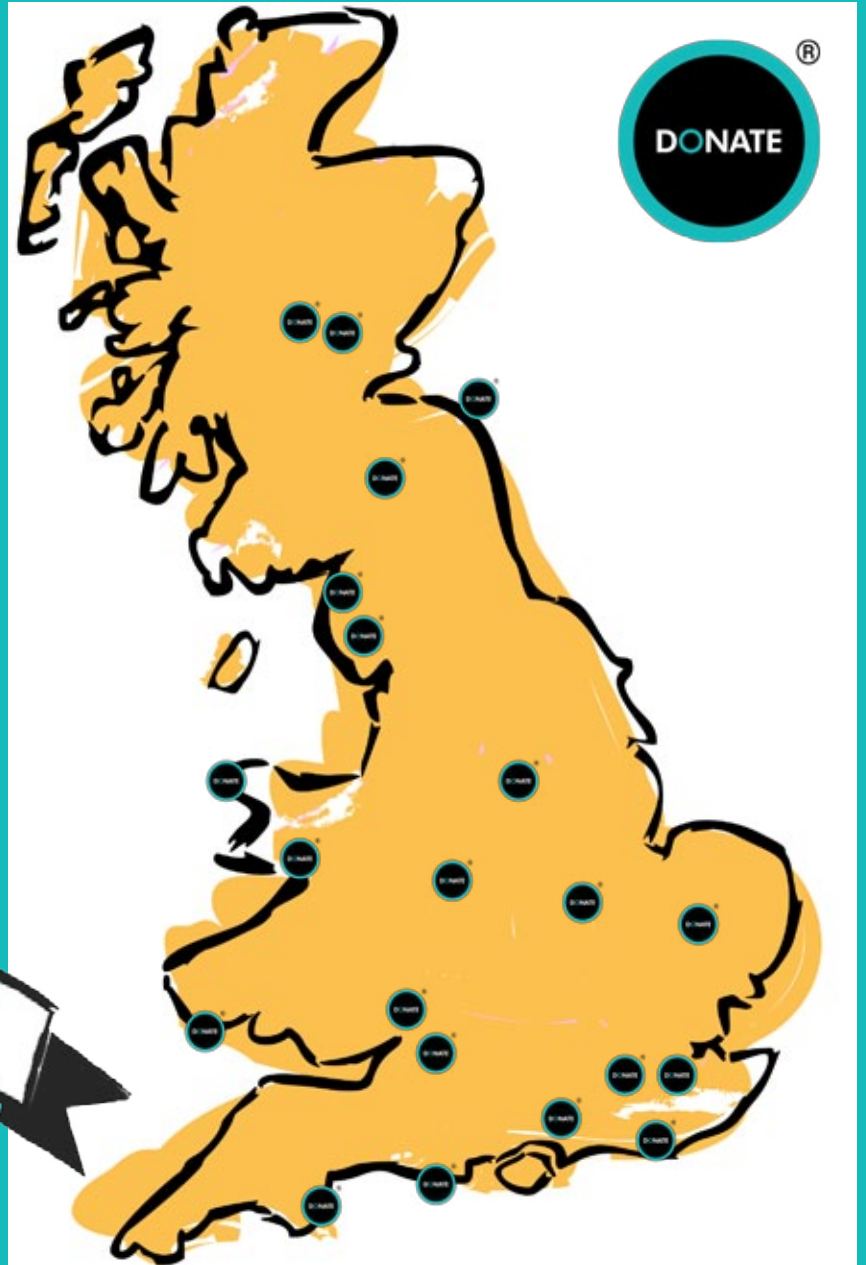


2020



Summer Guide

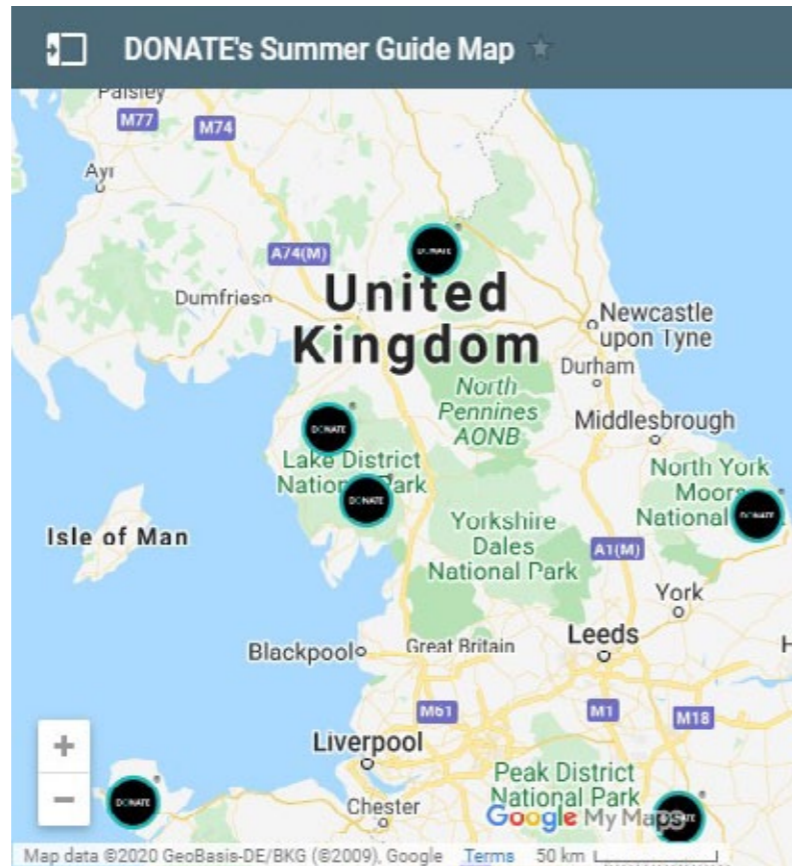
Our Staycation Summer Guide to the best DONATE™ spots around the UK to visit this summer, socially distanced of course!

The pandemic means that many of us will be spending our summer holidays in the UK, but the good news is that as lockdown begins to lift, UK national treasures are starting to open up for business. From museums to mountains, this Staycation Summer Guide from digital fundraising platform, DONATE™, compiles the best UK spots to visit this summer, socially distanced of course!

Click on your preferred location in the list, use the map below to choose your next spot to visit. Browse through the guide and select links to your destinations, included on each page.

LOCATIONS

- Scotland
- Wales
- London & South East
- South West
- North East
- North West
- Yorkshire & the Humber
- Midlands
- East of England
- From Home



This guide has been produced in partnership with the following organisations:



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SCOTLAND

Filled with outstanding national treasures for all the family and, as lockdown continues to ease, some incredible venues are open to local visitors.

Speaking about the reopening of venues, **National Trust Scotland** chairman Sir Mark Jones said "We have been hard at work preparing to open up dozens more of our beautiful places. We've redesigned the visitor routes at some places and, of course, we are closely following all the advice on safety and hygiene measures, so that everyone can enjoy their trip to the Trust.

As we all adapt to the 'new normal' there have been some changes on the ground at properties, and we are really looking forward to welcoming our visitors back and we hope that this helps us all emerge back into the light, after being confined for so long."

The scenic **Ben Lawers** mountain sits at 1,214m and is the 10th highest Munro. The central highlands venue is family friendly, packed with local wildlife and the best collection of rare mountain plants in the country. This beautiful spot is perfect for picnics and dog walks - although all dogs must be kept under proper control due to livestock on the hill.



Another must visit location North of the border is the breathtaking **St Abb's Head Nature Reserve** on the borders. The cliff-top oasis has rugged coastal scenery aplenty and is locally known as 'seabird city' due to its vast numbers of seaboard colonies. The independent Old Smiddy Coffee Shop is next to the reserve and is expected to open as soon as safe to do so. Please check their website for latest details.



The Hermitage in Perthshire houses giant Douglas firs and leads visitors to the thunderous Black Linn falls where the River Braan crashes down the steep waterfall. Overlooking the waterfall is the picturesque Ossian's Hall which was built in 1757 and compliments the local landscape perfectly. This venue lacks toilet facilities.



All three venues are cared for by the **National Trust for Scotland** which protects some of Scotland's most significant places and spaces, such as Crathes Castle in Aberdeenshire, Inverewe Garden in Wester Ross, Mar Lodge Estate in Braemar and Culzean Castle in Ayrshire. The charity celebrates Scotland's heritage and relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage of Scotland for everyone to enjoy.

It is also appealing for donations as part of its Save Our Scotland campaign, which will see donations support vital conservation work and make up for lost donations due to the crisis.



Another iconic must-visit is **Abbotsford**, the home of Sir Walter Scott. One of the most famous houses in the world, the house and stunning gardens are just an hour away from Edinburgh. At present, the house remains closed, however it will be open at the first opportunity. The creative and beautiful gardens though are open for exploration. The cafe, shop and gardens with picnic tables on the meadow. Well-behaved dogs are always welcome, with leads required in the walled garden.

PARKING
Free

10am - 4pm
Wed - Sun

Friendly

Picnic

Garden only entry fees.
£8.50 for adults, £3 for under 17's, Concessions £5.30.
Family tickets: 2 adults and up to 3 under 17's - £13
1 adult and up to 3 under 17's - £10.

WALES

Snowdon is the highest mountain in Wales at 3,560ft. The venue is extremely popular with visitors as it offers various walking paths and an exhilarating walk.

The summit cafe is closed for the rest of the year so picnics are recommended. Parking at the national park is in designated areas across the 6 car parks.



PARKING
£5-6

Friendly

Picnic

Anglesey in North Wales is the perfect beach escape with 125 miles of stunning coastline to enjoy. The North Wales hotspot has a number of blue flag beaches and coastal paths with many local businesses now open for food, drink and souvenirs. Beautiful beaches include Red Wharf Bay and Church Bay, where rockpools are in abundance.

PARKING
Available



For those further south, **Pembrokeshire** has the sea on three sides and is known for its iconic and wild landscape. With over 50 beaches, 186 miles of coastal walks and plenty of towns and villages for you to explore, there is something for everyone. Like Anglesey, restaurants, shops and cafes are re-opening for the summer.

PARKING
Available

Family favourites include the beautiful Coppet Hall beach and Goodwick Sands. There are disabled toilets and a cafe on-site at both locations.

LONDON & the SOUTH EAST

Packed full of surprises whether that be the busy capital city, the countryside or down on the coast. Slightly outside of the capital, sit some great little spots.



The historic and iconic **Wimbledon Windmill** sits in the iconic South London town right on the common. The distinctive landmark was built in 1817 to serve the community before being converted to a museum in 1976, where it now attracts visitors from across the country. The large on-site cafe is also due to re-open in July with social distancing rules in place.



Vauxhall City Farm is a piece of the countryside in the heart of London. The friendly farm is the perfect day out for all the family, with animals and gardens to keep everyone entertained. Opening in early August, this venue is reliant on donations to keep it going and able to offer its programmes to the local and wider communities. The cafe is due to re-open shortly. Please note that this venue isn't dog friendly, except for Guide Dogs.



Jeskyns Community Woodland in Kent is home to 360 acres of newly planted woodlands, meadows and orchards. Packed with walking trails, a dog activity trail and a Fairy and Elf Village, there is something for everyone. A great place to sit back and relax with the family, the woodland offers café facilities.



Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest is a wonderful world of trees. An award winning visitor attraction, home to a world-leading collection of conifers - the ideal spot for dog walks. The also has miles of cycle, running and walking trails and the cafe is open for takeaways.



For those in the Surrey and Hampshire areas, **Alice Holt Forest** is the place to head to explore beautiful woodland settings. The ideal location for family bike rides, with the cafe also open for takeaway so you can enjoy a relaxing lunch in the great outdoors.



SOUTH WEST

Full of gems, particularly along the coast where natural and man-made attractions are in abundance. The area also houses the Cotswolds, an area of outstanding beauty, and the iconic Stonehenge temple.

The Etches Collection Museum of Jurassic Marine Life, sits in Kimmeridge on Dorset's spectacular Jurassic Coast and houses a unique collection of significant marine fossils dating back 150 million years. The museum itself overlooks the sea, so you can gaze in wonder as prehistoric creatures swim overhead in the virtual Jurassic Aquarium, join in with the exciting themed activities and use augmented reality to see what the Jurassic seas were really like!

Rachael Harris at the Etches Collection said "The team at The Etches Collection can't wait to open our doors again and welcome visitors to our spectacular fossil museum on the Jurassic Coast". "We will have new fossil exhibits, interactive apps and a spectacular art exhibition throughout the summer by our artist in residence Caz Scott."

A small range of refreshments available from the on-site shop and plenty of gorgeous countryside and beaches for picnics. Dogs can be happily tied outside where they'll have fresh water until you're done exploring.



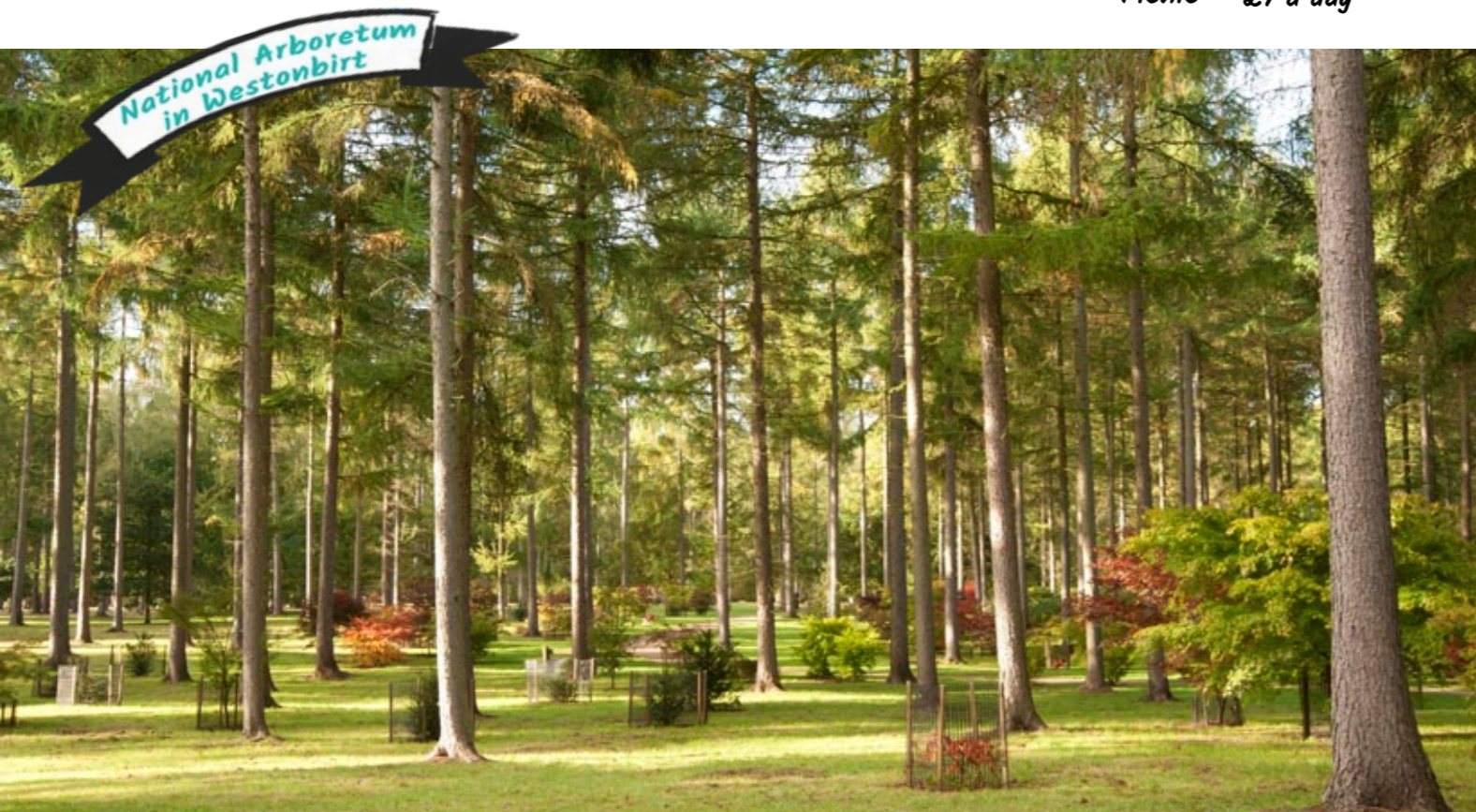
All tickets are also annual passes and cost as follows: Adult £8, Child (5-16) £4, Child (0-5) are FREE. Families tickets with 2 adults & 2 children for £20 or 1 adult & 3 children for £16.



Another lovely spot in the South West is **Beechenhurst**, set in the Forest of Dean, one of Britain's oldest and largest woodlands. Enjoy the sculpture trail and endless trails that take you deep into the forest. The cafe is open for takeaways.



For an incredible 3,500 acres of woodland just 15 minutes from Exeter lies **Haldon Forest Park**. Whether you're after a quiet family stroll or an exhilarating mountain biking experience, there's something for everyone. When there, don't forget to check out the range of walking and cycling trails as well as the orienteering courses! The cafe is open for takeaway.



The National Arboretum in Westonbirt, Gloucestershire is a truly magical tree garden where you can explore trees from all over the world. Home to 2,500 different species and five national tree collections, idyllic for nature lovers of all ages. You can even head up to the canopy and walk over the Tree Top Walkway! The cafe is open for takeaways, however this spot isn't one for dogs.



Entry fees are £11 for adults and £4 for children (5-18 years). Under 5's go free. When booking, you'll be asked to choose a time slot.

NORTH WEST

From iconic cities to the Lake District. From Liverpool which is the second largest port in Britain, to Blackpool illuminations, there's something for everyone.

The only true mountain forest in England, **Whinlatter**, is home to stunning views, fantastic walks, exhilarating mountain biking and rare wildlife. Set in the iconic Lake District, a World Heritage Site, with unrivalled views across Bassenthwaite Lake, Derwentwater and Keswick.



Whinlatter. Credit: Steve Blake.



Grizedale Forest is also in the heart of the Lake District, is packed with endless forest trails and unique sculptures by leading names in contemporary art are dotted throughout the forest. The café offering takeaway only.



NORTH EAST

Boasting some of the most iconic views in the country, particularly along the North Sea coastline. The region also plays host to the historic Hadrian's Wall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a must-visit for all the family, especially for those studying our Roman history.

Kielder Water and Forest Park in Northumberland is England's largest forest. The unique Lakeside Way is a 26 mile path around the lake that leads to the beautiful Kielder Castle. It's the perfect spot for bikers as it has one of England's largest mountain bike trail networks. The spot is also home to Northumberland's only breeding Osprey population. A great family location.



YORKSHIRE & the HUMBER

An area packed with history and magnificent views. From historic cathedral cities such as York and Ripon to the moors and coastline towns of Scarborough and Whitby, Yorkshire provides fresh air and vistas for those wanting to get away from day to day life.

Nestled on the southern slopes of the beautiful North York Moors National Park, **Dalby Forest** has something for everyone. Glacial valleys to the south create a unique 'rigg and dale' landscape, while the north of the forest sits on an upland plateau. The landscape offers a variety of different trails - whether you are looking for an easy access stroll, a challenging bike ride or an active run all amongst breath-taking scenery.



MIDLANDS

Packed full of woodland adventures, from historic forests to rugged hills. Industry has played a big role in the landscape, with its cities being the birthplace of bicycles and the home of the ceramics and lace industries.

Sherwood Forest, made famous by Robin Hood and his band of merry men, is filled with activity routes, wild running and mountain bike trails, which makes for a fantastic trip for all the family



North of Birmingham, **Cannock Chase Forest** has a range of woodland walks to suit all ages and abilities, and for those wanting to explore the forest on two wheels, here you will find some of the best family and mountain biking opportunities in the Midlands. You can hire a bike from the cycle centre and lunch at the café.



North of Corby sits **Fineshade Wood**, a picturesque woodland perfect for exploring. Take a walk through the woodland, or head over to the family cycling trail or even explore on horseback. Parking charges also apply to horseboxes.



EAST of ENGLAND

Known for its open countryside views and agricultural significance. It also offers visitors some lovely coastal spots as well as woodland walks.

High Lodge in Thetford is known for its beautiful trails which wind through rich woodland. With amazing mountain bike trails, the venue also hosts a new Heritage Trail which is a perfect family stroll. The café is open for takeaways.



FROM HOME

For those who are unable to travel this Summer then there are many great opportunities to explore from the comfort of your own home.

This year, **The CBA Festival of Archaeology** is offering hundreds of opportunities to get involved in archaeology across the UK in two parts. This month, the digital festival looked at various online sessions and workshops with varying topics, from Life in Roman Leicester to Stonehenge 3019 - Climate Past and Future. Many of the virtual sessions are available on YouTube and will keep the whole family engaged and learning. In the second half of the festival, later in the year, there will be site visits and tours in person. To find out more about the digital festival, visit the **festival website** to find the perfect event for your family.

