

Family Fun Weekend in Chester Suggested itinerary

Day 1

Explore the city

There are many ways to explore Chester and its rich heritage, hop aboard an open top bus tour with City Sightseeing or Chester Heritage Tours, step back in time with Roman Tours as a Roman Soldier takes you on an exciting city adventure, or get a map from Chester's Visitor Information Centre, which can be found at the Town Hall, and explore at your leisure.

Head down to the River Dee

Enjoy a delicious ice cream, take a river trip with ChesterBoat or if you're feeling adventurous and energetic, hire a rowing boat or a pedalo and power yourself down the river. Walk over Queen's Park Bridge and take a stroll (or run) through 'The Meadows' green open space, which is great for picnics.

Watch the Town Crier Proclamation

Chester is the only place in Britain to have retained the historic tradition of regular midday proclamations from a fixed point. It's free, fun and totally unforgettable.

Proclamations take place at The Cross, Tuesday to Saturday at 12noon (11am on Chester race days) June to August.

Explore Grosvenor Park

Grosvenor Park was given to the city by Richard Grosvenor, 2nd Marquess of Westminster and is regarded as one of the finest examples of a Victorian Park in the UK.

The Park has tree lined avenues to explore, as well as benches and grass to sit on and relax or enjoy fun games and a children's play area. It is also home to Grosvenor Park Miniature Railway, built in 1996 to commemorate the centenary of the Duke of Westminster's railway at nearby Eaton Hall. Open some weekends and during school holidays, Grosvenor Park Miniature Railway is loved by people of all ages. The Lodge Café is perfect for a bite to eat or refreshment stop too.

During the summer the fabulous Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre brings the park to life with wonderful performances in a purpose built setting. If you're visiting during July and August you should definitely get tickets for a performance.

Walk the walls

Take a gentle stroll around the most complete city walls in Britain, the perfect way to see the city.

Stop off at the famous amphitheatre, pose for a picture by the Eastgate Clock, take in the stunning views over the oldest racecourse in the country and try your luck on the Wishing Steps.

Explore 'The Rows' and enjoy some retail therapy

Famous the world over, Chester's Medieval two-tiered galleries or 'The Rows' as they're known, are home to some of the city's most fascinating shops, including what is thought to be the oldest shop front in England dating from 1274, which can be found on Lower Bridge Street.

Day 2

Visit Chester Zoo

Home to over 20,000 wonderful animals and 500 different species including some of the most endangered and exotic in the world!

From magnificent elephants and rhinos to delicate butterflies, there are different animals to see around every corner. Islands at Chester Zoo opened in July 2015 and takes you on a unique expedition through six different south east Asian island habitats. Travel over bridges to pass between the islands and you can also take a jungle river cruise as part of the experience. Explore the indoor rainforest and walk-through aviary giving you the chance to get up close to the plants and animals.

Although an outdoor attraction, there's plenty to do indoors making it perfect whatever the weather. Take a butterfly journey through the UK's largest zoo-based butterfly house, where more than 30 species of butterfly and moths fly around you; or brave Fruit Bat Forest where three species of bats fly around as you walk through the forest at twilight – an experience not to be missed!

The zoo is on the outskirts of the city and if you don't have your car there is a regular bus service which runs from the bus station by the Town Hall, alternatively it's just a short taxi ride.

Further afield, other suggestions

Beeston Castle

Standing majestically on a sheer rocky crag, Beeston Castle offers perhaps the most stunning views of any castle in England. Discover 4,000 years of history and explore over 40 acres of woodland walks, perfect for a family day out.

Blue Planet Aquarium

Home to over 50 different exhibits and thousands of animals from around the world, Blue Planet Aquarium is an exciting attraction for all ages. See Europe's largest collection of sharks, watch the dive team feed the fish and face your fears in the deadly Venom attraction featuring spiders, snakes and jellyfish.

The Ice Cream Farm

Choose from over 50 irresistible real dairy ice creams and sorbets made in Cheshire. There's plenty to keep kids entertained too with Honeycomb Canyon, an indoor sand and water play area; Daisy's Garden, an outdoor play area; meet the animals at Fudge Farm and much more.

National Waterways Museum

Discover how waterways helped to drive the UK's astonishing industrial revolution. Take a boat trip, visit the museum blacksmith and explore traditional narrowboats through the ages, complete with cottage gardens.

Tatton Park

One of the UK's most impressive historic estates with 2,000 acres of deer park, a stunning neo-classical mansion, 1930's rare breed farm, Tudor old hall, 250 year old gardens, adventure playground, speciality shops and a restaurant here's plenty for everyone to enjoy.