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A Family's Guide to London

By MiniTime



London Skyline (Flickr: DncnH)

Why Go? There are plenty of reasons to visit London en famille! The United Kingdom's capital city is known for its fun, entertainment, rich history and cultural heritage.

Whether you want to enjoy world class museums, stroll around some of the finest parks ever seen or catch a show, the kids are bound to be impressed with what London has to offer.

(MORE: 10 Family-Friendly London Hotels for Every Budget)

Sleep



Park Plaza County Hall London (Courtesy Park Plaza)

Park Plaza County Hall London (1 Addington Street, +44 844 415 6760) Walking distance from Westminster Bridge, the Aquarium and the County Hall, the Park Plaza County Hall offers guests a spa, two restaurants, family-friendly rooms and a kitchenette.

Brown's Hotel (33 Albemarle Street, +44 20 7493 6020) In chic Mayfair, just beyond Oxford Street, Soho and Green Park, this smart hotel is a classic choice.

The St. Ermin's Hotel (2 Caxton Street, +44 20 7222 7888) Just around the corner from the Bond Street and St. James, the St. Ermin's Hotel is perfect for families thanks to their in-room video games, free WIFI and babysitting services.

Walk on the Wild Side



London Zoo (Courtesy ZSL London Zoo)

London Zoo (Regent's Park) The world's oldest scientific zoo, the London Zoo dates back to 1828! It was opened to the public in 1847, and is now home to 806 species with almost 20,000 critters.

SEA LIFE London Aquarium (County Hall, Westminster Bridge Road) One of the world's finest, London's Aquarium sits right near the Houses of Parliament and below the London Eye.

Battersea Petting Farm (Battersea Park, Chelsea Embankment) Whether you want to meet farm animals or monkeys, this small zoo set in beautiful Battersea Park, along the Thames is one of the city's hidden gems.

(MORE: Things to Do for Christmas with Kids in London)

Feed Your Culture

Best Kid-Friendly Museums:

London Transport Museum (Covent Garden Piazza) A brilliant place to take the kids, especially those who love trains! Exhibitions connecting transport with the history of London are the specialty.



Natural History Museum (Courtesy Natural History Museum, London)

Natural History Museum (Cromwell Road) One of London's most beautiful museums, the Natural History Museum is home to a life-sized blue whale, a roaring T-Rex and a gigantic crocodile.

The Science Museum (Exhibition Road) A firm favourite, the Science Museum! You'll find all things Science here from space rockets to 3D movies, as well as special galleries for under 5s, the Pattern Pod aimed at 5-8-year-olds and Launchpad for teenagers.

Best Historical Sites:

The Cutty Sark (King William Walk) This beautiful clipper ship built in 1869 takes pride of place on the Thames and will inspire any budding little pirates and parents too.



Tower of London (Courtesy Historic Royal Palaces)

Tower of London Actually named 'Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress,' the Tower of London was founded at the end of 1066. Its White Tower was built by William the Conqueror in 1078.

London Dungeon (Riverside Building, County Hall, Westminster Bridge Rd) Brought to life by a group of actors, you can catch a show recreating the macabre dungeon's history.

(MORE: 7 Best Things to Do in London with Kids' Interests in Mind)

Eat

Rainforest Cafe (20 Shaftesbury Avenue) A bit like a fantasy world, you might not have imagined dining in the rainforest in the heart of London!

Giraffe (6-8 Blandford Street) Known as one of London's most kid-friendly chains, Giraffe is a great place to stop for a bite to eat.

Carluccio's (St. Christopher's Place) Fancy a plate of pasta or some pizza? Carluccio's is the go-to place for families looking for an Italian quick fix.

Rowena Carr-Allinson contributed this to MiniTime. Since the arrival of her son in 2011, she has taken him everywhere from Bangkok to NYC, writing family friendly articles en route.

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