



# EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

We've hand-picked a selection of the best-value family friendly events to help you plan your Easter. From adventure trails to zoological expeditions, **JD van Zyl** rounds up the activities across the East Midlands Trains network to get you through the holidays and beyond

## SPEND SOME SEAL TIME, SKEGNESS

Get up close and personal with seals and penguins, as well as various reptiles (including crocodiles and royal pythons) at this special sanctuary. If you prefer your animals a little more domestic, spend some quality time with really tame creatures in the Pets Corners.

**Where:** Natureland Seal Sanctuary, Skegness. [skegnessnatureland.co.uk](http://skegnessnatureland.co.uk)

**When:** Year-round.  
**Cost:** £6.20 per adult (one child goes free with every paying adult).

## BOOKASAURUS, LONDON

Take your little monsters to meet some real-life ones at the Natural History Museum. Children under five will love the funky, fabric-based dinosaur books

that take you on a trail through the museum, discovering what dinosaurs ate, how sharp their teeth were, what dinosaur footprints are like and lots more. Or grab an explorer pack (suitable for under-sevens and free of charge with a refundable deposit of £25), filled to the brim with drawing materials and activities introducing the star attractions at the museum – there's even an explorer hat and binoculars so they can look the part.

**Where:** National History Museum, London. [nhm.ac.uk](http://nhm.ac.uk)

**When:** Year-round.  
**Cost:** Free.

## CERAMIC CREATIONS, SHEFFIELD

Gleaming riches and rare finds of European craftsmanship, left, await discovery at the *Treasures from the V&A 400-1600AD*

exhibition. And after you've brushed up on your cultural knowledge you can create your own beautiful tile to take home.

**Where:** Millennium Gallery, Sheffield. [museums-sheffield.org.uk](http://museums-sheffield.org.uk)

**When:** Exhibition runs until 25 May. Tile making on 7 and 14 April.  
**Cost:** Exhibition, £6 adults, £1 children. £3.50 per child (adults free) for tile-making (please book).

## DRESS TO IMPRESS, LONDON

Do you have a little fashionista on your hands? Dive into the fascinating world of kids' fashion over the past 250 years. The *Top to Toe: Fashion for Kids* display includes a 16th-century wrapping gown, 17th-century boy's hat and "snorkel" parka coat from the 1970s.

**Where:** V&A Museum of Childhood, London. [vam.ac.uk/moc](http://vam.ac.uk/moc)

**When:** Until 19th April.  
**Cost:** Free.



## FAMILY FUN, BOLSOVER CASTLE

Step back in time at Bolsover Castle, where traditional Easter activities include a family fun trail – complete with tasty prizes at the end – and games of quoits or croquet. Or pay a visit on the May Day Bank Holiday weekend and you'll find jousting medieval knights and wandering minstrels – you can even put the kids through their paces in Knight School to see if you have a budding King Arthur in the making.

**Where:** Bolsover Castle, Chesterfield. [english-heritage.org.uk](http://english-heritage.org.uk)

**When:** Easter events: 10-13 April; Grand Medieval Joust: 3-4 May.  
**Cost:** Easter: £7 adults, £3.50 children, £17.50 family ticket. Medieval joust: £10 adults, £5 children, £25 family ticket.

## BEAUTIFUL BUGS, SHEFFIELD

Delve into the miniature world of creepy crawlies at *The Big Bug Show*. Come face-to-face with live insects, from slimy snails to beautiful butterflies, join in a bug hunt or street safari to discover the tiny creatures living all around us, and when you're feeling suitably inspired you can even design your own super-powered bug.

**Where:** Weston Park, Sheffield. [museums-sheffield.org.uk](http://museums-sheffield.org.uk)

**When:** Until spring 2010.  
**Cost:** Free.

## ALL ABOARD, CLEETHORPES

Hop onto the narrow-gauge "Easter Egg-press" as it steams from Kingsway Station along Cleethorpes' foreshore and lakeside towards North Sea Lane Station at the mouth of Buck Beck.

**Where:** Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire. [cleethorpescoastlightrailway.co.uk](http://cleethorpescoastlightrailway.co.uk)

**When:** 10-13 April.  
**Cost:** £2.20 to £3.30.

## A MAMMOTH ADVENTURE, NORWICH

If you've never seen a T-Rex or Triceratops in its natural habitat, then head towards Norfolk this Easter and discover dozens of life-sized dinosaurs lurking in 100 acres of woods and parkland, play a round of Jurassic Putt or unearth your own dinosaur fossil.

**Where:** Dinosaur Adventure, Norwich. [dinosauradventure.co.uk](http://dinosauradventure.co.uk)



Main picture: hunting for dinosaurs at the Natural History Museum. Clockwise from top left: seals in Skegness; bugs in Sheffield; Cleethorpes' "Easter Egg-press"; familiar faces at the V&A Museum of Childhood



**When:** Year-round.

**Cost:** Adults and children: £6.35; children under three: free.

## ROCK ON, LONDON

Sing along with America's kids-rock superstar group and Grammy Award-winner, Dan Zanes and Friends, right, as they take family entertainment to a whole new level with soulful folk favourites, early rock 'n' roll classics and catchy originals.

**Where:** South Bank Centre, London. [southbankcentre.co.uk](http://southbankcentre.co.uk)

**When:** 10-13 April.  
**Cost:** All tickets £9.

## SADDLE UP, NORFOLK

Soak up springtime in rural Norfolk as you cycle along rivers, through glens and across hills that look out on thatched churches and flint-built cottages. Choose from a selection of adult and child cycles,





Be inspired at the British Museum, above; egg-hunting with the National Trust, top right; Mudchute City Farm, bottom right



tandems and tag-along trailers. Baby seats, helmets, pumps and baskets are also available.  
**Where:** Broadland Cycle Hire, Norwich. [norfolkbroadscycling.co.uk](http://norfolkbroadscycling.co.uk)  
**When:** Easter-October.  
**Cost:** Adults: £14, juniors (under 14): £8.

### MUSEUM MOSAICS, LONDON

Discover your creative roots by tapping into the inspiration throughout the British Museum – from the current exhibitions to the glass roof in the Great Court – and then transform your bright ideas into a window decoration using the latest digital technology.  
**Where:** British Museum, London. [britishmuseum.org](http://britishmuseum.org)  
**When:** 5, 18 & 25 April.  
**Cost:** Free.

### VROOM VROOM, LONDON

See the world's first 100% electrical vehicle, below, on show as part of the *Brit Insurance*



*Designs of the Year* exhibition and then design your own model car and race it around a super-quick model track.  
**Where:** Design Museum, London. [designmuseum.org](http://designmuseum.org)  
**When:** 5 & 26 April, 3 & 31 May.  
 The *Brit Insurance Designs of the Year* exhibition runs until 14 June.  
**Cost:** Adults: £8.50, children: £4.

### CALLING ALL EGG HUNTERS, UK-WIDE

Join thousands of kids across the UK on adventurous Easter egg trails being held at 200 National Trust properties – the fresh spring air should work up a good appetite for the free Cadbury Creme egg that awaits everyone who completes the trail. Many properties also host additional special activities like story-telling, juggling and face painting.  
**Where:** National Trust properties across the UK. Participating properties on the East Midlands Trains network include Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire, and Calke Abbey, Kedleston Hall and Sudbury Hall, all in Derbyshire. [eastereggtrail.com](http://eastereggtrail.com)  
**When:** 10-13 April.  
**Cost:** Entry fees vary according to property.

### DOWN ON THE FARM, LONDON

The banks of the Thames, only a short distance from the bustle of Canary Wharf, seem an unexpected spot for a farm. But here, set within 31 acres of green fields with a happy family of farmyard animals, waits a little oasis for those longing for some fresh farm air.

**» SUPER SAVER**

A welcome Easter holiday needn't break the bank. With East Midlands Trains' Family & Friends Railcard adults save 33% and children a whopping 60%, and up to four adults and four children can travel on one card. Planning a bigger group trip? Then consider an East Midlands Trains GroupSave ticket – it enables three or four people to travel for the price of two adults (additional children travel for a flat fare of £1) and it's available on many journeys along our route.  
**For more information visit** [eastmidlandstrains.co.uk](http://eastmidlandstrains.co.uk).

**Where:** Mudchute Farm, London. [mudchute.org](http://mudchute.org)  
**When:** Every day.  
**Cost:** Free.

### THE TRUE MEANING OF EASTER, LEICESTER

Every year thousands of spectators flock to Leicester for the dramatic and grand spectacle of "Easter's true meaning", as locals perform the final week of Christ's life in the city's streets.  
**Where:** Leicester city centre. [christinthecentre.co.uk](http://christinthecentre.co.uk)  
**When:** 10 April.  
**Cost:** Free. ■

**TAKE ME THERE**

East Midlands Trains runs regular services to all the destinations in this feature. For tailored travel information, use our innovative journey-planning tool 'My Journeys' at [eastmidlandstrains.co.uk](http://eastmidlandstrains.co.uk).