



FAMILY
EQUALITY
COUNCIL



HAYDEN'S LIST

Family Travel Tips

in collaboration with R Family Vacations and Hayden's List

- **Encourage Your Children to be Part of the Planning.**

Kids love to be given responsibility, and the process can spark great conversations about budgeting and compromising. Let them select from a list of hotels or destinations, and pull out a map to determine the route!
—Amy Norman, Co-Founder and Co-CEO of Little Passports

- **Consider Gay or Gay-Friendly Travel Agents for Bookings.**

Not only is it great to support gay and gay-friendly businesses, these travel agents can be super resources for finding accommodations and attractions suitable for your family. They are able to research areas you may not be familiar with and potentially also get you upgrades and discounts. Our friends at R Family Vacations are now a part TZELL Travel Group and can assist you in booking individual travel for you, your family and your friends. For more details, contact GKaminsky@Tzell.com or KCarpenter@Tzell.com or call 917-522-0985.

- **Use Social Media.**

Reach out on social media, especially within forums for LGBTQ parents, and ask for recommendations from people who live in the areas that you are traveling to or through. This is a great way to find gay-friendly hotels, restaurants, and other businesses for your family to find welcoming spaces. It can also be a way to make or reconnect with friends! [Hayden's List](#) provides a number of reviews both by region and topic. Also, be sure to post reviews after your trip. Your experiences can help other families in planning their trip.

- **Talk to Your Kids Ahead of Time**

Spend time talking to your kids about differences in the communities that you may visit on your travels. Maybe they are used to more open, accepting environments and some of your trips may not include these, for whatever reason. Educate them on differences to avoid conflicts or potential questions upon arrival.

- **Have Your Paperwork in Order (and Bring Copies Along!)**

When traveling, make sure you bring copies of each family member's important documents (such as, birth certificates, adoption decrees, living wills and health care directives). Parentage and/or custody documents for accompanying minor children, particularly if your children do not share your last name, are especially important. We also encourage families to bring the contact information for your lawyer back home and your family/next of kin, including someone who has a copy of your itinerary. It is a good idea to have these documents scanned and saved in a virtual environment, like your email or in the cloud, so that you can access them from anywhere and at any time. Many families also choose to leave a copy of these documents with a trusted friend/family member. Please note: If you have foster children or you are in the process of adoption, you will want to make sure you travel with the right legal documentation. Always consult with your attorney to make sure that you have everything you need.

- **Know the Laws**

Unfortunately, there are still more than 70 countries around the world where homosexuality is illegal. Know the laws in the country you are visiting and make sure your children have an age-appropriate understanding of the differences as well. The US Government has a helpful site dedicated to LGBTI travel information, <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/go/lgbt.html>.