

The Gladstone Pottery Museum in Longton (open Tuesdays - Saturdays, ticket prices vary) is under ten minutes away by car, and home to a gallery that cannot fail to delight small people who love toilet humour. Flushed with Pride is dedicated to the history of the loo and the particular role that potters have played in its development; discover some surprising toilet paper alternatives and a real insight into what a Victorian slum would have looked (and smelled) like through the interactive displays. Watch daily demonstrations and see traditional skills. Try your hand at throwing a pot, making a bone china flower or decorating a piece of pottery to create a unique souvenir of your visit for a small extra charge. The café offers colour-in lunch boxes for kids as well as speciality Staffordshire Oatcakes for grown-ups. Also at the museum in August and September is the 'The Festival of Bottle Ovens', celebrating the 40th anniversary since the last bottle oven firing in Stoke-on-Trent including a bus tour and costumed characters who will showcase the history of the bottle ovens - and of the most horrible and dangerous jobs once undertaken by children in The Potteries.

Alternatively, if you're keen to get crafty again, make the journey from Stoke straight to **World of Wedgwood** in Barlaston (open daily except 27-31 August, free entry to museum, see website for more details and prices) to have a go at pottery painting and ceramic design in the Decorating Studio, where you can choose from clay cut-out shapes, tea light holders and pots. This award-winning visitor attraction is home to the UNESCO recognised V&A museum collection, one of the most important in the world, spanning from 1759 to the present day - with a Pottery Spotters Museum Trail activity

For a journey across the city to commemorate the fallen heroes of World War I as part of Stoke-on-Trent Remembers visit...

www.stoke.gov.uk/stokeremembers

sheet available to guide you round. It's free, and there's a prize - just ask at reception. Swing from the enormous willow tea saucer in the outdoor play area, follow the Hem Heath Woods and nature trail (adjacent to the site), or take a Factory Tour (Monday - Friday, guided tours 45 mins, bookable on arrival, last entry 3pm. £10 adults, £8 concessions, under 12s free). See the production process and artisan skills up close from casting and hand turning through to hand painting and gilding of fine bone china and Jasperware. Also from 1 August to 23 November 2018 there is a special World War I exhibition, Etruria at War: The Impact of the First World War on Wedgwood and its Employees (10am-5pm, free).

Your final destination for the day is Trentham Gardens (open daily, ticket prices vary): here, the Capability Brown-designed lake comes complete with trips on eco-friendly catamaran Miss Elizabeth (every hour, five days a week in summer, £2), and is surrounded by the Trentham Fairy Trail - Titania points the way to 14 fairy friends created by local artist Robin Wight, some bold, some hidden in the trees. The meadows are filled with giant dandelion sculptures, there's a resident sit-astride miniature train, a Hide and Speak Maze dotted with talking pipes and an Adventure Playground, featuring an assault course, zip wire, sand pits, Young Drivers Zone (children aged five and under) and three activity boats. If the troops get hungry, the Italian Garden Tearoom serves traditional Staffordshire oatcakes, and just outside the gardens is Trentham Shopping Village, a complex of timber lodges housing 77 shops and 18 cafés. Don't forget a visit to Monkey Forest to end your day in The Potteries.

For more ideas, attractions, seasonal events and recommendations across all six towns and parks explore...

www.visitstoke.co.uk/summer

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SUMMER STOKE-ON-TRENT

ATTRACTIONS

EVENTS

FESTIVALS

EXHIBITIONS

AND ACTIVITIES
HAPPENING ACROSS
THE CITY IN **2018**



Appetite • Photograph courtesy of Dan Tucker

SUMMER IN STOKE-ON-TRENT ITINERARY FOR FAMILIES

Spend a day or more exploring Stoke-on-Trent, and you'll discover award-winning museums with prizes for Pottery Spotters trails, enchanting, fairy-filled gardens and the largest ever find of Anglo-Saxon treasure. Made up of six distinct towns, Stoke-on-Trent is a place where revolutionary ideas, country estates and an historic industry remain, but have also been reinvented into hands-on pottery painting classes, a 'Hide and Speak Maze' and giant, interactive tea cups made from willow. Known affectionately as 'The Potteries', the city's curiously named jiggers, jolliers, fettlers and casters are still working to inspire a new generation of potters. There's so much to do and see, we've suggested a whole host of family-friendly options; pick and choose your own route, or make a plan to stay for longer...

www.visitstoke.co.uk/summer



Gladstone Pottery Museum

Fairy Trail at Trentham Gardens



Emma Bridgewater Factory



Trentham Gardens



World of Wedgwood



Gladstone Pottery Museum



The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery



Middleport Pottery

MUST-SEES

EMMA BRIDGEWATER FACTORY

ST1 3EJ

Discover the traditional skills and craftsmanship that goes into making Emma Bridgewater's charming designs - or create your own. Open daily, factory tour £2.50 adults/under 16s free.

www.emmabridgewaterfactory.co.uk

TRENTHAM GARDENS

ST4 8JG

This multi award-winning site boasts a Fairy Trail, interactive maze, miniature train and adventure playground complete with climbing wall, zip wire and Young Drivers Zone, all within multi award-winning gardens. Open daily, ticket prices vary.

www.trentham.co.uk

WORLD OF WEDGWOOD

ST12 9ER

Take a Pottery Spotters trail through over 250 years of British craftsmanship and the UNESCO recognised V&A collection - or blow off steam in the centre's outdoor play area. Open daily, free entry to museum.

www.worldofwedgwood.com

GLADSTONE POTTERY MUSEUM

ST3 1PQ

Enjoy special workshops, pottery throwing and decorating, and a rather unusual gallery dedicated to the history of the toilet in the last complete Victorian pottery factory in the country. Open Tuesdays - Saturdays, ticket prices vary.

www.stokemuseums.org.uk/gpm

THE POTTERIES MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

ST1 3DW

Visit the world's most significant collection of Staffordshire ceramics (including nearly 300 frog mugs) and the £3m Staffordshire Hoard, the largest ever find of Anglo-Saxon treasure. Open daily, free entry.

www.stokemuseums.org.uk/pmag

MIDDLEPORT POTTERY

ST6 3PE

Fans of BBC Two's The Great Pottery Throw Down will recognise this award-winning, Grade II* listed site, which was originally built in 1888 and has recently undergone a £9 million restoration by The Prince's Regeneration Trust. Open daily, £5.50 adults/£4 conc.

www.middleportpottery.org

THE ITINERARY

Middleport Pottery is your starting place for the day... if you're travelling on the bus, or alternatively whilst driving around The Potteries, download and listen to **Wedgwood and the War** (available on www.appetitestoke.co.uk), an audio soundscape drawn from the Wedgwood Museum's archive of letters sent by family members during World War One. The factory tour at **Middleport Pottery** is suitable for over eights (advance booking, 1hr, 11am and 1.45pm Monday - Thursday, 10.30am Friday, £9.50 adults / £8 conc.) and reveals every stage of production, showcasing handcraft methods used since the 1880s and the steam engine that once powered the entire factory - while the shop is suitable for any age... and offers up the world's largest collection of local Burleigh pottery. For a takeaway souvenir of your own creation, head to reception for a bag of clay and tools (£2 fee); the clay is air-drying and can be taken home on the day. When visiting Middleport, look out for special activities in nearby Burslem such as the **Burslem Summer of Art** (28 July - 16 September) festivities: there will be a Poetry Trail on public transport, arts trail WHAT IS NOW featuring artists and curators working in six pop-up locations, Burslem in Bloom and Bunting, music festival weekends, a WW1 themed real ale trail and Staffordshire Filmshow, as well as three major exhibitions showcasing local artists (see visitstoke.co.uk/summer for more details).

Next, you can either **make a stop in Hanley for the Emma Bridgewater Factory** (open daily) and **The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery**, or **head straight on to Stoke** - both towns are a 10-20 minute drive away from Middleport. At the Emma Bridgewater Factory, you can get creative in the decorating studio (advance booking, 1hr 30min slots, 9.30am-2.45pm, £2.95 fee plus price of piece), have a piece of pottery personalised with your child's hand or foot prints by the team (Monday - Friday, 9.30am, £20 - contact in advance) or follow a factory tour (suitable for five years plus, advance booking, 1hr, 10am, 11am and 1.30pm except Fridays, £2.50 adults/ under 16s free) to discover the traditional skills

of the jiggers, jolliers, fettlers, casters and decorators who work here. You can also enjoy a home cooked lunch in the café, where children's lunch boxes are on offer, or take tea and cakes in the secret walled garden, complete with its resident brood of hens. At The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery (open daily, free entry, pay on arrival at car park opposite), which is home to the most significant collection of Staffordshire ceramics in the world, you'll find galleries covering natural science, archeology and fine art, a special trail to help Ozzy the Owl find the nocturnal animals around the museum (£1/trail, including a free pencil), and the Staffordshire Hoard - a treasure trove that was once the possession of kings. The museum is also holding a special display "Made by the Girls of Staffordshire...": Ceramics from World War I (27 July - 22 August) featuring objects from its collection "Made by the Girls of Staffordshire during the Winter of 1917 when the Boys were in the Trenches fighting for Liberty & Civilisation", as well as CSI - Scientific WW1 (15 September, 11am-4pm, free), a one-off interactive event showcasing the science behind the First World War, including trench archeology and the chemistry behind explosives. There will be a replica underground tunnel, a medical display and an Ask an Expert panel primed to give insights into any wartime photographs and medals visitors bring.

Stoke, meanwhile, is host to a captivating installation by artist Luke Jerram called the **Museum of the Moon** at King's Hall (21-29 August, free entry, special events will be ticketed): find a good spot to count the craters on a seven metre-wide moon, complete with detailed imagery of the lunar surface and accompanied by a haunting soundtrack (by BAFTA and Ivor Novello award-winning composer Dan Jones). Spellbinding to look at, the installation is paired with a series of special moon-inspired events - see www.appetitestoke.co.uk/whatson for details. Just round the corner is the newly opened, Alice in Wonderland-inspired **The Rabbit Hole Tea Room**; serving up afternoon tea in a storybook setting, it's well worth a visit.