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Gorgeous Venice has so much to offer visitors of all ages

# Not just for

By Robin McKelvie

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**V**ENICE, with the kids? Are you sure?" asked my wife for the second time, sounding even less convinced than the first.

I had plumped for a trip to the Divine Republic for our sunny summer break, but even on the flight out, I too admit I was having my doubts at how this busy city break destination would work for a family.

I need not have worried. Maybe that was because I had cheated a little and booked a week at Marina de Venezia with Al Fresco Holidays.

This massive holiday park sits away from the city bustle on the edge of the Venetian lagoon.

It fronts a sweeping Adriatic sandy beach and also has its own expansive water park.

The kids were instantly impressed. As was mummy.

Our Vivaldi holiday home was spacious with a big wooden terrace, an open living area and three bedrooms. It was handy having somewhere you could just relax on the terrace or in air-conditioned comfort inside.

Staying here offered the sort of holiday where you have no choice but to relax.

I even managed to switch my phone off at one point!

The rest of our stay was spent in the water or trying out the huge number of kids' activities, ranging from play parks and mini-golf through to high-wire courses and discos.

The park can organise kids' clubs that let adults enjoy free time away from the wee ones, but we were keen to just enjoy as much time with them as possible.

Never once were we left wondering what to do with ourselves.

There was plenty laid on at night too with beach DJs and fireworks ensuring we all enjoyed long, lazy nights out we just don't really get at home in chillier Scotland.

I loved sipping a cool beer on the beach as my girls danced along in their summer dresses.

They have a liberal splash of eating and drinking venues on site at Marina di Venezia too.

It was no surprise that they conjured up a mean pizza.

What was surprising, though, was at lunchtime you could get a large one for five euros. This was a real budget saver. Two of these whoppers could easily feed a family of four.

Daddy managed to resist the allure of Venice itself for three whole days, but then it was time to test out the city.

We caught a vaporetto