

Wrap Up Summer and Experience Arizona with the Family

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The summer months may be wrapping up, but it is not too late to create a lasting family memory before the kids head back to school. Whether you prefer a relaxing staycation or an exciting adventure, Arizona hosts lots of last-minute activities and getaways sure to suit any family.

For those who are looking to squeeze in one more summer adventure, Arizona is jam-packed with activities at every turn. Explore your wild side with a drive through Bearizona and see animals in their natural environment. Don't let its name fool you; visitors can also view wolves, bighorn sheep, bobcats and more in the comfort of their cars as they drive through this wildlife park in Williams, Ariz. If your kiddos crave a little more excitement, test your limits at Flagstaff Extreme. Explore the forest from a whole new perspective as you climb, swing, zip and crawl through a five-level ropes course in the forest tree tops.

For parents hoping to sneak in a little learning before the end of summer, Arizona has a rich history and culture to interest all ages. After a quick drive south, you may think you have stepped into a time machine when you enter Tombstone, Ariz. Stroll the streets that Wyatt Earp and Doc Holiday once did and learn about the days of the Old West. For those who hope to get a little further away from the heat, why not try outer space—or at least the Challenger Space Center? Visitors can experience a simulated space mission with flight crews, mission controllers and scientists in Peoria, Ariz.

Arizona also offers last-minute activities that allow families to soak up the final days of summer. Spend a day with the family at one of Arizona's three water parks: Wet 'n Wild Phoenix, Golfland SunSplash or Big Surf. Or, escape the heat with the ocean dwellers of SEA LIFE Arizona in Tempe, Ariz. Kids of all ages will enjoy the sharks, octopi, rays, sea turtles and more that swim through this indoor aquarium.

If you are craving a little more peace and quiet with the family before the chaos of the school year begins, you can still snatch up a great staycation deal from one of Arizona's beautiful hotels. Feel like a tourist as you play by the pool with the kids, relax in a cozy room or experience fine dining in a luxurious restaurant.

For more ideas and itineraries on how to spend the final weeks of summer with the family, visit www.summerinaz.com.