

Take your family on an old-school vacation to one of America's classic lake towns.

Lake Getaways



LAKE GEORGE New York

It's no wonder families love this place: Strict conservation efforts have left the 32-mile shoreline relatively undeveloped. Called the Queen of American Lakes, Lake George is surrounded by the Adirondacks and has beaches, secluded coves and lush forests.

Cool Waters → You can rent everything from powerboats to Jet Skis in Lake George Village (or bring your own, with a permit). Want to let someone else take the wheel? Lake George Shoreline Cruises and Lake George Steamboat Company offer trips with a variety of dining and entertainment options. For a bigger thrill, try parasailing, waterskiing or scuba diving (you

might encounter a shipwreck!). Anglers will love the plentiful trout, salmon, northern pike and bass in these waters; hire a fishing guide to find the best spots. And if all you want is a place to relax and gaze at the water, Lake George has three public beaches.

On Land → Hike up Prospect Mountain for a breathtaking 100-mile view, stroll along area nature trails or tour Fort William Henry (site of a siege that inspired *The Last of the Mohicans*).

Snug Harbor → The luxurious Sagamore Resort on Lake George's Green Island has regular rooms, suites, condos and even a castle. Rates from \$219; call 800-358-3585 or go to thesagamore.com. For other lodging options log on to lakegeorge.com.

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LAKE LURE North Carolina

A cobalt-blue man-made lake near the Blue Ridge Mountains, Lake Lure is within easy driving distance of Asheville, Hendersonville and other towns in the eastern part of the state.

Cool Waters → There's a large public beach, a grassy picnic area and a water park, all surrounded by gorgeous mountains, as well as a full schedule of lake tours and lunch and dinner cruises on the water. Rent a pontoon boat, paddleboat, kayak or canoe to explore on your own (private boats are welcome, but permits are required) or fish for bass, trout, catfish and bluegills. For something different, check

out the Lure of the Dragons races in Town Park on May 21; in each colorful vessel, 12 people paddle while another teammate beats a dragon drum.

On Land → Hike the trails in popular Chimney Rock State Park, play a round at one of Lake Lure's three golf courses or dig up fossils and gemstones at Broad River Gems & Mining Co., in nearby Rutherfordton.

Snug Harbor → Rumbling Bald Resort has its own private beach, indoor and outdoor pools, scenic cruises, boat, canoe and kayak rentals and a spa. Rates from \$89; call 800-260-1040 or go to rumblingbald.com. For other lodging options log on to lakecountrync.com. —Penny Musco

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LAKE POWELL Arizona

This man-made reservoir, surrounded by towering red-rock canyon walls and beaches, has 1,960 miles of shoreline, longer than the entire West Coast of the continental United States. The awesome landscape and azure-blue water draw nearly 3 million visitors a year.

Cool Waters → The sheer size of Lake Powell means it's easy to find your own secluded spot to relax and take in the incredible scenery. But



there's also plenty of action: You can rent kayaks, try waterskiing or Jet Skis or whiz along in a speedboat to check

out some of the lake's 96 major canyons. Anglers can catch bass, crappies, catfish and carp. Or hop aboard a tour cruise out of Wahweap Marina to Rainbow Bridge National Monument, which you'll be able to explore on foot, or to canyons in the adjacent Navajo Mountain. Another popular destination for boaters is the Cathedral in the Desert, where sandstone walls tower hundreds of feet overhead.

On Land → Take a day or overnight trip to Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion or Capitol Reef national parks, all within a four-hour drive. Or spend an evening with the Navajo, learning about their culture, eating Native American foods and watching skilled artisans at work.

Snug Harbor → Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas' accommodations include traditional rooms, family units with kitchens and economy and luxury houseboats. Room rates from \$116; weekly houseboat rentals start at \$2,037; call 800-528-6154 or go to lakepowell.com for more info.

—Penny Musco

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LAKE OF THE OZARKS Missouri

Running 92 miles from end to end, this affordable, family-friendly destination offers lots of fun activities.

Cool Waters → You can rent Jet Skis, canoes, kayaks, speedboats and pontoon and fishing boats at the lake's many marinas and resorts. If you're into fishing, you'll be able to snag walleyes, bass, bluegills, catfish and crappies almost all year round; professional fishing guides can show you the seasonal hot spots and provide tackle and bait. Catch a narrated cruise for lunch or

dinner to explore more of the lake's astounding 54,000 acres. Lake of the Ozarks State Park, with its two public beaches, is the place to go for a lazy day in the sun and a picnic lunch.

On Land → Check out the nearby golf courses, wineries, two state parks and Osage Beach Premium Outlets.

Snug Harbor → The Lodge of Four Seasons has a spa with a tranquil Japanese theme and rooms with lovely views of the lake. Rates from \$120; call 888-265-5500 or go to 4seasonsresort.com. For other lodging options log on to funlake.com.

LAKE GENEVA Wisconsin

The nine-mile lake is known as the Newport of the West, an allusion to the grand mansions that line its shores.

Cool Waters → This place is all about old-fashioned charm. On the popular mailboat cruise, offered by Lake Geneva Cruise Line, a mail carrier leaps on and off to deliver packages as the craft makes its rounds. Other trips include an ice-cream-social tour and a champagne brunch cruise, which run from May through October. If you'd rather explore on your own, the lake's marinas rent out sailboats, kayaks, canoes, pontoon boats and Jet Skis. Or challenge yourself with parasailing, tubing or a sailing lesson at the Geneva Lake Sailing School.

On Land → Walk some of the 21-mile Geneva Lake Shore Path for a closer look at the magnificent "cottages" that



line the water, or check out one of the area theaters offering live productions.

Snug Harbor → The Grand Geneva has family-friendly attractions like a large indoor/outdoor water park, hot-

air ballooning and horseback riding. Rates from \$150; call 800-558-3417 or go to grandgeneva.com. For other lodging and activity options log on to lakegenevawi.com. —Penny Musco