

Vacationing with the Grandchildren

by Jan Ross

Last summer, my family went on a beach vacation. Four generations together for a whole week. For some, that may sound like the perfect definition of misery but for us? For us, it's the perfect vacation. Years before, we had traveled with our young son who, when he saw the white sand beach, exclaimed "Mommy! Look! Can I play in the snow"? And now my grandson was the very same age. Life had neatly revolved into a full circle ending with another little sandy-footed boy in a wet bathing suit curled up in my lap.

We are not the only grandparents traveling with our children and grandchildren; more and more families are enjoying multi-generational travel. How can grandparents experience the perfect vacation?

Here are some tips:

- Plan your trip together. When all ages are involved in the planning process, there will be activities and things for everyone to do.
- Pack some special treats and gifts for your grandchildren, but check with mom and dad before you haul them out. The watercolor paints and paper I tucked into my suitcase kept my grandson occupied for a couple of hours one afternoon.
- Be helpful, but not intrusive. Baby sit when the adults want to go out but if you don't agree with some aspect of

parenting, just step back. They may not parent exactly the way you would, but they are doing fine.

 Give your grandchildren your undivided attention. Build a sand castle, read a book, watch a movie, just enjoy spending time together. These are the memories they will call up years from now.

A house at the beach may also be your perfect family vacation but, if not, you have several other choices. A great idea for families is an all-inclusive resort because there are wonderful locations and resorts to choose from.

One of my favorites is Azul Sensatori Hotel in Riviera Maya, Mexico. Located just 20 minutes from the

Azul Sensatori Hotel in Riviera Maya, Mexico is both kid and adult-friendly!

Cancun airport so the kids don't have time to get restless, this beautiful hotel is located right on the beautiful beach and has family connected suites which are close to the Kid's Club, Teen Club, kid's pool and splash park.

There's no need to pack all your baby gear when you come to this resort because they will provide you with a baby monitor, stroller, bottle warmer, baby bathtub, baby food – you can even select Fisher-Price toys from a special menu and they will deliver them to your room! I have never visited a resort with service for kids like this.

The Azulitos Kid's Club has toys, equipment and special programs for kids ages 6 months to 12 years old exclusively created by Fisher-Price and McGym. The Breeze Teen Club is for ages 13 – 17 and has interactive games, classes, beach volleyball and tennis clinics, along with a lighted dance floor and non-alcoholic drinks. All ages will enjoy the lazy river and the rock climbing wall – this place has it all!

Since this resort is all-inclusive, your family can choose from one of several restaurants for their meals and kids can choose whatever they want from the menu and, if they don't like it, it's easy to choose something else!

So, pick the family vacation that will work for you, your children and your grandchildren. And when your grandson relives the story about that feisty little crab that ran between

TRAVEL Continued on Page 26



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CAREER continued from Page 8

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TRAVEL continued from Page 12

daddy's feet and made him dance around? You will be very glad you were there to experience that.

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TRUSTS continued from Page 14

estate is distributed. A person is appointed "ADMINISTRATOR" to administer the estate. He will be required to apply to a court and post bond. It will require months for the estate to be settled.

2. Creating a will is a very poor estate planning document. If there is a will, the probate court reviews the will and rules on it. For the benefits of court supervision in probate, your heirs pay a heavy price, including excessive attorneys fees, executors fees, appraisal fees, court filing fees and bond premiums.

Delays of up to three years or more to settle the estate are possible and the will is a public document for all to see and gossip about.

3. A REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST avoids probate and the assets go directly to the persons named in the trust. There is no delay and it is very private without anyone knowing where the assets go. It avoids guardianship if you become disabled either physically or mentally. It gives you peace of mind, knowing that your estate will be managed and distributed by someone you have selected and whom you trust.

SAVINGS continued from Page 15

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HOSPITAL continued from Page 22

Several levels of long-term care are available, depending on the type and degree of services required.

Hospice/palliative care

For patients in the end stages of a life-limiting illness, inpatient hospice or palliative care may be recommended. The focus is on maximizing comfort and quality of life. Patients receive medical care to alleviate pain and other distressing physical symptoms as well as interventions that address psychological and spiritual concerns.

This type of program is not limited to patients with a cancer diagnosis. People with late-stage heart, lung or liver disease and neurological diseases such as Parkinson's disease are among those who may benefit from specialized end-of-life care.

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