

Half Term Fun - Top Five Family Days out in London

Submitted by: Propellernet

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There are some great savings to be made on train travel if you book through thetrainline.com. Thanks to their Best Fare Finder and Ticket Alert Service, [thetrainline](http://thetrainline.com) customers save an average of 39%! With the looming recession and kids to entertain during half term, read on for more tips on how to save money on family rail travel and our hand-picked top 5 family days out in London.

Save money on your family's train tickets with these deals

Family Railcard

For just £25 you can buy a Family & Friends Railcard (formerly known as Family Railcard) and save a third on most adult rail fares and 60% on child fares. Not only that, but it gives you a Days Out UK membership for only £4.95 (usually £14.99), great offers on food and hotels and many more discounts.

To use your Family and Friends Railcard on thetrainline.com, just select it from the 'Railcards and other discounts' drop down menu when you make your booking.

To buy a Family and Friends Railcard, find out about all the savings you can make with it, or to read the terms & conditions, please visit the Family and Friends website (<http://www.familyandfriends-railcard.co.uk/>).

Groupsave Ticket

The GroupSave ticket allows 3 or 4 people to travel together during off-peak times for the price of only 2 adults to hundreds of destinations in London and the South East. Even better, up to four additional 5-15 year olds can each travel for only £1, single or return!

If you'd like to make great savings on your group travel, just select the 'GroupSave 3' or 'GroupSave 4' option from the 'Railcards and other discounts' drop down menu when you book with [the trainline.com](http://thetrainline.com).

For more information on GroupSave tickets, including terms & conditions, exclusions and example prices, please visit the Days Out Guide website (<http://www.daysoutguide.co.uk/group-save.aspx>).

2 For 1 on top London attractions

If you travel by train to London, you can get over 100 fantastic offers for the City's best attractions, restaurants, theatres and much more. Just visit the Days Out Guide website (<http://www.daysoutguide.co.uk/offers.aspx>) to see what's available and to download your 2 for 1 voucher.

If you have any questions, read this FAQ section on the Days Out Guide website (<http://www.daysoutguide.co.uk/faq.aspx>).

thetrainline tools to help your family save money

Best Fare Finder: Click here for thetrainline's Best Fare Finder

(http://www.farefinder.thetrainline.com/?aff_code=email_6_9) to find the cheapest tickets for the time and date that you and your family want to travel.

Ticket Alert: Click here to sign up to thetrainline's Ticket Alert Service

(<http://www.ticketalert.thetrainline.com/>), which means you'll receive an email as soon as cheap "advance tickets" become available to buy to your London terminal station.

Top five family days out in London

Top indoor day out

The Science Museum and IMAX 3D - All the best bits of science under one roof!

Have you ever felt the breath of a dinosaur on your neck or been to an atomic disco? For all things weird, wonderful and downright amazing, The Science Museum is a brilliant mish-mash of brain-bending displays and interactive science fun. There's nothing better than breaking up the day than by sitting back to a mind-blowing IMAX film in the museum's own 3D cinema. From magnificent sea monsters and dinosaurs, to Egyptian wonders and breathtaking space voyages, imaginations will run wild. And the best bit? Entry to the museum is totally free, although there are charges for the IMAX 3D Cinema, simulators and some special exhibitions.

Info: www.sciencemuseum.org.uk (<http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk>)

Top Tip: Plan ahead and decide which collections you want to see. It would take weeks to explore the whole museum!

Practical

Prices: FREE ENTRY, but charges apply for the IMAX 3D Cinema, simulators and some special exhibitions. FAMILY TICKET (only available for the IMAX 3D Cinema) £18 for 1 adult & 2 children, £24 for 2 adults & 2 children. For more price information, see The Science Museum Price list here (<http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/visitmuseum/prices.aspx>). You can buy tickets by calling 0870 870 4868 (booking fee applies) or at any sales desk inside the Museum either before your visit or on the day. During busy periods attractions may sell out very early in the day.

Location: Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London, SW7 2DD.

Opening Times: Open 10am – 6pm every day, except 24 to 26 December.

Travel: Take the London underground to South Kensington Station or bus routes 14, 49, 70, 74, 345, 360, 414, 430 and C1, which stop outside South Kensington Underground Station, from where it is a five minute walk north to the Museum's Main Entrance.

Food: Eating and drinking is permitted in any uncarpeted area and a picnic area with seating is provided. Alternatively, try the museum's café or family restaurant. There are plenty of options outside the

museum too.

Top outdoor day out

Hampton Court Palace – Hobnobbing with the Tudors!

A lovely day outside, this beautiful historic site on the fringes of London was once home to Henry VIII and his court. However old your children, they are sure to be entertained here. There are family trails packed with activities, costumed tours, a skill-testing maze and even the opportunity to try your luck at singing, dancing and Tudor games. The Tudor kitchens come complete with sights and smells from the past and the Haunted Gallery lets you explore the palace's many ghost stories. Set within enchanting riverside gardens, there is plenty of room for kids to run around while you soak up some sun and admire the view.

Info: www.hrp.org.uk (<http://www.hrp.org.uk>)

Top Tip: Book online to save time and money.

Practical

Prices: FAMILY TICKET (up to 2 adults & 3 children*) £34 online offer, £37 gate price. Under 5's enter FREE of charge. See more ticket prices here (<http://www.hrp.org.uk/HamptonCourtPalace/hamptoncourtadmission.aspx>). Buy discount tickets online here (<http://www.hrp.org.uk/HamptonCourtPalace/hamptoncourtadmission.aspx>).** (*Under 16's) (**Prices until 28 Feb '09 incl.)

Special offer Saturday 25 October - Sunday 2 November 2008 inclusive:
FREE ENTRY for up to 4 under 16's per full paying adult.

Location: East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 9AU

Opening Times: 10am – 6pm every day, except 24th to 26th December.

Travel: Travel to Hampton Court train station.

Food: Restaurants and cafes are on site, or you can use the picnic tables and benches in the gardens and seats in the courtyard.

Top teens day out

The London Bridge Experience and London Tombs – Scare yourself silly

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Recently quoted the scariest attraction in London, this spine-chilling experience uses Hollywood effects and actors to re-create what London Bridge was really like in the past. Basically, not very nice.

You'll learn about its gruesome punishments for criminals, whilst dodging pick-pockets and surprises

along the way. If you haven't jumped out of your skin by then, you can descend deeper into the London Tombs, located directly below the London Bridge. Once the plague pits of the 14th century, these dark cavities have been filled with even more gruesomeness to truly shake those senses. Cool.

Info: www.thelondonbridgeexperience.com (<http://www.thelondonbridgeexperience.com>)

Top Tip: Save up to 50% if you buy online!

Practical

Prices: FAMILY TICKET (2 adults & 2 children*) £24.99 online offer (after 5pm), £45 online offer (before 5pm), £59.95 gate price. Under 5's go FREE. See more ticket prices here (<http://www.thelondonbridgeexperience.com/ticket-info.asp>). Buy discount tickets online here (<http://londonbridgeexperience.trinitystreetdirect.com/litetickets/ticketselection.asp>). *Under 14's.

Location: 2-4 Tooley Street, London Bridge, London, SE1 2PF

Opening Times: 10am until 6pm Seven days per week, except 24th Dec, 26th Dec, 31st Dec, 1st Jan 11:00am-4:00pm and Christmas Day when The London Bridge

Experience is closed.

Travel: 50 metres from London Bridge train station, or buses 21, 35, 40, 43, 47, 48, 78, 133, 149, 381.

Food: Food or drink may not be consumed during The London Bridge Experience or The London Tombs tours. There is a cafeteria on site.

Top kids day out

The London Zoo – Find your inner monkey!

Zoos are always a hit with the kids, and this one really tops the bill. Over 750 species of animals are on display, including the popular Blackfooted penguins and Moon jellyfish, amongst the more classic lions and giraffes. Kids can get up really close to creepy crawlies with the Megabugs presentation, or watch the penguins gulp down whole fish during feeding time, with many more daily events taking place. The brilliant 'Meet the Monkeys' enclosure allows visitors to walk through a recreation of a Bolivian rainforest, with no barriers between them and the animals! A specially designed play area encourages visitors to imitate the movement of monkeys and teaches them about some of the tools they use to get around. These are just some of the highlights of a truly magical day for all the family.

Info: www.zsl.org (<http://www.zsl.org>)

Top Tip: Last admission is one hour before the advertised closing time of 17.30, so don't get caught out.

Practical

Prices: FAMILY TICKET (2 adults & 2 children* or 1 adult & 3 children*) £49.10. See more ticket prices here (<http://www.zsl.org/zsl-london-zoo/visit/>). Buy tickets online here (<http://www.zsl.org/shop/tickets/london-zoo-tickets/>).
(*Under 16's)

Location: ZSL London Zoo, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY

Opening Times: 1st September – 26th October 10.00 – 17.30, 27th October – 2nd November 10.00 - 16.30, 3rd November – February 2009 10.00 – 16.00

Travel: Take the tube to Camden Town (15 mins walk) or Regents Park (20 mins walk) station or take the number 274 bus to Ormonde Terrace. Alternatively take the C2 bus from Oxford Circus to Gloucester Gate.

Food: A restaurant, picnic shop and fish and chip shop are available on site.

And now for something a little more unusual ...

London wild card

London Ducktours – A tour with a twist!

Once you've climbed aboard this quirky yellow amphibious vehicle, you're in for a real treat. This guided tour of the capital starts on land, taking you through the city of Westminster past London's marvelous landmarks. An engaging commentary provides interesting facts on the city and the history of the 'Ducks', which were once used in the D-Day landings. Watch the amazement on your kids' faces as your tour vehicle glides straight from land into the Thames to continue its informative river-cruise. Great for all ages!

Info: www.londonducktours.co.uk (<http://www.londonducktours.co.uk>)

Top Tip: London Ducktours trips depart behind the London Eye, so why not catch a quick ride for a thrillingly high view of The City? www.londoneye.com (<http://www.londoneye.com>)

Practical

Prices: FAMILY TICKET (2 adults & 2 children*) £57.50, See more ticket prices and buy tickets online here (http://res.londonducktours.co.uk/res_website.asp?page=directory&supplierCode=LDT100&cat1=2).
(*Under 13's)

Location: Tour starts behind the London Eye

Opening Times: First tour starts at 10am, last tour at 16.30pm

Travel: Go to Waterloo station and follow signs for the London Eye

About thetrainline.com

thetrainline.com (<http://www.thetrainline.com>) is the UK's leading independent rail ticket retailer. Buy tickets (<http://www.thetrainline.com>), check train times & prices (<http://www.thetrainline.com>) and reserve seats on all train companies. Customers who buy their tickets in advance through thetrainline make an average saving of 39% on train travel.

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