

FAMILY TRAVELLER

TRAVEL SOUTH USA

CAMPAIGN REPORT 09/03/2025 to 12/09/2025

ARKANSAS DIGITAL CONTENT 09/04/2025

[Why Arkansas could be the adventure your kids have been dreaming about](#)

DATE RANGE: 09/04/2025 to 12/09/2025

TOTAL PAGE VIEWS: 52,953

AVERAGE TIME ON PAGE: 2 minutes, 12 seconds



FAMILY ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS

Why Arkansas could be the adventure your kids have been dreaming about

ARKANSAS SOLUS EMAIL 20/09/2025

[Don't miss these amazing family adventures](#)

DELIVERY DATE: 20/09/2025
SUBJECT: Don't miss these amazing family adventures
SUBSCRIBERS: 180,000
TOTAL OPENS: 45,812
OPEN RATE: 25%
TOTAL CLICKS: 2,884
CTR: 6%

FAMILY TRAVELLER



60+ Plus Activities in Northwest Arkansas

Northwest Arkansas delivers family fun in every season — from wild rivers and mountain trails to roller rinks, art parks and retro arcades.

Here are 60+ family-friendly things to do in Northwest Arkansas. A mix of outdoor adventure and indoor play perfect for your next family holiday.

[FIND FAMILY FUN IN ARKANSAS](#)



Family, Fun and Folk Music

Arkansas is full of places for families to get together, laugh, love and make memories.

Whether you're looking for a family-friendly event, a charming breakfast spot with music, or a place to enjoy a family-friendly meal, there's something for everyone.

[FIND OUR TOP PICKS](#)



Create Your Own Adventure

Whether you're looking for a family-friendly event, a charming breakfast spot with music, or a place to enjoy a family-friendly meal, there's something for everyone.

Public plenty of family-friendly fun, from scenic views and world-class trails to big personalities, and you'll have a family holiday that lasts a lifetime.

Whether you're looking for a family-friendly event, a charming breakfast spot with music, or a place to enjoy a family-friendly meal, there's something for everyone.

[FIND OUR PICKS](#)



60-Plus Activities in Northwest Arkansas

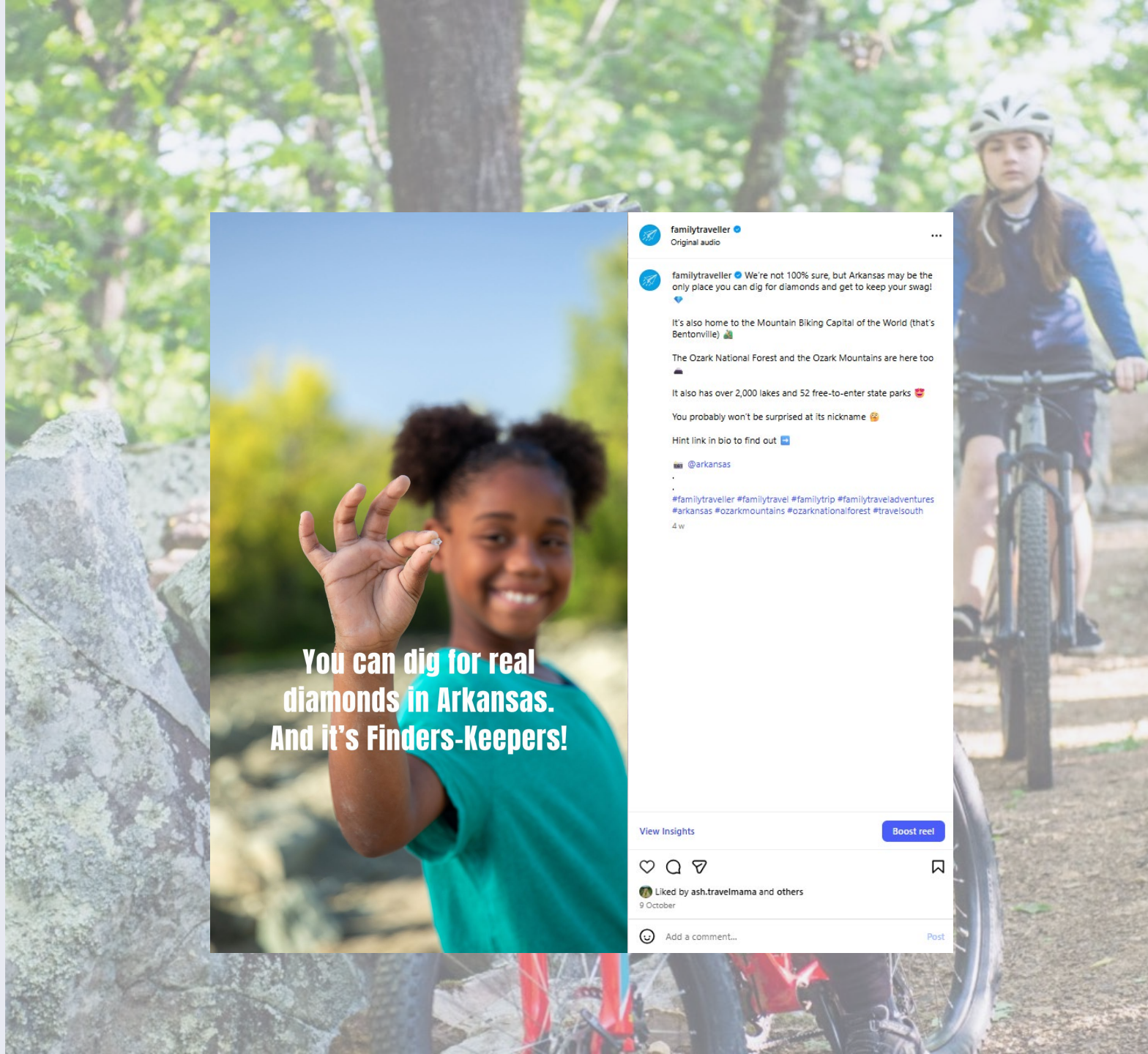
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[FIND FAMILY FUN IN ARKANSAS](#)

ARKANSAS INSTAGRAM REEL 10/09/2025

DATE: 10/09/2025
IMPRESSIONS: 66,001
REACH: 69,000
ENGAGEMENT: 327 likes



You can dig for real diamonds in Arkansas. And it's Finders-Keepers!

familytraveller Original audio

familytraveller We're not 100% sure, but Arkansas may be the only place you can dig for diamonds and get to keep your swag!

It's also home to the Mountain Biking Capital of the World (that's Bentonville)

The Ozark National Forest and the Ozark Mountains are here too

It also has over 2,000 lakes and 52 free-to-enter state parks

You probably won't be surprised at its nickname

Hint link in bio to find out

@arkansas

#familytraveller #familytravel #familytrip #familytraveladventures #arkansas #ozarkmountains #ozarknationalforest #travelsouth

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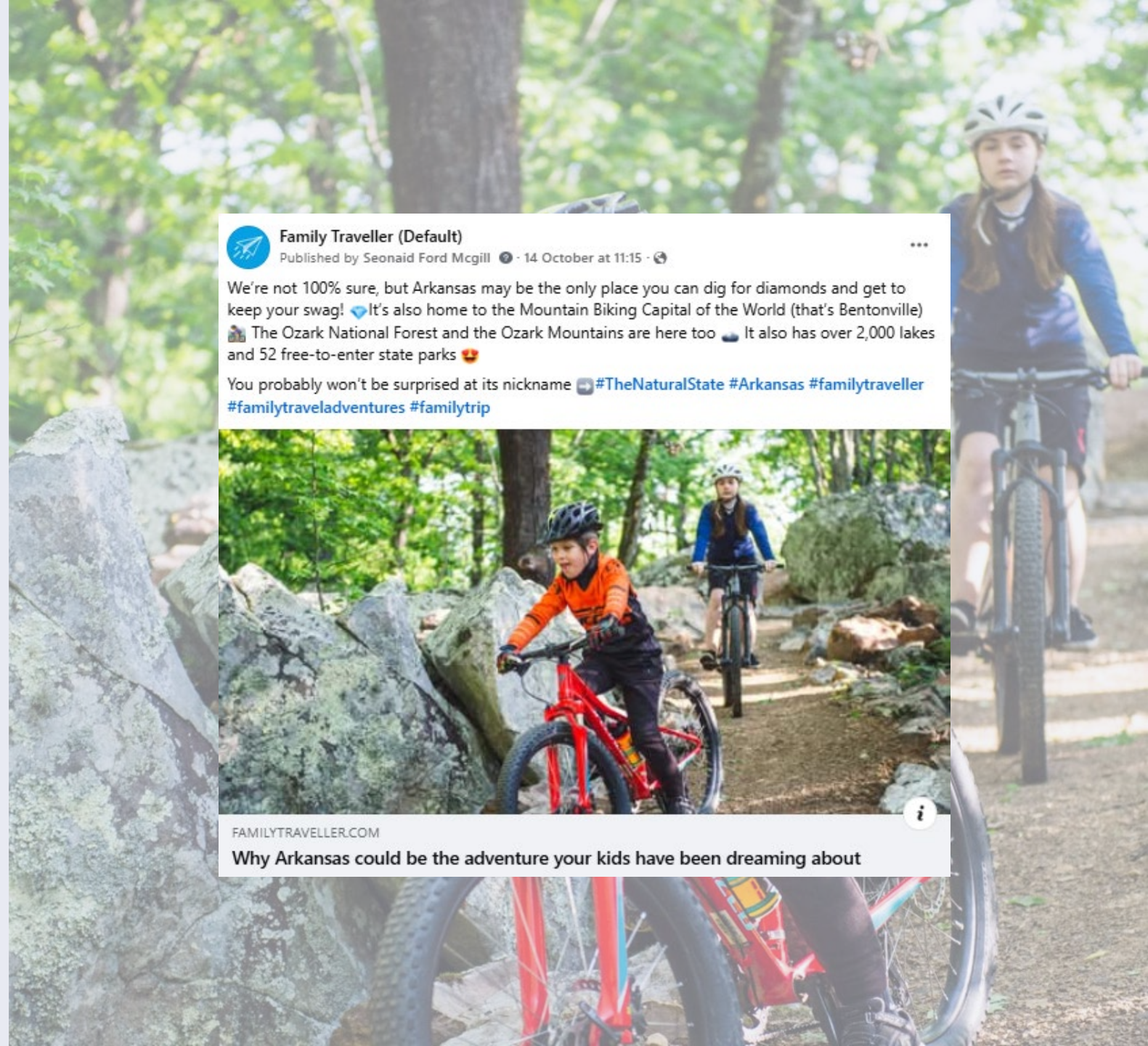
View Insights Boost reel

Liked by ash.travelmama and others 9 October

Add a comment... Post

ARKANSAS FACEBOOK POST 10/14/2025

DATE: 10/14/2025
IMPRESSIONS: 75,169
REACH: 195,000
CLICKS: 1,427
CTR: 1.9%



Family Traveller (Default)

Published by Seonaid Ford McGill · 14 October at 11:15 · 🌐



We're not 100% sure, but Arkansas may be the only place you can dig for diamonds and get to keep your swag! 💎 It's also home to the Mountain Biking Capital of the World (that's Bentonville) 🏠 The Ozark National Forest and the Ozark Mountains are here too 🌲 It also has over 2,000 lakes and 52 free-to-enter state parks 🍷

You probably won't be surprised at its nickname 🗣️ [#TheNaturalState](#) [#Arkansas](#) [#familytraveller](#) [#familytraveladventures](#) [#familytrip](#)



FAMILYTRAVELLER.COM

Why Arkansas could be the adventure your kids have been dreaming about

ARKANSAS EDITORIAL EMAIL 09/14/2025

DELIVERY DATE: 09/14/2025
SUBJECT: Found! The winter sun spot you won't believe
SUBSCRIBERS: 200,000
TOTAL OPENS: 48,770
OPEN RATE: 25%
TOTAL CLICKS: 9,221
ARKANSAS CLICKS: 1,451 (16%)

FAMILY TRAVELLER



Why Thailand should be your go-to this winter

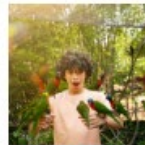
Between its affordable luxury resorts, incredible islands and beaches, amazing new theme parks and wonderful weather, Thailand is having a big moment this winter. Find out why it's more perfect for family holidays than ever this year.

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The new children could transform family ski holidays

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The family-friendly wellness retreat your kids will love

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Get a jump on next year's best family adventure holidays

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ARKANSAS EDITORIAL EMAIL 10/12/2025

DELIVERY DATE: 10/12/2025
SUBJECT: Win a Royal Caribbean family cruise
SUBSCRIBERS: 200,000
TOTAL OPENS: 61,753
OPEN RATE: 31%
TOTAL CLICKS: 10,523
ARKANSAS CLICKS: 1,775 (17%)

FAMILY TRAVELLER



The easiest ski break with kids this season

Italy's Aosta Valley is just 2 hours from the UK and one of the most affordable places to ski with your kids. Find out why families are booking easy weekend breaks there this season.

[Read More](#)



WIN A £3,000 ROYAL CARIBBEAN FAMILY CRUISE

[ENTER HERE](#)



Where to catch some hot tub reroute autumn sun now!

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Why families love the new type of French ski holiday

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An out-of-the-world holiday to inspire your kids

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We think this is Australia's most family friendly ski resort

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Why Arkansas is such a gem of a destination for families

[+ Read More](#)



Where to find winter beach holidays without the long haul

[+ Read More](#)



Why Arkansas is such a gem of a destination for families

[+ Read More](#)

ARKANSAS EDITORIAL EMAIL 11/02/2025

DELIVERY DATE: 11/02/2025
SUBJECT: New! Family Traveller Magazine with free delivery
SUBSCRIBERS: 200,000
TOTAL OPENS: 57,719
OPEN RATE: 29%
TOTAL CLICKS: 9,827
ARKANSAS CLICKS: 1,497 (15%)



FAMILY TRAVELLER

FREE BY DELIVERY

New! Family Traveller Magazine Winter 2025

Our biggest ever Family Traveller Magazine is back with 120 pages of winter inspiration from the UK and around the world. Plus, plenty of ways to win! The UK's magazine of choice with no ads and 100% family friendly.

Have a sneak peek at the new Family Traveller Magazine

ORDER YOUR COPY HERE

The best UK weekends away this winter

From water-based adventures to cozy cabin stays and Christmas cottages, we've found you the UK family breaks worth looking away for this winter.

Read More

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Last Chance! Win a £3,000 Royal Caribbean family cruise

Enter Here

All the ways Alabama wins with some will amaze you

Read More

Every day is an adventure for families in Arkansas

Read More

Up your old holiday fun with this amazing new children's

Read More



Every day is an adventure for families in Arkansas

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TRAVEL SOUTH USA CONTENT HUB UK

[Where to find a warm southern USA welcome on your next family holiday](#)

DATE RANGE: 09/07/2025 to 12/09/2025

TOTAL PAGE VIEWS: 567,761

AVERAGE TIME ON PAGE: 2 minutes, 27 seconds



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- Disney's All-Star Sports Resort, Florida from £71pp, per night
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FAMILY ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS

Why Arkansas could be the adventure your kids have been dreaming about

4TH SEPTEMBER 2025

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NORTH AMERICA

Come to Kentucky, it's like an enormous, natural playground for your kids

4TH SEPTEMBER 2025

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NORTH AMERICA

Why Alabama ticks all the right boxes for amazing family adventure holidays

3RD SEPTEMBER 2025

[Travel South USA](#)

TRAVEL SOUTH USA CONTENT HUB CANADA

[Add a warm Southern USA welcome to your next family adventure holiday](#)

DATE RANGE: 09/07/2025 to 12/09/2025
TOTAL PAGE VIEWS: 508,050
AVERAGE TIME ON PAGE: 1 minutes, 43 seconds



TALES OF THE SOUTH

Pack your sense of adventure for the southern US and bring your kids ready for long, beachy coasts and sunshine, mighty forests, legendary mountain ranges and charming cities. Come hungry, the food is as good as its reputation. As they say round these parts 'Welcome y'all'

PHOTOGRAPHY: KENTUCKY TOURISM



Sheltowee Trace Adventure
Resort, Kentucky

TravelSouth
All Y'all Are Welcome USA



FAMILY TRAVELLER MAGAZINE ISSUE 10. WINTER 2025



ALABAMA ALL WAYS

Alabama ticks all the boxes for older kids and teens, from Gulf Coast beaches to space exploration and endless adventures

BREATHE DEEP
Paddle the Doughnut Island, Mountain Shrimp, Round Islands

Hit the beautiful Alabama Gulf Coast for 32 miles of shimmering white sand beaches and clear seas. If you're looking for days doing nothing much but lazing in the sun and dipping a toe in the water occasionally, that's very much one of the vibes here. But it's far from the only one.

Pick up a paddleboard or kayak at Gulf shores Beach or Orange Beach and you'll find ideal conditions for hours of adventuring, and possibly the gentle company of dolphins, manatees and turtles as you paddle.

For more up close encounters with the local marine life, snorkelling is a bit of a passion in Alabama too and conditions are pretty much perfect year round, with water temperatures a balmy 77° in summer, and comfortable at around 13° in what passes for the depths of winter in the Deep South USA: definitely not winter as you know it in the UK.

When you're done admiring boating you'll be pleased to know that Alabama also likes a restaurant with its toes in the sand, so be prepared for a lot of choice on the coast. It goes without saying that the seafood is fresh and amazingly good, although for those times when you just want comfort, this is definitely the coast for Southern home cooking.

Don't miss a day out in Gulf State Park either, it amazes with so few other than nine different eco-systems, so you can hike all you like or even take advantage of the park's free bike share programme to pedal multi-use trails. And should you decide to sign out your car, the park has family cabs available to rent year-round.

Though you'll always find plenty of places to spend the night or more on the coast, from luxury resorts and easy-on-your-budget hotels to holiday rentals right on the waterfront.

LAND OF ADVENTURE
Adventure isn't limited to the coast in Alabama where a total of 22 state parks, plus several natural preserves are the best excuse to head inland and play outdoors or plan a road trip. Cave kids won't want to miss the world-famous cavern state Park near Birmingham for a tour of the 260-million year old



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'A' IS FOR ADVENTURE

It's easy to understand why they call Arkansas 'The Natural State,' just take a look around, you'll see what we mean

You can be at the base of Pinnacle Mountain from the Arkansas state capital, Little Rock, in about 30 minutes and for fewer than 50 state parks are at home here, along with Hot Springs National Park and the Ozark National Forest. Then, if you want to get out on the water, there are over 2,000 lakes as well as 100 of waterfalls and more than 90,000 miles of rivers and streams.

ADVENTURE STARTS EARLY IN ARKANSAS
So it's no surprise to find you can try just about anything on holiday here, from mountain biking and hiking to kayaking, canoeing, white water rafting, rock climbing or water skiing. Even lazing on beaches is a possibility, being landscaped in a mere 60 days to Arkansas.

Two young fellas in a dacha either. You'll find buggy friendly trails all over the place and mini road bikes for little passengers. Older kids will be in heaven because this

country state believes in getting children out and about, learning new skills and challenging themselves as soon as possible. And as for what to please noses? There isn't a screen yet invented that's more distracting than the likes of kayaking past the bluff on the Buffalo National River or enjoying its Mossy Spout State Park, sorting down a backcountry trail. Arkansas has five EPIC rides recognised by the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) - or hiking to the jaw dropping Alum Cave Natural Bridge.

BEAUTY COMES NATURALLY ALL OVER
Adventure Arkansas also provides a natural habitat for all sorts of wildlife, so you've a good chance of spotting herds of elk on the Buffalo National River or trumpeter swans in Hatcher Springs. And Lake Ouachita State Park is where it's even possible to spy magnificent bald eagles, if you're keen-eyed and patient.



ARKANSAS

LOOK OUT
Discover how to enjoy the outdoors in Arkansas with our expert tips and advice.

And those beaches we mentioned earlier? They can be found in the Ozark Mountain Region, along Norfork Lake, which is also great for snorkelling. In fact, passionate snorkeller recommend several of the rock-lined lakes in Arkansas for their excellent visibility, sparkling rocks, the Ozark Mountains are also home to Halls Shoal Caverns, some of the world's oldest caves.

THE THRILL OF URBAN ADVENTURES
Even the cities in Arkansas are up for outdoor adventures. Ozark Trails around the Ozark foothills in northern Arkansas earn themselves the title, Mountain Biking Capital of the World, though this fact city also gets called a new capital of cool. Put that to the test with a visit to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Scott Brady Museum, or grab a table at one of the family-friendly local restaurants for high school cooking at its most authentic.

Or hit the state capital, Little Rock, right in the centre of Arkansas and you're just 20 minutes from Pinnacle Mountain State Park, which is also a Trail of Tears National Historic Site. Although you'll find plenty of history at the heart of the city too, start at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site where kids can learn about the Little Rock Nine and the part they played in the American Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s. The Historic Arkansas Museum is another must-do, not least because it incorporates the city's oldest building.

HIT THE ROAD AND EXPLORE MORE
But there's no doubt a family road trip is one of the best ways to explore Arkansas and get to know quite a few incredible State Parks along the way.

With many Springs State Park puts you deep in the Ozark Mountains and also within easy reach of Fayetteville, Rogers and Bentonville, so it's an adventure with good restaurants, museums and family hotels to the mix.

Comfortable family cabins and guided hikes with park interpreters make Lake Fort Smith State Park, on the western edge of the mighty Ozark National Forest, a good choice for families. Drop in on the visitor centre when you arrive to see its replica pioneer log cabin and covered wagon.

Another road trip dream, Eboli State Park has several other parks within easy driving distance, including Crater of Diamonds where you really can dig for diamonds, and its Benders Keepers Park, hiking in Daisy Creek also gets you up close to all sorts of wildlife. And, if you want to kick back and give the road a rest, the park rents family yurts.

Then, just an hour south of Little Rock, Casey Creek State Park is a kayaking hotspot where you can glide through naturally pink limestone on levels as smooth. Cycling and hiking are big here too, and again, there's a very good chance of wildlife, if you tread lightly and look carefully.

REACH FOR THE STARS
With all this unspoiled nature and wide open space it was almost inevitable that Arkansas would attract the attention of the International Dark Sky Association (IDA), and in 2019 Buffalo National River was named an International Dark Sky Park. During the summer you can join ranger-led stargazing programmes at Buffalo Vista and Tyler Bend. Alternatively, you can view family cabins your road to Buffalo Vista, and gaze in your own time.

Missing your own family adventure is what Arkansas is all about, get in touch and find out how Arkansas.com

COME PLAY IN KENTUCKY

There's so much to do in Kentucky, one holiday might not be enough, so you'll be pleased to hear it's one of the most affordable US states

You don't have to work hard to wage a budget in Kentucky. You'll find good value accommodation everywhere, adventure outdoors to other absolutely free and many museums and attractions offer generous child discounts, so now you know Kentucky costs less, live in.

WALK ANY WAY YOU LIKE
Kentucky takes stretching its legs seriously, and the longest hiking trail here, the Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail, runs for 280 miles. Walking its entire length will probably be a bit of an ask for little legs, but there are also plenty of hikes you can do safely with kids.

In Mammoth Cave National Park - home to the world's longest cave system - and follow the gentle Green River Shuff Trail for an effort of forests and streams. A look down into legendary Red River Gorge is an amazing reward for hiking the Chimney Top Rock Trail in Daniel Boone National Forest. Or for those times when nothing will do but magnificent waterfalls, plan a half-day hike to Look Falls Overlook in Grayson Lake State Park.

WIN OVER YOUR WATER BABIES
Alabama is the only US state with more miles of navigable waters than Kentucky. You'll even find the official 'Woodboat Capital of the World' here, on Lake Cumberland in Lake Cumberland State River Trail. The Cumberland River also delivers the Cumberland Falls, known as the Niagara of the South. And, back to Red River Gorge, you can go kayaking underground or gilded beer through flooded mine systems.

MEET KENTUCKY'S LEGENDARY HORSES
Of course, Kentucky is always synonymous with horses and the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington is a great introduction to the state's equine passion. Also getting up close to the animals, is the Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Home where kids can meet former Kentucky Derby champions and other prize-winning athletes, now enjoying a very well earned rest in the beautiful country park with outdoor playgrounds. Alternatively, make for Churchill Downs first thing and you can watch the current crop of thoroughbreds having a morning workout on the iconic race track, before heading indoors to the Kentucky Derby Museum.

Although, if you really want to get down with the horses, book a Shagbark KY Rail Explorers tour to the heart of Horse Country. Not just any old rail, this is one where you pedal yourself along repurposed rail tracks on a two or four person 'rail bike' - a modified version of the hand-cars used by rail

workers in the 19th century. Happily today's bikes are a lot less effort thanks to electric assist.

BE AN INDOOR ADVENTURER
Just great as the outdoors is in Kentucky, there's just as much going on indoors too, especially in child-friendly museums like the Crumrine-Suggs Museum & Factory, which celebrates the history of baseball and the world's most famous hat. The National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green is another one that will surprise you with its family-friendly approach: have your phone ready for the 0-60 in Corvette skills, but take home over 200 items! Newport Aquarium where thousands of aquatic creatures are the main draw, but being able to touch the likes of sharks and heron-like crabs might be one of the biggest memory makers for kids.

THIS IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF BLUEGRASS
The high, lonesome sound of bluegrass music was born in Kentucky and to explore its roots, start at the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame & Museum in Owensboro. Or you can go all out and hit the family-friendly Festival of the Bluegrass at the Kentucky Horse Park in June.

In fact, making food, festivals and music a part of your Kentucky holiday is almost a rite. So time your visit right and you can catch anything from a summer of Festivals in August to autumn festivals celebrating everything from hammas to butterflies and pumpkins to chickens.

COME HUNGER TO KENTUCKY
Now you just need to make sure you're well fuelled for fun and that's pretty easy in Kentucky. It goes without saying that they know how to fry chicken here, and until you've tried it on home territory you may have thought that the world famous turkey was the real deal. Aside from its real southern US authenticity, Kentucky is also the home of the Hot Browns - an open-faced sandwich like no other. And when they say 'farms in table' here, you better believe they mean it, if you need proof, look for independent restaurants where they cook with produce from their own farms, like when you're cooking for yourself, take kids to the likes of welcoming Gallatin Farms in Shelbyville to pick anything from fresh strawberries to pumpkins, depending on the season.

Then there's barbecue which even has its own festival in Kentucky. Catch the BBQ and Barbecue Festival (the Owensboro rebrand in May) it's also a great place to try burgers, the only in Kentucky now traditionally served in a BBQ side. Or head to Henderson in June for the WC Handy and his Blues & Barbecue Festival on the Ohio River.



KENTUCKY

HIDE TIME
Discover how to enjoy the outdoors in Kentucky with our expert tips and advice.

There's so much to do in Kentucky, one holiday might not be enough, so you'll be pleased to hear it's one of the most affordable US states

You don't have to work hard to wage a budget in Kentucky. You'll find good value accommodation everywhere, adventure outdoors to other absolutely free and many museums and attractions offer generous child discounts, so now you know Kentucky costs less, live in.

WALK ANY WAY YOU LIKE
Kentucky takes stretching its legs seriously, and the longest hiking trail here, the Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail, runs for 280 miles. Walking its entire length will probably be a bit of an ask for little legs, but there are also plenty of hikes you can do safely with kids.

In Mammoth Cave National Park - home to the world's longest cave system - and follow the gentle Green River Shuff Trail for an effort of forests and streams. A look down into legendary Red River Gorge is an amazing reward for hiking the Chimney Top Rock Trail in Daniel Boone National Forest. Or for those times when nothing will do but magnificent waterfalls, plan a half-day hike to Look Falls Overlook in Grayson Lake State Park.

WIN OVER YOUR WATER BABIES
Alabama is the only US state with more miles of navigable waters than Kentucky. You'll even find the official 'Woodboat Capital of the World' here, on Lake Cumberland in Lake Cumberland State River Trail. The Cumberland River also delivers the Cumberland Falls, known as the Niagara of the South. And, back to Red River Gorge, you can go kayaking underground or gilded beer through flooded mine systems.

MEET KENTUCKY'S LEGENDARY HORSES
Of course, Kentucky is always synonymous with horses and the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington is a great introduction to the state's equine passion. Also getting up close to the animals, is the Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Home where kids can meet former Kentucky Derby champions and other prize-winning athletes, now enjoying a very well earned rest in the beautiful country park with outdoor playgrounds. Alternatively, make for Churchill Downs first thing and you can watch the current crop of thoroughbreds having a morning workout on the iconic race track, before heading indoors to the Kentucky Derby Museum.

Although, if you really want to get down with the horses, book a Shagbark KY Rail Explorers tour to the heart of Horse Country. Not just any old rail, this is one where you pedal yourself along repurposed rail tracks on a two or four person 'rail bike' - a modified version of the hand-cars used by rail

workers in the 19th century. Happily today's bikes are a lot less effort thanks to electric assist.

BE AN INDOOR ADVENTURER
Just great as the outdoors is in Kentucky, there's just as much going on indoors too, especially in child-friendly museums like the Crumrine-Suggs Museum & Factory, which celebrates the history of baseball and the world's most famous hat. The National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green is another one that will surprise you with its family-friendly approach: have your phone ready for the 0-60 in Corvette skills, but take home over 200 items! Newport Aquarium where thousands of aquatic creatures are the main draw, but being able to touch the likes of sharks and heron-like crabs might be one of the biggest memory makers for kids.

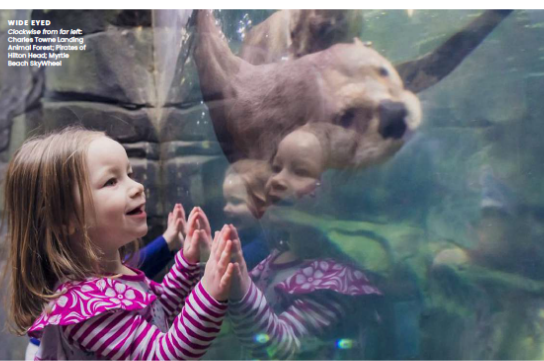
THIS IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF BLUEGRASS
The high, lonesome sound of bluegrass music was born in Kentucky and to explore its roots, start at the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame & Museum in Owensboro. Or you can go all out and hit the family-friendly Festival of the Bluegrass at the Kentucky Horse Park in June.

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Missing your own family adventure is what Kentucky is all about, get in touch and find out how Kentucky.com



BEYOND THE BEACH

South Carolina's coastline runs for miles, but its beaches aren't the only reason to take your kids on holiday here

South Carolina's coast stretches for 187 miles along the Atlantic and has beaches almost every mile of the way. In between there are barrier islands, grand cities, seaside towns, and places with names like 'Hammock Coast': a hint at the toes-in-the-sand vibe here. You could spend an entire beach holiday just being on the beach, but you'd miss out on a lot of what makes the South Carolina coast such fun.

MUST DO DOLPHIN TOURS

Sit on one of South Carolina's beaches, look out at the Atlantic and there's a good chance you'll spot dolphins. The entire coast is home to large resident populations as well as migrating pods, which don't make the sight of a fin breaking the water's surface any less of a thrill, even for local. But when you want more than just squinting from the sand, pick a boat tour anywhere from Hilton Head

Island to Myrtle Beach, hop aboard and get ready to add, 'up close with dolphins', to your long list of South Carolina memories.

SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

When it comes to views, South Carolina doesn't want to boast, but it's home to the Myrtle Beach SkyWheel and views don't come much bigger. At 460 feet tall and right on Myrtle Beach boardwalk, overlooking the Atlantic, it's one of the most iconic sights on the Grand Strand and a must do if you're visiting America's beachiest beach (that's what they call this part of the South Carolina coast).

Each ride lasts 15 minutes - or three full revolutions - and you're tucked into air conditioned gondolas, surrounded by non-reflective glass, so have phones at the ready. Sunrise and sunset rides are particularly spectacular and the SkyWheel is also fully accessible.



IT'S A PIRATE'S LIFE FOR YOUR KIDS

The likes of Blackbeard and Sted Bonnet were notorious around South Carolina in the early 18th century, and the most infamous of all female pirates, Anne Bonny, was a Charleston local. So you'll come across buccaneering history all over the place, but when your kids want some real-life swashbuckling action, sign them up to be Pirates of Hilton Head.

Set aboard a replica pirate ship named Black Sparrow, this experience is made for two to 10 year olds and regularly hits the number one spot of things to do in Hilton Head Island. Of course it's all fun and games, with a serious side of dress up, as well as lessons in how to parlay like a pirate: expect plenty of 'Arr me hearties' back on dry land. Water cannons, chase solving, treasure maps, and hunting down the elusive Stinky Pete, are all part of the adventure which lasts an hour and 30 minutes. Sadly parents can't get involved in all the derring-do, you're just there to cheer on young scallywags and take lots of pics from the sidelines.

GAME ON IN MYRTLE BEACH

You can't have a South Carolina beach holiday without playing a round for many of mini-golf, particularly if you're in Myrtle Beach: officially the Mini Golf Capital of the World and home to over 30 different courses.

These aren't just the usual pitch and putt with a few small hazards. You'll find dramatic prehistoric courses packed with dinosaurs, several with full-on Hawaii themes, pirate courses, jungle courses and even a course with an erupting volcano. Though, if you're not sure where to begin, the Myrtle Beach Mini Golf Trail is highly recommended.

BELIEVE IT, THIS AQUARIUM IS AWESOME

With its mix of freshwater - think mermaids swimming in the tanks - so soothing, spectacular and a little bit chilling at times, Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach more than deserves its great reputation.

Over 10,000 aquatic animals are in permanent residence here, and not all of them are the usual suspects. For a start, there's a very cute colony of penguins which kids watch by



crawling through an observation tunnel. Strokable stingrays swim in shallow lagoons, you can wander through a hah rainforest or even immerse in the Goldfish Inn, where the goldfish are far from ordinary.

Extraordinary also applies to the Dangerous Reef which hosts sharks, turtles, sawfish and grumpy looking Atlantic tarpons, to name but a few thrillers of the deep. That said, the biggest thrill of all is walking through the Dangerous Reef tunnel as some of the sea's most fearsome predators glide over your head.

TAKE A WILD, PIONEERING WALK

What wild creatures were wandering round South Carolina when settlers first arrived here in the 17th century? That question is asked and answered at Charles Towne Landing Animal Forest in Charleston.

Part of the Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site, the Forest covers 22 acres where you get to see possums, black bears, otters, bison, pelicans and more. So let your imagination run wild, but keep in time, forget everything you know, and for a little while, just be a settler witnessing all this for the first time. <

On and off the beach South Carolina is an amazing state for family holidays, take a look discoverouthcarolina.com

DISCOVER South Carolina

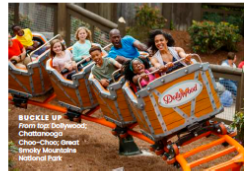
SOUTH CAROLINA



SOUTH CAROLINA

TEST DRIVE TENNESSEE

A Tennessee family holiday is the best excuse for a road trip, just find a theme, pick a playlist, and you're half way there



RUCKLE UP
From top clockwise: Chattanooga, Cherokee, Great Smoky Mountains National Park



The great thing about Tennessee road trips is they come in all shapes and sizes. Some fit perfectly into a single day, but even the longest ones are incredibly easy to plan.

FOLLOW THAT SWEET SOUND

Seven genres of music have roots in Tennessee so if you want a road trip with a musical theme this is the state for that. Naturally Nashville makes the cut just for the Grand Ole Opry and a must-do tour round the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. It's also the city where you get to have breakfast with a side of music legends in places like biscuits and gravy, before hitting the colourful 12 South neighbourhood to browse the local designer stores.

Memphis might be forever Elvis in some minds, but in reality the city is so much more on the music front. Teens will thank you for a stroll through Beale Street Historic District: the city's blues, rock and soul heartland. Though they'll probably be equally happy to swing by The Beaky Shop - Priscilla Presley's one-time favourite beauty parlour, now a funky restaurant. The fun Interactive Stax Museum of American Soul is another unmissable for any young music historians in the family. And you have to do a tour of Graceland, you're in Memphis, how can you not visit the home of Elvis Presley?

HIT THE OPEN ROAD

Tennessee has more than 60 State Parks, all free to visit, so they're a great road trip fit too. Views are given, as well as hikes that won't tax younger kids. And as for themes? Take your pick of anything from waterfalls to caves.

The Cataract Falls in Gatlinburg is one of 500 waterfalls across Tennessee and, at less than a mile round, it's an easy hike with 25-foot falls to reward your legwork. Reaching the drama of Great Stone Door in Savage Golf State Park is pretty effortless too and toms low because it looks a lot more work than it is. TRIP TIP

Or try Kuroki in Gatlinburg for the highest lookout point in the Great Smoky Mountains. The hike is just over a mile long and some of it's a little steep, but that's balanced by plenty of benches for rests on route.

Tennessee also has a network of over 8,500 explorable caves, but if you've only time for one, make it The Lost Sea in Sweetwater. Not least because this one hour and 15 minute tour of the vast Craighead Caverns ends with a boat tour of America's largest underground lake.



GREAT THINGS
Clockwise from top: Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Sun Studio, Memphis



TENNESSEE

TENNESSEE

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

An incredible landscape of ancient mountains and dense forests, Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most visited national park in the US and it's at home in eastern Tennessee. Of course, the road trip potential here is immense and wildlife-keen kids will be pleased to know the park is also a natural habitat for bears, deer and elk, along with a spectacular number of birds.

YOU HAVE TO DO DOLLYWOOD

Of course, you can just dip into the Great Smoky Mountains too and that's the perfect excuse to get to know Pigeon Forge: a gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, but most famous of all for Dollywood - 'Tripadvisor Traveller's Choice #1 Theme Park in the US 2025'. Nearby Gatlinburg is another Great Smoky Mountains' gateway with plenty of reasons to hang around, like the award-winning outdoor theme park, Anakeesta, as well as Gatlinburg SkyPark, where you can walk across the Skybridge at the top of Crockett Mountain: the longest pedestrian cable bridge in the US.

ROAD TRIP THROUGH HISTORY

Or try a trip through American history starting out at The National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis which is set in the Lorraine Motel where in 1968, Dr Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. If you want a longer drive, the museum is also part of the US Civil Rights Trail which connects 100 locations across the country, 15 of which are in Tennessee.

The Discovery Park of America in Union City is another good road trip fit. Spread across 70,000ft² it's packed with thrills from a 20,000 gallon aquarium to historical treasures, natural wonders and interactive exhibits. And once you're done exploring indoors, it's all set in a 50-acre heritage park which even has its own vintage train depot. Alternatively, add some living history to your journey with



a visit to the Museum of Appalachia in Clinton or head to Chattanooga to explore Rock City on Lookout Mountain.

FOLLOW THE LAUGHTER

Finally, to make planning your family road trip even easier, you'll find 33d Reviewed attractions all over the state, where children have given their honest opinion through laughter. So far, over 30 destinations have been Kid Reviewed and 97% of young reviewers reported having fun. So if you see the Kid Reviewed label, you know your kids will love it too. <

Ready to go road tripping with your kids? Tennessee is more than ready to make that happen tncvaction.com

TENNESSEE SOUNDS PERFECT



THANK YOU

For more information contact seonaid@familytraveller.com