

São Paulo offers several options for children to have fun with the whole family

The city has hundreds of entertainment alternatives for kids that are also fun for grown-ups

Known as the South-American capital for leisure and culture, São Paulo also has a lot of fun options for kids of all ages and tastes and parents of all energies and budgets. There are amusement parks full of radical rides and interactive museums able to stimulate all senses and even close contact to animals. Places with fun and interaction guaranteed for the little ones and grown-ups.

The city's always full movie theater, concerts, presentations, exhibitions, and theater schedule has also a special place for attractions aimed at the children audience, especially during the holidays season. To get the city's entertainment schedule, visit www.cidadedesapaulo.com and "Turismo em São Paulo" (Tourism in São Paulo) in Facebook and Twitter.

Check below some suggestions on what to do with the kids in São Paulo's capital city.

Kart

If you enjoy speed, this is the right place. The city has five kart racing circuits, including **Kartódromo Ayrton Senna** with a 980 meters outdoors track. The area is part of Interlagos Racetrack, which hosts some of the most important races in the world, an entertainment that ensures the fun for the entire family. Another option is **Kart in – Jaguaré Racing Club**, known for sheltering the largest indoor kart racing track in the world. The venue has three kinds of tracks with asphalt for ideal adherence for the competitors and including track for the kids to practice with approximately 400 meters.

Green Areas

There are plenty of green areas in São Paulo. Additionally to more than 70 parks, the city has the **Jardim Botânico (Botanic Garden)**, the **Horto Florestal (Forest Reserve)**, and **Environmental Protection Areas (APAs)**. The most famous and frequented park is **Ibirapuera**, which hosts approximately 20,000 visitors from Monday to Friday, 70,000 on Saturdays, and 130,000 on Sundays. The park has several areas for physical activities, a bike way, 13 sport squares, and playgrounds, and is home for the **Museu de Arte Moderna (MAM) (Modern Art Museum)**, the **Pavilhão da Bienal (Bienal Pavillion)**, the **Oca**, the **Pavilhão Japonês (Japanese Pavillion)**, and the **Planetário (Planetarium)**, where we can see the sky from any known point in the Universe.

Soccer

Birthplace of the sport in Brazil, the favorite national sport is present all over the city. São Paulo has six **soccer stadiums** and will have a seventh, the new Corinthians football club stadium, under construction to host 2014 World Cup games.

The city also has the only museum in the world exclusively dedicated to soccer. An interactive space, the **Museu do Futebol (Soccer Museum)** combines passion for the sport with fun. It offers permanent exhibitions that tell the soccer history in Brazil and drive the visitors to the games atmosphere, such as in the Jogo de Corpo (Contact Game) room, where parents and children can interact with a virtual ball and even compute a kick speed. The

place also offers free baby buggies for the tour.

Nature

Many attractions allow direct contact between children and animals. **Zoológico de São Paulo (São Paulo's Zoo)** occupies an area of around 900,000 square meters, most of it covered by the Atlantic Forest. The park has more than 3,000 animals, representing 200 species of birds, 100 mammals, 100 reptiles, plus amphibious and invertebrates. If the purpose is to get to know a little bit more of the marine biodiversity, **Aquário de São Paulo (São Paulo's Aquarium)** is the best choice. Considered the largest in Brazil, it has approximately 3,000 animals, including ocean sharks, giant moray eels, and other fresh water and sea species. There are also mechanic replicas of dinosaurs and a paleontology museum.

Knowledge

The world of knowledge simmers in São Paulo, where kids can learn science, math, geography and history in interactive, creative and fun places. In **Catavento Cultural**, parents and kids have fun while learning science. Divided by Universe, Life, Ingenuity and Society areas, the site has approximately 250 facilities distributed throughout 4,000 square meters. Another option is the **Estação Ciência (Science Station)**, which is divided into areas of knowledge, such as physics, geology, math, and biology. Different from traditional exhibition centers, the visitor can touch in some equipment, such as the Gerador de Van de Graaff (Van de Graaff Generator), a sphere that makes the visitor's hair standing on end.

Museums are also a highlight in the city. São Paulo's capital city has more than a hundred. And those who think of a museum as a steady and boring place will be surprised with the options São Paulo offers. Interactivity is the focus of spaces such as the **Museu da Língua Portuguesa (Portuguese Language Museum)**, and themes are an additional show, such as in the **Museu do Circo (Circus Museum)** and the **Museu das Invenções (Inventions Museum)**.

Children Tours

Some attractions are exclusively focused on the young audience, such as the **Maria Fumaça Mooca-Brás (Mooca-Brás Steam Train)**, a steam powered locomotive dated back from 1922 that travels in 25 minutes a three kilometers trail visiting a number of districts every Saturday and Sunday. After the ride, you can take pictures in old costumes or go to CineSesc's **CineClubinho**, which every Sunday presents a free children movie. To enjoy the movie, simply get a free ticket one hour before the presentation starts.

Services:

Catavento Cultural

Schedule: Tuesday to Sunday, from 9 am to 5 pm.

Address: Praça Cívica Ulisses Guimarães, no number – Brás.

Tel: (11) 3315-0051.

Prices: R\$ 3 (children from 4 to 12 years old) and R\$ 6. Free for children under 3 years old.

Planetário do Ibirapuera (Ibirapuera's Planetarium)

Schedule: 11 am (for children); 15 pm (for adults).

Address: Avenida Pedro Álvares Cabral, Gate 3 – Ibirapuera.

Tel: (11) 5575-5425.

Free entrance – Tickets are distributed from 9:30 am to 10:30 am.

Zoológico de São Paulo (São Paulo's Zoo)

Schedule: Tuesday to Sunday, from 9 am to 5 pm

Address: Avenida Miguel Estéfano, 4241 – Água Funda

Tel: (11) 5073-0811.

Price: R\$ 17 (full ticket) – adults or children over 12 years old; R\$ 8.50 (half ticket); R\$ 6.50 – Children from 5 to 12 years old; Free – Children up to 4 years old and people with disabilities.

Aquário de São Paulo (São Paulo's Aquarium)

Schedule: everyday, from 9 am to 6 pm (including weekends and holidays).

Address: Rua Huet Bacelar, 407 – Ipiranga.

Tel: (11) 2273-5500.

Price: Day visit: R\$ 40 (full ticket); R\$ 25 (children from 3 to 12 years old); R\$ 20 (half ticket and single price on Mondays); Night visit: R\$ 90 (adult); R\$ 70 (children).

Estação Ciência (Science Station)

Schedule: Tuesday to Friday, from 8 am to 6 pm; Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, from 9 am to 6 pm. (Gate closes for tickets at 5:30 pm).

Price: R\$ 2 (individual); R\$ 5 each (family – up to 4 people); R\$ 1 each (family – more than 4 people). Free entrance for children up to 6 years old, people with more than 60 years old and people with disabilities.

Address: Rua Guaicurus, 1394 – Lapa.

Tel: (11) 3871-6750.

CineClubinho

Schedule: Sundays, 11 am.

CineSesc

Address: Rua Augusta, 2075 – Cerqueira César

Tel.: (11) 3087-0500.

Free entrance.

Maria-Fumaça Mooca-Brás (Mooca-Brás Steam Train)

Schedule: Saturdays and Sundays, 10:30 am and 4 pm.

Price: R\$ 8 (No half ticket). Free for children up to 6 years old, if sitting on the lap.

Immigrants Cultural Train

Address: Rua Visconde de Parnaíba, 1253 – Brás.

Tel: (011) 2695-1151.

Museu do Futebol (Soccer Museum)

Schedule: Tuesday to Sunday, from 9 am to 6 pm.

Address: Praça Charles Miller, no number – Higienópolis.

Price: R\$ 3 to R\$ 6.

Tel: (11) 3664-3848.

Kart in – Jaguaré Racing Club

Schedule: Monday to Friday, from 2:30 pm to 11:30 pm; Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, from 9 am to 10 pm.

Address: Avenida Jaguaré, 1133 – Jaguaré

Tel: (11) 3716-0070.