



Children in London

London offers children fun, adventure and excitement. From adventure playgrounds to zoos, workshops, activity centres and museums which provide interactive displays, hands-on experiments, quizzes; restaurants designed for children, shows, river trips, children's theatre, sight seeing on a double decker bus, shopping.

If you want a total break from the children there are **nannies** and **childminders**.

Museums

- **National History Museum.** Giant dinosaurs
- **Science Museum.** 600 working exhibits, hands on galleries, interactive displays.
- **British Museum.** Egyptian mummies including mummified animals
- **Tower of London.** Suits of armour, the **Crown Jewels**
- **Museum of London.** Brings alive the past life of London.
- **Museum of Childhood** – ideal for younger children
- **Pollock's Toy Museum** – ideal for younger children
- **National Army Museum** and **Imperial War Museum.** Aircraft and tools of modern warfare. Kids' zone to dress up in uniforms, with giant forts and rocking horses. Try a soldier's full back pack.

Restaurants

- **Giraffe.** Bright colours, animal themes, balloons, colouring pens.
- **Rainforest Café** and **Hard Rock Café** for older children.
- At the weekend **Smolenskys** and **Sticky Fingers** provide clowns, magicians, face painting.
- **Babes n' Burgers** with activity centre.
- **Blue Kangaroo** with activity centre.
- Or picnic in the **London Parks**.

Shopping

- **Hamleys** for toys
- **Davenports Magic Shop**
- **Disney Store**
- **Early Learning Centre** and **Children's Book Centre** for educational toys/books
- **Daisy and Tom** for toys, clothes and books.
- **Topshop** Clothes for older children.

Playgrounds

- **Coram's Fields.** Sandpits, playgrounds, mini petting zoo, area for picnics.
- Most of the **London Parks** have playgrounds including boating.

Sport

Sports Centres are available for windsurfing, dinghy sailing, power boating, water skiing, canoeing, gyms, work-out studios, swimming. Participate in the **London Marathon** or the **London Triathlon**. Play tennis, squash; courts for hire.

Try horse riding in **Hyde Park**, central London.



Visit some of the great sporting venues:

- **Chelsea Football Stadium.** Walk the tunnel onto the pitch.
- **Wimbledon** – All England Lawn Tennis Club
- **Twickenham Rugby Football Ground**
- **Lord's Cricket Ground**

Theatre/Musical/Show

Take the children to a London show. Visit special theatres for children:

- **Little Angel Theatre**
- **Puppet Theatre Barge**
- **Unicorn Theatre**
- **Polka Children's Theatre**

Take a tour of a theatre (most days)

- **Royal National Theatre** for every kind of theatre
- **Royal Opera House** (dates from 1858). Once a month visitors can attend a daily ballet class. Home to the **Royal Ballet**.
- **Sadlers Wells.** Mainly contemporary dance.
- **Theatre Royal Drury Lane** (dates from 1820), stage musicals.

Sightseeing

Take a waterbus on the River Thames and visit:

- **London Eye.** Observation wheel, 135 metres (443 feet) high. The eye turns continuously and slowly enough to gain access (halted for those requiring assistance).
- **London Aquarium.** Close-up encounters with sealife from starfish to sharks.
- **London Dungeon.** Live actors, special effects. Played for terror with bloodthirsty events – Great Plague, Torture Chamber, Jack the Ripper. Screams everywhere!
- **HMS Belfast.** Launched in 1938, warship. Floating naval museum. Educational activity weekends.
- **Tower of London/** Collection of armour and the **Crown Jewels.** Most crowns date from 1661. The **Imperial State Crown** contains more than 2800 diamonds, 273 pearls and other gems. The Sceptre with the Cross contains the 530 carat First Star of Africa, the biggest cut diamond in the world.

Other sights include:

- **Madame Tussauds.** Wax models of film and television actors, rock stars, sporting heroes. Special displays; Premier Night with the stars; World stage with royalty and politicians; Chamber of Horrors, a taxi ride taking you back through great events in London.
- **London Planetarium.** Spectacular star show with interactive displays.

Or

- **Go sightseeing** on top of a London Double Decker bus. (Hop on, Hop off).



Other Activities:

- **London Zoo.** 600 species of animals. Web of life exhibit takes you through life forms in the Earth's habitats.
- Brass Rubbing at **St. Martin-in-the-Fields**
- Tour the **London Fire Brigade.**



Legoland