



## Fantastic Father's Day gifts in the Caribbean

by Melanie Reffes, Special for USA TODAY | Published on June 11, 2015



Wearing a motorcycle-style nozzle and safety harness, thrill-and-chill seekers climb up, dive down and hover over the waves at Jet Riders in St. Thomas in the USVI, the island's first water-propelled jetpack attraction. St Thomas Jet Riders

Wrapping up a fancy tie or a spiffy pair of new socks might be the classic choices for Father's Day but it's the clever ideas that will warm the hearts of dads everywhere. Whether your special guy likes swimming with the sharks, puffing on a premium stogie or soaring above the waves, our suggestions for Father's Day gifts are worth a million bucks.

### US Virgin Islands



The jetpack's 200-horsepower marine engine pumps water up a 33-foot-long hose at 1,000-gallons-per-minute. (Photo: St Thomas Jet Riders)

Wearing a motorcycle-style nozzle and safety harness, thrill-and-chill seekers climb up, dive down and hover over the waves at [Jet Riders](#) in St. Thomas, the island's first water-propelled jetpack ride. Although once an adrenaline-rush just for the rich and famous, strapping on a jetpack with its 200-horsepower marine engine that pumps water up a 33-foot-long hose at 1,000 gallons-per-minute is now a must-do for dads with chutzpah. Flight instructors teach the basics from takeoff to landing and within 15 minutes daring dads are up, up and away, impressing onlookers with their figure-eight turns and hands-free flying.

### Antigua



A six-and-a-half hour commitment, the tour starts with a sail around the craggy coastline in a 45-foot-long racing boat. Then comes a high speed run through the islands of the North Sound and a swim with the southern rays at Stingray City Marine Park. (Photo: Island Routes)

A towel, pair of sneakers, bug spray and a whole lot of stamina is all it takes to join the '[Xtreme Circumnavigation](#)' tour. The high-octane adventure is a six-and-a-half hour commitment that kicks off with a sail around the craggy coastline in a 45-foot racing boat, followed by a speedy run through the islands of the North Sound and a swim with the southern rays at Stingray City Marine Park. After lunch at Green Island and a sail around Nelson's Dockyard, manly men go down under to snorkel at the Pillars of Hercules among the awe-inspiring volcanic boulders, followed by a refreshing dip in the warm waves at Rendezvous Bay.

## Nassau



For power puffers, up the ante with a Cigar & Rum Tasting that pairs premium stogies with sips of Mount Gay and Bacardi. (Photo: Graycliff Cigar Company)

The perfect experience for dads who like to light up is a day at the [Graycliff Cigar Company](#). Here, master rollers teach visitors how to sort, clean and roll cigars during an interactive class. For power puffers, up the ante with a Cigar & Rum Tasting that pairs premium stogies with sips of the local Watlings Rum. If you're in the mood to splurge, treat dad to the three-night cigar-themed package at the historically elegant Graycliff Hotel including add-ons like a welcome bottle of rum and a hand-rolled Graycliff Cigar each evening.

## Montego Bay



Nimble-fingered masseuses work their magic in the 'Gentlemen's Treat Massage,' using deep tissue techniques to improve circulation and relieve muscular tension. (Photo: Round Hill)

Relaxing rubdowns are not just for moms these days. With a medley of massages just for the guys, a day in the Spa at [Round Hill](#) is all about relaxing firsts for men only. In an elegant 18th century plantation house on ten acres of beachfront lawn, dad will glow after an 'Urban Deep Cleanse Facial' that rids skin of any traces of city life. Other manly grooming options include 'Gentlemen's Treat' where nimble-fingered masseuses work their magic to improve circulation and relieve muscular tension. For dads with tender tootsies after a long day on the golf course, the aptly named 'Feet Therapy' is a gentle soak in a warm paraffin bath followed by a minty-infused gel massage with a hint of lemon. If dad gets the munchies, a 'Smoothie Shot' whipped with wheatgrass can be found at the Juice Bar or for a light bite, the Spa Butler will deliver a chilled bowl of gazpacho.



## St. Maarten



KidsWorld features pedal go-karts, climbing labyrinths, funny mirrors, trampolines a horse carousel and a mini-racetrack for dads with toddlers. (Photo: TripAdvisor)

Big on the wow factor, [Kidsworld](#) in Cole Bay is the island's largest indoor and outdoor playground with pedal go-karts, climbing labyrinths, funny mirrors, horse carousel, trampolines and a mini-racetrack for dads with toddlers in tow. Close to the airport in Philipsburg, the mega-fun palace is also popular for the homemade pizza in the Hakuna Matata restaurant ( our suggestion for pizza-philes: 'Finding Nemo' layered with tuna and cheddar is the hands-down pie-pleaser).

## St. Kitts



Manicured on more than 100 acres, the 18-hole championship green was redesigned in 2008 by famed Canadian architect Thomas McBroom and plays 6,900 yards from the back tees with water in play on ten holes. (Photo: St. Kitts Tourism Authority)

Less than a mile north of the [St. Kitts Marriott](#), par-71 Royal St. Kitts Golf Club is the only course in the Caribbean with holes facing both the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea. Featuring more than 100 perfectly-groomed acres, the 18-hole championship green is also the only course on the island and was redesigned a few years ago by Canadian golf guru Thomas McBroom. Big pluses include water in play on 10 holes, free golf for kids, lunch at the Clubhouse Grille that overlooks the 18th green and for dads who like to tweet while they putt, the hashtag 'hole-in-one' says it all.

## St. Lucia



The ultimate treat for dads who like their transportation on two wheels, [Bike St. Lucia Tours](#) on the Anse Mamin Plantation in the Anse Chastanet Resort take riders along eight miles of trails. (Photo: Anse Chastanet)

The ultimate treat for dads who their transportation fast and self-powered, [Bike St. Lucia Tours](#) in the Anse Mamin Plantation on the [Anse Chastanet Resort](#) guides cyclists along eight miles of trails designed for both rookies and the more experienced. Cyclists practice pedalling techniques while navigating jungle hills, negotiating gullies and cruising past centuries-old ruins. A training area is available for newbies or those looking for a quick refresher course. A few spots on the daily tours are reserved for dads not staying at the resort.

## Freeport



To get to Deep Water Cay, take a flight to Grand Bahama International Airport in Freeport and then a quick water taxi ride. (Photo: Deep Water Cay) [Deep Water Cay](#) was first opened in 1958 by renowned Palm Beach fishing guide Gil Drake Sr. and Field & Stream magazine editor A.J. McClanem, so a day here is a no-brainer for fish-happy fathers. The A-list choice for angling aficionados who dream of catching the elusive bonefish, Freeport is a quick hop from the US via a flight to Grand Bahama International Airport and then a water taxi to the resort. Unpretentious on a private cay, the hotel is the 'reel deal' for deep-sea fishing at depths of 750 feet, flats fishing in the creeks and hooking snapper and barracuda in the reefs just a mile offshore.

## St. Thomas



Adjacent to Coki Beach on the northeast shore, Shark Shallows Pool is home to juvenile lemon, nurse, blacktip and reef sharks who circle among the rocks without cages or barriers. (Photo: stthomastours.net)

For dads who have swimming with the sharks on their bucket list, an afternoon at 'Shark Encounter' at [Coral World Ocean Park](#) is one spine-tingling pulse-pounding adventure. Adjacent to Coki Beach on the northeast shore, Shark Shallows Pool is home to juvenile nurse, blacktip and reef sharks who circle among the rocks without cages or barriers. Remind dad to bring his underwater camera to snap frame-worthy shark photos.

## Dominican Republic



Just 20 minutes from the Puerto Plata International Airport, Cabarete is a small beach town revered for most fantastic kitesurfing conditions in the world. (Photo: Ian Cumming, DR Ministry of Tourism)

Securing your feet to a sliver of wood as a small parachute propels over the waves below might not be every dad's idea of a good time but for those who collect bragging rights, kitesurfing is a big ticket. Twenty minutes from the Puerto Plata International Airport, tell dad to go fly a kite in Cabarete, a charming beach town revered for the most fantastic kitesurfing conditions in the world. Home to the [Professional Kite Riders Association](#), Cabarete Bay is wide and choppy with wild waves while Playa Encuentro is the local beach popular in the afternoon when the wind picks up.

<http://experience.usatoday.com/caribbean/story/best-of-caribbean/2015/06/11/fantastic-fathers-day-gifts-caribbean/9774675/>