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How to Make the Most of Family Vacations This Year

As the holidays and the new year get closer, many families are already starting to think about what they'll do next. Will you finally feel comfortable traveling? Or would you feel safer sticking close to home? Whether you're thinking about visiting family for Christmas or jetting off a sunny vacation during spring break, pandemic planning is a must. Keep your plans flexible, prioritize safety, and look for COVID-friendly activities that will help you and your kids get the most out of your time off!

Plan to Unplug

You've waited so long to finally have a vacation. The last thing you should be doing is working. As [ZenBusiness](#) reminds us, vacations and work are like oil and vinegar. To fully enmesh yourself in family fun, and to be completely present, it's important to unplug from work. Even if you run your own business, you need to be able to step away. Talk with your supervisor or staff to create a strategy that ensures tasks are accomplished while you're away. Alert clients to your absence, and craft an out-of-office response with a promise to get in touch as soon as you return. The ability to fully disconnect will help you make the most of this precious time.

Stay Close to Home

You don't have to travel far to enjoy a break from school. If you're hesitant about making travel plans amid the uncertainty of the pandemic, consider staying close to home. There are countless fun things you can do outside with your kids! For example, Super Healthy Kids [suggests](#) helping your kids build an outdoor fort, creating a scavenger hunt, turning your yard into an obstacle course, and trying a new sport in your backyard.

If your kids are going to be spending a lot of time outside during school breaks, invest in some [outdoor safety upgrades](#). Fencing is great for protecting your little ones from traffic, water features, and other hazards that may exist around your property. It costs an average of \$4,500 to install a new fence, but your price will depend on your fence's size, location, and materials. Consult local contractors to get quotes for your fence build. Reading online reviews is a great way to evaluate potential candidates. Just make sure to find [fencing contractors near me](#) who are licensed and insured!

Travel Domestically

While a number of [countries](#) are currently welcoming American tourists, you may have to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test and adhere to strict restrictions during your visit. Domestic travel may be easier—and safer—than trying to get into another country during the pandemic. The CDC reports that people who are fully vaccinated can travel safely within the U.S. Just make sure you follow all state and local requirements when it comes to mask-wearing and social distancing.

Not sure where to go? The U.S. is home to countless exciting destinations! If you're looking to [escape](#) the cold weather over the winter holidays, consider visiting California, Florida, or Arizona. If, on the other hand, you're looking to spend your holidays enjoying your favorite [winter activities](#), head up North. You could also take advantage of time off to visit family you haven't seen in a while, and make a pitstop at [Country Roads Family Farm](#) so everyone can stretch their legs, get a bit to eat and enjoy the 12,000-square foot indoor play barn.

Take a Road Trip

If you want to travel but you're not so sure about packing your family into an airplane, consider loading everyone into the car for a cross-country road trip! Road trips allow for a more [laidback](#) form of travel. You don't have to rush to make any flights and you can stop and stretch whenever the kids start getting cranky. When you embark on a road trip, the journey is just as fun as the destination!

For the most stress-free and enjoyable [road trip experience](#), pick a destination that other travelers often overlook so you can beat the crowds. Consider camping instead of staying in hotels if you're looking to keep your trip budget-friendly. As an added plus, camping means you won't have to worry about the cleanliness of every hotel room you visit. Still, you'll want to be

careful to keep germs at bay. Wear a mask in crowded places, pack hand sanitizer, and consider bringing disposable gloves to wear at rest stops and gas stations. Even if you're not too worried about catching COVID-19, practicing good hygiene will protect you and your family from all kinds of germs out on the road.

Now that we have a better understanding of the coronavirus and a large portion of the population is vaccinated, families finally have a few holiday options beyond staying at home. Still, if you feel better about keeping your holidays local, don't feel like you're missing out by saving your trips for another year. You can have a great time with your kids at home!