

TRAVEL

DISPATCHES



TONY DING, DISCOVERY COMMUNICATIONS
Residents of Hamtramck, Mich., enjoy last year's celebration.

Finalists vie for fireworks

Four U.S. towns are closer to winning a free fireworks display and party on the Fourth of July. A panel of judges chose the towns out of more than 2,600 entries submitted from all 48 eligible contiguous states as part of the Red, White and You Fourth of July Celebration contest.

For the third straight year, USA TODAY and Destination America, the cable TV network, have teamed up to award two towns a fireworks display. The finalists are:

WAVELAND/BAY ST. LOUIS, MISS. Hurricane Katrina left residents of these two communities without homes, jobs and, worse, without loved ones. Ten years later, those who remain have rebuilt their towns. Because the towns have gone through similar struggles, they are being considered individually for the grand prize but also could win as a combination.

MIDLAND, PA. Many residents of this Pittsburgh suburb lost their livelihoods when steel mills shut down more than 30 years ago. They've managed to hold on to the tradition of an Independence Day parade and fireworks show that draws thousands from nearby towns in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio. Money for the show has become more difficult to raise in recent years.

OROVILLE, CALIF. The City of Gold, so named for its place in California history, used to shine on Independence Day with a large fireworks show from the nearby 770-foot-high Oroville Dam. In recent years, the dam has gone dark because of a lack of funding for the show. With many retired military veterans living in town, residents are hoping the dam can light up again.

PLATTEVILLE, WIS. Two tornadoes tore through this town last year on June 16. With families displaced and more than \$20 million in damage, last year's Fourth of July celebration was bittersweet. Residents have struggled to rebuild, but they're hoping to celebrate the Fourth with as much gusto as before.

Marc Etkind, general manager of Destination America, says the towns "represent the strong spirit of America that helps us come together in times of recovery."

Winners will be announced June 5 in USA TODAY.

Nancy Trejos



CHRIS GOODNEY, BLOOMBERG
The New York art museum has nearly doubled its exhibit space.

Welcome to the new Whitney

New York City's Whitney Museum of American Art has moved downtown, reopening in a new Meatpacking District building that has almost doubled the exhibition space.

The nine-floor, 220,000-square-foot building, designed by Renzo Piano Building Workshop alongside Cooper Robertson, boasts the Whitney's first theater, education center and outdoor galleries.

On the fifth and sixth floors, guests can step outside to view sculptures and outdoor installations. East-facing terraces from floors 6 to 8 are connected by an exterior staircase and offer wide-open views of the skyline and the nearby High Line.

General admission is \$22, \$18 for seniors and students, and free for children under 18. The Whitney is closed to the public on Tuesdays. whitney.org

Ashley Day



AGATHA JAROSZ
Little Adrian Jarosz is a seasoned world traveler. His mom, Agatha Jarosz, has been a lifelong traveler, and she continues the tradition with her toddler son. "If we drive past an airport, he cries if he can't fly on a plane," she says.

Parenthood doesn't have to tie you, and your wanderlust, down: Follow this travel-loving mom's lead and pack up the kids and go

Ellen Creager
USA TODAY

Veteran traveler Adrian Jarosz has stamps in his passport, can sleep on a plane and has six international trips under his belt.

He is 3 years old. "If we drive past an airport, he cries if he can't fly on a plane," says his mom, Agatha Jarosz, of South Lyon, Mich.

She sees no reason Adrian should stay home when he could be flying to Europe or sampling Central America. Due with her second child in July, she plans to take both children to Poland next year.

Adrian probably won't remember a single one of his baby travels, which has taken him to Poland twice, Curacao, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, St. Martin, Martinique and 10 states. But his mother says there's a larger life lesson for her son.

"Maybe the travel will make him more open," she says. "Maybe it will make him enjoy different things instead of being scared."

SEEING THE WORLD

American women are having fewer children than ever. Nearly half of women ages 15 to 44 are childless, according to new U.S. Census data, up from 42% in 2000. Part of that trend could stem from the belief that if you have a baby, your traveling days come to a screeching halt.

Wrong, says Jarosz, 30. She grew up with the travel bug and has been to 58 countries and territories and 33 states, most of them with her father, grandmother or husband, Mariusz. For the past eight years, the family has used Patricia Schultz's *1,000 Places To See Before you Die* as a guidebook, checking off the countries they have visited.

Now, Adrian is the fourth generation to join the family quest.

"Any time he packs his little suitcase, he thinks he's going on a plane," she says. "Recently, when we went to Curacao, there was ice on the runway and we sat on the plane for three hours before take-off. Then we missed our connection and had to take another connection that was four hours late, and we thought he would be so tired."

"It was a 15-hour trip. When he got off, he said, 'More plane, please.'"

Friend Heidi Schick of Rochester, Mich., says Agatha's attitude is changing her ideas about traveling with children — and even about having children.

"Agatha is my most adventurous friend. She's been everywhere," she says. "It's really



ELLEN CREAGER, DETROIT FREE PRESS
Agatha Jarosz plans ahead, looks for deals and enlists family to help when she travels with 3-year-old Adrian.

6 TIPS FOR TRAVELING WITH CHILDREN

1 Budget with discipline so you have money to travel. Jarosz and her husband allocate more money to travel and less to other things like clothes, cars or furniture. They go out to a fancy restaurant only once a year, on their anniversary. Both their cars have been paid off, and hers has 200,000 miles on it. These savings let them save up for trips instead.

2 Bring at least one other adult. Jarosz has been on a plane alone with her son, but usually she has at least one other adult, either her husband or father, along on trips. Sometimes she has even more help, such as when visiting extended family in Poland.

"Some people tell me they don't like to travel with their relatives, but I enjoy it," she says. When you have young children, "try to find someone, maybe a cousin or aunt. Just say, 'I'm going for two or three days, would you like to come?'"

3 Plan in advance. Find out how to call the equivalent of 911 and learn the location of doctors, trauma centers and hospitals. Pack a first-aid kit. Take a car seat and stroller (airlines stow them free). Bring extra snacks, change of clothes, water, formula and baby food; Jarosz says she feeds Adrian local food using the same

precautions adults take in developing countries (no tap water, street food or peeled fruits).

4 Look for deals, but don't restrict your trips only to child-focused destinations. "You're not going to take your child hiking at Machu Picchu," she says. "And I'm not going to take him to a five-star restaurant. We try to go places with other kids." Jarosz says many cultures in the world are child-friendly, and many destinations you might not think of as child-friendly actually are. Go to places that the adults will like, too.

5 International travel is cheapest when your child is under 2 years old. Starting on their second birthday, they pay adult fares. Bummer. That's why Jarosz took Adrian to Poland twice before he turned 2.

6 Try to have a kitchen. Whether it's a rental house, condo or extended-stay hotel, a kitchen makes a lot of difference when traveling with children: "The first time we took Adrian to the Caribbean, we rented a house in Martinique and a condo on St. Martin, and since he wasn't a year old yet, I was able to prepare his formula and food. And he had a place for his toys."

amazing to see her still following her passion, even with a little one. She's a very calm person. She's a problem-solver." And it makes Schick realize that traveling with children "would not be such an obstacle."

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Get Jarosz talking about travel, and you soon realize there is more to her motivation than just taking vacations. The ability to travel freely is something her family never takes for granted.

Jarosz, born in 1985, lived in Poland until she was 7. Her parents and grandparents remember pre-1989 Communist rule there and its restrictions on travel, when their passports were held, phones were tapped and the places they could go were limited.

Her father, Jack Duszynski of South Lyon, recalls years when "we had restrictions on the passport. We could travel around Poland and some other Communist countries the government allowed us," but few other places.

As soon as the family moved to the USA in 1992, Agatha's father started taking his only child on trips all over the world — Paris, Argentina, even Australia.

Now, it's Adrian's turn. "He's the next generation," Duszynski says. "He wants to travel as much as he can, and he always asks: 'When are we going to go for the plane? When are we going to go for the hotel?'"

As for the complications of traveling with his daughter and tiny grandson: "She helps me, so if I can help her raise the boy, it's a pleasure to me. It's very perfect."

A WORLD AWAITS

Jarosz concedes that traveling with a child, even an easygoing one like Adrian, is not as simple as traveling in her carefree single days. Still, it's worth it, she wants to tell other young mothers.

"You can still do the trips," she says. "You might not be able to pack in as much or sleep on trains in Europe, but you can do it. It's worth it."

As the afternoon sun streams into her dining room in South Lyon, Jarosz looks at her son and hugs him, then lets him go.

"For now, he just loves the beach and plane," she says. When they take road trips, she is happy to see him "looking out the window, interested in his surroundings, not staring at a tablet or a TV."

She hopes someday he will appreciate "how absolutely lucky he is to live in a place that he can take his passport and see this beautiful world and all the amazing people in it."

Ellen Creager is a travel reporter for the Detroit Free Press.