



GREAT DAYS OUT IN ESSEX

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SELF STORAGE ROOMS



Image source: Colchester Zoo

COLCHESTER

COLCHESTER ZOO

SEE

More than 250 species of animals and award-winning animal enclosures.

DO

Take part in experiences, including feeding giraffes and elephants. You can also pay for extra experiences, such as being a zookeeper for a day.

AMENITIES

Fantastic play areas including soft play, restaurants and plenty of picnic areas. There is also a variety of gift shops on site. Free parking on site.

TRIPADVISOR RATING



Hours & Prices: Vary depending on date of entrance. For full details, [visit the website](#).



MAKESPACE TOP TIP

Booking tickets online at least a day ahead of your visit can save you up to **15% off**.



Image source: City of London

EPHING

EPHING FOREST

SEE

Forest trails and a hundred lakes and ponds, as well as quaint villages and beautiful views of the surrounding areas.

DO

Get up close and personal with nature during any number of trail walks throughout the forest. You can also visit the Epping Forest Visitor Centres, including The View, Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge (an excellent example of Tudor architecture, built for Henry VIII himself!) and the Temple. Each Visitors Centre offers visitor information, events and interactive exhibits. Keep up to date on their social pages

Twitter: @CoLEppingForest | Facebook: City of London Epping Forest | Instagram: coleppingforest

AMENITIES

Within the Epping Forest District there are a variety of restaurants, cafes, tea rooms and pubs. If you plan to stay over, there are many options for hotels, B&Bs, pubs and inns or even campsites.

TRIPADVISOR RATING



Hours: Each Visitor Centre has different hours, so view the [Epping Forest website](#) for full details.



MAKESPACE TOP TIP

Epping Forest District is a large area with no shortage of activities and things to see. Make sure to research what there is to do before planning your trip so you don't miss out.

Image source: intu Lakeside



WEST THURROCK

INTU LAKESIDE

SEE

The shopping destination in Essex which draws in visitors from surrounding areas as well.

DO

Shop a mixture of more than 250 high street and luxury shops and choose from more than 50 cafes and restaurants. Also, coming in 2018, intu Lakeside will be the home to a brand-new leisure centre – with Nickelodeon themed attractions and 11 new restaurants - keep a lookout!

AMENITIES

Ample free parking (12,500 spaces, including Electric Vehicle charging). Onsite luxury cinema.

Hours: For opening times please [visit the website](#).

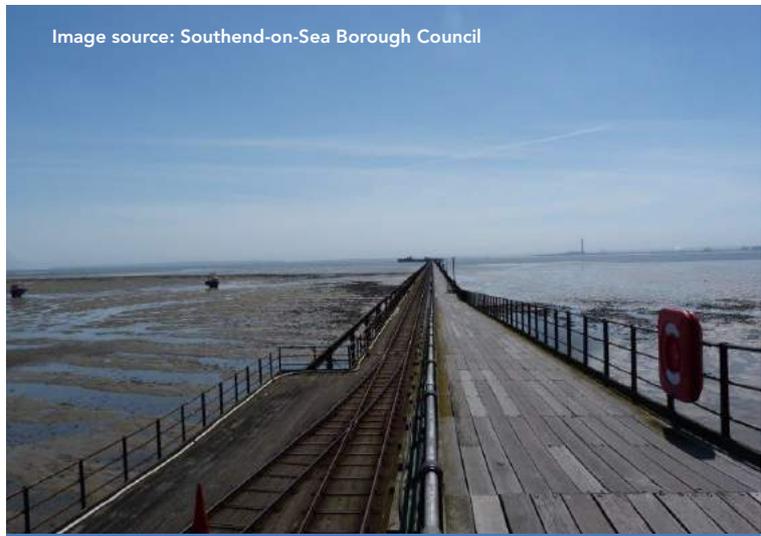
TRIPADVISOR RATING



MAKESPACE TOP TIP

Make sure you visit the intu Lakeside website to see what offers the shops have on!

Image source: Southend-on-Sea Borough Council



SOUTHEND

SOUTHEND ON SEA

SEE

Blue skies, sea views and a collection of entertainments for young and old alike.

DO

Spend the day at Adventure Island or Southend Pier riding rollercoasters and challenging friends and family to a round of crazy golf. Southend Pier is the longest pleasure pier in the world, and one of the few with a fully operational train service for customers. Finish the day with some retail therapy at a variety of shopping areas and meal at a top restaurant.

AMENITIES

Accessible by public transportation or car with plenty of public car parks. There are a variety of shopping areas, including high street and luxury shops as well as local boutiques. Food and drink are available at a large number of restaurants, pubs and cafes.

Hours for Southend on Sea Pier vary depending on the time of year. Full details and ticket prices can be [found here](#). Hours for Adventure Island vary depending on the season.

TRIPADVISOR RATING



MAKESPACE TOP TIP

Visit the Groupon website before your trip to Southend on Sea, as many attractions have excellent discounts on offer.

Image source: Barleylands Farm and Craft Village



BILLERICAY

BARLEYLANDS FARM & CRAFT VILLAGE

SEE

Tons of animals, rural Essex views and plenty of shops to browse.

DO

Interact with barnyard animals, take part in a reptile encounter or bird of prey experience. Visit the Discovery Barn, enjoy a tractor ride and visit one of the excellent play areas.

AMENITIES

Free parking on site, as well as a number of cafes and shops.

Hours & Prices: For full details, [visit the website](#).

TRIPADVISOR RATING



MAKESPACE TOP TIP

Book tickets online in advance to save 10% on admission

Image source: English Heritage



SAFFRON WALDEN

AUDLEY END HOUSE & GARDENS

SEE

Explore the historically significant stately house and breath-taking gardens designed by Capability Brown.

DO

Step back in time through the mansion house's amazing architecture, 19th century service wing, Victorian stables and more.

AMENITIES

Onsite tearoom and cafe, as well as picnic areas. Free parking on site and gift shop.

Hours & Prices: For full details, [visit the website](#).

TRIPADVISOR RATING



MAKESPACE TOP TIP

Audley End House puts on events all throughout the year. See their events page to plan your visit around an exciting activity.

Image source: Beth Chatto Gardens



ELMSTEAD

BETH CHATTO GARDENS

DO

Learn about how Beth Chatto, 10-time Chelsea Gold Medal Winning gardener, and her late husband transformed an overgrown, scraggly piece of land into a collection of lush and colourful gardens. Explore endless paths curving through thriving flora, emphasising the use of the right plants in the appropriate places, evidence of Beth's mantra, "right plant, right place." You can also visit the nursery and enrol in courses.

AMENITIES

Free car park on site. The tearoom offers an excellent range of food and drinks.

Hours & Prices: For full details, [visit the website](#).

TRIPADVISOR RATING



MAKESPACE TOP TIP

RHS members are offered free access to the Gardens from November through to March. True gardening enthusiasts musn't miss Alan Titchmarsh's talk at the gardens on 28th June 2018.

Image source: Colchester Borough Council



COLCHESTER

COLCHESTER CASTLE

SEE

Visit the museum and special exhibitions throughout the year and glimpse the famous Fenwick Treasure.

DO

Walk through 2,000 years of British history at Colchester Castle. A visit to Colchester Castle is better than ever before with interactive displays and star exhibits, like the Colchester Vase and Fenwick Treasure. Visit the historic prisons or have a go at building a Norman archway or steering a chariot. Be wowed as a large scale 'son et lumière' projection transforms the east wall with light and sound. Expert-led tours down into the Roman vaults and up onto the panoramic Castle roof can also be booked.

AMENITIES

Parking is available in nearby public car parks. Vending facilities are available for drinks and snacks, and there is a gift shop on site.

PRICES

All pricing information can be found on the [website](#).

Monday to Saturday, 10am – 5pm. Sunday, 11am – 5pm

TRIPADVISOR RATING



MAKESPACE TOP TIP

The saver ticket is a great option for families with 2 adults and 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children.

Image source: RHS



CHELMSFORD

RHS HYDE HALL GARDENS

SEE

Sweeping views of the Essex countryside and examine gorgeous blossoms, no matter what season in which you choose to visit.

DO

Learn about drought-tolerant plants in the Dry Garden, work your way through the lush Robinson and Woodland Gardens, and the sunny Hilltop Garden. Before you leave, purchase plants or visit the shop for a lovely keepsake.

AMENITIES

Excellent play area, on-site cafes and free parking.

Hours & Prices: For full details, [visit the website](#).

TRIPADVISOR RATING



MAKESPACE TOP TIP

Make sure to ask about the green ticket if you arrive by public transport or bicycle for lower admission prices. Valid travel ticket must be presented.

Image source: Battlesbridge Antique centre



BATTLESBRIDGE

BATTLESBRIDGE ANTIQUE CENTRE

SEE

Visit this hidden gem which is home to stalls and shops selling antique furniture, collectables, shabby chic décor and vintage items. Four areas to visit – Muggeridge Farm, Cromwell House, The Old Granary and Bones Lane – make sure you visit them all!

AMENITIES

Stop off at one of the three tearooms, our friendly Micropub at Muggeridge Farm or one of the two lovely pubs in the village. There is ample parking at Muggeridge Farm, The Old Granary and Bones Lane.

PRICES

Free entry

Hours: 10am-5pm 7 days a week.

TRIPADVISOR RATING



MAKESPACE TOP TIP

During the warmer months, the centre plays host to a number of exciting events, like vintage car and motorcycle shows. Check the [events page](#) before your visit to see what's on.