

## Family travel: It's time to start planning your holiday vacation

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*The ice-skating rink at Rockefeller Center in New York is already open for the season; can the holidays be far behind?*

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Anticipating holiday and winter festivities is half the fun, so don't put off making plans. Here are five ideas worth considering:

**1 Season's Treatings.** Families can expect three months of holiday surprises, thoughtful extras and special values, thanks to the Season's Treatings promotion underway at 39 Preferred Hotel Group properties around the world. Participating hotels and resorts are part of the Preferred Family Collection, indicating their special attention to the needs of families exploring the world. Beginning Nov. 15, guests can expect culturally relevant taste treats like tea and cake in Tokyo, gingerbread in Germany and maple-sugar delicacies in Vermont, among other special considerations.

**Contact:** 1-866-990-9491; [preferredfamily.com/seasonstreatings](http://preferredfamily.com/seasonstreatings)

**2 "Stay at Three, Ski for Free."** Ski-loving families who book a three-night stay at each of three properties in the newly designated Hyatt Mountain Collection (Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort & Spa, Hyatt Escala Lodge Park City and Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort) this ski season will receive a complimentary Epic Pass for the next year. The Epic Pass provides unlimited access to 12 resorts, including Vail, Beaver Creek and Northstar. Use booking code EPIC. Offer good for stays Nov. 27 through April 20.

**Contact:** [hyattmountaincollection.com](http://hyattmountaincollection.com)

**3 Gaylord National Resort, National Harbor, Md.** For 52 days beginning Nov. 15, families can join in the Christmas on the Potomac celebration taking place just 8 miles south of Washington, D.C. Twelve miles of lights illuminate the way as guests marvel at a 60-foot-tall glass Christmas tree, indoor snowfalls and the season's centerpiece, Ice!, 2 million pounds of hand-carved beauty. The "'Twas the

Night Before Christmas” theme incorporates life-size vignettes from the beloved poem. Hotel packages include special access, culinary activities plus photo ops and character breakfasts.

**Contact:** 301-965-4000;christmasonthepotomac.com

**4 Winter at Wild Dunes, Isle of Palms, S.C.** For those seeking seaside fun in the months ahead, the Wild Dunes Resort has packaged savings and surprises.

Kids and grown-ups can participate in a Harvest Hangout Thanksgiving Festival, decorate golf carts for a festive parade and enjoy Little Gobbler’s Golf.

Later, take part in a “wild elf chase” to win prizes, join Rudolph for breakfast or experience a gingerbread pedicure. For extra fun, hop aboard the Thriller Sleigh Boat Ride, Charleston’s version of sleigh-ride caroling.

**Contact:** 1-888-778-1876;wilddunes.com

**5 New York.** From ice-skating at Rockefeller Center to shopping on Fifth Avenue, there are few places that channel the holiday vibe like the Big Apple. Yet with so much to see and do, the options can become overwhelming. A new website helps would-be travelers pare down the possibilities. From insider restaurant and hotel suggestions to museums, tours, events and entertainment, the multifaceted site can turn detailed planning into a pleasure.

**Contact:** newyork.com

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