



How to Save Money (and Still Have Fun) on a Family Vacation

Doing the same thing day in and day out for too long can make you feel a little stir crazy, whether it's work, school, or keeping the house from falling apart. That's why it's important to make time in your schedule for a great family vacation. Getting time away from your regular routine will help you and your kids reset so everyone can tackle [whatever's on their plate](#).

However, many families delay or even avoid vacations [due to budget concerns](#). If you don't have a lot of money to spend on a big trip to an amusement park or luxury resort, it can be hard to figure out how to make a vacation work. Fortunately, there are plenty of ways to take a trip without throwing your entire budget out of whack.

Split Costs with Another Family

One of the simplest ways to reduce costs is to split them with someone else. If you have siblings with kids or family friends who might also need a little time away, consider planning a [large group vacation](#). That way, you can share the cost of a vacation rental and even save on food costs by taking turns making dinner yourselves.

This comes with plenty of benefits that aren't just financial. If you have two sets of adults there, you can take turns staying with the kids so the other couple can get a night out to themselves. Depending on how old your kids are, with a larger group you may even be able to split up during outings, sparing you the cost and hassle of chaperoning activities you'd never pick for yourself.

BYO Entertainment

Most family-friendly events happen during the daytime, so you may feel at a loss for what to do at night. If you haven't planned some form of entertainment at your hotel or vacation rental, your kids might get bored and restless. Don't let the pressure to find something to do force you to spend money on expensive meals or outings you wouldn't have had an interest in otherwise.

Instead, bring your own entertainment for evenings and other chunks of downtime. [Board games](#) are a great pick for this — just make sure you pick one that can suit the age of everyone coming along. You can also bring your streaming device to watch [HD movies or shows](#) if your rental will have good WiFi or data service. If you are relying on data, however, make sure you have a generous (or, ideally, unlimited) data plan. Streaming can take a [big chunk of data](#), and you don't want to be stuck with a surprise bill afterward.

Embrace the Outdoors

Another great way to plan an enjoyable vacation on a budget is to [plan a camping trip](#). Since campsite fees are usually pretty low per night, this can be a super low-cost way to travel, especially if you already have gear such as tents and [sleeping bags](#). If you don't, look into outdoors shops near you and see if any have any kind of [gear rental program](#). You can also ask friends and family if anyone has a camper or gear you might be able to borrow for the trip.

If you go this route, be sure to research plenty of [camping safety tips](#) and take all the proper precautions to secure your tents, gear, and food while you sleep or head away from the campsite. Also, pick a location that has plenty of hiking, site-seeing, and campsites with family-friendly reputations. Since you'll save so much on the day rate, you'll be able to put more of your budget toward outdoor activities such as zip-lining and ropes courses. This makes a camping trip the perfect choice for the active family on a budget.

Breaking away from the daily grind will give your family a deserved break. Don't let big, expensive vacation expectations get in the way of having a great time; instead, find your perfect budget-friendly way to explore!

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