



HE DOESN'T NEED ANOTHER TIE

A FEW EXCURSIONS—NEAR AND FAR—THAT **DADS AND KIDS CAN ENJOY TOGETHER**

Be the Ball

Unlike baseball or basketball, golf is not a sport that gets picked up on the playground or in PE class. Dad may have always had a desire to learn, but without a private club membership and an expensive set of clubs, it can feel like a challenge to get started.

➤ CLOSE TO HOME

A little-known secret is that anyone can book a private golf lesson at any club in town, yes, even the really, really fancy ones. The pros interviewed for this article repeated “We don’t advertise this” so frequently, that it felt important to put that in print. Keep the secret, okay?

- Sneakers are fine, no need for golf shoes.
- Be mindful of the dress code; it’s always on the website. From an anonymous pro: “Never, ever wear cargo shorts, and just because Tiger Woods wears collarless shirts doesn’t mean you can.”

- Expect to pay \$150 to \$200 per hour depending on the pro.

What to Know

- Call the pro shop and ask to book a lesson.
- Clubs provide the clubs.

- To find a list of pros, visit pga.com and click on “find an instructor” or visit the club online.

CONTRIBUTED

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➤ GET-OUT-OF-TOWN OPTION

The Ranch at Laguna Beach is an ideal golf getaway for dads and kids. The course itself is only nine holes. And with the motto “You don’t need to be good, you just need to have fun,” the intimidation factor is zero.

What to Know

The resort sits in a canyon just across the highway from the Pacific Ocean in Laguna Beach.

The dress code is relaxed (not cutoffs-relaxed, but denim is ok).

You can book Dad a private or group lesson.

Rent everything on-site including rolling golf bags or golf carts.

A Links Master roams the course offering a combination of golf advice, sunscreen and snacks.

All the guest rooms are spacious and have views and outdoor patios. For something extra special, book the two-bedroom treehouse.

Rates start at \$340 for a Creekside Studio Suite (bed and sleeper sofa); tee times are \$40 per person; rental clubs are \$45; and a push cart is \$7.

theranchlb.com



Fish Tales

It seems as though all sappy stories about fishing with Dad are written by men. Don’t count out the girls on this gift; we not only love to fish, we’re often better than the men.

➤ CLOSE TO HOME

I discovered the perfect fishing charter at the Sportsman’s Den in Cos Cob. My boys tried, but failed, to outfish me.

What to Know

- There are huge bass right in our watery backyard.
- Captain Billy Ingraham remarks that many people don’t realize how good the fishing is so close to home.
- The Den provides everything you need from tackle, bait and license, to fishing instruction and fish cleaning.

- It’s striped bass season and you are allowed to keep one per day.
- Bottom fish like porgies and fluke are easy to catch and tasty to eat, no limit on the number.
- Bring your own snacks and drinks.
- There is a bathroom on board the boat.
- Expect to pay \$550 for a four-hour charter that can accommodate up to six people. Gift certificates are available.

sportsmansdenct.com
or call 203-869-3234
and ask for Billy

➤ GET-OUT-OF-TOWN OPTION

We found the perfect lodge for the beginner or expert fisherman.

Three Rivers Ranch in Idaho was the first Orvis-endorsed fly-fishing lodge and can take you fishing in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. Stay in a cozy cabin on-property or book a tent at the glamping site on the South Fork River.

What to Know

The lodge is in Warm Falls, Idaho; fly into Idaho Falls or Jackson Hole airports.

You can fish from a boat, the bank or even wade into the river depending on how adventurous Dad is.

No experience is necessary (one-on-one casting lessons are available the day you arrive).

You can fish inside Yellowstone Park on the Cascade Corner (a beautiful and remote area of the park).

It’s all catch and release, but staff will make sure you and Dad get your Instagram photo.

The fourth-generation family lodge has a 90 percent guest-return rate and it books out pretty far in advance.

Expect to pay about \$7,300 for a two-person fishing package that includes four nights and three days of fishing, all gear and all meals.

Glamping can be added on or booked separately. For lodge guests it’s an extra \$300 per night, per person. As a stand-alone booking, it’s \$2,300 for two days of fishing and one night of glamping for two people.

Important to note there is a full bar at the fire pit.
threeriversranch.com



Days of Thunder

Indulge Dad's need for speed on a race-car track. Mario Andretti once said, "With tennis, you can go pick up a racket, take a lesson and understand how much talent and skill it takes to be as good as the top pros. Same with golf: pick up a club. But not many can go out and get in a race car and experience a drive at over 200 miles an hour." Until now, that is. Here are our recommendations for living out your Ricky Bobby fantasies, because remember "If you're not first, you're last."

CLOSE TO HOME

The closest raceways to Greenwich are Lime Rock Park and the Monticello Motor Club. They are almost equal driving distance, about one hour and forty-five minutes away. It seems everyone's heard of the Skip Barber Racing School at Lime Rock, but far fewer have heard of the Monticello Motor Club. The MMC is a country club, but for car enthusiasts. Nonmembers can get racing with the club's Taste of the Track program. And, surprisingly, kids as young as thirteen can drive.

What to Know

- There are three choices for what to drive—your own car, a BMW 240i or a high-

performance BMW. The price increases accordingly.

- Kids six and older can race on the karting track and receive private instruction.

- The track allows kids under sixteen to drive race cars; their driving skills and eligibility to take to the track are evaluated on a case by case basis.

- The day starts at 8:30 a.m. with chalk talk (a quick informational session on racing and safety pointers), and then you and Dad will drive race cars, dine with club members and try out karting. If you're feeling adventurous, take one of the club's high performance off-road vehicles for a rough and tumble drive in the Catskills on the club's 300-acre off-road course.

- You'll receive one-on-one private coaching for the entire day.

- The day ends at 4 p.m. and guests are welcome to tour the 13,000-square-foot auto museum.

- If you don't want to drive home, stay at the newly opened Kartrite Resort & Waterpark just around the corner.

- Expect to pay \$1,700 to bring your own car onto the track, \$1,995 for the 240i and \$2,995 for the high-performance cars.

- A non-driving guest is an extra \$150 and a guest who races in the kart is an extra \$300.

monticellomotorclub.com



GET-OUT-OF-TOWN OPTION

Take Dad to Vegas or L.A. and spend a day at Exotics Racing. It boasts the world's largest fleet of supercars available to the public. You'll have your choice of Lamborghini, Ferrari, Porsche models and more. They even have the Aston Martin Vantage FT and DB11. For the race car fanatic, time behind the wheel of an EXR LVO2 race car is sold in thirty-minute increments. How many laps you complete is entirely up to you and your need for speed, starting price, \$990.

The Vegas location is just fifteen minutes from the strip, and the L.A. track is forty-five minutes from downtown.

What to Know

- You can choose to drive one car or book a multicar package.

- The track uses the same TecPro™ safety barriers that are found in professional racing at the highest level, including Formula One.

- Drivers experience top speeds of over 110 mph on the main straight. Yes, an instructor is with you.

- There are also ride-along options: Guests can ride in any supercar with a professional driver or pack a family of three into a Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat for what is billed as a "tire-smoking, sideways-drifting, thrill ride."

- Drivers must be eighteen and have a valid driver's license.

- Kids as young as eleven can enjoy the Dodge Hellcat drifting ride-along with a pro who can reach speeds of over 200 mph.

- Expect to pay \$295 for five laps to \$2,600 for fifty laps in ten different supercars. exoticsracing.com