

Family Travel Roundup

BY MIRIAM PORTER

For families travelling with children, summer is the perfect time to gather your group and explore the world. With a new adventure around every corner, now is the time to make memories with your loved ones that will last a lifetime.



Sleep overnight in a castle

With the royal spirit still in the air from the recent wedding, why not have your own storybook experience and sleep overnight in a castle? **Culzean Castle** in Scotland is located on the edge of a magnificent cliff with breathtaking views of the Isle of Arran (50 miles south of Glasgow). Kids will feel like royalty waking up in a palace packed with rich history dating back to the 1700s. The Aisla suite accommodates two extra beds, perfect for kids, although they may prefer the fancy red four-poster canopy. Save time to check out the armoury display, winding oval staircase, drawing room, kitchen, and library, situated within the walls of the Medieval Tower House. celticcastles.com/castles/culzean/?source=searchhead



Meet rescued animals

Noah's Ark Animal Sanctuary located in Locust Grove, Georgia (near Atlanta), is a non-profit educational sanctuary for rescued exotic and farm animals. Each year, the organization rehabilitates hundreds of animals through its unique wildlife program. Over 1,500 animals that were abused, unwanted or neglected call Noah's Ark home and live among 250 acres in a park like setting. Families can meet the animals on a free self-guided tour or take a Wow tour for an exclusive behind-the-scenes glimpse into their lives. Meet Gideon the Syrian brown bear, Suki the tiger and Clark Gable the spider monkey—all with their own inspiring rescue story. noahs-ark.org



Kayak through the wilderness

Take a break from action-packed theme parks and get back to nature right in Orlando. **Wekiwa Springs State Park** is located at the headwaters of the Wekiwa River and dates back to the times of the Timucuan Indians living off the land. There are 13 miles of rustic trails for hiking, biking and picnicking among the drooping trees, marshes and wetlands. Rent a kayak or canoe at the concession and paddle along past wild turtles, fish, lizards and even small alligators. The park also has camping, swimming, birding, snorkelling and a playground for those visitors that truly want to be at one with nature. floridastateparks.org/park/Wekiwa-Springs



Meet Anne of Green Gables

It's no secret Prince Edward Island is home to all things Anne of Green Gables. But did you know families can experience countless activities related to Anne over the summer? Anne Shirley, a fictional character made famous by author Lucy Maud Montgomery, is a lively, energetic and imaginative red-haired orphan that won the hearts of children around the world. Head to **Green Gables Heritage Place** in Cavendish (inside Prince Edward Island National Park) for a stroll through Anne's home, the famous "Lovers Lane," and Balsam Hollow trails. Meet smiling Anne in person at Green Gables, as she welcomes visitors to the island.

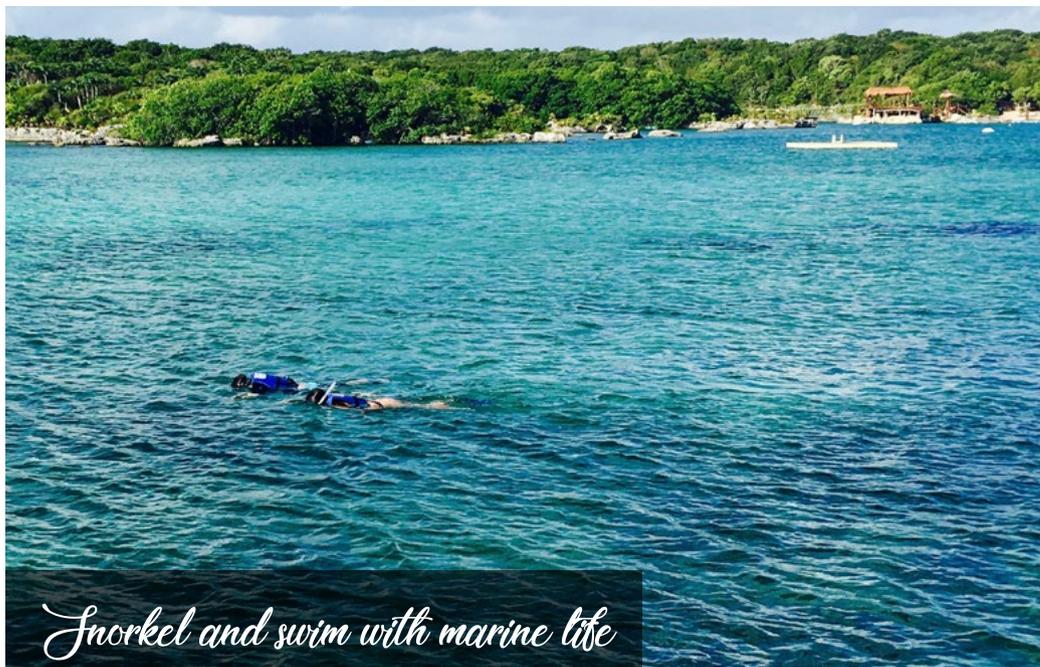
pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/pe/greengables



Soar over Jamaica

Mystic Mountain Rain Forest Adventures in Ocho Rios will have your family soaring high over Jamaica at 700 feet above sea level in the Sky Explorer. This canopy ride resembles a ski lift and takes you over lush green trees full of fruit that's close enough to pick, and chirping birds. From the top, you can safely twist down a 1,000-metre-long mountainside track in a high-tech Jamaican-inspired bobsled. Driven by gravity, you'll coast through the rainforest. Mystic Mountain is also home to a hummingbird garden, nature trail, zip line, infinity pool and mystic waterslide.

rainforestadventure.com/pages/mystic-mountain



Snorkel and swim with marine life

Xel-Ha, an all-inclusive nature park in the heart of the stunning Riviera Maya, will have your crew drifting along inner tubes through a natural river. Float, swim or snorkel past freshwater mangroves, inlets, marine vegetation and swimming fish. Older kids can test their bravery at the Cliff of Courage jump, rope cross, zip line and splash down a massive twirling waterslide. For a resort catering to families with kids of all ages, check into The **Iberostar Paraiso Maya** (30 minutes from Cancun airport), located along a gorgeous stretch of white sandy beach. This all-inclusive experience includes nine pools, a winding lazy river, ping-pong, poolside bingo and nightly entertainment, where kids are dancing stars on the grand stage as part of the nightly entertainment.

xelha.com

iberostar.com/en/hotels/riviera-maya/iberostar-paraiso-maya

TRAVEL TIPS:

- Whether you travel by plane, train, car or bus, when travelling with young children, consider weight and liquid restrictions, and don't forget lightweight books, small toys and endless snacks.
- Single parents should ensure kids can carry their own bags, even if it means packing less items.
- Consider bending the rules on electronics for long-haul trips, and download favourite shows and educational games in advance.
- When planning your time in the destination, put one big activity on the schedule per day, especially when travelling with multiple kids. Bring one backpack filled with healthy snacks, water, maps, sunblock, wipes, Band-Aids and any necessary meds. Bigger kids can take turns carrying it.
- Exploring a new city or island is always exciting, so even if your day doesn't go exactly as planned, turn everything into an adventure.