

Family Fun

Below you will find shared insights and experiences that might help ease your adjustment to life in the UK. Please note that these are by no means a complete list of resources, activities, organizations, or travel options and represent no endorsement from TISIS England or PIRC.

Information-Gathering

▪ Websites & Magazine/Subscriptions

- Family Grapevine Magazine (pick up at local library, at schools, etc.)
- Time Out London (available on newsstands & in newsletter format) - www.timeout.com/london
- Official London Theater (register for email updates) - www.officiallondontheatre.co.uk
- London for Kids - www.londonnet.co.uk/In/out/ent/kids.html
- London Kidz - www.londonkidz.co.uk
- London Town - www.londontown.com
- Day Out with the Kids - www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk
- About.com United Kingdom Travel - www.gouk.about.com
- Kids visit London – www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/activities/family-activities

▪ Local Clubs & Associations

- American Women of Berkshire & Surrey - www.awbs.org.uk
- American Women of Surrey - www.awsurrey.org
- English Heritage - www.english-heritage.org.uk
- National Trust – www.nationaltrust.org.uk

▪ Publications & Information through Religious Affiliations

- Connection – the Christ Church parish magazine, Virginia Water
- Books (available for many popular destinations/cities)
- PIRC library
- Local public libraries
- Waterstone's, WHSmith, www.amazon.co.uk

Travel

- Plan ahead and book early
- Look for last minute deals
- Consider tour operators
- Plan around England/European school holidays
- Search the web
- Talk to a travel agent and other families
- Trip Advisor – www.tripadvisor.co.uk

Family Fun (continued)

Sample Local Activities/Days Out

- **Theme Parks, Leisure Centers, and Play Areas**
 - Chessington World of Adventures, Chessington
 - Thorpe Park, Chertsey
 - Legoland, Windsor
 - Coral Reef, Bracknell
 - Big Apple, Woking
 - Jake's Playworld, Bagshot
 - Guildford Spectrum, Guildford
 - Bracknell Ski Slope & Ice Rink, Bracknell
 - Magic Castle, Camberly
 - Campaign Paintball, Cobham
 - Pirates Island Mini-Golf, Woking
 - Diana Memorial Playground, London
 - Bowlplex, Camberly

- **Castles & Museums**
 - Brooklands Museum, Weybridge
 - The Lightbox, Woking
 - Hampton Court Palace, Richmond
 - Windsor Castle & Eton, Windsor
 - Leeds Castle, Maidstone
 - Warwick Castle, Warwick
 - Dover Castle, Dover
 - British Museum, London
 - National Gallery, London
 - Tate Modern Museum, London

- **Animals & Nature**
 - Look Out Discovery Center, Bracknell
 - Go Ape, Bracknell
 - Savill Gardens & Virginia Water Lake, Virginia Water
 - Bocketts Farm Park, Fetcham
 - Kew Gardens, Richmond
 - Marwell Zoo, Winchester
 - London Zoo, London
 - Garson's Farm, Esher

Family Fun (continued)

Sports and Entertainment

- Local Teams/Leagues
 - TESIS England intramurals, Ascot United Football, Lyne Football Club, other football/soccer, Windsor Rugby Club, Windsor Cricket Club, London Youth Baseball League, Chobham Rugby, American Flag Football (www.eteamz.com/iys), local cricket teams, Windsor Swim Club for competitive swimmers, Richmond Volleyball Club, and more...
 - Walk at Chobham Commons, Bracknell Forest, Windsor Great Park (includes Virginia Water Lake, Savill Gardens, The Long Walk, etc.)
- Local Fitness Centers
 - Foxhills (Chertsey)
 - David Lloyd (Weybridge)
 - Royal Berkshire (Bracknell/Berkshire)
 - St. Georges Hill (Weybridge)
 - Wentworth (Virginia Water)
 - Curves (Various)
 - Leisure Centers (Most villages have their own.)
 - Individual Fitness Centers/Studios (Various)
 - Virgin Active Health Club (Various)
 - TESIS Fitness Center
- Matches and Stadiums
 - Ascot United, Premier League, and Manchester United
 - Cricket (Various)
 - Twickenham Stadium (Rugby)
 - Ascot and Windsor Racecourse
 - Polo (Various)
 - British Rowing Clubs (Various)
 - NFL Football Games at Wembley Stadium
 - Wimbledon Tennis
- Venues & Cinemas
 - O2 New Millennium Center in London – lots of concerts
 - West End theaters & theater tours
 - New Wimbledon Theater, New Victoria Theater Woking, Windsor Royal Theater
 - IMAX by Waterloo
 - Staines or Camberly Vue Cinemas, Woking Ambassadors Cinemas, Bracknell or Esher Odeon

Family Fun (continued)

- Golf
 - Foxhills Golf Club
 - Wentworth Golf Club (Home of the European PGA / BMW Championship)
 - Sunningdale Golf Club
 - Gleneagles, Scotland (Home of the 2014 Ryder Cup Tournament)
 - *www.top100golfcourses.co.uk*
 - *www.teeofftimes.co.uk*

Sample Day/Weekend Trips

(by car, southwest trains, Eurostar, eurotunnel, and/or ferry)

- London: Tower of London, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, Tower Bridge, London Eye, St. Paul's Cathedral, Hamley's Toy Store, Hyde Park, and many more!
- Bath
- Brighton, Portsmouth, West Wittering, other beaches
- Cotswolds
- Devon, Cornwall
- White cliffs of Dover (including a visit to Dover Castle)
- English Heritage Properties
- Isle of Wight
- New Forest & Beaulieu
- Oxford or Cambridge
- Stonehenge, Salisbury, Avebury
- Stratford-Upon-Avon
- York (Include a visit to the National Railway Museum)
- Belgium – Bruges, Brussels
- France – Calais, Paris
- Venice (Orient Express)
- Wales – Museum of Welsh Life
- National Trust Properties
- Liverpool
- Scotland – Edinburgh, Gleneagles

Family Fun (continued)

Public Holidays and Sample Event Calendar

- January/February/March
 - Bank Holiday (First of January)

- April/May
 - London Marathon (late April)
 - Bank Holidays (Good Friday, Easter Monday, First Monday in May & Last Monday in May)
 - European PGA Championship played at Wentworth

- June/July
 - Ascot Races (Royal Ascot in mid-June)
 - Wimbledon (late June, early July)
 - Henley Regatta (early July)

- August/September
 - Bank Holiday (Last Monday in August)
 - Theater Kids Week (end of August beginning of September)
 - Windsor Half Marathon and Women's' 8K (late September)
 - Ascot Arts Festival/Family Day at the Races (late September)

- October/November
 - Halloween (Trunk or Treat – get lots of candy)
 - Guy Fawkes Day (early November - fireworks)
 - Thanksgiving (no one else in Britain has the day off) and St. Paul's Cathedral service
 - Fete de Noel at TASIS England, AWBS Holiday Fayre and Tea, Holiday Greens

- December
 - Christmas Markets (Bath, Salzburg, Vienna, others)
 - Pantomimes (London and Local Theaters)
 - Bank Holidays (Christmas Day and Boxing Day)

Disclaimer: Please remember that this information does not represent any commercial endorsement from TASIS England or PIRC. We are sharing our insights and experiences with you in the hopes of easing your adjustment to some of the "nitty-gritties" of living in England. PIRC Committee members are always pleased to have you phone with any questions.