

FamilyFun

GREAT MEMORIES START HERE

10 BEST EVER VACATIONS!

**BUNNY
COOKIES!
PINK PUNCH!**
SWEET RECIPES
PERFECT FOR
EASTER

**4 COOL
UPCYCLED
CRAFTS**

2017
FamilyFun
Travel
Awards!

**5-MINUTE
APRIL FOOL'S
TRICKS**
YOU CAN
TOTALLY PULL
THESE OFF!

**PLAYFUL
WAYS TO
TEACH
MONEY
SMARTS**

979
402#
P766
06979
S
6979
HAROLD H CHASKEY
260 SMITH DR
PLATTSBURGH NY 12901-7021
#BXDVL *****FIRM**CAR-RT LOT**C-008
#FFN00609785/4# ABC010461

APRIL 2017



The 2017
FamilyFun
Travel
Awards

From campgrounds to cruises,
beaches to big cities, these chart-topping
destinations—all approved by families
like yours—promise priceless memories.

BY RANI ARBO

explore

IDEAS FOR **GETAWAYS** BIG AND SMALL

*Would your clan
prefer to explore
a bustling city or
play in the surf?*

The best vacations are thrilling, relaxing, and unforgettable. They stretch us a little *and* make us feel like Goldilocks: that we've come to just the right place. That's why each year *FamilyFun* asks moms and dads nationwide to cast a particularly joyous and uncontested vote for their gang's favorite destinations. One of our respondents perfectly summed up why we eternally scrimp and save to make these getaways happen: "It was one of the greatest weeks of my life, spent with my family without a care in the world. My little guy laughed nonstop. I wish we could have frozen time and lived like that forever." With thanks to our 2,000-plus voters, here are ten places to freeze time with the ones you love.

Snorkelers can spot turtles, fish, and rays right off Maui's Kaanapali Beach. Flip to page 70 for more!



Best for
Ski Bums

Gore Mountain Ski Resort

North Creek, New York

A DAY IN WASHINGTON, D.C., IS THE BEST SORT OF HISTORY LESSON, the kind that whizzes by before you even realize you've learned something. For starters, it's where government actually happens. Take a White House tour to see where the President lives (book through your congressperson 21 days to three months in advance) or choose a touchscreen tour at the National Park's free White House Visitor Center next door. Other tours include the Capitol (book online at visitthecapitol.gov), the Library of Congress, the National Archives (home to the Declaration of Independence), and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (watch stacks of bills roll through the printers).

As if that weren't enough, the city's spectacular and (mostly) free museums and public monuments offer a great way to dig deep into topics from astronomy to African-American history. Top picks include the National Museum of Natural History, the National Museum of the American Indian, and the National Postal Museum. The new National Museum of African American History & Culture is so popular that you'll need a timed ticket to enter (book on the museum's website the day of your visit). Then check out nps.gov/nama for a map and guide to the monuments on the National Mall.

When your crew is full up on history, head to the National Zoo to meet three of D.C.'s most famous residents: the giant pandas Mei Xiang, Tian Tian, and Bei Bei.

► **WHERE TO STAY** For a hotel near the Mall and Capitol, try Holiday Inn Capitol or Residence Inn Capitol, both with pools (rooms range from \$109 to \$399 a night).

► **GET MORE INFO** washington.org

► **RUNNERS-UP** Mackinac Island, MI; Boston; San Simeon, CA



Best
for History
Bufs

Washington, D.C.

THIS ONE WAS THE BIG SURPRISE—AND THE HIDDEN GEM—OF OUR 2017 SURVEY.

A state-owned ski resort on 439 acres within the Adirondack Wilderness Preserve, New York's Gore Mountain feels like a local hangout while offering some of the largest, wildest, and emptiest terrain in the East. You won't find slopeside condos, an après-ski scene, or fancy food here, but you will find uncrowded trails on four peaks, gorgeous Adirondack views, excellent glade skiing (for experts), low prices, and nonexistent lift lines. While only 10 percent of the mountain is ranked for beginners, ski and snowboard schools get newbies onto the blue trails (where the mountain really shines) quickly and cheaply. A three-day intro program (ages 13 and up) with rentals, lift tickets, and a daily 90-minute lesson costs just \$169; a full-day ski or snowboard program (for ages 4 to 12) costs \$127 per day (\$157 with rentals). One-day weekend lift tickets are \$83 for adults, \$65 for teens, \$46 for ages 7 to 12, and free for ages 6 and under.

► **WHERE TO STAY** Try Gore Mountain Lodge (from \$200 a night weekdays, \$252 weekends), The Alpine Lodge (from \$179 a night, plus \$15 per child), or an apartment with a kitchen at Summit at Gore Mountain, which offers an indoor pool (\$888 for two nights).

► **GET MORE INFO** goremountain.com

► **RUNNERS-UP** Boyne Mountain, Boyne Falls, MI; Crested Butte, CO; Snowshoe, WV

The National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center, in nearby Chantilly, VA, gives kids an up-close look at the Boeing Aviation Hangar.

