



A Kid's Eye View

By Breanna Mannis Demont, age 11

Croco Cun Park: This fun-filled, family-friendly destination is an amazing zoo that is absolutely perfect for everyone of all ages to enjoy. You see animals from all over the world, and better yet, you get to interact with them. For example, you can feed monkeys and hold crocodiles! I literally have not had so much fun at a zoo in my entire life!

Tips:

1. It is optional, but I highly recommend that you purchase food for the animals as it really adds to the experience.
2. Be careful of getting too close to the monkeys because they can turn aggressive very quickly. (I almost lost a chunk of my hair by getting too close when taking a picture!)

Xcaret Park: This entertaining, but educational park is perfect for tourists. There are endless things to do, so plan your day carefully. My advice is: don't miss the underground river and be sure to go to the night show.

Tips:

1. Wear or pack your bathing suit.
2. Wear a hat and some sort of clothing to cover up your shoulders, the heat is extreme!

Garrafón Park: I was lucky enough to arrive at Garrafón park, one of my favorite destinations of the entire trip, on the Mexican holiday of Dia Del Niños, which is a special day that celebrates children. My favorite thing to do there was snorkeling. I had never had the chance to experience snorkeling before and it was very exciting!

Tips:

1. Be aware of possible motion sickness on the boat ride going back and forth from Garrafón Park.
2. Don't miss the hike on the cliff that overlooks the ocean and sculpture garden.
3. Save some time to relax and hang out on a hammock with a view of the beautiful turquoise Caribbean Sea.
4. DO NOT MISS the amazing museum before or after you go to Garrafón Park! It is so educational and at the same time, it is so interesting and fun!

La Isla Shopping Village: La Isla Shopping Village is an outdoor mall that is conveniently located right smack dab in the middle of Cancun. There you will experience an aquarium unlike any other. You can actually pet sea urchins, stingrays, and sharks (but pet the sharks at your own risk, because they are known to bite hard!). Also, there are numerous shops that range from Bulgari to souvenir shops and delis; it all depends on what you are looking for. Personally, my favorite part of La Isla was the aquarium.

Tips: 1. Don't miss the darling dolphin show that was set to cultural, fun, funky Mexican music.

2. If you're slightly tired of Mexican food, visit Come N' Eat that offers a wide variety of foods from around the world (Chinese, Greek, Italian...).

Selvatura: Selvatura was definitely my favorite destination of the entire trip. When you are there, you zip line* through the jungle and either mountain bike or ride in a van, to a cenote (a natural pool). You can also zip line into the cenote, or get in at your leisure, but I highly recommend that you zip line into it—it's more fun!

(*My Definition: zip line- when you are zip lining, you are in a harness that is attached to a long line that is up high in the air and you "zip" down the line at a nice speed.)

Tips:

1. If you or your children are even remotely scared of heights, do not go on the wild zip lining adventure.
2. Check out the web site before committing to this wonderful day trip. Once you are there, just know that the activities are limited.
3. Don't let too much fear of any of these activities get in your way. It's all worth the excitement!
4. Lunch is provided, but I suggest that you pack your own lunch in case you have picky taste buds.

Captain Hook: This is an awesome pirate ship that serves you a delicious dinner aboard the ship. When you are on the ship, there are two shows that you

will see, one before dinner and one after and let me tell you, they are both spectacular! On the ship, you get good laughs and have buckets of fun! You also get a chance to mingle with your shipmates from various parts of the world. I must admit, that this amazing boat ride was the perfect ending to my fun-filled family getaway to Cancun, Mexico!

Tips:

1. Make SURE the pirates (the waiters) serve non-alcoholic beverages to the kids, because there is the chance that they could get mixed up with the grown up's drinks.
2. Get a good night's sleep the night before, so you are totally well rested for this upbeat occasion that ends fairly late in the evening.

Final Thoughts

As I'm typing this editorial on the plane, I think back to what my original thought was about Cancun Mexico. I thought, "Oh, Cancun is just a spring break getaway for teens, and a party place for adults." Now, Cancun can be those things, if that's what you want to get out of it, but I realized that if you want to have a nice family vacation, Cancun just might be the place for you! All of the destinations that we visited were perfect for the entire family, and I can assure you, my mom and I loved them! So the next time your family needs a break from reality and a nice vacation, look to Cancun, Mexico—YOU'LE LOVE IT!!!