

Escape to Singapore for a family friendly holiday

Only a short seven hour flight from the east coast of Australia and five from the west, Singapore offers families a plethora of unique attractions, events and activities to enjoy. Recently rated #8 on The Lonely Planet's top city list for travelling with children (and the only Asian city to make the list), now is the perfect time to plan your visit to the Lion City.

"Singapore is a destination that can be equally enjoyed by the young and young at heart", said Mr CHOOI Yee Choong, Regional Director Oceania, Singapore Tourism Board.

"Besides being jam-packed with family-friendly attractions and experiences, Singapore also has the reputation for being safe, clean, friendly and accessible – all the things parents seek when travelling with children. Singapore also provides the perfect introduction to Asian culture, and its location makes it the ideal stopover to break up a long haul flight, or when country-hopping around the region", added Mr Chooi.

To kick-start a visit full of family fun, what could be more ideal than a Jungle Breakfast at the award winning **Singapore Zoo**. Set amidst lush vegetation and forest trees, guests can enjoy first hand experiences with the orang utans, pythons, monkeys and more.

The Singapore Zoo boasts 28 hectares of simulated ecosystems and is home to more than 3,000 mammals, birds and reptiles. Children can take part in the many feeding sessions, or discover the secrets of the zookeepers on a behind the scenes tour of the reptile enclosure, amongst others. After some serious animal interaction, cool off at **Rainforest@KidsWorld** - an adventure playground with water play areas, carousels and pony rides.

Other animal attractions include the world famous **Night Safari**, where visitors can view over 1,200 nocturnal animals after dark, in stunning re-created habitats including Himalayan Foothills, Equatorial Africa and Nepalese River Valley. This is a not to be missed experience for young and old alike.

For children who prefer feathered friends, the **Jurong BirdPark** is a lush collage of gardens and waterways that play host to 600 bird species and some migratory ones as well. It also features the tallest man-made waterfall and one of the largest collections of the endangered hornbills in the world. Enjoy one of the many interactive bird shows, or become an honouree falconer for a day!

Leaving the animal kingdom behind, families will love an afternoon on the **Singapore Flyer**, where panoramic 360 degree views of Singapore and beyond provide the perfect vantage point to plan where to head to next.

As Singapore's island playground, **Sentosa** is the ideal place to escape the city's hustle and bustle and get down to some old fashioned fun. Fly through the air on the newly opened **MegaZip** (a mega flying fox), or speed down the hill on the **Luge** before hitting the waves at the soon to be launched **Wave Pool** (opening October 2009). Learn air acrobatics on the **Flying Trapeze**, or sit back and hold on tight at the cinema ride **Cineblast** – sure to get your heart racing as you are thrust into a 3D roller coaster world. **Underwater World**, home to more than 2,500 marine animals, will wow visitors with its bamboo sharks, moray eels, starfish, giant stingrays and dugongs, and **Dolphin Lagoon** will delight with its famous pink dolphin show. Early 2010 will also see a **Universal Studios** open – a sure favourite for families.

Back on Singapore's mainland there are even more attractions for the whole family to enjoy. Discover Singapore's history at the interactive **National Museum of Singapore** – the Singapore History Gallery adopts a story-telling approach unveiling different perspectives as you travel through the tales of the past, while the Singapore Living Galleries (Food, Fashion, Film and Photography) celebrate Singapore's multi-racial and multi-cultural society.

For more interactive and learning fun, the **Singapore Science Centre** offers 650 touch and play exhibits to enjoy. Crowd favourites include the motion simulator 'Virtual Voyages' – a real life-size helicopter, and a hot air balloon which can be ignited with the press of a button.

For a lazy afternoon **East Coast Park** is a green oasis on the edge of the city. Located next to the beach, it offers family activities such as bike riding, a skate park, golf ranges, a tennis centre, roller blading and more. You can even camp alongside the water!

With endless activities and adventures on offer in a clean and hassle-free environment, Singapore is the perfect spot for your next holiday with the kids. For more information log onto www.visitsingapore.com or contact the Singapore Tourism Board on (02) 9290 2888.

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