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SINGAPORE
SPECIAL 2015

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INDIAN EDITION

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FROM SINGAPORE**

**ITINERARIES FOR KIDS
OF ALL AGES**

**DINNER & DRINK
HOTSPOTS**



On Colleen: Ikat neoprene jacket, **Hemant and Nandita**, Tank top, **Zara**, AG digital Webber', **AG Jeans** at Denim Story, 'Gommino' shoes with metal stud details, **Tod's**, 'Secchiello' Mini bag, **Tod's**. On Child: Mallory print woven dress, **Tommy Hilfiger Children's wear**

PHOTOGRAPHS: **IVAN JOSHUA LOH; MARTIN WESTLAKE**

JUST FOR KIDS

Toddlers vs Teenagers: **Puja Disha Bharwani** shows you how to make the most of the proverbial candy store that is Singapore





ingapore is known for its cleanliness, green stretches and fantastic infrastructure, all of which make it ideal for families

and children. From stroller-friendly access to parks and museums, convenient nursing and diaper changing rooms in most malls to play areas in restaurants, it's like the city was made for parents who roam the streets with their kids in tow. In addition to easy navigation, Singapore offers unique adventure sports, amusement parks and carefully selected museum exhibits for children of various ages. To me, one of the most important things about Singapore is its safety and relatively low crime rate. This is a major pull factor for families who are looking for a secure place to travel with their little ones. As a mother of two kids—ages two and five—I feel fortunate to live in such a child-friendly environment. Sometimes, I take this haven for granted, until I travel outside of it! If you're a parent to toddlers looking at Singapore as your next holiday destination, here are some itineraries I've compiled for kids of different age groups to make the most of your time in the Lion City.

From left to right: A figurehead at the prow of the ship at Port of Lost Wonder; kids outside the POLW; the S.E.A. Aquarium at RWS; Gardens by the Bay [Opposite page](#): kids exploring the POLW [Previous page](#): Singapore, the perfect getaway when travelling with kids; the OCBC Skyway at Gardens by the Bay

FOR AGES 1-4

DAY 1

When to go: Morning/Afternoon

Where: Port Of Lost Wonder (POLW), Palawan Beach, Sentosa Island

What to do: The Pirate-themed water park is equipped with water cannons and slides—all the makings of a wild adventure. Have one of Portbelly's picnic baskets for lunch, and then head to Curiosity Island to familiarise your kids with plants, animals and birds. Admission charges (only applicable for children under 12, accompanying adults aren't charged) are S\$13 (₹605) on weekdays and S\$20 (₹930) on weekends. (www.polw.com.sg)

When to go: Evening

Where: Robertson Quay

What to do: After freshening up, take a stroll down one of Singapore's most iconic river walks, dotted with characteristic bridges, cafés, restaurants and bars. Once you've built up an appetite, hit Super Loco (www.super-loco.com) for delicious Mexican street food that your kids will love. (www.robertsonquay.com)

DAY 2

When to go: Morning

Where: The Children's Garden, Gardens by the Bay

What to do: A tree house at a height of 24.5ft and interactive water tunnels are the main attractions here, with a separate play area for toddlers. Stop by Café Crema (www.cafecrema.com.sg) for some gourmet coffee and a decadent slice of cake. Later, take a walk through the Supertree Grove

on the 22m high, 128m long OCBC Skyway for stunning views of the Gardens and the Marina Bay skyline. Grab lunch at one of the many options in the Gardens before your next stop. (www.gardensbythebay.com.sg)

When to go: Afternoon

Where: S.E.A. Aquarium, Resorts World Sentosa

What to Do: If you have a stroller and are pressed for time, this particular activity can be completed in about 90 minutes on weekdays. Attractions at this massive, breathtaking aquarium include Shark Seas—a shark colony, Ocean Journeys—a stunning jellyfish display and Open Ocean—a dramatic spectacle of manta rays. Adult tickets are priced at S\$50 (₹2,330) and kids from 4–12 enter for S\$37 (₹1,720). (www.rwsentosa.com)

When to go: Late Afternoon

Where: BOOKABURRA, Forum Galleria

What to do: Browse through a vast collection of children's books at this specialist bookstore in Forum Galleria (www.forumtheshoppingmall.com.sg). The mall also houses a Toys R' Us, a Stride Rite for children's shoes and an Early Learning Centre for educational toys and supplies for arts and crafts. (www.bookaburra.com)

When to go: Evening

Where: Benjamin Brown's, Forum Galleria

What to do: Settle down at Benjamin Brown's Bistro, where the meat is organic, and bread, freshly baked. Opt for the Sticky Date Pudding or the Valrhona Chocolate Tart for the perfect ending to a fun day. (www.benjaminbrowns.com)





DAY 3

When to go: Morning

Where: Singapore Botanic Gardens

What to do: Scooter, cycle or walk through the gardens, gawk at giant trees—some of which look like they have seen pre-historic times—feed the fish or play ball with your kids. Afterwards, walk down to Nassim Hill Bakery Bistro Bar (www.nassimhill.com.sg) for kiddie favourites like mac and cheese. They have high chairs for toddlers and plenty of space for strollers. It's free entry, and the park is open from 5am to midnight. (www.sbg.org.sg)

When to go: Afternoon

Where: Jurong Bird Park

What to do: Among my favourites at this park are the flamingos and Pelican Cove; their surreal setting seems more natural than manmade. Plan your visit to coincide with bird shows like the High Flyers—featuring parrots, hornbills and macaws—to get the most out of your experience. (www.birdpark.com.sg)

When to go: Evening

Where: Marina Bay Waterfront

What to do: Catch a water taxi from Robertson Quay to Marina Bay Waterfront Promenade and end your day with a walk around the immaculate landscaped area. There is a small water play area for kids at Gardens by the Bay and plenty of dining options with a panoramic view of the city. (www.marina-bay.sg)

FOR AGES 5-7

DAY 1

When to go: Morning

Where: Universal Studios, RWS

What to do: Experience various rides and say hello to characters such as Optimus Prime of the *Transformers* and *Sesame Street*'s Big Bird. The park is compact enough to be fully explored in one day; buy a day pass online to avoid long queues. Adult Passes are S\$98 (₹4,560) and S\$72 (₹3,350) for kids under 12. Strollers are available on rent. (www.rwsentosa.com)

When to go: Afternoon

Where: Universal Studios, RWS

What to do: After lunch, head to *Shrek's Far Far Away Land* for a 4-D show and various kiddie rides. For slightly older children, Sci-Fi City is home to the famous *Transformers* ride and the *Battlestar Galactica Cylon*, on which your legs are suspended from the track as the coaster speeds through inversions and vertical loops. Adult passes are priced at S\$98 (₹4,560) and S\$72 (₹3,350) for kids (4–12). (www.rwsentosa.com)

When to go: Evening

Where: Pizzeria Mozza, Marina Bay Sands

What to do: Go to world-famous chef Mario Batali's Pizzeria Mozza for the ultimate comfort food; but drop by at Kenko Reflexology & Fish Spa (www.kenko.com.sg), located nearby, for a pre-dinner foot massage. The kids can allow the Garra rufa fish to nibble on their toes—definitely an unforgettable experience! Reservations for both places are a must. (www.marinabaysands.com)



Visitors enjoying the MegaZip,
Opposite page: Caribbean flamingos at
the Jurong Bird Park; egg, bacon, Yukon
Gold potato, Cippolini and thyme pizza
at Pizzeria Mozza by Mario Batali

DAY 2

When to go: Morning

Where: Gallop Stable, Bukit Timah

What to do: Gallop Stable is one of the largest public riding spaces in Singapore, with over 140 horses and ponies. Choose between two types of sessions: group or private. Experienced riders can ask about getting a horse for the day. Pony rides start at S\$60 (₹2,790) for 20 minutes. (www.gallopstable.com)

When to go: Afternoon

Where: PasarBella, The Grandstand

What to do: PasarBella—an artisan farmer's market at The Grandstand—is a great place to grab a fresh, organic meal. Spread over 30,000sq ft, it features food stalls from around the world. The weekend sees a larger selection of vendors to choose from. (www.pasarbella.com)

When to go: Evening

Where: Zoom Park Singapore

What to do: Zoom Park—an indoor

trampoline park—consists of 10 “activity zones” spread over an area of 20,000sq ft. Choose from trampolines, dodgeball, basketball or go rock climbing—throwing yourself onto a bed of foam from the top of the rock wall is a major thrill for kids. For experienced jumpers, there is a special area for flipping. Rates start at S\$10 (₹465) for 30 minutes. Anti-slip socks, available for S\$3 (₹140) per pair are compulsory for jumpers. Advance bookings are recommended. (www.zoomparkasia.com)

When to go: Night

Where: Dempsey Hill

What to do: A trip to Singapore is not complete without some fresh seafood. Pick from Jumbo Seafood or Long Beach Seafood—both at Dempsey Hill—to satisfy those chilli or pepper crab cravings. Both establishments are known for their authentic flavours, and the waiters at Long Beach will even de-shell your crabs for you, on request. (www.jumboseafood.com.sg; www.longbeachseafood.com.sg)

DAY 3

When to go: Morning

Where: Forest Adventure, Bedok Reservoir

What to do: Book in advance and start your day at an obstacle course especially designed for children from ages 5–10. With 16 crossings through hanging ropes and a zip-line, it's fun and helps instil a sense of adventure. Children are harnessed to a safety line and released only on landing. For kids, it's S\$42 (₹1,955) per hour and S\$13 (₹605) for an additional round. Accompanying adults pay S\$26 (₹1,210). (www.forestadventure.com.sg)

When to go: Afternoon

Where: River Safari

What to do: Stroll through the river-themed park which is home to 6,000 animals, including resident giant pandas, Kai Kai and Jia Jia. Explore the various river adventures and ride aboard the River Safari Cruise. For adults, it's S\$33 (₹1,535) and S\$21 (₹975) for kids aged 3–12. (www.riversafari.com.sg)



Visitors exploring the river in kayaks
Opposite page: **Entrance to Revenge of the Mummy**, a ride at Universal Studios; seafood dishes at Long Beach Seafood restaurant; elephants at the River Safari Cruise

When to go: Evening

Where: Ngee Ann City

What to do: Choose between Chinese restaurants Crystal Jade and Imperial Treasure for an authentic meal, then visit Japanese bookstore Kinokuniya (in the same shopping complex) for a wide variety of kids' books, with adequate space for browsing. Squeeze in some retail therapy for yourself in the mall afterwards. (www.ngeeanncity.com.sg)

FOR AGES 8–12

DAY 1

When to go: Morning

Where: Adventure Cove Waterpark, Sentosa

What to do: Adventure Cove Waterpark is home to Southeast-Asia's first hydro-magnetic coaster water slide and some really fancy wave pools—you will need a whole day

DAY 2

When to go: Morning

Where: Kinetics Climbing, Paya Lebar

What to do: Kinetics has a spacious rock climbing area that has been designed for top-rope climbing. It's a safe, clean, family-friendly environment that caters to all levels of climbers; courses and clinics are conducted by certified, experienced instructors. Charges are S\$48 (₹2,230) for adults, S\$44 (₹2,050) for kids. You'd best book in advance. (www.kineticsclimbing.com.sg)

When to go: Afternoon

Where: ArtScience Museum, MBS

What to do: The ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands plays host to some carefully selected and well-planned exhibitions. Currently, the *Da Vinci: Shaping the Future* exhibit is on till May 2015. One of the highlights of their style of exhibitions

DAY 3

When to go: Morning

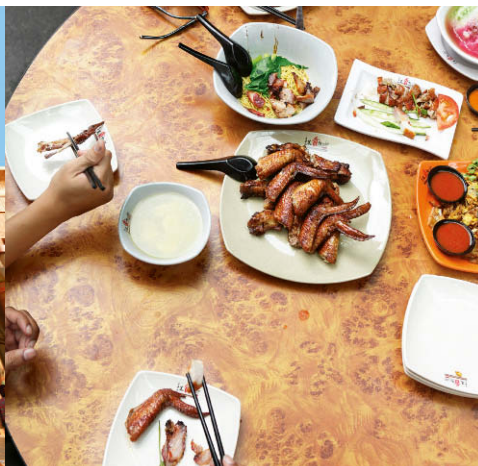
Where: Singapore Science Centre

What to do: There are multiple exhibitions on, simultaneously, at the Science Centre so you will need to choose between exhibits or visit more than once. The Science Center also houses an IMAX theatre. Check the website for admission charges of various exhibits. Basic entry is S\$16 (₹745) for adults, S\$10 (₹465) for children. (www.science.edu.sg)

When to go: Afternoon

Where: Madame Tussauds, Sentosa Island

What to do: The attractions at the newly-opened Madame Tussauds have been divided into different categories: Sports, Music, Film and A-list. Have your kids pose with Brad Pitt, Michael Jackson or Aishwarya Rai-Bachchan, amongst the local and international icons on display. The entry fee



to get the most from this park—including attractions like the Pipeline Plunge and the Tidal Twister to keep your adrenaline levels pumping. Follow it up with a calming activity like snorkelling over a colourful coral reef with thousands of fish. A day pass for adults is S\$48 (₹2,230) and S\$25 (₹1,160) for children aged 4–12. Express passes cost an additional S\$13 (₹605) per person at non-peak hours and S\$26 (₹1,210) per person at peak hours. (www.rwsentosa.com)

When to go: Evening

Where: Quayside Isle, Sentosa Cove

What to do: Hop onto the internal Sentosa shuttle bus service to Quayside Isle, and pick from dining options like Picotin Express or Kith, stopping for some fresh gelato at Note di Sicilia. (www.quaysideisle.com)

is the little interactive games, craft and construction areas, that are interspersed with the displays. For adults, rates are S\$33 (₹1,535) and for kids it's S\$20 (₹930). Family packages are also available. (www.marinabaysands.com)

When to go: Evening

Where: Din Tai Fung, MBS Shoppes

What to do: The casual Taiwanese dumpling chain is known for their signature Xiao Long Baos (steamed pork and soup dumplings); make sure they have cooled down before putting them whole in your mouth. The restaurant has an open kitchen so you and the kids can watch as their army of chefs tug and knead each ball of heaven into 18 intricate folds of perfection. (www.dintai fung.com.sg)

is S\$46 (₹2,140) for adults and for children from ages 3–12 it's S\$33 (₹1,535). (www.madametussauds.com)

When to go: Evening

Where: Jamie's Italian, VivoCity

What to do: If Jamie Oliver's recipes or cookbooks haven't entered your kitchen yet, they might after you visit this restaurant. This concept restaurant was started in Oxford only four years ago and now Jamie's Italian has more than 30 branches worldwide. Charming rustic furniture, a herb garden and a delectable menu offering well-prepared cocktails and Jamie's signature style of cooking, is an experience both you and the kids will enjoy. Reservations are an absolute must and should preferably be made online, well in advance. (www.jamieoliver.com)



FOR AGES 12 AND ABOVE

DAY 1

When to go: All Day

Where: Marine Life Park, RWS

What to do: The world's largest oceanarium is a good start to deep-sea scuba diving for those who have never done it before. At the Marine Life Park, the environment is calm, controlled and totally safe, with instructors guiding small groups underwater. Choose from the Sea Trek Adventure, the Shark Encounter, the Ray Bay or the Open Ocean Dive—this one is supposed to resemble the real ocean the most. Prices start at S\$50 (₹2,330). The minimum age for all activities is 12 years. (www.rwsentosa.com)

DAY 2

When to go: Morning

Where: Forest Adventure, Bedok Reservoir

What to do: Book in advance and start your day at the Grand Course, an advanced obstacle course for anyone above 12 years of age. However, those under 18 must be supervised by an adult. The obstacle course consists of four sites with bridges, trapezes, unstable logs and a big Tarzan swing, known as the "leap of faith." Each site ends with a long zip-line that passes over the reservoir. Rates are S\$56 (₹2,605) for kids and S\$58 (₹2,700) for adults. (www.forestadventure.com.sg)

When to go: Afternoon

Where: PS. Cafe Petit, Martin Road

What to do: A great place to head to for a laidback brunch, PS. Cafe does gourmet versions of classics—the truffle shoestring fries and the egg and bacon bunwich are delicious, as are their desserts and juices. (www.pscafe.com)

When to go: Late afternoon/Evening

Where: Esplanade Theatre

What to do: Introduce the magic of the arts to your kids by picking from one of many performances at Singapore's world class Esplanade Theatre. In March, the Singapore Dance Theatre puts up *Sleeping Beauty* and The Choir from St John's College, Cambridge University will perform as well. There are plenty of post-performance meal options by the bay, one of them being Makasutra Gluttons Bay for its hawker-style food like chicken wings and fried carrot cake in an alfresco setting. Check the website for more details and book in advance. (www.esplanade.com)

DAY 3

When to go: Morning

Where: iFLY, Siloso Beachfront, Sentosa

What to do: Spend your morning seeking thrills and adventure in Sentosa—iFLY simulates skydiving through an indoor wind tunnel simulator, giving you the feeling of falling from a height of 12,000 ft. Walk-in rates start at S\$132 (₹6,140) and it's S\$106 (₹4,930) for super off-peak hours, for two dives. (www.iflysingapore.com)

When to go: Afternoon

Where: MegaZip Adventure Park, Imbiah Hill Road, Sentosa Island

What to do: This is zip-line swinging at its most extreme. An exhilarating 450m line takes you 245ft above ground level at high speeds, across the jungle and the sea, to finally land you on Siloso beach. A minimum height and weight requirement applies to some of the other activities here, like the ParaJump and the ClimbMax. Tickets for single sports start at S\$25 (₹1,160). (www.megazip.com.sg)

When to go: Late afternoon

Where: Wave House Sentosa

What to do: If your kids are keen on surfing in Singapore, you'd be hard-pressed to find a better place for it than Wave House Sentosa. Their crowning jewel—the FlowBarrel wave—is a mammoth sheet wave which reaches a height of 10ft at its highest level. A basic version—the Double Flowrider—is a sheet of continuous flowing water that's better suited for kids and beginners. The riding surface is made up of a special proprietary membrane designed to absorb impacts, greatly reducing risk of injury. After they've had enough of the waves, grab a bite to eat—food and refreshment options abound. Hourly sessions on the Double Flowrider cost S\$46 (₹2,140) on weekdays and S\$53 (₹2,465) on weekends. A half-hour session on the FlowBarrel costs S\$40 (₹1,860). Check the website for ongoing deals and promotional offers before you go. (www.wavehousesentosa.com)

When to go: Evening

Where: National Museum of Singapore

What to do: Catch *Singapura: 700 years*, an exhibition (on till August 2015) featuring the journey of Singapore's transformation from a humble fishing village to the modern city it is today. This display walks you through the history of Singapore in its defining moments. Museum tickets are S\$4 (₹185) for students and S\$8 (₹370) for adults. (www.nationalmuseum.sg)

Below, from left to right: Jurong Bird Park, Singapore; an Andy Warhol exhibition at the ArtScience Museum; an instructor at iFly Opposite page: surfers at the Sentosa Wave House

