



Words: Sarah Hewitt

A

IS FOR AQUAVENTURE

Nothing cools you down like a ride on a water slide, and with 105 record-breaking slides, attractions and experiences, there's always something new to explore at the world's largest waterpark. If you haven't visited since last year's extension, we recommend checking out the 48-metre high Trident tower, which features 12 new experiences and Splashers Lagoon & Cove – perfect for little thrill seekers. Don't forget to book using the UAE resident rate, which starts from Dhs199.

atlantis.com



B

IS FOR BEACH DAYS

It's one of the reasons we all love living here – access to amazing beaches and pools, which are especially welcome in the summer months. Head to the public beaches early in the morning or later in the evening to enjoy slightly cooler climes. Or for something a little more five-star, join the *What's On* award-winning Privilee app and gain access to 75+ luxury resorts, plus gyms, classes and discounts on food and drink. There are various pricing plans to choose from but rates start from Dhs529 a month.

privilee.ae



C

IS FOR COOKERY CLASSES

Sharpen up your culinary skills at Mamalu Kitchen located in Depachika, Nakheel Mall. Its schedule of events changes each month but previous classes have included baking bread, preparing Chinese dumplings, perfecting pasta and more. Upcoming topics are set to include creating summer-inspired menus and baking masterclasses. There are also interactive sessions on offer for the kids. Check out the summer camp for four to 12-year-olds, which is priced at Dhs1,250 per child for a five-day week.

mamalukitchen.com



D IS FOR DEEP DIVE DUBAI

Summer is a great time to visit this world-class diving centre. With a record-breaking depth of 60 metres, beginners and seasoned professionals can enjoy discovering an amazing sunken city. There are a range of packages available with snorkelling experiences starting from Dhs400 and discover scuba sessions starting from Dhs1,800. You can bring the older kids, too (minimum age is 10 years).

deepdivedubai.com



E IS FOR EAT WHILE THEY PLAY

Our favourite cafes for enjoying coffee and a cake while the little ones are entertained include Café Confetti in JLT, Bakers Kitchen in the Marina or Sandersons in Sustainable City. All of these cosy spots have an indoor play area where the kids can run wild while you enjoy a much-needed break. For something a bit more lively head to Wavehouse at Atlantis, The Palm. With a bowling alley, games arcade and a wave rider, the whole family will be kept amused for hours and the food and drink is great, too.

F IS FOR FOOTBALL CAMP

Elite Sports Academy has got your childcare sorted this summer with its ever-popular Summer Holiday Camp Programme – but you'll need to reserve your place fast. Choose from multi-sport or football camps at multiple venues across Dubai starting from Monday 18 July, for ages 4-14 years. The football course focuses on a different aspect of play each day and features the chance to take part in competitive matches. One for the budding Lionel Messis in the family.

elitesports.ae



G IS FOR THE GREEN PLANET

Explore a tropical indoor rainforest right on your doorstep at kids' favourite The Green Planet. To make your visit extra special, book a zookeeper for a day experience (ages 8+) where for Dhs410 you'll be escorted by an expert team to venture behind the scenes, visit the laboratories and understand how to nurture some of the most incredible and endangered species on the planet. Buy your tickets online starting from Dhs110.

thegreenplanetdubai.com



J IS FOR JUMEIRAH SUMMER STAYCAY

No holiday abroad? No problem. Experience Jumeirah's Exceptional Staycation offer, exclusively for UAE residents and available at all of your favourite hotels, including Jumeirah Al Naseem, Jumeirah Saadiyat Island Resort and Jumeirah Beach Hotel. Choose from up to 40 per cent off bed and breakfast or up to 30 per cent off the half board rate and enjoy a range of added discounts and extras during your stay. Check out more staycation options from p26.

jumeirah.com/en/offers/global-offers/exceptional-staycation-offer



K IS FOR KIDZANIA

This scaled replica of a real city gives kids aged two to 16 years the chance to try over 40 role-playing activities. Watch them learn about occupations, money and the real world with children's versions of a hospital, fire station, bank, radio and TV station, supermarket, pizzeria and more. This is a day out which ticks both the fun and educational box so you're basically winning at parenting with every visit. Tickets start from Dhs195.

kidzania.com/en

N IS FOR NO WAY OUT

With two locations – one in JLT and the other in City Walk, this epic escape room has eight rooms to choose from - with themes ranging from horror to adventure to mystery and specially-designed kids' experiences. No Way Out escape rooms are a great place to beat the heat, put yourself to the test and have some fun. From Dhs140 per person, gather a gang of your besties and get a date booked in.

nowayout.ae



H IS FOR HORSE-Y EXPERIENCES



Swimming with horses is very much a thing in the UAE. Cool off with the friendly inhabitants of the JA Equestrian Centre in the shallows for a fun and memorable experience. Kids over five years are welcome, and prices start from Dhs315 per person. You can also enjoy riding lessons and pony rides throughout the summer in the early morning and late evening.

jaresortshotels.com/dubai/ja-the-resort/ja-equestrian-centre-dubai



I IS FOR ICE SKATING

For those days when it's too hot to go outside, head to the coolest spot in town – Dubai Ice Rink. From Dhs85 per person you can enjoy 90 minutes of skating with your family and friends and look out for the live DJ nights where you can skate the night away to great beats and falling snow, starting at Dhs106.

<https://www.dubaiicerink.com>



L IS FOR LEGOLAND

Legoland Dubai and Legoland Water Park is the ultimate year-round theme park in the Middle East for families with children. With 60 interactive rides, water slides, shows and Lego building experiences, you'll definitely want to come back time and time again, so it might be an idea to check out the annual pass options starting from just Dhs495. Also check out the on-site hotel – there are some amazing deals to be had.

legoland.dubaiparksandresorts.com/EN



M IS FOR MUSEUM OF THE FUTURE

One of the most recognisable landmarks in Dubai, the Museum of the Future opened its doors in February and boy was it worth the wait. It's divided into seven levels with each giving a glimpse into what the world will look like 50 years from now, with an emphasis on science, technology and sustainability. Tickets are priced at Dhs145 and be sure to book in advance.

museumofthefuture.ae/en

O IS FOR OLI OLI

This children's museum is designed for all the family to enjoy. From the Water Gallery where kids can make their artwork come to life in the Future Park gallery, splash around in the rain in the Water Gallery or run around in the one-of-a-kind Toshi's Net and much more. This is all about hands-on, interactive experiences where the kids can run free and get involved. Tickets start from Dhs126.

olioli.ae



R IS FOR ROLLERSKATING

Did somebody say roller disco? With daily and nightly sessions for kids and adults, plus themed events and ladies' nights, this is a place to go out with friends and let your hair down or an easy way to entertain the kids (aged 10+). Follow @rolldxb on Instagram for all the latest events and updates. The team of super-friendly and super-talented staff make this a social hub where you'll want to hang out all summer.

rolldxb.com

S IS FOR SKI DUBAI

A day on the slopes – what more could we ask for? But you don't need to wait for winter in the Alps, Ski Dubai at Mall of Emirates is where it's at. In the Snow Park you can build your own snowman or just have fun playing in the snow. Then go sledding and tobogganing and get an aerial view of Ski Dubai from the chairlift. There's so much on offer, not to mention the Penguin encounter, which is one for the bucketlist, so you can really make a full family day out and get those all-important photos for the grid.

skidubai.com



P IS FOR PARKOUR

If you've never heard of parkour it is the art of overcoming obstacles. Don't believe everything you see on YouTube though. Parkour is not just about showing off your skills, it's built on the three elements of technical, physical and mental training. For adults it's a fun new way to workout and build strength, while for kids it's a great confidence-building exercise and a way to get them moving while having fun. Book a free trial at Parkour DXB, the region's largest parkour academy right here in Dubai.

parkour.ae



Q IS FOR QIDZ UAE

Founded by five mums trying to navigate 'the juggle', QidZ was set up as a way to find and share information on everything going on for kids in Dubai. The app might just become your best friend over the summer with over 3,000 listings of fun activities in the UAE, deals and discounts, plus online resources and DIY stuff to try at home.

qidz.com



SEE P62



T IS FOR TEPFACTOR

This indoor adventure park is based on the popular TV show *The Crystal Maze*. With 21 challenges to test your patience, logic, and physical and mental skills, adrenaline junkies will be in their element. Get your strongest team together and reserve your slot. Prices start from Dhs79 for kids (aged eight years and up) and Dhs99 for adults.

TEPfactor.ae



U IS FOR UNDERWATER ZOO

Dubai Aquarium & Underwater Zoo is home to thousands of aquatic animals, including over 400 sharks and rays who live in the 10 million-litre tanks. Visit for the day or book a special experience like shark diving or a king-croc encounter to really make it a memorable one. Ticket prices start from Dhs169 and vary according to the package you want to book.

thedubaiaquarium.com



V IS FOR VIRTUAL REALITY

Play, formerly known as VR Park, is the place to be for indoor family entertainment. With rides, attractions and a focus on virtual and augmented reality experiences, the hours will fly by as you and your family and friends take on a series of challenges. At the time of writing, the relaunch has only just been announced so we are excited to check it out this summer and see what's new.

vrparkdubai.com

W

IS FOR WOO-HOO!

With 10 different galleries filled with over 50 interactive exhibits, plus a child-focused team, a cafe and exciting programmes and events every week, woo-hoo! has something to excite the whole family. It's all done through hands-on play and non-stop fun, which is the reason why many parents rate woo-hoo! as one of the top play centres in Dubai. Prices start at Dhs110 for a two-hour experience.

👉 woo-hoo.ae



Y

IS FOR YAS ISLAND

Enjoy a thrilling and memorable experience for the whole family with Yas Island's Stay and Play package. Stay at one of the amazing hotels and experience one, two or all three of the award-winning theme parks on the island - Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas Waterworld, and Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi.

👉 yasisland.com



X

IS FOR XPARK JR

This natural forest-style playscape just off Kite Beach was created to bring kids closer to Mother Nature. It encourages free-play with water streams, wooden forts, climbing ropes, trees and other activities, and is also home to lots of animals in the petting zoo area. It's shaded and of course it's better to avoid the heat of the day as this is an outdoor activity. XPark Jr will be closed from 15 July to 15 August for maintenance. Tickets start from Dhs80 for two hours of play.

👉 xdubai.com/en/xbarkjr/experience



Z

IS FOR ZIPLINE

Take your summer to new heights with XLine - the world's longest urban zipline located in Dubai Marina. Measuring 1km in length and with an average speed of 80km/h, it's not for the faint hearted. But the bird's-eye vantage point of the five-star yachts and sleek high-rise towers is well worth it. Kids aged 12-16 years can also get involved with a young adventurer pass. Prices start from Dhs499.

👉 xdubai.com/en/xline/experience