

## SIX OF THE BEST FAMILY DAY TRIPS IN OXFORDSHIRE

With its incredibly diverse range of activities, from aqua parks to mystery trails and captivating railway journeys, Oxfordshire ensures that family days out are not only fun-filled but also memorable. No matter the weather, there are plenty of indoor and outdoor adventures awaiting children and adults of all ages. Here we take a look at six of the best day trips in this beautiful county that promise an engaging and exciting experience for all.

### WADES DON MANOR

[www.waddesdon.org.uk](http://www.waddesdon.org.uk)

Built by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild between 1874 and 1885, Waddesdon Manor is a grand example of a French Renaissance château filled with royal treasures and surrounded by expansive manicured gardens. Now under the care of the National Trust, the once-private residence welcomes thousands of visitors each year. Its exceptional art collection is reason to visit alone and includes the much-admired automated gilt-bronze elephant, which plays four musical tunes and, when wound, moves its trunk, eyes, ears and tail. The comprehensive collection of English and Dutch paintings, and French decorative arts, is further amongst the finest in the world. The 6,000-acre estate additionally features various walking trails amid ever-green forestry, a beautifully restored aviary, a water garden, stables and a woodland playground. Various art exhibitions, film screenings, food markets, wine tastings and fairs also take place throughout the year. Separate tickets are required for each element of your visit, including admission to the grounds, house, and specific exhibitions.

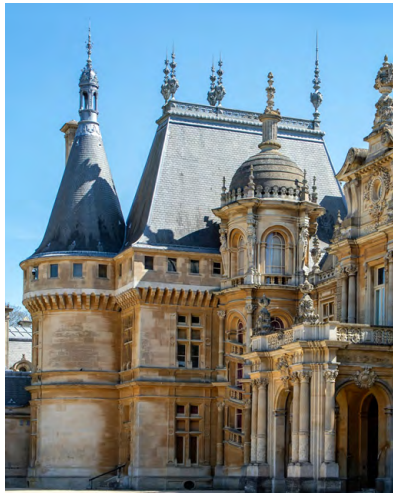


Image by: @WaddesdonManor

### COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK AND GARDENS

[www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk)

Situated in Bradwell Grove, on more than 160 acres of beautiful parklands, Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens contains one of the UK's largest zoological collections. From towering giraffes to curious meerkats, giant tortoises, roaming lions and furry red pandas, there are countless species, large and small to discover across four distinct sections. Daily feeding shows and talks, a narrow-gauge railway, and an adventure playground equipped with interconnecting tree-houses, jungle bridges, a mini zip wire, sand pit, and epic slides are sure to appeal to children of all ages. Hands-on opportunities, such as up-close animal encounters and 'keeper for a day' experiences, further make for exciting and memorable full-day visits. Tickets cost £17.50 for adults, £12 for children and senior citizens, with seasonal passes and family packages available. Children below three go free.



### BLenheim PALACE

[www.blenheimpalace.com](http://www.blenheimpalace.com)

Explore 300 years of history while wandering the incredible landscape of Blenheim Palace, open to visitors year-round come rain or shine. Here, families can discover 150 acres of manicured gardens, tackle the two-mile Marlborough Maze, track down the estate's worker bees on the Bee Trail, journey on the miniature train, and visit the breathtaking butterfly house – home to exotic butterfly species from countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, and the Philippines. A range of interactive and immersive exhibitions await children of all ages within the Palace's grand walls, such as those found in the historic stable block. Numerous cafés and restaurants offer delicious homemade food, cakes, and refreshments, as well as themed afternoon teas. Ticket prices differ depending on which areas visitors wish to explore, with entry to the Palace, park and garden costing £29.50 for adults, £16.50 for children, and free for those under five.



### WALLINGFORD MYSTERY TRAIL

[www.treasuretrails.co.uk](http://www.treasuretrails.co.uk)

Get your thinking caps on to spot and solve hidden clues dotted around the historic market town of Wallingford on this murder-mystery-themed walking Treasure Trail. Suitable for families and children aged six and above, the trail is approximately 2.5 miles long, taking an average of 2.5 hours to complete. It is ideal for exploring somewhere new in a fun and engaging way that offers participants the chance to win some real treasure, with all correct answers entered into a monthly £100 prize draw. Don't panic if you get stuck or miss a clue or two along the way; Treasure Trails text service sends out helpful prompts, ensuring no mystery goes unsolved. Trail booklets can be shared between four and five people and cost just £9.99 to either print or download.







**OXFORD WET 'N' WILD**

[www.oxfordwetwild.com](http://www.oxfordwetwild.com)

Located in Berinsfield on the stunning Queenford Lakes, Oxford Wet 'n' Wild welcomes participants of all ages ready to tackle the ultimate inflatable obstacle course. Expect free-fall slides, rafts and climbing frames, as well as a wide range of alternative activity options such as water sports, cycling and high ropes. Specialist sessions for children aged six and seven are also carried out by the park's highly trained and attentive team, and wetsuits and helmets can be provided on request. The lakeside café, The Wandering Kitchen, is open to all visitors (whether participating in the water-based activities or not), serving a number of hot and cold drinks, homemade cakes, snacks and more filling lunches. To beat the crowds and guarantee a space, Oxford Wet 'n' Wild recommends pre-booking your desired slot online. The adventure is priced per person at a fixed cost of £20.



Images by: @oxfordwetwild

**CHINNOR & PRINCES RISBOROUGH RAILWAY**

[www.chinnorrailway.co.uk](http://www.chinnorrailway.co.uk)

Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway is a multi-award-winning heritage railway steaming alongside the Chiltern Hills on a seven-and-a-half mile journey from Chinnor station to Princes Risborough. The approximately one-hour round-trip allows guests to sit back and relax while enjoying the outstanding natural beauty rolling into view through the large windows. From ancient woodlands to carpets of bluebells, herds of deer, Iron Age forts, medieval churches and military trenches, there is much to marvel at. *Midsomer Murders* fans can take advantage of the various tours on offer, which take place at the Thame railway stop. Fans can choose from a 75-minute walking tour of the series' most important filming locations, including a visit to the village known on the show as Causton, or a full day guide to more than 60 filming locations in and around Thame. Railway ticket prices depend on what you wish to include in your trip, i.e., afternoon tea, a walking tour, and begin from £3 for children aged five and above and £12 for adults.

