

From the Spanish bull to the trampoline to a solo ride at night, the Wild Tribe Ranch has enough action to keep you busy for hours

# CALLING ALL DAREDEVILS

timeout



PHOTO: PRADEEP LALAN

**WEEKEND** getaway from Chennai is no longer restricted to unwinding in Pondicherry or one of those luxe resorts on the ECR. With many adventure gaming zones cropping up in the recent past, we have developed an appetite for hot action. Offering anything from a pleasant karting ride to a bonkers trampoline and a competitive game of paintball these places are popular with both families and corporates. We decided to check one out on a sultry Saturday noon. Tucked away in a not so remote corner of the city is the five-month old Wild Tribe Ranch.

At first glance, the place appears rather small for a play area — and Babu Dayalan, assistant manager, F&B, almost reads my mind. “You are not impressed are you? The place is small but it could entertain you for hours,” he promises. Just another PR exercise, I think dryly. “The techie team we had last weekend was planning to stay only for two hours,” he continues. “Like you, they thought they could get it over with in a jiffy. But they left only at 8 pm, only after telling me how wrong they were about the place,” he adds on a smug note. Just then, we are interrupted by encouraging bowls — a young man touting the Spanish bull — quite a sight that was — with his teammates howling on top of their voices. “Paintball and Spanish bull are popular games in here,” he says. Next is the Geronimo Trampoline Jump — after making sure I weighed below 30 kg (I was offended they would

even ask) I am strapped up and ready to fly. This is a kind of Dungeon, yes, but safe. You bounce on a trampoline and jump up to 30 feet. “You can turn cartwheels too,” he tells me — “it’s pretty easy to do that in the air than on the ground.”

Dayalan then takes me to the riding track. This sure is for men and

well, tough women, which I find out the hard way. The Mad Riders ATV lets you ride a 50 to 150 cc dirt terrain beast on an arduous track. It calls for great wrist power and concentration to get the vehicle under control. The skilled ones can have a lights-out ride — with just your bike for company at night. The Daredevil Ramp, an obstacle course, is styled the army way — with rope ladders and a Takeshi

Castle-like sloping bridge — and it calls for a Tarzan style rope climber (yes, you may holler). The best part? It’s timed and you would most likely compete against another person. “Actor Arun Vijaykumar completed it in a minute and 19 seconds,” offers Dayalan. “We rarely get families here. It’s mostly software professionals or the school and college crowd.”

After a hot workout at the games, you could cool off with a dip in the

pool. If you haven’t got your gear, you needn’t worry as you can hire or buy some from their range of swim wear.

## Safety watch

“People don’t get injured here, as there are many guides to help them out,” says Dayalan. “In fact, safety is our priority.” Each guide has a first aid kit in his pocket and medical boxes are all over the place. The games are so safe that even children could hop on. “We are planning to add a few bunkers everywhere. But that fall wouldn’t be injurious.” But mishaps do happen and Dayalan narrates an incident where the head of a popular radio network dislocated his shoulder on Mad Riders. “He was in a competition and panicked when he hit a block. He accelerated and the vehicle cart wheeled,” he says. “That’s the only incident so far, toothwood.”

## around the city

### Paint the town red

Paintball, incidentally, is the most sought after game in the city. From Planet Adventure’s “sacramento gaming” paintball on ECR to Shoot ‘Em Up at the YMCA Grounds in Royapettah and Head Shot at The Farm on ECR, there are a lot of places to choose from. Pros: if you are a green enthusiast, this game is for you. How, you ask? The ball is made of vegetable dyes and dissolves in water. Planet Adventure also

offers ‘mobile fields’. All you need is 10,000 sq feet of space and your friends. The team would set up the field for you. We hear there is a paint ball tournament happening as well. So what are you waiting for? Details: 4304246

### Other ‘adventures’

• For a quick two hours, check out Bush Adventure Zone at Island Grounds. On offer are bungee trampoline, synthetic rock climbing,

quadbiking, obstacle courses etc. You can also ‘Zorb’ — the rolling ball which promises to turn your insides out. Details: 25361743

• Raceway 112 offers off-road RC tracks to just about anyone. So if you are a racing enthusiast, head to their Kovilam premises. Details: 9962511512

• Wildertrails Adventure Club offers activities like camping, trekking, jungle walks, cycling treks, canoe rides etc. Membership fee: Rs 2,000

for an individual and Rs 2,500 for a family. Details: 26443729

### Water sports

• For some water sports, head to Mudaliarkuppam (off ECR) for parasailing and water skiing at the Rain Drop Boat House.

• Tada (55 km from Chennai) has become a popular spot. It offers a trek that leads to the Ubbalamadugu Falls, 15 km away from the Tada railway station

## Camp out

People who would like to stay on, opt for their weekend stay home. You could also set up your tent in their barbecue ground and cook your own meal in the well-equipped kitchenette. The kids will be occupied with their Bouncing Castle and Magic Land. “We have morning and a few other games coming up,” says Dayalan, signing off. Entry: Rs 50 per person, with separate charges for each game, ranging between Rs 80 (for kids) and Rs 250. Camping: Rs 7,500 for 4 adults and 2 kids. Details: 9677067706

— Sindhuja Ramprasad