# London’s expanded 2025 summer line-up turns family days out into full‑on adventures



London in summer reads like an open invitation to families: museums and parks that double as classrooms, unexpected thrills for the adventurous, and a steady stream of community-run spaces that keep children busy whatever the weather. From adrenaline-fuelled slides to quiet wetlands, the city offers a spectrum of outings that suit toddlers, teens and exhausted grown-ups looking for respite. According to recent coverage in The Independent, many of these options are new or have expanded their family programming for 2025, making it a particularly rich season for parents planning holiday days out.

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* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/england/london/best-things-to-do-london-summer-2025-kids-b2808458.html)

For heart-in-mouth excitement, the ArcelorMittal Orbit remains a headline act. The landmark in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is promoted by its operator as hosting the world’s longest and tallest tunnel slide — a 76‑metre, 178‑metre descent with a dozen tight twists and a 50‑metre finishing straight. The attraction’s own information notes that riders can reach speeds of roughly 15 miles per hour on the roughly 40‑second run, and that visitors may use a lift to reach the viewing platform or negotiate 455 spiral steps. The slide is run by a commercial operator who publishes detailed safety, ticketing and visitor‑requirement guidance online, so families should check those practicalities before they go.

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* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/england/london/best-things-to-do-london-summer-2025-kids-b2808458.html), [[2]](https://arcelormittalorbit.com/whats-on/the-slides/)

If you’d prefer animals to adrenaline, London’s city farms are a quietly brilliant option. Mudchute Park and Farm on the Isle of Dogs is highlighted as one of Europe’s largest inner‑city farms: a 32‑acre charity home to more than one hundred animals and a programme of free and low‑cost education, volunteering and seasonal activities. The farm relies on donations and community support to maintain animal welfare and runs hands‑on experiences that suit younger children who enjoy meeting and caring for farm residents. Other city farms across the capital offer similar encounters and local outreach.

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* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/england/london/best-things-to-do-london-summer-2025-kids-b2808458.html), [[3]](https://www.mudchute.org/)

For blockbuster cinema outings, the BFI IMAX in Waterloo still guarantees jaw‑dropping scale. The BFI’s information describes the screen as Britain’s largest — roughly twenty by twenty‑six metres — paired with a multi‑channel sound system and projection tech designed for immersive releases and specialist educational screenings. It’s an easy way to transform a film into an event that feels special for older children and teens, particularly around big family titles or nature documentaries that benefit from the format.

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* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/england/london/best-things-to-do-london-summer-2025-kids-b2808458.html), [[4]](https://www.bfi.org.uk/bfi-imax)

Water time is a reliable winner for many families. The London Aquatics Centre, the 2012 legacy venue in Stratford, combines public swimming sessions, holiday inflatables and structured lessons for children and adults following recognised teaching frameworks. The centre emphasises water safety, accessible facilities and staged lessons so parents can find sessions that match their child’s confidence and ability in the water. Many local leisure centres also stage family swims with slides and play features that keep younger kids occupied for hours.

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* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/england/london/best-things-to-do-london-summer-2025-kids-b2808458.html), [[5]](https://www.londonaquaticscentre.org/activities/swimming/)

For younger children and budding storytellers, Stratford’s Discover Children’s Story Centre offers two floors of immersive Story Worlds, workshops and a Story Garden designed for creative play and literacy development. The centre lays out seasonal exhibitions, family trails and bookable sessions aimed at zero‑ to eleven‑year‑olds, making it a helpful crash course in mixing active play with narrative learning during the long holidays. Annual passes, birthday packages and accessibility information are published for families who like to plan repeat visits.

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* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/england/london/best-things-to-do-london-summer-2025-kids-b2808458.html), [[6]](https://discover.org.uk/)

If you want to put tree canopies on the to‑do list, Kew Gardens’ Treetop Walkway provides a calibrated dose of vertigo and ecology. Rising to roughly eighteen metres above the woodland floor, the 200‑metre elevated path leads visitors through canopy habitats where birdlife and invertebrates are visible close up; the Gardens also run a Children’s Garden with interactive climbing features and learning sculptures carved into trunks. Kew’s visitor guidance includes the number of steps to the walkway, lift access for those who need it, and routine closures for maintenance or bad weather, so it’s worth checking opening notes ahead of a planned trip.

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* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/england/london/best-things-to-do-london-summer-2025-kids-b2808458.html), [[7]](https://www.kew.org/Kew-gardens/attractions/treetop-walkway)

Beyond those highlights, London’s family options are broad and gladly idiosyncratic: a day at the Warner Bros. Studio Tour for Harry Potter fans, getting lost (deliberately) in the historic Hampton Court Maze, hunting the Victorian dinosaurs of Crystal Palace Park, taking the Thames cable car for a 1km aerial hop, joining the children’s parade at Notting Hill Carnival, or losing an energetic child in one of the capital’s polished soft‑play or adventure‑play venues. Zoos, wetland centres and street‑art walks add variety for different ages and temperaments, while West End family shows remain a dependable evening choice. The Independent’s round‑up lists options across budgets and boroughs, so parents can pick activities that match attention spans and pocketbooks.

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* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/england/london/best-things-to-do-london-summer-2025-kids-b2808458.html)

A few practical touches will make visits run more smoothly. Operators publish clear guidance about booking, accessibility and safety: the slide and big attractions list requirements and group options on their sites; farms and charities emphasise donations and volunteer opportunities; museums, children’s centres and the aquatics venue offer prebookable sessions and staged lesson pathways. Expect busy school‑holiday weekends at headline sites and factor in quieter weekday slots where possible. Above all, check the venue’s own site for the latest opening times, ticketing changes and temporary closures before you set out — that last‑minute check can save a lot of disappointment.

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* Paragraph 9 – [[2]](https://arcelormittalorbit.com/whats-on/the-slides/), [[3]](https://www.mudchute.org/), [[4]](https://www.bfi.org.uk/bfi-imax), [[5]](https://www.londonaquaticscentre.org/activities/swimming/), [[6]](https://discover.org.uk/), [[7]](https://www.kew.org/Kew-gardens/attractions/treetop-walkway), [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/england/london/best-things-to-do-london-summer-2025-kids-b2808458.html)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/england/london/best-things-to-do-london-summer-2025-kids-b2808458.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://arcelormittalorbit.com/whats-on/the-slides/> - ArcelorMittal Orbit’s official site describes the Helix slide and viewing experiences at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The Helix is promoted as the world’s longest and tallest tunnel slide, standing 76 metres high and stretching 178 metres with twelve twists including a corkscrew section. Visitors may reach speeds of around 15 miles per hour on the roughly forty‑second descent. The attraction offers access by lift or by 455 spiral steps to panoramic viewing platforms and interactive exhibits. The page details ticketing, visitor requirements, opening times and accessibility information, and emphasises safety measures and group booking options. Managed by Zip World Ltd.
3. <https://www.mudchute.org/> - Mudchute Park and Farm’s site presents a 32‑acre community farm on the Isle of Dogs, described as one of Europe’s largest inner‑city farms. The charity hosts over one hundred animals including rare breeds and offers education, volunteer, nursery and seasonal family activities free of charge. The pages explain animal encounter sessions, school programmes, sponsorship opportunities and reliance on donations to maintain welfare and husbandry. Visitor information covers opening times, events, travel directions and facilities for parties and group bookings. Mudchute highlights its conservation work and community role while encouraging visitors to support the farm through donations or volunteering and advocacy.
4. <https://www.bfi.org.uk/bfi-imax> - The BFI IMAX page states that the cinema at Waterloo contains Britain’s largest cinema screen, measuring twenty by twenty‑six metres and seating around five hundred people. It highlights the venue’s immersive twelve‑channel sound and advanced projection systems used for the latest film releases, specialist screenings and educational presentations. The site provides practical information on listings, ticketing and venue hire, explaining that the auditorium can be hired for premieres and events. Accessibility details and recent technological upgrades are noted alongside historical context about the cinema’s opening and refurbishments that have maintained its status as the United Kingdom’s premier large‑format film venue.
5. <https://www.londonaquaticscentre.org/activities/swimming/> - London Aquatics Centre’s pages describe the legacy venue from the 2012 Olympics, featuring a fifty‑metre competition pool, a separate training pool and diving facilities. The centre runs public swimming sessions, family swims with inflatables during holidays, a comprehensive swimming lessons programme for children and adults delivered by qualified instructors following Swim England frameworks. Information covers booking, lesson stages from infants to advanced levels, holiday activities and accessible facilities. The site also lists prices, opening times and guidance for groups and schools, emphasising water safety, community outreach and the centre’s role as both a training hub and a family‑friendly leisure destination.
6. <https://discover.org.uk/> - Discover Children’s Story Centre’s site outlines a hands‑on cultural venue in Stratford for children aged zero to eleven and their carers. It details immersive Story Worlds across two floors, a Story Garden, storytelling sessions, workshops and seasonal exhibitions aimed at creative play and literacy. The pages explain ticketing, opening times, special events and add‑ons such as exhibitions, family trails and add‑on sessions, with options for birthday parties and annual passes. Practical visitor information includes accessibility, bookings and how to reach the centre by public transport. The centre emphasises imaginative learning, community programming and opportunities for children to create, perform and share stories.
7. <https://www.kew.org/Kew-gardens/attractions/treetop-walkway> - The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew’s official page for the Treetop Walkway describes a 200‑metre elevated path rising about eighteen metres above the woodland floor. The structure, designed to blend with the landscape, provides close encounters with canopy species, birdlife and invertebrates while offering educational interpretation including carved trunk sculptures. Visitor notes state there are 118 steps to the walkway and a lift for those requiring assistance, and that closures may occur for maintenance or adverse weather. The Gardens’ pages also direct visitors to the Children’s Garden, outline accessibility guidance and explain safety and conservation considerations for this popular family attraction.