

## **Great Places To Go With Your Children**

This printed booklet entitled “Great places to go with your children” may be found at all branches of Morris Allen Study Centres. It is available at no charge.

## **Great Places To Go With Your Children**

Those of you who have read my booklet "21 Ways to Score A's" will know from Chapter 24 that it is really important to go out with your children. It stimulates them, enhances creativity, improves parent-child relationships and gives your children a well deserved break from academic routines.

I have divided places into wet weather and fine weather (indoor/outdoor) ones with an extra section on seasonal activities. I have tried to group places together geographically so that you could do a whole day with two or three nearby places with some variety. With very young children a whole day is not such a good idea.

Try when you can to take picnics and avoid fast food crowds. Take along things to play with - balls, frisbies, rollerblades, buckets and spades for the beach, books and pocket games to entertain the children while travelling.

Many of these places are easy to reach by public transport. Others are easier by car. If you do not have a car (like me!) then once in a while rent one (in the holidays or over a weekend) and explore the more remote parts of Singapore.

*All information was correct at the time of printing. However, to avoid disappointment, you should check entrance prices and times in advance of your visit.*

## **OUTDOORS**

- 1a) **Sungei Buloh Nature Park**  
310 Neo Tiew Crescent Tel: 6794 1401

Opening Hours: - 7.30 am to 7.00 pm (Monday to Saturday)  
7.00 am to 7.00 pm (Sunday and Public Holiday)  
Admission: Adults \$1.00 / Children, students, senior citizens \$0.50

Best in Nov/Dec holiday - many more migrating birds.  
Best early morning - take breakfast (sandwiches or packets of local food) and eat in a hide. Binoculars are a must. These can be rented at the Park. Sit still for 5 mins or more at each hide. At first you will often see nothing - then a moving branch or flurry of wings will direct you to the inhabitants. Try to keep quiet. Patience will be rewarded with many interesting sightings. Try taking along a guide to birds and ticking off species as you see them. Photography is difficult - just enjoy the live show. Watch out for big monitor lizards, several species of spiders and butterflies, and the weaver birds behind the furthest pond. There are 3 ponds, and 3 increasingly long walks. The longest takes about 2 hours with rest. Take umbrellas for both shade and protection from the rain. The 3<sup>rd</sup> pond is a long walk for the under 6's. Rest regularly in a hide. Take mosquito repellent if you are going to be there early morning or late afternoon.

- 1b) **Around Neo Tiew Road**, Neo Tiew Crescent and other side roads lead off to a recent development of frog farms, fish farms, nurseries, dairies, the aeroponic nursery and other interesting agricultural developments. Many of them are open to the public and welcome children. This is where having a car gives you the freedom to drive around and explore. Watch out for moorhens on the road, snowy egrets on the side of the road and the occasional wandering monitor lizard.

- 1c) **Kranji Dam - playground**  
Kranji Way

There is a pleasant shaded area for picnics and lots of fun equipment for children to play on. Also good views across the straits to J.B. and across Kranji reservoir to the centre of Singapore.

- 1d) **Kranji War Memorial**  
Woodlands Road (after Turf Club from Woodlands)

There is very little shade so go mid morning or late afternoon and take umbrellas. Walk right to the top and check out the view of Johor Bahru (and the ugly new race course). Show your children the different types of gravestones (Christians, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs) and the ages of the people buried (very young - especially the sailors). It is a peaceful and quite sad reminder to our children of the people who lost their lives in the 2nd World War.

- 1e) **Thow Kwang Pottery** Tel: 6268 6121/ 6265 5808  
(in the jungle) (also good on rainy days)

85, Lorong Tawas (off Jalan Bahar)

Open 9 am to 5 pm daily

Often called the Jungle Pottery, this is a great place for mothers to buy blue and white Chinese pottery at about half the price charged in Holland Village / Orchard Road. Also a huge range of other colours and styles, big selection of lamps, rosewood display stands and interesting knick knacks. Explore the dragon kiln, and ask if your children may try the potter's wheel. There are warehouses on your right, showrooms on your left, 2 of them aircon. There is also a water garden with (aggressive) geese and large fish. The tiny road is just before the turning to NTU and just after you have gone under the PIE going North on Jalan Bahar. Watch out for mosquitoes in the darker corners of the warehouses. Mention Morris Allen Study Centres and obtain a 10% discount! Don't forget an umbrella if you are taking the bus.

- 1f) **Chinese Heritage Centre (Museum)** - Tel: 6790 6176 / 6790 6177  
(inside Nanyang Technology University)  
Nanyang Drive

Opening Hours: 9 am to 5 pm (Monday to Friday)  
9 am to 12 pm (Saturday)

Exhibition : Adult \$1.50  
: Child \$1.50

Drive into NTU from Pioneer Road entrance (not Jalan Bahar) under the expressway. You are on Nanyang Drive. Go straight past two right turns and it is on your right with a car park just in front. Interesting displays in the museum.

- 1g) **Cemetries**  
Lim Chu Kang Road

Going north along northern Jalan Bahar, as you pass the Civil Defense Academy on your left, there are Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Chinese and other religions' cemeteries on both sides of the road. Very interesting to walk around, compare styles, and sometimes there are funerals going on, much more traditional than crematoriums.

- 2a) **Zoo** Tel : 6269 3411

80, Mandai Lake Road

Open from 8.30 am - 6.30 pm (Last admission 5.30pm)  
Adults \$ 14.00 / Child (3-12 yrs) \$7.00

Children's World (take tram), Play Land/ Animal Land/ Fragile Forest.

Shows at the Shaw Ampitheatre with reptiles and sea lions most afternoons; weather permitting. Pony and elephant rides. Check feeding times, show times and ask about any new baby animals when you enter. Do **not try** to cover the whole zoo – focus on a few areas and spend more time watching, and talking to your children about the animals. Go early! It is much cooler and the animals are livelier. Follow the feeding staff around – it is great seeing the animals become lively as the keeper reaches their enclosure.

- 2b) **Night Safari** Tel : 6269 3411  
80, Mandai Lake Road

Open from 7.30 pm to midnight. (Last admission 11.00pm)  
Adults \$ 18.00 / Child (3-12 yrs) \$9.00  
Tram ride – Adult \$6.00 / Child \$3.00

Take the tram then walk at least one of the 3 trails. There are many different animal enclosures on the walks that you do not see from the tram. Free shows at 8.00pm, 9.00pm and 10.00pm. obtain your seat in advance when you buy admission tickets. Young children would enjoy the first walk, the fishing cat trail.

- 3a) **MacRitchie Reservoir** (Lornie Road)

Turn right from the car park to the right of the dam, and past the permitted fishing

area to the Nature trail (monkeys/ monitors/ butterflies). You can walk the whole 2 hour circuit or just walk in for half an hour and out the same way. Turning left from the car park to the fountain there is a café and a stretch of grass for picnics and playing games.

- 3b) **Bukit Timah Nature Reserve**

Hindhede Road

Early morning (picnic breakfast at the top peeping out through the trees over the reservoir) or late afternoon. Route 1 to the top. There is a visitors' centre, and monkeys, birds, butterflies and lizards to see. Strenuous and humid walk. Wear suitable clothing, take water bottles, sunscreen and insect repellent. Follow the side trails. Go across the carpark to the new boardwalk and follow it to the dam/quarry. Teenagers will enjoy the mountain bike trail (very challenging – make sure they wear helmets).

- 4a) **Jurong Bird Park** Tel : 6265 0022

## 2, Jurong Hill

Open from 8.30 am to 6.00 pm (Last admission 5.00pm).

Adult \$14.00 / Child and senior citizen \$7.00

Have breakfast with a theme (Pirates + Pratas?). Take the panorail. Try the children's playground and picnic ground. For feeding times and special shows (all day) check the advertised schedules. Feeding the birds is always the most interesting – especially in the walk-in aviary. Follow the keeper as he does his rounds.

### 4b) **Chinese/Japanese Gardens**

Chinese Garden Road (Chinese Garden MRT)

Opening hours : 8.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m on weekdays and

8.30 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. on Sundays and Public Holidays

Admission : Free: only chargeable during Chinese New Year and Lantern Festivals (Adult \$8.00 and Child \$4.00)

Ponds, bonsai, climb the pagoda, picnic, play.

Best during the lantern festival when the opening hours are extended.

### 4c) **Jurong East Swimming Complex** Tel : 6565 2297 - looks like a holiday resort.

Very pleasant environment and good waterslides, plus a wave pool, cold water spray jet, Lazy Man River Current and Jacuzzi.

Opening Hours: 8.00 am to 9.30 pm daily except Monday 2.30pm to 9.30 pm

Adult \$1.50, Children \$0.80, Float \$3.00

Weekend: Adult \$2.00 / Child \$1.00

### 5a) **Pasir Ris Park- playground**, cycling and roller-blading, tracks, beach, maze, seafood. Rent a bike, paddle in the sea, play on the swings, enjoy the gardens.

### 5b) **Escape** (Pasir Ris amusement park) – good rides if a bit expensive.

Opening Hours:- 4.00 pm to 10.00 pm (Monday to Friday except Tuesday closed)

10.00 am to 10.00 pm ( Weekends / Public & School Holidays)

### 6) **Botanic Gardens** Tel: 6471 9940 / 6471 9963

- picnic by the lake, children's garden, swan lake, orchid centre

- often workshops for children. Eco-lake (in the Bukit Timah extension part).

Open from 5am till midnight. Admission to Garden free except for National Orchid Garden

Adults \$5.00/ Children (under 12) Free (Student with concession card \$1.00)

### 7) **East Coast Park** Tel: 6345 6762

- cycle, roller blading tracks, beach, turtle ponds, Bedok jetty for fishing,

Big Splash, Food!

Entrance to Park : Free

The park is lit from 7.00 pm to 7.00am

Cycle rent : Mountain bikes \$4.00 to \$7.00, Children \$1.50,  
double bike \$4.00/ BMX \$2.00 (per hour)

- 8) **Marina City Park** - kite flying, children's playground, pond, food at Marina South Food Centre.

Entrance to park Free

The park is lit from 7.00 p.m. to 12.00 midnight and from 5.00 a.m. to 7.00a.m.

- 9) **Seletar West Farm Way 6** (Near Everbloom Mushrooms)  
private farm - feed the animals - geese, rabbits, hares, flamingoes, Koi, chickens, birds, goats. Countryside Cafe, BBQ's, 50cents per packet for food to feed the animals. Great fun.

- 10a) **Youth Park**- skateboarding.  
Somerset/ Grange Road (Somerset MRT).  
Always busy –mainly for young teens.

- 10b) **Sculptures** in the city

(i) Boat Quay - fat bird on the riverside / Salvador Dali under the UOB Plaza / Henry Moore by the OCBC bank / the Singapore cats, early settlers, and boys diving near the Fullerton Hotel.

(ii) Fort Canning

(iii) Orchard Road

Walk around, photograph the sculptures, take notes, find out about the sculptors.

- 11a) **Raffles Landing Site**/ statue/ bum boat ride on the river/ Merlion. Explore inside and outside of the Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay. The river taxis are cheaper than the tourist bum boats, but do not travel so far.

- 11b) **Arab Street** - mosque, pedestrian streets, cafe's, shops. Wander around the shop houses, have a drink and watch the passersby.

- 11c) **China Town** – Among the narrow streets of picturesque shophouses and restaurants brimming with life, the temple idol carvers, herbalists, calligraphers, traders and trishaw drivers pursue a way of life that has changed little for

generations. Incense streams from the old temples, the elderly spread their wares out on the pavement for sale and sea cucumbers, regarded as a delicacy, dry in the sun. Much of Chinatown has recently been renovated, but the old traditions endure. During Chinese New Year, the whole of Chinatown is lit up and buzzes with activity as stalls sell a variety of festive goods. The Heritage Centre is well worth looking at. A guided tour takes about 1 hour. \$8.00 Adult, \$4.00 Child.

11d) **Geylang Serai** - Malay Village Tel: 6748 4700

Great fun during the two weeks leading up to Hari Raya Puasa. Very interesting for non-Malays.

11e) **Little India** - Serangoon Road from Bukit Timah Road to Lavender Road. Pedestrian streets, Little India Arcade, shops, restaurants, temples, Mustafa's (very competitive prices and no need to bargain). Explore the side streets. New Little India MRT Station.

12) **Pulau Ubin**- rent cycles, eat seafood, explore the island. Boat from Changi Point.

Bumboat operates : 6 am to 11 pm  
Fare : \$2.00 (single trip) / \$2.50 if you are bringing a bike  
No 2 Bus from Tanah Merah MRT.  
Charming old fashioned atmosphere.

13a) **Sentosa**

a) **Cable car** Tel: 6270 8855

Adult \$7.50 (1 station) ; \$8.50 (4 stations) / \$15.00 (Glass Cabin)  
Child \$3.90 / \$12 (Glass Cabin)  
Opening Hours: 8.30 am to 9.00 pm Daily

13b) **Butterfly Park & Insect Kingdom** Tel: 6275 0013

Adult \$10.00 / Child \$6.00  
Opening Hours : 9.30 am to 6.00 pm

13c) **Merlion** Tel: 6275 0388

Adult \$8.00 / Child \$5.00  
Opening Hours : 10.00 am to 8.00 pm  
Fabulous views from the top – of the ships in the South China Sea to the south, and the city to the north.

13d) **Dolphin Lagoon** - Tel: 6275 0030

Meet The Dolphins Session  
Adult \$17.30 Child \$11.20 (includes Underwater World)  
Daily :- 11.00am/ 1.30pm/ 3.30pm/ 5.30pm

Opening Hours: 10.30 am to 6.00 pm daily (last admission at 5.30 pm)

- 13e) **Southern most point of Asia!**  
Walk across the small causeway, climb the wooden lookout tower and you are almost on the equator!
- 13f) **Beach** (monkey and bird shows)  
Lovely sand and good swimming near to Shangri La Sentosa Hotel.
- 13g) **Dragon Trail Nature Walk**  
Downhill, easy jungle walk from the cable car station to Underwater world. Look carefully on the left for pitcher plants (some of the last in Singapore).
- 13h) **Musical Fountain** - 7.30 pm first show  
Revamped with laser lights and fire.
- 14) **New water Plant - Bedok**  
Koh Sek Lim Road (near Singapore Expo) Opening Hours: Tues to Sun  
Tour times: 9.00 am/ 10.45am/12.30pm/2.15pm and 4.00pm  
(each tour takes about 1½ hours).  
Admission: Free
- 15) **The 3-D Model of Singapore**  
URA Centre, 45, Maxwell Road, Ground Floor Atrium. Find Your house-every building is there. Also interactive displays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.  
Free Admission: 9.00am - 4.30pm Mon-Fri  
: 9.00am - 12.30pm Saturday

## INDOORS

- 1a) **Singapore Art Museum** Tel: 6332 3222  
Adult \$3.00 / Student \$1.50 / Child below 6 yrs old Free  
(Special exhibitions are extra).  
Opening Hours: 10.00 am to 7.00 pm daily  
6.00 pm to 9.00 pm Fri (Free admission)  
Interesting to explore the curving corridors of the old St. Joseph Institution boys school.
- 1b) **Asian Civilizations Museum** - Tel: 6332 3015  
Adult \$3.00 / Senior citizen and Student \$1.50 / Child below 6 yrs old Free  
Interesting exhibits and often workshops and demos.
- 1c) **Singapore Philatelic Museum** Tel: 6337 3888  
Tues - Sun Open from 9.00 am to 7.00 pm, Mon – 1.00 pm to 7.00 pm  
Adult \$3.00 / Student \$2.00 / Child below 4yrs old Free  
Check out the holiday sleepovers and workshops – great fun!
- 1d) **The Battle Box, Fort Canning Rise** Tel: 6333 0510  
Open from 10.00 am – 6.00 pm daily (last admission 5.00pm)  
Adults \$8.00 / Children \$3.00 (12yrs and below)
- 1e) **Raffles Hotel Museum**  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor, North Bridge Road entrance. Interesting exhibits and some classy souvenirs. Entrance free.
- 2a) **Forum Galleria Hip Kids Club** Tel: 6732 2469  
Operating Hours: 11am to 1pm & 4.30 pm to 8.00 pm  
Must be a member (\$10.00/ per 2 years)
- 2b) **Gymboree** Tel: 6735 5290  
Tanglin Mall, #03-17  
Weekdays: 9.00 - 6.30pm & Weekends: 9.00 am to 7.00 pm  
  
Membership \$52.00/year – then individual classes (45mins) are \$31.20 each.  
Otherwise \$36.40 for non-members. One term (8 lessons) costs \$249.60.
- 2c) **Plaza Singapura** - basement playground Tel: 6332 9298  
Operating Hours: 10.00 am to 10.00 pm  
Admission: Free

- d) **Tumble Tots**
- Head Office  
6 Harper Road #05-04 6280 3383
  - Hougang Centre  
Blk 208 Hougang St 21 #03-223 6288 1085
  - Loyang Point Shopping Centre  
Blk 258 Pasir Ris St 21 #02-311A 6582 8366
  - Parkway Parade Centre  
80 Marine Prade Rd #05-06/07 6344 5191
  - SAFRA Tampines  
1A Tampines St 92 #01-09 6784 0241
  - Specialists' Shopping Centre  
277 Orchard Rd #03-40/41 6733 9066
  - Taman Jurong Shopping Centre  
Blk 399 Yung Sheng Rd #01-10 6261 4263
  - The Woodgrove  
30 Woodlands Ave 1 #02-12/13 6364 0488
  - Thomson Plaza Centre  
301 Upp Thomson Rd #03-11 6459 1462
  - West Coast Community Centre  
2 Clementi West St 2 6773 0607

Great fun for children but very expensive.

Lesson schedule available from each centre. Lesson charges at \$70 per 45 minutes.

3) **Movies!**

Now we have another Omnimax (this time a flat screen) at Great World City. Try going to Balestier Shaw Plaza or Tampines Cinemas at the weekends – much quieter and easier to get seats. Birthday treat for teenagers- Golden Lounge at Great World City – lie back in individual reclining armchairs, drinks and snacks on your table and enjoy the movie (\$25 per person! But great for an annual treat).

4a) **Singapore Science Centre** - Tel 6425 2500

Open from 10.00 am – 6.00 pm Tues to Sun  
Adult \$6.00 / Child \$3.00  
Attraction: Science Shows/ Thunderbolt Shows/Observatory Shows/  
Robotics Workshops. Interesting gardens, fast food and some scientific toys on sale.

- 4b) **Omnitheatre - Omnimax movies** Tel : 6425 2500  
(not really suitable for children below 5)

10.00 am – 8.00 pm Tues to Sun  
Adult \$10.00 / Child \$5.00  
The original bowl screen – still better than a flat screen.

- 4c) **Snow City** Tel: 6560 2306

Open Tue-Sun and All School/ Public Holidays 10.30 am to 6.00 pm  
Closed on Monday except School/Public Holidays  
(Adult/ Child \$12.00/ 1 hr)  
Child below 12yrs old \$9 (normal price) / \$7.00 (off peak price)  
Rental of warm clothing available. Play with snow, without leaving Singapore!

- 4d) **Ice Skating** Tel: 6565 1905

Jurong Entertainment Complex Level 3  
Adult: \$12.50 / 2hrs , Child \$10.50 / 2hrs/ Group(4 persons only)\$45.20 / 2 hrs

For free you can stand at the side and watch talented skaters practising, and Mr Beans falling over!

- 4e) **Singapore Mint** Tel: 6566 2626

20, Teban Gardens Crescent  
Opening Hours:- 8.30 am to 5.00 pm (Mon to Fri and Weekends Closed)

Attraction : Coin Gallery , Video show – making of coins.

- 5a) **Ming Village** Tel: 6265 7711 - watch artists hand painting beautiful copies of antique Chinese vases. Sales people try to sell, but not high pressure, and you can see the factory.

32, Pandan Road  
Admission: Free  
Opening Hours: 9.00 am to 5.00 pm (Monday to Sunday)

- 5b) **Singapore Discovery Centre** Tel: 6792 6188- Childrens' Adventure, motion simulator, movie, airplane/ helicopter/ boat to climb in or on.

Adult \$9.00 / Child \$5.00 (below 12 yrs)

Opening Hours : 9.00 am to 7 pm (Tuesday to Sunday)

Attraction: Grand Canyon Movie & 3D Movies

6a) **Sentosa**

i) Book a Chalet on Siloso Beach. Tel: 6270 7888

ii) Museum (Images of Singapore)

The lower galleries about the cultural differences of Singapore is particularly interesting for children.

iii) Underwater World Tel: 6275 0030

Adult \$17.30 / Child < 12yrs old \$11 / < 0.9m in height Free

Opening Hours: 9.00 am to 9.00 pm daily (last admission at 8.30 pm)

Combination ticket – allows visit to the Dolphins.

iv) Maritime Museum

v) Cinemania – 11.00 am to 8.00 pm (Last admission 7.30 pm)

Admission : Adult \$12.50 / Child \$8.00

Tel: 6275 0388

Very vivid experience of bouncing around in chairs which move to the scenes on the screen. Expensive and a short ride – but great!

7) **Changi Airport**

- Terminal 1 Level 3 Viewing Mall

Terminal 2 Science Discovery Centre Level 3

Ride the Skytrain. Free

Eat at the food court – T1 Food Gallery or check out the hawker centre behind Burger King. Leave the building, turn left and go into the adjacent building.

- T2 Veranda Food Court

Call the information counter : 6541 2300

## **SEASONAL**

1. **Chinatown for Chinese New Year**  
About 1 month before Chinese New Year - up to day before Chinese New Year's Eve. Smith Street, Temple Street, Sago Street and all the side streets.
2. **Hungry Ghosts - wayang, puppet wayang.**  
Venues: Chinatown and other venues throughout the island. Call STB for venues – Tel: 6736 622.
3. **Lantern Festival (Sep) - Chinese Gardens** - wonderful display - lots of food, cultural performances. Best at 6.30 pm – walk around as darkness falls and enjoy the lanterns unlit and lit.
4. **Serangoon Road for Deepavali**  
About 1 month before Deepavali, up to the night before. A big pasar malam normally opposite Mustafa's.
5. **Orchard Road for Christmas light up**  
About 1 month before Christmas – don't miss Tanglin Mall – their corner display is always striking – sometimes with snow spraying around.
6. **Geylang Serai Malay Village for Hari Raya Puasa**  
(nothing much for Hari Raya Haji). Go about 6.30 pm as it gets dark, and break fast with the Malays at all the delicious food stalls. Buy kueh lapis to take home.

For other festivals that may be of interest to children, call the STPB Information Centre  
Tel: 1800 7362000.