Tarragona is a lovely, lively city by the sea, with lots to see and do and it's only 8 miles (12 km) away from the theme park, Port Aventura.

The area has some great beaches, one of which is overlooked by the Roman Amphitheatre. Tarraco/Tarragona was the capital of the Roman Empire in Hispannia, and the amphitheatre that you can see today is where they used to have all sorts of entertainment, including gladiators.

As Tarragona is on the Mediterranean, and has an amazing history, there are plenty of super places to take great photos.

In May there’s an amazing festival that brings the Roman period of Tarragona back to life. There are lots of re-enactments, and there's not many other places in the world where you can see something like this – it’s called Tarraco Viva.

Another unusual thing to see in Tarragona are the Castellers – these are Human Castles. Tarragona is known as the City of Human Towers. Castellers are a Catalan tradition, you can check it out in this photo.

1. Port Aventura

If your parents have hired a car Port Aventura is a short drive away, but if not there’s a train that runs around ten times every day. You need to go to Tarragona Estació (Central Station) to take the train to Port Aventura.

Port Aventura has 42 different types of rides, 6 different worlds and Ferrari Land Park opened there in 2017.
Cash facts:

Normal tickets: Tickets for one day cost €47.00 for each adult (11-59 years old) and €40.00 for children (4-10 years of age) and senior citizens (60+).

Ferrari Land has a separate admission price, check it out here.

Large families:

If you qualify as a large family, you can get a one day admission ticket for a special price. A large family is considered to be between 3 and 6 children. You will need to have relevant documents to be able to prove that you are a family.

PortAventura large family price: €155

Caribe Aquatic Park: €80

Large family tickets do not apply at night time. Discover more about pricing options.

Yearly club for unlimited visits and other perks:

Port Aventura has a Club, which offers lots of different options, that also include benefits outside of the park itself, such as discounted car hire, but there are lots of others.

This is a yearly rate, so your parents would need to know that you would all get the use out of it.


2. Tarraco Viva – May

Tarraco Viva © Manel Antoli (RV Edipress)

During the second half of May, the superb festival, Tarraco Viva takes place. Through re-enactments and experiences the whole family can enjoy and be educated about all aspects of Roman life.

https://www.tarragonaturisme.cat/en/tarraco-viva

Discover some fun facts about the Roman lifestyle.
3. Human Castles

Definitely an experience that will be etched on your minds, the human castles that you can see in the city of Tarragona is really impressive. A tradition that can be dated as far back as 1712, these human castles go up in tiers of people doing this amazing balancing act, sometimes to heights of between six to ten tiers.

Human castles is an integral part of Tarragona’s and Catalonia’s identity. These days there are around 100 groups with a total of over 15,000 people who practise this across Catalonia.

4. Fishy fun

El Serrallo, the fishing district of Tarragona, is a great place to take your parents one afternoon. El Serrallo is packed with character. You need to get there before 3.30 pm to see the fishermen coming into the port with their catch of the day. You get to see that fish don’t just come from supermarkets and fishmongers!

It’s a pretty cool photo opportunity as well. You’ll know that the fishermen are on their way because of all of the seagulls, that escort the arrival of the colourful fishing trawlers.

Around the port, there’s plenty to do. If Mum and Dad fancy a drink, don’t worry they will have plenty of places to go at the Moll de Pescadors – the fishermen’s dock. They can sit and have a beer, while you explore and take photos.
There's a Port Museum as well, where you can learn all about the port's heritage and the fishing arts. The museum opens at 5 pm in the evening during the summer, and 4 pm in the winter. It's also open in the mornings. On Sundays it is only open in the mornings. You can check out the opening hours here.

Cash facts: Family tickets €3.00 – if you go with a brother/sister/friend and you are under 16 it is free.

5. Boat trips

Another idea for somewhere to take your parents in Tarragona, is to get right into the sea spirit of things and head off on a boat trip! Sail along the coast and see some amazing places, with a sailing instructor.

Cash facts: This is a 4-hour trip that costs €45 per person. Please note that children must be 7+ years old. The same company also provide sailing and windsurfing courses.

If by any chance there's a big group of you travelling together, or you know enough people, this company does groups of 20 people. Or you can club together with other people from your hotel/accommodation or campsite to make up the numbers.

The skipper’s name is Luis and his mobile is 619 819 676 – if you are calling from out of Spain, you will need to dial 0034- 619 819 676

Cash facts: €35 per person, includes lunch

http://www.tarragonablau.com

6. Kayaking

There's another company, called Tarragona Family Kayak, who, as the name suggests, do family kayaking during the summer months. You'll learn some basics firstly and then you'll be off sailing along the coast and by some of the best beaches. You need to be over 6 and able to swim to go kayaking. It's great fun and gives you a whole new perspective on this wonderful city.

Cash facts: Children 6 to 12 years old: €15 & Adults; €25 – this is for 3 hours

7. Yacht spotting

If you happen to travel to Tarragona during winter, you can go yacht spotting in Tarraco Marina. There are some amazing, big yachts moored in Tarraco Marina at this time of year.
8. Land turtles, ecological farming and meeting the farm animals

Not far from Tarragona, you can find the Hort de la Sinia Agroecological Park farm. (Parc Agroecològic de l'Hort de la Síni. Located in a gorgeous location, near Tamarit natural beach, at the mouth of the Gaià River, you can spend a few fun hours meeting the animals and discovering the farm.

The ecological farm is home to a land turtle breeding centre, as well as lots of other animals, including ducks, hens, roosters and geese. If you and your parents book in advance, you can take part in feeding the birds and collecting eggs, if there are eggs! Also there is a season garden and aromatic plants.

Afterwards you can head back to Tamarit beach, which is lovely and overlooked by this cool castle. The last time we were there, we stayed in the campsite that is just by the beach.

Cash facts:
http://www.hortdelasinia.com/

9. Visit the bridge that the devil made – The Devil’s Bridge

The aqueduct called Les Ferreres is one of the landmarks of Tarragona, and is known locally as the Devil’s Bridge. It gets this name from an interesting legend, more about that in a moment. As well as the impressive aqueduct, there is an ecohistoric park there.

It’s a lovely spot to explore the local nature and maybe bring your parents for a picnic. The first Saturday of each month is a big family day out there traditionally, with parents and children getting together to enjoy the privileged environment and famous monument.
According to the legend, there was an elderly couple who needed to cross the old wooden bridge, that used to be in the same location, to go to market each day. The couple had a donkey to help them carry their goods to the market. One night there had been a very dramatic storm, so when the couple reached the old wooden bridge the next day, it had been destroyed. The man felt useless, knowing that he was no longer young and strong enough to build a new bridge.

The couple were in shock and feeling really worried about their situation, when a mysterious stranger appeared, as if out of nowhere. He asked them about their troubles, so they explained what had happened. The stranger said he would build a new bridge for them. The couple asked what he wanted in exchange for the new bridge. He replied that he would want the soul of the first creature to cross the new bridge. After some time, they agreed, as they had no other solution. Of course they already knew that if the man could build a bridge for them like this, he had to be the devil himself.

The next morning they walked to the place of the old wooden bridge, and there was a fine impressive new bridge there. The stranger had carried out his part of the bargain, now it was their turn. The woman used the rod to get their donkey moving and the three started walking over the new bridge. The donkey was the first one to cross. The devil was very angry, but there was nothing he could do, except take the soul of the poor creature.

If you would like to read a happier version of this story, then continue click on this link for Daniel the donkey & the devil's deal.