

# My Staycation Experience in Macau

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Since the outbreak of coronavirus at the beginning of 2020, our lifestyle has been reshaped in lasting ways. Working from home and online learning has become normal practice while wearing a mask in public areas and social distancing are the basic preventive measures. Though not spared by the worldwide pandemic, Macau has been able to maintain relatively low infection rates and zero deaths among COVID-19 patients. This is attributed to stringent government measures and the mutual support of the community.

However, the decline in number of mainland Chinese visitors and worldwide lockdowns have had an enormous impact on Macau, triggering chain effects on our gaming, hospitality, retail and catering industries. With the uncertainty about when the international travel restrictions can be lifted, the Macau government has made various efforts to ease the economic pressure on both local citizens and businesses. The “Macau Ready Go! Local Tours” is a subsidized program for local residents to join tour groups organized by local travel agencies to travel around the city



with itineraries including natural sceneries, iconic alleys, photogenic spots and world heritage sites. Since travelling abroad is not possible this summer, people welcome this arrangement and see this as a good chance to explore the city as if through the eyes of a tourist.

Macau is not just a place for the glitz and glamour of casinos. It is also an example of interchange between Chinese and Western civilizations. The Ruins of St. Paul's and Senado Square are well-known examples of the most famous world heritage sites in Macau. Our family managed to spend the weekend on a visit to these landmarks a few weeks ago. We took advantage of the absence of tourists to take a few snapshots with our masks off for a short while. The solitude of the scene was in big contrast with the crowdedness before and it was



upsetting to find that most of the souvenir stalls on both sides of the small alley nearby were closed.

Besides, we spent a day on a beautiful beach in Coloane, too. Barefooted, we strolled on the black sand of Hac-Sá, enjoying the soft sea breeze and the tranquility under the trees. Collecting shells on the shore was fun and the tempting pork-chop buns and chicken wings for sale at the barbecue stalls nearby were must-eat-items for my son.



Ever since the travel restrictions came into effect, Coloane has become one of the favorite leisure spots for the local residents to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city. With lush greenery covering the hills, Coloane provides a number of hiking trail choices, ranging from easy to challenging ones, and more importantly, the fresh air we are longing for after wearing masks for the whole day. In the Hac-Sá Reservoir Natural Park, you can also rent a paddleboat and paddle your way through the turquoise waters of the reservoir. Remember to check out the Maze Garden in the park and see if you can find charming sunflowers blooming. Our family managed to take some nice shots there last time!

Lots of hotels are offering attractive staycation packages with sumptuous in-room breakfast and dining vouchers to local residents, too. On these days, there will not be a problem with making a reservation even on short notice. As our vacation highlights, we had chosen to stay in a hotel with a pool in the room and another outdoors. My son was excited about the waterslides, geysers, waterfalls and the kids' aquatic zone. We cherished the relaxing moments, sunbathing by the



poolside freely and simply idling the hours away.

I am much impressed by some government measures adopted to safeguard the wellbeing of the hotel guests. All people entering hotel establishments are requested to undergo temperature checks and present the green Macao Health Code, and the number of concurrent users of the facilities is controlled to avoid crowds gathering.

To make our staycation perfect, we included something adventurous, too. It was the Macau Tower Skywalk in the evening! Equipped with a safety rope, my son mustered up his courage to walk around the upper outer-rim of Macau Tower. The experienced coach was very good at instructing us to make challenging postures for memorable pictures to be taken. The scenery of Macau viewed from up on the tower was stunning. This is indeed a great activity for enjoyment with family or friends.



Though a vacation overseas is now out of the question, we are grateful for the chance to enjoy our staycation thanks to the wise and resolute government policies adopted to tackle the pandemic. In the meantime, all we can do is to stay alert and maintain our personal hygiene with the hope that the coronavirus will soon be brought under control.

## VOCABULARY

- |                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1.the outbreak of coronavirus       | 1. 冠狀病毒的爆發  |
| 2.social distancing                 | 2. 社交距離     |
| 3.low infection rates               | 3. 感染率低     |
| 4.stringent government measures     | 4. 嚴格的政府措施  |
| 5.worldwide lockdowns               | 5. 全球封鎖     |
| 6.triggering chain effects          | 6. 觸發連鎖效應   |
| 7.the glitz and glamour of casinos  | 7. 賭場的浮華與魅力 |
| 8.came into effect                  | 8. 生效       |
| 9.the hustle and bustle of the city | 9. 城市的喧囂    |
| 10.on short notice                  | 10. 臨時通知    |

## GRAMMAR POINT

1. “is attributed to ...” ( paragraph 1 ... line11)The expression “attribute to” is used to cite as the source or reason for something. A noun or pronoun can be used between “attribute” and “to.”

Examples:-

We can attribute his popularity to his friendly attitude.

The film’s success is attributed to the director’s skills and experience.

2. “in (big) contrast with (paragraph 3 ... line 13)”

We use “in contrast with” to contrast two noun phrases and to stress the difference between two people or things:

Example:-

In contrast with most of the children, Tom does not enjoy electronic games.

The company won \$2 million this year, in contrast with a profit of only \$1million last year.