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ROME

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News from...

NJFPR
NANCY J. FRIEDMAN PUBLIC RELATIONS

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A young boy with light brown hair, shirtless and wearing green shorts, is ziplining through a dense tropical forest. He is smiling and holding onto the rope with both hands. The background is filled with lush green foliage, including palm trees and other tropical plants. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

TRAVEL+LEISURE

family

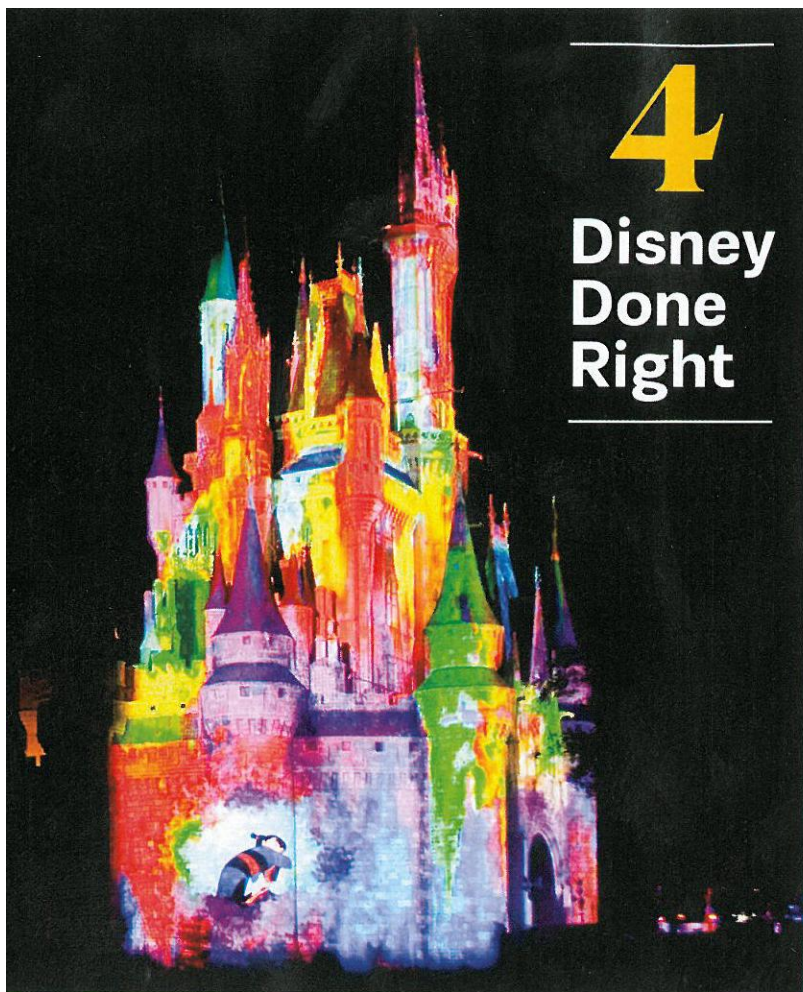
12

**TRIPS
TO TAKE
BEFORE
YOU'RE
TWELVE**

Who needs
a zipline?
At play on
Costa
Rica's Osa
Peninsula.

1 Costa Rica's Rain Forest

If a 12-year-old had a life list, this destination would be right at the top. The Osa Peninsula, on the southern Pacific coast, is Costa Rica's wildest frontier, a primitive thicket of jungles and beaches ripe for exploring. In the Osa National Wildlife Refuge, the 12-room El Remanso Lodge (elremanso.com; \$\$) has activities that range from tree climbing to rappelling down waterfalls. It's paradise for the adventurous set—and at the end of the day, a hammock awaits. —Lindsey Olander



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Disney Done Right

A trip to the Magic Kingdom could be considered the birthright of every American kid. But not all Walt Disney World Resort vacations are created equal. Here, four tips for making the most of this childhood rite of passage.

→ JUMP THE LINES

Most attractions have a set number of tickets, or **Disney's FastPasses**, that let you arrive within a particular hour and join a short queue instead of the seemingly endless regular line. But popular rides—such as the Magic Carpets of Aladdin—often distribute their entire allotments before 11 a.m. So start the day by collecting your group's scanned admission tickets, leaving the kids on Main Street with an adult in your party, and racing to get FastPasses at your top two or three rides (our picks: Space Mountain and the Haunted Mansion). You can get a FastPass for every two-hour window, which means you can use up to five of them a day.

hour on top of admission fees. But if you're in a big group with small kids, the VIP Tour is a worthwhile option. Amortize it across a party of 10 for six hours, and it comes out to a much more reasonable \$17.50 per person per hour.

→ SPEND THE NIGHT

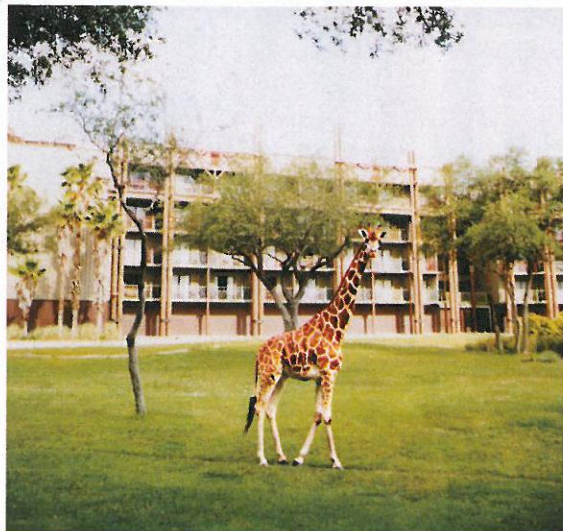
Perks for guests at Disney hotels include early park entry and free resort transportation. At the higher end, **Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge** (disneyworld.com; \$\$\$) lets you view wildlife from a safari jeep. For great value, **Disney's Pop Century Resort** (disneyworld.com; \$) has grounds dotted with four-story Rubik's Cubes and yo-yos.

→ GO HIGH-TECH

Over the next few months, stay tuned for major changes at Disney World. One of the highlights: a new website and mobile app called **My Disney Experience** (*Android, iPad, iPhone*; free) that will allow users to book space on rides, meal reservations, VIP seating for events, and character meet-and-greets—all before leaving home. Annual pass holders and guests at Disney World resorts also have access to MagicBands, bracelets that can serve as park tickets, room keys, and more. —Heidi Mitchell

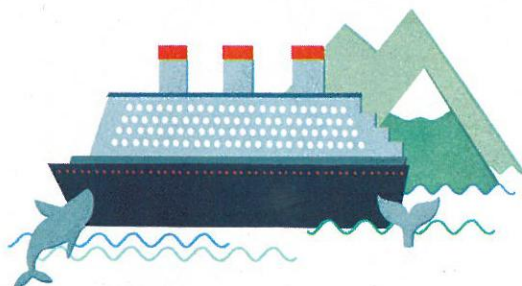
→ **GO VIP** When Tom Cruise and daughter Suri visited Disney World last May, don't think they waited in lines with the rest of us. The park offers **Disney's VIP Tour Service** (407/560-4033), which includes a guide to escort you from ride to ride without ever seeing a queue—and anyone with a flush bank account can sign up. Populists might blanch at the idea of being driven around in a Chevy Escalade, entering rides from the back of the house, and paying around \$175 an

Above: Disney World's iconic Cinderella Castle during its nighttime light show. Right: A four-legged resident of Disney World's Animal Kingdom Lodge.



5 ALASKA'S INSIDE PASSAGE

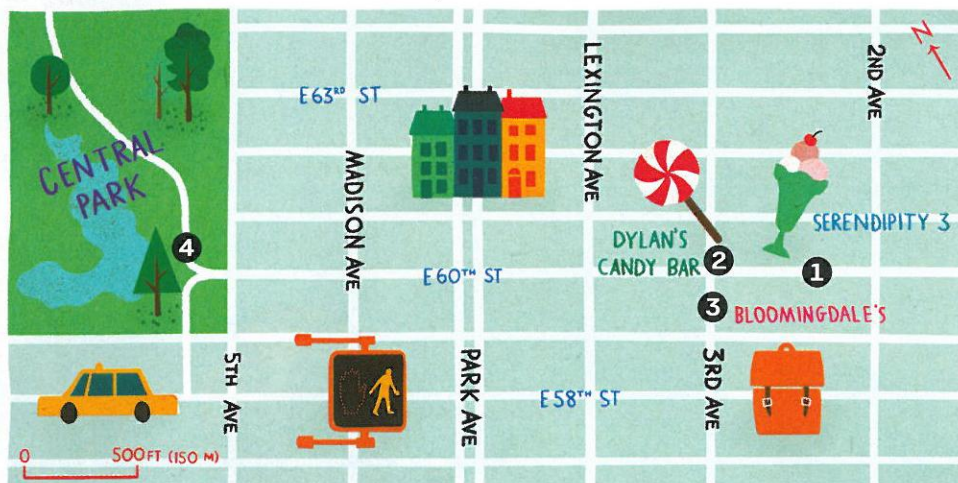
This glacier-carved wilderness is a treat for mini zoologists—think bald eagles, humpback whales, and Dall sheep, all against a backdrop of snowcapped mountains and dramatic fjords. Book with **Princess Cruises** (princess.com; seven-day cruises from \$524 per person) and your kids can go dog mushing, visit a salmon hatchery, and become Glacier Bay Junior Rangers with the National Parks Service. —Kathryn O'Shea-Evans



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MAINE FAMILY CAMP

Nostalgic for those endless summer days of sailboats and ropes courses, tennis lessons and talent shows, cookouts and scary stories by the fire? More and more overnight camps are offering family programs that let you relive it all—with your entire clan in tow. Some of the best, including Monmouth's Camp Kippewa, can be found on Maine Camp Experience (mainecampexperience.com; schedule and prices vary). "I liked being in the dining hall watching my dad dance after meals," says seven-year-old camper Zoe Fleischman. Don't be surprised if you, too, find yourself making lanyard bracelets well into the fall. —H.M.



7 A Great Urban Getaway

↑ NEW YORK CITY: EAST 60TH STREET

Calling all tweens: this bustling midtown strip is a microcosm of Big Apple style. Cruise east to west, then hop a subway to Times Square and finish the day with a Broadway show.

1 SERENDIPITY 3 (serendipity3.com; \$\$)

Book a table for lunch at this kitschy ice cream parlor where American royals (Jackie Kennedy; Zac Efron) have downed decadent desserts—including the notorious "frrrozen hot chocolate"—since 1954.

2 DYLAN'S CANDY BAR (dylanscandybar.com)

A Wonka-worthy fantasy of Jolly Ranchers, gummy bears, licorice, and Jelly Bellies in every possible hue. Grab a plastic bag and load up by weight.

3 BLOOMINGDALE'S (bloomingdales.com)

Save half the afternoon for this retail wonderland and walk out with a Big Brown Bag filled with striped Ella Moss tops, preppy Ralph Lauren polos, and too-cool-for-school True Religion jeans.

4 CENTRAL PARK (centralparknyc.org)

On a spring day, you can easily spend a few happy hours getting lost in the heart of Manhattan. Find a posted map and make your way to the Central Park Zoo and Tisch Children's Zoo, Belvedere Castle, and the Sheep Meadow. Keep your smart phone handy—almost everything here is worth an Instagram

↓ WASHINGTON, D.C.

Kid-approved recommendations from T+L's Facebook followers.



"The International Spy Museum (spymuseum.org). Who wouldn't want to be an Italian spy for a few hours?"



"Rent a bike right off the National Mall and ride from monument to monument."



"Maine Avenue Fish Market (202/484-2722), then the Jefferson Memorial for a paddleboat."

↓ CHICAGO

Travel tips from the Windy City posted on T+L's Facebook page.



"Shedd Aquarium (sheddaquarium.org) and the Navy Pier with its giant Ferris wheel."



"The view from the women's bathroom at the top of the John Hancock Center (theSignatureRoom.com; \$\$\$)"



"The Renegade Craft Fair (renegadecraft.com) and a boat ride."

8

THE ANNUAL DESTINATION



Some places are so special that returning to them year after year becomes a cherished family tradition. For the Holleys of Washington, D.C., it's the **Cloister at Sea Island** (seaisland.com; \$\$\$), off the coast of Georgia. Eight-year-old Pierce reunites with his friends at Camp Cloister, the resort's kids' club, where activities include scouting for turtle tracks and hatchlings along the beach. Six-year-old Palmer raves about the Wonderland milk shakes from the old-fashioned soda fountain. "And we always watch the Fourth of July parade and fireworks," Pierce says. "It doesn't get any better than that." —L.O.