

A Family Day Out in Greenwich

Greenwich is home to historical landmarks, a busy market, London's oldest Royal Park, and the Prime Meridian Line. With so much to see and do, the World Heritage Site of Greenwich has all the ingredients for a fun packed family day out!

A Morning in Greenwich

To begin with the area's its rich maritime history; a good way to start your day in Greenwich is to arrive by boat. City Cruises runs a daily service between Westminster, Waterloo, Tower and Greenwich piers, so you can catch all the sights along the Thames.

On arrival you'll see the site of The Cutty Sark, the world's most famous tea clipper. You can't currently see anything of the ship as it is undergoing extensive restoration following a serious fire in 2007. It is due to reopen in spring 2011.

You can't miss the stunning buildings that Greenwich is famous for. Straight ahead you'll see the Queen's House and the National Maritime Museum, which features interactive children's galleries. Best of all, entry to each of these fantastic attractions is free.

On top of the hill in the middle of Greenwich Park sits the Royal Observatory and London's only public Planetarium. Stand astride the Prime Meridian Line with a foot in both the East and West hemispheres, and set your watch as the bright red Time Ball drops at 1pm sharp.

Family Lunch in Greenwich Park

Greenwich Park is the ideal spot for a picnic, or you can sample homemade sandwiches and hot lunches at hexagonal Pavilion Tea House. The park is also home to deer, a children's playground and a boating pond, so there is plenty to see and do after you've refuelled.

Alternatively, head back to the heart of Greenwich for a delicious, affordable lunch in Royal Teas. The menu includes soup of the day, daily specials and a tempting selection of homemade cakes.

An Afternoon in Greenwich

Explore the undercover stalls and shops in Greenwich Market to find a huge variety of unique and quirky arts and crafts. Temptation calls at Mr Humbug, a traditional sweetshop crammed with colourful jars filled with all your favourite treats! If they haven't spent all their pennies on sweets, kids will love browsing around Compendia, a magical toyshop that stocks unusual games alongside family favourites.

When you're all shopped out, escape the hustle and bustle of the market in the Fan Museum, a unique attraction housing the world's finest collection of fans. The museum is set in a pair of 1721 Grade II listed houses, which have both been beautifully restored, with a stunning Japanese-style garden. On the first Saturday afternoon of each month, the Fan Museum holds special fan making workshops that are open to adults and children aged 12 and over.

Advance booking is necessary as class numbers are limited.