

“Suddenly decide on and leave for a trip”

When I was pregnant with my youngest son in 2000, I was working as a dispatcher/9-1-1 operator with the City of Phoenix Police Department. For maternity leave, we were allowed to take 6 weeks plus any other time we had accrued in overtime. With my oldest, I only took 6 weeks before going back to work and I didn't want to do the same thing. I accrued enough time to be able to take 3 months off after he was born. Spending those first few months of his life with Dean was a blessing. As it's wont to do (what a funny saying), time flew and I was getting ready to go back to work. The weekend before I was suppose to, I woke up and told Marc I wanted to go on a trip. I wanted to go to Las Vegas. We called our friends Jen and Ryan and we all agreed to pack up and head out for a turn-around trip to Sin City. Even though our friends were the worst people in the world (God love them) as far as getting ready in a hurry was concerned, we managed to hit the road by late afternoon. On the way, Ryan teased my then 5 year old about the Jackalops that lived on the side of the highway. Marc was terrified for the longest time of dark highways. Jackalops, of all things, are they really scary? A rabbit with antlers? We got to Las Vegas late that night and I went to sleep with baby Dean and Marc. The others hit the casino. The next morning, I was fresh and wide awake. It wasn't my fault everyone else was dragging. We went to Circus Circus' Adventure-dome and hit the rides. The boys and Jen had a riot on the bumper cars. I even rode on that pirate ship ride where you swing back and forth for what seems like eternity. I really don't like the feeling of falling and by the time the ride stopped I was so ready to get off. Yucky!! Most of the time, I spent on the sidelines with the stroller, but I was okay with that. I was out of the house and people watching. Dean was a good baby and quiet. Marc was spending quality time with his dad and our friends. That night we headed back to Phoenix; tired by satisfied. Getting in late, we went to sleep and the next day, I was once again a working mom.