

Hit the Road for a Reunion

Parks, camps, and cruise ships will roll out the red carpet for a get-together that your family will treasure for decades.

BY LARRY BLEIBERG



Maumee Bay State Park Lodge, Ohio

With swimming, hiking, golfing, and fishing, this Lake Erie retreat has lots to keep family members of all ages happy. Come summer, the amphitheater hosts live music, magic, or comedy shows on Saturday nights.

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

Guests under 17 stay free, and rollaways and playpens accommodate extended families. Deluxe cottages can sleep up to 11. Rooms range from \$89.99 to \$199 nightly; cottages are \$200 to \$500 per night.

DAY TRIP Pack the stands for a Toledo Mud Hens minor league baseball game, where your family can get a big welcome with their names on the scoreboard.

PEACE AND QUIET Try a massage from the on-site therapist—consider it your treat for planning such a great getaway!

NEW TRADITION You can literally watch your family tree grow with a special program that gives each group a sapling to plant in a special grove. The park records the tree's GPS coordinates so everyone can come back and visit.

INFO maumeebaystateparklodge.com

Carnival Sunshine cruise ship, Port Canaveral, Florida

Take your clan to sea for togetherness—and alone time. A variety of activities make it easy to do your own thing, then gather for dinner. The refurbished Carnival Sunshine ship features a water park, a ropes course, miniature golf, and a sports bar.

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

New suites (starting from \$979 per person for a five-day cruise) provide a perfect hangout spot.

DAY TRIP Shore excursions are an action-packed chance to bond—from horseback riding on the beach to exploring a Mayan ruin in Mexico.

PEACE AND QUIET Serenity, an adults-only retreat on the ship's upper decks, offers a chance to sunbathe and relax away from the nieces, nephews, and cousins.

NEW TRADITION Carnival staff will help organize a family Deck Olympics, and ship photographers can take group portraits on the glitzy atrium stairs (prints are ready the next day).

INFO carnival.com

Silver Bay YMCA on Lake George, New York

From a paddle on the lake to discovering your inner artist at the crafts shop, you'll find countless ways to bond at this picturesque 700-acre waterfront campus. Staff will lead group activities, such as a campfire with s'mores, or give you "skits in a bag" to stage your own production.

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

You can choose from hotel-style rooms or small lodges. Prices start at \$138 per night for a room plus meals and activities, and \$596 for a 15-person lodge plus activities.

DAY TRIP Burn off energy with a visit to Adirondack Extreme Adventure Park Course, a ropes course with zip lines, or check out Fort Ticonderoga, the Colonial-era historical site, for something more sedate.

PEACE AND QUIET Head to the meditation labyrinth or enjoy 600 acres of private hiking trails.

NEW TRADITION Brush up on your singing skills, then reserve a karaoke machine and party room for a family talent show.

INFO silverbay.org

Disneyland, Anaheim, California

Each member of your group can choose an adventure, whether it's exploring the theme parks or splashing around the hotel pool. You can also book a Discover the Magic Tour, a guided park scavenger hunt.

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

Take your pick from a variety of options—whether it's a room at the deluxe Disney Grand Californian Hotel & Spa (rooms start at \$365 per night) or the kitchen-equipped Staybridge Suites, (prices start at \$229 a night for a two-bedroom suite).

DAY TRIP Plan a beach day for surf and sun, hit the affordable Anaheim Hills Golf Course, or head to Los Angeles' Getty Center to squeeze in some culture.

PEACE AND QUIET Sneak away for lunch at Napa Rose, a farm-to-table eatery tucked in the Grand Californian.

NEW TRADITION Book dinner with the Disney characters at Goofy's Kitchen, where you'll get special attention from Minnie and Pluto.

INFO disneyland.disney.go.com ■

4 tips for a flawless reunion
BHG.com/ReunionTips