

for the traveling man (or woman) on your list

By Laura Hine



MAKE IT BETTER READER: **JENINE MATHIAS**, LAKE BARRINGTON

Jenine is a gal on the move. For the last 20 years, she and her college girlfriends have picked a location and gone for a girls' getaway. Their favorite? Spring training in Scottsdale. Combining baseball and a spa—these gals know how to have fun. Jenine's big trip this year is to Africa over the winter holidays with her husband, three children and their three grandparents.

"We love adventure travel," she says. "The kids know this is their Christmas present, so it's not a surprise." She has her kids researching Zimbabwe and South Africa to learn more about the locations before the trip.

We love the idea of giving your family an experience for the holidays. Here are some of Jenine's favorite places.



1. WINTER TRAVEL: SKI TRIPS

KEYSTONE RESORT, COLORADO Jenine's family likes this resort because it's "cozy" and easy to get around. Plus it's good for all levels. More information at keystoneresort.com

PARK CITY, UTAH Just 30 minutes from Salt Lake City, this cute mining town has turned into Utah's epicenter of après ski fun. You can ski in/ski out at Deer Valley or snowboard in/snowboard out at Park City Mountain Resort. Also nearby, Olympic cross-country ski trails, tubing and even mineral springs in a prehistoric grotto. More information at parkcityinfo.com

TRAVEL GADGETS Planning a trip? We have low- and high-tech travel gadgets that can make the journey smoother. Check them out online at makeitbetter.net/gadgets



2. WINTER TRAVEL: SUN

COSTA RICA Jenine's family rented a big house in Costa Rica for her parent's 50th wedding anniversary. Thirteen members of her family came to help celebrate. This tiny country has rain forests, volcanoes and great beaches. There are resorts, but it's very easy to rent a house and plan your own outings. For information on the most popular destinations, see govisitcostarica.com

MIAMI It's Florida, but worlds away from Disney. This sophisticated city has nightlife and shopping—plus lots of activities for kids. If you're going for a romantic getaway, check out the Ritz Carlton in South Beach or the quieter Mandarin Oriental on Brickell Key. Traveling with kids? The Biltmore in Coral Gables is close to Jungle Island—more flamingos than you can count. Lots of ideas for what to do in the city and surrounding areas at hellomiami.com



3. TRAVEL CLOSE TO HOME

MICHIGAN WINE TOUR Much closer than Napa and almost as many wines. This is a great trip to take with a group of your best friends. More people means more wines to sample! To plan your trip, choose a town, like Traverse City, then go to michiganwines.com for a list of the nearby wineries. You'll need more than a weekend to hit even half of them.

DOWNTOWN CHICAGO "I love a downtown weekend," says Jenine. Close, easy, but still different enough to feel like you've really gotten away. For hotel ideas, theater recommendations and even restaurants check out makeitbetter.net/entertainment/outings-a-travel and makeitbetter.net/dining