

Cruising Kids Three Most Popular Cruise Destinations for Kids

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Decadent buffets, VIP service, round-the-clock entertainment, and exotic shore excursions it's easy to see why more and more Americans than ever before are shelling out big bucks for long, relaxing cruises on ships the size of small cities. Kids love cruising, too, on the precise ships heading to the perfect places and parents are booking cruises for their family vacations. Everyone knows that if the kids aren't pleased on a family vacation, then the parents aren't pleased either. That's why it's best for parents to do their research and figure out before they book an extravagant cruise to New England whether or not their kids will be miserable with their decision.

Bear in mind that cruising is as much around the knowledge at sea as it is about the outings and destinations. Discovering cruise ships that cater to children young and old will assist you relax between ports of call. Three cruise ships that are family friendly are Disney, Royal Caribbean, and Princess. As for destinations, the Caribbean, Hawaii and Alaska are perennial favorites for children and are reachable by the aforementioned ships that cater to children and offer family friendly shore excursions.

Disney's ships, Magic and Wonder, stop at several ports of call in the Caribbean, and they provide both their shore excursions and on-board activities to families. For longer 7-day cruises, families stay at a resort three days prior to boarding the ship and have an chance to visit theme parks in the area. Families are transferred by land to the ship, which docks in Port Canaveral, and visit a variety of ports, including St. Maarten, St. Thomas, Nassau, and Disney's own private island Castaway Cay. The stop in Nassau, for example, offers both children and adults a few of shore excursions that explore the old historic town and the pristine blue waters and bountiful ocean existence. Children can sail through the water on a catamaran, power boat, or glass bottom boat, cavort with sting rays or dolphins, or snorkel through the aquatic reefs. While adults take the opportunity to shop or gamble, kids can have their hair braided into dozens of tiny cornrows. Don't forget that, after December 2006, all cruises to the Caribbean will demand visitors to have a passport.

A cruise to Hawaii is another tropical adventure that kids will enjoy if the seashore excursions are family friendly. Both Royal Caribbean and Princess cruise lines offer trips to the Aloha State that the whole family can enjoy. Cruises often stop at islands as diverse as Honolulu, Kona, Oahu, Hilo, and Maui. Kids can visit Waikiki beach, swim in Hanauma Bay, or see aquatic life in a submarine or a glass bottom boat. They can swim with the dolphins, snorkel with the sea turtles, or go whale watching. On dry land, they can go horseback riding, discover about Polynesian culture, or witness volcanic geology firsthand, seeing molten lava roll into the sea. Adults may even fancy introducing their family to kayaking and sport fishing. The opportunities for adventure in Hawaii are as diverse as the island itself, but they can be pricey. Always plan in advance what you would like to spend your cash on, and consider the selection of seeking excursions on your own while you are in port.

Alaska, the land of glaciers and ice, may not be quite the same as a tropical island in the Caribbean or Pacific, but, given the right ship, it offers exceptional adventures for both children and adults alike. Both Princess and Royal Caribbean offer family friendly cruises to Alaska. Active families can kayak in Prince William Sound, bicycle around a glacier fed lake, or hike through an Alaskan rainforest. For an educational experience, kids can see a wildlife preserve for eagles, take a wildlife safari, or go on a whale watching excursion. As beautiful as Alaska is, however, younger children might not be able to cherish the sites, so keep your childrens age in mind.

Whether you plan on a cruise to the Caribbean, Hawaii, or Alaska, it's substantial to be aware of a few simple suggestions to have the best shore excursion possible. Bear in mind your childrens strengths and weakness; don't book a catamaran ride or lengthy bus ride for children prone to motion sickness. Be sure the shore excursions aren't too long, and remember to bring snacks along. Lastly, once you decide on the perfect excursion, book it as soon as possible, either online or right when you arrive, and don't forget to arrange babysitting beforehand for young children who may need to stay on board. Whatever your family decides to do, whether you plan for gold or take a horseback ride to a glacier, your kids are sure to have an once-in-a-lifetime experience.