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WINTER 2020

DESTINATIONS



WINTER BLUES

Destinations

Living Classroom: Turn Remote Work into a Family Field Trip

By Kate Bustillos



With many families working and learning virtually, taking a flexcation has never been easier. If your family can earn and learn from anywhere in the country, consider hitting the books while you hit the road. These six destinations offer the perfect combination of educational opportunities and family fun.



Hike the hoodoos of Bryce Canyon National Park during your stay at WorldMark St. George through Wyndham Club Pass. »

1. Think Prehistoric

ST. GEORGE, UTAH

St. George is less than 4 hours away from three of Utah's Mighty Five national parks. You can experience the ever-changing geologic history of Zion National Park; examine the effects of erosion on the famous hoodoos of Bryce Canyon; and explore the colorful geodiversity at Capitol Reef.

Study clues left behind by prehistoric giants at [St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm](#), featuring the oldest Jurassic dig site in Utah and its own natural history museum. Dinosaur lovers of all ages can enjoy immersive exhibits, life-size dinosaur replicas, and unique fossils — including the world's largest collection of dinosaur swim tracks.

Just two hours north of St. George, [Fremont Indian State Park and Museum](#) marks the site of an excavated paleolithic village. Aspiring archaeologists can examine ancient artifacts, study well-preserved petroglyphs and pictographs, and even explore inside an original Fremont pithouse.



Spot bison in Yellowstone National Park during your stay at WorldMark West Yellowstone through Wyndham Club Pass. »

2. Walk on the Wild Side

WEST YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA

West Yellowstone is your family's gateway to Yellowstone National Park and a treasure trove of natural wonders. Check out Yellowstone's iconic geyser, Old Faithful, for a thrilling example of geothermal energy.

For close encounters with amazing wildlife, visit the [Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center](#). This wildlife park and educational center provides a haven for animals, like grizzly bears and grey wolves. Learn about animal conservation, ecology, and the importance of helping wildlife stay wild. The animal lover in your family can even virtually adopt one or more of the animal residents.

Less than two hours from West Yellowstone is Montana's first state park, [Lewis and Clark Caverns](#). Venture inside an underground world of dripping stalactites and towering stalagmites sure to inspire your junior geologist. If any explorers in your group prefer to stay above-ground, stop by the visitor center for a trail guide and enjoy scenic hiking trails throughout the park.



Marvel at the pueblo-style architecture during your stay at WorldMark Santa Fe through Wyndham Club Pass or at nearby Club Wyndham Taos. »

3. Preserve Traditions

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Founded in 1610, Santa Fe is America's oldest capital city. With over 200 art galleries and dozens of museums to explore, Santa Fe is world-renowned for its rich arts community and diverse cultural history. Stroll winding streets in Santa Fe Plaza and discover the culinary, architectural, and artistic influence of Spanish, Native American, and Mexican cultures.

Step back in time to 18th- and 19th-century New Mexico at [El Rancho de las Golondrinas](#). This 200-acre living history museum is dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of Hispano traditions. Villagers dressed in traditional clothing demonstrate daily life on the frontier in early New Mexico and provide tours of colonial buildings. Young visitors — and the young at heart — can even participate in a special tour of historic buildings featured in the American Girl Josefina series.

Continue your adventure in the Old West on the [Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad](#), just two hours north of Santa Fe. Climb aboard a real-life time machine — a steam-powered train that has been in operation since 1880. Embark on an exhilarating day trip through the Rocky Mountains from steep canyons to rolling meadows.



During your trip to Club Wyndham Governor's Green, Club Wyndham Kingsgate, or Club Wyndham Patriots' Place, you'll feel like you're transported back in time. »

4. Seek Living History

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Williamsburg sits at the top of Virginia's Historic Triangle, a group of three colonial communities dedicated to preserving and interpreting colonial history in America.

[Colonial Williamsburg](#) is the nation's largest outdoor living history museum, offering over 300 acres of historic sites and authentic 18th-century experiences. Visit a working Historic Trades community for a chance to observe and practice 18th-century techniques for over 20 trades, such as woodworking, blacksmithing, and wig making. Interact with historical figures to learn about the history of American democracy from diverse perspectives.

Dig into history at Jamestown Island. [Historic Jamestowne](#) is an active archaeological dig site and marks the location of America's first permanent settlement. Tour an award-winning archaeological museum, observe 1600's glassblowing techniques, and retrace the steps of English settlers and indigenous tribes on the historic Island Loop Drive. Visit [Jamestown Settlement](#) for the chance to board a working English sailing ship and explore a recreated colonists' fort and Powhatan Indian village.



If you can't visit Ellis Island, you can spot it from the mainland along with the Statue of Liberty during your vacation at Club Wyndham Midtown 45. »

5. Follow History's Footsteps

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

New York City has the highest number of landmarks in the United States. So, if you're looking for a way to see the most historic sites with the least amount of traveling, look no further than the Big Apple.

Follow in the footsteps of over 12 million immigrants at [Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration](#). Experience a glimpse of Ellis Island's immigration process through a tour of the Great Hall, baggage room, and dormitories. The museum's stirring collection of artifacts and exhibits tell the story of America's immigration history and honors the travelers who braved the journey. Your family can also search Ellis Island's [passenger records](#) for distant relatives who arrived in New York seeking new opportunities.

No educational tour itinerary is complete without a visit to the world's largest natural history museum. [The American Museum of Natural History](#) houses 45 permanent exhibition halls and the Hayden Planetarium Space Theater. Wander the museum's colossal 4-story complex and immerse yourself in the wonders of our natural world and the universe beyond. Keep an eye out for the beloved 94-foot blue whale model watching over the museum.



The Lincoln Memorial is a must-see during any Washington, D.C. trip. Stay at Club Wyndham National Harbor or Club Wyndham Old Town Alexandria. »

6. Tour Museums & Memorials

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The U.S. capital is a must-see destination for families learning on the go, especially those seeking to enrich their Civics lessons.

The [National Mall](#), deemed “America’s Front Yard,” hosts some of the city’s most iconic monuments and memorials, including the Lincoln Memorial, the WWII Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. Bike-friendly paths and trails offer a fun and efficient way to visit the sites. Guided tours, like the [Monuments Bike Tour](#), provide a sightseeing adventure that covers the 2 mile stretch in three hours, or go at your own pace with [Capital Bikeshare](#).

With 19 museums, galleries, gardens, and even a zoo, the Smithsonian Institution has exhibits for almost every subject. Learn about the African American experience throughout history at the [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#). View the world’s largest collection of American art at the [Smithsonian American Art Museum](#). Marvel at the unique architecture and indigenous landscaping of the [National Museum of the American Indian](#), designed in collaboration with tribes and Native communities.

[Read more of the Destinations Winter 2020 issue.](#)