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THE LATEST TRAVEL GUIDE TO INSPIRE YOUR NEXT TRIP

10 Things to Do in Flagstaff, AZ With Kids

1. Stay at Village Camp

If you're looking for the perfect base camp for your family's Flagstaff adventures, [Village Camp](#) is a luxury outdoor resort nestled in the pines.

Village Camp offers Adventure Cabin stays and RV sites.

The cozy Adventure Cabins are tastefully decorated with all the comforts of home, including a full bathroom, and a kitchen or kitchenette.

The tiny home cabins are perfect for families as they sleep between 6-7 guests.

My kids especially loved the loft. They said that it felt like they were sleeping and hanging out in a treehouse.

Each unit also has a porch with a table where you can enjoy a sunrise breakfast or afternoon card game.

My kids especially loved that each cabin had a firepit to roast s'mores in the evening.

Gourmet S'mores kits are available to purchase at the General Store, but you'll want to bring your own roasting sticks.

The amenities at Village Camp are also great for families.

The Bistro at The Clubhouse serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Fuel up on some delicious pizza, flatbread, or sandwiches before heading out on your adventures.

On the weekends, you can often enjoy dinner with live music and a cozy indoor fireplace.

Your kids will also love the heated outdoor pool and hot tub that is warm enough to swim in year round.

Lawn games are also found outside the clubhouse.

More activities and amenities are planned for the future, including pickleball courts, a playground, and an amphitheater.

2. Test Your Skills at Flagstaff Extreme

Flagstaff Extreme offers zipline and adventure courses that are perfect for the adrenaline junkie in your family!

The [Adventure Courses](#) include a Kids Course that is geared for kids ages 7-11 years old and an Adult Adventure Course for ages 12 years and older.

We did the Adult Adventure Course with our boys ages 12 and 15 and they absolutely loved it!

The course has 5 different large circuits that start out easy then become more challenging the further up you go.

Everyone starts out on the Green Level, but only about 20% are able to complete the entire course all the way to the Black Level.

You are free to exit the course at any point if you decide not to go on.

Each circuit includes a combination of obstacles and ziplines high in the treetops.

You'll encounter rope bridges, swinging boards, climbing walls, ziplines, and so much more. It will test you both physically and mentally.

My boys were able to complete the entire course in just under 3 hours.

My husband and I made it through to the Red level which is just below the Black before we were too exhausted to go on.

It really was such a fun family activity and one of the best things to do in Flagstaff!

3. Visit Historic Downtown Flagstaff

According to legend, Flagstaff was named in 1881 when the original settlers attached the American flag to the top of a towering ponderosa pine. They then called the settlement Flagstaff.

A few decades after its humble beginnings, Flagstaff claimed fame during the nostalgic 1920s era as a popular stop for motorists along the historic Route 66.

Route 66 is the most famous road in America, it starts in Chicago and ends at the [Santa Monica Pier](#). It just so happens to cut right through the heart of Flagstaff.

Evidence of the roaring 20s can still be found in the quaint roadside motor inns, blinking neon signs, and numerous haunted hotels.

I would recommend starting your downtown visit at the visitor center. Here you'll learn some history and pick up different walking maps of the town.

I would highly recommend taking the free [haunted walking tour](#), my kids loved it!

And if you're looking for more historic stops along Route 66, see our guide [12 Must-see Stops on Route 66 in Arizona](#).

4. Take a Star Tour at Lowell Observatory

In 2001, Flagstaff became the world's first "International Dark Sky City".

And Lowell Observatory just so happens to be one of the best places to observe that marvelous night sky.

Lowell Observatory was founded in 1894, making it one of the oldest observatories in the southwest.

Lowell Observatory's other claim to fame is that this is the location where the dwarf planet, Pluto, was first discovered!

In 1902 Percival Lowell noticed some unusual behavior of some of the planets and began to theorize that there might be a ninth planet. A few years later he began to search for the elusive planet.

Unfortunately, he passed away in 1916 but the staff at Lowell Observatory continued his quest.

On March 13, 1930, which just so happened to be Percival's birthday, the staff announced the discovery of a new planet.

There was a worldwide contest to pick the name of the planet.

The winning submission came from a young girl in England who suggested that the cold distant planet be named “Pluto”, after the god of the Underworld.

Visitors today can even stop by to see the telescope that was used to discover Pluto.

In 1965, Lowell Observatory became a National Historic Landmark and in 2011 it was named one of “The World’s 100 Most Important Places” by TIME magazine.

Day and evening telescope viewing programs are available, as well as a junior astronomy program and rotunda museum.

The observatory closes at 5 pm on Sundays so there is no evening telescope viewing.

The cost for admission to the Lowell Observatory is a little on the higher end, but discount tickets can often be obtained through the front desk at select partner hotels, or check [Groupon](#).

It is also worth looking into a membership.

An annual family membership includes admission to other science centers and museums, such as the Arizona Science Center, that are part of the [Passport Program](#).

5. Visit the Wupatki Ruins and Sunset Crater

As you drive through the sparsely vegetated landscape where rocks are plentiful and cell phone towers are few, you’ll find ancient ruins dotting the horizon of Box Canyon.

Take a short walk to the remnants of the Lomaki Pueblo, a two-story adobe brick structure that translates to “beautiful house”.

Stop for a picnic at the Doney Picnic Area where you’ll find a short nature trail that offers views of the Wupatki basin and the distant Painted Desert.

Be sure to make time to visit the crowning jewel, the Wupatki Pueblo.

This 4-story structure was built about 900 years ago and housed a small community within its 100 rooms.

Within the complex, visitors can also view the remains of a large gathering room, a preserved ball court, and a blowhole.

The blowhole is a natural phenomenon located at the end of the walkway that constantly blows cool air out of the earth.

For more ruins that are worth a visit, check out our guide [5 of the Most Accessible Indian Ruins in Arizona](#).

Admission to Wupatki National Monument is good for 7 days and also includes admission to Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument. Just hang on to your receipt for verification.

Sunset Crater is the extinct cinder cone remains of a volcanic eruption in 1085. This was the last eruption from the San Francisco Peak volcanic field.

The crater gets its name from the oxidized lava that was spewed across the rim. It left behind a red hue that resembled the color of the vibrant setting sun.

Start your visit at the visitor center where you can learn the history through exhibits and hands-on displays. You can also pick up maps and information about the [various trails](#).

The crater itself can't be climbed anymore due to the loose cinders and fragile geological features, but the Lava Flow Trail is the closest you can get.

The 1-mile roundtrip trail is great for kids and takes you along the base of the volcano with views of the Bonito Lava Flow and various volcanic features.

The Bonita Vista Trail is also a great one for kids. The short 0.3-mile roundtrip trail takes you across a field of cinders that resembles a black moonscape.

The short 0.2-mile A'a Trail also provides views of the jagged a'a basaltic lava and is easy for kids.

You can also drive the scenic 36 miles along the paved road throughout the park for views of the crater and surrounding volcanic fields.

If you're looking for more roadside stops, be sure to check out our guide [Arizona Road Trip: 8 Things to Do from Flagstaff to Monument Valley!](#)

6. Ride Mountain Bikes at Fort Tuthill

Fort Tuthill Bike Park is a mountain bike skills course with trails for beginners all the way to advanced.

It is located right next to Flagstaff Extreme.

The course includes flow trails and tech flow trails where you can practice turning and jumping. There are also two pump tracks with one being geared for kids.

The drop zone includes 3 progressively taller drops for more advanced riders. You'll also find a skills area where riders can improve their technical skills through different obstacles.

The Cyclocross Feature is where more advanced riders can really put their technical skills to the test.

The best part is that the course is open to the public and free to visit. You will need to bring your own bike, or rent one in town and transport it to the course.

The course is open daily from sun up to sun down, although it is closed during inclement weather. It is an unsupervised course, so wear a helmet and ride safely.

7. Spend the Day at Snowbowl

Spending a day at Snowbowl is one of the best things to do in Flagstaff any time of the year.

Visitors can ski in the winter, take the scenic lift ride above the pines in the summer, or hike through the golden aspens in the Fall.

If you plan to visit in the winter, be sure to check out our [AZ Snowbowl Guide](#). We've got some tips to pass along for the best runs to take, the best places to eat on the slopes, and how to get the best deals.

In the winter you may also want to consider visiting [Flagstaff Snow Park](#). It is located in Flagstaff, not Snowbowl, but this tubing hill is the perfect spot to spend the day playing in a winter wonderland.

Tickets must be purchased online and are released 2-5 days in advance. Half-day tickets and full-day tickets are available.

If you are visiting in the summer, be sure to check out our guide for the [AZ Snowbowl Summer Activities](#).

They offer a variety of fun activities to do as a family. These include a summer tubing hill, bungee trampoline, treasure panning, a scenic lift ride, hiking, and more.

In the fall, you'll discover some beautiful nearby hiking trails.

The Aspen Nature Loop Trail is a 1.5-mile trail that winds through meadows, ponderosa pines, and aspen groves decorated with shimmering golden leaves.

The Veit Springs Trail is a 2.4-mile loop. The heavily wooded trail traverses through the largest stand of ponderosa pines in the world.

This ponderosa pine forest stretches uninterrupted from New Mexico all the way up to the Grand Canyon.

Along the trail, you'll also find an old historic homestead. The cabin was built in 1892 by Ludwig Veit, whom the trail was named after.

You can also take the pleasant 7-mile drive up Snowbowl Road to enjoy the mountain scenery.

Be sure to stop at Aspen Corner, a photographer's paradise in the autumn. It is located about 6.5 miles up Snowbowl Road.

For more beautiful fall hikes, see our guide [8 Places to See Fall Leaves in Arizona](#).

8. Discover Cliffside Indian ruins at Walnut Canyon National Monument

Walnut Canyon is a pretty remarkable place where the steep cliff sides are pocketed with ancient pueblos.

It is hard to imagine how so many people could not only live, but thrive, in these cliffside dwellings.

You'll start your visit at the visitor center where you can see displays and exhibits chronicling the history of the canyon and the Sinagua people that inhabited the canyon over 700 years ago.

From the visitor center, embark on the 1-mile roundtrip Island Trail. The trail leads past 25 cliff dwellings that visitors can explore.

It also offers breathtaking views across the canyon where you can see many more dwellings camouflaged into the Kaibab Limestone cliffs.

Although the trail is relatively short, do not underestimate the difficulty. The trail

descends 185 feet into the canyon through a series of stone steps.

Hiking back up those steps on the return trip is not for the faint of heart. Especially considering that you are climbing at an elevation of 7,000 feet.

The trail is mostly paved and is doable with kids. Just take your time and use caution, especially as there are some drop-offs with no guard rails.

Be sure to pack plenty of water and snacks, and do your part to preserve the park and ruins.

The rim trail is also a great alternative if you have young kids. The easy 0.7-mile trail leads to scenic canyon overlooks and the remains of a pithouse and pueblo.

Entrance to Walnut Canyon National Monument is free for kids 15 years and younger.

***Related post:** If Monument Valley is part of your Southwest road trip, then be sure to check out our [Complete Guide to Visiting Monument Valley!](#)

9. Explore Old Lava Tubes

The Lava River Caves are a series of old lava tubes that were formed by a mile-long river of lava roughly 700,000 years ago.

The caves are a bit of a hidden gem located in the middle of the juniper and pinion forest off a dusty Forest Service Road.

You'll find a small dirt parking lot and a short trail leading to the underground entrance. You'll need to scale down some volcanic rocks to enter the cave where your adventure begins.

The caves stay a cool 42 degrees even in the summer, so dress warmly. You'll also need to wear sturdy closed-toed shoes as you'll be navigating over slippery and sometimes sharp rocks.

Be sure that everyone in your party has a flashlight as it gets quite dark in the cave. There are also portions of the cave with low-hanging rocks so watch your head.

I would not advise visiting the cave with young children or if you are susceptible to claustrophobia.

Keep in mind that the forest road is often closed in the winter, so the best time to

visit is in the summer.

10. See the Fall Leaves at Lockett Meadow

***Update:** *The road to Lockett Meadow is currently closed due to fire damage, you will need to hike or bike 3 miles up the mountain to reach the trailhead.*

The Inner Basin Trail at Lockett Meadow is our all-time favorite spot to see fall leaves in Arizona.

The 3-mile round trip trail weaves through a dense forest of aspen trees.

The ground is carpeted in gold while the leaves flutter in the trees above, it truly is magical. If you visit in the spring or summer the forest is alive with vibrant greens.

The road leading to the trailhead can be a bit harrowing and requires 4WD, nerves of steel are also recommended. But the serenity of the mountain trail is well worth the effort.

If you are planning to visit in the fall, there are a few important things to know before you visit. See our guide to [Lockett Meadow](#) for all the details.

The Kachina Peaks Wilderness surrounding Humphrey's Peak in the Coconino National Forest is also a great place to go for fall leaf hikes through aspen groves.