

TIPS ON TRIPS

Top Family Getaways

by Samantha Brown

(NAPSA)—Finding a great family vacation destination can be easier than many fear. The key is to choose a place with fun activities for everyone on the trip. Here's a look at some top family getaways:

Family Camping Trip

You can go camping without roughing it. Try checking out an



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area such as Costanoa Coastal Lodge and Camp. Located on the Californian coast, it overlooks rugged bluffs, deserted beaches and is connected to four state parks. The property offers different

types of accommodations from the very comfortable to the more rustic, and guests can enjoy "comfort stations," complete with saunas, indoor showers with heated floors and a fireplace. A charming general store serves breakfast, lunch and dinner and a breakfast buffet is included in the price of the room.

The Amusement Park

Beat the crowds by visiting amusement parks off the beaten path. For instance, Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio, bills itself as the amusement park and roller coaster capital of the world. Families can visit attractions including the Surf's Up Aquatic Center, Lagoon Deer Park and the Merry Go Round Museum. Plus you can stay on park property or bring your RV and stay in Camping Village.

Family Adventures

If you're looking for something beyond park attractions and the beach, you can try a trip abroad. Families visiting Pico Bonito Lodge in Honduras, for instance, can discover new cultures while



A trip abroad can make for a family vacation to remember.

participating in safe, family-friendly activities. Highlighted on the Travel Channel's "Passport to Latin America," the lodge includes a pool, Butterfly Farm and Serpenterium. Visitors can also take hikes into the rainforest, go white-water rafting or take a boat tour through a wildlife refuge.

A Trip Back

If you're looking for a more traditional trip, try visiting the Mohonk Mountain House in New Paltz, NY. This enchanting Victorian castle is one of America's oldest family-owned resorts. There's boating, swimming and fishing on the lake, 85 miles of hiking trails, rock climbing and trail riding. You can even hit one of the outdoor barbecues overlooking the lake while your children play at the "Kids Club."

• Ms. Brown is a travel expert and host of the Travel Channel's "Passport To Latin America." The program highlights Latin American getaways and provides tips to help travelers safely discover the local flavor of destinations. The show airs on Wednesday nights at 8:00 pm ET through September. Visit www.TravelChannel.com for more information.