



Summer Activity Ideas

Museums

Natural History Museum, London

Ages: Various

Website: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/>

Take a self-guided walk through the Natural History Museum and discover everything from dinosaurs and creepy crawlies to the zoology spirit collection featuring a lesser vampire bat and a common octopus. The museum opens again in August, with a timed entry system. Tickets are free but must be booked in advance.

The Story Museum, Oxford

Ages: Pre-school children

Website: <https://www.storymuseum.org.uk/>

Collect your story cart and set off to a land of picture books, nursery rhymes and traditional tales, as you explore five story-themed zones and enjoy story time. The museum opens again in August on Thursdays to Saturdays. Tickets cost £5 and must be booked in advance.

The National Space Centre, Leicester

Ages: All ages

Website: <https://spacecentre.co.uk/>

Discover six galleries, including the iconic Rocket Tower and the UK's largest domed planetarium, filled with space suits, rockets, satellites and meteorites. The museum opens again in August and tickets must be booked in advance.

Castles and Palaces

Eltham Palace, Greenwich

Ages: All ages

Website: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/eltham-palace-and-gardens/things-to-do/>

Part showpiece and part medieval royal palace, Eltham Palace was created for millionaires Stephen and Virginia Courtauld in the 1930s. From unusual rooms including a map room and sleeping quarters for a pet lemur to the palace's original great hall and historic gardens with an outdoor play area, there's lots to discover. The House is open from 11am to 5pm daily. Tickets are free for children under five and must be booked in advance.



Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire

Ages: All ages

Website: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/bolsover-castle/>

With spectacular views over Derbyshire, this fairy tale Stuart mansion was designed to entertain and impress. Using the downloadable Summer Explorer Quest map, follow the trail through the castle grounds and track down the clues. Tickets start at £7.60 for children over 5 and must be booked in advance.

Windsor Castle, Windsor

Ages: All ages

Website: <https://www.rct.uk/visit/windsor-castle>

Windsor Castle was founded in the 11th century by William the Conqueror and has since been the home of 39 monarchs. It is the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world. The Castle is open from 10am to 5pm and tickets, which include a multimedia tour, must be booked in advance.

Leeds Castle, Kent

Ages: All ages

Website: <https://www.leeds-castle.com>

Leeds Castle has been a Norman stronghold; the private property of six of England's medieval queens; a palace used by Henry VIII and his first wife Catherine of Aragon; a Jacobean country house; a Georgian mansion that has become one of the most visited historic buildings in Britain. Reserve your tickets online.

Days Out

ZSL London Zoo, London

Ages: All ages

Website: <https://www.zsl.org/london>

With three different routes to explore, meet all types of animals from otters, lions and penguins to llamas, butterflies and Komodo dragons. The zoo is open from 10am to 6pm and tickets must be booked in advance.

Tring Park, Tring

Ages: Pre-teens and up

Website: <https://tringpark.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

Explore wonderful wildflowers, historic features and open vistas with stunning views, as you walk among woodland and areas of chalk grassland. Find three walks featuring different terrains on the website.



Bekonscot Model Village and Railway, Beaconsfield

Ages: All ages

Website: <https://www.bekonscot.co.uk/>

Stuck in a 1930s time warp, see England how it used to be with a huge model railway, well-kept gardens and finely-detailed model buildings. Tickets must be booked in advance.

Woburn Safari Park, Bedfordshire

Ages: All ages

Website: <https://www.woburnsafari.co.uk>

Start your adventure with a Road Safari drive through sweeping parkland reserves, where you'll see wonderful wild animals with the freedom to roam in acres and acres of beautiful countryside.

Virtual Tours

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Ages: All ages

Website: <https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>

Go on a virtual trip to an aquarium in California via ten live cameras showcasing aquatic life.

San Diego Zoo

Ages: All ages

Website: <https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams>

Virtually explore San Diego's Safari Park through live cameras that follow the wildlife.

Metropolitan Museum of Art

Ages: All ages

Website: <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/metkids/explore>

A world of art is ready for you! Budding artists who want to know about art from as far back as 80,000 BC to today's modern artists can log on to explore this fascinating museum in New York.

Disney Parks

Ages: All ages

Website: <https://disney Parks.disney.go.com/blog/2018/03/disney-parks-launches-first-ever-360-degree-panoramas-on-google-street-view/>

Explore the Disney Parks through a series of 360-degree online panoramas.



Home Activities

Science Experiments

Ages: Various ages

Website: <https://www.sciencekids.co.nz/experiments.html>

Experiment with different materials that react in surprising ways, from making fake snot and bath salts to moving molecules and egg bubbles.

Camp Bonkers

Ages: Various ages

Website: <https://www.youtube.com/c/CampBonkers/videos>

This YouTube series offers children ideas for songs, games and crafts.

Reading Rocket's Start With a Book

Ages: Children aged 6 and up

Website: <https://www.startwithabook.org/>

Children can choose their own adventures with reading activities and additional vocabulary exercises on topics like weather, planets and stars.

Lego Play Zone

Ages: Various ages

Website: <https://www.lego.com/en-gb/kids>

Keep little builders occupied for hours with videos, games, quizzes and inspirational ideas for Lego projects, which encourage and build cognitive reasoning and problem-solving skills.

National Geographic Kids

Ages: All ages

Website: <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>

Uncover factual videos and games about every species from the prehistoric to the almost extinct.

FutureLearn

Ages: Children aged 14 and up

Website: <https://www.futurelearn.com/>

Embark on online learning courses created by universities, business schools and organisations to learn a new skill or pursue your hobby.

Ted Talks

Ages: Various ages

Website: <https://www.ted.com/talks>

Learn about new topics and ideas through short talks by a range of speakers, including Malala Yousafzai and John Lewis.



University of Oxford Podcasts

Ages: Children aged 14 and up

Website: <http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/>

Discover a range of podcasts from public lectures and teaching material to interviews with academics and information about university applications.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact AKEB by emailing akeb@iuk.org.

