

# A Travel-Inspired Day Full of Things to Do With Kids at Home

A 9-TO-5 ITINERARY GUARENTEED TO KEEP KIDS BUSY AND ADULTS ENTERTAINED, TOO.

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With billions of people grounded because of the [coronavirus pandemic](#), [armchair travel](#) has never been more important, especially for parents hoping to capture their kids' attention and imagination. Here's a full day of things to do with kids at home, sure to get them excited about seeing the world even while they're stuck indoors.

## 9 a.m.: Break out the sunglasses

We're headed to the beach. The [beach finder](#) from [Visit Florida](#) will help you choose images with just the right vibe, from laid-back to action-packed, to cast on the flat-screen. You can also gaze at videos of the Gulf Coast on Visit South Walton's [Facebook page](#), or take an [aerial tour](#) of the dramatic beaches of Tenerife, in Spain's Canary Islands—[one of our best places to go in 2020](#).



The Palace of Versailles would never be this empty in person. Getty

## 10 a.m.: Put on your crown

You're queen (or king) for the day. You'll have [Edinburgh Castle](#), one of the most famous castles in the world, all to yourself on [Google Arts and Culture](#)—see the magnificent Great Hall and visit St. Margaret's Chapel, [Edinburgh's](#) oldest building. Then take a private tour of the [Palace of Versailles](#), a classic [Paris day trip](#), where you can roam around gilded bedchambers and see the Hall of Mirrors without the crowds.

## 11 a.m.: Get that camera ready

It's animal time. Thanks to a variety of live streams, you can watch giraffes at the [Saint Louis Zoo](#), ogle the tiger cubs at the [San Diego Zoo](#), meet sloths at Nebraska's [Lincoln Children's Zoo](#), and get up-close with gorillas at the [Philadelphia Zoo](#). Hang with Fiona the hippo at the [Cincinnati Zoo](#) or [peer in](#) on the otters at the [CROW Wildlife Clinic](#), a rehabilitative center in Sanibel, Florida. Finally: pandas at the [Edinburgh Zoo](#) and puffins in the [Shetland Islands](#).



Hiking up to Machu Picchu can take days—but visiting virtually takes no time at all. Getty

## 12 p.m.: Lace up those boots

Soaring over these natural wonders is one of our favorite things to do with kids at home. First up, Machu Picchu and the Costa Rican rainforest with [Austin Adventures](#), which is hosting weekly virtual adventures for kids. Then it's off to [Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park](#) in Australia; explore the UNESCO World Heritage site and its namesake sandstone rock via [Story Spheres](#). Cap the adventure off with one of Lindblad Expeditions' [Virtual Expeditions](#), which explore old-growth forests of Iyoukeen Cove in Alaska, the grottos of Makatea in French Polynesia, and other marvels.

## 1 p.m.: Set the table

We've got lunch reservations halfway around the world. Whip up [caprese skewers](#), [chicken tinga tacos](#), and other internationally influenced [kids' recipes](#) from America's Test Kitchen. Facebook tutorials from [Visit Costa Rica](#) turn dishes like [gallo pinto](#) and [picadillo de papa](#) into family projects. And Indagare's [Global Classroom](#) offers cooking workshops that encourage tots to expand their palates, including a ceviche class led by the Colombian chef Alejandro Ramirez.



Jellyfish habitats at the world's aquariums are on display online. Getty

## 2 p.m.: Tighten your snorkel

We're going swimming with the fishes. Explore otter, shark, and other creatures' habitats at the [Monterey Bay Aquarium](#); check in on [jellyfish](#) in Baltimore; learn about sharks at the [Aquarium of the Pacific](#); and wave hello to [Coconut](#), the baby sloth at the St. Louis Aquarium, which has an ongoing [Daily Quaranstream](#).

## 3 p.m.: Strap on that backpack

It's time to go off to the [National Parks](#). Take a 360-degree romp through the [Redwoods](#), listen to the sounds of a waterfall in [Yosemite National Park](#), and hike the Barker Dam Trail in [Joshua Tree National Park](#). Then catch other National Parks around the country on the new #RoamFromHome [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) series from Xanterra Travel Collection, which operates in Yellowstone, Zion, and several other major parks.



Join wildlife experts and safari guides on their morning drives. Getty

#### **4 p.m.: Grab those binoculars**

We're heading on [safari](#). Every day in April, &Beyond Ngala Private Game Reserve and Djuma Private Game Reserve, both in South Africa, will broadcast [live game drives](#) on Facebook and YouTube. Hosted by expert field guides, the twice-daily safaris will also give kids the chance to ask questions in real time by commenting on YouTube or by using the Twitter hashtag [#wildearth](#).

#### **5 p.m.: Sharpen those scissors**

It's an arts and crafts happy hour. Make your own piñatas with help from an [online tutorial](#) from [Chileno Bay](#), an Auberge resort in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, or create a miniature version of [Dromoland Castle](#), a 16th-century Irish castle, by tagging along on [Facebook](#). The downloadable, print-at-home [Color the Amazon book](#) from Delfin Amazon Cruises depicts morpho butterflies and red-backed poison frogs. End the afternoon with some DIY spa action: the [Kids Chocolate Facial](#) from [Esperanza](#), an Auberge resort in Los Cabos, Mexico, turns coconut oil and dark cocoa powder into kid-safe (albeit a little messy) rest and relaxation.