



## School's Out for Summer!

### *These Six Family Vacation Ideas Teach and Inspire New Activities for Kids*

June 20, 2019 – You can hear the cheers from the under-18 set: Summer is here! While schools across the country have shut their doors for the long-awaited summer season, that doesn't mean the learning has to end. But it CAN be fun. So, parents, listen up: If you want to keep the kids entertained, out of trouble and away from screens this summer, plan a vacation that offers something for every member of the family, including fun activities that can teach children new skills and expose them to new hobbies that could last a lifetime.

Outlined below are six family-friendly trip ideas from [Mindy Bianca Public Relations' clients](#) that appeal to parents and kids alike, and offer something (fun!) for kids to learn. From scuba lessons in St. Croix to sailing on Maryland's picturesque Eastern Shore and even building sandcastles in Gulf Shores & Orange Beach, Alabama, these destinations offer plenty of new hobbies for your kids to discover.

#### **Complimentary Learn-to-Scuba Classes in St. Croix**

Family-owned and operated for more than 70 years, [The Buccaneer](#) has earned countless accolades by providing a luxurious yet relaxing setting conducive to soothing Caribbean fun. Situated on 340 tropical acres, the resort offers a wealth of programs for every age to enjoy throughout the property's lush grounds. Many of these activities can be experienced by guests for their very first time when they participate in instructor-led classes and lessons, including scuba diving. **Learn-to-scuba classes are available at no charge to guests ages 10 and older**, thanks to the resort's

partnership with a local dive shop called St. Croix Ultimate Bluewater Adventure. Taught in the resort's Arcade Pool, the two-hour instructional session is a time when guests learn the basic scuba procedures and safety instructions. Upon successful completion of the program, guests are certified to complete an open-water dive, which can be booked through the concierge desk and which comes at an additional charge. *Overnight rates start at \$315 per room, per night.*

### **Sand Castle Building 101 in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, Alabama**

Many people don't even realize that Alabama has a beach, but [Gulf Shores and Orange Beach](#) are vacation treasures located right on the Gulf Coast. Here, visitors will discover 32 miles of sugar-white sandy beaches, the clear waters of the Gulf of Mexico, family fun and delicious food. But perhaps the best souvenir of a beach vacation is a photographic evidence of a new-found skill: families can book a session to learn from the beach architects at [Sand Castle University](#), which specializes in teaching tips and tricks to building the best sand castles. "Sand Castle 101" is a one-hour class that introduces the basics of sand castle building, while "Sand Castle 102" is a two-hour class that involves more advanced techniques and special tools. *View pricing [here](#).* Make a weekend or week-long vacation out of it and stay at the new family-friendly [Lodge at Gulf State Park](#) that opened at the end of 2018 and offers 350 Gulf-front and park-view rooms, a third of which feature built-in bunk beds. *Overnight summer rates start at \$284 per room, per night.*

### **Learn to Golf in Cooperstown, New York**

Cooperstown isn't just about baseball. Located in the lush landscape of New York's Northern Catskill Mountains, Cooperstown, affectionally nicknamed "America's Most Perfect Village," is home to the elegant and historic [Otesaga Resort Hotel](#). Situated on the shores of Otsego Lake, the resort's award-winning Leatherstocking Golf Course is considered one of the most scenic and challenging resort golf courses on the East Coast. During the summer, the resort offers a [Junior Golf Clinic](#) that provides younger golfers (age 16 and below) with the basic knowledge and understanding of the game. The goal is to provide a small group setting (no more than six participants per session) where young golfers can learn basic skills to build upon a lifestyle of enjoyment of the game. *Sessions are offered Saturdays through the summer from 2 to 3 pm; \$20 per junior participant. Overnight summer rates at The Otesaga start at \$299 per room, per night.*

### **Learn to Fly-Fish in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley**

Gather the family and road trip it to Waynesboro, situated at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains and just a few miles from the entrance to the Shenandoah National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Offering some of the finest trout fishing in Virginia, the [South River Fly Shop](#) in Waynesboro offers full-service guiding and instruction, as well as an extensive selection of gear for the seasoned angler and novice alike. Guided excursions range from the nearby South River, just two blocks from the shop, to Shenandoah National Park and the Shenandoah and James rivers. As one of only two urban trout fisheries in the entire state, Waynesboro lures anglers to the South River's spring-fed waters for trophy-sized rainbow and brown trout. The best fly fishing is in the catch-and-release section downtown, easily accessible from the South River Greenway, a paved walking path along the river. Make it a weekend getaway and stay at the charming [Iris Inn](#), which overlooks the Shenandoah Valley; rates vary.

### **Learn to Sail on Maryland's Chesapeake Bay**

The historic Miles River Yacht Club in charming [St. Michael's, on Maryland's Eastern Shore](#), enjoys a long-standing and rich tradition of supporting boating, sailing and swimming activities for this community that's nestled on the Chesapeake Bay waterfront. During the summer, the club

offers a variety of instructional classes through its popular [Junior Sail Program](#), open to members and non-members alike. From the “Sea Kids” course that’s designed to make young sailors more comfortable in and around sailboats to “Adventure Sailing” for more advanced junior sailors who are interested in advanced navigation technique, there’s a class for every skill level and interest. *Prices vary per class; visit [here](#).* For out-of-town visitors, [St. Michaels Harbour Inn, Marina & Spa](#) is a full-service resort that offers luxurious, waterfront accommodations. *Overnight summer rates at \$219 per room, per night.*

### **Baseball – “The Ripken Way” – in Aberdeen, Maryland**

Situated just 25 miles north of Baltimore and 80 miles south of Philadelphia, [Harford County](#), Maryland, is located along the Interstate 95 corridor and just off the shores of the scenic Chesapeake Bay. Lined with historic harbor towns that are rich in history and cultural amenities, Harford County is also known for being home to the renowned [Ripen Experience](#) – a baseball camp founded by baseball legends and brothers, Cal and Bill Ripken, in their hometown of Aberdeen, Maryland. Bringing together teammates, coaches and families to teach the values of the game, the Ripken Experience offers four-day **Rookie Camps** that are specifically designed for 7- and 8-year-olds that focus on teaching campers to build a foundation for skills in infield, outfield, hitting positions and throwing mechanics. The experienced staff are trained the “Ripken Way” and focus their teaching on the value of the game, proper technique and fun. There are several hotels located directly next to the Ripken Experience for easy access, including the [Courtyard by Marriott at Ripken Stadium](#) and the [Residence Inn Aberdeen at Ripken Stadium](#); *rates vary.*

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