

5 places to see before summer departs

By Lynn O'Rourke Hayes
 FamilyTravel.com

Don't let summer slip by without making a family travel plan. Here are five ideas to consider:

1. Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Colorado Springs, Colorado. On 200 scenic acres, with golf, tennis, spa, a 35-acre lake with loads of water action and plenty of hiking trails nearby, this 316-room resort provides a grand location from which to explore "The Springs." On property, your family can cozy up around a beach bonfire, go paddle boarding at sunset or play Marco Polo in the pool. There's a Kid's Club to consider and special programs offered during summer and school holidays.

Nearby, visit the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, North Cheyenne Canon Park, the Air Force Academy, Pikes Peak and the U.S. Olympic Training Facility. Contact: www.CheyenneMountain.com; www.VisitCos.com.

2. Head to Hawaii. On the big island, combine beach time with the chance to witness lava erupting at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park where volcanoes Kilauea and Mauna Loa are both active.

Hike or bike up to a viewpoint to catch the stunning sight of luminous lava pouring into the Pacific Ocean. For a different kind of sensory experience, venture to Maui and spend time with local farmers growing more than 45 varieties of sweet-smelling lavender. Take home some of the locally made products to keep the memory alive in the months ahead. Contact: www.MarriottHawaii.com.

3. Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, Scottsdale, Arizona. A 30th birthday bash is underway at this Sonoran desert resort where the fun includes swimming with mermaids, new virtual reality rides, weekend throw-back pool parties, dive-in movies and fireworks every Saturday night. You'll want to dig your toes in the white sand at the Sunset Beach pool or join the festivities

at the Sonoran Splash pool where water slides, music and games up the fun factor. Kids can fish in the lagoon, play golf or spend the day at the Trailblazers Kids Club where activities include ping pong, learning about desert wildlife, making s'mores in a solar oven and recreational games.

The day ends with an ice cream social. Sweet treats aside, parents will appreciate the Lifestyle Cuisine menu for adults and children that focuses on providing healthy choices. With so many festivities underway, adults might want to schedule some quiet time at the top-notch Well & Being spa. Contact: www.fairmont.com/scottsdale; www.ExperienceScottsdale.com.

4. Terranea Resort and Spa, Rancho Palos Verdes, California. Perched above the Pacific on 102 acres, the stunning views from this oceanfront oasis are reason enough for a visit. Check in and enjoy sea kayaking, strolling along the Discovery Trail, the Tide Pool Kids Club and a kid-friendly resort pool. While there are plenty of family dining options on property, grownups will be well-served to reserve an evening to enjoy the views from Mar'sel, the perfect venue for a romantic evening. A seaside spa and fitness facility provide coastal-inspired wellness options. Contact: Terranea.com

5. Timberline Lodge, Mount Hood, Oregon. Located in Oregon's Mount Hood National Forest, this magnificent lodge was built at the height of the Great Depression by unemployed craftspeople hired by the Federal Works Progress Administration. Completed on Sept. 28, 1937, the historic structure has long served as the centerpiece of a mountain playground where families ski, hike, dine, mountain bike, learn about the local flora and fauna and simply enjoy the high-altitude natural beauty. Contact: www.timberlinelodge.com; www.TravelOregon.com.

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