

trips with children in new england a yankee magazine guidebook

Trips with Children in New England: A Yankee Magazine Guidebook

New England is a treasure trove of family-friendly destinations, making it an ideal region for trips with children. Whether you're exploring picturesque coastal towns, hiking through lush forests, or discovering the rich history of the region, there's no shortage of engaging activities for families. This guidebook, inspired by Yankee Magazine, aims to provide you with a comprehensive overview of some of the best trips with children in New England, ensuring that your family adventures are both memorable and enjoyable.

Exploring the Great Outdoors

New England is renowned for its stunning natural landscapes, from the Appalachian Mountains to the Atlantic coastline. Here are some of the best outdoor activities that families can enjoy together:

1. Acadia National Park, Maine

Acadia National Park is a must-visit destination for families who love the outdoors. The park features:

- **Scenic Drives:** The Park Loop Road offers breathtaking views and numerous pull-offs for photo opportunities.
- **Family-Friendly Trails:** Choose from several easy hiking trails like Jordan Pond Path, where children can enjoy the sights of the famous Bubbles Mountains.
- **Ranger Programs:** Participate in ranger-led activities tailored for kids to learn about the park's ecology and history.

2. White Mountains, New Hampshire

The White Mountains are perfect for families looking for adventure. Here's what to do:

- **Mount Washington:** Take the cog railway to the summit for stunning views or hike one of the kid-friendly trails.
- **Story Land:** A whimsical amusement park in Glen, Story Land is perfect for younger children, featuring rides, characters, and live shows.
- **Franconia Notch State Park:** Visit the Flume Gorge, a natural gorge extending 800 feet and offering a series of walking trails.

3. Cape Cod, Massachusetts

Cape Cod is known for its family-friendly beaches and charming villages. Activities include:

- **Beaches:** Relax on the sandy shores of Nauset Beach or Skaket Beach, which are perfect for young children.
- **Whale Watching:** Take a boat tour from Provincetown to observe whales in their natural habitat.
- **Biking:** Rent bikes and ride along the Cape Cod Rail Trail, a scenic 22-mile path suitable for all ages.

Cultural and Historical Experiences

New England is rich in history and culture, offering families various educational and fun experiences.

1. Boston, Massachusetts

A trip to Boston provides a perfect mix of history and fun:

- **Freedom Trail:** Walk this 2.5-mile trail that passes 16 historical sites, making history come alive for kids.
- **Boston Children's Museum:** A hands-on museum designed to spark children's creativity and curiosity.
- **New England Aquarium:** Visit the aquarium to see unique marine life, including the playful sea otters and the giant ocean tank.

2. Plimoth Patuxet Museums, Massachusetts

Engage with history at Plimoth Patuxet, where families can:

- **Learn about Colonial Life:** Experience life in the 17th century, complete with costumed interpreters and interactive exhibits.
- **Visit the Wampanoag Homesite:** Gain insight into the culture and traditions of the Wampanoag people.
- **Participate in Crafts:** Children can engage in hands-on activities such as making corn husk dolls.

3. Mystic Seaport, Connecticut

Mystic Seaport is a re-creation of a 19th-century coastal village, ideal for family visits:

- **Historic Ships:** Explore the tall ships and learn about maritime history.
- **Interactive Exhibits:** Engage with exhibits that allow children to participate in hands-on activities related to sailing and shipbuilding.
- **Boat Rides:** Enjoy a scenic boat ride along the Mystic River.

Unique Attractions for Families

In addition to natural wonders and historical sites, New England boasts a variety of unique attractions that can make family trips unforgettable.

1. The Ben & Jerry's Factory, Vermont

Ice cream lovers will relish a visit to the Ben & Jerry's Factory in Waterbury, Vermont:

- **Tours:** Take a guided tour to learn how ice cream is made, see the

production process, and indulge in a sample!

- **Flavor Graveyard:** Explore the graveyard dedicated to retired flavors, which adds a fun twist to the visit.

2. The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Massachusetts

For families with young children, this museum in Amherst is a delightful destination:

- **Art Exhibits:** Explore vibrant exhibits focused on children's literature.
- **Storytime Sessions:** Participate in interactive storytime sessions that captivate young audiences.
- **Craft Activities:** Kids can engage in art-making activities inspired by the exhibits.

3. The Museum of Science, Boston

The Museum of Science combines education with entertainment:

- **Interactive Exhibits:** Explore hands-on exhibits that cover various scientific fields, including physics, biology, and engineering.
- **Live Animal Shows:** Watch live presentations featuring animals and learn about their habitats.
- **Planetarium:** Enjoy an immersive experience in the planetarium, where families can learn about stars and space.

Tips for Traveling with Children in New England

Planning trips with children requires some extra thought to ensure a smooth experience. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

1. **Be Flexible:** Children may have different energy levels and interests, so allow for spontaneity in your plans.
2. **Pack Snacks:** Keep a stash of healthy snacks and drinks to keep children fueled throughout the day.
3. **Engage Them:** Involve kids in the planning process. Let them choose activities or destinations that excite them.
4. **Plan Downtime:** Ensure your itinerary includes breaks, allowing children to recharge and enjoy downtime.
5. **Safety First:** Always prioritize safety, especially in crowded tourist areas and outdoor adventures.

Conclusion

Trips with children in New England offer a wonderful blend of adventure, education, and family bonding. From the majestic landscapes of Acadia National Park to the historical richness of Boston, the region presents countless opportunities for exploration and fun. By considering the destinations and tips outlined in this guide, you can create unforgettable memories with your family while discovering the charm of New England. Whether you're a local or visiting for the first time, the experiences you share with your children will be stories they'll treasure for a lifetime.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some popular family-friendly destinations in New England highlighted in the guidebook?

The guidebook features destinations like Acadia National Park in Maine, the Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut, and the Boston Children's Museum, all known for their engaging activities for children.

Does the guidebook provide tips on outdoor activities suitable for kids?

Yes, it includes tips on hiking trails, bike paths, and beaches that are ideal for families, emphasizing safety and accessibility for children.

Are there recommendations for educational experiences in New England for children?

Absolutely! The guidebook recommends visits to places like Plimoth Patuxet Museums and the International Cryptozoology Museum to provide educational and interactive experiences.

What types of accommodations does the guidebook suggest for families traveling with children?

The guidebook suggests family-friendly hotels, cottages, and campgrounds, highlighting amenities like pools, play areas, and proximity to attractions.

Does the guidebook include dining options that cater to children?

Yes, it lists various kid-friendly restaurants and cafes, focusing on menus that appeal to younger palates and family-friendly atmospheres.

How does the guidebook address traveling with children during peak tourist seasons?

It offers strategies for avoiding crowds, such as visiting popular sites early in the morning or later in the afternoon, and suggests lesser-known attractions that are still engaging for kids.

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