

Staying Home This Summer?



Economic uncertainties have forced many folks to modify their summer vacation plans. Don't give up totally on a summer vacation; just strategize how to relax and have a change of pace closer to home. Prepare just as you would if you were leaving town. Do your laundry, clean the house and complete your errands, so that you are not tempted to take up vacation time with housekeeping chores. Make a list of activities and choose among them. The list below should help. Be sure to take your camera with you!

- **Be a tourist:** Imagine coming from out of town to visit. What would you want to see? Which new or offbeat restaurants would you like to try?
- **Investigate your local food supply:** Check out local farmers markets, go to pick-your-own orchards, and pay a visit to local farms.
- **Pitch a tent in the backyard:** Bring on the sleeping bags, scary campfire stories, and s'mores!
- **Organize your own Field Day:** Set up games at a local park, ride bicycles, and have a picnic.
- **Try letterboxing:** Search the internet in advance for an explanation of this intriguing pastime which combines navigational skills and rubber stamping in an outdoor treasure hunt.
- **Investigate geocaching:** If you have a GPS device, look into this high-tech treasure hunt. Locate hidden containers (geocaches) and share your experiences online with other participants.
- **Experiment with food:** Get the family involved in planning meals and enjoying some new recipes at home. Share the cleanup, since it's everyone's vacation.
- **Be crafty:** Finish a long overdue scrapbooking project or try a new craft.
- **Attend local festivals and county fairs:** Head out to enjoy music, crafts, food, entertainment and festivities.
- **Schedule a spa day:** Either at home or at the spa, pamper yourself.
- **Head to the ballpark:** Check out a local minor league or farm team, American Legion or Little League team.
- **Take in a matinee:** Prices are much more affordable in the afternoon!
- **Plan a game night:** Locate the dusty board games, or get a cut-throat Texas Hold 'Em game going.
- **Finish one home improvement project:** Paint a room, clean the carpet, or plant a garden. Try to get it done in one day so you can enjoy the feeling of accomplishment the rest of the week!

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