



How to...

DID YOU KNOW?

The Cincinnati Enquirer first reported staycations as a vacation option in 1944.



Take a winter staycation

Discover all the adventures that are close to home.

Winter is a special time of year to make plans to enjoy the season right where you live. You'll soon have time off from school, and many attractions are less crowded and expensive than they are during warmer times of the year. With an adult's help, taking the time to get to know your own town or city can help you learn its heritage and appreciate your surroundings in a new light. Here's how to get started.

Schedule it

Just as you would if you were going on a trip out of town, you'll want to plan your staycation for a time when you and your family members aren't busy with commitments. Talk to everyone about which days would work best. Also try to complete any household chores or homework you are responsible for in advance so you don't have to worry about those tasks during your staycation.

Pretend to be a tourist

If you have lived in the same place for a while, you might not explore some of the local attractions that a visitor might. Start by asking yourself this question: If I had a friend coming to town who has never been here, where would I suggest they go? Maybe there's

a historic home you can tour, holiday lights to see, a landmark you've overlooked, or a popular restaurant you've never been to. A local museum, zoo, or aquarium might have an exhibit you haven't seen.

Pursue a new activity

When it's cold outside, you can try a range of indoor activities on your staycation. Find out what sports your local recreation center offers, like volleyball, racquetball, or fencing. Your local library may have Lego clubs, makerspace activities, or chess lessons. Now is also a good time to sharpen your skills at winter activities like ice skating at your local rink. Many state parks permit sledding on designated hillsides or offer free or inexpensive cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowtubing.

Consider day trips

Although your town is a great place for a staycation, anywhere that is within a short drive—where you don't have to stay overnight—can be included on your itinerary. Talk to your family members about where you could go that is one to two hours away. Then enjoy exploring and making memories together!



Check out holiday lights.

Go on a food tour



Many cities offer guided tours of local food attractions. An adult can help you find one in your city, or you can plan your own with family and friends! Here's how.

Pick a theme. Decide with your group what you want to eat on your tour. You could focus on one food (like pizza) or the cuisine in a particular neighborhood.

Map your route. Discuss whether you'll take a walking tour or you'll need someone to drive. Use a mapping tool like Google Maps to plan your route.

Sample the food. Now it's time to try the food! You can jot down opinions and quotes in a notebook or a notes app and give scores based on taste.