

time off

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# family fun

Let the good times roll with the kids

School is out; summer is here. Enjoy it with family.



**Y**our family won't soon forget these resorts and hotels noted for their quality, service and kid-friendliness. Even better, there are plenty of opportunities for big fun—from pampering to horseback riding to casinos for you, and from kayaking to dance classes to arts and crafts for your children.

## BUDGET-FRIENDLY

**Hyatt Regency Lake Las Vegas Resort, Henderson, Nevada**

**THE KIDS WILL LOVE:** The range of outdoor adventures including fishing, kayaking and scavenger hunts (for children ages 3 to 12) at Camp Hyatt. Rates are \$40 to \$80 per day.

**YOU'LL LOVE:** Getting in tune with nature by hiking in the hills or canoeing on the lake. Luxuriate with a Honey Coconut Body Glow scrub at the Moroccan-inspired Spa Moulay, or check out the infamous Las Vegas strip, only 30 minutes away.

**COST:** Family package, \$149 per room (five-night minimum stay); (800) 633-7313 or lakelasvegas.hyatt.com.

## TRAVEL SMART

### ARE WE THERE YET?

How many times after a family vacation are you left shaking your head in disbelief, wondering why you now need a vacation from the vacation? There are many challenges to traveling with children, particularly young ones. Still, creating cherished family memories can be a sweet reward. Emily Kaufman, author of *The Travel Mom's Ultimate Book of Family Travel* (Broadway Books), shares four tried-and-true ways to survive a family vacation.

**RESEARCH FAMILY ACCOMMODATIONS.** Find out what's offered for children. Look for age-appropriate structured activities and a small adult-to-child ratio. Get over those guilty feelings of thinking you have to spend all your time with the kids. Once you're assured they'll be in good hands, let them have fun while you relax.

**PACK WITH A PURPOSE.** Organize one bag, preferably a hands-free one like a backpack, with your tickets, passports and other travel documents. Buy your child a seat on the plane to be comfortable and

safe. If you have little ones, prepare them for what will happen as you go through airport security: Say "We're going to stand on a long line because we're going through a machine that keeps everyone safe, and you're so lucky that you get to go through it." And gate-check the stroller so it'll be handy when you exit the plane.

**KEEP KIDS OCCUPIED.** No matter the mode of travel, make sure you have toys and games on hand to combat boredom. Pack a bag of little surprises to pull out during the trip, like a craft kit or new book. Or if it's in the budget, invest in a portable DVD player to keep your child occupied—but don't forget the headphones. And be sure to pack healthy snacks to curb cravings.

**MAINTAIN A ROUTINE.** Children are creatures of habit. If your nightly bedtime ritual at home consists of a bath, followed by story time with a favorite book, follow those same steps on vacation. If there's a late-night activity or special family event, adjust the schedule, but keep the routine to help them wind down at bedtime. —M.W. >

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