

THE

MODERN

DAD
METHOD

FAMILY ADVENTURE PLAYBOOK

PLAN SMART.
SPEND LESS.
MAKE MORE
MEMORIES.



6 SIMPLE
STEPS



PLAN
SMARTER.



SPEND
LESS.



MAKE MORE
MEMORIES.

STEP 1

FIND IT

THE BEST FAMILY ADVENTURES USUALLY STARTS
WITH ONE QUESTION:
“WHAT SHOULD WE DO TODAY?”

FIND THE RIGHT IDEA

Don't just search “things to do.”
Find the obvious attractions
AND the stuff everyone
else misses.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR



**BIG NAME
ATTRACTIONS**



**SCENIC STOPS
ALONG THE WAY**



**FREE OR CHEAP
OPTIONS**



**HIDDEN GEMS
LOCALS LOVE**



**PARKS +
NATURE SPOTS**



**LOCAL FOOD
WE HAVE TO TRY**

HOW WE ACTUALLY FIND THEM



CHATGPT – Ask for ideas near us,
along our route, and things tourists
commonly miss.



RECENT REVIEWS & SOCIAL POSTS
– Real photos, real experiences,
real help from other families.



MAPS – Zoom around the surrounding
area instead of only searching
the attraction.



BE OPEN – Some of our best days
started with no plan at all.

DAD TIP

One good idea is
enough to get the
day started.

**THEN LEAVE ROOM
FOR SOMETHING
AWESOME YOU
DIDN'T EXPECT.**

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FOUND SOMETHING? → **NEXT: CHECK IT**

STEP 2

CHECK IT

A GREAT IDEA ONLY WORKS IF IT
ACTUALLY WORKS FOR YOUR FAMILY.

Before we head out, we check the details
that can **make**—or **break**—our day.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE, CHECK:



TERRAIN

Pavement, gravel, rocks, stairs,
hills? Will a stroller actually work?



STROLLER REALITY

"Stroller allowed" doesn't always
mean stroller friendly.



PARKING

Where do you actually park,
and how far is the walk?



BATHROOMS

Are there bathrooms? How many?
Where are they located?



FOOD & DRINKS

Can you bring your own? What's
available there? Any must-try spots?



WEATHER & EXPOSURE

Indoor or outdoor? Shade or sun?
Heat, rain, wind?



RULES & RESTRICTIONS

Age or height limits, bag policies,
strollers, reservations, time limits?

REAL-LIFE LESSON

THE STROLLER THAT DIDN'T MAKE IT 😂



We brought the stroller thinking we'd
be good. Then the trail turned into rocks.
Dad pushed that thing over the rocks
for about half a mile before finally
abandoning it and continuing without it.
We grabbed it again on the way back.

LESSON LEARNED:

"STROLLERS ALLOWED" AND
"STROLLER FRIENDLY" ARE
TWO VERY DIFFERENT THINGS.



DAD TIP

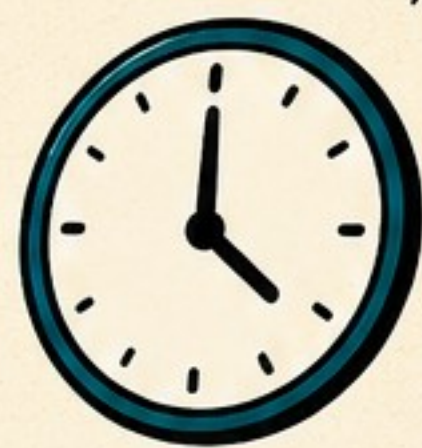
Five minutes of checking now
can save you hours of headaches,
meltdowns, and "we should've
known that" moments.

STEP 3

TIME IT

**GREAT PLACES ARE BETTER
AT THE RIGHT TIME.**

The same adventure can **cost less**,
be **less crowded**, and way **more enjoyable**
just by going at the right time.



REAL-LIFE EXAMPLE

BASS PRO / WONDERS OF WILDLIFE **HAPPY HOUR!**

We went during Happy Hour
(2:00 PM – 5:00 PM) and **paid
less** for admission!



WHY IT WAS AWESOME:

- ✓ Lower ticket price
- ✓ Fewer crowds
- ✓ More time to enjoy without rushing
- ✓ Still had the full experience
- ✓ Happy kids = happy parents

Check the clock before you buy!
It can make a huge difference.



DAD TIP

Before buying tickets,
check the attraction's
website for time-specific
pricing. Moving your visit
by a couple hours could
**save money AND help
you avoid crowds.**



WHEN WE PLAN IT RIGHT



WEEKDAYS WIN

Weekdays are almost always
less crowded than weekends.
If you can, go midweek.



TIME OF DAY MATTERS

Mid-morning, early afternoon,
and late afternoon can be
sweet spots with smaller crowds
and shorter lines.



SPECIAL PRICING WINDOWS

Look for happy hours, twilight rates,
late-entry discounts, or off-peak
pricing. These can save you big!



BEAT THE CROWDS

Fewer people = less stress,
more space, better photos,
and happier kids (and parents!).



WATCH THE WEATHER

Rain can ruin outdoor plans.
Check the forecast and have a
backup plan if needed.



DON'T SCHEDULE EVERY MEAL

We eat when we're hungry,
not just because the plan says so.
It keeps everyone happier.

STEP 4

PRICE IT

YOU FOUND THE PLACE. YOU PICKED THE TIME.
NOW DON'T AUTOMATICALLY PAY THE FIRST PRICE YOU SEE.



SMART WAYS TO PAY LESS



CHECK THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE & APP

Prices, offers, and even what's included can be different. Always check both.



BUY AHEAD WHEN IT MAKES SENSE

You'll skip the ticket line and lock in your spot—especially in busy seasons.



LOOK FOR BUNDLES & PACKAGES

Doing multiple attractions? A bundle can save you more than buying tickets one by one.



CHECK DISCOUNTS YOU QUALIFY FOR

Military, teacher, AAA, senior, student, first responder, local resident, or cardholder perks.



SEARCH FOR LEGIT PROMO CODES

A quick search before checkout can unlock legit codes and limited-time offers.



DO THE MATH

A "deal" isn't a deal if you end up buying things you don't need or wouldn't use.



CHECK WHAT'S INCLUDED

Parking? Taxes? Fees? Extras? Re-entry? Know exactly what you're paying for.



FREE!

DON'T OVERLOOK FREE

Parks, trails, lookouts, museums, playgrounds, events, and local gems often cost \$0 and create big memories.

DON'T JUST LOOK AT THE TICKET PRICE

OPTION A "LOOKS CHEAPER"

	+		+		=	\$32.45
\$25.00		\$5.00		\$2.45		TOTAL
TICKET		PARKING		FEES & TAXES		

OPTION B "ACTUALLY CHEAPER"

	+		=	\$28.50
\$28.50				TOTAL
ALL-IN TICKET		PARKING INCLUDED		



THE CHEAPEST-LOOKING OPTION ISN'T ALWAYS THE CHEAPEST OPTION.

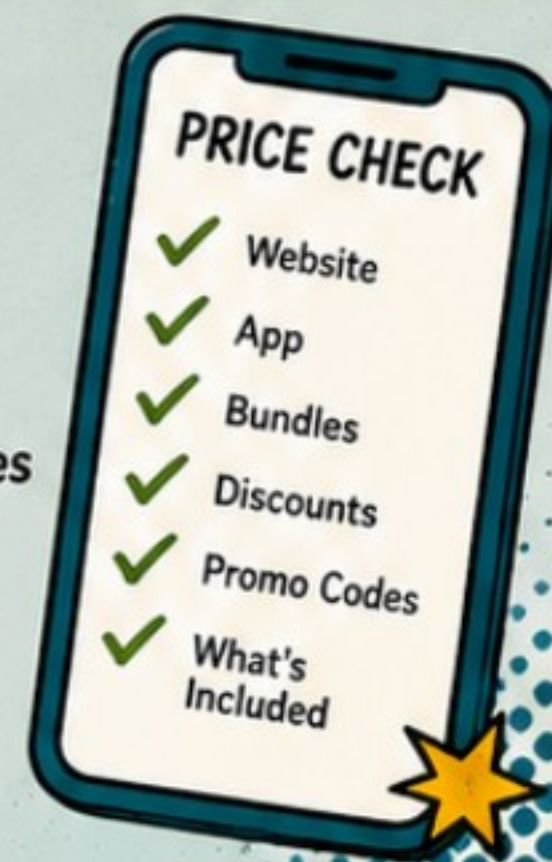
Compare the total cost, not just the first number.

DAD TIP

Before you hit BUY:

- ✓ Check the website and app
- ✓ Compare bundles and passes
- ✓ Look for discounts and promo codes
- ✓ Check what's included

Five minutes of comparing can save money for the next adventure!



STEP 5

PREP IT

**A LITTLE PREP TODAY =
A SMOOTHER, HAPPIER ADVENTURE.**

Good prep saves money, time, stress,
and meltdowns (yours and theirs).



WHAT TO PREP BEFORE YOU GO



CHECK THE DETAILS

Hours, address, rules, ticket info,
parking, and what to expect.
Little details prevent big surprises!



PLAN AROUND NAPS

Sully sleeps great in the car, so we
build the day around his naps and
know when it's time to go.



DIAPER BAG READY ALWAYS

Keep it packed and in the car at
all times—so we're good to go
whenever adventure calls!



KEEP PHONES CHARGED

We have chargers in the car for
everyone, so no one runs out of
battery (and no need for a bulky
portable charger!).



SNACKS & DRINKS

Pack what we know Sully will eat
and stay hydrated. Happy tummy,
happy trip!



DRESS FOR THE DAY

Check the forecast and dress in
layers. Comfy shoes = explore
more, complain less.



EXPECT FLEXIBILITY

Plans might change—and that's
okay! The best days are the ones
where we roll with it.



ATTITUDE CHECK

Low expectations, high fun.
If it doesn't go perfectly,
the memories are still perfect.

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLE

BRANSON DAY TRIP PREP

A little prep on the front end made the day
easy and stress-free.

- ✓ Checked attraction hours + ticket info
- ✓ Packed the diaper bag and kept it in the car
- ✓ Charged all our phones
- ✓ Packed snacks, drinks, and wipes
- ✓ Planned around Sully's nap window
- ✓ Checked the forecast and dressed in layers
- ✓ Knew we could pivot if needed
- ✓ Left when it was time—no stress!



We spent a little time prepping,
so we could spend the whole day
making memories instead of
fixing problems.

DAD TIP

A little prep goes a long way.
It helps everyone stay happier,
spend less, and actually
enjoy the adventure.

Prep smart.
Adventure better.



- ✓ DETAILS
- ✓ NAPS
- ✓ DIAPER BAG
- ✓ CHARGERS
- ✓ SNACKS
- ✓ WEATHER
- ✓ EXPECT FLEXIBILITY
- ✓ ATTITUDE

STEP 6

KEEP IT GOING

THE BEST ADVENTURES ARE THE ONES
YOU ACTUALLY ENJOY ALL DAY LONG.

Stay flexible, keep the good vibes,
and make memories that last.



MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR DAY



STAY FLEXIBLE

Plans can change—and that's okay!
The best moments often happen
when you're willing to roll with it.



FOCUS ON THE GOOD STUFF

Don't sweat the small things.
Enjoy what's in front of you and
let the little bumps roll off.



CAPTURE THE MOMENTS

Snap the photos and videos.
These are the memories you'll
look back on and smile.



KEEP EVERYONE HAPPY

Happy kid = happy day.
Take breaks, celebrate wins,
and keep the vibes light.



SNACKS & HYDRATION

Keep everyone fueled and hydrated.
It makes everything better—
moods, energy, and fun.



LOOK FOR SPONTANEOUS STOPS

Cool playground, scenic view,
quirky roadside attraction?
Pull over and check it out!



KNOW WHEN TO CALL IT

End the day on a good note.
Tired, cranky, or overstimulated?
Head back and save it for next time.



MAKE IT YOUR TRADITION

The little things you do together
today become the stories you'll
tell for years to come.

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLE

OUR BRANSON DAY

We didn't see everything—and that was okay.
We stayed flexible, focused on what mattered,
and made the most of every moment.

- ✓ Sully napped like a champ and woke up ready to go
- ✓ We adjusted our plans when things got busy
- ✓ Found a fun playground and let Sully burn energy
- ✓ Grabbed lunch when we were actually hungry
- ✓ Took tons of photos (and a few goofy videos!)
- ✓ Took breaks and didn't rush
- ✓ Ended the day with smiles, not meltdowns



It wasn't a perfect day.
It was **OUR** perfect day.
That's what matters.

DAD TIP

The goal isn't to check off
a list of things.

The goal is to create
moments your family
will talk about long after
the trip is over.

Keep it simple.

Keep it fun.

Keep it going.



BONUS!

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THE MODERN DAD

CHEAT SHEET

QUICK TIPS TO MAKE EVERY ADVENTURE
EASIER, SMOOTHER, AND WAY MORE FUN.

BEFORE YOU GO



- ☐ Search for the obvious AND hidden stuff



- ☐ Check terrain, parking, bathrooms & kid restrictions



- ☐ Look at weekday / off-peak options



- ☐ Compare tickets, bundles & discounts



- ☐ Pack drinks + snacks (happy stomachs, happy day)



- ☐ Grab the always-ready diaper bag



- ☐ Make sure the car chargers are there in the car

WHILE YOU'RE OUT



- ☐ Don't be afraid to change the plan



- ☐ Eat when everyone's hungry



- ☐ Let the kid nap when the nap happens



- ☐ Take the back road sometimes



- ☐ Stop when something looks interesting



- ☐ Take pictures AND actually enjoy it



- ☐ Know when everyone's had enough

THE MODERN DAD RULE

HAVE A PLAN.
DON'T BECOME A SLAVE TO IT.

Some of the best family memories happen between the things you planned.



SAVE THIS PAGE TO YOUR PHONE



You'll be glad you did.

THE ADVENTURE DOESN'T END HERE.

We're figuring out better ways to travel,
save money, tackle projects, find cool stuff,
and make more memories as a family—
and sharing what **actually works** along the way.



FOLLOW ALONG



Family adventures,
finds, DIY projects,
gear & real dad life.

GET THE NEXT GUIDE



More free practical
guides are coming.

TRY SOMETHING NEW



You don't need a huge
vacation or perfect plan.
Sometimes you just need
to get out the door.

FOLLOW MODERN DAD METHOD



TIKTOK



FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM



YOUTUBE

[MODERNDADMETHOD.COM](https://moderndadmethod.com)

→ NOW QUIT READING THIS THING
AND GO MAKE A MEMORY. →

