

Written by Written by Michael S. Dee

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Summer Escapes

This time every year, I hear parents at school, at The Coffee Bean and at the gym talking about their summer plans. It is a given that almost everyone here visits California. Though I enjoy Sea World and the zoo in San Diego, I prefer Newport Beach which reminds me of Scottsdale on water. In the summer, you'll experience a 30-degree difference but so many of the same faces we see each day in passing at our favorite places in Scottsdale.

I believe we only remember moments and not days, and each summer I always try to take one week and do something different with my son. The best trip we ever took was to Idaho and Montana. In fact, it was so awesome he asked that I not even write about it because he wanted me to keep it our little secret. (Now that it is three years later, I finally got the O.K. from him to share it with you.) If you have not gone, you must check it out—especially with kids. Start in Coeur d'Alene. The downtown area is super kid-friendly with sea plane rides and old-fashioned snow cones and ice cream. Then, drive 45 minutes and take a bike ride down an old railroad trail that goes for more than 25 miles (by the way, it is all downhill). After a four-hour drive, you're in the Whitefish area, and the lakes, temps and activities are amazing.

The best summer escape is one that will create a moment that will last forever. I can still see the look in my son's eyes of pure excitement and enjoyment during our trip and experiences. It was one of those moments you will never forget.

This summer, I encourage you to check out our great local resorts. This year—and every year—we have the most complete guide online, Summer Escapes, that gives readers the lowdown on the season's resort specials and packages. It is easy to find—there is a banner on every page of AZFoothills.com. I cannot wait to experience the new water slide at Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort & Spa at Gainey Ranch and the FlowRider at The Westin Keirland Resort and Spa. Arizona is really the best place to live and, even in the 100-plus temperature days, take time off to make memories with the ones you love at one of our local resorts. If you're getting out of town, I encourage you to try something different. I did, and it was a moment I will never forget.

Happy summer!

Michael S. Dee *President and Publisher*