

SUMMER 2025 | BY @SMALLHOUSEBIGTRIPS

FOUND IN THE MIDLANDS



YOUR ULTIMATE SUMMER GUIDE

What to do, where to go and what not to miss!

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the very first issue of Found in the Midlands by the creators of @smallhousebigtrips.

If you've ever spent more time scrolling for ideas than actually going out and doing them - you're not alone. That's exactly why I created this digital magazine. Found in the Midlands is here to do the legwork, so you can spend less time planning and more time exploring.

This summer edition is packed with the kind of things I'd recommend to a friend:

- Top free days out for when the budget's tight
- 5 must-visit splurge spots that are actually worth the money
- Space-themed experiences for little astronauts
- Family-friendly restaurants that genuinely welcome kids (and have decent food)
- Kids Eat Free offers
- And a collection of events in your area that you might not know about - even a page just for adults! Parents need to have fun too!

Everything featured here has been found with care, curiosity and a big love for the Midlands.

Thanks for being part of the start. Here's to a summer full of discoveries.

Kelly Johnson

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



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Follow us for offers, competitions and lots more over on our social media accounts and website:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/smallhousebigtrips1

Instagram: www.instagram.com/smallhousebigtrips

Website: www.smallhousebigtrips.co.uk

10 FREE PLACES TO VISIT

Pack a picnic
and go!

Let's face it - entertaining the family can get pricey fast. But here's the good news: the Midlands is bursting with brilliant places to explore that won't cost you a thing (maybe a parking charge). Whether you're chasing fresh air, a bit of culture, or just something different to do, this list has you covered.



1.

RAF Museum

Discover iconic aircraft and aviation history in an interactive setting.



2.

Stanwick Lakes

Perfect for water and sand play, adventure playgrounds and walking trails.



3.

Rosliston Forestry Centre

Enjoy woodland walks, family trails and outdoor activities.



4.

Himley Hall

Large wooden play tower, including a spiral slide, rotating carousels, zip-line, and more.



5.

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

The museum is back open with a number of galleries telling the story of Birmingham including a family gallery.

6.

Belfry Hotel Woodland Playarea

Outdoor play area and woodland adventure playground.



7.

Telford Town Park

Award-winning park with adventure playgrounds and beautiful gardens.



8.

National Memorial Arboretum

A peaceful place of remembrance with landscaped gardens and play areas and free summer events.



9.

Sandwell RSPB

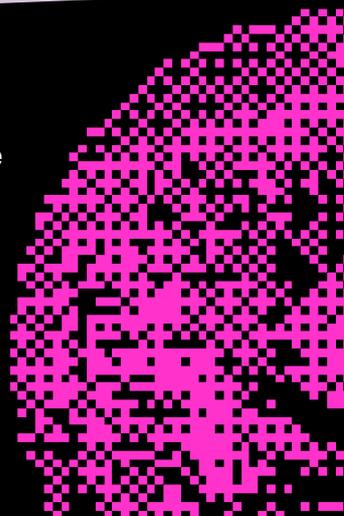
A nature reserve ideal for bird-watching, walking and family events.



10.

Sheldon Country Park

Close to the airport, you can sit with a picnic underneath the flight path watching planes take off while enjoying the countryside.



BULLS IN THE CITY

TRAIL IN BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE

Did you know? This year you will find our @smallhousebigtrips original logo painted onto one of the bulls. If you find it, snap a picture and share on social media to be in with the chance of winning a £50 Bullring voucher*.



It looks like this in black and white.

What is Bulls in the City?

Bulls in the City is brought to you by Birmingham Hospice, the city's primary provider of adult hospice care, and Wild in Art, a global provider of art trails.

The trail will see 128 bull sculptures, based on the iconic Bullring bull, placed around the city for people to enjoy - each one lovingly designed and painted by a talented artist.

Download the app or pick up a map from the Great Western Arcade to take part. The trail is live from 16th July to 14th September.

Competition details: Take a selfie/photo of our logo on the bull (we aren't giving any clues away) and share to social media, tagging @smallhousebigtrips. All entrants will be added to a prize draw with one winner announced on 15th September who will receive a £50 Bullring voucher from @smallhousebigtrips.

SPACE THEMED

Days Out/Events



©-The-Roswells-Highly-Sprung1-1

Do you have a space obsessed child? If so, take a look through these days out and activities for the summer holidays.

Stellar Space Day - 21 August 2025

To mark the arrival of its brand new Space Vault exhibition, **Thinktank Science Museum** is hosting a one-day-only event packed with intergalactic fun.

Top of the bill? The Roswells, a curious alien family on a “very British” holiday, complete with cricket, picnics, and confused stares. Created by acclaimed performance group Highly Sprung, expect surprise appearances and space-age silliness throughout the day.

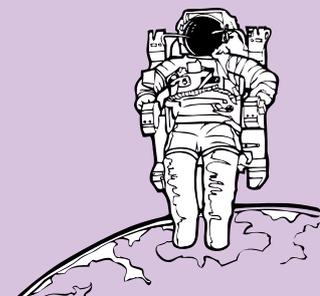
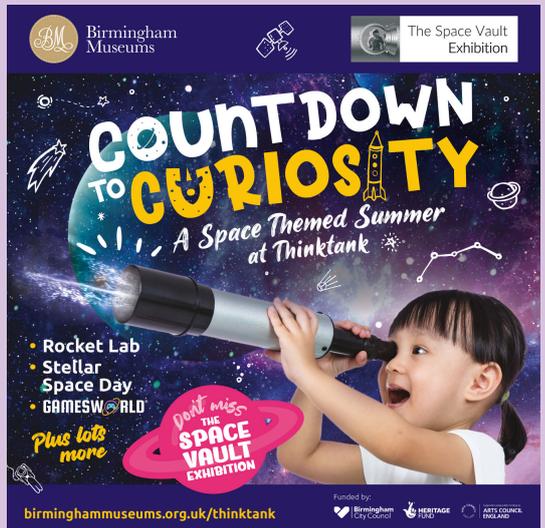
There's more planned for the day including, **Lunar LEGO Workshops** - Build and code your own moon rover (ticketed), **Junk Modelling** - Craft rockets and space gear from recycled bits, **Night Sky Painting** - Finger-paint your very own galaxy and **Sensory Space Den** - A calming corner for younger explorers.

More details: <https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/events/stellar-space-day>

Space Across The World - 19 July - 31 Aug

This summer, the **National Space Centre** invites families to explore how space connects us all - from ancient stargazing traditions to today's global missions. With live science talks, hands-on activities, and space-themed crafts throughout the centre, there's discovery waiting around every corner. Don't miss the brand-new planetarium show, One Step Beyond (launching 20 July), an awe-inspiring journey to the Moon and beyond. Even better? Every day ticket is upgraded to a free Annual Pass, so you can return for more cosmic adventures all year long.

More details: <https://www.spacecentre.co.uk/whats-on/space-across-the-world/>



5 MUST-VISIT SPLURGE SPOTS

These are five of our favourite days out that do cost money but we think they are totally worth it. Take a look through and see if any of these sound like your cup of tea too.

1

Thinktank Science Museum

Where science comes alive - and then some. From a real-life Spitfire hanging overhead to interactive zones where kids can build, explore, and discover, this museum is a full-on sensory adventure. The MiniBrum play city is a huge hit with under 8s, while older kids (and adults!) will love the Planetarium, the outdoor Science Garden, and the fascinating exhibits covering everything from the human body to space travel. It's one of those rare places that's as educational as it is exciting and worth every penny for a full day of discovery.

2

Drayton Manor

If you're looking to go all-out for a family day, Drayton Manor is hard to beat. With lots of rides and attractions, a 15-acre zoo, and the ever-popular Thomas Land, there's something here for everyone - from tiny train-lovers to rollercoaster-seeking teens. It's less intense than some of the bigger UK theme parks, which makes it ideal for families with younger children. And with regular events, seasonal extras, and plenty of green space for a breather, it's an experience-packed day worth the splurge.



3

Black Country Living Museum

Wander cobbled streets, pop into old-fashioned sweet shops, watch skilled craftspeople at work, and chat with costumed characters who bring local history to life. Whether you're sitting in a 1930s classroom or grabbing the best fish and chips you'll ever eat from a coal-fired fryer, the Black Country Living Museum offers a brilliant blend of nostalgia, learning, and fun.



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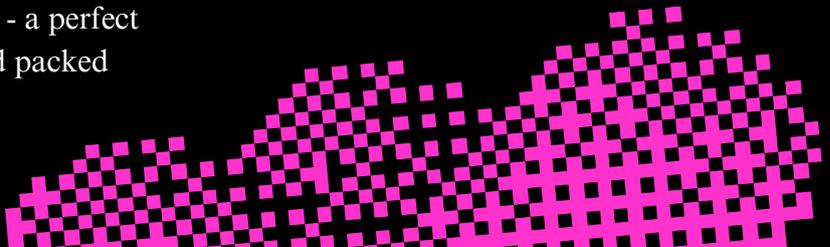
Blists Hill

Blists Hill is another fantastic living history site where the past feels real. This recreated Victorian town is beautifully detailed - complete with working shops, a bank where you can swap your modern cash for shillings, and characters who never break character. There's horse-drawn carts, steam engines, and traditional trades to explore. Don't miss the Victorian fairground or the freshly baked bread from the bakery.

5

Cotswold Farm Park

Founded by farmer and TV presenter Adam Henson, Cotswold Farm Park is a firm favourite with families who love animals and open space. It's home to rare breeds, hands-on feeding sessions, tractor rides, and an adventure barn for younger kids. There's everything from lamb cuddles to wildlife walks across stunning Cotswold scenery. Not forgetting the flower fields too! It's clean, well-run, and full of wholesome charm - a perfect "treat day" that feels both relaxing and packed with things to do.



Curtain Up: The Best Family Theatre Shows This Summer



From magical nannies to roaring dinosaurs - here's what's on across the Midlands stage

Whether you're looking to escape a rainy day or treat the kids to something a little bit special, the Midlands is bursting with family-friendly theatre this summer. From West End magic to laugh-out-loud adaptations of favourite books, there's a show for every age and attention span. Here are our top picks that'll have little ones wide-eyed and grown-ups grinning too:

1. **Mary Poppins**

Birmingham Hippodrome | 16 July – 23 August
Practically perfect in every way, this Disney and Cameron Mackintosh classic flies into Birmingham for a magical summer run. Expect dazzling choreography, jaw-dropping effects, and a spoonful of nostalgia.



2. **The Boy With Wings**

Birmingham Rep | 21 – 30 August
Based on Lenny Henry's bestselling book, this funny and fast-paced adventure follows a seemingly ordinary boy who discovers he has extraordinary powers — and a big destiny. Expect heart, heroism, and high-flying fun.

3. **The Dinosaur That Pooped a Rock Show**

Wolverhampton Grand | 20 July
From the bestselling series by Tom Fletcher and Dougie Poynter comes this hilarious live show that's as cheeky as its title. Perfect for giggle-hungry kids and parents who don't mind a little toilet humour.

4. **The Koala Who Could**

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry | 24 – 26 July
Birmingham Rep | 7 - 8 Aug
Lichfield Garrick | 28 – 30 August
Based on the much-loved book by Rachel Bright and Jim Field, this gentle tale about courage, change, and eucalyptus is brought to life with music, puppetry and plenty of heart.

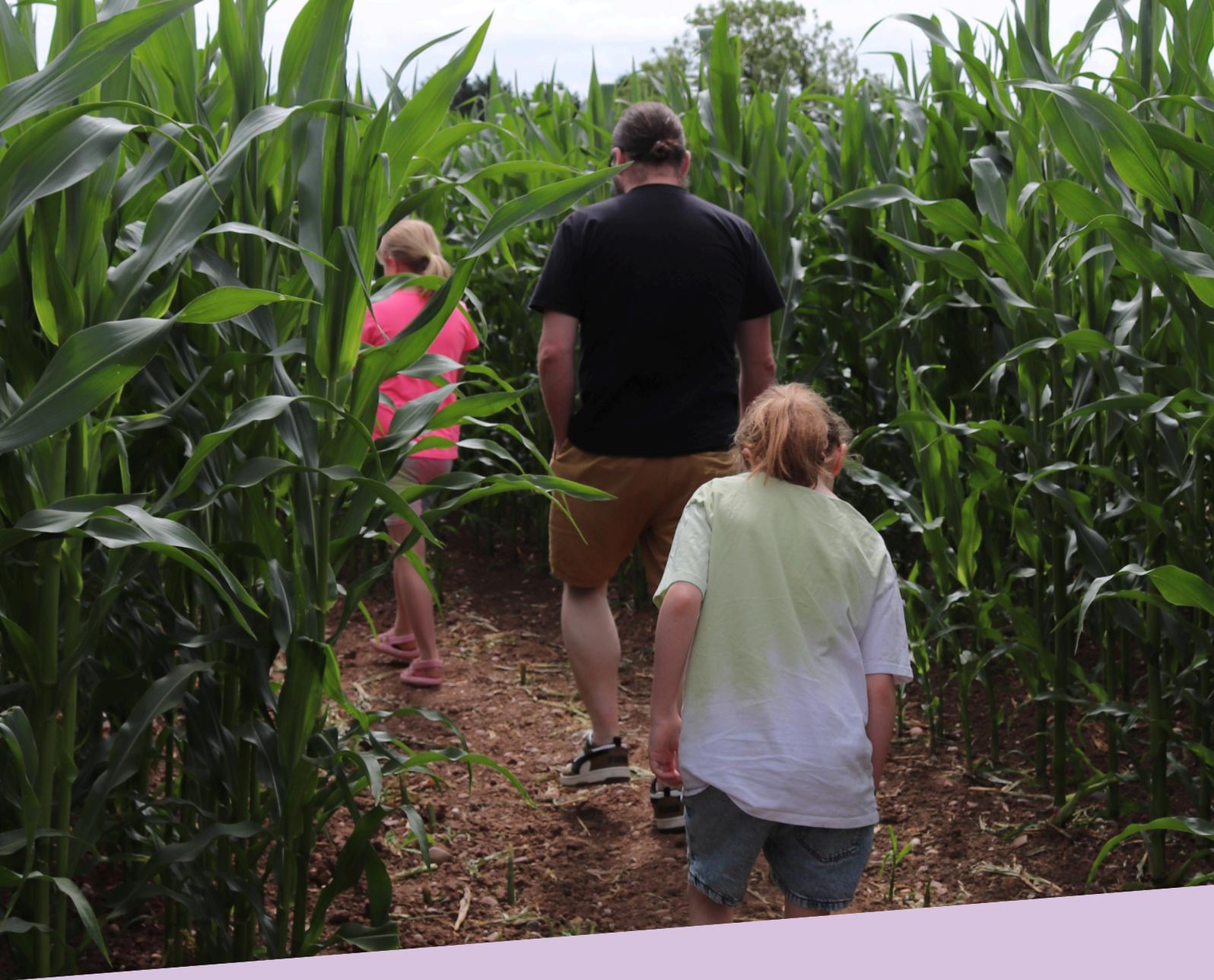
5. **Milkshake! Live: On Holiday**

Festival Theatre, Malvern | 29 July
Your little one's favourite Milkshake! stars take the stage in a sun-soaked adventure packed with songs, dancing, and familiar faces from the screen. A perfect intro to theatre for younger children.

6. **Dinosaurs Live!**

The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham | 31 August
The Natural History Museum brings prehistoric giants to life in this thrilling stage show filled with science, roar-some puppetry, and plenty of stomping surprises. One night only — grab tickets fast!





**FIND OUT
WHAT'S ON IN
YOUR AREA**

WHAT'S ON **in Birmingham**

Medieval reenactment day, police station open day, Jewellery Quarter Festival and lots more. There's a really eclectic mix on this round-up.

Jewellery Quarter Festival

 Golden Square, St Paul's Square & beyond
 Saturday 26 July, 10am–7pm
Celebrate 10 sparkling years of this vibrant community festival with live music, market stalls, creative workshops — and the return of the iconic Jewellery Quarter mini-golf! Over 20 venues will be buzzing with activity, so wear comfy shoes and get exploring.

Medieval Birmingham at Weoley Castle

 Weoley Castle Ruins
 Saturday 20 July, 11am–4pm
Step back in time and discover what life was really like in medieval Birmingham. With re-enactors, battle displays, Warhammer games, and archaeological treasures to explore, it's history made hands-on.
 Tickets: £3.50 per person (under 3s free)

Birmingham Indoor Funfair

 NEC Birmingham
 5–17 August
All the fun of the fair – rain or shine! Packed with rides and attractions for every age, plus cafes, baby changing, and a bar for grown-ups.
 Quiet Sessions: 9 & 16 August, 10am–1pm

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Arts Club: Summer Fun

 Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
 Every Wednesday, 23 July – 27 August
Join the Museum's creative team for weekly workshops like mosaic making, origami animals, stained glass crafts and more.
 Sessions at 12pm, 1pm & 2pm
 £3.50 per child | Accompanying adults go free

Cirque du Pollinate: Summer Garden Party

 Birmingham Botanical Gardens
 7–9 August, 10am–5pm (last entry 2:30pm)
A joyful day of circus, creativity, and pollination-themed play. Follow Queen TumbleBee on an interactive quest, meet buzzing performers, and explore the Play Hive. Dress in pollinator colours and prepare for royal fun!
 Street food, live shows & nature games await.

Universum: VR Adventures at the NEC

 NEC Birmingham
 11 July – 24 August
Step into thrilling new worlds with this brand-new immersive VR experience. Choose from three journeys:

Wild Immersion – meet wildlife in the wild
Fairy Tales – dive into magical stories
Napoléon – walk through epic history
Perfect for curious minds and future techies.

WHAT'S ON in Walsall

Have a Swiftie in the family? Then you'll be up for the Swift-tribute experience in Walsall Wood. Science fan? The STEM day sounds great.

STEM Family Funday - Aldridge

 Aldridge Community Centre
 2nd Aug |  £4 per person (booking essential)

Get ready for an epic day of science, creativity and hands-on fun at Aldridge's STEM Family Funday (1pm - 5pm)! With over 10 interactive STEM stations, this exciting event invites young minds to explore robotics, paper circuits, VR, and live science shows – all with a magical twist.

Step into themed zones including the Medical Zone, Gaming Zone, and Challenge Zone, where curious kids can build, test and discover. Don't miss the live Wizard School of STEM shows, where Professor Archimedes brings the magic of science to life, plus workshops to build wands, craft slime and get sorted into STEM-inspired houses.

Perfect for all ages, with a special Toddler Zone for little ones and refreshments available on site.
<https://www.make-more.org/event-details/stemfest>

TAYLOR MADE

THE SWIFT TRIBUTE EXPERIENCE

A Family-Friendly Event for All Little Swifties!
A Summer holidays SWIFTY Treat!

 **SUN. AUGUST 17TH 2-5PM**

 **QBar, Walsall Wood, WS9 9AJ**

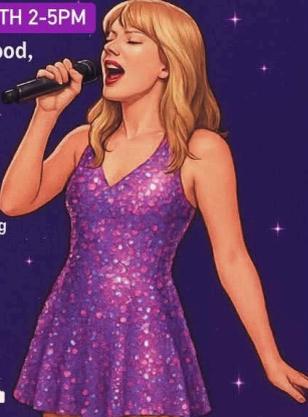
 **Tickets: £11.55**
Book now on link below!

 **WHAT TO EXPECT?**

-  A 1-hour show bursting with your favourite Taylor Swift hits
-  Bracelet making – Eras Tour style!
-  Singing, dancing & fun-packed activities
-  Meet & Greet with photo opportunities 📸

PERFECT FOR MINI SWIFTIES & THE WHOLE FAMILY!
Tag your fellow Swifties and join us for an unforgettable afternoon celebrating the music and magic of Taylor Swift.
LIMITED AVAILABILITY!

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE



Paper Umbrellas – Walsall Art Gallery

 Walsall Art Gallery
 Saturday 19 July – Sunday 31 August
 Free | Drop-in during gallery opening hours
 All ages welcome

Join a world of creative weatherproofing at Walsall Art Gallery's Paper Umbrellas summer activity. Whether it's sunshine or showers you're dodging, you can design your own paper plate broolly or fold a sunny parasol, using a mix of colourful and crafty materials.

A fun, hands-on activity for all ages - perfect for families, day-trippers or anyone in the mood for a little imagination. No need to book, just drop in and get making!



#BabyFest

Celebrating World Breastfeeding Week 2025

Join us for free activities and find out all you need from local services to help you on your parenting journey.

 Sensory Baby & Me sessions

 Photo shoots

 Baby Massage

 Arts & Crafts

 Storytelling

 Stay & Play

Tuesday 5 August 2025
10:00am – 2:00 pm
The New Art Gallery Walsall

Free entry. no booking required!





WHAT'S ON in Staffordshire

A carnival, a festival and a Stick Man meet and greet. Which one will you be going to?

Ankerside Summer Carnival - Tamworth

 Ankerside Shopping Centre
 Saturday 19 July, 11am – 4pm
 Free Entry

Sunshine, surfboards and serious fun — the Ankerside Summer Carnival is back, and it's bigger, brighter and bolder than ever! For one day only, the shopping centre transforms into a colourful carnival bursting with games, photo ops, and interactive activities for the whole family.

- ◆ Hop on the Surfboard Simulator and test your balance
- ◆ Try your luck at Classic Carnival Games
- ◆ Follow the Treasure Map Trail to uncover hidden surprises
- ◆ Snap a pic in a giant deckchair or sunny summer scene

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Stick Man Meet & Greet - Cannock Chase Forest

 Cannock Chase Forest
 Thursday 8 August, 10am - 4pm
 Free (Parking charges apply)



If your little one loves Julia Donaldson's beloved Stick Man, don't miss this magical day of forest fun! Stick Man himself will be making special appearances throughout the day, ready for hugs, high-fives, and those all-important selfies.

- ◆ Watch the Stick Man film under the trees
- ◆ Take part in a colouring competition for a chance to win a year's Forest Membership
- ◆ Enjoy face painting, fun games, outdoor challenges, and more
- ◆ Explore the Stick Man Trail and get active as a family

Meet & Greet Times: 10:30–11:10, 11:30–12:10, 1:00–1:40, 2:00–2:40, 3:00–3:30 (SEN-friendly session)

No booking needed, but early arrival is advised.



WHAT'S ON in Solihull

Raving or family fun days? Solihull has lots of action over the summer holidays.

THE LIMES COUNTRY LODGE

BANK HOLIDAY FUN DAY



FAMILY FUN

LIVE MUSIC - BBQ - GAMES - KIDS ENTERTAINMENT

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY - MONDAY 25TH AUGUST, 2025 | 1PM-6PM | ADULTS £5 KIDS £3

www.thelimescountrylodge.co.uk



For parents of SEN children to stimulate, relax & discover.

Bouncy castle fun

- Join us for some bouncy castle fun
- Dino themed bouncy castle, inflatable ball pit & soft play along with a slide to enjoy
- Sensory tent & toys out too
- ONLY 15 child spaces available each session**




Where?
Reynolds Cross School, Olton, Solihull, B92 7ER

When?
Fri 25th July 2025
Sessions: 10:30 - 12
12:15 - 1:45
2 - 3:30

How much?
£9 per child 2 - 12yrs
£1.50 booking fee
Under 2s FREE

How to Book? (Booking Essential)
Go to our website, senzzone.co.uk



Find us on **facebook**

STC

Solihull Theatre Company presents

MEL BROOKS' YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

22ND - 26TH JULY 2025



THE CORE THEATRE SOLIHULL
www.solihulltheatrecompany.com
www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk
noda CORE

Book by MEL BROOKS and THOMAS MEEHAN Music and Lyrics by MEL BROOKS
Original Direction & Choreography by Susan Strouman
This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
WWW.MTISHOWS.CO.UK

[f](#) [solihulltheatrecompany](#)
[t](#) [@solihulltheatre](#)

SOLIHULL SUMMER FEST

2025

19TH-20TH JULY 2025

TUDOR GRANGE PARK

WWW.SOLIHULLSUMMERFEST.CO.UK

[f](#) SOLIHULLSUMMERFEST [i](#) SOLIHULLSUMMERFEST



popWORLD SOLIHULL

LITTLE RAVERS

FAMILY SILENT DISCO

3 MUSIC CHANNELS | BABY + TODDLER FRIENDLY
DANCE, LAUGH, AND PARTY—TOGETHER!

WEDNESDAY 6TH AUGUST
2PM - 5PM

TICKETS FROM £8

BIG BEATS FOR LITTLE FEET!



Inflatable Family Fun Days

SOLIHULL
EDWARDIAN FC RUGBY UNION,
B90 3PE

TRAMPOLINES • BOUNCY CASTLES • SLIDES • REFRESHMENTS •

SESSIONS RUN
10:30AM UNTIL 13:30PM
& 14:00PM UNTIL 17:00PM

DATES
12TH & 13TH JULY 2025

WHAT'S ON

in Sutton Coldfield



The very first Midland Fitness Festival (suitable for families) sounds like it's going to be the place to be!

Fire Station Open Day - Sutton Coldfield

- 📍 Sutton Coldfield Fire Station
- 📅 Sunday 27 July 2025, 10am – 4pm
- 🎟️ Free | No booking needed

Expect high-energy demonstrations including car cutting (extrication), rope rescues, and a chance to explore fire engines and emergency vehicles up close - perfect for little ones dreaming of being heroes!

- ◆ Watch live rescue demos
- ◆ Climb aboard a real fire engine
- ◆ Try out the virtual reality road safety experience
- ◆ Meet local firefighters & cadets
- ◆ Face painting, stalls & sweet treats

No tickets needed - just turn up, enjoy, and soak up a day of community spirit and discovery. You can RSVP online to get a reminder the day before!



WHAT'S ON **in Sandwell**

Circus entertainment in IKEA, a Pyjama Party at Sandwell RSPB and music adventures for babies at Bromwich Hall Museum.

The Big Wild Pyjama Party - RSPB

- 📍 RSPB Nature Reserve
- 📅 **17** Summer 2025 – Dates vary by location
- 🎫 Advance booking only via: events.rspb.org.uk/events
- 👶 Suitable for families with children up to 14

Snuggle up with your teddy, throw on your favourite pyjamas and head outdoors for an unforgettable evening of wildlife and wonder at the Big Wild Pyjama Party!

This magical night-time experience invites families to explore nature after dark with torchlit trails, bug walks, moth trapping, and stories under the stars. Toast marshmallows by the campfire, spot nocturnal creatures, and relax in your comfiest nightwear with hot drinks and snacks available on-site.

- ◆ Bug Walks & Moth Trapping
- ◆ Campfire & Nature Stories
- ◆ Torchlight Trails
- ◆ Bring Your Own Picnic & Blanket
- ◆ Refreshments Available

Please note: this is not an overnight event. Booking is essential and spaces are limited



Summer Funland at IKEA Birmingham (Wednesbury) 18th July - 31st August

Looking for family-friendly fun that won't cost a thing? Come along to IKEA this summer and join in our jam-packed calendar of FREE events for all ages!

- **Summer Saviours Quest** – Embark on an in-store adventure!
- **Little Designers Colouring** – Creativity corner for your mini Picassos
- **Summer Storage** – Decorate your own storage box
- **Make a Hot Air Balloon** – Hands-on fun for the little makers
- **Lilla Lekrum (Little Playroom)** – Soft play and games
- **Circus Entertainment** – 'Step' right up!
- **Summer Sips** – Cool down with refreshing drinks
- **Hot Dog Stand** – Grab a classic snack, IKEA-style



TAM 2025

TAM - Tots At Museums

Babies Adventures In Music at Bromwich Hall Museum Friday 25 July 11am

A music performance that is designed to enchant and entertain babies from 0-18 months. Described by audiences as 'magical', 'playful' and 'mesmerising' - with parents often delighted that the shows are as much for them as they are for their little ones.

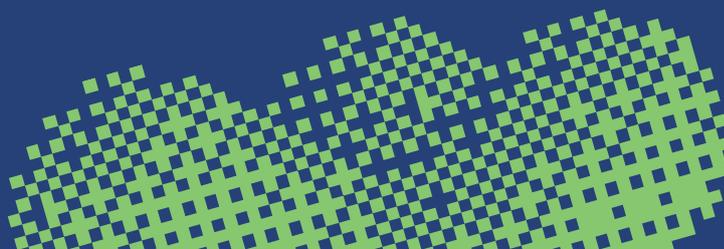
BAM performances are led by singer and harpist Sam Frankie Fox and multi-instrumentalist Ricardo Santos Rocha. Originally from Wales and Portugal Sam and Ricardo love to perform music from across the globe, so every performance includes a rich variety of songs from different cultures (in a range of languages) and unusual and exciting instruments.

Suitable for babies 0-18 months and their families and friends

Performance is 30 minutes long

Tickets pay what you can from £5 for adult and child (recommended £8), additional adult ticket from £2, additional child ticket from £2

Book at ticketsource.co.uk/sandwell-museums-and-arts



WHAT'S ON in Dudley

A haunted library, dog show and fun day!
Dudley has lots of exciting events over the summer.



FUN DAY
AT NETHERTON CRICKET CLUB

SUNDAY 17TH AUGUST

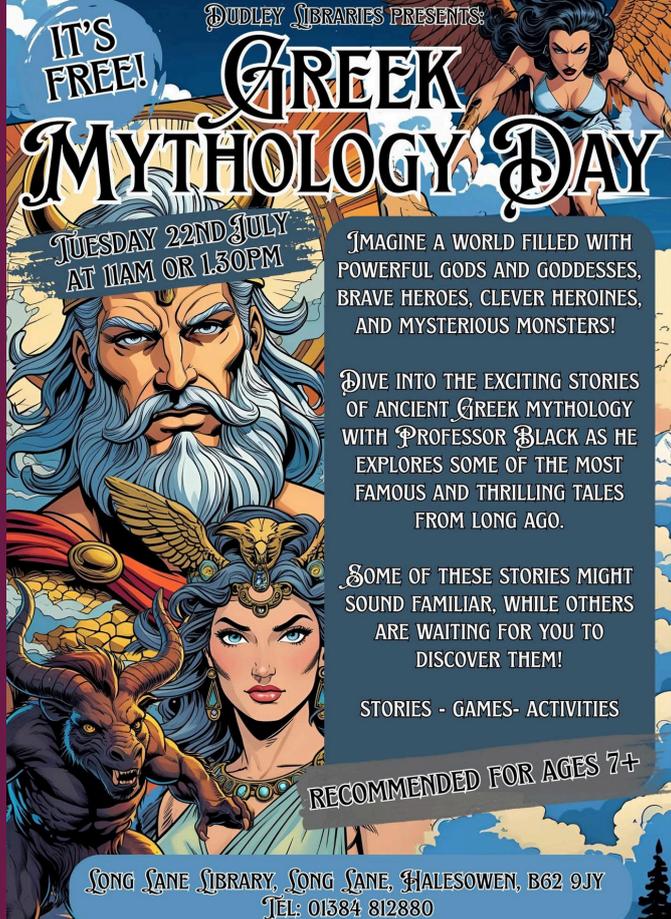


CLASSIC CARS, DOG SHOW, FOOD STALLS,
CRAFT STALLS, LIVE MUSIC, BEER TENT,
INFLATABLES, BIRDS OF PREY, FERRETS
GAMES AND RIDES FOR THE KIDS



ENTRY £2.50 UNDER 16'S FREE





DUDLEY LIBRARIES PRESENTS:

GREEK MYTHOLOGY DAY

IT'S FREE!

TUESDAY 22ND JULY
AT 11AM OR 1.30PM

IMAGINE A WORLD FILLED WITH POWERFUL GODS AND GODDESSES, BRAVE HEROES, CLEVER HEROINES, AND MYSTERIOUS MONSTERS!

DIVE INTO THE EXCITING STORIES OF ANCIENT GREEK MYTHOLOGY WITH PROFESSOR BLACK AS HE EXPLORES SOME OF THE MOST FAMOUS AND THRILLING TALES FROM LONG AGO.

SOME OF THESE STORIES MIGHT SOUND FAMILIAR, WHILE OTHERS ARE WAITING FOR YOU TO DISCOVER THEM!

STORIES - GAMES - ACTIVITIES

RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 7+

SONG SANE LIBRARY, SONG SANE, HALESOWEN, B62 9JY
TEL: 01384 812880

SCALLYFEST 25

OUR SUPER SUMMER FUN KIDS FESTIVAL IS BACK AT SCALLYWAGS BRIERLEY HILL FOR ITS THIRD YEAR

SUMMER PANTOMIME
WITH JOKING JOE & HIS ENTERTAINMENT TEAM

MAGIC & PUPPET SHOW
WITH THE AWARD WINNING KRAZY KRYS & FRIENDS

KIDS FOOTBALL CLASS
WITH SEND IT LIKE BATHAM

SUPER SOFTPLAY • CHARITY BALLOON MODELLING*
GROOVY KIDS DISCO • ARTS & CRAFTS • FACE PAINTING*
MASCOT VISITS • SUMMER TOMBOLA* • FESTIVAL GAMES
SPECIAL FOOD MENU • ICE CREAM FACTORY
& SO MUCH MORE!

*SMALL CHARGE FOR THESE ACTIVITIES

STANDARD TICKET - £7.50
VIP TICKET - £10.00

SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST
9:30 - 11:30 & 12:00 - 14:00

BOOK YOUR SCALLYFEST SESSION TODAY AT
SCALLYWAGSINDOORPLAY.COM/BRIERLEY-HILL/
OR CALL 01384 27004

JOKING JOE

DUDLEY LIBRARIES PRESENTS:

THE HAUNTED LIBRARY

IT'S FREE!

TUESDAY 12TH AUGUST
AT 11AM OR 2.00PM



ARE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY READY FOR A FUN AND EXCITING MYSTERY?

SOMETHING IS HAUNTING THE LIBRARY AND WE NEED YOUR HELP TO FIND OUT WHY.

THE GHOST, KNOWN AS THE WHITE LADY, IS BOTH SMART AND TRICKY, HIDING THE REASON SHE HAUNTS THE BUILDING.

CAN YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FIND THE ANSWERS AND OUTSMART THE GHOST? BUT WATCH OUT, TIME IS TICKING, AND THE WHITE LADY IS ANGRY!

RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 7+

DUDLEY LIBRARY, ST JAMES'S ROAD, DUDLEY, WEST
MIDLANDS DY1 1HR • TEL: 01384 815360



DOG SHOW

and fun day 10am - 4pm

Saturday 30th August 2025

Brockwood Animal Sanctuary
www.brockwood.org.uk



WHAT'S ON **in Coventry**

The fire station open day is always a popular one, but there's a good reason - it's great!

Fire Station Open Day - Coventry

- 📍 Coventry Fire Station
- 📅 Sunday 27 July 2025, 11am – 4pm
- 🎟️ Free | No booking required
- 👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Family-friendly

Get ready for a blazing good day out at Coventry Fire Station as they throw open the doors for a fun-filled Open Day this July! Whether you're fire-engine obsessed or just curious about what goes on behind the scenes, this action-packed community event has something for everyone.

- ◆ **Live Demos:** Watch dramatic car cutting (extrication) and rope rescue demonstrations that showcase real-life firefighter skills.
- ◆ **Get Hands-On:** Hop aboard a fire engine, explore rescue vehicles, and enjoy a unique VR road safety experience led by the Road Casualty Reduction Team.
- ◆ **Family Fun:** Face painting, sweet stalls, delicious food, and even the chance of an ice cream treat - it's all happening at the station!
- ◆ **Meet the Crew:** Say hello to your local firefighters, learn about their roles, and maybe even pick up a few fire safety tips to take home.

No need to book - just turn up and enjoy a brilliant summer Sunday with the community.

Please note: activities may vary on the day.



Lunt Roman Festival: Year of the Dragon

- 📍 Lunt Roman Fort, Baginton, CV8 3AJ
- 📅 Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 August 2025
- 🕒 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- 🎟️ Tickets: £7-£13 + booking fee

Get ready for the Lunt's biggest weekend of the year and this time, there's a scaly twist in store!

Live battle reenactment, gladiator shows, archery challenges, an encounter with the legendary Bagradas Dragon, a bustling Roman marketplace, immersive living history village and fun-packed family battles where kids can join in.

Plus, younger visitors can enjoy our Palace of Sanctuary – a calming open-ended play space perfect for toddlers and those who need a sensory break.

Food vendors will be on site or bring a picnic to enjoy in the grounds.

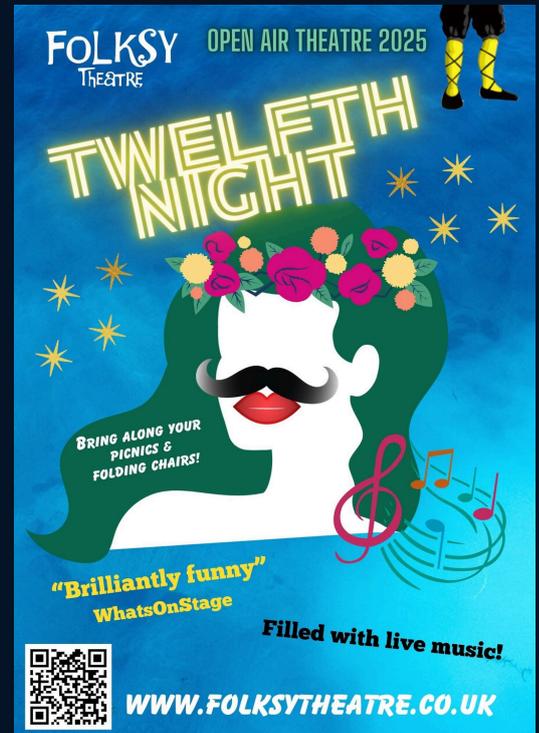
This epic two-day event is suitable for all ages - whether you're a mini centurion or a seasoned Roman history buff.

Book your tickets in advance to avoid disappointment!

WHAT'S ON

in Wolverhampton

A dog show, live production and some coding workshops. Something for everyone.



Coding Boot Camps at Wolverhampton Art Gallery

- 📍 Wolverhampton Art Gallery
- 📅 Every Tuesday throughout the summer
- 👤 Ages: 6-16
- 🆓 Free – Booking required (through the gallery)

Calling all young tech wizards!
Learn to code and build digital confidence in these fun, hands-on sessions designed for beginners and intermediate coders alike.

Using Raspberry Pi Foundation tools, you'll explore: Scratch & Python, Game Design, Puzzle Solving and Creative Thinking.

No prior experience needed.



WHAT'S ON

in Worcestershire

Shiver me timbers! Worcester is under siege this summer. Living history reenactment and pirates (not at the same time) are ready to give you a summer to remember.

Family 90s Get Arty! Workshops

-  Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum
-  Every Thursday, 24 July – 28 August 2025
-  Times vary – see website for details & booking
-  £5 per child

Throw it back to the 90s golden age of kids' art TV, with creative family workshops inspired by Art Attack and Smart!

Perfect for children aged 5–11 (with older siblings welcome), these fun and messy sessions include:

- ◆ Clay sculpture
- ◆ Collage and frame-making
- ◆ Paint-your-own masterpiece using a huge range of materials

Let your little ones channel their inner Neil Buchanan while you enjoy a bit of creative nostalgia too!

Workshop ticket does not include entry to the I Grew Up 90s exhibition – but entry to the rest of the gallery is free!



“WORCESTER UNDER SIEGE”

SUNDAY 24TH & MONDAY 25TH AUGUST 2025
10AM-4 PM

Two days of action packed entertainment & living history for the whole family to enjoy. Featuring living history camps, artillery, weapons, cavalry & a full battle reenactment, right where real battles of the English Civil War were fought

BENNETTS WILLOW BARN'S BIG BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND WITH THE SEALED KNOT




WWW.BENNETTSWILLOWBARN.CO.UK
MANOR FARM, LOWER WICK, WORCESTER WR2 4BS
WITH THANKS TO BENNETTS FARMS



Pirate Fun Day

-  The Commandery, Worcester
 -  Bank Holiday Monday, 25 August 2025
 -  All day – no need to book in advance
 -  £3 per child + general admission
- More info

Ahoy there, mateys!

Set sail for swashbuckling family fun this August Bank Holiday at The Commandery.

- ◆ Race through the inflatable pirate fun run in the gardens
- ◆ Tackle the pirate obstacle course – walk the plank, climb the rigging, and swab the deck!
- ◆ Craft your pirate gear – make your own hat, patch, and puppet
- ◆ Take on the one-day-only pirate trail, winding through The Commandery's historic halls

Perfect for little buccaneers of all ages. Just bring your best pirate roar and prepare for adventure!

£3 per child for pirate activities, plus general admission (book online or pay on the day).

WHAT'S ON

in Warwickshire

Building 3D Sea Monsters in Warwick or attending Art in the Park in Leamington Spa. There's a few great sounding events in Warwickshire.

Build a Jurassic Sea Monster with Artist Darrell Wakelam

-  Market Hall Museum, Warwick
-  Tuesday 12 & Wednesday 13 August 2025
-  10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
-  Suggested donation: £3 per participating child
-  No booking required – just turn up!

Dive into prehistory with this hands-on creative event at Market Hall Museum! Join renowned artist Darrell Wakelam to help build a giant 3D Jurassic sea monster – a magnificent plesiosaur sculpture inspired by real fossils on display.

Using a range of craft materials, children can create and attach their own pieces to this collaborative Jurassic beast.

While you're there:

Explore the museum's amazing Jurassic Warwickshire fossil displays

Enjoy dino-themed activities and creative fun throughout the day

A perfect school holiday adventure for creative kids and budding paleontologists alike!



Southam Fire station
OPEN DAY with

Bouncy castle, ice creams, BBQ, face painting, raffle and more

Plus fire, police and ambulance vehicles

Saturday 2 August
10am - 3pm

WARWICKSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



Family Tours
at the Lord Leycester

2pm
Every Saturday
FREE (general admission applies)



ALOHA!
HAWAIIAN DANCE CLASS
with a Special Island Guest!

- Hula-style dance warm-ups
- Learn a fun tropical dance routine
- Meet & greet with island guest
- Photo opportunities & themed tropical fun

DRESS IN YOUR ISLAND BEST – grass skirts, flower leis, or your favourite Hawaiian prints!

Enchanted Tea Rooms – Royal Leamington Spa

£25 per child – Limited spaces available!
Book now and let your little one dance their heart out – island style!

WHAT'S ON

in Telford & Shropshire



A summertime Santa sounds a unique (and fun) choice for the summer holidays.

Oakengates Carnival

- 📍 Hartshill Park, Oakengates
- 📅 Saturday 12 July 2025
- 🕒 From 11am | Main event 12pm – 7pm
- 🎟️ Free entry

Get ready for a vibrant community celebration as Oakengates Carnival returns with a spectacular day of fun for the whole family!

- ◆ Carnival Procession – Featuring floats, vintage vehicles, and tractors
- ◆ Family Fun – Inflatables, circus performers, alpacas, and more
- ◆ Live Music – Two stages with local bands and performers
- ◆ Street Food – Delicious eats and drinks from local vendors
- ◆ Stalls – Browse crafts, gifts and treats from regional businesses

Perfect for families looking to soak up some summer cheer in beautiful Hartshill Park.



Summertime Santa

- 📍 Hoo Zoo and Dinosaur World, Telford
- 📅 Saturday 19 July & Saturday 30 August 2025
- 🕒 10am – 5pm
- 🎟️ Included with zoo admission

Yes, you heard right – Santa in summer! ☀️🎅 Celebrate Christmas in July (and August!) with a magical visit from Summertime Santa at Hoo Zoo and Dinosaur World.

Enjoy festive fun in the sunshine alongside dinosaurs, animals, and outdoor play. Perfect for younger children and anyone who just can't wait for Christmas.

Telford Balloon Fiesta – Night Glow

- 📍 QEII Arena, Telford Town Park
- 📅 Friday 22 August 2025
- 🕒 5pm – 10pm
- 🎟️ Ticketed event

Kick off the Telford Balloon Fiesta weekend in glowing style! The Night Glow is back, with hot air balloons lighting up the evening sky in a choreographed display set to music.

- ◆ Hot air balloon glow show
- ◆ Live stage entertainment & family-friendly activities
- ◆ Street food, stalls, and surprise performances

It's a dazzling evening of outdoor fun not to be missed. Arrive early to make the most of the pre-show entertainment!

WHAT'S ON

in the East Midlands



A beach is coming to Nottingham City Centre complete with fun activities and live music.

Nottingham Beach

📍 Old Market Square, Nottingham
 📅 Wednesday 16 July – Sunday 31 August 2025
 💎 FREE Entry

Sun, sand, and city vibes - Nottingham Beach is back, transforming Old Market Square into a vibrant seaside escape all summer long!

What's in store:

- ◆ Urban beach with golden sand & paddling pool – relax right in the heart of the city
- ◆ Funfair rides & games – from kiddie favourites to the thrilling Starflyer
- ◆ Seaside snacks – grab an ice cream, a refreshing drink, or a bite from beachside vendors
- ◆ Family-friendly fun – think sandcastle competitions, trampolines, and daily surprises

Summer-long entertainment:

- ◆ Monday Movie Nights – Free family films under the stars
- ◆ Tuesday Salsa – Feel the rhythm with Todo Latino's lively dance sessions
- ◆ Wednesday Volleyball – Join in or cheer from the sidelines
- ◆ Live DJs, bands & performers - Expect a packed schedule of music and entertainment every week!

🔗 Full schedule available at:
www.nottinghambeach.co.uk

THE BEST RESTAURANTS FOR FAMILIES



Finding the perfect place to eat out for all of the family can be tricky - you want great food, a welcoming atmosphere and plenty to keep children happy.

Whether you're after a quick bite before a day out, a cosy Sunday lunch spot, or somewhere with play areas and child-friendly menus, the Midlands is packed with restaurants that tick all the boxes.

Here are two of our favourites;

The Old Waggon and Horses, Kidderminster

📍 Stourbridge Rd, DY10 3NX

This is more than just your average pub. The Old Waggon and Horses offers delicious home-cooked food, a warm welcome, and something to entertain the kids every time you visit.

There's a huge outdoor play area, friendly farm animals, and regular inflatables set up during weekends and holidays. Add to that live music, plenty of space to relax, and a menu full of hearty options for adults and kids alike, it's easy to see why local families love it here.

Whether you're stopping by for a lazy lunch or letting the kids run wild while you enjoy a drink, this countryside pub strikes the perfect balance between relaxed dining and child-friendly fun.

24



Hickory's Smokehouse - Multiple Midlands Locations

With locations across the Midlands including Coventry, Solihull, Stafford, Telford, Derby and more, Hickory's Smokehouse has become a firm favourite for families looking for great food and a fun, relaxed dining experience.

From juicy burgers and tender ribs to sharing platters piled high with smoky BBQ goodness, there's something for everyone on the menu – and that includes the kids! Little ones are well catered for with a dedicated children's menu full of favourites, and they'll be kept entertained while they wait too.

Every table is served a bowl of freshly popped popcorn to nibble on, and many branches have onsite cinemas screening kids' films – the perfect way to keep boredom at bay while your meal is freshly prepared.

Whether you're celebrating a birthday, stopping off mid-shopping trip, or simply enjoying a weekend treat, Hickory's Smokehouse offers a winning combo of flavour, fun, and family-friendly flair.

GROWN-UPS NEED FUN TOO!

Whether it's a long-overdue date night, meals with friends, or simply some time off from parenting duties, this page has some inspiration for your next grown-up escape.

Birmingham Restaurant Festival



1 - 31 August 2025

Various venues across Birmingham

www.birminghamrestaurantfestival.co.uk

Birmingham is one of the UK's most exciting food destinations - and this August, you'll have the perfect excuse to dine out, try new flavours, and explore the city's incredible foodie scene.

Birmingham Restaurant Festival is back for 2025 with a whole month of great value set menus at top restaurants across the city. From local favourites to Michelin-recommended venues, participating restaurants have crafted exclusive festival menus to tempt your tastebuds - often at unbeatable prices.

🕒 How it works:

No wristbands or passes needed. Simply browse the full list of participating venues online, pick a menu that takes your fancy, and book directly with the restaurant. Just make sure to follow the booking instructions so you don't miss out on the special BRF menu.

Comedy at Birmingham Museum



Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
<https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/>

Comedy at the Museum ft. Larry Dean & More

Thu 4 Sept

FLOWER FIELDS

Love a flower field? So do we. Here are 3 of our favourite flower fields.

Webbs Flora Field - PYO Dahlia

Step into a sea of colour at Webbs Flora Fields, home to more than 5,000 dahlias in full bloom! With over 60 dazzling varieties, this is the perfect day out for flower lovers, families, photographers and anyone looking to soak up the beauty of nature.

During your 2-hour session, you'll stroll through vibrant rows bursting with colour and have the chance to pick your own stems to take home.

Whether you're building a bouquet, celebrating the end of summer, or just want to surround yourself with stunning florals, Flora Fields is an unforgettable seasonal experience.

- Perfect for photo moments
- Ideal for creative inspiration
- A peaceful, family-friendly outing

Tickets are limited and must be booked in advance.
<https://www.webbsdirect.co.uk/florafields/>



Lichfield Maize Maze

www.lichfieldmaizemaze.co.uk



Shropshire Petal Fields

<https://www.shropshirepetalfields.co.uk/>



The Best FREE Splash Pads & Paddling Pools in the Midlands

Looking for a way to keep the kids cool and entertained this summer without spending a fortune? Splash pads & paddling pools are the perfect solution! These free water play areas are dotted across the Midlands and offer a safe, fun-filled environment for children to run, jump, and splash to their hearts' content.

East Park, Wolverhampton - WV1 2DS

Quarry Splash Park, Shrewsbury - SY1 1RU

Droitwich Lido Park - WR9 8AA

Victoria Park, Stafford - ST16 2QF

Chaddesden Park, Derby - DE21 6LA

Willenhall Memorial Park (jet sprays) - WV13 2PW

Abbey Park, Evesham - WR11 4SL

Tettenhall Pool, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton - WV6 9AY

Gheluvelt Park, Worcester - WR3 7AA

Hall Leys Park, Matlock - DE4 3SX

West Park, Long Eaton - NG10 3NL

Markeaton Park, Derby - DE22 4AA

Victoria Embankment, Nottingham - NG2 2AA

Tips for a Splash-Tastic Day:



Bring towels, spare clothes, and plenty of suncream.

Most splash pads are unsupervised, so adult supervision is essential.

Many are weather-dependent, so always check opening times before travelling.

Pack a picnic or make use of on-site cafés and ice cream vans.



Stanwick Lakes - NN9 6GY

Walsall Arboretum - WS1 2QB

Dartmouth Park (Sandwell) - B71 4AS

Brinton Park, Kidderminster - DY11 7BB

Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge - DY8 2AA

Stratford-upon-Avon Recreation Park - CV37 7LS

Telford Town Park, - TF3 4EP

And remember to check online before going to see if they are open. Splash pads/paddling pools can be temperamental and often close due to essential maintenance (hair clogging filters etc).



TOP 5 RAINY DAY ADVENTURES IN THE MIDLANDS

BECAUSE SOGGY SOCKS SHOULDN'T RUIN YOUR SUMMER FUN...



Rainy days happen - but that doesn't mean you're stuck indoors staring at the walls. From indoor waterparks to historic lock-ups, here are five brilliant rainy-day destinations across the Midlands that the whole family will love.

1. West Midlands Police Museum - Birmingham

📍 The Lock-up, Steelhouse Lane, B4 6BJ

Step inside a real Victorian prison and uncover over 200 years of policing history. Kids will love exploring the old cells, trying on police uniforms, and learning about Birmingham's criminal past. It's interactive, fascinating, and surprisingly fun.

2. National Space Centre - Leicester

📍 Exploration Drive, LE4 5NS

Perfect for space-mad kids (and grown-ups too!). With six interactive galleries, a planetarium, rockets, and a journey to low Earth orbit, it's one of the UK's best science experiences. The hands-on zones and regular science demos keep it engaging for all ages.



3. Ninja Warrior UK Adventure Park - Walsall

📍 Crown Wharf Retail Park, WS2 8LL

Got energy to burn? This action-packed indoor assault course is inspired by the hit TV show. Kids (and adults!) can climb, bounce, race, and slide their way around. There's a separate inflatable zone for younger visitors and a mega slide that's always a winner.

4. Riverside Hub - Northampton

📍 Carousel Way, Riverside Retail Park, NN3 9HG

A total all-rounder for mixed-age families. There's a soft play heaven for toddlers, plus climbing walls, laser tag, crazy golf, go-karts and even sensory rooms. It's big, bright, and brilliant for when the weather's a washout.

5. The Wave Waterpark - Coventry

📍 New Union Street, CV1 2PS

One of the best indoor waterparks in the UK and totally perfect for a rainy summer day. There's a lazy river, splash zone for little ones, and six epic slides ranging from gentle to full-on thrill rides.



So, don't let the rain put a dampener on your plans - get exploring instead!

Tag us in your rainy day adventures @smallhousebigtrips and let us know if we've missed any of your favourites.

Epic eating-out offers for kids over the summer holidays!



Feeding the family while out and about this summer doesn't have to break the bank! Across the Midlands, restaurants and cafes are offering brilliant deals where kids eat free or for just £1, making dining out easier (and cheaper) than ever.

Breakfast:



Premier Inn, & Whitbread Inns

Up to 2 kids eat breakfast free with 1 paying adult. Great for staycations or early days out.

Table Table & Brewers Fayre

Kids enjoy free breakfast daily when accompanied by an adult.

Dobbies Garden Centres

Kids eat for £1 with any adult breakfast or lunch – treat them after a plant pick-up!

Travelodge

Up to 2 kids eat breakfast for £1 with 1 paying adult.

Kids Eat FREE



Frankie & Benny's

Kids eat free from 14th July – 31st August 2025.

Burger King

From 28th July to 31st August, kids eat free via the BK app.

Zizzi

Kids eat free during the summer holidays (excluding Saturdays).

Beefeater & Brewers Fayre

Kids eat free this summer with a newsletter voucher - sign up online.

Bill's

Kids eat free on weekdays from 21st July to 29th September.

Kids Eat for £1

Bella Italia

Children eat for £1 with any adult main – ideal for Italian-loving families.

ASK Italian

Kids under 10 eat for £1 during school holidays.

Toby Carvery

Kids eat for just £1 on weekdays until 29th August.

Sizzling Pubs

Kids meals are £1 from Monday to Friday, 3–7pm - great post-park stop!

Hungry Horse

Every Monday, kids eat for £1 - ideal to start the week with a treat.

Dunelm Pausa Café

After 3pm, kids eat free with every £4 adult spend – perfect post-shop pick-me-up.

Las Iguanas

Kids under 12 eat free all summer with the 'My Las Iguanas' app.

Morrisons Café

Kids eat free all day, every day, with a £5 adult spend.

Tesco Café

Kids eat free with a 60p spend - no excuse not to grab lunch after the shop!

Be sure to check the individual places online before heading out. Some have T's & C's. And please do tag us in your summer food adventures. We can't wait to see them.

TAYLOR SWIFT POTTERY PAINTING

Info@thepotteryshedswinfen.co.uk



TAYLOR SWIFT POTTERY PAINTING FUN
LISTENING TO HER BEST MUSIC
INCLUDES FRIENDSHIP BRACELET & POTTERY ITEM
(PLATE, MUG OR BOWL) £.20PP
FRIDAY 15TH AUG 12.15PM - 2.15PM

UNLIMITED PLAY WRISTBANDS **£8** KIDZ ZONE INFLATABLE WORLD



FREE ENTRY*
FOR ACCOMPANYING ADULTS
For Ages 2 - 14yrs

STRICTLY NO OVER 14yrs ON THE INFLATABLES

WYTHALL WYTHALL PARK

WED 20TH TO SUN 31ST AUG
Closed 25th & 26th **10:30 to 13:30**
Sessions from **14:30 to 17:30**



ROWHEATH OUTDOOR CINEMA

Wed 6 Aug 1pm
The Lion King (1994)

Thurs 7 Aug 1pm
Moana 2

Fri 8 Aug 12pm
Inside Out 2

Sat 9 Aug 12pm
Paddington in Peru

Wed 6 Aug 5pm
A Minecraft Movie

Thurs 7 Aug 5pm
Jumanji (1995)

Fri 8 Aug 3.15pm
Toy Story

Sat 9 Aug 3.30pm
The Greatest Showman

Fri 8 Aug 6.15pm
Wicked

Sat 9 Aug 6.45pm
Mamma Mia! Singalong



Tickets at rowheathoutdoorcinema.com

THANKS FOR READING!

We hope you've enjoyed this issue and discovered new places, events, and ideas to make lasting memories with your family (and a few well-deserved moments for yourself too!).

We're passionate about showcasing the very best that the Midlands has to offer - and we'd love to hear from you.

✉ Got an idea to share?

Whether it's feedback, a hidden treasure we've missed, or something amazing happening in your community - let us know!

✉ Get in touch:

✉ smallhousebigtrips@gmail.com

🌐 www.smallhousebigtrips.co.uk

📱 Follow us on social media:

Instagram | Facebook | Threads |

TikTok @smallhousebigtrips





**OUR
WINTER
EDITION WILL
BE OUT IN
OCTOBER.**