

FAMILY TRAVEL

PALM BEACH BEYOND THE SAND AND SURF

MHAIRRI WOODHALL

Arriving into Palm Beach, we could hardly wait to feel the warm, powder-perfect sand beneath our toes. I envisioned leisurely morning beachcombing sessions, followed by afternoons frolicking in the gentle waves. Pictures of oceanfront picnics, sandcastles and ice-cream cones on the beach would flood our social feeds. Returning to the frozen Canadian tundra, we'd feel rejuvenated and ready to face the last stretch of frigid temperatures. Ah, reality versus expectations. Although South Florida's weather and coastline were flawless for the duration of our trip, the pesky Atlantic just would not co-operate. So, what does one do on a beach vacation if the ocean is too rough for swimming? The answer: explore every family-friendly, dryland adventure possible. Which we did, with gusto, and ended up having an absolute blast.

FLAGLER MUSEUM TOUR AND TEA

Our five-year old loved touring the opulent 100,000-sq.-ft. Whitehall mansion, which was built in 1902 by oil tycoon Henry Flagler as a wedding present for his wife. Each of the 75-rooms in this iconic Palm Beach landmark has been exquisitely restored to reflect the home's original Gilded Age extravagance. The museum provides families with a fabulous self-guided activity book that encourages children to seek out unique artifacts, furnishings and design elements. We spent almost two hours exploring the lavish grand hall, library, ballroom, billiard, music, dining and drawing rooms, 12 guest bedrooms and master suite. It was only the lure of an elegant afternoon tea, complete with canapés, finger sandwiches, scones and berry lemonade, in the museum's Cafe des Beaux-Arts that convinced our kiddo to end the tour.

Insider tip: Visit the Flagler Museum Store for its beautiful selection of whimsical toys, games and giftware inspired by the Gilded Age.

PALM BEACH ZOO

Plan to spend a full day at the Palm Beach Zoo. This family-friendly haunt features educational shows, talks and animal feedings every half-hour between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. A parade of pink feathered, long-legged birds strutting their stuff at the 12:30 p.m. Flamingo Walk is just one of the highlights. In addition to enjoying the free programming, guests can register for paid behind-the-scenes animal experiences, including sloth, giant anteater and koala encounters. Feeding sweet potatoes to the zoo's three Aldabra tortoises was a magical moment for our family. After snack-time, we pampered the gentle giants with a bath and neck rub. It's hard to say who enjoyed our time together more. For lunch, the menu at the zoo's Tropics Cafe is a delicious surprise. If you like a bit of spice, try the blackened fish soft tacos, topped with coconut, pineapple coleslaw and Sriracha mayo. Another zoo-must for kids is playing in the interactive fountain. On-site changing rooms are available, so be sure to pack bathing suits, towels and sunscreen.

LOGGERHEAD MARINELIFE CENTER

Head to Juno Beach for a cool, up-close turtle encounter at the Loggerhead Marinelife Center (LMC) — a non-profit ocean conservation and turtle research and rehabilitation facility. Inside, you'll find exhibits showcasing the sea turtle species and coastal creatures native to South Florida. After learning all about leatherback, loggerhead, green, hawksbill and Kemp's Ridley turtles, we ventured out-



Behind the scenes Aldabra tortoise encounter at the West Palm Beach Zoo. MHAIRRI WOODHALL

side to meet the patients. Each year, the LMC names, treats and rehabilitates between 50 and 60 sea turtles, and on our visit, we counted upwards of 25 patients recuperating in their private open-air saltwater tanks. The centre also offers series of unique children's activities, like the Hatching Tales story time and Jr. Veterinarian Lab. Our daughter was thrilled to don a white lab coat and weigh, measure, assess and treat her very own green sea turtle replica. The bonus? Most of the programming is included with your admission by donation.

If you're visiting around lunch or dinnertime, plan ahead and book a table at Guanabanas Restaurant in Jupiter Beach, located just 10-minutes from the LMC. With its tropical open-air concept, complete with woven tiki huts, live music and beautifully lit banyan trees, it's the perfect al fresco dining spot. Go for one of the fresh Florida seafood platters, like the tequila lime local catch. The portions are massive,

so we shared a couple of starters, a main and dessert between our family of three.

SOUTH OCEAN BOULEVARD AND WORTH AVENUE

Cruise South Ocean Boulevard for the stunning water views and to gawk at the string of beachfront mega-mansions that fringe the coastline. As a month's rent for these sprawling vacation homes can surpass \$100,000 US, it's a must-see while in Palm Beach. Inspired by our self-guided tour of the rich and famous, we popped by Worth Avenue to window shop the luxury-brand boutiques and grab an early dinner at Costa Palm Beach, in the Esplanade shopping centre. Given its location, the menu prices are extremely reasonable, and if you dine between 3-7 p.m. it will cost you even less. We ordered fresh, handcrafted cocktails and Mediterranean inspired dishes, like calamari, mini falafel balls and jumbo shrimp cocktail with lemon harissa spiced cocktail sauce, from the Happy Hour

menu. The food was delicious, and plenty filling for dinner.

DOWNTOWN AT THE GARDENS

For a kid-friendly shopping trip that won't break the bank, spend the evening at Downtown at the Gardens. My daughter — and husband — went crazy for the stores in this place. IT'SUGAR is like Disneyland for candy fans,

IF YOU GO

November through April is considered peak season in Palm Beach, and you'll pay premium rates for accommodation. If possible, plan your trip for October or May to avoid the crowds and take advantage of temperate weather. For more destination information visit www.arrivalstravel.com

albeit a nightmare for dentists and health-conscious mamas. That said, we enjoyed many belly laughs posing with ridiculously giant cereal boxes and Rice Krispies treats. Sloan's, a West Palm Beach ice cream shop, is another dreamy and decadent discovery. It's a shimmering pink wonderland bursting with house-made delights and cuddly stuffed toys, so leaving empty-handed is not an option. For dinner, grab an outside table at Grimaldi's Pizzeria. The brick-oven thin crust pizzas are exceptional — even though the owner has banned pineapple from the menu — and your kids can make and bake a doughy figurine while you wait. End the night with a ride on the old-fashioned wooden carousel.

TENNIS AND TROLLEYS

For tennis fans visiting in February, the Delray Beach Open offers superb value for families, as kids' tickets are half price. We attended 'Canada Day' for Denis Shapovalov's match, and there were a lot of little ones in attendance. Armed with a bucket of popcorn and large glass of ice cubes, our daughter happily munched her way through multiple sets. After sitting for the better part of the afternoon, we returned to Palm Beach to ride the free hop-on-hop-off trolley and explore historic downtown. Park in the Hibiscus garage at CityPlace to start the 20-minute loop and jump off on the corner of Clematis and Narcissus Avenues for a leisurely stroll. End your adventure on the patio of Il Bellagio restaurant to watch the fountain show and, if you're lucky, catch some live music. As with most restaurants in Palm Beach, Il Bellagio's portions are huge and can easily be shared.

PRINCESS CRUISES
come back new

SAVE UP TO 77% ON THIS

28 DAY HAWAII, BORA BORA & TAHITI SELLOFF!

ALL PRICES IN CAN \$ INCLUDING AIR FROM CALGARY. PORT CHARGES & CONVEYANCE TAXES. FARES APPLY ONLY TO MINIMUM LEAD-IN CATEGORIES ON A SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS AT TIME OF BOOKING. FARES ARE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY. PLEASE REFER TO THE APPLICABLE PRINCESS CRUISES BROCHURE FOR TERMS, CONDITIONS AND DEFINITIONS THAT APPLY TO ALL BOOKINGS.

LOS ANGELES – HILO – HONOLULU – KAUAI – MAUI – PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA – APIA, WESTERN SAMOA – MOOREA, FRENCH POLYNESIA – BORA BORA – TAHITI (PAPEETE) – LOS ANGELES

INSIDE OCEANVIEW BALCONY	WAS \$14,327	NOW \$4,399
	WAS \$17,688	NOW \$4,899
	WAS \$24,909	NOW \$6,899

Registry: Bermuda & Britain Emerald Princess®

BONUS: FREE PRE-PAID GRATUITIES IN OCEANVIEW OR HIGHER (\$500 CDN per person Value)

CRUISE VACATIONS
1-800-583-7245
Open Sat. 9-5 & Closed this Sunday
Mon-Fri 9:30-6

ALBERTA'S LARGEST CRUISE AGENCY!
MAUREN & DAVID JENKINS, OWNERS,
JASON JENKINS, PRESIDENT

Visit www.CruiseVacationsInc.com to view & Sign up for our specials!

FEHR-WAY tours

Quality Escorted Holidays
Creating Memories for 39 years

Call, email, or go online to request our 2018 Brochure and subscribe to our emails.

ALASKA & YUKON
22 Days* | June 7

MARITIMES & NEWFOUNDLAND TOURS
Several to Choose From!

OREGON COAST & CALIFORNIA REDWOODS
15 Days* | October 8

NASHVILLE, BRANSON, MEMPHIS & PIGEON FORGE TOURS

*Number of days and price will vary depending on your pick-up location

1-800-263-3691
www.fehrwaytours.com
tourinfo@fehrwaytours.com

Maui Condo And Home
Your Piece of Paradise

Kihei • Wailea • West Maui
20 Properties Including
Kamaole Sands • Kauhale Makai

Call to save with our best rates!
844.376.2521
www.MauiCondo.com

Allplace Travel
Allez Allez!
For your oriental dream!

Calgary-based travel agency
587-393-1268
info@allplacetravel.com
www.allplacetravel.com
1000, 9650 Harvest Hills Blvd,
NE Calgary (inside T&T market)

Allplace Travel offers one-of-a-kind, authentic adventures with premium tours designed to delight, engage and leave you memories for a lifetime.

BEST ITINERARY 2019
* Promotions are valid until May 31, 2018

★ Panorama China 25 days	5450.00 ^{cad} / P.P. (taxes incl.)	➤ Mar30, 2019
★ Mystical China 21 days	4450.00 ^{cad} / P.P. (taxes incl.)	➤ Apr02, 2019
★ Dynamic China 16 days	3750.00 ^{cad} / P.P. (taxes incl.)	➤ Apr02, 2019

TOUR PRESENTATION
28 Apr, 2018 2PM
Glenmore Inn & Convention Centre,
1000 Glenmore Court SE, Calgary, AB T2C 2E6

*Please call us to reserve or reserve online (Free registration)
Attending tour presentation to get **\$100 discount** on any tours in 2019.

WE COMPETE ON VALUE

- ★ Best Itinerary
- ★ Premium Small Group
- ★ Deluxe Yangtze River Cruise
- ★ Luxury Hotel
- ★ Famous Chinese Foods
- ★ Beautiful Natural Landscape

Price Included

- * Price based on double occupancy
- * International flights (From Calgary, Edmonton)
- * Intra-China transportation (air, Yangtze cruise, and coach)
- * All luxury hotels accommodation
- * Meals mentioned in the itinerary and featuring regional specialties

* English speaking guide
* Taxes and fuel surcharges
* Credit card not accepted except for deposit

Contact us for itinerary details.
Monday-Friday 10:00 to 18:00
Saturday-Sunday 10:00 to 16:00

For more China & Asia tours, please visit our website.