

FOOD AWARDS! 25 TOP NEW
SUPERMARKET FINDS

SURVIVE A RENOVATION
WHEN YOU HAVE KIDS

EASY VACATIONS THAT WILL
WOW THE WHOLE CREW

Parents®

BEACH DAYS AHEAD!

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LOVING
WAYS TO
SET
LIMITS

“Playing at the beach is our favorite way to spend time as a family,” says Paloma Jonas, with Bowie and Rome.

Bring the Grandparents!

Our No. 1 tip for vacay success: Take along an extra set of hands (or two). These trips offer tons of stuff for everyone to do, plus roomy accommodations to keep the peace.

by LIZ CALLAHAN SCHNABOLK



FLORIDA, FTW

The Sunshine State—voted the top destination in a survey from the Family Travel Association—has way more than Disney. Pack your bags, grab the grands, and head to one of these ocean-side locales.

● Cocoa Beach

If there's one thing that can wow all generations, it's space travel. Your mission: Spend a day at the **Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex**, where kids can touch a real piece of the moon, hold rocket-building materials, and crawl through a replica space

station. The grandparents will also want to take a #humblebrag pic of everyone next to the Atlantis Space Shuttle, ride the launchpad bus tour, and even treat your whole crew to a meal with an astronaut. And, yes, rockets still blast off from here about once a month. (Check

the launch schedule at kennedyspacecenter.com to see if your travel dates match up.) Once you've had your space journey, your fam can move on to beach walks and lunch at the **Westgate Cocoa Beach Pier**, or take a guided kayak tour at the **Brevard Zoo** (you can paddle right through the water exhibits!). Stay at a local Airbnb or book a four-bedroom suite at the just-renovated **Westgate Cocoa Beach Resort**, which will wow your swimmers with an on-site water park.

● St. Augustine

Drop your bags in a condo rental (they're plentiful), then head out to explore the oldest city in the U.S. The area pleases both history-loving grandparents and fun-obsessed kiddos with a focus on pirates. Explore the **Castillo de San Marcos** fort that was constructed to ward off foes, and check out the old city gates built to protect local residents from invasion. There's also the **St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum**, where guides will entertain

● Port Aransas, Texas

Drive over the causeway or take a ferry to **Mustang Island** and head to a pastel-hued rental home in the oceanfront **Cinnamon Shore** enclave. “The community has everything you need right there,” says Melissa Navarro, of Belton, Texas, who visits with extended family every summer. “There are restaurants, live music, and s’mores making. Plus, you can **rent golf carts or beach-cruiser bikes** and be on the beach in minutes.” But don’t expect to lounge around by the waves: Sand-castle building isn’t just for the kids. The area hosts **Texas SandFest**, the largest native-sand sculpture competition in the country, each April. No matter when you visit, book a private castle-making lesson from the **Sandcastle Guy** (sandrum.com), who will put your whole family’s building skills to the test.

● Monterey, California

Whales, dolphins, sea lions, oh, my! This area’s pretty scenery gives way to some epic animal encounters that will excite everyone. Head to the **Monterey Bay Aquarium** bright and early and spring for the before-opening Feeding Frenzy tour, where you’ll get a private sea-otter viewing and kids can even help give the



Monterey



Memphis

animals breakfast. After the aquarium, try a whale-watching boat tour or rent a six-seater surrey bike and pedal down the coast as you look for birds and dolphins. Stay at the **InterContinental The Clement Monterey**, which is right on Cannery Row, so grandparents can easily stroll to a coffee

shop or gallery if they need some quiet time. And don’t forget a winery visit in nearby **Carmel Valley**. You have built-in babysitters, after all!

● Memphis

This city is catching up with Nashville as Tennessee’s “It” destination, and offers

multigenerational fun in spades. Have the grands cue up their favorite Elvis tunes on your way to **Graceland**, where your kids can climb onboard the star’s custom jet after you all tour the inside of the mansion. **The Memphis Zoo** is one of only four in the U.S. that has giant pandas, so you know you’re going to spend a while there. Another good stop is the **Children’s Museum of Memphis**, which features indoor rock climbing and a little-kid water table. If you’re up for something really memorable, stay at the pyramid-shaped **Big Cypress Lodge** inside the iconic Bass Pro Shops at the Pyramid. Its 103-room hotel boasts alligator ponds (a glass wall protects visitors), an ocean-themed bowling alley, and observation decks with spectacular views.

GO ALL OUT!

Whether you’ve got something to celebrate or the grandparents are paying (wink, wink), these are trips of a lifetime for travelers young and old.

● Tropical Paradise

Ho’olei at Grand Wailea Resort, Maui

Hawaii is a bucket-list locale for every generation, and these two-story, ocean-view villas that sleep eight are the ultimate home base. The villas have their own pool with a waterfall rock feature (expect your little mermaid to do her best Ariel impression) as well as access to the Grand Wailea’s six pools (including one with a rope swing and another just for grown-ups). The whole fam can take hula lessons, make leis, or rent a kayak. The grands might especially appreciate the golf or the botanical and cultural tours. Ask them to babysit at



Maui