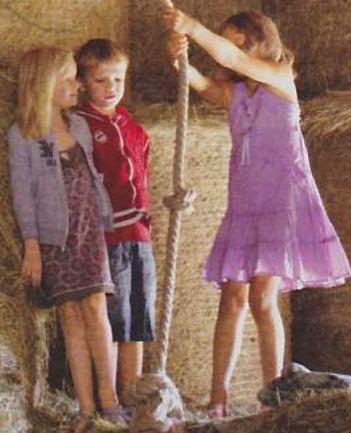


# Choose Your Own Adventure

Our cross-country guide to the coolest, most creative, totally interactive family vacations—and not one involves a school of witchcraft and wizardry.

BY GILLIAN FASSEL



*Mama, I played in a barn and fed the baby animals!”*

## HAYCATIONS

**BEST FOR:** Ages 3 and up.

**CAPACITY:** Varies.

**WHEN TO GO:** Springtime to see the baby animals; summer for berry picking. Most are open year-round.



LEAPING LAMB FARM

Agritourism has grown in popularity in the past few years as a budget-friendly, eco-friendly, child-friendly way for city mice (and suburban mice) to get in touch with their country-mice roots. Kids raised on chicken fingers and corn syrup can milk cows, slop pigs, muck stalls and generally have the full-on *Charlotte's Web* experience. On farmstaysus.com, you can peruse myriad options across the country, from the luxe to the low-key: At postcard-perfect Blackberry Farm, a historic high-end resort in Walland, Tennessee, the kids can go berry picking or mushroom hunting or learn the

finer points of beekeeping while parents partake of the spa and gourmet dining. For a slightly more down-home experience, stay in the cozy guest cabin at Leaping Lamb Farm, a small family homestead near the stunning Oregon coast. Another route to a rural retreat is booking a stay through Feather Down Farm Days, which has three host farms in the U.S.—Stony Creek Farm in Walton, New York; Ambrosia Farm in Bridgewater, New York; and Kinnikinnick Farm in Caledonia, Illinois. Guests at all three locales stay in quaintly furnished 500-square-foot tents, complete with

a wood-burning stove, an old-school coffee grinder—and a thoroughly modern, fully functioning toilet.

**BLACKBERRY FARM:** Rates: \$395 per room to \$5,200 for a four-bedroom house. Capacity: 62. 800-648-2348; [blackberryfarm.com](http://blackberryfarm.com)

**LEAPING LAMB FARM:** Alsea, Oregon. Rates: \$125 to \$225. Capacity: Six. 541-487-4966; [leapinglambfarm.com](http://leapinglambfarm.com)

**FEATHER DOWN FARM DAYS:** Rates: Approximately \$200 per night for a tent designed for up to six people. Two-night minimum. 716-226-6323; [featherdown.com](http://featherdown.com)

ABOVE AND BELOW:  
FEATHER DOWN FARM DAYS

