Guess who’s coming on the family trip this year? Everyone! A cruise is a classic way to bring together parents, kids, and grandparents, but broaden your horizons with these options as well.

**RAIL VACATIONS**
- **GOOD FOR:** families happy to hang out in a shared space while traveling to various spots. A long train ride is the perfect time to bond over board games, play cards, or enjoy each other’s company while watching the scenery,” says Erik Hastings (Erik the Travel Guy), host of Beyond Your Backyard on PBS and the Create channel.
- **BOOK IT** Amtrak (amtrakvacations.com) options depend on nature and history buffs (lots of trips to national parks, such as from Chicago to Glacier National Park in Montana to Seattle), leaf peepers, and music aficionados (the Jazz Blues and Rock ‘N Roll trip to Chicago, Memphis, and New Orleans). To customize your own vacation—for example, tour museums while visiting a certain city—vacationbyrail.com can help you build a package.

**ALL-INCLUSIVE RESORTS**
- **GOOD FOR:** families who want to have flexible schedules. You pick and choose from activities running throughout the day. On-site restaurants take the stress out of deciding where to eat. But do your homework about what’s included, some activities may cost extra and/or have age restrictions.
- **BOOK IT** Beach resorts are a popular choice, but you can also get your fill of scenic watersides at a mountain lake resort, such as Basin Harbor on Lake Champlain (basinharb.com).
- Woodchuck Pines in the Poconos (woodchuck.com), or Mohonk Mountain House in the Hudson Valley (mohonk.com). Like their beach counterparts, these resorts have kids’ clubs, water sports, dance lessons, and nightly entertainment. Or try a dude ranch: Research your options at the Colorado Dude & Guest Ranch Association (coloradorange.com) and the Dude Ranchers’ Association (duderanch.org).

**VOLUNTEER VACATIONS**
- **GOOD FOR:** families who want to give back. It’s also a meaningful way to see another country. The potential for tax deductions could result in savings; check IRS rules at its.gov.
- **BOOK IT** For travel in the United States, visit goodwillvillages.org. To go abroad, Elevated Destinations (elevateddestinations.com) has trips to places like Ecuador, Costa Rica, Peru, Thailand, and Kenya. Its Buy A Trip, Give A Trip program means your trip funds opportunities for groups of children in need of their home country.

**GIVE EVERYONE A VOICE**
Start planning your vacation with a family conference call or email. Ask everyone what price range they’re comfortable with and nominate a final decision maker (FDM). “In the event of a disagreement, the FDM can make the call,” Hastings says. Try the app GroupTrip (iOS, Android; free). It collates flight, hotel, and activity information and feedback into a shareable itinerary and bundles online reviews.