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SUMMERTIME = FAMILY FUN IN CLEVELAND PLUS

Family Getaways to Cleveland Plus Won't Break the Bank

Cleveland, OH – It's no secret that traveling these days certainly isn't easy on the family budget. But, did you know that when staying in Cleveland Plus for a four-day weekend, travelers could pay **30 – 40 percent** less than they'd pay in cities like Philadelphia or Boston? That's right. If a family visits all the same types of attractions (including a city bus/trolley tour, zoo, science center, art museum, natural history museum and stays in a high-end hotel) in Cleveland Plus, they could save more than one third on costs*. That equates to more cash for a longer vacation – something we all need!

And, we're making it even easier for families to visit Cleveland Plus this year with the Cleveland Plus Pass, a special multi-attraction savings card that gives families access to ten (10) major attractions at a savings of at least 30 percent. [Click here for more information.](#)

Still searching for more ways to save time and money? [Click for 75 Ways to Save Money in Cleveland Plus.](#)

Outdoor Family Fun

If you're a kid, chances are, you like the outdoors. And if you're the parent who lets that kid enjoy tons of outside fun, well, you know you're someone's superstar.

Amish Country – Enjoy the rich cultural heritage of Northeast Ohio's Amish country. Share the Amish heritage through the discovery of horse-drawn buggies, homemade family-style foods and exceptional craftsmanship. You will also find antique stores, craft houses, traditional Amish restaurants and excellent inns. Be sure to stop for some maple syrup, fresh fruits and vegetables, Amish crafts and quality Amish furniture.
800.775.8687 www.tourgeauga.com

Cleveland Metroparks – Take in the awe-inspiring scenery. Known as the "emerald necklace," 20,000 acres of plush green woodlands surround Cleveland. The 14 parks that make up the Cleveland Metroparks offer hiking, biking, horseback riding, golfing and fishing.
216.635.3200 www.clemetparks.com

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Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and RainForest – This must-see attraction features more than 3,000 animals located throughout 165 rolling wooded acres and a two-story RainForest full of exotic creatures and striking plant life from across the globe.
216.661.6500 www.clemetzoo.com

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad – If the family prefers a more scenic and relaxing trip, take a ride aboard the historic rails of the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad as it rolls along the Cuyahoga River and dips in and out of beautiful Cuyahoga Valley.
800.468.4700 www.cvsr.com

Lake Metroparks Farmpark – If you're looking to get away from the city skyscrapers and the hustle and bustle, then see how life slows down at Lake Farmpark. Discover more than 50 breeds of farm animals on a trip to this hands-on science center. While here, milk a cow, take a wagon ride, stroll through gardens and enjoy animal shows and demonstrations.
800.366.FARM (3276) www.lakemetroparks.com/select-park/farmpark.shtml

Holden Arboretum – Enjoy the great outdoors all year round with more than 3,100 acres of beautiful plant collections and spectacular fall and summer gardens, an array of colors, winter splendor and picnic areas. Trails offer a variety of distances and levels of difficulty.
440.256.1110 www.holdenarb.org

Trolley Tours of Cleveland – All aboard Lolly the Trolley! Take a one- or two-hour narrated tour that includes North Coast Harbor, Downtown Cleveland, University Circle, Ohio City, The Warehouse and Historic Gateway Districts and other points of interest.
216.771.4484 or 800.848.0173 www.lollytrolley.com

Taking the Fun Indoors

A huge toy store packed with classic toys? A museum filled with money? A rock and roll paradise? Families are sure to love the huge selection of indoor activities available in Cleveland Plus.

Big Fun – Fun is packed into this store with cards, kitsch and collectibles like lunch boxes, Barbie dolls and reproduction and original classic toys. Prices range from under a buck to thousands of bucks.
216.371.4386 www.bigfunbigfun.com

The Children's Museum of Cleveland – Make a stop at the Children's Museum of Cleveland, where toddlers and preschoolers get a unique experience that is both fun and educational.
216.791.7114 www.clevelandchildrensmuseum.org

A Christmas Story House and Museum – It doesn't need to be Christmastime to enjoy the recently-restored Cleveland house where the classic movie, "A Christmas Story," was filmed. While there, learn more about Ralphie's home through original props and memorabilia. And, before you leave, stock-up on "fra-gee-lay" leg lamps and Lifebouy soap.
216.298.4919. www.AChristmasStoryHouse.com.

The Cleveland Botanical Garden – Families love the Cleveland Botanical Garden, which features a 10 gardens and a glasshouse that highlights interesting global climates and their plant and animal life. Within these climates, kids will amaze at the butterflies landing on their shoulders and the turtles crossing their paths. Make sure to check out the Hershey's Children Garden, the first garden for kids in Ohio and one of the only one of its kind.

216.721.1600 www.cb garden.org

The Cleveland Museum of Art – Is your child a future Monet? How about a budding sculptor? If so, take them on an adventure to the world-renowned Cleveland Museum of Art. The museum is expanding with another multimillion dollar wing this summer. Art education programs are available for both young and old alike.

800.CMA.0033 www.clevelandart.org

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History – From dinosaurs to diamonds, the Museum is a beautiful blend of traditional and interactive galleries that show kids of all ages how history and art connect with the natural world. Now through June 14, enjoy the *Making Faces* exhibit.

800.317.9155 www.cmnh.org

Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum – Racers and roadsters, get your engines revving for the Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum. Visitors get the chance to experience hands-on, interactive exhibits highlighting cars, motorcycles and airplanes.

216.721.5722 www.wrhs.org

Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland Learning Center and Money Museum – Explore the history of money through examples of currency from the U.S. and abroad, both past and present. Check out the 23-foot-tall Money Tree featuring replicas of U.S. currency. Fun and educational for kids of all ages.

216.579.2000 www.clevelandfed.org/

Great Lakes Science Center – Wow the kids with more than 400 hands-on exhibits, while participating in science-related live demonstrations at the Great Lakes Science Center. Watch thrilling life-like movies in a six-story-high IMAX theatre, too. Now through April 26, experience *Robots*, a fun and educational journey to the world of artificial intelligence.

216.694.2000 www.glsc.org

NASA Glenn Research Center – This free visitor center features exhibits on John Glenn, the Apollo Era, space flight and space shuttles. Great for kids of all ages.

216.433.2000 www.grc.nasa.gov/

Pro Football Hall of Fame – Score a touchdown with the whole family at the Pro Football Hall of Fame where kids and parents can enjoy interactive, hands-on exhibits and attractions that combine the defining moments of football history with the thrills of today's game.

330.456.8207 www.profootballhof.com

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum – Bond with the kids in a museum dedicated to the music your parents didn't understand. The Rock Hall, which is home to the largest single collection of rock and roll artifacts in the world, contains more than 50 exhibits and dynamic cinema presentations.

216.781.7625 www.rockhall.com

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Amusement, Water + Kiddie Parks

You can't visit this region without enjoying one of the area's amusement, water or kiddie parks. From Cedar Point to Kalahari Resort, Cleveland Plus contains some of the world's most notable family entertainment centers – perfect for kids of all ages.

Castaway Bay – Spend the day at Cedar Point Amusement Park, then head to Castaway Bay during the afternoon. This indoor waterpark resort is owned by Cedar Point and features a Caribbean theme.

419.627.2106 www.castawaybay.com

Cedar Point Amusement Park – Ranked “Best Amusement Park in the World” for 11 consecutive years by *Amusement Today*, Cedar Point Amusement Park features a whopping 17 roller coasters, many hailed by coaster enthusiasts as some of the best! There's plenty of fun for the little ones at Camp Snoopy, Planet Snoopy and the Jr. Gemini children's area.

419.627.2350 www.cedarpoint.com

Firefly's Mini Golf – Everything glows! This 18-hole indoor miniature golf course features balls, putters, walls, floors and 3-D creatures that glow under the blacklights.

440.846.4569 www.fireflysminigolf.com

Geauga Lake's Wildwater Kingdom – Get ready to get wet! Geauga Lake's Wildwater Kingdom features 17-acres of pure waterpark fun. Conveniently located in Aurora, this outdoor waterpark opens Memorial Day Weekend.

330.562.8303 www.geaugalake.com

Ghostly Manor Thrill Center – Ghostly Manor Thrill Center, a haunted thrill center featuring three spooky sections, was rated as one of the top 10 haunted attractions in the country. Check out Ohio's first and only XD 3D Motion Simulation, where the scariness becomes a three-dimensional experience.

419.626.4467 www.ghostlymanor.com

Great Wolf Lodge – Great Wolf Lodge is a first-class, full-service, year-round family destination resort designed to capture the atmosphere and adventure of the northwoods. Great Wolf Lodge includes a 41,000 square-foot indoor entertainment area, featuring a grand scale waterpark, spacious outdoor pool, arcade with ticket redemption, children's craft and activity room, two family restaurants, and much more.

419.609.6000 www.greatwolflodge.com

Kalahari Waterpark Resort and Convention Center – Kalahari Waterpark Resort is America's largest indoor waterpark. Surf indoors? Yes! An uphill water roller coaster? Yes! You're in for the time of your life with everything under one roof. Indoor Waterpark, Spa Kalahari, Kahunaville Restaurant and Bar, Pottery Pizzazz, Candy Hut, Ivory Coast Lounge, Great Karoo Marketplace Restaurant, Zakanaka Imports, Madagascar Indoor Mini Golf and so much more! No matter what the weather is outside, you can splish-splash all day long indoors at Kalahari.

877.525.2427 www.kalahariresort.com

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Memphis Kiddie Park – This retro kiddie amusement park features all sorts of attractions for children, including the Little Dipper, a beloved kid-sized roller coaster. While there, make sure to play 18-holes at the Memphis Championship Miniature Golf Course.
216.941.5995 www.memphiskiddiepark.com

Rain – Rain indoor waterpark offers a smaller, affordable waterpark setting that features a 50-foot tower with two giant slides and a play structure with additional slides and water activities. The Rain complex also includes a 32-lane state-of-the-art bowling center, laser tag, an arcade and great eats.
419.626.6761 or 800.654.3364 www.cedarpointareahotels.com

Swings-n-Things Family Fun Park – Ride the Go-karts, play in the bumper boats, hit a homerun at the batting cages or get a hole-in-one at the mini-golf course.
440.235.4420 www.swings-n-things.com

Kid-Approved Dining + Treats

If you've got a mini-van full of kids on vacation and they're hungry, what's a parent to do? If you're in Cleveland Plus, we've got you covered. Search through our kid-friendly restaurants (www.positivelycleveland.com/visiting/things_to_do/family/category.list.php?category=4692) or check out our list below. Either way, no one's going home hungry.

b. a. Sweetie Candy Company Inc. – From candy cigarettes to PEZ dispensers to gourmet jellybeans, this amazing store has every delight for every sweet tooth. You have to see it to believe it.
216.739.2244 or 888.267.9340 www.sweetiescandy.com

East Coast Custard – This Cleveland-based chain of ice cream shops features old-fashioned custard, which disappeared in the late 1960s when custard makers started reducing the butterfat and increasing the air in their products. Now, taste the difference of real soft custard, in new flavors each day.
www.eastcoastcustard.com

Hard Rock Café – Cleveland Rocks! And, what better way to celebrate this love affair with rock and roll than a visit to the Hard Rock Café. Conveniently connected to Tower City Center, the Hard Rock features down-home American cuisine seasoned with rock music and loads of rock 'n roll memorabilia. Childrens' menus are available.
216.830.7625 www.hardrock.com

Honey Hut Ice Cream Shoppes – Honey Hut Ice Cream will have your family screaming for more! This family-owned, local chain features only honey ice cream flavors and homemade ice cream cakes, hot fudge and frosted malts. Drumsticks and ice cream bars made daily, are a top seller.
www.honeyhuticecream.com/cleveland.htm

Malley's Chocolates – Satisfy your sweet tooth with a tour of Malley's Chocolate Factory. Then satisfy your craving with a free taste of a delicious surprise made from a secret Malley's recipe. *Monday – Friday, 10am-3pm, reservations required.*
800.835.5684 www.malleys.com

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Mama Santas – Want some deliciously inexpensive pizza? Located in Little Italy, Mama Santas has been a Cleveland tradition for more than 60 years. Very kid-friendly.
216.421.2159 <http://mamasantas.com>

Mapleside Farms and Restaurant – This country restaurant overlooks the spacious apple orchards and features homemade menu items. Stop by the Farm Market, Baker and Gift Shop after your meal to enjoy some fresh, homegrown produce and locally-made products.
www.mapleside.com

Mitchell's Ice Cream – Co-owned by two Cleveland-born brothers, Mitchell's Ice Cream's goal has always been to make the world's most delicious ice cream. Mitchell's developed a unique three-step freezing process that gives the ice cream a special homemade creaminess and that is filled with generous chunks of chocolate chips, whole nuts, cookies and other delicious baked treats.
www.mitchellshomemade.com

West Side Market – Built in 1912, the West Side Market is the largest indoor/outdoor market in the country. This marketplace was once where turn-of-the-century immigrants found their native foods and spices. Today, it features 180 booths with the freshest selection of fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, produce, bakery, ethnic foods and international delicacies.
216.861.5250 www.westsidemarket.com

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

Take advantage of the numerous annual festivals taking place in Cleveland during the summer season. Many of these festivals and street fairs offer one-of-a-kind local art, Cleveland memorabilia, delicious food and live music at affordable prices.

From Asbury Park to the Promised Land: The Life and Music of Bruce Springsteen

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum

4.1.09 – Spring 2010

www.rockhall.org

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum features the first major artifact-driven exhibit highlighting the life and music of Bruce Springsteen.

Thomas the Tank Engine

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railway

5.16.09 – 5.17.09, 5.22.09 – 5.24.09

www.cvsr.com/

Head over to the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad for a special *Day Out with Thomas™*. Kids get a special ride on Thomas the Tank Engine, as he comes out of his station yard to explore the world.

DINOSAURS!

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

5.21.09 – 9.13.09

www.clemetzoo.com/pressroom/index.asp?action=details&pressrelease_id=1366

Roaring into the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo this summer are DINOSAURS!, featuring a 20-foot-tall T-Rex that comes to life with the help of animatronics technology.

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Great American Rib Cook-Off

Time Warner Cable Amphitheater

5.22.09 – 5.25.09

www.cleveland.com/rib/

Taste all of the delicious barbeque goodness provided from more than five grill pros go head-to-head to earn best ribs in the land. Enjoy the weekend with music, fun and family.

Parade the Circle

University Circle

6.13.09

www.universitycircle.org/uci.aspx?page=122

Happy 20th birthday to Parade the Circle! This unique parade incorporates the drama and artistry of colorful floats, puppets, costumes, dancers and musicians.

The Cleveland Orchestra presents “Star-Spangled Spectacular Concert and Festival”

Public Square

7.2.09

www.clevelandorchestra.com

Celebrate Independence Day at this free concert performed by the world-renowned Cleveland Orchestra.

inGENUITY Festival

PlayhouseSquare

7.10.09 – 7.12.09

www.ingenuitycleveland.com

Enjoy a weekend-long celebration of art designed for audiences of any age and experience at the 2009 Ingenuity Festival. This unique festival fuses performing and visual art with technology for a fun and interactive experience.

Great Lakes Medieval Faire

Geneva

7.11.09 – 8.16.09

www.medievalfaire.com

Every weekend from July 11 – Aug. 16 enjoy the Great Lakes Medieval Faire, a shaded, 13th century family fun theme park filled with fine continuous entertainment, juried crafts and artisans, rides and interactive games and foods fit for a King.

Mary Poppins

Cleveland PlayhouseSquare

7.17.09 – 8.9.09

<http://www.playhousesquare.org/Events/Events.aspx?EventID=1664>

Let your imagination take flight as the Tony® Award-winning musical, *Mary Poppins*, makes its way to PlayhouseSquare. The musical combines the best of the original stories by P.L. Travers and the beloved Walt Disney classic film to create a masterpiece for children and adults alike.

Cleveland National Air Show

Burke Lakefront Airport

9.5.09 – 9.7.09

www.clevelandairshow.com

Three days of aerial thrills featuring aerobatic champions, military demonstrations and flybys.

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OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

Be sure to check out hotel websites for family discounted rates and packages at www.positivelycleveland.com/visiting/accommodations. Some hotels throw in family-friendly meals and tickets to preferred attractions. Search through our member hotels and find out which ones have pools, ticket packages and "kids eat free" deals.

www.positivelycleveland.com/visiting/things_to_do/family/category.list.php?category=4691

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For more information on travel and tourism in Cleveland Plus, contact Lexi Robinson-Hotchkiss, Communications Coordinator, at 216.875.6628 or lhochkiss@positivelycleveland.com or Samantha Fryberger, Director of Communications, at 216.875.6628 or sfryberger@positivelycleveland.com.