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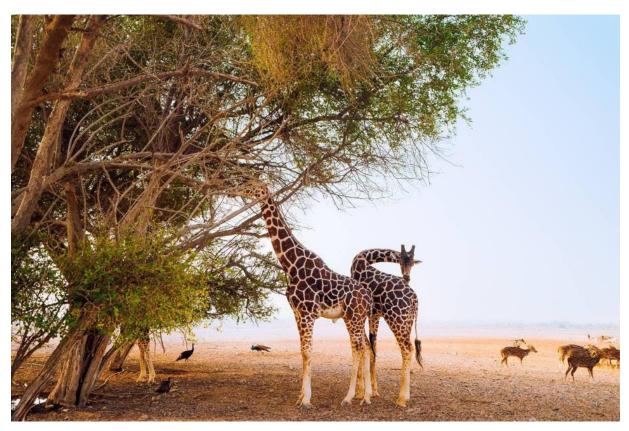
Abu Dhabi For Families? You'd Be **Surprised At Just How Much** There Is For Kids In The UAE **Capital**



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Free roaming giraffes and other animals can be seen at the family-friendly Arabian Wildlife Park. ABU DHABI

When thinking of family travel, Abu Dhabi may not be the first thing that comes to mind, but maybe it should be. This city is not only the capital of the United Arab Emirates, but it's also packed full of kid-friendly activities (that adults will like, too).

Here's what you need to know.

Where to Stay



The WB Abu Dhabi Hotel ABU DHABI

The world's first Warner Bros. hotel opened in Abu Dhabi on Yas Island late last year.

The WB Abu Dhabi, Curio Collection by Hilton has 257 rooms and is operated by Hilton under the Curio Collection brand. Guests will be able to embark on unique hospitality experiences through the lens of their favorite Warner Bros. stories and characters (room service can be delivered by a Looney Tune character like Bugs Bunny).

The opening of the new property serves to further reinforce Yas Island's position as a global entertainment, leisure and business destination and supports Abu Dhabi's ambition to attract greater numbers of local and international tourists.

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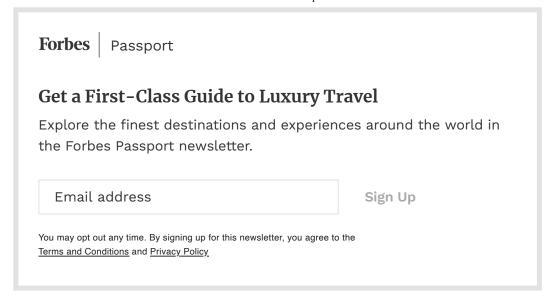
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The Plaza at Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi. ABU DHABI



The new property is located next to the Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi
Theme Park, which is one of the world's largest indoor theme parks and has six immersive lands, including DC's Metropolis and Gotham City, Cartoon Junction, Bedrock, Dynamite Gulch and Warner Bros. Plaza, along with almost 30 rides, interactive family-friendly attractions and live entertainment. The kids can meet Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Scooby-Doo, and Fred Flintstone and in this 37-acre park.

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What to Do



Ferrari World ABU DHABI

Other nearby attractions include Ferrari World, the world's first Ferraribranded theme park. It is open every day of the year and has over 20 rides and attractions, plus shopping and dining. One of the highlights is the Formula Rossa—the world's fastest roller-coaster. It goes from 0 to 240km/h in 4.9 seconds, while soaring to heights of over 170 feet. The park also has a family zone, state-of-the-art simulators, electric-powered gokarts, live shows and a vast collection of racing memorabilia.





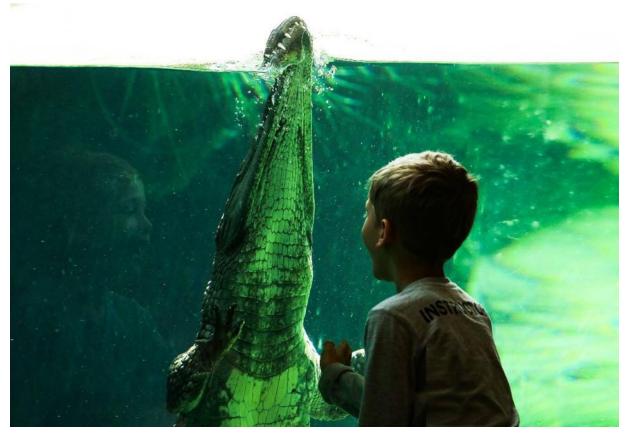
Yas Waterworld Abu Dhabi waterpark ABU DHABI

The Yas Waterworld Abu Dhabi waterpark is another family-favorite spot. It has over 40 rides and attractions. One of the most popular is the Dawwamma, the hydromagnetic-powered, 780 foot-long, six-person tornado waterslide. There's also the nine-foot-high waves on Bubble's Barrel, which boasts one of the world's largest surfable sheet wave for flow boards and bodyboards. The Bandit Bomber, boasts onboard water and laser effects, with riders shooting jets of water at targets, dropping water bombs and triggering special effects. The waterpark also has a variety of on-site restaurants as well as a souk and pearl-diving exhibits.



Sir Bani Yas Island Arabian Wildlife Park ABU DHABI

A day or two at Sir Bani Yas Island is often on the itinerary for families. It's one of eight islands making up the desert islands of Al Dhafra. Sir Bani Yas Island has a variety of water sports, including sailing, snorkeling, diving and kayaking. For more laid-back fun there's a sunset cruise. At the Arabian Wildlife Park families can go on 4x4 safaris with guides to see a variety of animals including Arabian oryx, gazelles, giraffes, hyenas and cheetahs. The reserve is home to more than 17,000 free-roaming animals and is an ideal way to teach kids about nature. For fans of equestrian activities, the Sir Bani Yas Stables, allows kids and adults to go horseback riding in nature.



Al Ain Zoo ABU DHABI

The Al Ain Zoo is another popular spot for families. It's home to more than 4,000 animals and has a variety of exhibits including penguin feedings, bird shows, reptile encounters, horse, camel or pony rides around gorgeous green spaces, birds of prey show, and more.

The Al Ain Safari tour is an hour-long journey across 536 acres of land along the base of Jebel Hafit mountain. There is a chance to see many animals including lions, rhinos, zebras, giraffes, ostriches and wildebeest. Families can also book a dinner under the stars on the edge of the lion territory.

Check out my website.



Judy Koutsky

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