



Tips, Tidbits and Tricks For Planning That Summer Vacation

By Carolyn Graham

When it comes to summer-vacation time for the Grahams, I'm often scrambling to figure out where to go on short notice. Over time I've come to realize that planning for those months between math lessons and history reports shouldn't be taken lightly. Summer vacations can be a time for kids to apply classroom concepts to the real world. And traveling – even if it's just a few miles down the road – also creates strong family memories, whether of trying new foods or sports or seeing snow or the Statue of Liberty.

But the question remains: Where to go? Whether you prefer to stick close to home or hope to jet off to far-away lands, a good plan can help build a travel itinerary that makes everyone happy. Following is a roundup of travel tidbits, news and ideas.



If you're thinking about taking your tween to the Big Apple, **The Carlton** (www.carltonhotelnyc.com) offers a mommy-and-me package called "13 Things to Do In NYC

by 13," based on the book *113 Things to Do By 13* by 13-year-old author Brittany MacLeod. Tween guests receive a copy of the book and a list of 13 suggested activities ranging from a tween-centered makeover at Bloomingdale's to a stop for sweets at Dylan's Candy Bar. The package starts at \$369 per night.