

NATIONAL
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TRAVELLER

SPECIAL
ISSUE

family

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National Geographic Traveller - Family's team reveal what's got them talking this season

WE TRIED...

Peppa Pig World

National Geographic Traveller's editor, Pat Riddell, plays Daddy Pig for the day

We hear Peppa Pig World before we see it: "Grandpa's little train goes choo, choo, choo; choo, choo, choo..."

Walking into the lair of the swine, within the relatively normal world of Paultons Family Theme Park in Hampshire, is like entering a 3D version of the cartoon — the piped theme music instantly burrowing its way into your subconscious.

You've bought the DVD, the CD, the games, the toys and, probably, the T-shirt... it was only a matter of time before you found yourself here. Since opening in 2011, the creation of London firm Astley Baker Davies Entertainment has been a hit with the nation's toddlers.

Our three-year-old was instantly captivated. Toddling high-speed between Peppa's Big Balloon Ride, Miss Rabbit's Helicopter Flight and Daddy Pig's Car World, she didn't know where to turn next.

Even the static — and relatively unexciting, for adults at least — Peppa's House, School and Library amazed her. "Look, Peppa and George," she gasped, as she gazed at the models, twice her size.

The seven rides, playgrounds and buildings are all brightly coloured and seemingly irresistible to children, with everything firmly focused on under-fives — the wee rides make giants out of parents. While the three-acre site didn't seem that big at the outset, yet we somehow managed to spend six hours working our way around the various rides, stalls and attractions — with lunch and ice cream breaks of course.

It's definitely one for toddlers. Months later, Mia still asks, "When are we going to Peppa Pig World again?" Praise doesn't come much higher. Under 12 months, £6; 12-35 months, £15.50; 3 years and over, £22. www.peppapigworld.co.uk

Preferred Hotel Group has launched a bookings website so you can search its 150 hotels and resorts for useful things like adjoining rooms, cots and kids' pools. Also includes a blog with tips and reviews from family travel bloggers. www.preferredfamily.com



things that get our thumbs up

Wow website

Hidden Journeys, by the Royal Geographical Society and Institute of British Geographers reveals the often overlooked history, geology and ecology that lie beneath some of the world's most familiar plane routes. A great way to get your kids involved in charting where they're going. www.hiddenjourneys.co.uk

Money matters

Get the kids to start saving for their hols with MoneySupermarket's new SuperKid Savers campaign. Download an educational pack with top tips plus advice from financial experts. www.moneysupermarket.com/savings/childrens

Stone Age story

A new gallery opens at Brighton Museum (16 March), dedicated to Neolithic treasures such as the story of Piltdown Man, the 20th century's greatest anthropological hoax, and the Ice Age 'Chilled to the Bone' exhibition. www.brighton-hove-rpml.org.uk



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