

Travel canceled? Make magic at home

Recreational travel may not be possible this year for many families for a variety of reasons, such as health safety, lack of funds, or closures and restrictions at desired destinations. But that doesn't mean families can't enjoy some vacation fun at home. Besides giving you a rest from your regular routine, it can be a budget-friendly alternative to actual travel.

Pick a night or weekend and choose a specific "destination" or theme. Consider someplace you have always wanted to go. What activities would you try? What would you see? What foods would you taste? Write down some ideas and use this to plan ahead if you need supplies to cook a special meal or decorate a room or patio.

Setting

One way to make it feel more like you're somewhere different is to utilize music and sounds. Search your streaming services for the kind of music that plays in a restaurant, or browse the internet for the sounds of ocean waves, a theme park soundtrack, or other location ambiance.

Another way to set the mood is through lighting and décor. Decorations don't have to cost much; you can repurpose things you already own. Just changing the room can make a difference. Set up a card table in a room where you don't normally dine. Maybe use linens and candles and dress up for the occasion. Kids might have fun playing waiter or waitress and serving Mom and Dad.

Activities

Use the internet to see things you can only see on vacation. Visit a museum, zoo, or cultural arts center. Take a virtual helicopter tour or watch a concert. Set up folding chairs and "ride" a roller coaster with a point-of-view video.

Incorporate outdoor activities too. Take a walk, and pretend to see the sights. Ride bikes, or take a hike. Recreate a ballgame or race. Use a backyard pool or garden hose to create a splash area or "resort pool" to lounge by.

Source:

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