

Kidding Yourself

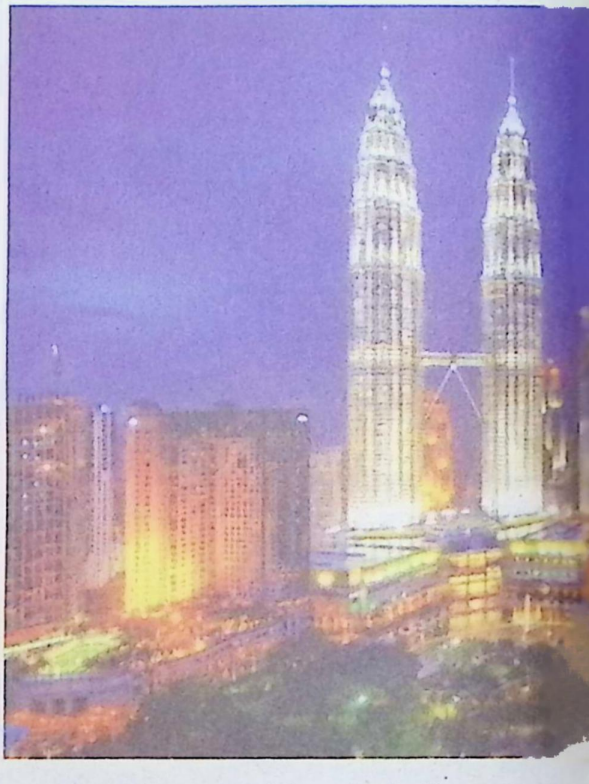
Travelling with children can be quite nerve-wrecking. You have to cater to their needs, make sure that they are pacified and are not creating too much of a ruckus and spend hours being concerned about their safety. However, with a bit of know-how, travelling with kids can be hassle-free and frankly, quite enjoyable.

1. If your children are getting out the country for the first time, make sure that they get their vaccinations, so that they are well protected against common diseases.
2. Explain airport safety and security procedures and rules to your kids beforehand and instruct them to cooperate with airport security officials to avoid hassle.
3. Always book ahead. Be it hotel bookings or airline, train or bus reservations, make sure that you are well prepared in advance.
4. Take extra time when visiting different places. Children love to explore and might lose their cool if you hurry them every time they just start having fun.
5. Give them a camera. You could hand a one-time use camera to your child to ensure that he/she is preoccupied and actually enjoy the novelty of new surroundings.
6. Hand sanitizers and antibacterial wipes are a must if you want to keep germs at bay.
7. Consult with a pediatrician before travelling, and remember to carry medicines that will keep away common diseases.
8. You could let your children pack their bags but make sure that you take a good look at what they are planning to take with them. A lot of time children pack completely unnecessary things in their luggage and then complain of it being too heavy.
9. Make a list of activities that will keep them engaged. Fun family games, colouring books, puzzles and small toys could distract them from the monotony of the journey and help them pass the time.
10. If you are travelling through crowded areas, write the address and phone number of your hotel in your child's arm in case they get lost. Explain to them how and why this detail might be important.
11. Engage and involve older kids into the planning process. Ask them for input on where they'd like to go or if the destination is fixed, ask them what they'd like to do there.

Couples' Delight

Luxurious villas, extravagant meals, gleaming sands, pearly white beaches, romantic mountains. What do you look for in a romantic getaway, far from the maddening crowd and countless responsibilities? If you want to spend a serene holiday far from the hustle-bustle of daily life, in an idyllic spot, Malaysia, Indonesia, Spain or the Maldives are the perfect picks for you.

Masudul Amin, has spent holidays with his wife in a couple of countries. "Malaysia has always been a favourite," says Masudul. "Its peaceful nature, serene beaches, affordability, Halal food



provision, wide range of shopping facility, and an overall gentle atmosphere, have made the country a genteel haven for couples of all ages."

You can always pick India, Nepal or the Himalayan kingdom Bhutan if you want to go to a country nearby. "The last Shangri La in Bhutan is the most romantic destination," croons Samira Alam who went her honeymoon there two years back. "We have been to other places in the last two years. But Bhutan's pristine beauty and happy people make it unbeatable."

The couples who are not on a budget and don't mind spending a bit more could consider going to Paris, the romance capital of the world. "Apart from France, Italy, Spain and Switzerland are ideal of lovers visiting Europe," says S M Mazharul Islam, Brand manager of Wings Classic Tours and Travels Limited.