

AUTISM ADVENTURE GUIDE

Edition 3 Vol 1 | April 2022



AccessibilityCard.org

FREE RESOURCE for
theme parks & attractions
accommodation requests



Air Travel Tips



**Certified Autism
Resources Great
for Travel**



**Keeping Your Child
Safe: Safety Strategies
for Kids During Travel**





CONTENT

Theme Parks

Water Parks

Zoos/Aquariums

Museums

Attractions & Entertainment

Hotels/Resorts

Parks and Recreation

Travel Organizations

Hospitality & Retail

Travel Tips & Resources

***The information contained in the guide is accurate the best of IBCCES knowledge and as of Apr. 1, 2022 - Please check the location's website or the [IBCCES registry](#) to confirm details and certification expirations.*

WELCOME



Your family can travel with peace of mind, knowing Certified Autism Centers™ and other certified professionals have made a commitment to welcoming ALL families and individuals, regardless of their needs.

We're helping the leading travel destinations and attractions in the world ensure they are prepared to provide certified travel options for families and autistic individuals.

Who is IBCCES?

IBCCES is an independent credentialing organization that was founded in 2001 with the goal to provide specialized training and certification to professionals working with autistic individuals and those with other cognitive disorders. IBCCES is a social impact company with the mission to provide training and certification to healthcare, corporate, education and travel professionals in order to improve the experiences and outcomes of autistic individuals and those with cognitive disorders. IBCCES is a leader in the training and certification for cognitive disorders, including autism. We work in more than 87 countries across the globe.

IBCCES works with an advisory board of clinical specialists with expertise in neurology, psychology, behavior therapy, special education, travel, and other disciplines, as well as autistic self-advocates. This advisory board is actively involved and participates in creating the training programs offered by IBCCES, which is evidence-based and promotes best practices from experts in multiple disciplines.

IBCCES does not believe there is a "one size fits all" approach and thus brings together the expertise and learnings from multiple areas as well as the viewpoints and experiences of autistic individuals.

What is a Certified Autism Center™?

The IBCCES Certified Autism Center™ (CAC) certification recognizes organizations that have a highly trained staff and are fully equipped to serve better serve all guests.

Certified Autism Center™ Requirements?

- Dedicated to serving autistic individuals
- At least 80% of staff is trained and certified in the field of autism
- Is committed to ongoing training in autism
- The process may also include an onsite review, as well as the creation of sensory guides for attractions and interactive spaces.

What are you looking for if and when you travel?

Autism Travel believes fun is for everyone, and is committed to sharing information and resources for families. We are interested in hearing your thoughts on travel so we can continue to grow and find ways to improve accessibility for all.

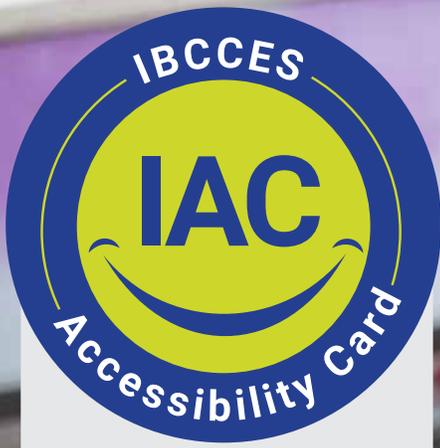
autismtravel.com/share-your-feedback/

** If you do not travel we want to know what things would help you and your family feel more comfortable if and when you do.*

**SHARE YOUR
THOUGHTS NOW**
2 Min Survey

Autism *Travel*





Theme Park Accommodation Requests Made Simple



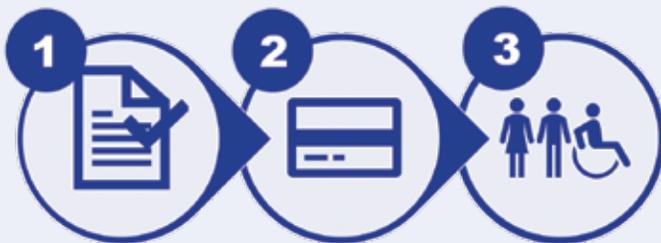
IBCCES created the Accessibility Card (IAC) as a free resource for individuals who need to request accommodations or assistance at amusement parks and attractions. The IAC helps identify accommodations needed and expedite the process at parks and attractions.



Use for any disability or accommodations requests



IAC offers more discretion and is easy to complete ahead of time



1 Complete the free online application

2 Show your digital or printed card at participating park

3 Get access to available accommodations

***IAC provides access to available accommodations at participating locations*

SIGN-UP FOR FREE at [AccessibilityCard.org](https://www.AccessibilityCard.org)



Download on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google Play

THEME PARKS



Knoebels



Contact Info

 391 Knoebels Boulevard,
Elysburg, PA 17824

 (800) 487-4386

 www.knoebels.com/plan/guest-accessibility



“We’re excited for our team to participate in this opportunity. Knoebels offers free admission and parking, so our guests can enjoy a low pressure experience in terms of the fact that they are welcome to come and go as they please. It’s our hope that by providing this training, our team will be empowered to provide an even higher level of service for our guests who are on the autism spectrum or have other sensory needs.”

-Rick Knoebel, Co-Owner of Knoebels



Knoebels Amusement Resort is America’s largest free-admission amusement park, and also offers free parking, free daily entertainment and free picnic facilities. From family rides, to kiddie rides, and even thrill rides including nationally recognized roller coasters, Knoebels takes pride in having something for the whole family! While at the park, you can take a dip in the 900,000 gallon Crystal Pool filled with refreshing mountain stream water. The pool area

includes watersides, diving boards and a play area just for young children. Guests can stay overnight at one of two campgrounds that include cabins and over 800 campsites for tents and campers, or one of their cottages. In addition to 64 rides, award winning food, swimming, games, and gift shops, you can add a round of golf at Knoebels Three Ponds Golf Course right next door to the park. Knoebels is family owned and operated, and has been since its start in 1926.



Nickelodeon Universe At Mall of America



Contact Info

📍 2131 Lindau Lane
Bloomington, MN 55425

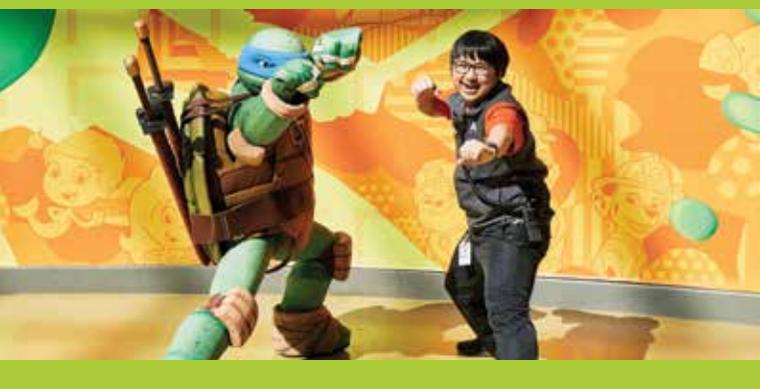
📞 952-883-8800

🌐 www.nickelodeonuniverse.com/



“The certification has been well received and it has allowed the team to not only share personal breakthrough stories but also to be more comfortable talking about them. We think the biggest takeaway from the IBCCES certification is that employees are excited about being able to add the credentials to their resume and utilizing the insights and information beyond the walls of Nickelodeon Universe”

- Mayra Ferraro, Attractions Manager for Mall of America



Located in the center of Mall of America®, Nickelodeon Universe features seven acres of unique attractions and entertainment, including 27 rides and attractions for guests of all ages and courage levels. Themed after the No. 1 entertainment brand for kids, Nickelodeon Universe offers Nick character meet and greets, spine-tingling rides, the longest indoor zipline, unique retail shops and more.



LEGOLAND® Florida Resort



Contact Info



1 LEGOLAND Way
Winter Haven, Florida 33884



+1-888-690-5346



www.LEGOLAND.com/Florida



“We are proud that LEGOLAND® Florida Resort has partnered The International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES) earn our designation as a Certified Autism Center™ across LEGOLAND® Florida Theme Park, Water Park, three on-site hotels, and the all-new Peppa Pig Theme Park. We are passionate about being the Resort for families to build awesome vacation memories, and we are thankful to our partners at IBCCES for helping us be more welcoming and more inclusive to more families, including those with sensory needs.”

- Kelly Hornick, Head of Marketing & Communications for LEGOLAND® Florida Resort and Peppa Pig Theme Park



LEGOLAND® Florida Resort is the ultimate vacation destination for families with kids. Located 45 minutes from Orlando and Tampa, the Resort features an interactive, 150-acre Theme Park with more than 50 rides, live shows and themed attractions inspired by popular LEGO® brands and characters, a seasonably heated Water Park, that is open year round, with more than a dozen family water slides, and three uniquely themed on-site accommodations.



Peppa Pig Theme Park



Contact Info

📍 1 LEGOLAND Way
Winter Haven, Florida 33884

☎️ +1-888-690-5346

🌐 www.peppapigthemepark.com



Designed to be the ultimate day for little ones, the new Peppa Pig Theme Park combines interactive rides and themed playgrounds with character shows and an indoor cinema for quieter moments.



Every corner of the charming new park is crafted with preschoolers in mind, from their first roller coaster rides with their parents and free fair games for the whole family, to an all-terrain course where they will pedal tricycles through a sensory-rich trail and a colorful splash pad that celebrates “muddy puddles” jumping fun! Through every experience, families will snort, giggle, and create their family’s first theme park memories together with Peppa and her friends.



Sesame Street Land At SeaWorld Orlando



Contact Info

 7007 SeaWorld Drive
Orlando, FL 32821

 407-545-5550

 www.seaworldorlando.com



“Our goal is always to create lasting memories for all our guests. Especially as families start planning their summer travel, the resources and tools that our parks offer can provide peace of mind for families with members that have autism and other special needs. Our parks and staff are equipped to offer families inclusive activities, helping to ensure meaningful experiences for everyone.”

- Kyle Miller, SeaWorld Orlando Park President

Laughter and learning live at Sesame Street, and now Sesame Street lives at SeaWorld Orlando! Bring your family to the neighborhood your favorite furry friends call home. Take a stroll down Sesame Street and stop by the famous stoop at 123. Explore the inside of Hooper's Store, then head for big fun at Big Bird's Nest. Sesame Street is exactly as you imagined, and with an award-winning parade and attractions, it's more fun than you could ever dream. Come and play with Elmo, Cookie Monster, Abby Cadabby, Julia, and their friends. Walk down Sesame Street for the very first time at Sesame Street Land at SeaWorld Orlando.



Sesame Place - Pennsylvania



“As the first theme park in the world to complete the training and become a CAC, Sesame Place is uniquely equipped to offer families inclusive activities for children with autism and other special needs.”

- Cathy Valeriano, Sesame Place Park President

Contact Info

 100 Sesame Rd
Langhorne, Pennsylvania 19047

 1-215-702-ELMO

 www.sesameplace.com/philadelphia



Sesame Place® Philadelphia is the only theme park on the East Coast based entirely on the award-winning show Sesame Street®! Conveniently located 30 minutes from Philadelphia and 90 minutes from NYC, Sesame Place is ideal for families with kids of all ages and was the first theme park in the world to become Certified Autism Center. The park has over 25 Sesame Street-themed attractions including dry rides, interactive play areas and water attractions, live character shows, a daily parade, an interactive Sesame Street Neighborhood, character dining experiences and everyone's favorite furry friends. Celebrate the seasons at Sesame Place with Elmo's Furry Fun Fest, Elmo's Easter Eggstravaganza, Elmo's Springtacular, The Count's Halloween Spooktacular and A Very Furry Christmas events throughout the year.



Sesame Place - San Diego



“Sesame Place is a theme park designed for families with kids of all ages to laugh, learn and play while making fun and memorable moments regardless of any special needs. This certification allows us to continue the legacy that Sesame Place Philadelphia began years ago becoming the first theme park in the world to be designated as a Certified Autism Center™. IBCCES provided a detailed curriculum and exceptional support to help us train hundreds of employees with the tools needed to accommodate anyone in the autistic community.”

- Jim Lake, Sesame Place Park President

Contact Info

 2052 Entertainment Circle
Chula Vista, CA 91911

 619-943-ELMO

 www.sesameplacesandiego.com



Sesame Place San Diego is the second theme park based on Sesame Street in the United States and the first on the West Coast. The park is ideal for families with kids of all ages and features 18 Sesame Street-themed rides and exciting water attractions, including a family-friendly rollercoaster and a 500,000-gallon wave pool – one of the largest in Southern California. The park also features an engaging musical play area, an interactive Sesame Street Neighborhood complete with the iconic 123 Stoop, daily live character shows, an award-winning parade, one-of-a-kind photo opportunities and of course, everyone’s favorite furry friends. Celebrate with family-friendly special events throughout the year including The Count’s Halloween Spooktacular and A Very Furry Christmas.

Six Flags America

CERTIFICATION IN PROCESS



“At Six Flags America we are dedicated to creating fun and memorable experiences for each and every one of our guests. This certification reaffirms our commitment to delivering the best experiences to families of all kinds.”

- Park President at Six Flags America

Contact Info

13710 Central Avenue
Bowie, MD 20774

(301) 249-1500

www.sixflags.com/america



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Six Flags America has many one-of-a-kind thrills for every season you won't find anywhere else. Enjoy everything from heart-pounding thrill rides where the coasters range from classic to cutting edge. Fuel your day with food glorious food, play games and watch award winning live shows while you're here. When the temperatures start to rise, cool off at Hurricane Harbor waterpark included free with admission during the summer. Six Flags America is now an Autism Certified Center. This certification further establishes the park's commitment to continually provide a safe and fun environment for our guests, including those affected by autism.

Six Flags Darien Lake

CERTIFICATION IN PROCESS



Contact Info

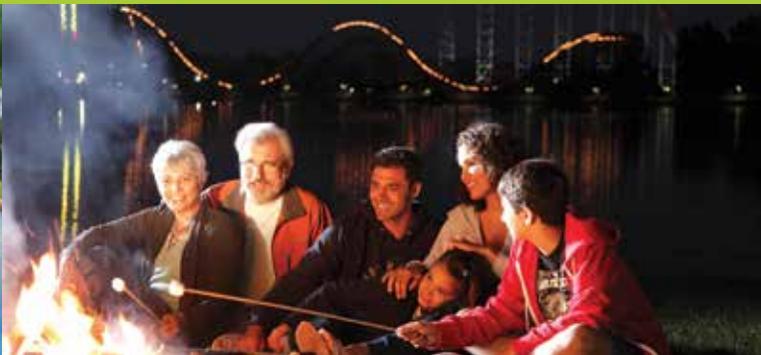
9993 Allegheny Road
Darien Center, NY 14040

585-599-4641

www.sixflags.com/darienlake

“At Six Flags, we are always looking for the best ways to deliver the greatest experience and most fun so all participating have life-long memories and cherished moments. This certification exemplifies our commitment to that effort by providing all guests on the Autism spectrum, their families and friends the best time and the most fun with hospitalities and kindness to support their experience.”

- Six Flags Darien Lake Director of Marketing



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Six Flags Darien Lake's wide variety of entertainment and top-notch rides has made it the Coaster Capital of New York since 1964. Located 45 minutes from Niagara Falls between Buffalo and Rochester N.Y., today the park boasts more than 50 rides, including seven world-class roller coasters, dozens of family rides, the region's largest water park and a 20,000-seat amphitheater operated by Live Nation.

Six Flags Discovery Kingdom



“This certification further establishes our commitment to continually provide a safe and fun environment for our guests, including those who are autistic.”
- Park President for Six Flags Discovery Kingdom

Contact Info

 1001 Fairgrounds Drive
Vallejo, CA 94589

 707-644-4000

 www.sixflags.com/discoverykingdom



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Six Flags Discovery Kingdom is the Thrill Capital of Northern California. Open year round (weekends and special holidays, and daily summer hours), the park features over 60 rides and attractions including 12 thrilling roller coasters, kid play areas and unique wildlife presentations, animal exhibits and programs. Visitors

can experience such thrill coasters as the longest, tallest looping coaster Medusa, launch coaster SUPERMAN Ultimate Flight and the exciting hybrid wood and steel coaster, THE JOKER and the first of its kind on the West Coast mega coaster, BATMAN: The Ride.

Six Flags Fiesta Texas



Contact Info

17000 IH 10 West
San Antonio, TX 78257

210-697-5050

www.sixflags.com/fiestatexas



“At Six Flags Fiesta Texas, we strive to provide an inclusive, welcoming environment for all our guests. Becoming a Certified Autism Center™ will improve ride access for those on the autism spectrum as well as provide a number of additional options, including several relaxing sensory spaces. We will always continue to explore new ways to enhance the guest experience and add additional improvements that benefit us all.”

- Six Flags Fiesta Texas Park President



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Visit AccessibilityCard.org for more info



Six Flags Fiesta Texas, The Thrill Capital of South Texas, features over 60 rides and attractions, a free waterpark (included with admission), live shows and seasonal festivals and special events. The park is open weekends year-round and daily late May through late August.

Frontier City



Contact Info

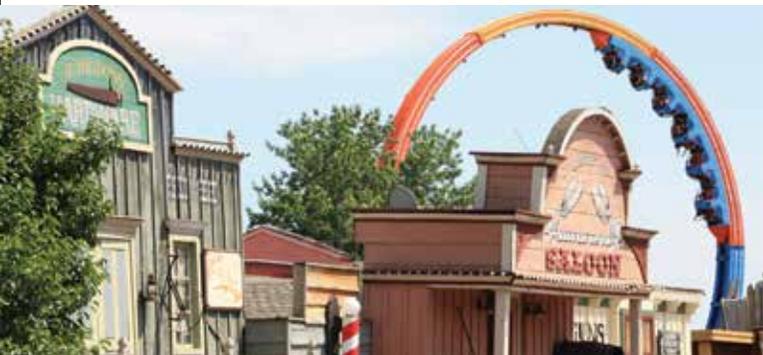
 11501 N I-35 Service Rd,
Oklahoma City, OK 73131

 (405) 478-2140

 www.sixflags.com/frontiercity



“At Frontier City, we strive to create an environment that encourages safety, inclusivity and creates memorable experiences for all of our guests. Our partnership and certification with IBCCES will help us to continue to accommodate guests with autism and other special needs.”
-Park President of Frontier City



Frontier City, Oklahoma's biggest and best theme park, is home to more than 40 acres of fun for the whole family. With over 60 rides, shows and attractions including the all-new Timber Town kids area. Guest can enjoy thrills for all ages from riding both directions on the extreme loop coaster the Diamondback to the tiny turns of the family coaster Frankie's Mine Train. Soar over the frontier on Oklahoma's only suspended coaster the Steel Lasso or catch a magic show in our Opera House. Frontier City is the premier theme park for families to make memories together.

Six Flags Great Adventure and Safari



CERTIFICATION IN PROCESS

“**S**ix Flags Great Adventure is thrilled to expand the services we can offer to guests on the autism spectrum. As a Certified Autism Center™, we will provide our team members with the proper tools including specialized training to better serve our guests with special needs not just on our signature Autism Day, but every day.”

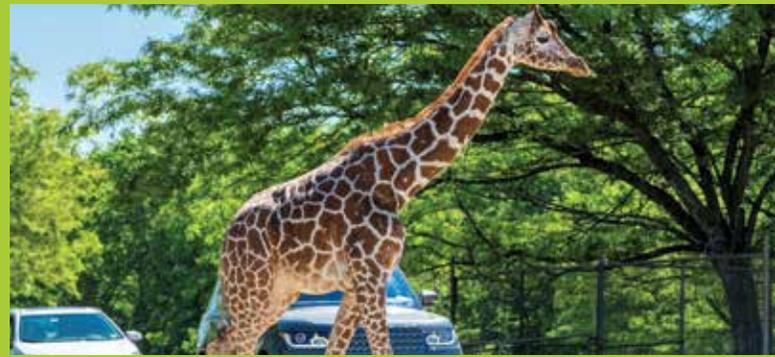
- President, Six Flags Great Adventure and Safari

Contact Info

 1 Six Flags Blvd.
Jackson, NJ 08527

 732-928-2000

 www.sixflags.com/greatadventure



**WE PROUDLY
ACCEPT**

Visit AccessibilityCard.org for more info



Six Flags Great Adventure, the World's Ultimate Thrill Park, offers fun for all ages. It features 14 attractions for kids including two areas devoted entirely to the little ones plus family rides throughout the 510-acre property. Known for record-breaking rides like Kingda Ka and Zumanjaro: Drop of Doom, the theme park offers award-winning coasters like El Toro and Nitro.

Six Flags loves animals! In the Golden Kingdom section, guests can stroll the Wild Walkway to see playful California sea lions, great horned owl, athletic cheetahs (a new addition for 2020) and more. Six Flags Great Adventure also offers a wide variety of dining options from Chinese and hand-rolled sushi to BBQ, Mexican, Italian, Greek as well as gluten-free, Kosher, Halal and vegetarian options. The park features events including Fright Fest through September and October, followed by Holiday in the Park in November and

December. During COVID-19, safety protocols have been enhanced, and reservations and advance tickets are required. More information is available online at www.sixflags.com/greatadventure. Next door to Great Adventure is the one-of-a-kind Wild Safari Drive-Thru Adventure – a self-guided tour through more than 1,200 exotic animals from the safety and comfort of your own vehicle. The five-mile drive through 11 simulated natural habitats features animals from six continents including bears, elephants, tigers, giraffes, rhinos, zebras, monkeys and more. Guests can stream the audio tour from the park's website to learn fun facts about the animals along their journey. This contact-free experience runs for a limited time, and is a special feature during the pandemic. It requires a separate admission and reservation. Visit www.sixflags.com/safari for more information.

Six Flags Great America



Contact Info

 1 Great America Parkway
Gurnee, IL 60031

 (847) 249-1776

 www.sixflags.com/greatamerica



“We want all guests to have the best experience possible when visiting our park. The Certified Autism Center™ designation enables our team has the knowledge and tools available to them to better serve our guests with special needs in an inclusive environment.”

- Six Flags Great America Park President



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Visit AccessibilityCard.org for more info



Six Flags Great America is located between Chicago and Milwaukee and offers endless adventures for the entire family with 17 heart-pounding roller coasters, spectacular shows and four children's themed areas with more than 30 rides.

Six Flags Great Escape & Hurricane Harbor



CERTIFICATION IN PROCESS

“We are proud to receive the Certified Autism Center™ designation from IBCCES, as it reassures our guests with special needs will have the opportunity to enjoy a full experience at our park. This certification ensures our team receives specialized training to better serve all our guests.”

- Six Flags Great Escape Park President

Contact Info

1172 Route 9
Queensbury, NY 12804

518-824-6000

www.sixflags.com/greatescape



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Visit AccessibilityCard.org for more info

Celebrating over 65 years, The Great Escape & Hurricane Harbor in beautiful Lake George, New York is a theme park that has served as a summer haven for generations of families for decades. Today, it's home to over 135 rides and attractions including thrill rides, family rides, and a full waterpark. Hurricane Harbor is the largest waterpark in the area, with a giant wave pool and a variety of speed slides, and is free with theme park admission. Thrills await

teens and adults on The Steamin' Demon, The Flashback, and The Comet, rated as one of the world's top coasters. Little ones love our children's themed areas, Timbertown, Buccaneer Beach, Splashwater Island, and Monsoon Lagoon. Just across the street from The Great Escape & Hurricane Harbor, stay where you play at the Six Flags Great Escape Lodge & Indoor Waterpark.

La Ronde

CERTIFICATION IN PROCESS



“La Ronde is proud to partner with IBCCES to provide the best experience to autistic guests. We are pleased to support this community and we are committed to helping them enjoy our world-class attractions and create meaningful memories while visiting our park.”

- La Ronde Park President

Contact Info

22 Chemin Macdonald
Montreal, Québec Canada H3C 6A3

514.397.2000

www.sixflags.com/larondeen



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Visit AccessibilityCard.org for more info



La Ronde is the largest theme park in Eastern Canada. Inaugurated during Expo 67, La Ronde offers over 40 rides and attractions including Goliath – one of the tallest and fastest roller coasters in North America. La Ronde also offers a colorful family section at Pays de Rimbelle.

Six Flags Magic Mountain

CERTIFICATION IN PROCESS



Contact Info

 26101 Magic Mountain Parkway
Valencia, CA 91355

 661-255-4100

 www.sixflags.com/magicmountain



“**S**ix Flags Magic Mountain is proud to partner with IBCCES to accommodate guests with special needs. Our commitment to becoming a Certified Autism Center™ will better equip our team members to assist all guests to create lasting memories of their visit to Six Flags.”

- Six Flags Magic Mountain



Known as the “Thrill Capital of the World,” with 19 roller coasters, more than any other theme park on the planet. Within its 260 acres is Bugs Bunny World, featuring 13 pint-sized rides for thrill-seekers-in-training.

Six Flags Mexico

CERTIFICATION IN PROCESS



“Six Flags Mexico is proud to become a Certified Autism Center™. Guests with any disability deserve to feel welcomed and included. By implementing this kind of program in our park we can provide autistic guests with a fuller, more rewarding experience when they visit with family and friends. We are thankful to IBCCES for helping us create a more accommodating park environment.”

- Director of Marketing at Six Flags Mexico

Contact Info

 Carr. Picacho-Ajusco Km 1.5, Colonia Héroes de Padierna, Tlalpan, 14200 Ciudad de México, CDMX, Mexico

 +52 55 5339 3600

 www.sixflags.com.mx/es/mexico



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Six Flags México is a theme park located in Mexico City, that receives millions of guests every year. This park is the leader in Latin-American with 40 attractions including Superman the Last Escape, Batman the Ride, Medusa Steel Coaster, Wonder Woman Coaster and recently added Crazanity. The park has a children's area called Bugs Bunny Boomtown and DC Super Friends. It's a park for the whole family

Six Flags New England

CERTIFICATION IN PROCESS



“Six Flags New England is committed to creating a safe, memorable and fun experience for our guests. Our property is dedicated to providing accessibility and inclusiveness to ensure a better experience for members within the Autism community and beyond. It is our mission to provide a comfortable environment where everyone feels welcome and included throughout their stay. The Thrill Capital of New England is honored to be officially classified as a Certified Autism Center™.”

- Six Flags New England Safety Manager

Contact Info

1623 Main Street
Agawam, MA 01001

(413) 786-9300

www.sixflags.com/newengland



Six Flags New England has over 100 rides, shows, and attractions and is the largest destination for thrills in New England. The Thrill Capital of New England offers attractions for all ages with three dedicated kids' areas and world class family entertainment for the properties' littlest thrill seekers. The park is also home to the largest and most innovative attractions in New England including SUPERMAN™ The Ride, HARLEY QUINN™ Spinsanity, New England SkyScreamer,

THE JOKER™ 4D Free Fly Coaster, Wicked Cyclone, BATMAN THE DARK KNIGHT™ and so much more. Throughout the summer guests can make a SPLASH in New England's largest waterpark, Hurricane Harbor with 33 water slides, multiple splash zones and a 500,000 gallon wave pool. With a reason to visit every season, park goers will not want to miss out on New England's largest haunt event Fright Fest, and New England's largest Holiday celebration, Holiday in the Park®.

Six Flags Over Georgia



“Six Flags Over Georgia and White Water strive to be welcoming and accessible destinations for all families to create meaningful moments together. Our specialty-trained team members look forward to providing a safe, memorable and fun experience for the entire family while visiting our beautiful parks.”

- Six Flags Over Georgia Park President

Contact Info

 275 Riverside Parkway
Austell, GA 30168

 (770) 739-3400

 www.sixflags.com/overgeorgia



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Visit AccessibilityCard.org for more info.

As the largest regional theme park in the Southeast, Six Flags Over Georgia is home to more than 40 rides including 12 roller coasters, three children's areas, water rides and thrill rides. Six Flags Over Georgia is also home to Hurricane Harbor water park, a massive water park and tropical paradise full of wave pools and slippery slides, open late May through September. During the summer months, take the kids to splash around in Paradise Island, the park's huge interactive water play

structure featuring dozens of water elements and slides. Each fall, Six Flags Over Georgia is transformed into a haunted theme park for Fright Fest. Halloween shows, roaming zombies and electrifying rides make Fright Fest the best Halloween experience in Atlanta. The region's largest winter celebration, Holiday in the Park delights with more than one million glittering lights on display that give the park a magical glow.

Six Flags Over Texas



“Six Flags Over Texas has always sought to be a place that welcomes all people. Our new relationship with IBCCES will now enable us to be even more inclusive and welcoming to all guests and families, including those with autism.”

- Six Flags Over Texas Park President

Contact Info

 2201 Road to Six Flags Drive
Arlington, Texas 76011

 817-640-8900

 www.sixflags.com/overtexas



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Visit AccessibilityCard.org for more info



Six Flags Over Texas, the Thrill Capital of Texas, is home to more than 100 rides, shows, and attractions including 14 world-class roller coasters. Guests can enjoy the largest single loop coaster of its kind, El Diablo, as well as the impressive and thrilling Titan or New Texas Giant. For the little thrill seekers, the park's children's area offers a variety of rides that will get them ready for the bigger thrills. There's something for everyone at Six Flags Over Texas!

Six Flags St. Louis



“Six Flags St. Louis is proud to now be an Autism Certified Center™. We are happy to have the tools, including team member training, sensory guides and a low-sensory area, to better serve our guests with special needs and provide them with a great experience here at our park.”

- Park President at Six Flags St. Louis

Contact Info

 4900 Six Flags Road
Eureka, MO 63025

 636-938-5300

 www.sixflags.com/stlouis



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Visit AccessibilityCard.org for more info

Six Flags St. Louis is home to heart pounding thrill rides, exciting family rides, and spectacular entertainment. The park is also home the Hurricane Harbor, a 12-acre waterpark that is free with theme park admission. In addition, Six Flags St. Louis hosts many special events throughout the year including July 4th Fest, Flagstock, Fright Fest and Holiday in the Park. In 2020, Six Flags St. Louis is proud to become a Certified Autism Center

allowing us better serve our guests on the autism spectrum or with sensory sensitivities. In addition to training our front-line team members to better accommodate guests with cognitive disorders, the park now offers a sensory guide for each ride and attraction, a special in-park low sensory space, expanded culinary options to meet guest's dietary needs and updated Accessibility Guides at the park.

WATER PARKS



LEGOLAND® FLORIDA RESORT:
Water Park

Aquatica Orlando



Contact Info

📍 5800 Water Play Way
Orlando, Florida 32821

📞 407-545-5550

🌐 www.Aquatica.com/Orlando



“As the first water park in the world to complete the training and become a CAC, Aquatica Orlando is proud to provide fun and memorable experiences through exceptional service. We continually strive to create safe and meaningful experiences for all of our guests, and we are committed in our effort to offer families inclusive activities for children with autism and other special needs.”

- David Heaton, Vice President of Aquatica Orlando



From high-speed water slides and exhilarating wave pools, to tranquil beaches, Aquatica, voted USA's #1 waterpark, delights all ages and interests. This one-of-a-kind waterpark is home to some of the world's most thrilling water rides, featuring 47 slides, rivers and lagoons and 84,000 square feet of sparkling white, sandy beaches. Now open, KareKare Curl delivers a high-adrenaline, weightless adventure, making Aquatica Orlando's leader for waterpark thrills. Aquatica, SeaWorld's Waterpark®, offers exclusive attractions that promise unlimited fun, sending guests on amazing undersea adventures.

Island H2O Live



“Island H2O Live! is an immersive experience for all our guests, including guests with autism. We want everyone to feel welcomed into the water park, providing the highest level of care for anyone with special needs. All water park employees have completed extensive training and taken the time to become educated on providing the best experience for all.”

- Jim Kunau, General Manager of Island H2O Live!

Contact Info

3230 Inspiration Dr.,
Kissimmee, FL 34747

407-910-1401

www.islandh2olive.com



Island H2O Live! is Central Florida's newest and most immersive water park. Located on Highway 192 next to Margaritaville Hotel, the water park offers 20 different experiences for guests of all ages to enjoy. For those looking to take it easy, Chat Creek guides them through a lazy river where the water does the work. Thrill seekers can experience an adrenaline rush with Drop Down, Follow Me Falls and Reply Racers, as they twist and turn their way through tubes and open-air slides to a dramatic watery plunge. Little swimmers can take a trip to Candy Stripe Cove and Pelican's Paradise for an array of adventures that are age-appropriate, but no less fun for these water-loving kiddos.

LEGOLAND Florida Resort:

Water Park

Contact Info

 1 LEGOLAND Way
Winter Haven, Florida 33884

 +1-888-690-5346

 www.LEGOLAND.com/Florida



“We are proud that LEGOLAND® Florida Resort has partnered IBCCES earn our designation as a Certified Autism Center™ across LEGOLAND® Florida Theme Park, Water Park, three on-site hotels, and the all-new Peppa Pig Theme Park. We are passionate about being the Resort for families to build awesome vacation memories, and we are thankful to our partners at IBCCES for helping us be more welcoming and more inclusive to more families, including those with sensory needs.”

- Kelly Hornick, Head of Marketing & Communications for LEGOLAND® Florida Resort & Peppa Pig Theme Park



LEGOLAND® Florida Resort is the ultimate vacation destination for families with kids. Located 45 minutes from Orlando and Tampa, the Resort features an interactive, 150-acre Theme Park with more than 50 rides, live shows and themed attractions inspired by popular LEGO® brands and characters, a seasonably heated Water Park, that is open year round, with more than a dozen family water slides, and three uniquely themed on-site accommodations. More information is available at LEGOLAND.com/Florida

Six Flags Great Escape Lodge & Indoor Waterpark



CERTIFICATION IN PROCESS

Contact Info

89 Six Flags Drive
Queensbury, NY 12804

518-824-6000

www.sixflagsgreatescapelodge.com



“We are delighted to receive the Certified Autism Center™ designation from IBCCES, at our Six Flags Great Escape Lodge. All of our guests with special needs can have a splashing-good time and enjoy a full experience at our indoor waterpark, White Water Bay. This certification ensures our team receives specialized training to better serve all our guests.”

- Six Flags Great Escape Resort President



The Six Flags Great Escape Lodge & Indoor Waterpark is Lake George's premier family vacation destination. Their Adirondack-themed lodge features 200 guest suites and a giant indoor waterpark, for the use of hotel guests, Six Flags Members, and outside visitors. There is also a variety of dining options, including a full-service Johnny Rockets Diner & Sports Lounge with a comfortable outdoor deck. Enjoy their great on-site experiences like Kids Klub and Tranquility Spa.

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Arlington

CERTIFICATION IN PROCESS



“Six Flags Hurricane Harbor embraces the importance of fostering an inclusive and family-friendly experience for all of our guests. With the support of IBCCES we can now ensure that our guests with disabilities, including those with autism, will have an environment that allows them to enjoy our park thrills while creating lasting memories.”

- Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Arlington Operations Director

Contact Info

1800 E. Lamar Blvd.
Arlington, TX 76006

817-265-3356

www.sixflags.com/hurricaneharbortexas



WE PROUDLY
ACCEPT



Visit AccessibilityCard.org for more info

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor, the largest water park in North Texas, offers guests more than 40 rides and attractions. From heart-pounding rides like Typhoon Twister, Tsunami Surge, and Wahoo Racer to thrilling attractions for the little swimmers with Hook's Lagoon—an interactive water playhouse— or you can just relax in one of our shaded cabanas.

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Chicago



“We want all guests to have the best experience possible when visiting our park. The Certified Autism Center™ designation enables our team has the knowledge and tools available to them to better serve our guests with special needs in an inclusive environment.”
- Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Chicago Park President

Contact Info

📍 1 Great America Parkway
Gurnee, IL 60031

📞 847- 249-1776

🌐 www.sixflags.com/greatamerica



Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Chicago is located between Chicago and Milwaukee, adjacent to Six Flags Great America. The 20-acre waterpark boasts over 25 attractions with something for everyone.

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Concord



“We are proud to be a waterpark that is also a Certified Autism Center™. Our constant goal is to provide fun and lasting memories for all of our guests.”

- Park Director for Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Concord

Contact Info

 1950 Waterworld Parkway
Concord, CA 94520

 707-644-4000

 www.sixflags.com/hurricaneharborconcord



Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Concord, located in Concord, California, is Northern California's biggest and most thrilling waterpark. This 30-acre family destination features more than 35-world-class water attractions, ranging from heart-pounding water slides to the region's largest wave pool to the area's longest lazy river.

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Los Angeles

CERTIFICATION IN PROCESS

“Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Los Angeles is proud to partner with IBCCES to accommodate guests with special needs. Our commitment to becoming a Certified Autism Center™ will better equip our team members to assist all guests to create lasting memories of their visit to Six Flags.”

- Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Los Angeles Park President



Contact Info

26101 Magic Mountain Parkway
Valencia, CA 91355

661-255-4100

www.sixflags.com/hurricaneharborla



WE PROUDLY
ACCEPT



Six Flags Hurricane Harbor, located next to Six Flags Magic Mountain, is a 25-acre water park set amidst the fringes of a tropical jungle where guests pass through the entry portal and are swept into the lost lagoons of a forgotten world. Pirate treasures, playful sea creatures, ancient ruins and tribal artifacts await discovery on the shores of this tropical paradise. Hurricane Harbor's attraction lineup features more than 23 slides and attractions including, Bonzai Pipelines, delivering free-fall excitement when the floor drops out from side-by-side launching capsules; Dive-In

Movies, available on Friday nights, a movie showing in the Forgotten Sea Wave Pool; Tornado, a six-story funnel of fun; Lizard Lagoon, a 7,000 square-foot pool for teen and adult activities; Reptile Ridge high-speed body slide complex; Bamboo Racer, an exciting 45-foot tall, six lane racing attraction; plus Paradise Pavilion, a catering site for company and group events and much more. Splash Island, designed especially for kids, boasts water slides, rain curtains and squirting effects to keep everyone cool in the hot California sun.

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor New Jersey

CERTIFICATION IN PROCESS



Contact Info

 1 Six Flags Blvd.
Jackson, NJ 08527

 732-928-2000

 www.sixflags.com/hurricaneharbornj



“Six Flags Hurricane Harbor is thrilled to become a Certified Autism Center™. We will provide our team members with the proper tools including specialized training to better serve our guests with special needs so they can truly enjoy this tropical paradise.”

- President of Hurricane Harbor New Jersey



**WE PROUDLY
ACCEPT**

Visit AccessibilityCard.org for more info



New Jersey's Six Flags Hurricane Harbor is one of America's largest waterparks. This windswept, tropically-themed paradise is located next to Six Flags Great Adventure and Safari, the World's Ultimate Thrill Park. Hurricane Harbor features more than 30 thrill slides including Big Wave Racer, Tornado and Juhranimo Falls, a massive, million-gallon wave pool, half-mile lazy river and two interactive, family water play areas. In 2019, Hurricane Harbor debuted Calypso Springs, a 100,000-gallon family activity pool with a spontaneously erupting geyser. This was the park's largest water expansion since opening

its gates in 2000. The new area also includes a sizeable lounge deck for soaking up the summer sun, and a new dining location.

The waterpark's two pools, two family water play areas and lazy river are easily accessible with beach-style (or zero) entry. All raft and body slides are accessible by stairs. Expedited slide access is not available. During COVID-19, safety protocols have been enhanced, and reservations and advance tickets are required. More information is available online at www.sixflags.com/hurricaneharbornj

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Oaxtepec

CERTIFICATION IN PROCESS

“Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Oaxtepec is very happy to be part of the Certified Autism Center™ program from IBCCES, this will give us the opportunity to cater to guests with autism and help them to enjoy our parks.”

- General Manager at Six Flags Mexico & Hurricane Harbor Oaxtepec



Contact Info

 Autopista México-Cuatla Km. 27 + 200, Centro, 62738 Oaxtepec, Mor., Mexico

 +52 735 356 9900

 www.sixflags.com/es/hurricaneharborox



WE PROUDLY
ACCEPT



Visit AccessibilityCard.org for more info

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Oaxtepec is a tropical oasis in the state of Morelos. The theme of this 27-hectare water park, will allow visitors to enjoy a tropical oasis full of attractions, such as a wave pool and exciting slides, all with the highest technology, safety and of course the care of the environment.

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Oklahoma City



“Becoming a Certified Autism Center means that our team has the resources and tools to ensure that every guest that visits Hurricane Harbor Oklahoma City will have a safe and positive environment to make memories.”

- Director of Hurricane Harbor Oklahoma City

Contact Info

 3908 W Reno Ave,
Oklahoma City, OK 73107

 (405) 943-9687

 www.sixflags.com/hurricaneharborokc



WE PROUDLY
ACCEPT



Visit AccessibilityCard.org for more info

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Oklahoma City is home to more than 30 award winning slides, rides and attractions and is the perfect destination for those lazy days of summer. Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Oklahoma City offers thrills for the entire family with exhilarating slides, interactive play structures, a giant wave pool, lazy river, along with mini-versions of the park's most popular rides for younger guests to enjoy.

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix

CERTIFICATION IN PROCESS



Contact Info

4243 W Pinnacle Peak Rd.
Glendale AZ 85310

623-201-2000

www.sixflags.com/phoenix

“Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix is proud to complete the Certified Autism Center™ training. We always strive to offer a safe and family friendly environment, and we are committed in our efforts to offer inclusive activities for autistic children and those with other special needs.”

- General Manager of Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix



WE PROUDLY
ACCEPT

Visit AccessibilityCard.org for more info



Hurricane Harbor Phoenix is Arizona's best water park! With over 30 acres with award winning water slides, wave pool, and adventure river offering fun for kids of all ages!

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Rockford



“We want all guests to have the best experience possible when visiting our park. The Certified Autism Center™ designation enables our team has the knowledge and tools available to them to better serve our guests with special needs in an inclusive environment.”

- Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Rockford Park President

Contact Info

 7820 Cherryvale N Blvd.
Cherry Valley, IL. 61016

 (847) 249-4636

 www.sixflags.com/magicwaters



Hurricane Harbor Rockford is located just East of I-90 near Rockford, Illinois. The waterpark has been a staple in the surrounding Rockford area community for the past 35 years. The park offers thrilling, waterpark fun for guests of all ages with Illinois' largest wave pool, 15 thrilling attractions, and a 1,200 ft. lazy river. Combined with Hurricane Harbor Chicago, these parks offer Illinois' largest waterpark experience with over 40 rides, slides and attractions.

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Splashtown



Contact Info

21300 IH 45 North
Spring, TX 77373

281-355-3300

www.sixflags.com/splashtown



“At Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Splashtown, we strive to provide an inclusive, welcoming environment for all our guests. One of the benefits of becoming a Certified Autism Center is specialized staff training so we may better accommodate those on the autism spectrum. Improvements will also include the addition of low sensory areas and more dining choices.”

- Hurricane Harbor Splashtown Park President



WE PROUDLY
ACCEPT

Visit AccessibilityCard.org for more info



Bigger thrills, better rides! Over 41 attractions like the new Wahoo Wave, a tsunami so fast you'll defy gravity!

Six Flags White Water



“Six Flags Over Georgia and White Water strive to be welcoming and accessible destinations for all families to create meaningful moments together. Our specialty-trained team members look forward to providing a safe, memorable and fun experience for the entire family while visiting our beautiful parks.”

- Park President at White Water

Contact Info

 250 Cobb Pkwy N #100
Marietta, GA 30062

 770-590-4067

 www.sixflags.com/whitewater



**WE PROUDLY
ACCEPT**

Visit AccessibilityCard.org for more info



Beat the heat at Six Flags White Water, the Southeast's largest water park. Consistently voted one of the top 10 water parks in the nation, Six Flags White Water is located off Interstate 75 just a few miles north of Atlanta in charming Marietta, Georgia. The park boasts more than 30 slides, including three interactive children's areas, a huge wave pool and lazy river.

Splish Splash Water Park



“Every year we look at ways to improve the guest experience at Splish Splash, becoming a certified autism center was our number one priority. Since we opened in 1991 our mission has been to provide the finest in family fun and entertainment for everyone. This is another giant step to better serve all of our guests.”

- Mike Bengtson, General Manager at Splish Splash Water Park

Contact Info

 2549 Splish Splash Dr,
Calverton, NY 11933

 (631) 727-3600

 www.splishsplash.com



Splish Splash has been a family destination for 29 years and continues to carry family needs as its number one priority. From attractions, shows and various dining options, Splish Splash aims to make every guest's water park experience one to remember. With 96 acres of slides and attractions, Splish Splash truly offers fun for everyone. Splish Splash

offers 20 water slides, 2 wave pools, a large Kiddie Area, lazy river, a tropical bird show, and many different food and merchandise locations. From the devoted thrill seeker, to the laid back sunbather, to the tiniest of tots, there is something for everyone at Splish Splash.

Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel



“There are many members of the autism community that would love to explore, visit, and enjoy an overnight stay or day at the waterpark. Our team recognizes the importance of servicing guests and their families on the autism spectrum. By becoming a Certified Autism Center™, we will be able to entertain our autism community in a creative, fun, and safe way. We look forward to providing sensory days with memorable experiences for all of our guests.”

- Bonnie Sprague, General Manager, Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel

Contact Info

 5665 East Pickard Rd
Mt. Pleasant, MI, United States 48858

 1.877.2EAGLE2

 www.soaringeaglewaterpark.com



Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel, one of Michigan's most visited waterparks, is 40,000 square feet of weatherproof family fun. With 243 comfortable rooms and suites, onsite dining options, snack, and gift shops, you never need to leave the property. Try your hand on FlowRider, our real surf simulator, gently float down the Lazy River, get drenched under our 317-gallon water bucket, or enjoy any of our family-friendly attractions. You'll find a welcoming and professional staff dedicated to the safety of all guests and a waterpark that has something for everyone. All lifeguard and management staff has undergone extensive training to assure the highest standard of professional care for all who enter the doors of the waterpark and hotel. Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel is owned by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and is only about a mile from Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort.

Water World Colorado



“Water World, part of the Hyland Hills Park and Recreation District, strives to be inclusive and welcoming to all of our visitors. We are so proud of the IBCCES designation and appreciate the opportunity to open our doors to new folks who may not have felt able to visit our world-class waterpark in the past.”

- Joann Cortez, Spokesperson of Water World

Contact Info

 8801 N Pecos St,
Federal Heights, CO 80260

 (303) 427-7873

 www.waterworldcolorado.com/



Water World part of the Hyland Hills Park and Recreation District is one of the nation's largest family water parks boasting 51 thrilling and unique attractions on 70 beautiful acres. Now in its 40th season, community-owned Water World, which has hosted more than 15 million guests over the years, is again being acknowledged as one of the best water parks in the world. The park is open daily, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day

weekend (weather permitting).** Admission tickets range from \$24.99 to \$45.99 depending on date of visit and purchase method. . Discounted tickets are available at all King Soopers locations and online. Additionally, parking at Water World is free and picnics with factory-sealed, non-alcoholic beverages are welcome. Water World is located 10 miles north of Denver, just minutes from downtown.

***Hours may vary due to COVID-19*

ZOOS/AQUARIUMS



Elmwood Park Zoo



“We are truly committed to providing the best experience possible to each person who passes through our gates, and our guests with special needs are no exception.”

-Jennifer Conti, Elmwood Park Zoo's Development Director

Contact Info

 1661 Harding Blvd.
Norristown, Pennsylvania 19401

 800-652-4143

 www.elmwoodparkzoo.org



Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown, Pennsylvania features over 100 exotic and endangered species spread over 16 acres, and is a perfect destination for families seeking a fun and educational experience. Hand feed giant giraffes, take a ride on the wildlife carousel, and even zip through the trees at the zoo's Treetop Adventures ropes course. Visit the new Trail of the Jaguar exhibit and come face to face with the majestic spotted cats that once ruled the American Southwest. Elmwood Park Zoo PA offers free parking, and is located in an idyllic suburban location only minutes from major highways and public transportation.

Fort Worth Zoo



“We’re pleased to be counted among a growing number of institutions that are certified autism centers. Our zoo offers many inroads to creativity and discovery, and we’re pleased to add another means of accessibility. We hope this will further increase our audiences while making the Zoo even more usable and available.”

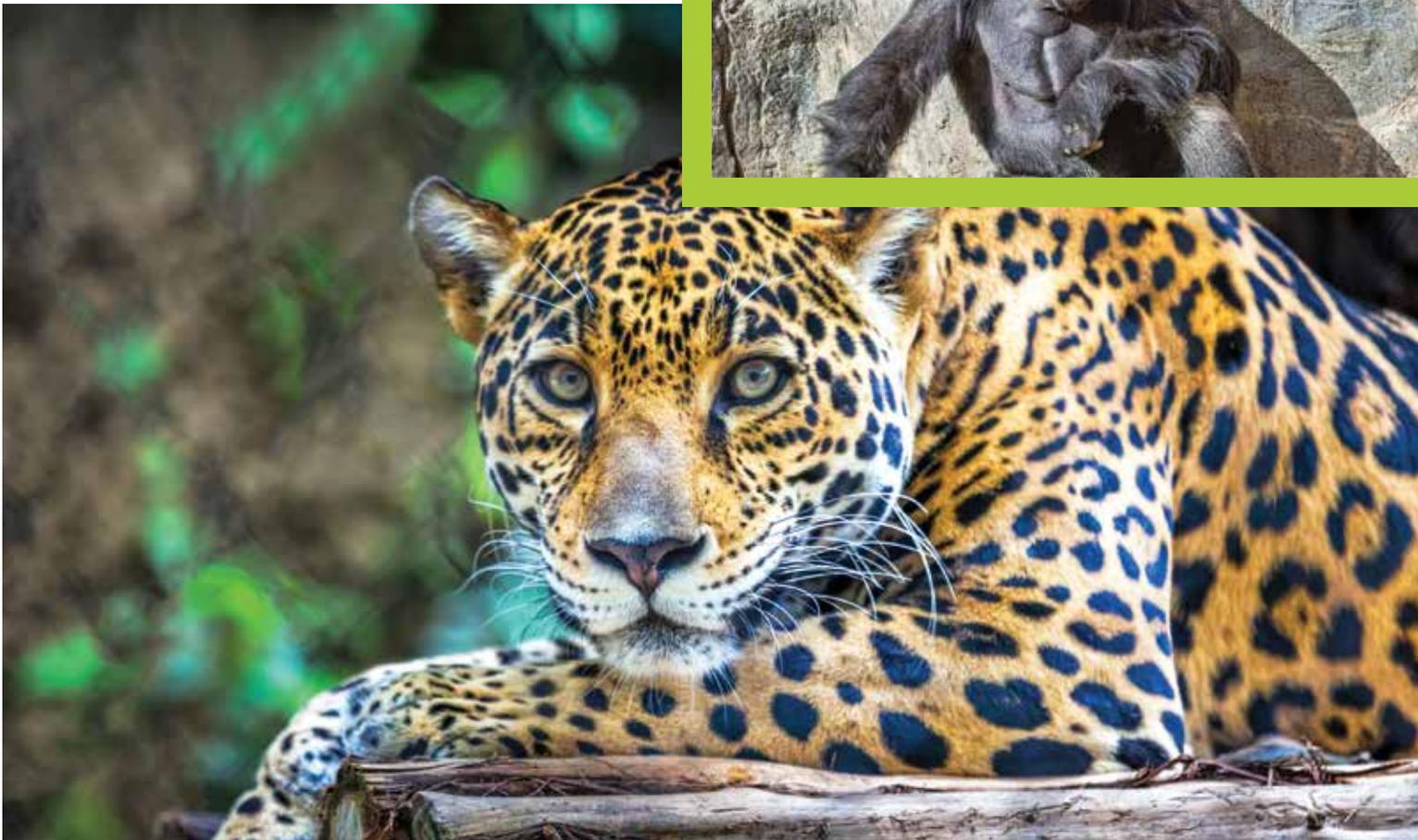
- Michael Fouraker, Executive Director of Fort Worth Zoo

Contact Info

 1989 Colonial Parkway
Fort Worth TX 76110

 817-759-7500

 www.fortworthzoo.org



Ranked one of the top 5 zoos in the nation, the Fort Worth Zoo has educated and entertained guests for more than a century. The Zoo is nestled in the heart of a dense city park, giving rise to natural shade from canopies. Winding paths and meandering roads allow for a leisurely visit, while many animal encounters create excitement

and adventure. Feed a giraffe, pet a stingray, walk among the bird of Parrot Paradise. Every visit is a new experience. The Fort Worth Zoo opens daily at 10 a.m. with varying closure hours depending on the season. For complete information, including ticket prices, visit www.fortworthzoo.org.

OdySea Aquarium



Contact Info

 9500 E Via De Ventura, Suite A-100
Scottsdale, AZ, United States 85256

 480-291-8000

 www.odyseainthedesert.com



OdySea Aquarium, located in Scottsdale, was recently voted Kids Best Indoor Entertainment. This multi-level, state-of-the-art facility holds more than two million gallons of water and is the largest aquarium in Arizona. OdySea Aquarium offers an educational, interactive and entertaining experience for guests of all ages by combining theme-park style amusement with highly engaging presentations of aquatic life. OdySea Aquarium features more than 65 exhibits, 370 species, the world's only Russian Sturgeon

“We know families with children on the autism spectrum often find it challenging when choosing an attraction to visit. Our mission to connect visitors with the wonders of the ocean has no exclusions. We have always made the necessary accommodations to make all guests as comfortable as possible – on every visit. This certification was a natural step for us as we continue to provide safe, engaging and memorable experiences for all of our guests.”

-Greg Charbeneau, Vice President and General Manager at OdySea Aquarium

touch exhibit as well as two Stingray touch exhibits and a tide touch pool! OdySea is also home to Voyager, where guests take their seats in a stadium-seating style theatre with 46 ft. viewing windows for the “world's only revolving aquarium experience. Additional interactive activities include SeaTREK® underwater walking, a charismatic “Penguin Interaction Program”, “Shark Behind the Scenes” tours, walk-about “Animal Ambassadors”, and Question & Answer sessions with the Animal Care specialists.

Ripley's Aquarium of Canada



Contact Info

📍 288 Bremner Boulevard, Toronto,
ON M5V 3L9 CANADA

☎ 877-773-1497

🌐 www.ripleyaquariums.com/canada/



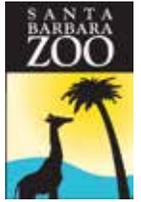
“We’re honored to be the first attraction in Canada to be designated as a Certified Autism Center™. By undergoing IBCCES’s intensive training process, we are able to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for autism families that inspires and educates them about aquatic life in a fun and immersive way.”

- Peter Doyle, General Manager,
Ripley's Aquarium of Canada



Immerse yourself in a world of 20,000 aquatic animals and discover your own underwater adventure at Ripley's Aquarium of Canada. The Aquarium features North America's longest underwater viewing tunnel with more than 5.7 million liters of water and over 100 interactive opportunities. This awe-inspiring attraction consists of nine carefully curated galleries showcasing a cross section of saltwater and freshwater environments from around the world – starting with species from Toronto's backyard, the Great Lakes basin.

Santa Barbara Zoo



Contact Info

 500 Ninos Drive
Santa Barbara, California 93103

 805-962-5339

 www.sbzoo.org



“My son, Noah, LOVES going to the zoo and becomes a chatter box the minute we cross the entrance gate. Being in such a big space with so much stimulation can be very overwhelming for Noah, but knowing that the zoo is a Certified Autism Center™ is extremely reassuring. I know firsthand that each time we visit the zoo, Noah will be able to enjoy it, he will have a blast and have the full zoo experience just like his siblings’.”

- Vicky, Mother of three



Known as one of the world's most beautiful zoos, the Santa Barbara Zoo has 30 acres of botanic gardens overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The Zoo has more than 500 animals to view, including Asian elephants, snow leopards, Humboldt penguins, Masai giraffes, white-handed gibbons, and highly endangered California condors, among others. The Zoo now offers dedicated quiet spaces and provides sensory backpacks to guests on the spectrum or with sensory needs.

MUSEUMS



Arizona Museum of Natural History



Contact Info

 N Macdonald,
Mesa, AZ 85201

 (480) 644-2230

 www.azmnh.org



The museum is a center point of society and as such should be inclusive to all. We aim to provide a fun and educational experience with no barriers to learning. The Autism training and report will better equip us to serve the needs of our public.”

- Thomas Wilson PhD, Director of the Arizona Museum of Natural History



Arizona Museum of Natural History, a “must see” for dinosaur lovers. The main attraction is Dinosaur Mountain, with animatronic dinosaurs, a 3 story indoor waterfall and flash flood that happens every 20 minutes. If dinosaurs are not your interest, there is so much more. The museum houses archaeological collections both local

and from all over the Americas. You can walk through an ancient Hohokam village, or discover cultures further afield like the Maya or Aztec civilizations. The origins gallery teaches about meteorites, and the rich gem and mineral geology of Arizona completing this museum as a comprehensive guide to the prehistory of the South West.

Family Museum



“The Family Museum is committed to providing a highly trained staff to improve the experience and learning environment for individuals and families affected by autism.”

- Kim Kidwell, Family Museum Director

Contact Info

 2900 Learning Campus Dr,
Bettendorf, IA 52722

 (563) 344-4106

 www.familymuseum.org



Operate a crane, shop for groceries, sort mail, and climb into a tree house at the fun-filled and interactive Family Museum. This hands-on museum located in Bettendorf, Iowa, is geared towards children 8 and younger and encourages families to play and learn together. The Museum offers Special Needs Nights quarterly to provide families an experience with sounds, lights, and crowd size kept to a minimum. Sensory kits and quiet spaces are available upon request.

George Observatory

*the Houston
Museum of
natural science*

Contact Info

 21901 FM 762
Needville, TX 77461

 281-242-3055

 www.hmns.org/george



The Observatory houses three domed telescopes, a Challenger Learning Center for Space Science Education, and a meteorite exhibit featuring fragments of several famous meteorites!



The George Observatory, located about one hour's drive south of Houston within scenic Brazos Bend State Park, is a satellite facility of the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Reservations are available Tuesday-Friday during the daytime. The George Observatory is open to the public Friday through Sunday. Please note that Brazos Bend State Park entrance fees apply.

GRAMMY Museum



Contact Info

 800 W Olympic Blvd, Ste A245
Los Angeles, CA 90015

 213-765-6800

 www.grammymuseum.org



“The GRAMMY Museum is committed to increasing access to our interactive, educational experiences to visitors of all ages and abilities and their families. We are proud to be a Certified Autism Center™ and are excited to be continuing our progress of being as inclusive as possible for all to enjoy.”
- Michael Sticka, President of the GRAMMY Museum



Established in 2008, the GRAMMY Museum is a nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating a greater understanding of the history and significance of music through exhibits, education, grants, preservation initiatives, and public programming. Paying tribute to our collective musical heritage, the Museum explores and celebrates all aspects of the art form—from the technology of the recording process to the legends who’ve made lasting marks on our cultural identity.

Houston Museum Of Natural Science

*the Houston
Museum of
natural science*

Contact Info

 5555 Hermann Park Drive
Houston, TX 77030

 713-639-4629

 www.hmns.org



“The Houston Museum of Natural Science is thrilled to receive the status of Certified Autism Center™ through IBCCES. Access to science and the arts is so important for everyone, and we are proud to have gone through staff training and evaluations in order to better serve people with autism and sensory sensitivities. We are excited to continue moving forward in an inclusive direction and hope to offer more resources, staff training, and programming that will provide a welcoming environment for all at HMNS.”

-Matti Hammett, Accessibility Programs Manager at HMNS



Founded in 1909, the purpose of the Houston Museum of Natural Science has always been to “enhance in individuals the knowledge and delight in natural science and related subjects.” To this very day, this purpose is carried out in every project, program and exhibition associated with the museum. As one of the most heavily attended museums in the United States, and one of the most attended venues in Houston, the Museum houses the Burke Baker Planetarium, Wortham GIANT Screen Theatre, Cockrell Butterfly Center and a fascinating variety of permanent exhibit areas that examine astronomy, space science, Native American culture, paleontology, energy, chemistry, gems and minerals, seashells, Texas wildlife and much more. In addition, the museum frequently presents traveling exhibitions on a variety of topics.

Houston Museum Of Natural Science at Sugar Land

*the Houston
Museum of
natural science*

Contact Info

 13016 University Blvd.
Sugar Land, Texas 77479

 821-313-2278

 www.hmns.org/sugarland



“One of the critical missions of the Houston Museum of Natural Science is to enhance the knowledge of individuals and the delight in natural science. That is why we are devoted to making sure that everyone who comes through our doors can access the wonders of our collections. It is an honor and a privilege to be an IBCCES certified venue.”

-Joel Bartsch, HMNS president



The Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land has expanded the embrace of the HMNS family. In a city set to defeat the horizon we must grow in step with its elastic radius. Texans revel in moments of awe and wonder, thirst for innovation and defeat challenges — we’ve opened our doors to you and in turn, you’ve brought us along for the ride. Conveniently located within sight of Highway 59, the Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land offers fascinating science exhibitions sure to appeal to all ages.

i.d.e.a Museum



“Our goal is to inspire children of all ages to experience their world differently through art, creativity and imagination, so we are thrilled to be a part of this citywide initiative in support of families with children on the autism spectrum. We have always welcomed families of all abilities to the museum and make accommodations available, but with the added training, we are better equipped to address these special needs. We want every visitor to enjoy art and hands-on activities that support a love for learning and creative thinking, while building fun memories together.”

- Sunnee D. O'Rork, Executive director of the i.d.e.a. Museum

Contact Info

 150 W. Pepper Place
Mesa, AZ, 85201

 480-644-2468

 www.ideaMuseum.org



The i.d.e.a. Museum in Mesa, Ariz., provides art and hands-on activities that support early learning, nurture creative thinking and engage families in quality time together in three main spaces: ArtVille, HUB and Whiteman Family Exhibition Gallery. Plus, the museum offers special events, creative classes, workshops and birthday parties.

Please check in with our front desk for available accommodations to address your family's needs. Note: Our busiest times are weekday mornings and during school and summer breaks. Closed Mondays and most holidays.

McFarland State National Historic Park

“We are very excited to be the first Certified Autism Center™ in Florence. We feel that sensitivity and autism awareness plays a vital role in today’s world, and the increased understanding and compassion can lead to a better experience for all residents and visitors alike. The certification is part of a larger initiative to address how Florence, Arizona, can better serve the community and increase inclusivity.”

- Roger Biede, Florence Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

Contact Info

 24 W Ruggles St,
Florence, AZ 85132

 520.868.5216

 <https://azstateparks.com/mcfarland/>



Nestled in the Town of Florence, McFarland State Historic Park is the oldest standing courthouse in Arizona. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the park dates back to the Arizona Territorial period in 1878. The rustic adobe courthouse, office, and jail have plenty of stories to tell about frontier justice in the Old West! Through the years, the building has served as a courthouse, hospital,

and even a jail - and has been the scene of notorious happenings – including gun fights! Legend has it that the Pinal County sheriff, in the face of a dangerous lynch mob, released his prisoners from their cells, sending them upstairs, and even armed the men to help defend themselves.

Museum of the American Revolution



“We are incredibly proud to be named a Certified Autism Center™ by IBCCES, a designation that demonstrates our commitment to fostering inclusive, welcoming experiences for all people. This certification is part of our ongoing effort to ensure that accessibility and inclusion are embedded in everything we do. We look forward to engaging new audiences and enabling even more people to experience the rich and complex story of our founding.”

- Dr. R. Scott Stephenson, President and CEO of the Museum

Contact Info

 101 S 3rd St,
Philadelphia, PA 19106

 215.253.6731

 www.amrevmuseum.org



The Museum of the American Revolution explores the dramatic, surprising story of the American Revolution through original objects, immersive galleries, powerful theater experiences, and digital touchscreens. In order to make the Museum experience as comfortable as possible for all guests, the Museum also offers noise-reducing headphones and a quiet room giving guests the opportunity to enjoy the Museum’s signature films in a private

setting. For guests with visual and/or hearing impairments, the Museum offers closed captioning for all films, tactile maps of the exhibits, Touch Tours by request, transcripts of audio tours of the core galleries and special exhibitions, and American Sign Language interpreters by request, among other amenities. Visitors also have access to sensory guides that help in pre-travel planning. Visit the [Accessibility Page](#) to learn more.

North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport



“This process gave us the opportunity to look more deeply at how we are serving everybody who visits the museum.”

- Lori Sanderlin, manager of the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport

Contact Info

 204 E. Moore St.
Southport, NC, 28461

 910-477-5150

 ncmaritimemuseumsouthport.com/



Located across from the waterfront in downtown Southport, N.C., the N.C. Maritime Museum at Southport helps tell the story of the North Carolina coast and its people. The museum is at the intersection of the mighty Cape Fear River and the vast Atlantic Ocean. It shares tales of pirates and pillage, blockade running and riverfront archaeology, and other nautical adventures. Ongoing

educational programs for children and adults about this area, which was a haven for blockade runners and also a pirate hideout, are available. The North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport is open Tuesday – Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is open to the public with free admission. Donations are always appreciated.

Pinal County Historic Museum

“The Pinal County Historical Museum strives to be a welcoming space for all and to serve our community’s diverse populations. This autism certification directly aligns with PCHS Museum’s mission; our team is thrilled to continue training to serve our community better and participate in Florence’s town-wide initiative to be an Autism Certified City.”

**- Stephanie Joyner , Executive Director,
Pinal County Historical Museum**

Contact Info

 715 S Main St
Florence, AZ 85132

 520-868-4382

 www.pinalcountyhistoricalmuseum.org



PCHS Museum is proud to offer special needs accommodations, including early-bird quiet visitation by appointment and a quiet space. For more information about special needs accommodations, call the museum at 520-868-4382.

Founded in 1958, the PCHS Museum is the oldest historical organization in Pinal County. The museum preserves and shares Florence and Pinal County’s rich history through exhibitions and educational programming. Additionally, the museum houses a large and diverse research collection from which exhibitions and programs are created as well as opportunities for academic and community-based research. Serving 5,000 visitors annually, PCHS Museum is an economic asset to Florence.

Reading Public Museum



“The Museum has always been a special place for the John Paul II Center students and adults and a certification of this caliber means that our many individuals, groups, programs, and families will be able to take full advantage of everything the museum has to offer. By proactively seeking this certification and offering these special services, RPM has proven they are a pioneer and an advocate for our local families.”

- René Berkhammer, a Special Education Teacher and Transition Coordinator at the John Paul II Center for Special Learning

Contact Info

 500 Museum Road
Reading, PA 19611

 610-371-5850

 www.readingpublicmuseum.org



The Reading (PA) Public Museum, Arboretum, and Neag Planetarium in Pennsylvania is a unique experience for the entire family! With ever-changing hands-on exhibitions and planetarium shows, there is always something new to be discovered.

The Museum offers sensory mornings from 9-11 a.m. the first Monday and following Sunday of the month, unless otherwise noted. Special arrangements can also be made for the Neag Planetarium or Museum if requested in advance.

Space Center Houston



Contact Info

 1601 E NASA Pkwy
Houston, Texas 77058

 281-244-2100

 www.spacecenter.org



“Science, technology, engineering and mathematics education is for everyone. This certification highlights our dedication to be inclusive and to inspire the next generation of problem solvers.”

- William T. Harris, Space Center Houston
President and CEO

Photos courtesy of Space Center Houston



Come see the Real Thing at Space Center Houston Texas, a nonprofit science and space exploration learning center and the Official Visitor Center of NASA Johnson Space Center in TX.

The center offers more than 400 things to see and do and strives to be accepting and accessible to guests with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other cognitive challenges. Sensory Friendly Evenings feature reduced lights, sounds and crowds. Space Center University for the visually impaired and other events are designed to provide quality learning experiences for guests with special needs. Guests can check out sensory friendly backpacks, which have sound-cancelling headphones, sunglasses, a fun space book and other sensory items.

Tulare County Museum



“The Tulare County Museum serves a large community, and we strive to be inclusive of all visitors. This program has helped us take greater steps toward that goal of inclusivity”

- Amy King-Sunderson the Museum Curator

Contact Info

 27000 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA, United States 93277

 559-624-7326

 tularecountymuseum.org/



The Tulare County Museum is the largest museum in Tulare County, housing one of the largest Native American basket collections in California, as well as artifacts of the pioneer era, an extensive gun and saddle collection complete with Visalia Saddles, agriculture equipment from the turn of the century, restored buildings from the late 1800s, and many other treasures that tell the history of Tulare County. The newest addition to the Museum is the History of Farm Labor and Agriculture Museum,

where several cultural groups and their contributions to farm labor and agriculture will be featured. Cultural diversity is an essential source of Tulare County's rich history. As history continues to be made, it is important to be aware of the impact our preceding and ongoing history has on our present and future. To reach its potential, our community needs to understand the contributions of different cultural groups, individuals, and innovations and their influence on our history.

ATTRACTIONS & ENTERTAINMENT



Aventura Parks

AVENTURA

DUBAI'S LARGEST ZIPLINE PARK

Contact Info



Mushrif Park Mirdif, Dubai
Dubai UAE



+ 971 52178 7616



www.aventuraparks.com



“In line with our values, we would like our park to offer equal opportunity to our experiences and inspire everyone. By including children with different learning abilities, we can change attitude and promote respect, encouraging them to learn through play in our natural 35,000 sqm Ghaf tree forest facility. We are delighted to be the first certified autism adventure park in the middle east, leading the way to inclusion, raising awareness and giving equal chances to all individuals.”

- Frank Raubenheimer, Operations Manager at Aventura Parks



Aventura is a unique destination in Dubai where friends, families, and teams experience adventure, nature and fun in a beautiful Ghaf tree forest. Spanning 35,000sqm, the facility boasts an Adventure Park with six circuits of over 80 obstacles and 24 zip lines; a Team building park, and a lovely Nature Trail showcasing the flora and fauna of the UAE. In line with our mission is to inspire everyone while fostering learning through play. We welcome visitors from all around the world, religion, race and condition to enjoy the thrill and fun of the largest outdoor adventure park in the Middle East.

Bowlero Lanes & Lounge

BOWLERO
Lanes & Lounge

Contact Info

 4209 Coolidge Hwy
Royal Oak, MI, 48073

 248-549-7500

 www.bowlerodetroit.com



“I am a former school psychologist, and I really wanted to find a way to bring my expertise to Bowlero Lanes & Lounge. As part of our recent renovation, we made multiple, physical changes to the building which were designed to make our facility accessible to everyone; the building is now ADA compliant, and we provide autism training for all of our employees. I know that it can be difficult for families with special needs to go out for a day of fun. But I want these families to know that at Bowlero Lanes & Lounge, we are here to make their experiences as enjoyable and carefree as possible!”

- Kelly Elliott, Bowlero Owner and Ed.S., Certified School Psychologist



Bowlero Lanes & Lounge is a restored retro-boutique bowling alley, vintage arcade, and cocktail lounge hosting live DJs and bands. Independent and locally-owned since 1957, the recent renovations allows guests to step back in time... to bowl in a rumpus room-inspired bowling alley, hobnob in our sumptuous 70s-styled cocktail lounge, play vintage pinball, catch a live musical act, celebrate a birthday, sing karaoke, watch a sporting event, or take advantage of our special needs programming.

Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts



dr.phillips
center

“Our vision of Arts For Every Life motivates everything we do at the arts center.

We are committed to providing meaningful artistic and expression-based experiences to individuals with autism, sensory disorders and others with special needs. Even more, we want to continually learn and incorporate the unique gifts and abilities of those individuals into our work and outreach for the community.”

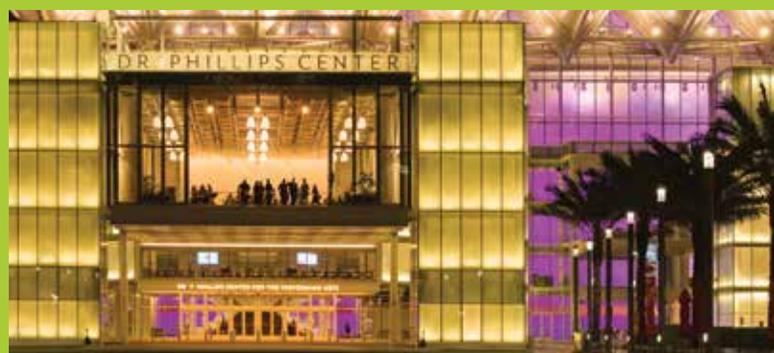
- Kathy Ramsberger, President & CEO Dr. Phillips Center

Contact Info

 445 South Magnolia Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801

 407.839.0119

 www.drphillipscenter.org



Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts is a world-class arts center presenting Broadway, dance, concerts, comedy, family shows, theater and local arts performances. Included in the complex is the AdventHealth School of the Arts where wellness and performing arts come together to offer classes and programs for everyone from two to 102. Inclusive classes and performing experiences for individuals on the Autism Spectrum are available throughout the year. With our vision of Arts For Every Life, we are committed to making the arts accessible to everyone.

Hershey's Chocolate World Attraction



Contact Info

📍 101 Chocolate World Way
Hershey, PA, 17033

📞 717-534-4900

🌐 www.hersheys.com/chocolateworld/en_us/home.html



“The Hershey's Chocolate World Attraction team is proud to now be designated a Certified Autism Center™. We are pleased to be an inclusive and welcoming destination for all families to enjoy the magic of chocolate making.”

- Suzanne Jones, Vice President of The Hershey Experience, The Hershey Company



For nearly 50 years, Hershey's Chocolate World Attraction has brought the iconic Hershey brand to life for more than 150 million visitors in the hometown of chocolate, Hershey, Pa. Fun, sweetness and adventure await in a delightful world of entertainment, food and shopping devoted to all things chocolate. Experience a range of immersive attractions including, Hershey's iconic FREE Chocolate Tour, Hershey's Create Your Own Candy Bar, 4D Chocolate

Mystery, Hershey Trolley Works and award-winning Hershey's Unwrapped chocolate tasting journey. Unwrap your senses with chocolate-y concoctions including Hershey's Double Chocolate S'mores, famous milkshakes, cookies, cupcakes and more! And before you leave the birthplace of Hershey's milk chocolate, take home a sweet goodie from the World's Largest Hershey's Candy store.

Mall of America



“We continually look at ways to invest in the guest experience, ensuring that everyone who visits Mall of America and Nickelodeon Universe has the best day ever. Working with the IBCCES to become a Certified Autism Center™ will ensure our team members are equipped with the proper knowledge and skills to communicate and assist those with sensory sensitivities in the most positive and effective way. We are proud to have completed the certification process but recognize this is just one step forward to identify new ways to further improve the overall guest experience.”

- Jill Renslow, SVP of Business Development for Mall of America

Contact Info

 2131 Lindau Lane
Bloomington, MN, US 55425

 952-883-8800

 www.mallofamerica.com



At 5.6 million square feet, Mall of America is the largest shopping and entertainment complex in North America with more than 520 world-class retail stores and restaurants; Nickelodeon Universe, the nation's largest indoor theme park; SEA LIFE Minnesota Aquarium; FlyOver America; Crayola Experience; Hard Rock Café; The Escape Game; CMX Cinemas; and more. The Mall opened in

1992 and is located in Bloomington, Minnesota, minutes from downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul and adjacent to the MSP International Airport. Follow Mall of America on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and visit our blog. Download the Mall of America app from the App Store for iOS or Google Play for Android.

Mesa Arts Center



Contact Info

📍 1 East Main Street
Mesa, Arizona 85201

☎ 480-644-6500

🌐 www.mesaartscenter.com/



“We are so pleased to be among the Mesa organizations to achieve this certification. Our mission is to invite all people to create and discover entertaining, challenging, and diverse art and arts experiences within joyous, dynamic, and welcoming environments.”

- *Cindy Ornstein, Executive Director of Mesa Arts Center and Director of Arts & Culture for the City of Mesa*

Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment and performances,

world-class visual art exhibitions, and outstanding arts education classes. The Mesa Arts Center mission is to invite all people to create and discover entertaining, challenging, and diverse art and arts experiences within joyous, dynamic, and welcoming environments.

Oakland A's - Hohokam Stadium



“We are committed to creating an inclusive, fun, and memorable experience for all of our fans when they come to the ballpark – whether it be in Oakland or our Spring Training home in Mesa. We are excited that our staff members at Hohokam Stadium are now fully certified in autism certification training, allowing us to broaden awareness, acceptance, and accessibility for fans with autism.”

- Dave Kaval, Oakland A's President

Contact Info

 1235 N. Center St.
Mesa, AZ, 85201

 877-493-2255

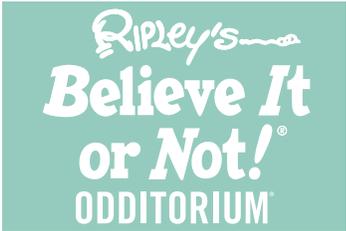
 www.athletics.com/spring



Situated just two miles from downtown Mesa, Hohokam Stadium is the Spring Training home of the Oakland Athletics. The Athletics have always been innovators. Since their founding in 1901, the A's franchise has pushed the boundaries in a relentless pursuit of victory. Their nine World Series titles and 15 American League Pennants make the A's one of the most storied Clubs in

Major League Baseball. The A's take great pride in the achievements of their past and view them as a challenge to push further. As the Club moves into a new chapter in Oakland, they remain committed to creating winning experiences that encompass the many aspects of the game and their community.

Ripley's Believe It or Not! Surfers Paradise



Marvel your way through 12 galleries, more than 300 exhibits, and 2 floors of fun in our unbelievable Odditorium. With artifacts and interactives sure to amaze and delight, it's an experience you won't want to miss!

Contact Info

 Soul Boardwalk
Cavill Mall - Surfers Paradise
Queensland, 4217 Australia

 61-7-5592-0040

 www.ripleys.com/surfersparadise/



Our self-guided adventure is sure to astonish as you come face to face with remarkable relics and rare treasures from around the world. Amazing stories of history and adventure, magic, mystery, incredible illusions, fun interactive games, life-size figurines of unusual characters who actually lived, and unbelievable movies! An amazing journey of on an hour or more – That's WOW Factor Fun for EVERYONE! Be sure to hang on tight in our Moving Theatre experience where you move along with every twist and turn in our motion simulator! You'll feel like you're in a video game as you compete against your seatmates for the highest score.

Spinners Pinball Arcade: A Pinball EDU Center



Pinball EDU was founded in 2014 & offers an inclusive arcade called “Spinners” that’s open to the general public, schools, educators, caregivers, and other service providers for kids & adults with special needs. Pinball EDU is a registered 501(c)(3) charity & our mission is to utilize pinball and other gaming for the social enrichment, skill development and education of kids and young adults.

Contact Info

 919 N East Market St.
Frederick, MD, 21701

 610-395-3724

 www.spinnerspinball.org



A child with ASD or other sensory or social challenges faces unique obstacles & barriers. Spinners offers a safe space for social opportunities and enrichment where even those not participating enjoy the communal aspects of gaming. By uniting around a nostalgic, family-friendly activity of interest (pinball & other gaming), we can successfully support caregivers & members of our community as they grow and develop.

Turkey Hill Experience



“It’s so nice to gain a better understanding of how to help accommodate visitors to give a better experience for families and autistic individuals. The certification has really strengthened our positive workplace culture and personal connections with guests.”

- Ali Marquart, team member

Contact Info

 301 Linden Street
Columbia, Pennsylvania, 17512

 717-684-0134

 www.turkeyhillexperience.com



The Turkey Hill Experience features interactive exhibits allowing you to learn about dairy culture, the story of Turkey Hill Dairy, and how the company’s ice cream and iced tea flavors are selected and created. You will truly experience what it’s like to be a Turkey Hill Dairy ice cream maker for a day, including the opportunity to create your own virtual ice cream flavor. In addition, you can sit in our vintage milk truck, milk our mechanical cows, star in your very own Turkey Hill commercial, and enjoy plenty of free samples of iced tea and ice cream! Visit the Turkey Hill Experience in Columbia, Pennsylvania – right here in Lancaster County, PA.

The FRIENDS™ Experience

NYC & Traveling Experience

“It has always been a priority for our team to create a safe and welcoming environment for all of our visitors. Our partnership with IBCCES helps ensure that The FRIENDS Experience can create an entertaining and joyful experience for autistic individuals and their families and friends.”

- Steve Feener, Chief Projects Officer

Contact Info

📍 110-132 E 23rd St, New York, NY 10010
Traveling Show (Chicago May 2021)

✉ info@friendstheexperience.com

🌐 www.friendstheexperience.com



The FRIENDS Experience allows FRIENDS fans to explore the popular TV show like never before with set re-creations, original props and costumes, photo ops and more. The interactive, two-story experience offers nostalgia-packed rooms and activations. The space provides opportunities to explore the show's history and re-create your favorite moments.

UNO Parks



Contact Info

 Lizdeikos g. 10102
Vilnius, Lithuania LT-10102

 37-06-9858234

 www.unoparks.eu



“I wondered how such young instructors knew how to handle children in such a nice, wise and patient manner, while having a smile on their faces the entire time. Especially when working with children who have special needs. Since I came with four children, I was unable to climb the trees myself to help Ruglie (my daughter with Down Syndrome). However, there were three rotating instructors who were teaching and helping her to go through all the obstacles. When Ruglie finished the track she was feeling happy and proud, saying: ‘Mom, I did it!’ I am grateful to UNO Parks for the wonderful team!

- Parent and Guest at UNO Park



UNO Parks' team salutes you – here's to anyone looking for a peaceful moment, or maybe for extreme sensations, or new possibilities for your work and business. Treetop climbing is a reflection of their life philosophy: freedom to live listening to your own heart, following your inner child, courage to step over limits and trust the world around us, growth not only by getting over obstacles, but also accepting greater challenges. Their team is glad to invite you to experience the world they created happily for you and your family!

The Universal Sphere on Comcast Center Campus

UNIVERSAL
SPHERE

From Steven Spielberg, DreamWorks Animation, Universal Parks and Resorts and Comcast Labs, this free, cinematic experience explores the power of ideas.

Contact Info

1800 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

TheUniversalSphere@comcast.com

TheUniversalSphere.com



The inspiring program, "The Power of I," is presented in a dome theater in the Comcast Technology Center lobby. The experience is wheelchair accessible and service-animal friendly, and our trained Experience Guides are committed to welcoming audiences of all abilities. Closed captioning and descriptive audio devices are available in English and Spanish. For a full translation of the experience, audio listening devices are available in Spanish and Mandarin Chinese. Visit the online reservation site to plan your trip and access your complimentary ticket.

TheUniversalSphere.com

HOTELS/RESORTS



LEGOLAND® FLORIDA RESORT:
LEGOLAND® Pirate Island Hotel

Aloft Las Colinas



“We wanted to set up our employees and the hotel for success when working with guests or employees with autism. It is important to us to help build autism awareness and provide our staff with the knowledge on the appropriate policies and procedures.”

- *Arnoldo Rodriguez, General Manager*

Contact Info

 122 E John Carpenter Fwy,
Irving, TX 75062

 972.717.6100

 <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dfwai-aloft-las-colinas>



Aloft Las Colinas is a Marriott branded hotel designed for self-expressers that are forward-thinking and highly independent. Our guests will always stand out from the crowd. Perk up or chill out with grab-and-go food options at Re:fuel, the 24/7 one-stop-shop for snacks and bites at Aloft. Discover a menu of sweet, savory, fast, and fresh options, including salads, sandwiches, and snacks. At Aloft, our focus on the future extends to the food options we offer our guests. Our new Re:fuel breakfast pots provide a fresh, flavorful alternative for guests looking to enjoy their meal in the hotel or on the fly.

BEACHES NEGRIL

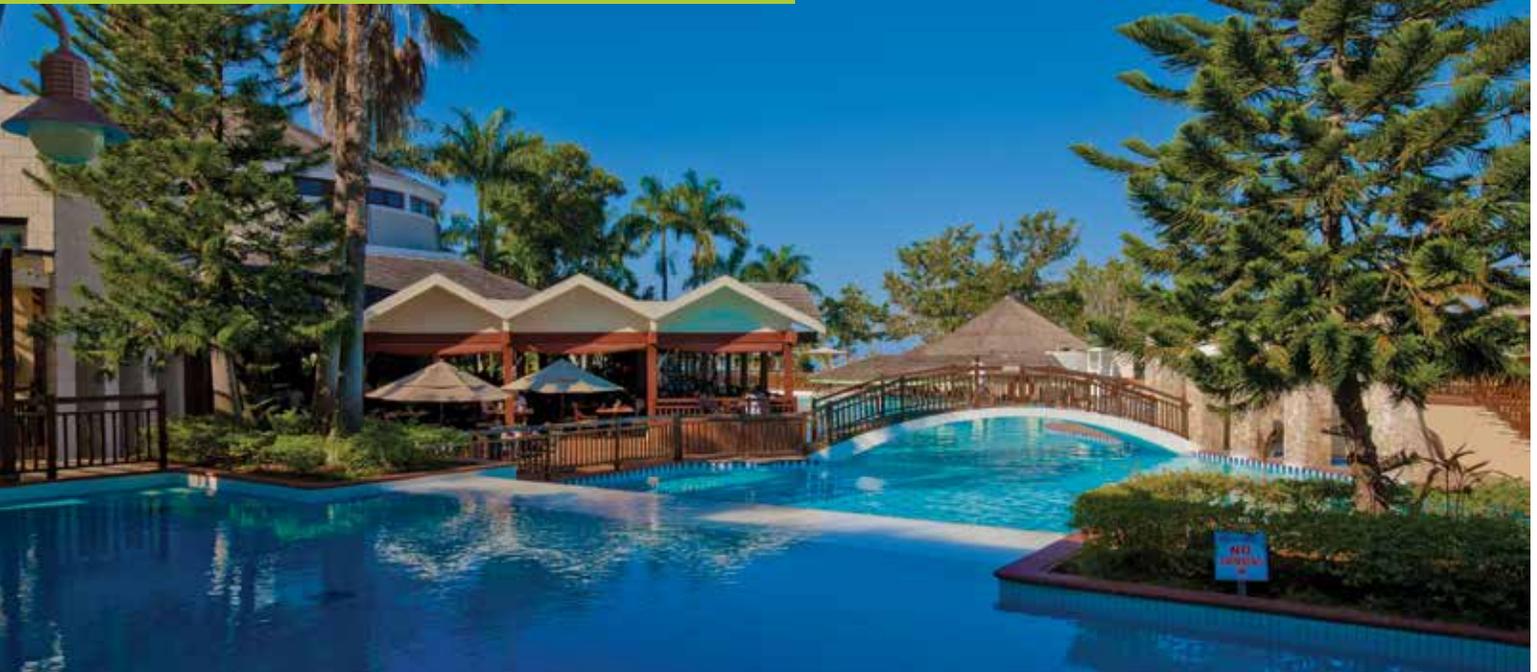


Contact Info

Norman Manley Blvd
Negril, Jamaica

888-232-2437

www.beaches.com/resorts/negril



“The resort itself is beautiful and relaxing. The food was wonderful, and the staff was excellent..but the **AMAZING** part for my family was the available childcare. We are parents of two children with autism and have never been able to enjoy a vacation ourselves...we were overjoyed to have a family vacation for the first time!

- Guest review on *Yelp.com*

Get ready to embrace the laid-back spirit at this low-rise resort perched along Jamaica’s famed Seven Mile Beach. From the moment you enter the open-air lobby you’ll be caught up by fresh ocean breezes and the vibrant colors of the West Indies.

Bringing the outside in, this all-inclusive resort and spa in Negril, Jamaica is always open to the breathtaking beauty

of the tropics. The vibe here is totally carefree and about spending time with those you love. The feeling of safety and security here is second to none. Certified trained staff in many areas including autism will give you that piece of mind throughout your entire stay! Special sensory friendly areas will be designated in the resort for children and families needing a little retreat from the excitement.

BEACHES OCHO RIOS

Contact Info

 Ocho Rios, Jamaica

 (888) 232-2437

 www.beaches.com/resorts/ocho-rios



“Traveling to a destination where the staff are trained to recognize and address the needs of children on the Autism Spectrum simply makes our trip less stressful and more enjoyable. We know that once we arrive on resort that the stress of the trip is over and we can relax without having to worry over what the next meal will be or how the staff will react to the kids. It give us the freedom to enjoy a vacation in the same way that ‘regular’ families can.

- Dr. Christopher O’Shea, parent of a child on the spectrum



Voted among the Top 10 Best Beach Resorts by Parents magazine. Twenty-two acres of lush tropical gardens, a gorgeous private white-sand beach, 6 gourmet restaurants featuring a wide variety of food options, 3 fantastic safe and secure swimming pools, a dedicated scuba practice pool and an entire ocean of watersports are just a few of the places and things to explore.

Plus, only at Beaches Ocho Rios, families can meet Oscar, the resident Grouch from Sesame Street®, and participate in the From Trash to Treasure activity and join in at Oscar’s Sing-A-Long pre-show... all part of the Beaches Resorts’ Caribbean Adventure with Sesame Street®. With the arrival of “Julia” the newest member of the characters who has autism, every child and family is sure to feel welcomed and enjoy their stay! Staff at this resort has been nationally Certified by IBCCES standards in autism training.

BEACHES TURKS AND CAICOS



Contact Info

Lower Bight Rd, The Bight Settlement
TKCA 1ZZ, Turks & Caicos Islands

(888) 232-2437

www.beaches.com/turks-caicos



“As a family-built brand, we want to provide all families with a superior level of service that makes them feel the most welcomed at our resorts. We are especially excited to further expand this important training to our resort’s watersports program, with PADI® certified dive professionals and other team members earning a special ‘ACAC’ designation for each Aqua Center at Beaches, allowing children on the spectrum to safely experience the incredible waters of the Caribbean.”

- Adam Stewart, Deputy Chairman of Sandals Resorts International



Dive into a one-of-a-kind, unbelievably exciting all-inclusive Turks & Caicos vacation for the whole family.

A 45,000 square-foot safe and secure waterpark; four magnificent villages with special sensory accommodations, boasting the architecture and ambiance of Italy, France, the Caribbean and Key West and a 12-mile beach lapped by comforting clear turquoise waters; endless fun activities and sensory friendly excursions

for everyone, from tots to tweens and teens. This resort features Sesame Street characters including “Julia”, the newest addition to the team who has autism, the new Xbox Play Lounge and a sizzlin’ teen disco, Liquid at Beaches – all located on one of the worlds best beaches. Special sensory friendly areas will be designated in the resort for children and families needing a little retreat from the excitement. Staff at this resort has been nationally certified by IBCCES standards in autism training.

Comfort Inn Visalia



Contact Info

 210 E Acequia Ave.
Visalia. CA 93291

 559.738.1700

 www.comfortsuitesvisali.com



“**C**omfort Suites and Hampton Inn are excited to be the first hotels in Visalia to become Certified Autism Centers™. Our staff completed autism-specific training and certification to ensure both teams are better equipped to provide excellent service and experiences to all our guests.”

- Anil Chagan, President of Infinite Hospitality



The Comfort Visalia Convention Center is located in the heart of downtown Visalia, just across the street from the Convention Center. We are close to many fine restaurants, hospital and shopping.

Courtyard Phoenix Mesa

COURTYARD[®]
BY MARRIOTT

Contact Info

 1221 South Westwood
Mesa, United States 85210

 480-461-3000

 www.marriott.com/phxme



“Courtyard Phoenix Mesa is excited to be part of Visit Mesa’s initiative to become the country’s first-ever autism certified destination. Putting people first is part of the Marriott culture and ensuring that our associates are equipped with training to better serve our guests with autism is a wonderful opportunity. We look forward to enhancing the travel experience of the autism community.”

*-Patricia Gaukel, General Manager of
Courtyard Phoenix Mesa*



Take in a perfect blend of comfort and convenience at Courtyard Phoenix Mesa. Our hotel features easy access to popular desert destinations including Hohokam Stadium and Sloan Park, perfect for baseball fans. Mesa Convention Center, Arizona Museum of Natural History and Mesa Arts Center are also nearby. After a busy day, refuel at our on-site restaurant, The Bistro. Enjoy breakfast and dinner, paired perfectly with a refreshing Starbucks® drink or cocktail. Retire to your room or suite outfitted with contemporary

décor, a plush mattress and ergonomic workstation. Entertainment is always within reach with our flat-panel TVs and complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi. If you’re here for business, our flexible meeting spaces are ideal for corporate events of all types. In your downtime, work out at our fitness center featuring cardio equipment and free weights. Transition from working out to working on your tan at our outdoor pool. Easily balance work with play while on the road at Courtyard Phoenix Mesa.

Delta Hotel Phoenix Mesa



Contact Info

 200 N. Centennial Way
Mesa, AZ 85201

 480-898-8300

 www.marriott.com/PHXDE



“The training that was provided to our team from the IBCCES was exceptional and will enable us to provide a best-in-class experience for travelers with autism and their families. We are proud to be a part of this initiative between the IBCCES and Visit Mesa.”

*- Scott Snofsky, General Manager of
Delta Hotel Phoenix Mesa*



Delta Hotels by Marriott Phoenix Mesa is located in the heart of downtown Mesa, Arizona and a short 12 miles from Phoenix Sky Harbor airport. Our location provides you close access to the Oakland A's and Chicago Cubs spring training games as well as other local things to do such as a visit to the Queen Creek Olive Mill.

Hampton Inn Visalia



“**C**omfort Suites and Hampton Inn are excited to be the first hotels in Visalia to become Certified Autism Centers™. Our staff completed autism-specific training and certification to ensure both teams are better equipped to provide excellent service and experiences to all our guests.”

- Anil Chagan, President of Infinite Hospitality

Contact Info

 4747 W Noble Ave
Visalia, CA 93277

 559.732.3900

 www.visalia.hamptoninn.com



The Hampton Inn is located just a short drive from downtown Visalia. We are close to many fine restaurants and local attractions.

LEGOLAND® Florida Resort:



LEGOLAND® Hotel & LEGOLAND® Pirate Island Hotel

“We are proud that LEGOLAND® Florida Resort has partnered The International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES) earn our designation as a Certified Autism Center™ across LEGOLAND® Florida Theme Park, Water Park, three on-site hotels, and the all-new Peppa Pig Theme Park. We are passionate about being the Resort for families to build awesome vacation memories, and we are thankful to our partners at IBCCES for helping us be more welcoming and more inclusive to more families, including those with sensory needs.”

- Kelly Hornick, Head of Marketing & Communications for LEGOLAND® Florida Resort and Peppa Pig Theme Park

Contact Info

📍 1 LEGOLAND Way
Winter Haven, Florida 33884

📞 +1-888-690-5346

🌐 www.LEGOLAND.com/Florida



Located 130 kid-steps away from the Theme Park's front gate, LEGOLAND® Hotel and the new LEGOLAND® Pirate Island Hotel bring the Theme Park fun into the hotel with nightly entertainment, resort pools, and guest rooms with separate adult and child sleeping areas, and in-room treasure hunts. Just across the street, LEGOLAND® Beach Retreat features beach-themed bungalows in village-style layout centered around outdoor play areas and unforgettable Florida lake views.

More information is available at LEGOLAND.com/Florida

Ramon's Village Resort



Contact Info

 Coconut Dr
San Pedro, Belize

 800.MAGIC.15

 www.ramons.com



Nestled among swaying palms and lush tropical foliage, overlooking the white sand beach and the world's second largest Barrier Reef, and just a 5 minute walk from the Village of San Pedro, Ramon's Village Resort, a beachfront island paradise, is the Treasure of the Caribbean. While intimate in size, Ramon's Village is a full-service resort with sixty-one (61) authentic thatched roof cabanas, a lovely lagoon-style pool, beautiful beachside restaurant, crystal white sand beach and 400-foot pier.

Ramon's Village is a PADI 5 Star IDC Resort Facility and home to one of Belize's premier dive operations. Choose

“For years, Ramon's Village Resort has had guests both new and returning who travel to the resort with children of special needs. When we learned many children with autism are calmed by water and that IBCCES and PADI had developed a program to help dive instructors work with these individuals, we felt compelled to be a part of such an inspiring program.”

-Steve Sherwin, Vice President of Operations at Ramon's Village Resort

from a full slate of Scuba Courses and trips including the world-renowned Lighthouse/Blue Hole and Turneffe Atoll. Enjoy fishing, snorkeling and a number of other water related activities. Tour the Mayan Cities of yesteryear or explore the jungles of Belize. When you're ready to relax, you can enjoy lounging poolside, sunbathing on the island's premier beach, or treat yourself to a heavenly massage at our Beach Spa. The perfect end to any day is our "On a Stone" menu at Pineapples on the Beach. Come experience the enchanting little village we call Ramon's and let our staff show you why so many people return year after year!

Visalia Marriott at the Convention Center



“Working with IBCCES, a global leader in online training and certification programs, has given our team the tools and knowledge to provide better service and experiences to all our visitors. We are excited to be a part of the Visalia movement to become a more inclusive destination for autistic individuals and their families.”

- Carrie Groover, General Manager

Contact Info

 300 South Court Street
Visalia, CA, 93291

 559.622.2005

 www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/vismc-visalia-marriott-at-the-convention-center/



Our hotel boasts an unbeatable location in downtown Visalia, steps from restaurants, breweries, children’s activities, and Kaweah Delta Hospital. Discover Visalia and the surrounding cities of Tulare, Exeter, and Fresno, as well as Sequoia National Park and Kings Canyons National Park, all within easy reach.

PARKS AND RECREATION



Mesa Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities



“The training our staff has undergone highlights our commitment to making sure our programs and activities are inclusive to all in the community. It has made us more aware of how to effectively provide our services to people with autism.”

- Marc Heirshberg, Director, Mesa Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities

Contact Info

 200 S. Center St. Bldg #1
Mesa, AZ, 85210

 480-644-PLAY (7529)

 www.mesaparks.com



The Mesa Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Department is a forward thinking and quick responding department that brings over 200 parks, 5 recreation centers, 9 public pools, a cemetery, convention center, concert amphitheater, and a diverse array of programs to educate, engage and activate people in the community. Their mission is to contribute to a healthy and vibrant community by providing exceptional experiences and services to those who live, work and play in Mesa, AZ. Approximately 500 employees of the Mesa Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Department completed awareness and sensitivity training, as well as an onsite review by IBCCES of multiple parks and facilities.



City of Tempe



Kiwanis Park, Kiwanis Recreation Center, Edna Vihel Arts Center,
Tempe Town Lake, Tempe Library and Tempe History Museum.

Contact Info

 3500 South Rural Rd Suite 201
Tempe, AZ 85282

 480.858.2469

 www.tempe.gov/



“This autism certification is an important first step towards becoming a city that is fully inclusive and welcoming to individuals of all abilities. We are very proud of the work we’ve done, and we look forward to the day when every city facility is certified and fully equipped to serve all.”

- Corey Woods, City of Tempe Mayor



Six locations within the City of Tempe have worked together to collectively earn the designation as a Certified Autism Center™. The participating locations include Kiwanis Park, Kiwanis Recreation Center, Edna Vihel Arts Center, Tempe Town Lake, Tempe Library and Tempe History Museum. The City strives for an inclusive experience for all we serve, embracing an Inclusion Form for all programs so play is never restricted but embraced for all people. Tempe makes waves as a technology and business magnet, an inclusive, caring community and a hub for recreation and adventure. Visit us.



Town of Queen Creek Park and Recreation Department



Contact Info

 21802 S. Ellsworth Road
Queen Creek, AZ 85142

 480-358-3700

 www.QueenCreek.org/Recreation



“Queen Creek strives to be an inclusive community for people of all abilities. This certification is an important milestone towards that goal. It better prepares our staff to interact with individuals with autism, enhancing their experience at our parks and in our programs.

- Gail Barney, Queen Creek Mayor



The Queen Creek Parks and Recreation Department provides three community parks, a dog park, an extensive trail system, exciting community events and robust recreation program that provides classes, workshops and activities for all ages and abilities. Queen Creek strives to provide opportunities for the community to stay active, connect with one another and enhance the quality of life.



DESTINATION MARKETING ORGANIZATIONS

Arizona Office of Tourism

ARIZONA
OFFICE OF TOURISM

Contact Info

 100 N. 7th Ave., Suite 400
Phoenix, AZ, 85007

 602-364-3723

 www.tourism.az.gov



“As the first state tourism office to earn IBCCES’ Certified Autism Center™, we’ve had an amazing opportunity to start incorporating these insights into our actions. That has included sharing our autism training with partners, incorporating access to resources in our Official State Travel Guide, and, of course, recertification for our entire team this year.”

- Debbie Johnson, Executive Director,
Arizona Office of Tourism



The Arizona Office of Tourism (AOT) is a state government executive agency dedicated to developing, implementing and maintaining research-based marketing programs that promote Arizona’s tourism assets to a global audience, all with the goal of expanding travel activity in the state and strengthening Arizona’s economy.

Go Lake Havasu



Contact Info

 422 English Village
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

 928.855.5655

 www.golakehasvasu.com



“Lake Havasu City is unique in that we have a beautiful serene lake but we also have sights and sounds like fireworks and hot rods that may provide sensory challenges for our friends and visitors with ASD. Our organization and our community feel the greater our understanding of these challenges, the greater support we can provide to our visitors with autism and their caregivers.”

- Terence Concannon, CEO of Go Lake Havasu



Lake Havasu City sits comfortably on the eastern shore of Lake Havasu along the Colorado River border of California and Arizona. As part of the northern and western limits of the Sonoran Desert, Lake Havasu City and the surrounding area feature outstanding biodiversity absolutely loaded with beautiful experiences.

The area attracts 835,000 visitors annually with its historic

London Bridge, pristine lake, friendly community, abundant sunshine and annual events, ideal weather and wide range of restaurants and lodging. More than 400 miles of stunning coastline offer exceptional watersports, including fishing, skiing, kayaking and house boating. Visitors can also explore the lake from the beautiful beaches, campsites and hiking trails.

Visit Great Palm Springs



Contact Info

70100 Highway 111
Rancho Mirage, Ca 92270

760-770-9000

visitgreaterpalmsprings.com



“We are pleased to be recognized as a Certified Autism Center, but it is just the first step. We are committed to working with our tourism and community partners to make our destination better prepared to serve autistic travelers.”

*- Scott White, president and CEO
of Visit Greater Palm Springs*



Visit Greater Palm Springs (Visit GPS) is the official destination marketing organization for the nine-city Southern California oasis of Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, Indio, and Coachella. Founded in 1989 with a mission to positively affect the destination's \$7.5 billion tourism economy and quality of life for its residents, Visit GPS provides sales, marketing and PR, and destination development activities to grow visitation from potential leisure travelers and event, meeting, and convention group markets.

110 autismtravel.com

Greater Palm Springs, which has been known as a Hollywood hot spot since the early 1920s, is an easy getaway from Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix and Las Vegas, as well as more than 500 connecting cities into Palm Springs International Airport. With mountains you can almost reach out and touch, natural hot mineral springs, lush palm groves, over 100 golf courses and more than 300 days of sunshine each year, the destination presents a unique combination of escape, adventure, recreation, and relaxation.

Visit High Point



Contact Info

📍 1634 North Main Street, Suite 102
High Point, NC 27262

📞 800.720.5255

🌐 visithighpoint.com/



“We are honored to be the first Destination Marketing Organization in the state to become a Certified Autism Center™. Our promise is to bring our hospitality partners alongside us as we make High Point the most inclusive and welcoming city in North Carolina, not only for visitors but for our residents with children living on the autism spectrum.”

- Melody Burnett, Visit High Point president



High Point, North Carolina, centrally located in the state, is nestled between Winston-Salem and Greensboro. Known as the “Home Furnishings Capital of the World!™” the city boasts more than 100 furniture stores and outlets in High Point and the surrounding region. While furniture is a major draw for out-of-town visitors it’s not the only game in town. High Point’s downtown is booming with restaurants, craft breweries, and Truist Point Stadium, home to

the High Point Rockers! Coming soon are Stock + Grain Assembly Food Hall and the Qubein Children’s Museum offering two levels of exhibits for all ages. Just a short distance from downtown is Q’s Corner, sensory Gym, offering a judgment free zone for children and parents of all ability levels. The Regional Visitors Center is a great starting point whether you’re in the planning stages or already in the area. Our welcoming staff is ready to make you feel at home.

Visit Mesa



“Visit Mesa is thrilled to be a national leader in the visitor industry and invest in training to better serve individuals with autism. As a parent of a child who was diagnosed on the spectrum, not only is this the right thing to do, it’s an effort we are very proud to ignite here in Mesa. We are already seeing the movement spread within our community since embarking on this campaign only a few months ago.”

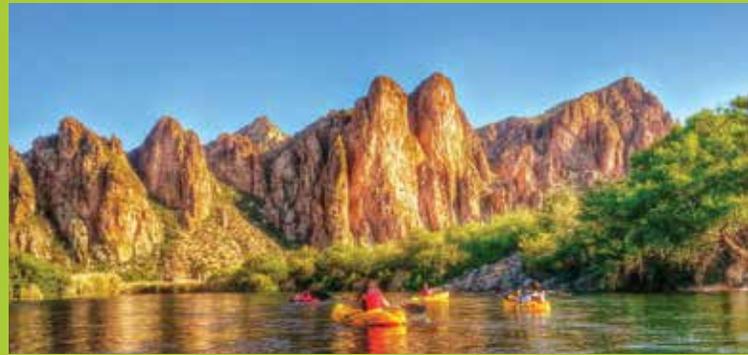
- Marc Garcia, President & CEO of Visit Mesa

Contact Info

 120 N. Center St.
Mesa, Arizona, US 85201

 80-827-4700

 www.visitmesa.com



Welcome to Mesa, Arizona. A gateway city to one of the most dynamic regions in the country. With countless places for new discoveries, competitive sports, wild west adventures and farm to table cuisine, Mesa AZ is a city that knows no bounds. From urban to rural, mountain peak to desert floor, arts and culture to wildlife and nightlife, each and every guest is given unparalleled access to one of the richest arrays of visitor offerings in the country. A geographic wonderland, Mesa is close to the Tonto National Forest and the iconic Superstition Mountains, but far enough to experience the wide-open and true Arizona vacation. From here, all things are possible, leaving you breathless and sure to show you why we are “City Limitless.”

Visit Visalia



“Visit Visalia is proud to provide memorable experiences to all families visiting Visalia and our adjacent Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. As a mother of an autistic child and a tourism and hospitality professional, I personally relate to the challenge’s families experience when traveling. This autism certification provides a deeper understanding and compassion - it is part of our mission to show families that Visalia is dedicated to serving the autism community.”

- Nellie Freeborn, Visit Visalia Executive Director

Contact Info

 112 E. Main Street
Visalia, CA 93291

 559-334-0141

 www.visitvisalia.com



Visalia is located in Central California, just within driving distance to Los Angeles and San Francisco. As the most robust city near Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Visalia has long been known as “the gateway” to these beautiful parks in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The legendary sequoias—including the world’s largest tree, The General Sherman—are a draw for adventure-seeking visitors from around the globe. The city is more than a basecamp for national park travelers.

With a vibrant downtown, unique foodie restaurants, craft breweries, farmers’ markets, boutique shopping and a thriving, eclectic art scene, Visalia is a destination all its own. It’s a hub for family travel, with expansive youth sports facilities and children’s venues and attractions. And, its walkable downtown and access to hotel rooms and meeting space make it a popular convention destination, as well. Visalia is an all-American city with historic charm and a modern draw.

TRAVEL AGENCY



“Traveling to a new city with a full itinerary is hard enough for any family planning their vacation to Disney World. It made sense for us to become a Certified Autism Center™ as some of our staff members have individuals in their families with autism. We knew we had to do something to better accommodate families who were uneasy with traveling to Orlando. Our personal experiences and Orlando Vacation travel expertise are able to help other families who never thought this once in a lifetime vacation would be possible.”

- Trey Duling, President of OrlandoVacation.com

Contact Info

 1515 Park Center Dr #2K
Orlando, Florida 32835

 800-641-4008

 www.orlandovacation.com



Affordable Travel of Orlando has been helping clients plan their Orlando vacation for over thirty (30) years. In fact, we have been specializing in Orlando and Walt Disney World vacation packages since 1991. We pride ourselves in having the best-trained sales staff in the industry, and we are eager to help you plan your next Orlando vacation. We offer great deals on Orlando hotels, vacation home rentals, and theme park tickets.

AUTISM CERTIFIED CITY



Mesa AZ

“With Visit Mesa leading the charge, Mesa, Ariz. is rolling out the welcome mat for individuals on the autism spectrum. We commend Marc Garcia and the staff at Visit Mesa for their vision.”

- Mayor John Giles of Mesa, AZ

Contact Info

 Mesa, Arizona

 800-283-6372

 AutismTravelAz.com



Mesa is the first-ever Autism Certified City in the world. The autism designation was launched by Visit Mesa, the leading regional destination marketing organization, to encourage businesses to participate in specialized autism training. From the planning stages of a vacation, to arrival in the destination and throughout the stay, these businesses are able to recognize Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and service the needs of ASD travelers.

In total, almost 60 businesses and organizations in Mesa and the surrounding area completed autism certification training and are now each deemed a Certified Autism Center™ by IBCCES, such as Delta Hotels Mesa, Oakland A's Hohokam Stadium, and Kind Hospitality restaurants like Panera Bread and Macayo's. See complete list here: AutismTravelAz.com.

RESTAURANTS



Kind Hospitality



“Becoming a Certified Autism Center™ is a certification that we are truly honored to participate in. Our teams will be able to better serve our autistic guests and their families through the training and education we will receive in this program. We will embrace the program at all levels, and we look forward to the knowledge that is to come.”

- Nava Singam, Kind Hospitality CEO

Contact Info

 Arizona

 (480) 696-3079

 kindhospitality.com/



Founded in 1996, Kind Hospitality provides exceptional service to travelers out of Phoenix Sky Harbor and Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airports. The company's well-known brands include Panera Bread, Macayo's Mexican Food, O.H.S.O. Brewery and Copper Plate, an American Grill. Kind's dedication to high performance standards, continued reliance on premium ingredients and close attention to the overall guest experience keeps guests returning time and again to each of the organization's exceptional restaurant outlets. Visit autismtravel.com to view the complete listing of all Kind Hospitality restaurants.

GOLF COURSE



Valley Oaks Golf Course

Valley Oaks
Golf Course

“As the first golf course in California to become a Certified Autism Center™, we are excited about the opportunity to share our passion for the great game of golf with others previously unrepresented within our community. We know that in addition to being a great sport, there are several other benefits the game of golf can provide to autistic children. Not only is there a natural outdoor health and wellness component inherent in the game itself, but golf can also help build self-esteem and confidence in autistic children in a welcoming and supportive environment.”

- Aaron Hensley, general manager of Oak Valley Golf Course

Contact Info

 120 S Church St
Visalia CA 93291

 559.732.7737

 <http://downtownvisalia.com/>



Valley Oaks Golf Course, a CourseCo Inc. managed facility, is conveniently located in the City of Visalia's Plaza Park. Originally an 18-hole course, the Lakes nine was added in 1996 to complete the now 27 holes of great golf. With three classic 9-hole layouts that can be played in different 18-hole rotations, Valley Oaks Golf Course provides great golf at a great value. Set amongst age-old native oak, eucalyptus, and tall pine trees, the three nines meander

through a gorgeous setting and provide a great test of golf for players of all abilities. The two original nines, the Valley and Oaks, are traditional in their design, while the newest nine, the Lakes, is a more modern links style layout.

In addition to great golf, Valley Oaks Golf Course also has a golf shop stocked with the latest equipment and apparel, a full-service clubhouse with indoor/outdoor seating, and a practice facility complete with a grass tee driving range, autismtravel.com

MERCHANT ASSOCIATION



Downtown Visalians



“Because of who we represent as the caretakers for Downtown Visalia, it’s imperative to who we are to ensure everyone coming into our area feels welcome. Becoming a CAC is an honor for us and a great opportunity to continue our part in making that happen. Continuing to learn and grow is at the core of our organization, and this is a great step for us to take in our journey in inclusivity.”

- Steve Nelsen, Executive Director/CEO of Downtown Visalia

Contact Info

 120 S Church St
Visalia CA 93291

 559.732.7737

 <http://downtownvisalia.com/>



Visalia is in Central California and has long been known as the “Gateway to the Sequoias” as it is near the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, namely Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Downtown is the heart of the city, with its rich history and longstanding traditions. Downtown Visalians is an organization formed in 1963 by a dedicated group of merchants who sought to keep Downtown Visalia healthy and vibrant. They threw themselves

into promoting business within 72 square blocks of downtown. Because of these merchants’ early and steadfast commitment, Visalia remains one of the most successful downtowns of its size in California. Our organization’s biggest strength is in serving as a unifying voice for downtown. Empowering property and business owners through our coordinated programs helps promote a stronger identity and greater competitiveness for the business district.

TRAVEL TIPS





Air travel can be exciting and fun yet may come with some challenges for families and autistic children because of routine changes, navigation of unfamiliar environments, and sensory stimulation.

This article provides families tips and recommendations to better prepare for air travel. It is essential to remember that ASD is a spectrum, and each autistic child's abilities and preferences vary. There is no one size fits all solution. Hence, not every recommendation may suit them.

Preparation Before The Air Travel

Book a trip with a CATP. Travel advisors and agents who have undergone the [Certified Autism Travel Professional \(CATP\)](#) training through IBCCES could help families have a smoother journey to destinations as they are well-versed in travel options, ideas for autistic individuals, and recommend autism-certified travel options that can be fun for the whole family.

Build a story. Weeks before your trip, build a picture for your child that summarizes the whole air-travel process. You can include images, videos, simulations, and descriptions of the process. You may also include sensory experiences that your child may encounter, such as “ear-popping” at takeoff and landing. This might help increase predictability and familiarity for your child in an unfamiliar process.

Mark it on your calendar. A few weeks before your flight, hang a calendar with the departure dates marked, and you can have your child check it off each day until your flight. By doing this, you’ll develop a concept of time solidly and may visually help your child prepare for changes in their routine.

Avoid washing any comfort toys or items before travel. Air travel can bring on sensory overload to any traveler, especially autistic children. Carrying their favorite toy or object that smells like your home can be soothing and curve sensory overload.

Prepare Meals and Travel Bags. Limited food choices are offered on airport terminals or airplanes, and this can be cumbersome if your child has dietary restrictions or is a picky eater. Therefore, pre-packed food items are essential to have a variety of snacks and mini-meals that your child can have. Keep in mind to pack chewy foods, like fruit gummies or a bagel, for children who can soothe thru oral sensory stimulation.

Travel bags also come in handy as they may contain digital devices, headphones, and tactile items that can soothe sensory overload.

Do some exercise before your flight. Air travel includes extended periods of sitting quietly. Before leaving for the flight, exercising will help your child relieve any bottled-up energy before getting to the airport. Ideal activities, such as running or trampoline jumping, for approximately 20 minutes would help release bottled-up energy. You can always improvise and walk the terminal as a way to exercise before your flight as well.



Flight Security Preparation

TSA Accommodations. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has established a protocol that allows for special accommodations for travelers with disability. To learn more about the options available, visit their [website](#) and watch the TSA Cares [video](#) for more information.

Do a trial flight run. You may contact your local airport to see if the TSA will let you and your child run through the airport security process. This may help your child familiarize the security process before your travel date.

If a trial run is not possible, role-play the process. Like building a story, if your local airport does not permit an actual practice run in the airport facility or take photos or video footage, you can try an alternative, role-playing at home. This step will also help your child familiarize themselves with the airport security process, try to be as detailed as possible.



On The Airplane

During Flight Boarding. Immediately notify gate attendants that you are flying with an autistic child, and ask if you are permitted to board early or last. It may depend on your preference. Boarding early and late could have the advantage of not waiting in line at the gate or on the airplane while other passengers take their seats. It may depend on your preference.

The discomfort of Ear-popping. Ear-popping can trigger during flight takeoff and landing. You may motivate your child to suck on a piece of candy or chew a piece of gum. However, if your child cannot safely do so, a chew toy can also be an effective alternative to reduce the discomfort of ear-popping.

Watching time is essential. A count-down timer can be vital so that your child would know how much longer they can expect in-flight.

Entertainment during flight. Travel bags are crucial as they contain your child's digital or tactile items such as tablets, play doughs, toys, books, coloring materials, etc., that may help them self-soothe while on the airplane (See Prepare Meals and Travel Bags).

Remember, there is no one size fits all approach. You may try different techniques for your child and see what method best suits their needs.

Keeping Your Child Safe: Safety Strategies for Kids During Travel

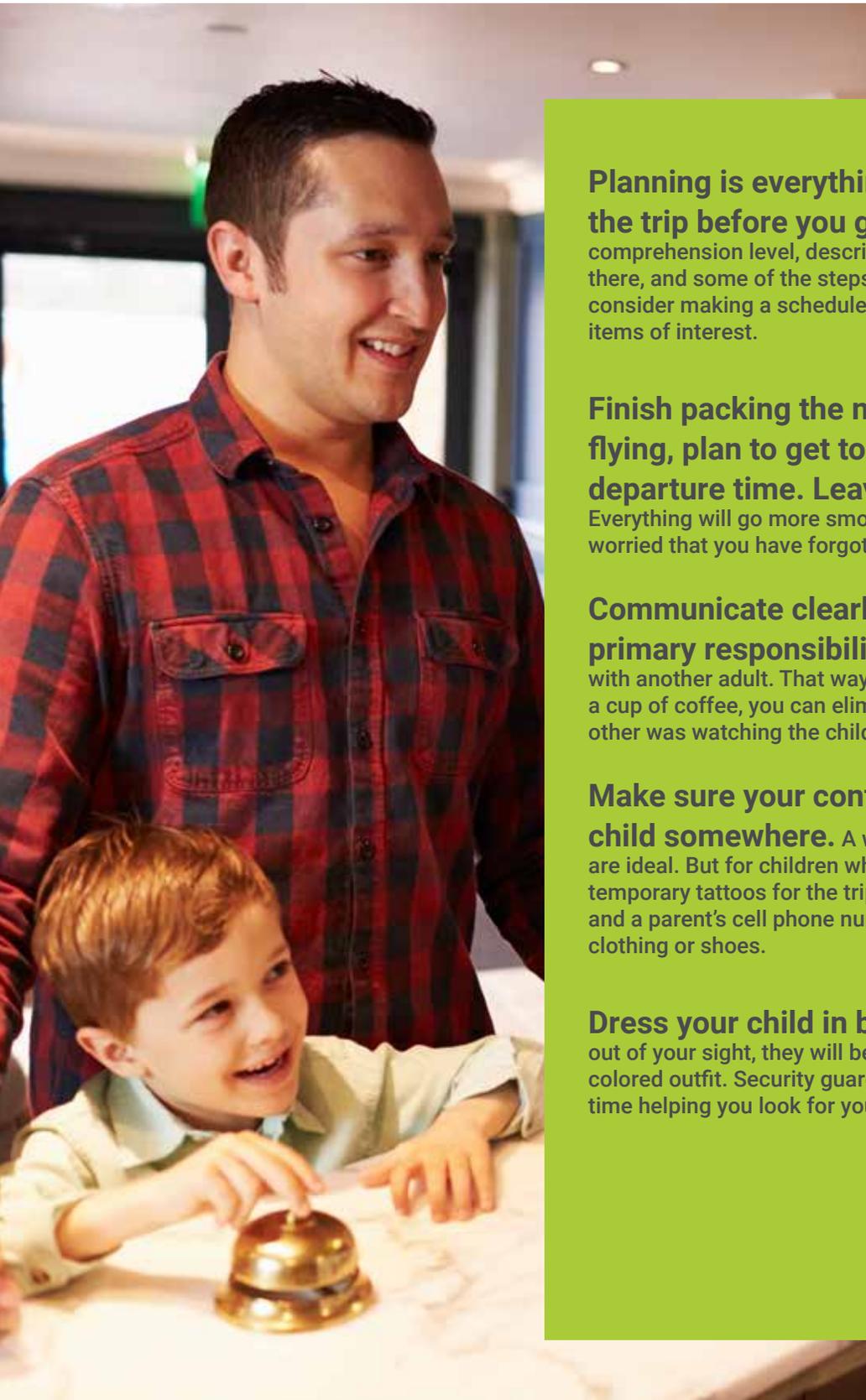
Child safety is one of the top priorities of a parent, and as the children grow, parents invest significant effort into childproofing their homes. They keenly watch their kids from time to time, especially during toddler years. Many parents can breathe a little bit easier by kindergarten and know that their kids are less apt to fall into physical danger through exploration.

Parents of kids who wander and don't understand danger often have to remain hyper-vigilant forever and use several approaches to keep their kids safe. That isn't the case for many parents of autistic children and other special needs (ADHD, Down Syndrome, and much more). But how do parents protect a child who wanders off, runs across the street without looking, shares personal details with strangers, or puts themselves at risk of injury? Here are some tips parents can do to keep their kids safe.



SAFETY TIPS WHILE TRAVELING

Traveling with an autistic child or who has another disability is prone to wandering can be a stressful proposition. New places and routines are upsetting to some kids. Others are stimulated by new sights and sounds and feel drawn to explore. For the best experience, take some extra precautions.



Planning is everything. Talk to your child about the trip before you go. Depending on your child's age and comprehension level, describe where you're going, how you will get there, and some of the steps along the way. Look at pictures and consider making a schedule. During your travels, you can point out items of interest.

Finish packing the night before and if you're flying, plan to get to the airport well before your departure time. Leave yourself plenty of time. Everything will go more smoothly if you're not rushing to the gate or worried that you have forgotten things.

Communicate clearly and take turns having primary responsibility. If possible, share supervision duties with another adult. That way, if you need to go to the restroom or buy a cup of coffee, you can eliminate the risk of each person thinking the other was watching the child.

Make sure your contact information is on your child somewhere. A wearable GPS device and an ID bracelet are ideal. But for children who won't tolerate those, consider getting temporary tattoos for the trip. You should also make sure their name and a parent's cell phone number are written somewhere on their clothing or shoes.

Dress your child in bright colors. If your child does get out of your sight, they will be easier to spot in a colorful, distinctively colored outfit. Security guards and others will also have an easier time helping you look for your child.



TEACHING GOES A LONG WAY

Since autistic children and those with special needs may have an undeveloped sense of danger, parents have to find creative ways to teach their kids in ways they understand. Due to this, they were communicating differently or finding a method that enables other people to help them if they run into trouble.

Use visual aids to teach safety. If your child has trouble communicating or listening, visual aids might be more effective. Get crafty and make signs and labels with your child. These can serve as reminders of safety concerns or reinforce safety rules they might forget.

Teach your child your address and phone number. If they can't remember these, write this information in a backpack, on clothing, or even in shoes so other people can help them if they get lost.

Talk to your child about strangers. Teach your child how to respond if approached by a stranger and not offer information or let people into your home. If necessary, place an age-appropriate infographic or photo on the back of your front door to be a reminder.

Use storybooks and pictures. Stories are a great way to illustrate safety points that your child may have difficulty understanding.

Role-play different situations. You can make a game out of learning safety by role-playing with your child—model what to do in different situations.

Sign up for water safety classes. Teaching your child to swim is the single best thing you can do to keep them safe. Drowning is one of the biggest threats for autistic people.

Statistics suggest about [50 percent of autistic kids](#) are prone to wandering off. There are also other conditions, including Down Syndrome and ADHD, where elopement can be a concern. The more protective mechanisms you can put into place early on, the safer your child will be.

How Can A Certified Autism Travel Professional Help You?

Traveling is fun, and it can benefit the entire family. It's one way to create long-lasting memories and experiences, but it can be pretty complicated and present some challenges to families and autistic children.

According to the CDC, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis rate has risen to [one in every 44 children](#). Families with autistic children often encounter unique challenges when planning a vacation because of routine changes and other factors. Moreover, this doesn't mean



families with autistic members can't travel or have a break. With a bit of planning and a set of strategies, families can have seamless traveling and vacation.

Families can also seek help from a travel professional with CATP credentials, especially to families with autistic children and other sensory disorders. Now, what is a CATP?

The [Certified Autism Travel Professional™ \(CATP\)](#) is a credential for travel professionals to ensure they can better assist and guide clients, especially families with autistic members. Travel agents, professionals, or advisors complete IBCCES' certification program to specialize in autism-related needs and accommodations specifically related to travel. They have demonstrated that they

are both knowledgeable and capable of providing support and travel-related services to individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.

Benefits of Seeking Travel Assistance from a CATP

Seamless Travel Planning. Let's face it, travel planning is stressful, especially when parents are busy juggling between work and managing their families. Seeking assistance from a travel advisor or agent with CATP credentials can make travel planning easy since they can assist and strategize trips with autistic children.

Autism-Certified Travel Locations.

CATP's are well-versed in travel locations or destinations that are autism-certified. These locations may offer sensory



guides, accessibility tools, and unique accommodations for autistic guests and those with sensory disorders. Some theme parks and attractions also utilize the IBCCES Accessibility Card to help expedite the process of requesting accommodations. Visit accessibilitycard.org to learn more.

Knowledgeable On Travel Strategies. CATP's know what to do before, during, and after vacation. They provide beneficial assistance in planning and implementing those plans. They can advise what to do before and during your travel to avoid sensory overload and other travel tips or solutions. It is vital to layout every detail to your CATP, so they know what to do and the tools and strategies you'll need.

Hiring CATP's ensures that families can have a great vacation experience.

[AutismTravel.com](https://autismtravel.com) also offers families travel resources such as blogs, the Certified Autism Travel Professional directory, and autism-certified travel destinations for ease in travel planning.

A close-up photograph of a woman and a young girl laughing joyfully. The woman, on the left, has her mouth wide open in a hearty laugh and is wearing a dark blue top with a white collar. Her hair is pulled back, and red sunglasses are perched on her head. The young girl, on the right, is also laughing with her mouth open, showing her teeth. She has blonde hair and is wearing a blue top with white polka dots and a green strap. The background is bright and out of focus, suggesting an outdoor setting like a festival or fair.

CERTIFIED RESOURCES

CERTIFIED AUTISM RESOURCE

IBCCES has reviewed the following resources and has found that they meet one or more of the following [Areas of Autism Competency](#). Each autism resource below is linked to a company page where you can find additional information.



TWIDDLE

Twiddles® are cozy, therapeutic aids that help those with autism to calm, engage and self-regulate. Providing comfort or activity as needed, Twiddles assist in organizing tactile, visual and auditory input, and are a safe and effective sensory resource at home, in therapy clinics, and in “safe spaces” at schools and other group settings. [Visit Online](#)



FROGGLEZ GOGGLES

Frogglez Goggles were invented by Christian Hahn after watching his daughter struggle with leaking swim goggles that pulled her hair. She wasn't alone, all of the kids in her swim lesson lacked the motor skills to get their goggles to fit. Frogglez have a patented goggle strap that is easy for kids to manage independently. Our innovative swimming goggle design is used in adaptive swim programs around the world. [Visit Online](#)



BEARABY

A Bearaby blanket can help children and adults with autism cope with sensory overload and hyperactivity. The act of applying weight evenly all over the body has been proven to stimulate the production of serotonin (the happy hormone), reduce cortisol (the stress hormone), and increase melatonin, which helps you to fall and stay asleep. Our blankets are widely used and recommended by both parents and therapists, as a natural option for relaxation and rest. [Visit Online](#)



VANS

Since 1966, Vans has stood as a champion of individuality and self-expression. The brand's commitment continues with the release of sensory inclusive footwear designs as part of the Autism Awareness Collection. With this project, Vans celebrates the unique aspects of all people. Designed specifically with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in mind, the ultra-comfortable footwear collection is offered with sensory-inclusive elements including a calming color palette and design features that focus on the senses of touch, sight and sound. [Visit Online](#)



ABLE EYES

Able Eyes provides and hosts 360 virtual tours of public spaces for the purpose of accessibility. Individuals with physical and invisible disabilities can use the website to view and explore public spaces from the comfort of his/her home before physically visiting for the purpose of assessing accessibility and/or decreasing anxiety. The tours are then also provided to the businesses for marketing and social media to use for all customers of all abilities. [Visit Online](#)



INNERVOICE

The InnerVoice App provides a voice for individuals who have autism or expressive communication challenges, and teaches them how to speak for themselves. Designed by SLP's, the app harnesses the powerful therapeutic value of video self-modeling. [Visit Online](#)



OPTI-COOL HEADGEAR

Opti-Cool Headgear soft protective helmets are molded out of the finest EVA grade 'A' rubber foam available. Made from over a 1/2" thick ultra lightweight waterproof foam, protection is our number one priority. Each helmet has a ventilated protective core that is covered in Lycra for extra comfort and durability. Opti-Cool Headgear is used for injury prevention, special needs such as Autism, Epilepsy, and sensory and balance disorders. Other uses include water sports, sports, headaches/migraines, which makes for the most versatile helmets available today. [Visit Online](#)



NOOK

Nook is a compact, self-contained plug and play sensory pod supporting people with Autism in challenging everyday public environments such as schools, leisure and retail parks and the workplace. It provides an escape or refuge that reduces sensory overload providing positive sensory distraction and safe space to self-regulate and avoid crisis events.

There are a range of different sensory configurations, all based around adding standardized modular units that can easily be interchanged and tailored to meet very specific personal needs. Integrated sensory equipment provides a strong calming effect. [Visit Online](#)

To see full list of Certified Autism Resources visit ibcces.org/resources/



Therapy while you sleep



Therapeutic Frequencies Embedded Into Familiar Songs.

Delivered Through Bone Conduction Technology
In Gentle, Relaxing Vibration While You Rest

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DECREASED
ANXIETY



INCREASED
ATTENTION



REDUCED
HYPERSENSITIVIT

For more information go to ibcces.org/dreampad



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