

# Travel

The New York Times

## 20 Family-Friendly Ideas to Get You Going

In December, my son, Seth, scored Massachusetts as No. 40 on his running list of states visited. At 15, his travel list includes 22 countries and five continents. Perhaps it's no surprise that an atlas permanently resides on our kitchen table. Traveling with him from the pliable stroller-and-sippy-cup stage to the opinionated teenage present, my husband and I have learned that the rewards in education, bonding and entertainment vastly outweigh the temporary pains of jet lag, flat tires

or moody exhaustion. Trips as short as one day have allowed us to temporarily escape daily routines, mandated by work, school and household chores, that tend to separate us even when we're in the same home. Offering inspiration to pack the car and board the dog, the following 20 suggestions represent new trips and fresh attractions around the country designed to appeal to a range of travel styles, from action-filled to back-to-school.

ELAINE GLUSAC



Northeast



Midwest



South



West

### Resort



#### CAPE COD, MASS.

Confront a great white shark in "Jaws" territory with new research-focused excursions offered by Chatham Bars Inn with the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy. Guests 18 and older can participate in a full-day research trip with the conservancy's scientists (\$2,500 for two), but there is no age limit on one-hour scientist-guided boat trips, beginning in July, to areas frequented by great whites including sandbars where sharks prey on gray seals (\$50 per person). Researchers also give complimentary educational talks on the property twice weekly. Rooms from \$495; [chathambarsinn.com](http://chathambarsinn.com).

#### MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH.

Wedge between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, Mackinac Island bans motorized vehicles, offering traffic-free biking on its many roads, including the popular 8.3-mile-circumference route. While the island's appeal is timeless, thanks to the landmark Grand Hotel and the auto ban, its second-largest resort, Mission Point, was recently acquired by new owners who have renovated rooms, installed a meditation maze in the garden and brought barrel-aged cocktails to the bar. An appointed "kite master" will lead twice-weekly kite-flying workshops on the 18-acre property. Rooms from \$109; [missionpoint.com](http://missionpoint.com).

#### MEMPHIS

For sheer novelty, it will be hard to top a hunting-themed resort lodged in an Egyptian-inspired pyramid. The newly opened Big Cypress Lodge, along with an outlet of Bass Pro Shops, will anchor the former sports arena known as the Memphis Pyramid, with 105 rooms designed in homage to hunting cabins, with wood and corrugated metal walls; set in an indoor swamp. The building will also house 10 aquariums, a duck aviary, archery range, bowling alley and 32-story observation deck. Rooms from \$235; [big-cypress.com](http://big-cypress.com).

#### OAHU, HAWAII

Oahu's North Shore is the epicenter of big wave surfing in winter, when the curls are best left to the pros. But in summer, the ocean is calmer and ideal for learning the sport. Book a room at the newly refurbished 410-room Turtle Bay Resort, which offers surf lessons as well as horseback riding, stand-up paddling and fishing on its 840 acres. Rooms from \$299; [turtlebayresort.com](http://turtlebayresort.com).