



#2 Grand Lapa Macau

By Kate Farr



For a quick and easy weekend break that steers clear of airport queues and offers something a little different to Cotai's mega-casinos, the historic Grand Lapa Macau is a great family option with a laid-back resort vibe.

Room with a view

The Grand Lapa Macau is situated just five minutes from Macau's downtown TurboJet pier; we took the 10.45am ferry from Hong Kong and were happily settled into our room by 12.15pm, leaving us plenty of time to enjoy our afternoon.

We stayed in a one-bedroom suite, which offered ample space for our king bed, a baby crib for the littlest member of the party and a rollaway for our four-year-old. Although the décor could use a little updating, our room was large, clean and comfortable, with the added bonus of a large balcony overlooking the resort's large pool and landscaped gardens.

Thai Thai

Dropping off our bags, we headed downstairs to NAAM, the Grand Lapa's Thai restaurant, for lunch. The food here is authentic and offers a range of options in a charming colonial-style restaurant – think slowly rotating ceiling fans and a central water feature with real fish that absolutely delighted our boy! The highlight here was the kids' bento box set, which included spring rolls, satay

sticks, Phad Thai and stir-fried veggies, and which was easily large enough for Mum and Dad to steal a forkful or two.

Jump around

Next door to NAAM is Kids Co., the Grand Lapa's kids' club, which has ample indoor and outdoor space to play, including a bouncy castle, indoor soft-play zone and – most exciting of all for our Hong Kong boy – a huge lawn to run on. If you're after five minutes of peace during your stay then you can drop off little ones aged three and over with the fully trained staff – guests get two hours of access per day included in their stay.

Time to unwind

Happily, that two-hour kids' club window provides just the right amount of time you'll need at the spa! I hit the steam room and vitality pool before sampling the 60-minute scrub and massage, which took place in a treatment room that opened out onto a secluded outdoor shower and Jacuzzi area in the hotel's garden. The scrub did a great job of smoothing my dry skin, while the Aromatherapy Associates massage unknotted me sufficiently to start dozing off.

Tea and cake

Luckily it was time for a brief sugar hit at Café Bela Vista, where we enjoyed afternoon tea in an airy, colonial setting before heading up for a quick change before dinner. Café Bela Vista's buffet is a good option for those visiting with kids over a weekend as there's a wide



variety of choices on offer; otherwise if you're looking for something a little more formal, Kam Lai Heen serves up traditional Cantonese fare in a rather ritzy setting.

A splashing good time

Forget the spa, the food or even the kids' club; the Grand Lapa's fabulous pool is the real reason you'll want to visit with children. Surrounded by lush tropical plants and with plenty of loungers available (sun-worshippers, take note!), the pool features a large shallow area for little ones, a deeper section for serious swimming, an outdoor whirlpool and a water slide that runs into a deep, but not too deep, pool complete with cooling waterfall. It's no exaggeration to say that no amount of bribes, cajoling or threats could persuade our four-year-old to get out, and so our entire Sunday was spent splashing and sunning ourselves until it was time to check out for our ferry ride back to Hong Kong.

Grand Lapa Macau is at 956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, Macau.
+853 2856 7888 | grandlapa.com