



Top tips for your free activities in London with kids

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Staying in London with kids		
1	Which hotel chain?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay in a Novotel for free kids' breakfasts and a pool• Stay in Travelodge for budget travel
2	Which part of London?	Ordered by price (cheapest first): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Covent Garden Travelodge – for proximity to Covent Garden• Excel Novotel – for breakfast by the Thames and arrival by cable car• Greenwich Novotel or Ibis– option to arrive by ferry (or tube), proximity to observatory and market• Paddington Novotel – for pool and proximity to train station

Travel in London with kids

1	Around London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids under 11 - free • Kids over 11– buy day ticket in advance, using railcard if you have one • Adults – tap credit card when boarding London transport for automatically calculated cheapest day ticket
2	Train to London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use train to avoid traffic stress and utilize 2 for 1 offers • See Paddington bear at Paddington Station • See Harry Potter’s Platform 5 ¾ at Kings Cross

Free London Activities with kids – Day 1		Travel tips
1	Brick Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try rainbow bagels for £1 • Street Art – pick your favourite • Markets (vintage, Backyard, Spitalfields, Brick Lane street market, Tearoom market) • Eat a Brick Lane curry
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time scheduling is key - pack in too much and they will wilt, not enough and you are stood in a street in the rain without a plan. Always have a plan B in your back pocket. • The hottest curry on the menu/ chilli challenge is never a good idea

2	Theme park shops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the Lego store at Leicester Square for Legoland type giant installations and making your own mini-figure fun. • Sit in a life-sized Mini and walk with oversized M and M's in their own shop 	Snap an Abbey Road crossing M and M souvenir photo
3	China town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk under the elaborate gate • Window shop for nodding cats • Look out for dancing dragons • Try some authentic Chinese food 	
4	Neal's Yard (Covent Garden)	Check out the colourful buildings and cafés on your way to Covent Garden Market	Look out for fire breathing jugglers in Covent Garden
Free London Activities with kids – Day 2			Travel tips
5	V and A Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand Entrance – look out for the spectacular Murano glass sculpture hanging over the Reception desk • Cast rooms – larger than life Victorian casts of architectural marvels from across the globe • Bollinger Jewellery Gallery – find Victoria's crown and a fluorescent glass stairway • Ceramic staircase – the most elaborate in this most fabulous of buildings (by the Silver Gallery) • Pop star costumes hang out in the theatre section (think Bowie and Elton) • Rest of world – you can't see it all in a day so get each child to pick a country to visit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Covid pre-book your museum before your day of arrival • Whilst queuing for exhibits ask the curator for their favourite piece, for a great background story and so you don't miss the stars of the show.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have tea and cake in the William Morris café or a packed lunch in the courtyard 	
6	Tower Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If arriving by train buy a 2 for 1 ticket in advance Sit on the glass floor on the walkway between the towers, if you dare Look out over some of the best London skyline views in town (including the Tower of London) Walk back over the bridge at street level under the towers for some great photos of it literally towering over you Try the café under the Tower for river views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2 for 1 ticket is hard to get your hands on. Don't forget to bring your train ticket with you. Look up to the mirrored ceiling for the full effect of the invisible floor.
7	London Bus Tour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catch a London bus - front seat top deck - for a city tour 	Use your travel card for what feels like a free ride.
8	Pizza at St Paul's Cathedral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try a £7 pizza at Franco Manca overlooking the steps of St Pauls. 	The best seats are right in the window.
Free London Activities with kids – Day 3			Travel tips
9	Notting Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look out for the famous coloured houses Browse the markets for shiny antique silverware 	Each market day has a different theme. Pick your favourite.
10	Hyde Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed the green parakeets and squirrels in the park Then feed the ducks, geese and swans behind you Grab a coffee at the café next to the Italian fountains Swimming and boating also available for the brave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head to the Peter Pan statue to find the birds. Walk through Marble Arch in the corner of the park on your way to Oxford Street.

11	Play with the toys in Oxford Street shops	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Play find the most expensive thing in the shop game in Selfridges• Jump on giant keyboards like Tom Hanks in Big in the toy department (giant bears also in evidence)	Head round the corner to Regent street for Hamley's, the infamous 5 storey toy store with interactive toy demonstrations.
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