

TRAVEL WITH FAMILIES

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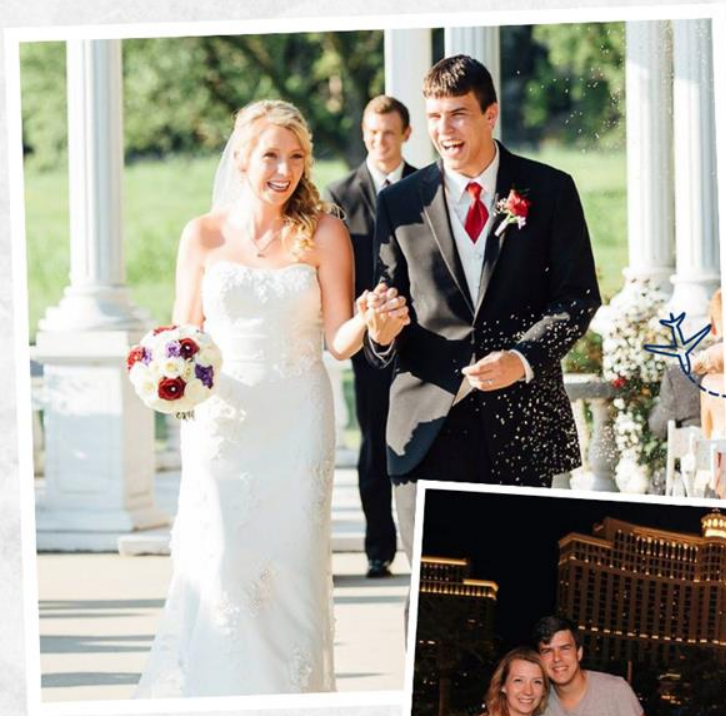


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ABOUT US

- Together for 16 years
- Kansas City natives
- Moved right after college
- Alex traveled first to maximize income and then Keaton followed
- First baby was born in 2019, then our second in 2021.



BEFORE KIDS



First Assignment



Tulum



TravCon 2019

2019 OUR LIVES CHANGED



WE THOUGHT "LET'S SETTLE DOWN"

...famous last words.

- Both of us took office jobs
- Jade was signed up for full time day care
- We even bought a house!

And then baby number two came along.





TWO UNDER TWO

- Double the daycare cost meant there was very little reason for Alex to work
- Relied **HEAVILY** on coordinating family to make childcare work
- We rapidly used up the "benefits" of being at perm jobs due to childcare issues or sickness



TRAVEL TRIAL



- Alex took an assignment 3.5 hours from home
 - Cecelia was 8 months old, Jade was just over 2 years old.
- Made huge financial gains
- Keaton got confident being the stay at home parent
- We got confident we could make it work on the road

So we quit our jobs and left!





FIRST ASSIGNMENT

Richmond, VA

Alex rotated shifts
Keaton stayed home
Our house was tiny


We LOVED all of the time together, but knew we needed to rethink our approach and set some boundaries for contracts.





SO WE DID THE THING



- 
- 2016 Bullet Premier 31BHPR
 - Bunkhouse with a kids' room and master
 - Lightweight and affordable
 - Did some painting and minor renovations to make it work for our family





SINCE THEN...



Omaha, NE



**Alex worked
Keaton at home**

Albuquerque



**Alex worked
Keaton at home**

Newport, OR



**Keaton worked
Alex at home**

Base rules: Day shift only, no overtime, 4x10s if Keaton worked





- Libraries
- Gyms with Childcare
- Sports and Dance
 - The Little Gym
- Local Facebook Mom Groups

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- Prioritized visits home
 - Made special events feel special
 - Encouraged family to visit
 - Facetime

STAYING SOCIAL



THE HARD PARTS

- Juggling the needs of both parents without any true breaks
- Kids asking for family
- Family commenting on how they grew up so much
- Limited options for "dates" or time together

THINGS THAT HELP

- Gyms with childcare
- Asking for help when you're home
- Realizing it's okay to offer things like a movie night if you need a break
- COMMUNICATION





WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

22 National Parks. 34 States. A year of time
Keaton would have never gotten at home.
Strength as a family unit.





WAYS YOU CAN TRAVEL



Semi Local Travel

Kids and/or spouse stay at tax home and the contract worker stays within a small radius

- Often easier if you can block schedule
- Kids can still attend school or daycare and activities
- May be easier to maintain two incomes
- Solo parenting at home may increase stress
- Lots of driving for contract worker

Parent at "Home"

Family travels with contract worker and one parent stays at home-- wherever that is!

- It is comforting to all be together
- Partners can better support each other
- Lots of time to explore and experience the area on time off
- May be isolating for stay at home parent
- More difficult to do activities or school on the road

Both Work Contracts

Parents work opposite shifts or coordinate schedules to accommodate childcare needs.

- Double travel income can be hugely profitable
- Both parents can feel fulfilled in career
- Harder to get time off together each week
- One parent may have to sacrifice significant sleep (usually the night shift worker).
- May limit locations

Alternate Contracts

Two healthcare workers take turns working travel contracts while the other is the primary caregiver.

- Opens up a wider range of locations and pay packages.
- Can help offset seasonal shifts if in different specialties.
- Time off belongs completely to family
- One parent may end up working more contracts out of the year.





WAYS YOU CAN TRAVEL



WFH Parent

Family travels together. One parent works a contract while one works remotely from "home".

- Allows for double income without expenses or stress of childcare.
- More flexibility in locations for contract worker.
- Can be stressful to both work and be at home with children.
- Limits options for at home parent

Travel with Family

Parent(s) bring family member or other person along to care for children while at work.

- Nice to have someone you trust home with your kids.
- More flexibility on location and job options.
- Must be mindful of who you choose to live with full time.
- May be difficult to find someone with this availability.

Find Childcare

Both parents work contracts or take jobs on location and family finds daycare or nanny.

- Both parents are able to bring in income.
- May be hard to find childcare with availability.
- More legwork to vet nannies and/or daycares.
- Can be hard to find daycare with long hours if working 10 or 12 hour shifts.

Long Term Contracts

Families aim for locations who anticipate extension needs or offering longer contracts.

- More consistency in school or daycare and activities for kids.
- Less moving = less stress and expenses.
- May be difficult to find a desirable position with these needs.
- Therapists--school year contracts are a great option here!



QUESTIONS?

