

FAMILY TRAVELLER

TRAVEL SOUTH USA

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

KENTUCKY DIGITAL CONTENT UK 09/04/2025

[Come to Kentucky, it's like an enormous, natural playground for your kids](#)

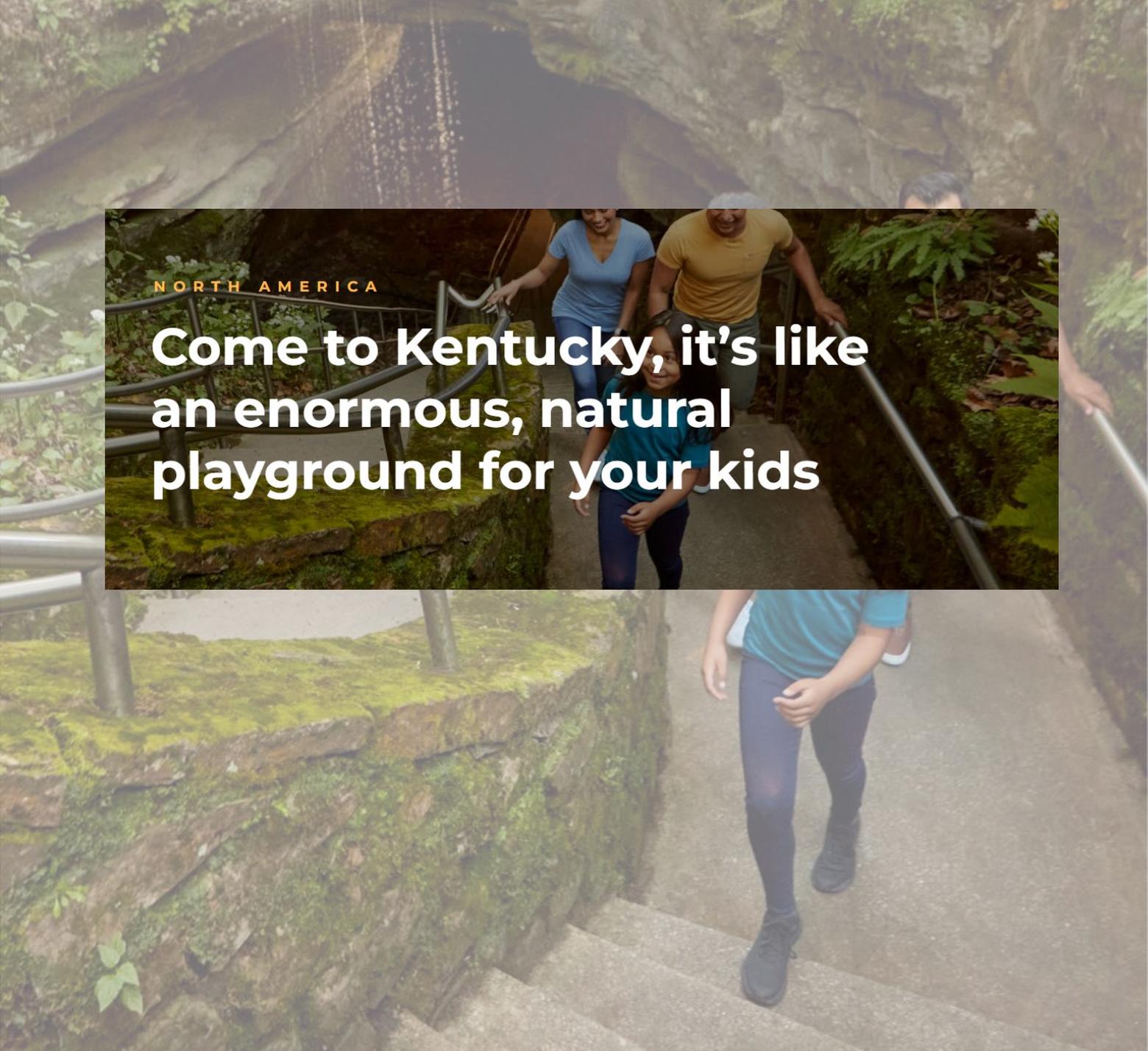
DATE RANGE: 09/04/2025 to 12/09/2025

TOTAL PAGE VIEWS: 57,225

AVERAGE TIME ON PAGE: 2 minutes, 19 seconds

NORTH AMERICA

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



KENTUCKY SOLUS EMAIL UK 10/23/2025

[We love this dream destination for kids](#)

DELIVERY DATE: 10/23/2025
SUBJECT: We love this dream destination for kids
SUBSCRIBERS: 180,000
TOTAL OPENS: 49,661
OPEN RATE: 28%
TOTAL CLICKS: 3,009
CTR: 6%



FAMILY TRAVELLER



Affordable Kentucky is the perfect family holiday

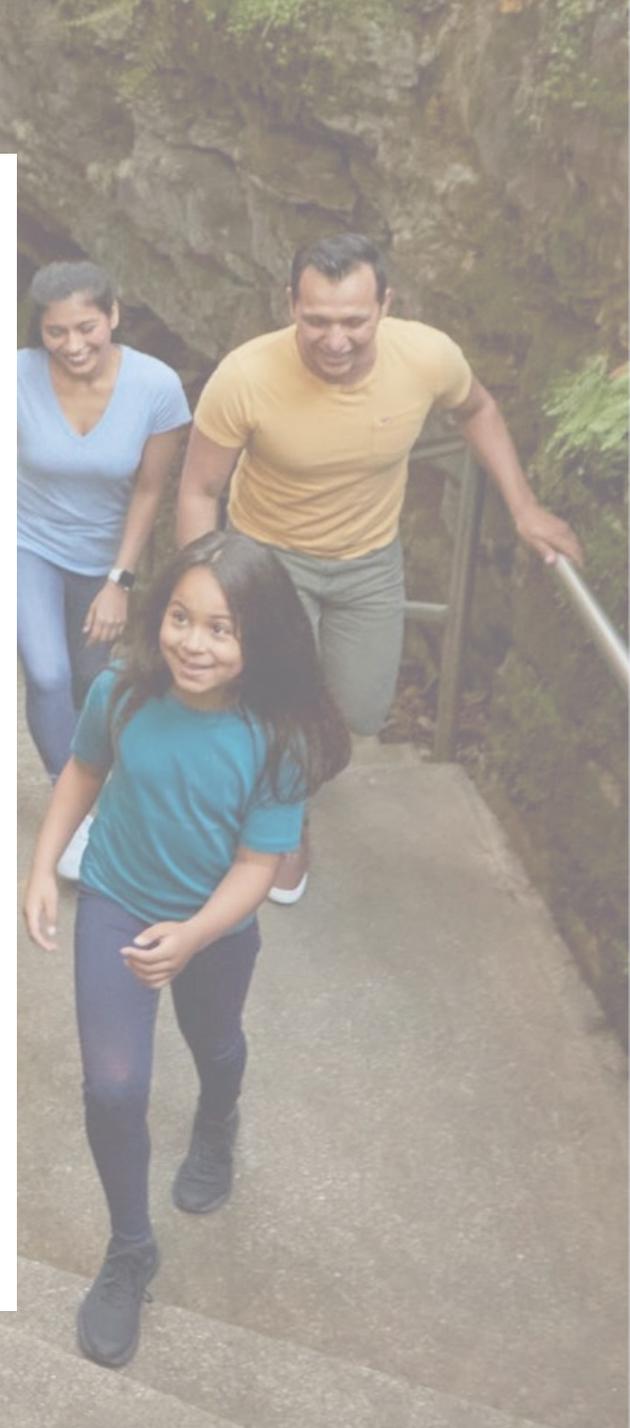
Kentucky is the [perfect family getaway](#)—where adventure, culture, and hands-on fun come together at a price that won't break the budget.

Explore the world's longest cave at Mammoth Cave National Park, hike the stunning trails of Red River Gorge, or meet gentle giants in the Horse Capital of the World. Kids will love swinging a bat at the Louisville Slugger Museum, riding the pedal-powered Rail Explorers, or spotting wildlife and horse riding at the Land Between the Lakes.

With accommodation to fit every budget, delicious local eats, and welcoming communities, as well as affordable attractions and outdoor adventures, Kentucky makes it easy for families to create unforgettable memories without overspending.

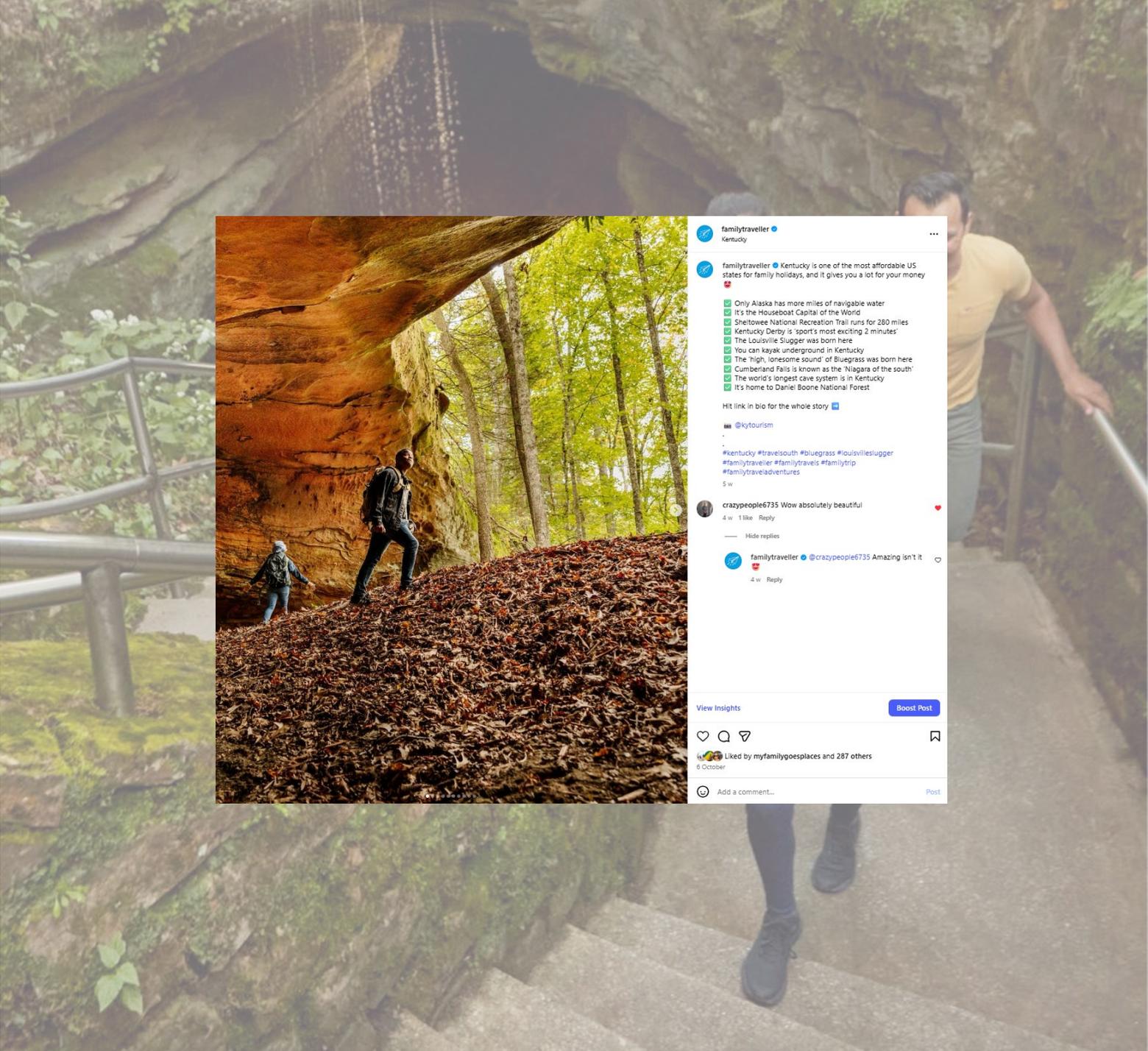
[START PLANNING YOUR KENTUCKY ADVENTURE TODAY](#)

KENTUCKY



KENTUCKY INSTAGRAM REEL UK 10/06/2025

DATE: 10/06/2025
IMPRESSIONS: 72,187
REACH: 69,000
ENGAGEMENT: 288 likes



familytraveller
Kentucky

familytraveller • Kentucky is one of the most affordable US states for family holidays, and it gives you a lot for your money

- Only Alaska has more miles of navigable water
- It's the Houseboat Capital of the World
- Sheftowee National Recreation Trail runs for 280 miles
- Kentucky Derby is 'sport's most exciting 2 minutes'
- The Louisville Slugger was born here
- You can kayak underground in Kentucky
- The 'high, lonesome sound' of Bluegrass was born here
- Cumberland Falls is known as the 'Niagara of the south'
- The world's longest cave system is in Kentucky
- It's home to Daniel Boone National Forest

Hit link in bio for the whole story

@kytourism

#kentucky #travelsouth #bluegrass #louisvilleslugger #familytraveller #familytravels #familytrip #familytraveladventures

5 w

crazypeople6735 Wow absolutely beautiful
4 w 1 like Reply

familytraveller @crazypeople6735 Amazing isn't it
4 w Reply

View Insights Boost Post

6 October Liked by myfamilygoesplaces and 287 others

Add a comment... Post

KENTUCKY FACEBOOK POST UK 10/08/2025

DATE: 10/08/2025
IMPRESSIONS: 79,420
REACH: 195,000
CLICKS: 1,902
CTR: 2.4%



 **Family Traveller (Default)**
Published by Seonaid Ford Mcgill · 8 October · 🌐

There's so much to do in Kentucky, one family holiday might not be enough 😊 Good news is, as well as being great fun, Kentucky is also very affordable 🍷 See what we mean ➡️ [#Kentucky](#) [#familytraveller](#) [#familytrip](#) [#FamilyTravel](#) [#familytraveladventures](#)



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

KENTUCKY EDITORIAL EMAIL UK 09/21/2025

DELIVERY DATE: 09/21/2025
SUBJECT: New! Up to 45% off winter sun holidays
SUBSCRIBERS: 200,000
TOTAL OPENS: 62,109
OPEN RATE: 31%
TOTAL CLICKS: 11,491
KENTUCKY CLICKS: 2,019 (18%)



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Save up to 45% on luxury family holidays from now until December 2025

Book luxury family holidays to the Maldives, to Bali Lombok, to Costa Rica and more during this period, and save up to 45% on travel until the end of 2025.

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Our pick of Disney's most magical places to eat

We were fortunate to be among the first to book at the new Disney World Resort in Florida. Please consider always booking with Disney Family Traveller for the best price and to get our exclusive 'Family Traveller' perks.

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The ANTONIO'S BARRI All-Inclusive family holiday

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The Snowy Lapland Adventure your kids will love most

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When to find the sunniest beach breaks this summer

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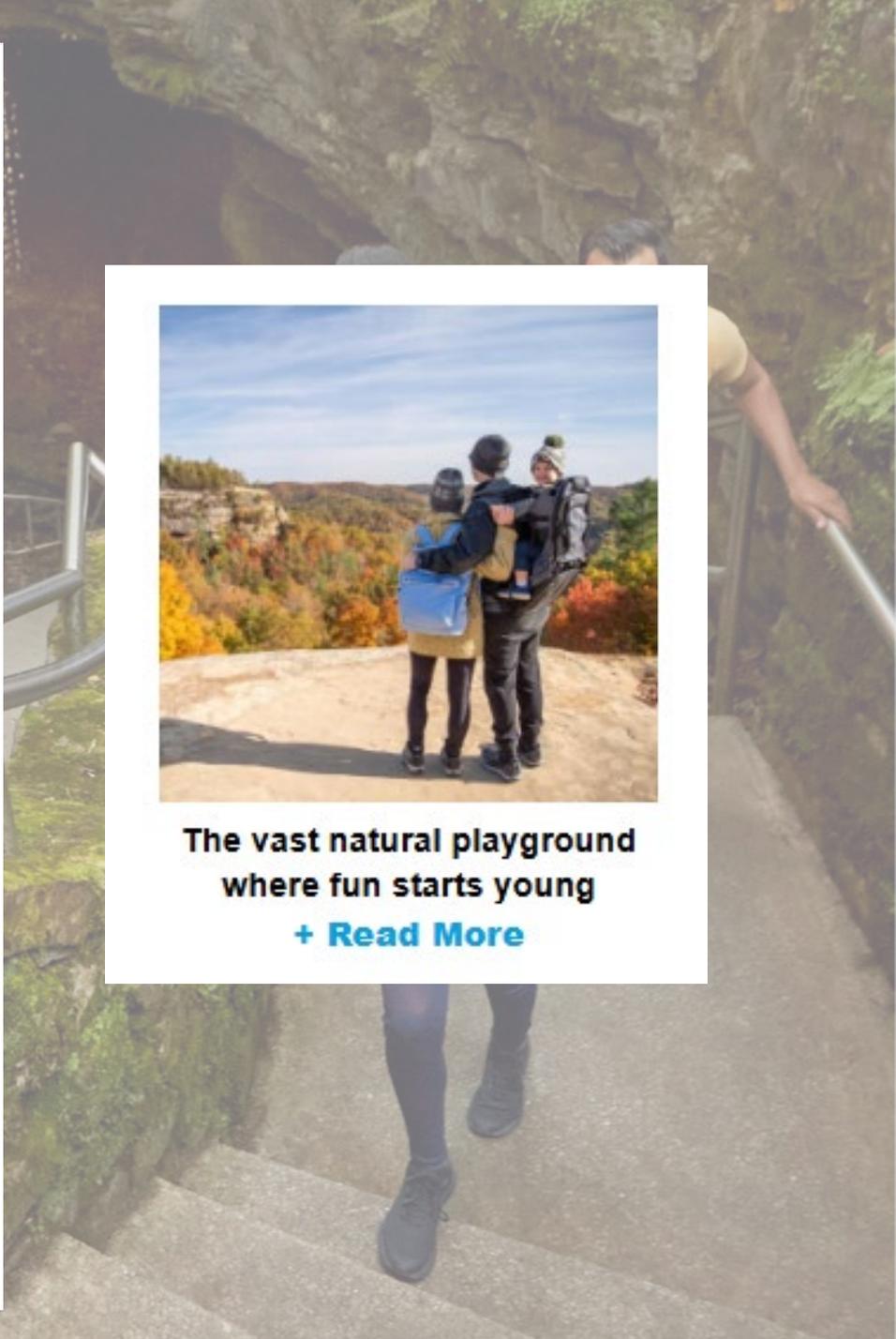


The vast natural playground where fun starts young

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The vast natural playground where fun starts young

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KENTUCKY EDITORIAL EMAIL UK 10/26/2025

DELIVERY DATE: 10/26/2025
SUBJECT: Joy! Adorable UK hotels for cosy family breaks
SUBSCRIBERS: 200,000
TOTAL OPENS: 59,370
OPEN RATE: 29%
TOTAL CLICKS: 10,178
KENTUCKY CLICKS: 1,906 (19%)



FAMILY TRAVELLER

The coziest UK winter hotel breaks for families
See our pick of the best hotels in the UK for a cosy escape, with weekend stays and Christmas breaks all year long.
[Read More](#)

All the best UK Christmas markets for kids
Check our winter break book this year and our guide to UK Christmas markets that are going all out to entertain your kids.
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Dig New! The new type of old holiday your kids will love!
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Discover "Saxanna Skiing" in the French Alps this winter
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Some places never fail to surprise, this is one of them
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Some places never fail to surprise, this is one of them
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KENTUCKY EDITORIAL EMAIL UK 11/23/2025

DELIVERY DATE: 11/23/2025
SUBJECT: Fairy tale breaks to enchant kids right now
SUBSCRIBERS: 200,000
TOTAL OPENS: 57,198
OPEN RATE: 28%
TOTAL CLICKS: 11,279
KENTUCKY CLICKS: 2,191 (19%)

FAMILY TRAVELLER



Fairy tale cities to enchant your kids this winter

In the mood for a fairytale escape? We've found you European, alpine cities with all the great charm of towns and guaranteed entertainment for kids. Plus, several of the most family-friendly ski resorts in the world.

[Read More](#)



Where to go now for really warm winter sun

Need something right now? We've done the research for you and, from Spain to Bali, Africa, here's where high temperatures, beautiful and local weather can guarantee.

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Weekend ski breaks are a thing this winter, here's where!

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Heads Up! This is next year's most creative holiday idea

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Now! The most fun way to ski with your kids this winter

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Heads Up! This is next year's most creative holiday idea

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KENTUCKY DIGITAL CONTENT CANADA

[Get to know Kentucky, the vast natural playground your kids will love](#)

DATE RANGE: 09/06/2025 to 12/09/2025

TOTAL PAGE VIEWS: 52,839

AVERAGE TIME ON PAGE: 1 minutes, 57 seconds



Get to know Kentucky, the vast, natural playground your kids will love

KENTUCKY SOLUS EMAIL CANADA

[We love this dream destination for kids](#)

DELIVERY DATE: 10/23/2025
SUBJECT: We love this dream destination for kids
SUBSCRIBERS: 100,000
TOTAL OPENS: 32,025
OPEN RATE: 32%
TOTAL CLICKS: 3,029
CTR: 9%



FAMILY TRAVELLER



Affordable Kentucky is a perfect family vacation

Kentucky is the [perfect family getaway](#) - where adventure, culture, and hands-on fun come together at a price that won't break the budget.

Explore the world's longest cave at Mammoth Cave National Park, hike the stunning trails of Red River Gorge, or meet gentle giants in the Horse Capital of the World. Kids will love swinging a bat at the Louisville Slugger Museum, riding the pedal-powered Rail Explorers, or spotting wildlife and horse riding at the Land Between the Lakes.

With accommodations to fit every budget, delicious local eats, and welcoming communities, as well as affordable attractions and outdoor adventures, Kentucky makes it easy for families to create unforgettable memories without overspending.

[START PLANNING YOUR KENTUCKY ADVENTURE TODAY](#)

KENTUCKY



KENTUCKY FACEBOOK POST 1. CANADA

DATE: 09/18/2025
IMPRESSIONS: 87,317
REACH: 195,000
CLICKS: 2,120
CTR: 2.4%



KENTUCKY FACEBOOK POST 2. CANADA

DATE: 10/03/2025
IMPRESSIONS: 91,270
REACH: 195,000
CLICKS: 2,477
CTR: 2.7%

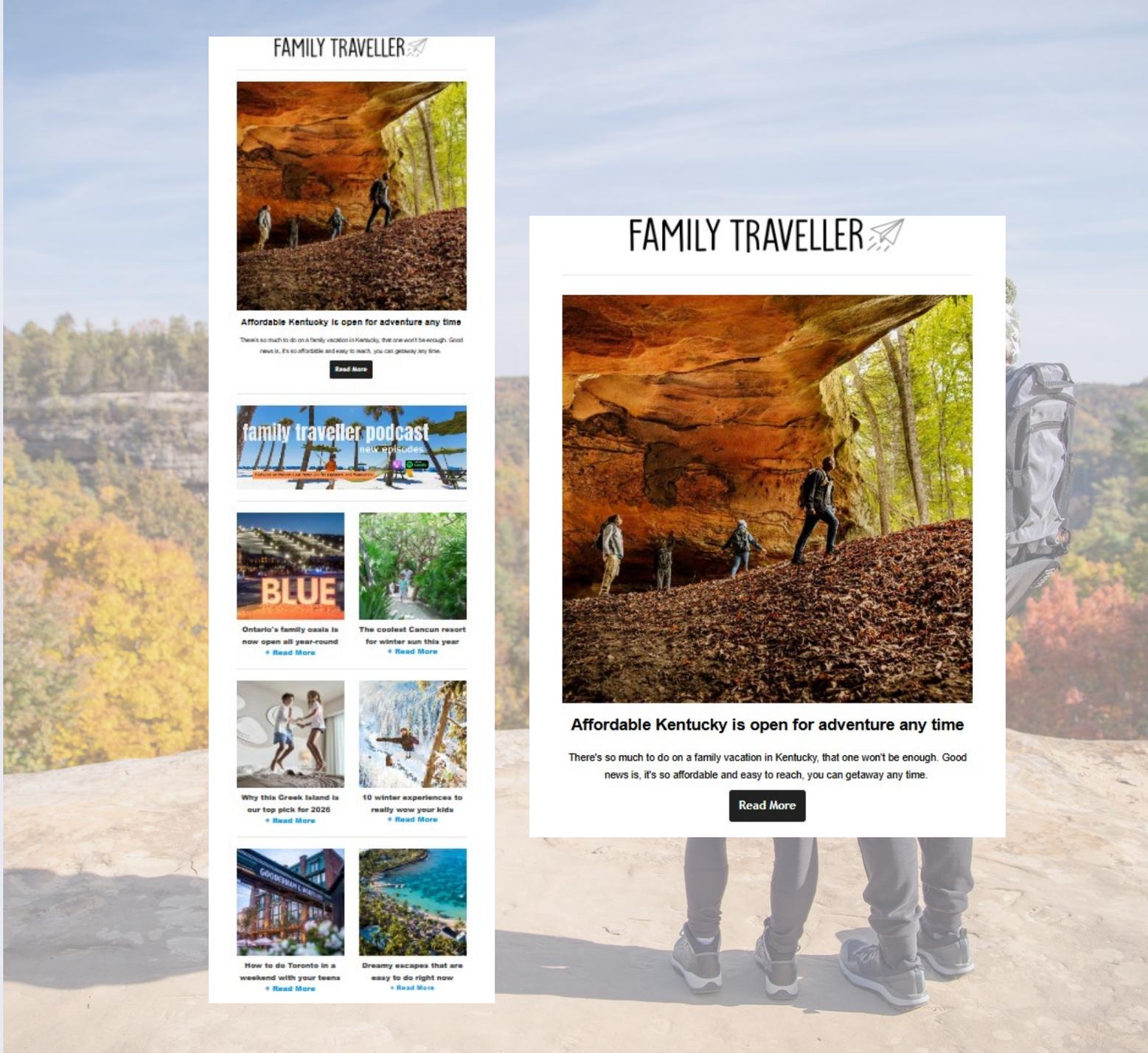
 **Family Traveller** added 6 new photos from 3 October at 10:00. Published by Seonaid Ford McGill · 3 October · 1 · 1

You don't have to work hard to work a budget in Kentucky 🇺🇸 You'll find good value accommodations everywhere from cities to state parks. Adventuring outdoors is often absolutely free 🤗 and many museums and attractions offer generous child discounts 🤗 So now you know it costs less to visit with kids, dive into what's happening in Kentucky for families ➡️ <https://familytraveller.com/.../kentucky-family-vacation.../> #Kentucky #VacationDeals #FamilyTrip #familyvacation #familytraveller

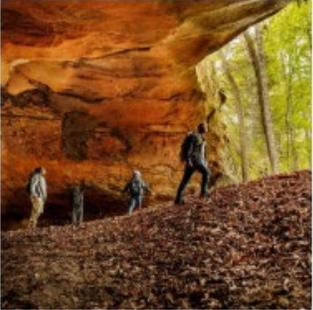


KENTUCKY EDITORIAL EMAIL CANADA

DELIVERY DATE: 09/18/2025
SUBJECT: Escape! Family getaways you need right now
SUBSCRIBERS: 120,000
TOTAL OPENS: 39,164
OPEN RATE: 30%
TOTAL CLICKS: 5,119
KENTUCKY CLICKS: 1,221 (24%)



FAMILY TRAVELLER 



Affordable Kentucky is open for adventure any time

There's so much to do on a family vacation in Kentucky, that one won't be enough. Good news is, it's so affordable and easy to reach, you can getaway any time.

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family traveller podcast
new episodes



BLUE



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The coolest Cancun resort for winter sun this year

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Why this Greek island is our top pick for 2025

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10 winter experiences to really wow your kids

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How to do Toronto in a weekend with your teens

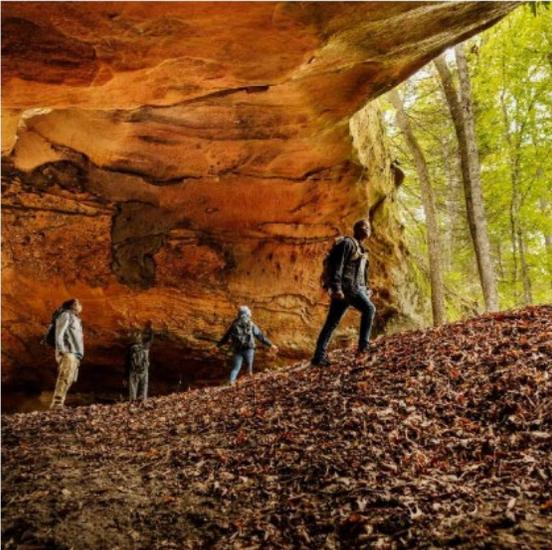
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Dreamy escapes that are easy to do right now

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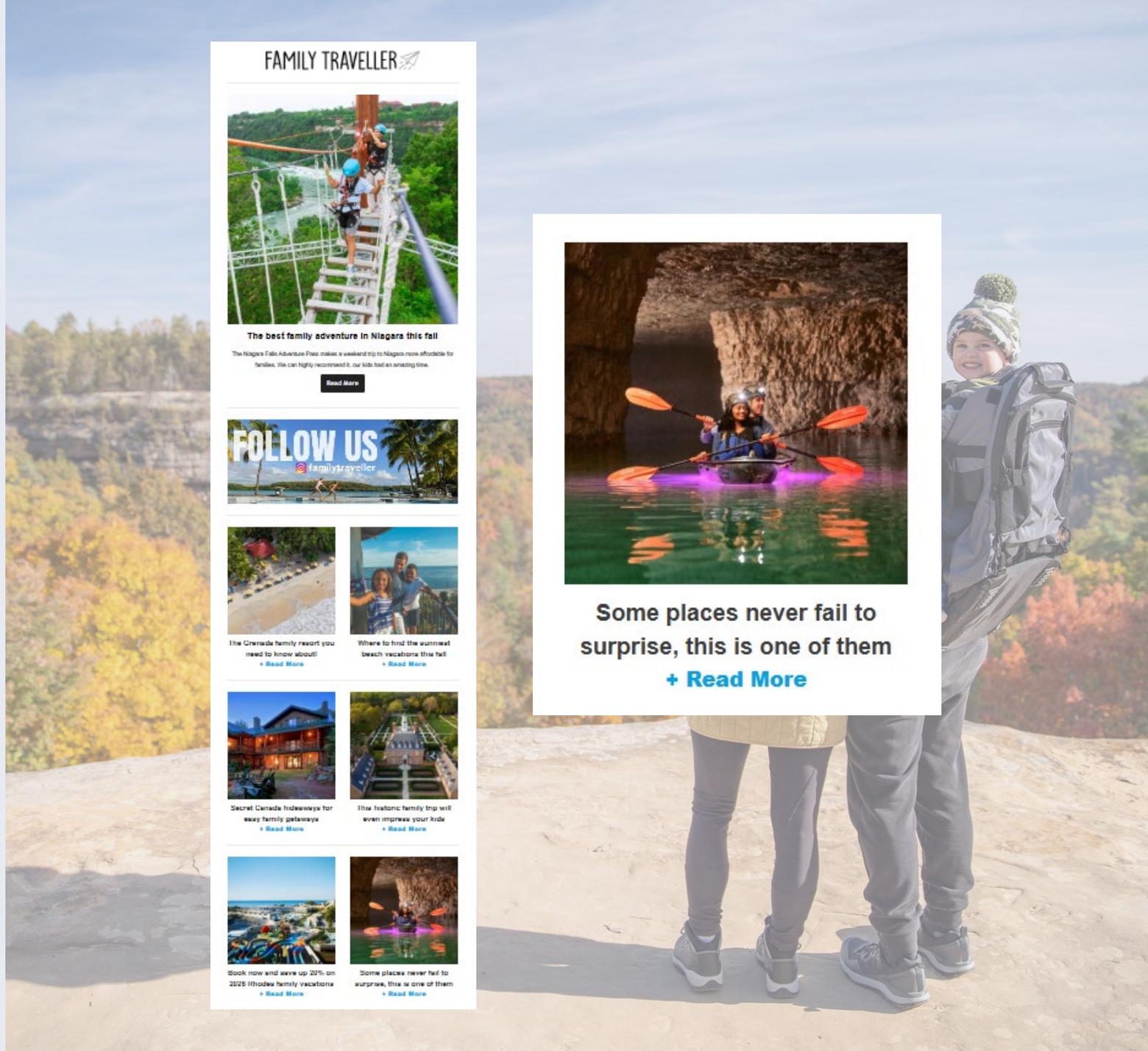
Affordable Kentucky is open for adventure any time

There's so much to do on a family vacation in Kentucky, that one won't be enough. Good news is, it's so affordable and easy to reach, you can getaway any time.

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KENTUCKY EDITORIAL EMAIL CANADA

DELIVERY DATE: 10/09/2025
SUBJECT: How to save on fall family adventures!
SUBSCRIBERS: 120,000
TOTAL OPENS: 33,279
OPEN RATE: 28%
TOTAL CLICKS: 4,928
KENTUCKY CLICKS: 989 (20%)



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The best family adventure in Niagara this fall
The Niagara Falls Adventure Pass makes a weekend trip to Niagara more affordable for families. We can highly recommend it, our kids had an amazing time.

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The Grenade family resort you need to know about!
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Where to find the warmest beach vacations this fall
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Secret Canada hideaways for your family getaways
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The historic family trip will even impress your kids
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Book now and save up to 20% on 2025 Rhode family vacations
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Some places never fail to surprise, this is one of them
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Some places never fail to surprise, this is one of them
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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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Buckle up for incredible Tennessee family road trips made for your kids

5TH SEPTEMBER 2025

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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 Bayou,
Montauk Bayou
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 fewer 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

"WINTER IN ALABAMA IS NOT AS YOU KNOW IT IN THE UK"

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ALABAMA



SEE FOREVER
Climax Tower
Pinnacle Mountain
Pinnacle Mountain
Pinnacle Mountain



cave that takes you 175-feet underground. And if you walk the fascinating Fossil Mountain Hiking Trail you more than earn a cooling dip in the park's Olympic-size swimming pool which is fed by refreshingly cold cave waters.

Wild about ziplines! Alabama state parks have got you. Intrepid young fliers can take tree canopy tours on Screaming Eagle Ziplines at Lake Guntersville State Park or DeSoto State Park, an hour's drive from Birmingham.

A family-friendly hike to the immense 104-foot tall DeSoto Falls is another reason to visit DeSoto State Park. Or head a few minutes south to its neighbour, Little Silver Canyon National Preserve, for more waterfalls along with stunning canyon views.

Then there's Cheaha Desert State Park which sits at the most southerly end of the Appalachian Mountains, as well as the highest point in Alabama, and is a paradise for mountain bikers. Alternatively, try more trail walks through the trees in one of Alabama's four National Forests.

HISTORIC HOLIDAYS
Nothing is so versatile, Alabama also scores high on family attractions, as well as impressive history.

America's first Mardi Gras took place in Mobile and you can trace its heritage and more on self-guided walking tours. If that puts you in the mood for music, you're in the right place for that too.

Not only is Alabama home to iconic P.A.M.E. studios and Muscle Shoals Sound studio, everyone from Aretha Franklin to the Rolling Stones has recorded music in the state, so a visit to the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in Tusculumbia is a must.

If you want to delve even further back in time, W.C. Handy, known as the 'Father of the Blues', was born in Florence, Alabama in 1873. Not that Florence considers this 'old news', as it still hosts the W.C. Handy Music Festival every summer.

The state's music credentials might seem stary, but they're nothing compared to the galaxy of greats at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville. It's the world's largest space museum, and earns Huntsville the nickname, 'Rocket City'.

Back down to earth Alabama also played a pivotal role in the American Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s, and Birmingham Civil Rights District marks the 1960s battleground for the movement. It's also where you'll find the excellent Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. Of course, Alabama's state capital, Montgomery, is another city that's synonymous with the Civil Rights Movement and its poignant Civil Rights Memorial is justifiably world famous. Take a tour of the Civil Rights Memorial Center to see the Wall of Justice and The Martyr's Boon, and leave time for the Apathy to not an option theatre which connects the late 20th century fight for civil rights to social justice activism of today.

Finally, of course your kids will have thoughts on as my family travel plans, but the best news is, Alabama gives them plenty to think about. <3

Start your next big family adventure right here with a visit to Sweet Home Alabama alabama.travel

Sweet Home Alabama

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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 landlocked is a mere detail to Arkansas.

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

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LOOK OUT
Discover them by visiting the state capital, Little Rock, or the state's oldest town, Fayetteville.

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 Bull's Head 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 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 south 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 State Parks you get to see 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, Cassa Creek State Park is a kayaking hotspot where you can glide through beautiful pools in summer as lively as its sounds. 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 River and Tyler Bend. Alternatively, you can view family cabins your road to Buffalo River, and gaze in your own time. <3

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



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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 budget in Kentucky. You'll find good value accommodation everywhere, adventure outdoors is often 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 Sheltown 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 Park. 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 'Swampboat Capital of the World' here, on Lake Cumberland in Lake Cumberland State River Park. 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 on gilded boats through flooded cave 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 facilities designed for them. 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 Ball Explorers tour to the heart of Horse Country. Not just any old tour, this is one where you pedal yourself along reppurposed rail tracks on a two or four person 'rail bike' - a modified version of the hand-cars used by rail

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KENTUCKY



HIDE TALK
Cumberland
Cumberland
Cumberland
Cumberland
Cumberland
Cumberland
Cumberland
Cumberland
Cumberland
Cumberland



Get the feeling Kentucky is a lot of fun? You are so right. To find out just how much fun you can have visit kentucky.com



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WIDE EYED
Cuddles from far off: Charlotte Truitt (above), Aerialist Forest (middle) and Myrtle Beach SkyWheel (right)

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 'Tammock 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'll 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 490 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 back 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



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: Dollywood's Choo-Choo, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Sun Studio, Memphis



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 Kurohvi 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 exploratory 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

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



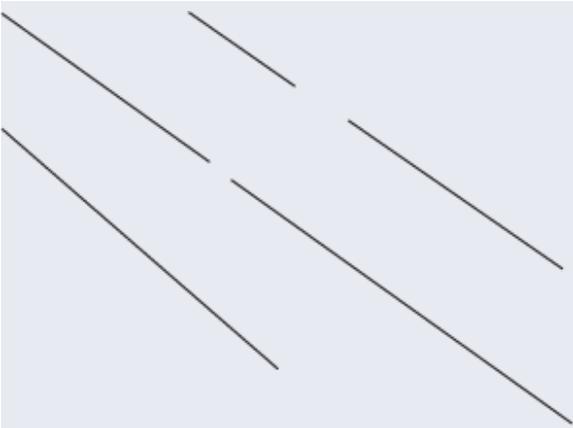
a visit to the Museum of Appalachia in Clinton or head to Chattanooga to explore Rock City on Lookout Mountain.

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