



ALL AGES



12 U.S. Cities You Probably Never Thought to Visit with Kids —But Should



BY BETH LUBERECKI

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Maybe these cities have never screamed “family vacation” to you, or they just never came to mind when planning your next trip. Well guess what? These hidden gems offer all kinds of kid-friendly fun, from imaginative play spaces and hands-on animal encounters to unique festivals and offbeat roadside attractions. Consider these under-the-radar cities the next time you’re looking for a new long weekend or vacation destination.



5. Winston-Salem, NC

Winston-Salem's roots date back to colonial times, when Moravians first settled in the city back in 1753. Kids can step back into the past at the Old Salem Museums & Gardens, a living history site where they can learn about life in the 18th and 19th centuries. (Make sure to take a photo with the giant coffee pot.) To taste your way through history, sample foods associated with the city like Moravian cookies and sugar cake on the self-guided Historic Moravian Culinary Trail.

At the Kaleideum Downtown, little ones can climb a two-story beanstalk, explore an enchanted forest, and pretend they're working in a Krispy Kreme doughnut factory. (Winston-Salem is the birthplace of these oh-so-tasty "hot now" treats.) Sister site Kaleideum North offers STEM-related exhibits and a planetarium.

See what's biting at Salem Lake, or discover what's growing in the gardens at Historic Bethabara Park. In the Downtown Arts District, families can check out the colorful murals painted around the city or take part in the First Friday Gallery Hop. Little speed demons might enjoy the Winston Cup Museum, where race cars driven by legends like Dale Earnhardt, Sr. are on display.

Recommended Hotel: [Kimpton Cardinal Hotel](#)