

ADVENTURES **travel**

Family-Friendly Las Vegas

BY MERLIEE KERN

When considering where to go on a vacation with children, Las Vegas may not top your list. However, this city boasts an extensive array of kid-friendly, world-class activity, entertainment, and dining options that will keep kids away from the casino atmosphere. With such an exciting assortment of things to do for children of all ages, Vegas should skyrocket to the top of your list for a truly unforgettable vacation experience. This is one bet you're sure to win.

Having recently visited Las Vegas with my own two youngsters, I enjoyed an itinerary that was jam-packed with fun and frivolity, courtesy of several locales.

Zarkana at Aria

Zarkana by Cirque du Soleil is an extraordinary acrobatic rock experience featuring Zark, who guides the audience through an abandoned theater populated by a motley collection of off-the-wall characters and incomparable acrobats. The show has been described as "a visual vortex set in a twisted musical and acrobatic fantasy universe where, little by little, chaos and craziness give way to a true celebration."

Illusions at The Riviera

Starring master illusionist Jan Rouven from Europe, AKA "The Man with Nine Lives," has been mesmerizing audiences with his one-of-a-kind illusions and charming persona. Some of the spellbinding acts include the Hand Stab, where a volunteer plays Russian roulette with a sharp knife, and the Water Tank, where the thrill level rises even more when the illusionist seems to

nearly drown while cuffed and chained under water.

Recycle Percussion at The Quad Resort & Casino

Previously at the Tropicana, the new Recycled Percussion has been rocking the Strip for more than two years with an unprecedented combination of extreme percussion, engaging humor and extraordinary athleticism. Whether playing on buckets, ladders or grinders, Recycled Percussion's energy and creativity blows audiences away. Spoiler alert: the "random cookie break," where they dole out fresh-baked chocolate chip cookies.

Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum at The Venetian

Modeled on the famous wax attraction based in London, England, this interactive experience allows you to touch and take pictures with the "celebs," and kids gravitate toward their favorites like Johnny Depp as Captain Jack Sparrow, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, and pop stars Beyonce, Rihanna and Lady GaGa.

The Grand Canal Shoppes at The Venetian

The Grand Canal Shoppes is a luxurious shopping center nestled within The Venetian and connected to The Palazzo and The Shoppes at The Palazzo. It features 80 upscale boutiques, luxury stores and world-class restaurants that wind along a reproduction of Venice's Grand Canal. The main attraction is the Gondola Ride, where you can enjoy the Venetian architecture as you float down the Grand Canal in a genuine Italian gondola. Weather permitting, opt for the separate outdoor gondola ride.

The Mob Attraction at the Tropicana

Immerse yourself in Vegas lore! The Mob Attraction plunges visitors into the world of mobsters with many that served as the founding fathers of Las Vegas. An "assignment" is given to visitors by a real life "mobster" and an array of actors stay well in character as you're ushered

through various scenes. While walking through the various scenes visitors also interact with 3D holograms of famous mob movie icons like Frank Vincent and Tony Sirico.

Fatburger Near Monte Carlo and City Center

Of course, amid the fun activities, a family needs to eat. And, what's more appealing than a thick, juicy burger, fries, and a milkshake? Fatburger, and its adjacent Fat Bar patio right on the Vegas Strip, feeds guests 24/7/365 days a year. Fatburger has a delicious menu with various-sized 100% USDA custom burgers, chicken burgers, turkey burgers and veggie burgers, along with famous sides like chili cheese fries and daily fresh onion rings that can't be beat. Mom and Dad will enjoy the extensive cocktail and drinks menu, including adult 'slushies.'

Las Vegas Monorail

There's no more convenient way to travel the Las Vegas Strip than using the monorail, allowing you to skip the gridlock on the street below. Kids love the fast-moving monorail while adults enjoy the views. The monorail provides direct access to many hotels, as well as the Las Vegas Convention Center. With trains departing every few minutes, riders can rest assured they'll arrive at their destination promptly and in comfort. Ticket machines that take cash and credit and debit cards are at each station.

Las Vegas has become so much more than a playground for adults. With a mix of shows and entertainment, cultural activities, outdoor fun, shopping and great eateries, Las Vegas is understandably rising as a U.S. destination for family getaways. [wFm](#)



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ONLINE RESOURCES

Zarkana at Aria

<http://www.ariaslasvegas.com/cirque/zarkana>

Illusions at the Riviera

<http://www.rivierahotel.com/las-vegas-entertainment/illusions-starring-jan-rouven>

Recycle Percussion at The Quad Resort & Casino

http://www.thequadlv.com/shows/recycled-percussion.html#_UTgwjldvCS0

Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum at The Venetian

<http://www.venetian.com/Las-Vegas-Activities/Madame-Tussauds>

The Grand Canal Shoppes at The Venetian

<http://www.grandcanalshoppes.com>

The Mob Attraction at the Tropicana

<http://www.moblvdev.com>

Fatburger Near Monte Carlo and City Center

<http://www.fatburger.com>

Las Vegas Monorail

<http://www.lvmonorail.com>