



2018: A year of family-friendly adventure in Hampshire

Hampshire is a fantastic year round family-friendly destination. This is one of the UK's very best outdoor adventure playgrounds, with countless country parks and nature reserves offering exciting activities for all ages. It is also home to many amazing family attractions, theme parks and festivals. Here are just a few key reasons why families should be visiting Hampshire in 2018.

Marwell Zoo unveils new £7.8 million Tropical House

A new £7.8 million animal exhibit will come to Marwell Zoo this spring. The *Tropical House* will span two levels offering fantastic vantage points across a lush, tropical canopy and the opportunity to experience the captivating life of the forest floor. Visitors will be offered uninterrupted, close-up views of new, colourful and charismatic mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and insects while learning about the flow of energy through life.

The interactive Discovery Zone will reveal how the energy we need to power our modern lifestyles is generated and how alternative renewable forms of energy can help animals and humans alike. The exhibit, which is set to open this spring, will be made using 100% recyclable material and heated with animal dung, soiled bedding and leftover hay in attempt to become carbon neutral by 2020.

www.marwell.org.uk

World's first Peppa Pig World to expand in 2018

The world's first ever Peppa Pig World will introduce two new rides in 2018 as part of huge site expansion. Peppa Pig World at Paulton's Park will get bigger and better this May with the introduction of two new rides - The Queen's Flying Coach Ride and Grampy Rabbit's Sailing Club.

Children and parents will also be able to hop aboard brightly coloured boats at Grampy Rabbit's Sailing Club where they can sail around the park and discover Pirate Island. As well as the new rides, there will be plenty of new friends of Peppa's to meet, including Gerald Giraffe, Mr Bull and his maintenance team with their digger and crane.

www.paultonspark.co.uk

Celebrate the RAF centenary at Farnborough Airshow (21-22 July)

Hampshire can stake a strong claim to have been at the very forefront of the formation of the RAF, in 1918. This is where the 'daring-do' pioneer pilot Samuel Franklin Cody made the first successful powered flight in Britain in 1908; where one of the forerunners of the RAF, the Royal Flying Corps (RFC), was created; and where the so-called "Father of the RAF", Hugh Montague Trenchard commanded the Military Wing in the RFC HQ.

This year the Farnborough International Airshow will return with a unique celebration of the Pioneers of the Sky involving aerobatic display teams, wing walkers, fast jets, military giants, civil airliners and historic aircraft. With a dedicated family area for young kids, unique 'Space Zone' and even a Free Fall Stunt Bag this is one family event not to be missed in 2018.

www.farnboroughairshow.com

Car Fest returns to Laverstoke Farm

Chris Evans' £7.6 million charity festival will return to Hampshire this summer for its biggest lineup yet! Car Fest South, which last year raised £7.6 million for Children in Need alongside its Northern counterpart in Cheshire, will return to Laverstoke Park Farm between 24th and 26th August 2018.

The festival is set to be an epic mix of classic cars, live music, local foods and fantastic family fun, with generous auctions contributing to much of the charitable offerings. In a bid to top last year's donation, performances will include music from The Feeling, Sophie Ellis Bexter, The Proclaimers, Jools Holland, Michael Ball and Alfie Boe. Festival goers can opt for a range of tickets from one day tickets to three day camping passes, with a choice of standard camping to boutique glamping options.

www.laverstokepark.co.uk

Thruxton Racing 50th anniversary celebration

2018 sees Thruxton celebrate its 50th anniversary. To mark the occasion, a special two day event will take place on the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of June with plenty of on-track action and off-track attractions. Thruxton is the UK's fastest race circuit, and offers a variety of family-friendly attractions including a 1,100m go kart circuit (suitable for ages 8+) and an exhilarating 4x4 family off-road experience.

www.thruxtonracing.co.uk

And for all other tourist information about Hampshire, go to <https://www.visit-hampshire.co.uk>.