

Secretsofparis.com (31/07/06)

Free Kids Adventure Park at Les Halles

The Jardin des Enfants, aka Jardin d'Aventure, may be one of those secrets of Paris that only parents know about. Maybe even only French parents. I've always known there was a children's play park at Les Halles because I'd cut through the gardens on the way to work every day and see the kids lined up at the gates. But I had no idea what a great place it was until I found the website set up to save the park from being destroyed with the renovations of Les Halles. Have a look at this amazing slide show (click on "diaporama"):

jardindaventure.free.fr

Not only does it look better than most of the play areas at Disneyland, since February 2006 it's also FREE. Every hour during opening hours (in August: Tue-Thur, Sat 10am-6pm, Fri 2-6pm, Sun 1-6pm) up to 60 kids at a time can go in for an hour of playtime, organized by municipal childcare professionals (aka free babysitters). Parents aren't allowed in (I guess you'll have to go shopping!) except on Sundays 10am-1pm, when parents with children of all ages are welcome. If any of you have taken your kids, I'd love to hear what you think. It sounds like great fun to me. If I was a kid, I'd want to go!

<http://www.secretsofparis.com/72-july-2006/>