

Cool runnings

Hong Kong summer holidays are a hot trot. **Kate Farr** rounds up a heap of activities to keep kids busy - and chilled - until the school bell rings again



Go big or go home

If bigger means better in your household, then look no further than Discovery Bay's Epicland. At 14,000 square feet, Hong Kong's largest play centre is fully tricked-out with fantastic facilities to match its huge space. Daredevils can test their nerves on the sky-high Air Trek obstacle course, while down below you'll find a mini golf course, trampolines, laser tag, foam ballistics room, climbing wall, vast playground, dedicated toddler area... the list goes on. There's a snack bar for quick bites. You can also take advantage of DB's family-friendly restaurants and make a day of it. Open daily from 9.30am to 7.30pm. Admission costs \$148 per child on weekdays and \$188 per child at weekends (admission includes one adult per child); ages 13 and over cost \$168

on weekdays and \$200 at weekends.

G/F, 31 North Plaza, 96 Siena Avenue, Discovery Bay; 2441 0098 epiclandhk.com

Water world

Brand new for Summer 2017 is Aqua Float, a vast inflatable adventure playground bobbing atop Lake Egret Nature Park in Tai Po. With 43 individual obstacles to tackle, you can set adrift on floating icebergs, scale improbably bouncy steps then zoom down a 6m-long sheer water slide, test your balance on speedy slip-and-slide runways and catch some air on the park's aquatic trampolines. Open seven days a week, Aqua Float is just one of the facilities at Core HK's sprawling site. If you're especially energetic, you can also try out wakeboarding and water-biking

(yes, it's a thing!). Feeling peckish after all that wet-and-wild activity? Pack a cool box and make the most of the on-site barbecue pit where you can grill your dinner and dry off a bit. Open daily from 10am to 8pm, **Core HK, 2 Hung Lam Drive, Tai Po Kau, Tai Po, New Territories, 2465 3468, corehk.net.** Aqua Float admission costs \$108 per hour if pre-booked, or \$138 per hour on the day. There is a free shuttle bus provided from Tai Po Market MTR Station.

What goes up...

If your idea of a family day out involves hauling yourselves up sheer rock face then you're in luck! Based in Quarry Bay (in the same building as Ryze trampoline park), Verm City is a brand new climbing gym that's suitable for the entire family. Adults

and older kids can tackle tougher top-roping and bouldering, while on Mondays and Fridays, Verm offers free sessions on Asia's first augmented climbing wall – a completely unique projector-based rock climbing game. Meanwhile Verm's Clip-n-Climb Park is suitable for kids aged four and above, with 19 different climbing challenges, games and puzzles to tackle. Do note that you'll need to ditch the flip-flops, as socks and sneakers are compulsory for all climbers. Open Monday to Friday from 11am to 11pm; Weekends from 9am to 9pm. Clip-n-Climb Park costs \$180 per hour with regular packages available. Bouldering wall costs \$180 per day with membership packages available.

4/F, Kodak House, 321 Java Street, Quarry Bay, 2560 8128, vermcity.com.



From little acorns...

One for the younger siblings, Baumhaus has two learning centres with attached play areas that are perfect for tiny tots. Sign up for music and drama classes, or simply drop in for a play – both the Wan Chai and Tsim Sha Tsui branches feature large birch wood "tree houses" surrounded by plenty of soft play space and wooden toys to explore. Mums and dads will appreciate the on-site coffee shops, offering a range of healthy snacks and drinks guaranteed to keep everyone happy. Open daily. Wan Chai branch between 9am and 6pm, Tsim Sha Tsui branch between 10am and 7pm.



Playroom costs \$100 for the first child and \$60 per subsequent sibling. **1/F Kar Yau Building, 36-44 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai; 2321 5898 baumhaus.com.hk**



Jump around

If you'd rather no more monkeys jumping on the bed, then pack them off to one of two trampoline parks to expend their energy! Hong Kong's original trampoline park, Ryze's fun soft obstacle course and slack-line challenge makes this a great Island-side option, while Bounce's offers Kowloon-siders an airbag crash-pad and extra-long tumble track, to name but a couple of its many attractions. Both parks require you to sign a waiver before entering and have strict safety rules in operation, so read the

fine print and happy jumping! **Ryze** is open daily from 9am to 9pm; **Bounce** is open weekdays from 11am to 9pm and weekends from 10am to 9pm. Ryze costs \$95 per hour for under-sixes and \$150 per hour for age six and over. Bounce costs \$98 per hour for kids over three, but under 110cm tall, and \$140 per hour for anyone over 110cm tall. For maps and directions, visit: **ryzehongkong.com bounceinc.com.hk**

In the zone

A classic crowd-pleaser that's a sure-fire hit with the toddler-to-tween demographic, Funzone's three convenient locations (Kennedy Town, Ma On Shan and North Point) mean that you're never too far away from an air-conditioned soft play when the need arises. All three branches are spacious, with ample space for cooped-up kids to run, jump, clamber and slide to their hearts' content. You'll also find dedicated toddler zones, on-site cafés for convenient refuelling stops... and unlimited free Wi-Fi for ever-patient parents. Opening hours and admission fees vary by location. For more information visit **funzone.com.hk**





In the house

Another multi-branch (North Point, Yau Tong and San Po Kong) indoor option that's great for rainy or simply sweltering days, Playhouse has the classic soft play format down to a T. Think slides, ball pits, obstacle courses and climbing frames, alongside other less commonplace amenities like electric driving circuits and library corners. All branches can be booked out for parties, and their San Po Kong branch also features a café. Opening times, facilities and fees vary by branch. For more information visit: playhouse.com.hk

Ice, ice baby

For something a little bit cooler, head to Megabox and the aptly-named Mega Ice Rink, Hong Kong's largest. Situated in the mall's atrium, Mega Ice is the city's



only international-sized rink and, as such, regularly hosts major hockey, figure skating and speed skating tournaments, which are open to spectators. For those of us who are less steady on our skates, a more sedate experience is on offer through general admission. Sessions allow for a maximum of either three or four hours skate time, and your admission fee includes skate hire. Bring your Octopus card to use a locker and pay attention to announcements, as the rink is regularly resurfaced throughout the day. Open weekdays from 10am to 10pm; weekends from 10am to 12am. Admission costs from \$70-\$80 per person, depending on time slot.

Unit 1, Level 10, MegaBox, 38 Wang Chiu Road, Kowloon Bay; 2709 4023
megaice.com.hk

Get lost

Great for teens and teens, Causeway Bay's LOST is hard to beat. An escape room game designed to be completed as a team, this is a physical and mental workout that's great for the whole family, although under-12s will need to be supervised by an adult. Find hidden clues, solve complex puzzles and complete a variety of challenges to escape the locked rooms, which are graded by difficulty and theme. Each challenge lasts between 45-90 minutes and can accommodate teams of up to 10, making this a fun birthday party activity. Open weekdays from 1pm to 11pm and weekends from 11am to 11pm. Pricing varies per room selected.

15 Matheson Street, Causeway Bay; 2892 2393
losthk.com



Hit the slopes

The world's largest revolving carpet ski and snowboard slope, Slope Infinity uses real ski boots, poles and bindings to replicate an authentic on-piste experience without a trip to the airport. Suitable for the entire family, this is a class activity rather than a drop-in play session, but if you're planning a snow break this winter, this offers the ideal environment for fully-supervised training, building confidence and honing skills. Opening times and fees vary according to training options required.

1/F, 148 Electric Road, Fortress Hill; 2107 4567
slope8.com



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