

Las Vegas Family Vacations

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Friday, 12 February 2010 01:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 10 February 2010 13:06

What happens in Vegas may stay there, but children can stay in the adult paradise and have great memories, too. Here are some great Las Vegas family vacation ideas.



In town, the kids enjoy Madame Tussauds Las Vegas in front of the Venetian Resort Hotel Casino. The children interact with 100-plus life-like figures from film, television, music, sports and politics.

The Las Vegas Monorail is a quick and convenient connection to the Las Vegas Strip, whose electric trains arrive every few minutes at each of the seven stations: MGM Grand; Bally's/Paris Las Vegas; Flamingo/Caesars Palace; Harrah's/Imperial Palace; Las Vegas Convention Center; Las Vegas Hilton and Sahara. Children love it: in 15 minutes, they see the entire strip on a form of transportation they probably haven't experienced.

Remember that children, 21 and under, are not allowed on casino floors, even if accompanied by an adult, notes Alicia Malone, a public relations manager for the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. However, a few nongaming hotels to consider are Four Seasons Las Vegas, Ritz-Carlton Lake Las Vegas, Loews Hotels Lake Las Vegas, the Platinum, Trump and The Signature.

Similarly, not all Las Vegas shows are child-friendly. But, a number of the world-known Cirque du Soleil shows are, including "Mystere" at Treasure Island and "O" at Bellagio. They'll also love the Blue Man Group and magician Lance Burton.

At Luxor Hotel and Casino, "BODIES...The Exhibition" is the resident show, featuring human specimens, offering access to sights not normally available. Future doctors and nurses are made here. Also, at the Luxor, "Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition" displays more than 300 artifacts and replicas from the famous ship.

For the family, The Forum Shops at Caesars has 160 boutique stores, many for children. They'll love the fantasy-style Roman Great Hall, with moving statues of the gods, classic columns and piazzas, and "Atlantis," a 50,000-gallon aquarium with colorful tropical fish.

Skywalk, where you actually stand above the West Rim of the Grand Canyon and look down through thick glass is accessible from downtown Las Vegas through Pink Jeep Tours as part of its Grand Canyon tour. Pink Jeep Tours can also take you to natural sights like Valley of Fire, 50 miles north of Las Vegas. It's Nevada's oldest state park, with 150 million-year-old sand dunes. In town, the children will also enjoy the Las Vegas Springs Preserve, a 180-acre site promoting sustainability.

In the air, Papillon Airways offers trips of the entire Grand Canyon including the South and West rims. On the West Rim flights, the helicopter lands at the bottom of the canyon where your family can lunch.

The Eldorado Canyon tour shows gold mines and educates about Las Vegas' history. "This tour is particular popular with families with teens," says Robert Graff, vice president of marketing for Papillon. "Mom and dad can go say horseback riding, the kids go on ATVs, and everyone meets back up after two to three hours and gets back on the helicopter to go home."