



Summertime is family vacation time

By Kim Darrell, General Manager, Meyer-Franklin Travel

Spring has only just arrived and already we're thinking about summer vacations. Yet in three short months, school lets out for summer, so it really is time to start planning your summer holiday adventure.

Whether your family prefers to unwind on the beach, enjoy the thrills of a theme park or be invigorated by the energy and activities of a big city, a vacation can be planned just for you.

Let's start with the beach. It's an inescapable truth of travel that few getaways are more relaxing than an all-inclusive resort. For years, our clients have given high marks to Beaches Resorts in Turks & Caicos and Jamaica. Beaches offers luxury vacations where just about anything you could ever imagine is included. And we mean everything. From meals and snacks, kids' activities, golf, scuba diving and water sports, butler service, premium drinks and more, it's all included.

Beaches has made an art out of entertaining the kids and they offer exciting, fun activities no matter what your children's ages. The littlest ones keep company with their "best friends" from Sesame Street under the care and cuddling of certified nannies. The under-12s have a slew of fun-filled activities to match their boundless energy. Teenagers will find a world of their own where they can be as active as they like or just chill. For the 12-17s, there's the Scratch DJ Academy; Liquid, a teens-only hotspot; Xbox 360's Game Garage or Trench Town, a hang-out with arcade games, air hockey, basketball and plasma-screen TVs.

The best part is that once the kids are doing their thing, Beaches gives the parents plenty of ways to enjoy time for themselves. Now doesn't that sound grand?

Orlando's Walt Disney World Resort is another family favourite. There are six theme parks: Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Blizzard Beach, Animal Kingdom Park, Hollywood Studios and Typhoon Lagoon.

The first step is to talk with your travel agent about where to stay. Disney has resorts at various budget levels. If your children are young, think about one of the resorts located at Magic Kingdom, as you'll probably spend most of your time there. You can also choose one of Disney's meal plan options to meet your needs.



No matter which park you choose, Disney veterans often adopt this strategy for squeezing the most out of a visit: Get to the park early, grab a map and a schedule and explore the park. After lunch, it's time for a break, so head back to your hotel for a little pool time and relaxation. Once refreshed, head back to the park for the evening, when the mood and feel is different and a special roster of don't-miss events is always planned. If you buy Disney's Park Hopper Pass, you can visit more than one park a day.

If the beach or Disney isn't quite your cup of tea, perhaps London is. Chic and cosmopolitan, London is also a wonderful family destination.

With an unending list of attractions including the Tower of London, the magnificent London Zoo, Madame Tussaud's, Sea Life London Aquarium, the British Museum, a vibrant theatre district and wonderful children's museums, there is something to appeal to everyone.

When planning a trip to London, your most careful planning revolves around your accommodations. Here, a professional travel agent is worth their weight in gold. If there are four or more in your family, ask about an apartment rental, which can save you money and give your stay a more relaxed and home-like feel.

To book your family's summer vacation, call Meyer-Franklin Travel on 295-4176. We are proud to be named Top Travel Agency by Bermudian Business in recognition of our dedication to excellent customer service. www.meyer-franklintravel.bm.