

Loaded down with luggage and packed with kids, your car idles in the driveway. You take care of a few last-minute details then hop in the driver's seat, finally off on your fun family vacation. No sooner are you rumbling down the highway when you hear the inevitable—complaints of boredom coming from the back seat, already!

Don't let boredom hamper one minute of your family vacation. A few simple travel tips can transform that once boring vacation into one your children may never forget.

Plan for a Kid-Fun Destination >>

When traveling with children, success comes in the form of planning. If you're taking the kids along to London so that you and your spouse can go to museums and have afternoon tea, you may be asking for trouble. Boredom begins when children are asked to entertain themselves too long or to take part in something not age-appropriate. So, the first step is to have your Carlson Wagonlit Travel planner help you plan a kid-friendly vacation.

This year, consider a vacation destination that offers kid-friendly programs, such as an all-inclusive resort or a cruise ship. The additional benefit is that most are designed to keep children entertained and give Mom and Dad a few minutes of alone time.

The Royal Caribbean International cruise line launched its Adventure Ocean® Youth Programs for kids ages 3 to 17. Children can enjoy specially designed programs geared toward their age group. Teens can spend time in the teen lounge or dance the night away in the teen-only nightclub. Parents can rest assured that their children are in good hands as every member of their staff is qualified to work with children.

Or, if your family is not the seafaring type, head to Club Med Sandpiper, nestled on the St. Lucie River in Florida, where its children's programs (for ages 4 months through teenagers) are topnotch. This family-oriented tennis and golf club is also designed to give kids an opportunity to try



>> KEEP BOREDOM AT BAY—

and your sanity—by embarking on a trip that includes fun activities for the young travelers in your family.

From 'boring'



**Kid-friendly
tips for
travel-savvy
parents.**

By Suzy Feine

To 'A **BLAST!**

5 Tips for a Fun Trip

- **Have Fun in the Sun.** Cruise ships and beach resorts offer kid-friendly programming.
- **Ride in Style.** Your car can't handle five people and 10 suitcases? Rent a larger one.
- **Spend the Night.** A day spent traveling in the car should be rewarded with a kid-friendly hotel.
- **Give Your Kids the Window Seat.** To prevent restless kids from roaming about the cabin, take the aisle seat.
- **Buy a New Toy.** That magnetic checkerboard may not cut it anymore with junior in the backseat. Get interactive.

new activities, such as Club Med's Circus School or the new Hip Hop Kidz dance program. Meanwhile, parents can rejuvenate with a massage or take golf or tennis lessons.

Hit the Road >>

Before you get to your vacation destination, it's important to take steps to make each leg of the trip enjoyable. Here are a few tips:

- Nothing sours a vacation faster than car problems. If you're traveling by car and your vehicle is not up to par, consider renting one. Plus, if you rent a car larger than your own, your family can

travel in comfort. This summer, Avis is offering Carlson Wagonlit Travel customers an exclusive "Kids Ride Free" program, which includes a free car seat with a weekly rental. Call your local agent for details.

- Start your adventure by popping in Rebecca Frezza's new CD, *Road Trip*, for fun, family-oriented travel lyrics to launch you on your way.
- Pack a cooler filled with treats and drinks, but avoid sweets and caffeine, as they tend to make children hyper.
- Make plans for your first stop so that your children know in advance how long they must sit and keep

themselves entertained. But be flexible! If the grumbling begins, consider a quick pit stop for a change of scenery and to stretch those legs.

Take a Break >>

If your travel plans include multiple days in the car, select a hotel for your evening respite that is tailored to children. Many offer water parks or kid-friendly programs that include in-room movies, video games, or other amenities just for kids. Country Inns & Suites By Carlson® is offering the Summer Family BookBreak

Package featuring Lemony Snicket. The package includes a great rate and book bag, and coincides with the introduction of a family book section in the hotel's popular in-house lending library, "Book It And Return."

Fly Right >>

If you're traveling by plane, purchase meals from the airport since many airlines no longer provide meals onboard. You may also want to bring snacks—dried fruit, individually wrapped cheese slices, or cereals packed in Ziploc bags—on your

Q&A EXPERT ADVICE

Mary Davis, branch manager of Passageways/Carlson Wagonlit Travel in Novi, Michigan, travels frequently with her two young children. She offers some of her kid-savvy travel tips.

Q: How do you keep your own children entertained while on a vacation?

A: I bring along lots of books and tapes. These really keep them entertained and educated at the same time.

Q: What should parents avoid when traveling with children?

A: Avoid anything that does not keep their attention span, such as long entrance lines, boring waits, or too much time spent doing one thing.

Q: How long should a parent expect a child to travel comfortably in the car?

A: Children can usually travel for up to two hours at a time. It's important for children to take "leg" breaks, giving them a change to get out, stretch, and maybe run off a little energy before getting back in the car.

Q: What is the best way to keep teens entertained?

A: Keeping their minds occupied is key. Bring portable DVD players, games, books, or whatever they enjoy doing. —S. F.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY AGEFOTO (BOTTOM LEFT)

journey. Also, bring along plenty of water or juice as air travel can dehydrate children. Plan to eat once the plane takes off, and with a little luck that full tummy might send your little ones into dreamland. If not, come prepared with games and activities your child can play with comfortably in a small space. Older kids can bring their CD players, read books, or watch the onboard movie if it's age-appropriate. Some airlines provide activities for children, so make sure to ask your flight attendant what's available.

Seat children next to the window and you on the aisle to keep them from moving about the cabin. If you're traveling with your spouse, consider booking one seat away from the

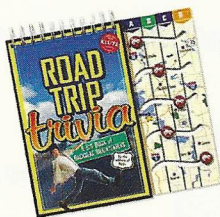
children so you can take turns resting.

Entertain 'Em >>>

Whether you're traveling by car or plane, a few travel toys can keep the kids engaged for hours.

But don't think you can simply load up a backpack with some of their tried-and-true favorites. Purchase some of these travel-friendly toys:

- **Travel Lite-Brite** by Hasbro is a battery-operated mini-version of the all-time favorite and is ideal for the creative genius in the back seat.



- **Rand McNally** knows traveling and these activity books are brimming with information, maps, games, and trivia: *Kids' Road Atlas, Coast-to-Coast Games*, and *Best Travel Activity Book Ever*.
- Stimulate little minds by teaching colors, shapes, letters, and words while traveling with the **Twisty Traveling Flash Cards** by Munchkin.

- Older kids will find **Road Trip Trivia: A Big Book of Backseat Brainteasers** by Klutz challenging.
- Or search the **Internet** for printable travel activities. Some sites that offer children's activity sheets include: www.activitiesforkids.com, www.momsmminivan.com, www.familyeducation.com, www.familyfun.go.com, and www.kidsdomain.com. Remember, your goal is to make the entire vacation—from beginning to end—enjoyable for the entire family. You'll be happy and so will the young travelers in the back seat. □

>> **TWISTY** Traveling Flash Cards, *Road Trip Trivia*, and *Travel Lite-Brite* will keep kids entertained for hours.

the insider

Summer Family BookBreak PackageSM featuring Lemony Snicket

Book this special package from now-9/15/04 and you'll receive: Special Family rate, Kids 18 and under stay free*, Free breakfast, Book bag for kids - loaded with terribly fun stuff and much more!

Valid at participating hotels in the United States & Canada: 5/1-9/15/04. This offer may not be used in conjunction with any other package plan, special promotion, group or convention rate, or any other discounted rate. Subject to availability. Restrictions may apply. *Kids 18 and under stay free, in the same room with an adult. Subject to local fire regulations. Contents of Book bags may vary & available while supplies last. One book bag per child, max. 2 book bags per Summer Family BookBreak Package reservation. Book bags not recommended for children under the age of 6. Advance reservations required.



A cozy stay at a comfortable priceSM

7 Night Eastern Caribbean Cruise

Starting at **\$699***

The "family" vacation concept will never be the same again. With *Adventure OceanTM* there are activities for the whole family, plus parents get a bit of free time to themselves.

*Prices are per person, double occupancy, cruise only on select sailings. Government taxes and fees are additional. Certain restrictions apply. All prices are quoted in U.S. dollars. All itineraries and prices are current at time of printing and subject to change without notice.



Get out there.SM

Kids Ride Safe—and FREE

Avis keeps your kids secure with a free LATCH car seat with each weekly rental. Through September 30.

Refer to ad/coupon found on page 2 of this magazine. Coupon valid for a free rental of one child safety seat with any rental of five days or more. Coupon must be surrendered at time of rental; one per rental. May not be used in conjunction with any other coupon, promotion or offer. Coupon valid at participating Avis locations in the contiguous U.S. Offer may subject to blackout periods. Offer may not be available on all rates at all times. Child safety seat and cars subject to availability. An advance reservation with request for a child safety seat is required. Offer may not be available during holiday and other blackout periods. Taxes, concession recovery fees, customer facility charges and other surcharges may apply. Renter must meet Avis age, driver and credit requirements. Minimum age is 25, but may vary by location. Rental must begin by 9/30/04.



Club Med Sandpiper, Florida

7 nts from **\$784**

The best tennis and golf club for family vacations in Florida. Features children's club for ages 4 months and up.

Prices do not include airfare & are valid for new individual bookings only for select travel dates from 7/15-10/30/04. Book dates 7/15-9/15/04. Prices are based on 3 night peak standard rates & are not combinable with any other promotional offer. Reservations must be paid in full at time of booking confirmation & are completely non-refundable once confirmed. 7-night minimum stay required. Prices are subject to availability & may change without notice & are based on double occupancy, superior rooms for new individual bookings only. Holiday blackouts apply. Adult prices apply to all guest 18 and older. Club Med membership fees of \$55 per adult & \$25 per child are additional. Other restrictions apply. Not responsible for errors or omissions.

