

We have been to: Zermatt (Switzerland), St. Anton (Austria), Corchevel (France) and Garmisch (Germany). I chose each of these destinations because they are notably very family friendly. An interesting thing to note about skiing the Matterhorn in Zermatt is that with some careful planning you can ski into Cervinia, Italy for lunch, but you have to make your way back to the gondola before the last one crosses the gully or you'll be stuck in Italy overnight (its a 3 hour car ride back to Zermatt).

We have actually taken our children on amazing adventures over the last 15 years. In fact, our youngest son has been to more countries than he has states. We strive to provide a mix of culture, history, and physical fun into ~ 14 days at a time. I do the research and plan the itinerary and everyone is responsible for keeping up with their own stuff in their backpack.

We don't use suitcases because they are more difficult to travel with on trains, subways, and even with rented cars. To us, its all about creating life experiences that help us all appreciate different ways of life and to help develop a deeper understanding of the history and art.

As you can imagine, museums, cathedrals and famous landmarks can get boring to young travelers, so it has always been important to mix in the "must sees" with adventure.

While every trip is different, some of the fun things we have done are:

- \* Embracing local adventures such as dog sledding, ice fishing and seeing the Northern Lights in Finland, riding camels out into the Great Sahara, attending the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, climbing to the top of the Rock of Gibraltar, kissing the Blarney Stone in Ireland, watching Flamenco Dancing in Spain, visiting the Artic Circle where Santa Claus lives

- \* Staying overnight in cool places: Igludorf Zugspitze ice hotel in Germany, a tent in the Sahara, a riad in Morocco, a sleeping car on an overnight train in Russia, on a houseboat in Amsterdam. in the homes of gracious and welcoming families, and in many amazing (and supposedly haunted) castles

- \* Learning "How it's Made" at the Callier chocolate factory in Switzerland, the St. Sixtus Abbey/Wesvelteran beer in Belgium, the Fragonard perfumery in Eze France, the Waterford crystal factory in Ireland, the Malt Whiskey Trail in Scotland

- \* Physical Activity: Downhill skiing in Zermatt in the Swiss Alps by the Matterhorn, Corchevel in the French Alps, Garmisch in Germany, St Anton in Austria, and cross country skiing in Finland. Also interesting activities like mining for amethyst at the Pyha Luosto in Finland and visiting Disney Paris.

- \* Visiting famous museums such as the Louvre in Paris, Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, Vasa Museum in Stockholm, Midevil Crime museum in Rotherburg, Royal Belgium Institute Natural Sciences in Brussels, Hermitage in St. Petersburg

\* Visiting famous landmarks such as: the Kremlin, St. Basil's Cathedral, Neuschwanstein Castle, statue of David, Notre Dame, Palace of Versailles, Eiffel Tower, Pompeii, Vatican City, Roman Colosseum, Trevi Fountain, Mannequin Pis, Alhambra, Plaza de Toros de Ronda, Tower of London and Stirling Castle.

\* Embracing history at places like: Anne Frank's house in Amsterdam, Dachau concentration camp in Germany, American Cemetery where General Patton is "buried with his men" in Luxembourg, & the Salisbury Cathedral in Great Britain housing the best copy of the remaining 4 Magna Carta