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# **MULTI - GENERATIONS - REISEN**

(DREI GENERATIONEN REISEN)

(MULTIGENERATIONAL TRAVEL  
THE NEXT HYPE IN THE TRAVEL INDUSTRIE)

A WEB SURVEY BY  
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## Multi - Generations-Reisen (Drei Generationen Reisen)

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Multi - Generations - Reisen sind seit einiger Zeit sehr im Trend. Aus eigener intensiver Erfahrung weiss ich, dass es zu den schönsten Erlebnissen gehört mit den eignen Kindern und den Grosseltern die Welt zu entdecken.

Wir wissen, dass gerade Beruf und Karriere viele Familien geografisch auseinanderbringt. Aber auch die beruflichen Herausforderungen lassen einem oft nicht die nötige Zeit, um die Liebsten so oft zu sehen, wie man es sich wünscht. Mit unseren Multi - Generations - Reisen bringen wir Sie wieder zusammen. Mindestens während ein paar Familienferientagen.

Lassen Sie sich von uns inspirieren, wir befassen uns seit vielen Jahren mit Multi-Generations-Reise und haben viele spannende Ideen für Sie.

Im Internet haben wir für Sie recherchiert und spannende Geschichten zum Thema Multi - Generations - Reisen zusammengetragen. Diese sollen Sie inspirieren und zeigen, was alles möglich ist.

## Multigenerational Travel Is The 2018 Top Travel Trend, Reports Virtuoso



My 98-year old Mom, and my sister Chris and I, in the lobby of the swanky Shangri-La Hotel in Paris  
Debbi Kickham



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Taking the kids -- and even grandma with you -- that's the top travel trend for 2018, according to luxury travel network [Virtuoso](#). It has revealed that the families continue to travel, in search of experiences that create closer bonds and lasting memories. Connecting with family through travel is one of 2018's must-have experiences.

The Virtuoso Luxe Report found also found that Generation Z -- young people born between the mid-1990s and mid-2010s, who are now 3 to 23 years old, are also major influencers when it comes to travel decisions. The U. S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation has reported that Gen Z influences \$600 billion -- you read that right -- of family spending.

Generation Z seeks authentic, unique experiences -- how about hot-air ballooning over the Masai Mara? I did that years ago on a [Micato Safari](#), and it was a thrill. This generation appreciates adventures they can have only in a particular destination. (Can you say "overwater bungalow" in Bora Bora?)

Virtuoso also examined the top 10 family travel trends this summer. These are:

- 1). Beach resort stays
- 2). Active or adventure trips
- 3). Celebration traveling
- 4). Mother/daughter or Father/son trips
- 5). Guided or private vacations
- 6). Ocean cruising
- 7). Cultural immersion
- 8). Educational trips
- 9) River cruises
- and 10). Exclusive-use travel to a private villa, island, jet or yacht

I have to say -- I traveled two years ago on a [Viking River Cruise](#) with my 98-year-old mother and my sister Christine. This was a huge trip for us, and we wound up in Paris -- where the three of us had not been for 50 years! My Mom was incredible. She is in incredibly good health, and only needs to use a walker. You should have seen her tearing down the Champs Elysees, in search of the perfect lipstick at [Monoprix](#). She was also enthralled when we shopped at the [Fragonard Perfume Museum](#), in search of the perfect scent.



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The "Three Musketeers" -- myself with my 98-year-old Mom and sister -- at a Paris cafe  
Debbi Kickham

I actually can't say enough good things about cruising with your family. Having my cherished Mom and beloved sister with me, sharing the good life, and the wealth of grand experiences that only a cruise can bestow -- was a dream come true for me. The three of us re-bonded, and shared things that made our relationships all the more special. The staff on Viking was exceptional too -- they basically adopted my mother, while the other passengers, who knew her age, admired her with awe and asked about her all the time.

My gorgeous Mom turned 100 this year, and we are going back to Paris this summer, after spending two weeks in Poland with family. Stay tuned!

Want something more unconventional? Virtuoso reports that the some of the Top 10 unusual destinations for families include Iceland, Antarctica, Mongolia, United Arab Emirates, and Croatia.

Let me check in with Mom to see if she wants to bathe in Iceland's Blue Lagoon.

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## The Rise of Multi-Generational Travel

‘So come with me where dreams are born and time is never planned,’ wrote J. M. Barrie in one of the world’s most enchanting novels, Peter Pan. It’s perhaps an enticing message because, in reality, almost all time is planned – the world is a busy place! In fact, sometimes it can feel as though there’s very little time not spent working, sleeping or pursuing a hobby. All of which eats into the best type of time in the world: family time.



Family visiting Paris Montmartre © [Imgorthand/iStock](#)

Who, after all, makes better travel companions than family? When the pace of life slows, communication improves, exciting experiences occur, memories are made and quality time can finally become a reality across a family unit. Most vacationers insist time is more relaxing when several generations are involved, especially as duties (such as babysitting) are spread out instead of concentrated on the parents. Finance, too, plays a large role as a holiday shared is usually better value for money. Perhaps the most important reason, however, is that in a globalized world older

generations prefer to introduce their younger relations to things they've never encountered before in a friendly, secure environment.

Extended families also bring a kaleidoscope of different needs, abilities and desires to the table that make holidays that much more exciting. From outdoorsy types to culture vultures, the need to fulfill a range of different criteria might at first sound tricky to manage, but in reality this is how inventive and often extraordinary vacations come about. It's also a field of compromise, which means everybody gets to try at least one new activity and discover passions they never knew they had. It's often worth remembering that the varied itineraries that families throw up in their discussions tend to require comfortable transport too, which is one of many reasons why guided tours are such a blessing.



Multi-generation family on wooden bridge in forest © [monkeybusinessimages/iStock](https://www.monkeybusinessimages.com/)

Some of the best vacations are those that blend everybody's needs into one great package, so everyone feels like they're getting a fair trade. One destination in particular that makes for fantastic family trips is Central Europe. Grandparents will love the wine, food and opera in Vienna; parents can wander around local Hungarian markets picking up bargains; and kids can marvel at the natural wonders of Plitvice National Park, a wonderland of 16 interconnecting lakes.



Sightseeing in Istanbul © [Martin Dimitrov/iStock](#)

Research shows that it's the trips that pack in plenty of activities that are the most popular when it comes to multi-generational travel. Canada's Rockies is a good example, with opportunities to canoe, hike, take a chopper, indulge in a cruise, and much more. It's the sort of location that will have every generation in awe of the majestic sights on the mountaineer train, and inspire kids to ask the Mounties (a colloquialism for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police) a million and one questions. No matter which trip you choose though, remember: putting family first should be a pleasure, not a chore.

## The rise of multi-generational holidays

Soo Kim, Travel writer  
10 September 2014 • 12:00am



Sixty-six per cent said spending quality time together was their main reason for going on a multi-generational holiday

More than 12.5 million people (18 per cent) in Britain have been on a '3G' holiday, a trip consisting of at least three generations, in the last year.

Eighty per cent of travellers felt having multiple generations together had a positive impact on the holiday, according to new research by Sainsbury's Travel Insurance.

Sixty-six per cent of those surveyed said spending quality time with the family was their main reason for going away, with just over a quarter (26 per cent) saying they were making up for family time lost due to busy schedules at home or living far apart from each other.

About a third (32 per cent) said the holiday was more enjoyable than a conventional holiday, while about a fifth (19 per cent) said it was more relaxing as a result of having multiple generations in the mix. Just under a quarter took their relations with them to celebrate a birthday, wedding or other family event.

Cost-cutting benefits and shared childcare duties were also among the reasons for going on a multi-generational break. Twelve per cent of travellers were motivated by the chance to share the cost of childcare.

Dominique Foster, who has just returned from a holiday in Spain with her two-year-old son, partner and parents, said: "Having my parents with us meant that we weren't restricted to staying in or



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having to organise babysitters. In Spain, families take their children out late and cater for them, with restaurants that lay on bouncy castles or play areas for kids, so it really made a difference."

Splitting the cost of accommodation or having another family member pay for the holiday were the motivating factors for 11 per cent of those surveyed. The main cost of a quarter of multi-generational trips last year was covered by the eldest generation, while nearly a fifth of the cost was either paid by the middle generation (21 per cent) or split between some of the family members (19 per cent). Five per cent of trips were paid by the youngest generation.

Cruise holidays can work well for different generations, as Natalie Paris, Telegraph Travel News editor, found when she boarded a [cruise for the first-time](#) on a voyage [in the Mediterranean](#).

"As a multi-generational family holiday, the cruise provided much. Nana (in Athens) tasted her first kebab, spotted dolphins from our balcony and, after sampling a cocktail the size of her handbag, danced a waltz with her grandson. It wouldn't have happened anywhere else," she said.

"Value for money and cruises of shorter duration are attracting younger holidaymakers, including generations of [families and children](#)," says Teresa Machan, Telegraph Travel Cruise editor

"The sheer variety of distractions on board - from rock climbing and zip-lining to amateur dramatics and cookery schools - means even the most discerning of families is catered for. Most larger cruise lines run clubs for children of all ages and the spas are popular," she added.

"Today, cruising is more about surf pools and chilled-out pampering than travel rugs and deck quoits," said John Wilson, head of product and commercial at Virgin Holidays Cruises.

"You can come to shimmy up a rock wall or relax at the spa; families and couples are treated equally and waited on hand and foot," he added.

## Multigenerational Travel Made Easy: How to Have a Great Trip

[June 27, 2016 Betsy Goldberg Family, Tips & Trends](#) Comments Off on Multigenerational Travel Made Easy: How to Have a Great Trip



The popularity of multigenerational travel just continues to grow

The hottest trend in travel these days? Taking a trip with three or more generations of your family. The Virtuoso Luxe Report crowned multigenerational travel as the top choice for upscale travelers. It's been big for the past five years, and its popularity just continues to grow.

“People are of the mindset that they want to experience all they possibly can with the people they love,” says Misty Ewing Belles, Virtuoso’s managing director of global public relations. “They’re no longer in this luxury goods accumulation mode. They really want to accumulate experiences, and what better way to do it than with your children and with your grandchildren.”

### Where to Go?

Says Belles, “The tried and true favorite destinations are Italy, Mexico, Hawaii, Orlando, England.”

However, some of today’s multigenerational travelers are looking for further-flung spots. Those more adventurous destinations include Antarctica, Croatia, Iceland and even Mongolia. “One of the reasons they’re so good for multigenerational travel and family travel is that they have so many activities that are just part of that destination so you can really experience it to its fullest,” explains Belles.

She recommends looking for a destination with appeal on different levels: “You want a good mix of activities but not so many activities that people feel overwhelmed. You want one that’s going to be scenically beautiful but then also offer enough activities at different levels for different age groups because in some situations you have people in their 70s traveling with infants and toddlers.”

## Old Favorite or New Place?

Another destination dilemma for multigenerational travel: go back to the same place, or try somewhere new?

“There are some who love to go back to a place that has a special meaning to them but then you also have families who do the ‘same time next year’ idea where they pick a time of year where they want to travel, they’ll vary the destination but have a similar type experience,” explains Belles.

They may go with the same people at the same time of year. They may stay in similar accommodations, such as renting a house or villa. Or they might go to the same style of destination: say, the beach or the mountains.

Others may want to sample a variety of different destinations and travel styles.

## Best Multigenerational Travel Activities



It’s important for families to agree on a travel destination and activities

Travelers don’t just want to sit still anymore. They want to [experience a destination](#). And they want whatever they’re doing to be interesting and enjoyable for everyone.

“Whether it’s some sort of local cultural immersion, whether it’s learning a language, whether it’s learning to cook the local cuisine, whether it’s doing something more like trekking and hiking, it really can be tailored to whatever it is you want,” Belles comments.



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Why are activities so important? “People are looking for this very genuine connection to the destination and looking to share that with the people they love,” she explains.

### **Everyone Has a Say**

To determine those activities, Belles recommends interviewing every member of the family who’s going along. “Find out what exactly they want to get out of it,” she explains. “What are they hoping to achieve, what are they hoping to see and do, what are some of the must-haves and what are the things that are sort of nice to have or can slide.”

### **Decide Who’s Paying**

Belles says the number-one rule here is not to assume anything. Talk about who’s paying up front so there are no surprises, awkwardness or hard feelings.

Who typically funds multigenerational travel? “Pre-retirement, people are really more sort of paying their own way,” says Belles. “Once the grandparents get really into their retirement years, then you’re seeing where it’s more and more common for the patriarch or the matriarch of the family to cover the costs.”

### **Stick to Your Budget**

Once who’s footing the bill is settled, the next step is to budget for the trip. How much do you want to spend? Who’s paying for what aspect?

Then, says Belles, “adhere to that budget. That’s a big piece of it because when people get in the moment they start to spend more and then sometimes regret it when they get back home.”



The best way to make the most of family time is to create a long-term travel plan

## **Best Advice: Long-Term Travel Planning**

When asked for her best piece of travel advice, Belles recommends thinking big picture. “Look at your travel planning the way you look at your financial planning and set a long-term strategy with a professional advisor,” she says. “At Virtuoso we call it Return on Life travel planning and it’s a way to look at your travel planning five, 10, 15 years out.”

Return on Life travel planning is important for everyone. But families in particular need to make the most of their precious time. “As a parent I can tell you someone once told me, “You only have 18 summers,” and that really resonated,” Belles said. “So set a long-term strategy to make sure you see and do everything you want, especially with your kids.”

Not sure where to start? A Virtuoso travel advisor is here to help. They can help you create a long-term multigenerational travel plan that will create memories your family will never forget. And they can do something you can’t do on your own: “No matter how much money you have, you can’t VIP yourself,” Belles notes.



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# 10 Fun Family Vacations for Multigenerational Travelers

**Now Playing:** 10 Vacation Ideas for Multi-Generational FamiliesX

Guess who's coming on your family vacation? Grandma, Grandpa ... and your new nephew, too. The family trip has evolved—multigenerational travel includes a whole cast of extended family members.

## Fun Family Vacations for Multigenerational Travel

But with needs and interests that include every life stage, multigen travelers looking for the perfect family vacation face a particular challenge. Multigenerational travel groups tend to need larger and connected rooms, more opportunities to be together in large groups, and activities and entertainment that keeps everyone happy. And quite simply, not every vacation is up to the challenge.

But some are designed around these very concepts, and deliver memorable fun that keeps everyone engaged and happy all vacation long. Here are 10 inspiring ideas for your next multigenerational travel adventure.

## Cruising



**For:** Round-the-clock activity seekers who aren't afraid to split up until mealtime.

**What to expect:** The all-in-one-place entertainment factor coupled with the opportunity to explore port cities makes cruising a great multigenerational travel choice. Budgets are respected (everyone can choose the room and meal plan that works best for them) and larger ships offer options that range from champagne bars to late night kids' clubs. Everyone sets their own pace, making it a great option for balancing personalities and energy levels.

**One to Try:** [Disney Cruise Lines](#), like the parks, promise fun for all ages. Families will find options they can enjoy together on board, including first run movies and interactive restaurants.

## Dude Ranches



**For:** Wild West lovers who want horse encounters, outdoor fun, and campfire singalongs.

**What to expect.** Everyone bonds when you're wearing cowboy hats. This is the trip for families that like structure and plenty of activities. Ranch styles range from early-rise/help the cowboy options to more leisurely camp-like stays. Know your intensity tolerance before you book.

**Where to try it:** At [Western Pleasure Guest Ranch](#), just outside Sandpoint, Idaho, kids can spend a week with their horse in a kids' horse camp, then meet back up with parents or grandparents for meals and quieter activities. At the [Red Horse Mountain Ranch](#) near Coeur de Alene, Idaho, days include beautiful mountain trail rides as well as mountain biking, yoga, archery and more.

## Family Adventure Tours



**For:** Multigenerational adventure seekers keen on thrilling and culturally engaging activities around the world.

**What to expect:** Adventure is the middle name (literally at times- think [GAventures](#) or [Thomson Family Adventures](#)) of the companies who run these tours—and they live up to their names. Trips are full of opportunities to run, jump, question, and learn. However, if you're traveling with folks who have limited mobility or hate the idea of a schedule, this one won't be a fit. Days are packed with new exploits, and evenings leave time for laid-back fun.

**Where to try it:** Consider building the family bond on a Row Adventures [Family Magic Rafting trip](#). Trips include a Travel Jester (like a camp counselor) to keep kids entertained in between excursions. Or try [Intrepid Travel's Family tours](#), which include opportunities to explore Asia, Africa, Europe, and more

## All-Inclusive



**For:** Beach lovers whose perfect vacation includes food, frolic, and fun ... without necessarily straying far from the room.

**What to expect:** Easy living. All-Inclusive resorts were among the first to embrace multigenerational travelers. Pick your destination and pay attention to your included options to make sure every member of your clan has something to look forward to.

**Where to try it:** [Club Med](#). Connecting rooms are standard and can be reserved at the time of booking; some locations (especially in the Caribbean) offer suites for additional living space. Everyone is catered to: Its “baby club” takes infants as young as 4 months, and older kids will find age-appropriate sports and creative activities. Adult lessons like tennis, archery, and trapeze run on parallel tracks to kids’, so once activities are over, you can all get back together to enjoy quality time together.

## National Parks



**For:** The family who dreams of hike-filled days and star-filled nights.

**What to expect:** Head to a national park with the extended family for stunning vistas, starlit nights, and days filled with hiking and biking. The parks offer plenty of activities (ranger-led and independent; at a cost and free) which means options abound for family time, both together and apart. Send grandma off to learn about the local wildlife with her mini-me, while granddad teaches your daughter how to skip stones. Memories are easy to make here. Older bones may be less keen on tent camping experience. Consider pop up trailers, RVs, or cabin rentals to keep everyone in your multigenerational group comfortable.

**Where to try it:** Any of the National Parks will be worth exploring, but if you've got the time, plan an epic road trip to [Utah's Mighty Five](#).

## History Alive



**For:** Plant the seed of a common interest between the generations by taking the learning out of the books and into the world.

**What to expect:** Historical getaways don't have to be ho-hum. If you've got family members with an interest, or school kids who are studying American history, why not tie that into a trip they'll all remember?

**Where to try it:** Introduce the kids to the Civil War in [Gettysburg](#), Pennsylvania. Museums and Battlefield tours (by bicycle, Segway, air balloon, or horseback) are perfect for inquisitive travelers of all ages. You can easily spend a few days exploring the local area, and you're only a short drive from Washington, D.C., for more history and museums.

## Wintry Escapes



**For:** Families who see winter as a challenge just waiting to be conquered.

**What to expect:** An active vacation with some quality time built in. Snow destination vacations offer opportunities for a variety of skill levels on the slopes, window shopping in the village, and the comfort of a cozy chalet in between.

**Where to try it:** In [Whistler, British Columbia](#), you'll find slopes that work for both beginners and advanced skiers and snowboarders, plus spa options and wildlife tours. The Family Adventure Zone offers fun for all ages, and a wide choice of comfortable accommodations can fit the whole clan.



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## Heritage Travel



**For:** Multigenerational travelers looking to connect on a trip that traces the family tree to its ancestral roots.

**What to expect:** Stories and outings that bond the generations. Taking a trip to the places that helped to shape your parents (and theirs) will give the whole family a connection to personal history.

**Where to try It:** Everywhere. Start with your family's photos and scrapbooks, or an online site like [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), and build from there. Will it be a reunion with the extended family in Scotland or a three-generation Vietnam family tour? Work with a travel agent to find the perfect guide to lead your family home and include the personal stops that will matter most.

## Giving Back



**For:** Families who want to help make a lasting positive change in the world.

**What to expect:** Plenty of destinations offer volunteer options, but it can be hard to be sure your good intentions are doing what you hope. Research is key. Chat with your family ahead of time so that you choose an activity that means something to everyone involved.

**Where to try it:** Elevate Destinations offers luxurious eco-friendly trips to destinations that also allow you to give back in a variety of ways. The intensity of the volunteer work ranges from work with local non-profits to assisting creative artisans. The great thing is that the trips aren't all work and no play. Fun is still a part of the equation. Plus, the "[Buy a Trip Give a Trip](#)" program means that for every trip sold, a local child is given a trip so they can see more of their home country.

## The Villa Stay



**For:** Families intent on finding an island paradise where togetherness is the order of the day ... and no one is futzing in the kitchen or worried about the laundry.

**What to expect:** The royal treatment with a side order of peace and quiet. Pick your island and then leave the details to your villa team. They'll handle your meals, the cleaning, and booking any activities. Your main job? Relaxing with family. While prices can induce sticker shock (Expect \$5,000 to \$20,000 per week in some spots) it may still be less expensive than individual hotel rooms—not to mention the advantages of having a chef, butler, maid, ground transfers and private pools on site.

**Where to try it:** Jamaica. The island has a range of offerings that differ in size, vibe, and amenities. The premium luxury villas at [Round Hill Villas](#) in Montego Bay have two pools, outdoor showers, on-site staff, and access to the Round Hill Resort children's programs.

## More from SmarterTravel:



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## 8 Tips for Multi-Gen Travel

By **Annie Fitzsimmons**

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I just returned from a week in Galway with my entire family.

There are eight of us, ranging in age from 20 to 61. Put that many different personalities into a room and there's bound to be conflicts, alliances, and — with any hope — lots of laughter.

I'm an obsessive, type A traveler. On our trip, I had to remind myself often that this wasn't a typical work trip where I could indulge my curiosity at my own pace (I missed three sites I wanted to see in beautiful [Sligo](#). Unacceptable!). It took me until Day 3 to realize the rest of my family preferred leisurely mornings at the house and as little drive time as possible. But like all important endeavors, practice makes perfect (or, at least, better).

We may all be connected online, but offline connection is crucial to meaningful relationships. "As families continue to move farther and farther apart geographically, multigenerational travel provides the opportunity to spend quality time together while discovering a new destination," Atlanta-based travel adviser [Kristen Pike](#) said. Win win! *Here are my hard-won tips for multigenerational travel.*

Renting a house, like this stone cottage outside Galway, is a great (and cheap!) option for extended families. (Photograph by Annie Fitzsimmons)

**1. Rent a house (you'll love it!).** Renting accommodations (whether it's a house, an apartment, or somewhere in between) is almost a necessity when you're traveling with your whole family for many reasons — common space and affordability chief among them. The beautiful stone cottage we rented in Ireland slept eight and had three bathrooms, a huge yard, and a gourmet kitchen. We could even do laundry! You may not believe the price, though. For all seven nights, it ended up costing us about \$20 a night per person. Sold!

**2. Ask for villa options at hotels.** Many hotels, from bare-bones to luxury, offer great options for families. Pike recently returned from [Borgo Egnazia](#) in Puglia and was impressed by the resort's ability to cater to multigenerational travelers. "Each of Borgo Egnazia's villas is equipped with multiple bedrooms, a private swimming pool, gardens, terraces, and the amenities of a 5-star luxury hotel," she said. "With no shortage of culture or activities like the beach, golf, biking, cooking classes, and wine tasting, there was something to offer all generations."

**3. Forget the first day.** After a long day of getting there, everyone is bound to be tired. Levels of grumpiness may be higher than normal. I always consider Day 2, when everyone is rested and showered, to be the first official day of the trip. The best way to get to a good Day 2 is to take it easy when you arrive at your destination. We had a casual pub dinner and called it an early night, and everyone was happier for it.

**4. Accept that someone always needs something.** My brother made the astute observation that “at any one time, someone has to pee, or is hungry or tired.” Though the process of getting coffee and using the restroom can eat up precious minutes, it’s important to make sure everyone’s basic needs are met before you head out to soak up history and culture. And be prepared: I always bring packets of peanut butter in case hunger strikes. No one wants to see me hangry.

**5. Agree on departure times the night before.** Because we had to drive to everything from our cottage, I tried to get all of us to talk about when to leave for the next day’s activities the night before. When you’ve set a time, people can do whatever they want before you leave, whether it’s sleeping in or enjoying a more leisurely breakfast. Respect the agreed-upon time, but try to be flexible when it matters.

**6. Split up.** My dad and brothers are fine with pub grub every day. In Galway, I was desperate for something lighter, so my mom, sister, and I struck out on our own one day for lunch and “girl time” for a change of pace. We shopped, and they sat in a pub. Everyone was happy. No family should spend 24 hours a day together.

**7. Money matters.** Don’t assume the traditional head of the family is paying for everything. Each capable adult should alternate paying for meals out. To keep our budget down, we cooked and ate together many a night in our rental’s gourmet kitchen.



**8. Empathy, empathy, empathy.** In life and in travel, being empathetic is essential. Making the extra effort to understand where someone is coming from can change the mood instantly.

*Annie Fitzsimmons is Intelligent Travel's [Urban Insider](#), giving you the dish on the best things to see and do in cities all over the world. Follow her on Twitter [@anniefitz](#).*

## Travel Secrets: Multi-Generational Vacations

By [Jess Simpson](#) | May 2, 2017 | 9:00am

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As people begin to plan for the summer’s most anticipated—and simultaneously fretful—sacrament, the family vacation, industry experts report a shift in direction. Road trips à la The Griswolds to U.S. parks, beaches and historic attractions are still popular, but more travelers are starting to include more family members in the fun.

According to John Spence, president of [Scott Dunn USA](#), multi-generational travel is the company’s fastest growing segment and he reports an industry-wide uptick. “Family Travel Association research shows that it’s also the number one growth area on Virtuoso agents’ travel list,” he says. “Tour operators, resorts and destinations report double-digit growth for 2016-17.”

The term “family travel” now covers ages 8 to 80, explains Spence, which presents a unique set of challenges to meet individual needs. “That could be grandparents, adult children and grandchildren, a forty-something child taking a 70-something parent on a photo safari in Africa, or a grandparent taking a grandchild to Europe for a graduation gift,” he says.

In my case, it meant traveling to Italy recently with my 93-year-old grandmother for a trip that proved to be my most daunting,



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yet rewarding travel experience to date. Cheap airfare and a strong dollar are sure to continue fueling the trend this year and lead more families like mine and yours into taking the multi-gen challenge.

*Bottom line:* Travel to ease and please diverse generations requires a balance of planning, flexibility, and patience. Use these pro tips to cultivate joy, reduce tension, and craft an experience that engages everyone – even grandma.

### **Optimize Place and Space**

When selecting a destination, ask questions to define the trip’s purpose, recommends [positive aging advocate](#) Ana Popovic. Is relaxation or adventure a priority? What is the spectrum of activities available? How accessible are lodging, transportation, and attractions?

Keep in mind individual comfort zones and physical ability. It’s okay to stretch, but beware of break points. Take weather into account. Intense cold or heat are rarely happiness-makers for either end of the age spectrum.

Prioritize space requirements. Renting a home or apartment can provide privacy while offering communal gathering space, plus is often more affordable than hotels. Avoid last minute planning to meet everyone’s needs.

### **Consider Family Finances**

Spending thresholds may vary significantly among family members and necessitate budget discussion early in the process. “If your finances are feeling the strain of a maternity leave or fixed retirement income, it’s not fair for your family to insist on a luxury property (and vice versa),” says Corinne McDermott, founder of [Have Baby Will Travel](#). She recommends keeping the goal of spending quality time together at the forefront.

Save money by cooking some dinners and sourcing local ingredients. Plan a lunchtime picnic in a local park. Seek out free events and concerts. Get group buy in on splurges in advance.

### **Aim for an Itinerary Sweet Spot**

Democratically select activities that will engage the whole crew, then encourage smaller group and individual pursuits. “One day might be spent at a theme park catering to the kids and the next will be a museum day that interests the adults,” says [SafeWise](#) family safety expert Sage Singleton. “Talk to your kids about compromise and plan activities that entertain all age groups.”

Singleton also recommends not making it a package deal. “My parents were great about accommodating everyone’s needs. Before vacations, we knew that we didn’t have to participate in all activities and that no one would be offended if we stayed back at the hotel,” she says.

Shoshana Akabas of [Planit Travel Podcast](#) recommends identifying activity alternatives. “Those who are unable to hike can walk around the gardens near the hotel. Those uninterested in the museum can have a snack in the museum cafe. This way, people won’t have to compromise as much and the activity won’t be ruined by people who don’t want to or can’t participate,” she says.

### **Take Turns at the Helm**

“On day one, grandpa and mom make final decisions about activities (after hearing input from everyone), dad and grandson make decisions about food, and grandma and granddaughter are in charge of navigation,” Akabas suggests. “Rotate responsibilities every day, so every member of the family feels like they have some autonomy and say in the process.”

Avoid the “my way or the highway” route, says Popovic. “Don’t try to make everyone participate in every activity and don’t expect the trip to be a joy from moment #1, particularly if it’s something you’ve never done,” she says. Remember, compromise and patience are key and humor should top every itinerary.



*Photo:* [Blondinrikrard Foberg](#) CC BY 2.0

### **Exercise Extra Care**

Communications director Laura Hall of [Kid & Coe](#) says two elements provide the bedrock of a good family trip and deserve extra attention: great sleep and good food. Individual diets and preferred meal times are stressors when not cared for accordingly. “Different generations tend to eat at different times and often have different dietary restrictions and preferences,” says Akabas. “Having a kitchen will allow people to snack when they need food (instead of forcing everyone to go and eat dinner at 5 p.m. because that’s when Grandma needs to eat...)”

When it comes to sleep, Hall underlines why space is also key. “Grandparents tend to love playing with the kids but don’t always want to be woken up at 6 a.m.,” she says. And, really, who does?



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When everyone has space for rest and rejuvenation, good attitudes and behavior are more likely to follow.

### **Score the Best Souvenirs**

The memories you create along with deeper understanding of each other as individuals is your trip's reward. "You're building memories together that can last a lifetime," says Hall. "Particularly for those who do not live near their grandparents, it's a great way to get to know each other, and have fun!"

Embrace the world as your classroom and learn something new together. Take a cooking class, go on a nature walk, develop new passions to share. Popovic says these experiences enhance the way families work, particularly in new environments and unexpected situations that tend to arise.

"While travelling can be stressful and sometimes disastrous, at the end of the day, it's always worth it," Singleton says. "Multi-generational travel allows families to bond, learn and spend quality time together. Tomorrow is promised to no one, so it's important to cherish the time we have together."

# Why Is Everyone Talking About Multigenerational Travel?

By: La Jolla Mom

There's no doubt that [multigenerational travel](#) is one of the hottest travel trends of the year. We've been on a few of these trips ourselves so I was asked to discuss the topic yesterday on NBC San Diego. Here's a run-down of why families are braving the world together.

- [5 Reasons Why Extended Families Are Traveling Together](#)
- [5 Types Of Multigenerational Trips](#)
  - [Cruises And All-Inclusive Resorts](#)
  - [City Safaris](#)
  - [Heritage Trips](#)
  - [Beach Vacations](#)
  - [Skip A Generation](#)
- [5 Tips For Surviving A Multigenerational Vacation](#)

## Reasons Why Extended Families Are Traveling Together

1. With families often living on opposite coasts, they're rarely getting together outside of weddings, funerals and major holidays... if that.
2. Baby boomers are living longer, healthier lives and parents are more willing to fly long distances with young kids. My guess is that it's because iPads and apps keep kids far more entertained than books and other inflight entertainment ever did.
3. Connecting in real life can't be replaced by Skype.
4. Footing the bill for trips is a way for grandparents to transfer wealth, however, sometimes kids foot the bill or everyone splits the cost. There's no right or wrong way to do it.
5. You can't put a price on creating family memories.

## 5 Types Of Multigenerational Trips

Now that your family has agreed to take a trip, what should you do? Here are some popular ideas.

### Cruises And All-Inclusive Resorts

These are by far the most popular because they address a number of budgets. There's less worry about the settling tabs because most meals and activities are included. Speaking of activities, both options have a ton of them. Disney cruises are a very common choice for multigenerational trips.



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### City Safaris

Booking a hotel or vacation rental in big cities within walking distance of major attractions and restaurants allows people to tour at their own pace. There are great for families with a wide range of interests and activity levels (as well as those who benefit from a bit of space from each other). Good nearby public transportation helps, too.

### Heritage Trips

Take the family to visit a hometown or discover the country your family is from. Some even set out to piece together family trees as I recently explained in my [multigenerational travel piece about Ireland](#).

### Beach Vacations

Built-in leisure is perfect for reconnecting as family. Plus, a number of all-inclusive resorts are in tropical destinations anyway. Vacation rentals are usually easy to find in beach locations and are ideal for families who want to stay under the same roof and gather in common living spaces.

### Skip A Generation

Sometimes, grandparents go it alone with the grandkids to celebrate milestone birthdays and graduations. Why not take a break from Mickey Mouse and let someone else bask in the glory of Disney?

## 5 Tips For Surviving A Multigenerational Vacation

1. Plan the trip as a family. This way, everyone's expectations are managed before you go and people can budget for the trip in advance.
2. Consider the needs of the oldest and youngest traveling family member when choosing a destination, because if they can handle it the odds are the rest of the family can, too.
3. Make sure each person is able to do activities of their choosing.
4. It's OK to split up without feeling guilty. Let Grandma rest while you tour the science museum. Families don't need to spend every waking hour together on these trips.
5. **Be flexible.** You're going to get frustrated, probably tour something you don't want to and run on someone else's schedule. Embrace it and have a good time anyway.