids. Cot Rica is an easy country to get to in Central America, and many people speak at least a little English; this year, consider breaking away from the usual Florida trip, and take your kids to a brand new place.

3. Paris, France: (Mara Gorman, Mother of All Trips)

If you're headed to Europe for spring break, Paris is the perfect family destination. Keep busy legs active in the Jardin de Luxembourg or on the [Promenade Plantee](#), an old railway line that's been turned into a 3-mile walking path. If you're looking for something diverting, try the rides, puppet shows, playgrounds and other amusements at the [Jardin d'Acclimatation](#).

Or take a tour of the city on bicycles with [Fat Tire Bike Tours](#) (which has English-speaking guides). Lovely (and easy) day trips from Paris include Giverny where Claude Monet's house and garden have been restored to the exact state in which the famous Impressionist painted them. The garden is sure to be full of blooms in April and May. Another option is to take the [train to Versailles](#) and spend the day exploring. Children will especially love the whimsy of Marie Antoinette's Petit Trianon. And of course, what would be a more fitting way to celebrate your visit than by going to the top of the Eiffel Tower?

4. Victoria, British Columbia (Anne Taylor Hartzell, Hip Travel Mama)

A short 2 hour ferry ride on the Victoria Clipper, or a one hour flight on [Kenmore Air](#) from downtown Seattle, Victoria BC, is the a beautiful retreat for families looking for great outdoor activities, rich history, shopping, food and exceptionally friendly people.

Some of our favorite activities when visiting Victoria with kids is to take a 45 minute pedicab tour around the city at night, show up at the Inner Harbour at 10:45 am every Sunday and watch the Victoria Harbour Ferries weave in and out together in a synchronized Water Ballet, or hop on one of the ferries after the show to Fisherman's Wharf for Fish and Chips at BarbsPlace. Explore [Victoria BC with kids](#) this spring break for a change of pace.

5. Castaway Cay, Bahamas via Disney Dream: (The BestFamilyTravelAdvice team)

While a Disney cruise may not seem remote, when you step onto Castaway Cay, Disney's own private island in the Bahamas, you will feel like you are miles away. Several of the Best Family Travel Advice experts experienced the inaugural sailing of the Disney Dream to Castaway Cay and highly recommend it as an experience for families in any season.

Here are a few posts on their experiences:

CiaoBambino: <http://www.ciaobambino.com/ciaobambinoblog/index.php/2011/02/new-disney-cruise-ship-disney-dream/>

VacationGals: <http://thevacationgals.com/castaway-cay-fun-stop-for-families-on-the-disney-dream-cruise/>

HipTravelMama: <http://www.hiptravelmama.com/disney-in-style/our-magical-disneydream-fairytale-luxury-meets-family-fun-at-sea/>

Stay Domestic:

6. Jekyll Island, Georgia (Sue Rodman, Field trips with Sue)

Jekyll Island, along the Georgia coast, was once the winter escape for some of America's richest families. Members of the Jekyll Island Club included, William Rockefeller, Joseph Pulitzer, J.P. Morgan and William Vanderbilt. Now the Island is a playground for the public and the Club, a beautiful historic hotel.

Jekyll Island offers a variety of activities ranging from environmental education at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center where you'll see real sea turtles the Center is rehabilitating, to water park fun at Summer Waves. Don't miss the surreal Driftwood Beach, also known as Boneyard Beach for the way the grey weathered trees lay like bones along the sand. In addition to this list of [five things to do on Jekyll Island](#), a cruise on the [Lady Jane Shrimp Boat](#) is a must.

7. Orlando, Florida: (Mary Turner, Travel with Teens + Jennifer Miner, Vacation Gals)

As an East Coast family that seems to get more than our fair share of cold weather and snow, spring break for us demands warm weather. We've been visiting Orlando regularly in the spring since our kids were still in strollers and every time we go it's a different vacation. Our favorites are [Disney World](#) and [Discovery Cove](#).

Orlando, Florida is an incredibly popular destination for spring break family travel. If going to Disney World and Universal Studios Orlando is only feasible during school breaks, then families prepare to be confronted with crowds. There are a few [useful tips](#) for family spring break travel in Orlando that will help families make the most of time there. Most importantly: be patient and be prepared for long lines. To avoid the lines you can splurge for a [VIP Pass at Universal Studios Orlando](#) to give you backdoor access with no lines at all, to any of the theme park rides. Also consider hiring a personal [VIP guide at Disney](#); this option is also not cheap, as the service starts at \$175/hour, but you'll also bypass ride lines.

8. Northern California (Amie O'Shaughnessy, Ciao Bambino)

Spring is a wonderful time for a road trip through Northern California when the hills are bright green after months of winter rain, trees are in bloom, and days are more likely to be fog-free. Spend 2-3 nights in San Francisco where you can hit the usual tourist spots like [Alcatraz Island](#), [Ghiradelli Square](#) for a chocolate break, and [Chrissy Field](#) for a great view of the Golden Gate Bridge. If you're a foodie, take a night to go to Napa Valley where you can easily pair culinary treats for mom and dad with kid-friendly activities (check out our list of recommended [kid-friendly hotels in Napa Valley](#) for accommodation ideas).

Then, head south down the coast to the Monterey Peninsula for the rest of the trip. The [Monterey Bay Aquarium](#) is a must with kids of all ages — you can even sleep over special nights of the year. A [visit to charming Carmel](#) is a crowd pleaser too, and can be particularly lovely this time of year when coastal fog is likely to be absent.

9. Grand Mound, Washington: (Amy Whitley, Pit Stops for Kids)

If spring break means dreary weather in your part of the world as it does in ours, a Northwest [Great Wolf Lodge](#) family getaway can be the perfect antidote! I've dubbed these resorts 'cruise ships on land': for the duration of your stay, you and your family will be fully immersed in all-age fun, food, and relaxation, all under one roof.

The Grand Mound, Washington property is conveniently located between Portland and Seattle, lending itself to day trips to either family-friendly city and within easy driving distance of Olympic and Mount Rainier national parks. You may not want to leave the resort, however: with something for everyone, Great Wolf is the ideal place to reconnect with family and friends in a kid-friendly atmosphere. And best of all, you don't have to worry about the Pacific Northwest weather forecast ruining your good time! Here are [six reasons to love Great Wolf Lodge](#), whichever property you visit across the U.S.!

10. San Diego, California: (Sharlene Earnshaw, Trekaroo)

Nothing says Spring Break quite like warm weather and ocean breezes. Besides having great weather, [San Diego](#) offers endless opportunities to get outside and have some fun. Animal lovers definitely shouldn't miss the world class San Diego Zoo or ocean themed fun of Sea World. Balboa Park is the perfect place to go for a museum stroll, with the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, San Diego Natural History Museum, and San Diego Model Railroad Museum being a few of the standouts amongst the 15 museums that call the park home.

No trip to San Diego is complete without a day at the beach, and some of Trekaroo's family favorites include [Torrey Pines State Beach](#) and Cabrillo National Monument, which provide much more than the typical spot in the sand.

About BestFamilyTravelAdvice.com

[BestFamilyTravelAdvice](#) is a network of the top family travel writers who are experts on traveling with kids. Network contributors include travel industry professionals, book authors, and publishers of award-winning websites. On BestFamilyTravelAdvice.com, families can submit questions on traveling with kids and get answers from real parents who have been in the trenches, are experienced travel writers, and understand the diverse needs of traveling with kids of all ages. To interview an expert, submit a request using the [contact form on our site](#). You can follow BestFamilyTravelAdvice on Twitter [@famtraveladvice](#) and on [Facebook](#).

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