



Situated in the heart of Surfers Paradise on Queensland's Gold Coast, Paradise Resort provides everything a family needs for a fun, relaxing escape from the everyday.

Recently our family took advantage of the new Stay, Play & Save package, which includes access to the Resort's extensive range of activities, along with a free seven-day holiday world pass to Dreamworld, WhiteWater World and SkyPoint Observation Deck. This package is incredible value (especially if you're a big, busy family like us), and the ridiculously large grins on the faces of our kids when they realised just how much fun we were going to pack into a few days away from the daily grind was great to see.

We arrived at Paradise Resort on a Friday evening, tired and grumpy after a busy work week. The courteous receptionist greeted me in a superhero costume and assured me that my week was about to get a whole lot better.

Being a family of five, we're usually instantly disqualified from many of the popular two adults/two children holiday packages, but at Paradise there was no problem popping us into one of their superior family rooms, ready-made for bigger families. With bunk beds, a TV, Xbox and a tempting view of the Resort's huge onsite water park, the kids would have moved in permanently if it had have been an option.

Over the next few days, we made the most of everything this unique resort had to offer. The kids took a swim and squealed with delight as bucket-loads of water tumbled over them in the colourful aqua play zones. An indoor jungle gym and an outdoor sandy adventure playground kept them active when not in the pool – a day-long schedule of poolside activities meant there was literally never a dull moment.

There was something to please all three of our children (aged between three and eight), from a treasure hunt, to cupcake decorating and a play on the giant chess board. We all took a spin (and the occasional tumble) around the onsite ice skating rink Planet Chill, and watched a movie by the pool as the sun went down.

My husband and I decided that Sunday night would be *our* night, so we signed the kids into the supervised Zone 4 Kids Club where they were entertained with a mini-disco, craft activities and games. Paradise Resort offers a selection of 'adults only' activities, like wine tasting and a kid-free heated spa, but we decided to steal away to nearby SkyPoint for a sumptuous dinner and some quiet time gazing out over the Gold Coast lights from 77 floors above street level.

The fantastic thing about having a five-day family theme park pass is that you can come and go from the various attractions at your leisure. We took the kids back to SkyPoint for an early morning visit and watched the sun come up with incredible 360 degree views, and then it was time for Dreamworld.

Dreamworld is a wonderland of colourful characters and scream-tastic rides for all levels of thrill-seeker. Having younger children, we started at the DreamWorks attractions where we met the characters from *Madagascar* and walked through Shrek's Kingdom of Faire, Faire Away. The rides in this section of the park keep the thrills and spills to a minimum so the whole family can get onboard.

Elsewhere in the park, the rides are not nearly so tame. I was terrified just watching the plunging Tower Of Terror II and other lightning-fast rollercoasters – these are definitely not for the faint-hearted. Our family took things a little easier, enjoying the Dreamworld Express train that carries visitors around the park perimeter, the Tiger Island live show and some impressive sheep shearing at the Dreamworld Woolshed. There's so much to do, it's impossible to see it all in one day, so we headed back to the resort when the kids ran out of steam and returned later in the week to tick off a few more must-dos and have some splashy fun at kids' space at WhiteWater World Wiggly Bay, right next door to Dreamworld. A whole new ABC Kids World opens at Dreamworld in June 2015 with even more immersive play experiences for youngsters. Needless to say, it's already marked on our calendar.

We headed home feeling that we'd had a true holiday with just the right balance of time at the centre of the action, and doing nothing at all. Paradise Resort ensured the whole family was catered for every step of the way, and the luxury of a five-day theme park pass meant we never once heard a child say 'I'm bored'.

Get in quick as Paradise Resort's Stay, Play & SAVE package is only on sale for a limited time. Packages start from \$1045per room, saving families over \$589 with a free seven-day holiday world pass to Dreamworld, WhiteWater World and SkyPoint, breakfast daily and loads more. Visit [Paradise Resort](#) for full details.

Sponsored by Paradise Resort