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6 Ways to Create a Family Keepsake with Your Grandchildren

Your vacation memories, preserved for a lifetime
by Motel 6 (Paid Content)




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Together, at long last! After what feels like forever, it's time to be with your grandchild. What better way to reconnect than spending quality time on vacation - near or far. There's no better time than summer to make your family reunion dreams come true. When thinking about where to stay, note that you have member benefits perfect for travel as an AARP member - you can save 10% off the best available rate on Motel 6 and Studio 6. Other perks include late checkout, kids stay free and family-friendly amenities like pools and on-site laundry.

This year, your family adventures will be extra special, so get creative and come up with ways to capture those memories! Here are a few ideas for DIY keepsakes you'll enjoy for years to come.

1. Create a Memory Box




PHOTO CREDIT: SHUTTERSTOCK

Nothing is more fun on vacation than the things you stumble upon. So, while you are out for walks in the grandchild's favorite park or wandering the local beach, pick up little treasures along the way. Then fill a couple of jars with the shells, rocks, sand, or any other unique trinkets that tell the story of the wonderful time you've had together and put them in decorative boxes - and label them with the date and date. You'll have a happy reminder of the new memories you've made together that you can proudly display on a bookshelf, mantle or bedside table.

2. Put Together a Page-Turner




PHOTO CREDIT: SHUTTERSTOCK

Some traditions are worth keeping, and scrapbooking is one of them. All the bits and pieces of your trip come together, resulting in a "Wow!" when you take a look back months or years later. You can save any and everything that reminds you of where you've gone and what you've done together. Gather post photos, postcards, ticket stubs from museums, restaurant menus and more.

3. Say Cheese!




PHOTO CREDIT: SHUTTERSTOCK

There are always one or two iconic photos that are taken when a whole group gets together. You do that special pose with a scenic backdrop, and the generations are gathered close wearing their best smiles. Go beyond just putting those photos in a frame on the wall (or worse, leaving them on your phone). Instead, look to an artist to transfer the image to wood or glass. Have an artist create a painting. Or display your favorite photos on a pillow, mug or phone case.

4. Have Fun with Fabric




PHOTO CREDIT: SHUTTERSTOCK

Even if you only have basic sewing skills, fabrics can be repurposed to reflect places, time, and culture. You can give new life to scarves, tea towels, lace doilies, cloth napkins, handkerchiefs, or ethnic-patterned fabrics. Piece together colorful scraps to create art worthy of framing. Requires larger pieces like table runners, cushions and whatever else you can find. How special would it be to gather around for a big family meal at a table decorated with a runner or napkins you and the grandkids crafted together?

5. Write, Write, Write

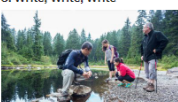


PHOTO CREDIT: SHUTTERSTOCK

You don't want to forget even a moment of your trip, so be sure to take a journal with you. Scribble notes - fascinating facts about the area, a re-telling of a great conversation with your grandchild, feelings you experienced during the trip. You can also document the highlights from your family hike to a detailed account of the best meal of the vacation. A journal makes for great reading during a family gathering, it's something to cherish in your quiet time when you wish family were nearby, but a memory will have to suffice.

6. Personalized Baby Gifts




PHOTO CREDIT: SHUTTERSTOCK

Nothing can be more exciting than making the trip to meet your new grandchild for the first time. Give more for what you travel for.

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