



New Family Attractions & Events

EAST OF ENGLAND

'Dinomite'

Location: Dinosaur Adventure, 25 minutes by car from Norwich

'Dinomite' has 3 levels of fun and adventure for all the family, with a two-level area totally dedicated to the under 5's. Inside you will find everything from climbing nets, bridges and ball pools right up to the three massive slides which go from gentle slopes to a terrifying vertical drop. This new attraction also has a 130 seater coffee shop with an outside terrace where families can enjoy hot and cold meals, snacks and premium freshly ground coffees. On the first floor there are three dedicated rooms especially for birthday parties conveniently located close enough to ensure the fun just keeps on going. Dinomite is a great new addition to what is already a great day out at Dinosaur Adventure, and it's all included in the standard admission price.

www.dinosauradventure.co.uk

The Waterside at Rollesby

Location: Rollesby, Norfolk Broads

Wander through the butterfly and herb gardens, hire a dinghy, enjoy the wildlife from the boats or bird hide, take a guided tour of the Broads on the Victorian launch or go fishing. The children will love the outdoor play area and the whole family can enjoy the 18 hole fun-filled putting course. Paint the stunning scenery from the artist's platform or just relax with a snack, coffee or glass of wine on the large, open decked terrace overlooking the Broad. New for 2011 – brand new wheelchair accessible pleasure boat.

www.thewatersiderollesby.co.uk

LONDON

YONEX BWF World Badminton Championships

Location Wembley Arena

Date 8-14 August

The World Badminton Championships come to Wembley Arena this August, less than a year before the venue hosts the Olympic badminton competitions. Watch the fastest racquet sport on the planets top players battle it out as a nation readies itself for 2012.

<http://www.visitlondon.com/badminton>

High Artic

Location: Sammy Ofer Wing at the National Maritime Museum

The new Sammy Ofer Wing is the largest development ever undertaken by the National Maritime Museum and is opening with a suitably contemporary exhibition: High Arctic (produced in collaboration with United Visual Artists and Cape Farewell). Set in one of many possible futures High Arctic conveys the scale, beauty and fragility of our unique Arctic environment through an immersive installation which fills the entire 820m² gallery space. Intended to be a future vision of a receding world, it encourages us to question our relationship with the world around us. An exhibition with no touchscreens, no static photographs, and no panels with text: instead High Arctic is a genuinely immersive, responsive environment. Ultraviolet torches unlock hidden elements, constantly shifting patterns of graphics and text that react to visitors approaching; an archipelago of thousands of columns fills the gallery space, each representing a real glacier in Svalbard; an artificial horizon borders the gallery as a seamless canvas of light, shifting in intensity and colour. A Max Eastley and Henrik Ekeus-designed generative soundscape flows through the gallery, weaving in the voices of arctic explorers across the centuries as well as the poetry of Nick Drake who travelled with Matt to Svalbard.

<http://www.nmm.ac.uk/bigger/>

Age of the Dinosaurs Exhibition

Location Natural History Museum

Date 22 April – 4 September

The Natural History Museum has long been recognised as the home of dinosaurs in London. This new exhibit takes you closer than ever to experiencing the dinosaurs' world as the museum has painstakingly recreated the grasslands, deserts and lagoons they habituated 65 million years ago complete with animatronic creatures. The closest you will ever come to travelling back in time, this exhibition is a must see for dinosaur fans of all ages.

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit-us/whats-on/temporary-exhibitions/age-of-the-dinosaur/exhibition-tickets.html>

MIDLANDS

Free Murder & Mystery Treasure Trail of Stratford

Location: The Falstaff Experience, Stratford

Family days out can be an expensive affair, especially in the current economic climate. The Falstaff Experience in the heart of **Stratford** upon Avon constantly endeavours to find new ways to offer visitors value for money. The multi-award winning Tudor history museum has created a treasure trail around Shakespeare's **Stratford**. Plucky adventurers will be guided by the advice of the Tudor Detective who offers handy hints at the top of each page. The trail covers a distance of approximately 2 miles and visitors should allow up to 2 hours to solve all the clues. The 'Murder and Mystery Treasure Trail' covers all of the main sights in **Stratford** and is the perfect introduction to the historic town. The trail is free to download from the museums website. Visitors are asked to complete the trail then had their completed map into the museum and receive a certificate and small prize. All completed entries will be then entered into a monthly prize draw for some exciting prizes such as merchandise, ghost tour tickets and museum tickets.

www.falstaffexperience.co.uk

Time Travellers Go... Roman

Location: Wroxeter Roman City, Wroxeter, Nr. Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Date: Every Tue & Wed in Aug (Except 30 & 31 Aug), 11am - 5pm

Children can prepare for action with paper helmet making, try on costumes then take part in the rigorous Roman drill to see if they've got what it took to be a Roman soldier.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/wroxeter

Time Travellers Go... Heroes & Villains

Location: Stokesay Castle, Shropshire

Date: Wed 3 & 17 Aug. Times: 11am - 5pm

Could you be a fearsome highwayman? Your training starts here! Take part in a thrilling musket drill, listen to the myths and legends surrounding our favourite rogues and plan your own ambush.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/stokesaycastle

Time Travellers Go... Knights & Princesses

Location: Stokesay Castle, Craven Arms, Shropshire

Date: Wed 10 & 24 Aug. Times: 11am - 5pm

Give that toy sword a whirl or put on your prettiest dress and head back in time for activities on a medieval theme. Transform yourself into a noble lord in squire training, learn about etiquette and even try on armour in our academy for budding knights and princesses.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/stokesaycastle

With Musket & Drum

Location: Stokesay Castle, Craven Arms, Shropshire

Date Sun 28 & Mon 29 Aug (bank holiday). Times: 11am - 5pm

Get a flavour of life during the English Civil War, witness musket and weaponry displays as the parliamentarian and royalist troops take over the castle.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/wroxeter

Cob House Fisheries

Location: Wichenford, Worcester

The idyllic surroundings offer the visitor time to relax to sit and enjoy the countryside from our spectacular Mayfly Café overlooking some of our beautiful lakes and parkland whilst participating in many of our wonderful activities on site. Alternatively visitors can explore the extensive site by taking a stroll along the many footpaths, wildflower meadow and the parkland which contains the timber trail play area, wildlife pool, Reindeer, Alpacas, Pigs, Chickens and Ducks. Most activities at Cob House are free* so why not pop and see us for a fun packed visit and then take advantage of the great value buffet breakfast or carvery lunch and take in the stunning views?

<http://www.cobhousefisheries.co.uk>

IceQuest

Location: Malvern, Worcestershire

Ice Skating is a cool experience, whatever your age or ability. So why not give it a go with Ice Quest! The only real ice rink in 3 Counties Worcestershire, Herefordshire & Gloucestershire. We do ice skating sessions to suit all ages and standards, from Disco Nights with the Big Party Atmosphere, to quieter sessions for families, parent & toddlers.

<http://malvernlaserbowl.co.uk/>

Mid Worcestershire Canal Ring

Location: Worcester & Droitwich

The newly restored waterway is the final link in a brand new 'cruising circuit' – the Mid Worcestershire Ring. The 21 mile circular journey takes boats, ramblers and cyclists through some of the most beautiful and historic countryside, from the Worcester & Birmingham Canal to the River Severn, through the city of Worcester and back to Droitwich. Miles of towpaths have been upgraded, with new and improved access points and visitor moorings. A linear park has also been created providing picnic sites, fishing pegs and new stop off points for visitors.

<http://www.waterscape.com/canals-and-rivers/droitwich-canals>

Wildchild workshops at Coughton Court

Location: Coughton Court, Nr Alcester, Warks B49 5JA

Date Every Thursday in August 12noon - 3pm

Go wild outdoors with wildlife themed family activities, games and trails in the beautiful grounds of Coughton Court. Drop in and enjoy the fun! Call 01789 400777 to find out more...

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/coughtoncourt

Summer family activity area at Baddesley Clinton

Location: Baddesley Clinton, Rising Lane, Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire B93 0DQ

Get busy at Baddesley in our summer family activity area. Crafts, activities, story times, pond dipping workshops (Fridays in Aug) and outdoor games. Why not volunteer together as a family and join in the fun. Call 01564 783294 to find out more...

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/baddesleyclinton

Wildchild at Packwood House

Location: Packwood House, Packwood Lane, Lapworth, Warwickshire B94 6AT

Date Every Wednesday (except 31st) in August 12noon - 3pm.

Go wild outdoors with wildlife themed family activities, games and trails in the beautiful grounds of Packwood House. Drop in and enjoy the fun! And don't forget to go on an adventure in the newly created woodland welly walk; brilliant fun for the whole family. Call Call 01564 782024 to find out more...

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/packwood

Battle Proms Concert

Date 20th August

Location: Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

This summer thousands of concert-goers will pack up a picnic, stock up on fizz and join the party at Ragley Hall for the return of the superb Battle Proms Picnic Concert. Picture a summer evening amongst friends, sublime orchestral music, bold horsemen, breathtaking Spitfire display and explosive cannon fire and fireworks; it's an exceptional event that you will never forget!

www.battleproms.com

NORTH

Brockholes Nature Reserve

Location: Nr Preston

Brockholes is a new kind of nature reserve, an 'unreserved' reserve; perfect for families who want to enjoy and explore the wildlife that calls Brockholes 'home'. Reed warblers, Skylarks, common sandpipers, brown hares, badgers and deer can all be spied in their natural habitats - each visit brings a new sighting! Brockholes is an old quarry site on one of the largest strips of ancient woodland in the UK with species-rich hay meadow, large wetland areas and the beautiful River Ribble running along the edge of this 106 hectare attraction. The Brockholes experience also includes the UK's only floating visitor centre, cafe and shop - yes, they're all in the middle of a lake. This is Brockholes' first summer and it's packed full of events, from summer cinema and open-air theatre to family craft sessions, den building and reptile displays! There are different charges for the events and some are free.

www.brockholes.org

Nickelodeon Land

Location: Pleasure Beach Resort, Blackpool

This collaboration between Pleasure Beach, Blackpool and Nickelodeon, the number-one entertainment brands for kids, has seen a 6 acre area of Pleasure Beach transformed into Nickelodeon Land, with 14 rides, themed retail and catering outlets. New rides include SpongeBob's Splash Bash, which is an interactive ride where riders have the opportunity to turn the jets onto their friends and blast pesky jellyfish with jets of water for a splashing time. Avatar Airbender allows riders to join Aang on an amazing adventure, spinning and soaring through the air on a giant disk. The Rugrats' Lost River is a rollicking flume ride where you join the Rugrats on their quest to find the mythical Temple of Spoon. Nickelodeon Land is the first Nickelodeon-themed area in the UK and one of only 3 outside the USA. Others are located in Australia and Germany.

www.blackpoolpleasurebeach.com

Madame Tussauds

Location: Blackpool

This new Madame Tussauds for Blackpool opened in April and has a distinct Blackpool feel to it, with lots of interactive fun for the whole family. Head to the 'Blackpool Pier' area where you'll meet some of the country's national treasures including Benny Hill, Barbara Windsor and Ken Dodd or, join Ant and Dec in their I'm a Celebrity set – complete with a creepy challenge and wobbly bridge. There are characters from TV, from X Factor and from the world of music and sport; step out onto Abbey Road or Moonwalk with Michael Jackson, then square up to Ricky Hatton or join Lewis Hamilton on the podium. Make sure you have time for a bit of a make-over with Gok or a drink or two in The Rovers, with some familiar faces from Coronation Street.

www.madametussauds.com/blackpool

SOUTH

Seaview Wildlife Encounter

Location: Isle of Wight

Animal-loving families should hop across the Solent with Wightlink for a day out where kids can enjoy a 'Junior Wildlife Experience'. Guided by a member of the Animal Care Team, this newly-launched scheme allows kids to enjoy a hands-on wildlife experience, getting up close to a host of animals including penguins, meerkats and wallabies, and – for the brave – even the park's bugs and reptiles. This two-hour VIP 'Junior Wildlife Experience' is available for children aged 6-15 years and takes place 10:15-12:15, Monday-Thursday (excluding Bank Holidays) throughout the summer school holidays (booking essential). A Wightlink family days out ticket to *Seaview Wildlife Encounter* costs £58 for a car and up to four people (£14.50pp) including return ferry crossings from Portsmouth or Lymington. The 'Junior Wildlife Experience' costs £50 per child – maximum two children per session (under 12s must be accompanied; accompanying adult free of charge).

Wightlink: 0871 376 1000

www.wightlink.co.uk

Peppa Pig World at Paultons Park

Location: Romsey, Hampshire

Paultons Park is the theme park for families which has more than 60 wonderful rides and attractions included in the admission price. Peppa Pig World is now open. A UK exclusive and world first - Peppa Pig's very own theme park, with 7 fun new rides and attractions.

<https://paultonspark.co.uk/>

Conquer the Tower tours / The Royal Windsor Wheel

Location: Windsor, Berkshire

Visitors to Windsor Castle can now climb to the top of the world-famous Round Tower, one of the nation's iconic landmarks. The new tour takes you to the height of 65.5 metres above the River Thames, where you can enjoy breathtaking views of the Castle and Windsor Great Park, the Thames Valley and the London skyline. Or for a more relaxing adventure why not visit The Royal Windsor Wheel which has returned to [Alexandra Gardens](#) until 4th Sept 2011, visitors the chance to enjoy spectacular panoramic views. Soar 50 metres into the sky above Windsor, with breathtaking views over the Castle battlements, the **River Thames** and the stunning countryside beyond. On a clear day you can even see as far as the gleaming arch of **Wembley Stadium** and the glittering skyline of Central London.

www.royalcollection.org.uk

www.mellorsgroup.com/Windsor-Wheel

New Country Life at The Castle, Hever Castle & Gardens

Location: Hever, Kent

A celebration of country living with everything you need to enjoy 'The Good Life'. Rural demonstrations include wood turning, bee keeping and keeping hens. The event incorporates the popular Annual Patchwork and Quilting Exhibition

www.hevercastle.co.uk

South Devon Crab Festival

Location: Various locations across South Devon

New for 2011, this week-long festival dedicated to crabs and all things crabby is backed by Dartmouth based chef/restaurateur Mitch Tonks and celebrates the humble crab. With tastings, demonstrations, crabbing competitions and a range of beach events to enjoy for all ages including sideways racing – why not!

<http://www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk/south-devon-crab>

www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk/south-devon-crab

Murder Mystery Treasure Trails

Location: Eastbourne seafront, lower promenade near the Pier

The new Treasure Trails kiosk has just opened on Eastbourne's main resort promenade offering Murder Mystery Treasure Trails; these are packs containing a set of clues that take you on a walking tour of the seafront and town centre. They cost £5 and are the perfect way to discover Eastbourne's heritage while trying to solve a murder mystery.

www.treasuretrails.co.uk

Eastbourne Kayak and Surf Hire

Location: Eastbourne seafront, Wish Tower beach

Hire out kayaks off the beach in Eastbourne. The kayaks are for hire for beginners and experienced paddlers alike. For those that are new to kayaking come and learn the basics of the sport which will give you the confidence to explore the beautiful coast line that Eastbourne has to offer. They specialise in hiring out single and double sit on top kayaks as well as stand up paddle boards.

www.eastbournekayakandsurf.co.uk

Lee Valley White Water Rafting Centre

Location: Lee Valley Regional Park

The first Olympic venue to open to the public, Lee Valley White Water Rafting Centre offers a unique chance to participate on the course which will actually be used by competitors in the 2012 Games. With two separate courses and world class facilities, this is a great way for families with older children to start getting involved in the Olympics. Lee Valley is also hosting guided cycle rides throughout the 10,000 acre park this summer. The more leisurely, family-friendly options include the chance to stop for a picnic and a visit to Lee Valley Park Farms. Who knows, it could be the start of a few future athletes careers!

<http://www.leevalleypark.org.uk>

New Marlowe Theatre

Location: The Friars, Canterbury, CT1 2AS

Date (opening Tuesday, 4 October)

The curtain rises at Canterbury's new Marlowe Theatre on Tuesday 4 October, marking the completion of a two year, £25.6 million project. The theatre, which has been designed by the award-winning London-based architects Keith Williams Architects, is one of the most significant current capital arts projects in this country and its opening this autumn is set to give the South East's cultural offer a major boost. The Marlowe Theatre, which stands on the bank of the River Stour, started life in the 1930s as an Odeon Cinema and has long been recognised as one of the leading regional theatres in the country. The cinema was converted to a theatre in the mid-80s but it has long been an ambition to have a first class theatre for the area capable of attracting major productions. The project which commenced in Spring 2009 saw the demolition of the old Marlowe Theatre and a new Marlowe constructed on an extended site. A stunning main auditorium will have seating for 1200, set over three levels with an orchestra pit that can accommodate up to 80 musicians. A second smaller performance space, The Marlowe Studio, will, for the first time, accommodate alternative, community and educational projects and produce and present new work, in partnership with local and regional arts organisations.

www.marlowetheatre.com

Country Life at Hever Castle

Date 16 and 18 September, 2011

Location: Hever Castle, Hever, Kent, Nr Edenbridge, TN8 7NG

A variety of talented craftspeople and producers will set up stall on Half Moon Pond demonstrating country crafts ranging from wood turning and wood carving to felt making and aromatherapy. Spinners, weavers and dyers explain how to produce textiles with the help of 'Larry the Lamb', plus advice on keeping hens and bees from the experts. Besides learning a new skill, there'll be plenty of opportunities for visitors to ask questions while they have fun discovering age-old techniques. The event incorporates the popular annual Hever Castle Patchwork and Quilting Exhibition. Members of *The Quilters' Guild* from across Kent, Surrey and Sussex will showcase their talent with a display of over 200 patchwork quilts and wall hangings. Visitors will be treated to a vibrant array of traditional and contemporary designs including British and American styles, sampler quilts and wall hangings, created using innovative techniques in hand and machine work. Throughout the weekend, members of *The Quilters' Guild* will be presenting a full programme of demonstrations on patchwork and quilting techniques, from basic construction to intricate needlework. There will also be a selection of trade stalls selling designs, equipment, fabrics and haberdashery.

www.hevercastle.co.uk

Sandworld

Location: Lodmoor Country Park, Weymouth, Dorset

SANDWORLD is open! A NEW attraction to celebrate one of Weymouth's iconic natural assets – its golden sand. **SANDTASTIC SAND SCULPTURES AT SANDWORLD!!** Incredible sand sculptures ranging from two up to five metres high (that's as tall as a double decker bus!) will be the focus of the new attraction at Lodmoor Country Park – all made from 100% pure sand by competing World Class International Sand Artists. The main jaw dropping sculptures will be showcased under cover in a huge Marquee.

www.sandworld.co.uk

Grand Medieval Weekend

Date 13 & 14 August 2011

Location: Bodiam Castle, 1066 Country - Bodiam, East Sussex

Bodiam Castle's biggest weekend of the year. 'The Medieval Siege Society' take up residence for the weekend along with the jousting 'Knights of Arkley', medieval musicians, hands-on activities and living history encampments. There are opportunities to buy medieval crafts as this year, for the first time, we have included many trading stalls. Plenty of things to see and do!

www.visit1066country.com

Jungle Book Story Days

Date 16 & 17 August 2011

Location: Bateman's, East Sussex

Two days of Kipling's children's classic brought to life at Bateman's, the author's Sussex home. Sit under a tree in the garden and listen to stories from The Jungle Book or have your face painted as one of the characters. Follow the Jungle Trail and win a Jungle prize or make a model of one of the animals.

<http://www.visit1066country.com/site/events/jungle-book-story-days-p756661>