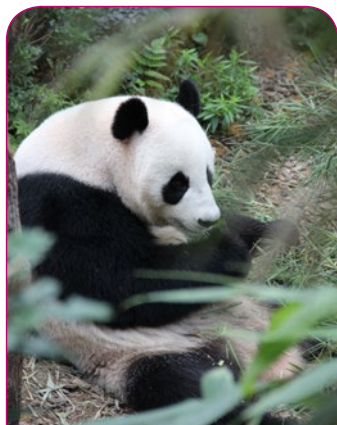


From Muslim To Malay

For an insight into some of Singapore's cultural groups, take the family to the Sultan Mosque in Kampong Glam. Apart from the intricate building, visitors can watch the comings and goings of worshippers and see the main prayer hall, which has space for 5000 people. Dress modestly for this visit, however there are robes to wear if it's one of those hot days. Just around the corner on Kandahar St is the Malay Heritage Centre, which features a permanent exhibition on the history of Singapore's Malay heritage from the national collection and artefacts from the community. A temporary exhibition exploring Malay use of plants as medicine is on until 05 Jan. See malayheritage.org.sg



Animal Instincts

Kiwis heading to Singapore will know the country is famous for its animal-based attractions, from the Singapore Zoo to the Night Safari and the new River Safari. Singapore Zoo boasts thousands of animals and hundreds of species, from polar bears to white tigers and orang utans. It's world renowned for its breeding programmes, so clients should keep an eye out for young creatures in various habitats, including baby orang utans learning to climb, and baby sloths clinging to their mothers to slowly feed. From Dec, the River Safari's river boats will take clients on a journey through the world's different river eco-systems, showing off jaguars, giant river otters, manatees and the park's pair of Giant Pandas, Kai Kai and Jia Jia—from Chengdu, China. For a full breakdown of where to see Singapore's animal-based attractions, see wrs.com.sg



A Family Affair For All In Singapore



From theme parks to zoos and wide-ranging dining options, Singapore is seemingly built for families of travellers.

The Garden City and Sentosa Island combine to give intergenerational groups as busy or as relaxed an experience they want, whether it's at the Singapore Botanic Gardens or the kind of park with rides, like Universal Studios Singapore.

The Singapore Tourism Board Oceania director Sharon Lam says agents who haven't been to Singapore recently might not be aware of some developments the city has seen in recent years.

"Sentosa has really changed," she says. "It's very applicable to the Kiwi market because of its family focus. Sentosa has got accommodation that's very family friendly, that's the first tick in the box, and in terms of activities that can be done, there are different options, theme park rides, and the mega zip. The Segway experience is something very family friendly. There's also the Skyline Luge Sentosa, the Wave House, and iFly. [The island] really appeals to different sorts of family types."

For a more insightful experience, adds Lam, there are Singapore's many

Education At Sea

Marine Life Park on Sentosa Island isn't just home to the S.E.A Aquarium. Visitors to the attraction are taken through the history of sea trade, with exhibitions on the different maritime cultures linked to Singapore through the ages, as well as a life-sized replica of Admiral Zheng He's Treasure Ship in the main atrium, before heading beneath the waves into the aquarium. Visitors are greeted with thousands of sea creatures, from sharks to tropical fish and jellyfish illuminated with a rainbow of lights.

museums and interactive galleries, including the National Museum of Singapore, the Peranakan Museum and the ArtScience Museum near Marina Bay Sands.

Get A Singapore Pass

Families on holiday want as little fuss as possible—and when in Singapore there are a number of passes that will give the whole brood a range of options to enjoy together, or split up and explore. There's the See Singapore Pass, with flexible packages including top attractions, the Sentosa Play Pass that offers up to 70% off island attractions, or the Go Singapore Pass—ideal for families going to major attractions on Singapore's public transport system. There's also the Singapore City Pass, which includes Singapore Airlines boarding pass privileges or the Singapore Tourist Pass, with unlimited access to Singapore's public transport.

Family Dining

Family members can be hard to please on the food front, so it pays to eat at restaurants where there are a few options, and even Western food for the little ones unfamiliar with Asian flavours.

There's Bar Bar Black Sheep in Bukit Timah, Robertson Quay and Tanjong Katong, with a mix of Western, Thai and Indian dishes, plus a full bar, or the California Pizza Kitchen in Forum The Shopping Mall on Orchard Road—where pizza is the staple of course, alongside a range of fusion pasta dishes.

For a more upmarket experience with the brood, there's Spruce on Tanglin Road (near Orchard)—think tuna tartar and baked ginger date pudding.

Growing Minds

Younger kids with an affinity for the outdoors might like to explore the Jacob Ballas Children's Garden at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Kids can explore and play in the interactive garden, which teaches kids that 'all life on earth depends on plants'. There's a worksheet available on the Botanic Gardens website to download before a visit to help them learn more about plants. Entrance is free and the garden is suitable for kids up to 12 years old. On the MRT alight at Eco Garden via the Botanic Gardens Station on the Circle Line. The gardens are home to a number of f&b outlets for when the family gets peckish, or self-cater with a visit to a supermarket to make a picnic first. See sbg.org.sg



Fun And Family Friendly Stays

There are a number of hotels around Singapore with a twist for families after a memorable experience, or somewhere close to the action. Resorts World Sentosa is home to the Festive Hotel, a family and child-friendly family getaway near Festive Walk and World Square—just minutes from Universal Studios Singapore and the SEA Aquarium—and the deluxe family king rooms feature loft beds as a novelty for kids. Other family options include the Hard Rock Hotel, Capella, with its cascading swimming pools and the famous Marina Bay Sands—with its shopping, theatre and dining, not to mention the giant infinity pool overlooking the city.