



## The 10 Best Beaches for Families

Find out which waterside escapes are real gems for families.

By Karen Cicero from [Parents Magazine](#)

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9 of 22 | [View All](#)

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### 8. Cannon Beach, Oregon

You can't miss Haystack Rock sticking 235 feet out of the water on Cannon Beach, about 90 minutes from Portland. A state-protected marine garden, the tidal pools near the rock are filled with sea life such as orange and purple starfish. "We often have volunteers at Haystack Rock during the summer to talk about the tide-pool creatures and nesting seabirds," says Nala Cardillo, coordinator of the Haystack Rock Awareness Program. The downside: The water, while pristine, rarely gets above 60°F in the summer -- so if your kid wants to do more than dip his toes, rent a wetsuit (they come in toddler sizes) at the nearby Cannon Beach Surf Shop.

#### Spend the Night

On Cannon Beach, the Surfsand Resort hosts free ice-cream socials and hot-dog roasts for families. Check out the indoor pool, fun games like beach musical chairs, and a program for kids 4 and up with ocean-themed activities like seashell crafts and sand art. Plus, kids eat free in the resort's two restaurants. (*Summer rates start at \$219 per night for a room that sleeps four; [surfsandsand.com](#).*)