



Beefeater at the Tower of London

FIRST PERSON

A BRILLIANT DAY IN LONDON

Despite its size, London is a very kid-friendly city. Almost 40 percent of the capital is dedicated to parks and public spaces, and major museums are free. The only problem is there's so much to see. For a dizzying overview of all the attractions, take the elevator to the top of the **SHARD** (below). At 1,004 feet, it's the tallest building in western Europe. On a clear day, the views from the glass-walled 72nd floor can stretch for 40 miles. (Don't prebook; wait for a sunny day and be prepared to line up; \$50.)



TRAVELING WITH KIDS

Royal Romps on the Thames

WHAT TO DO IN AND AROUND LONDON By RACHEL HOWARD

PLACE	THE SCOOP	WHAT TO DO
Tower of London	Thirty-seven Beefeaters and their families share this medieval fortress with eight ravens, several ghosts, and glittering collections of jewels and armor.	Tours by Beefeaters combine spooky stories with witty banter ("It's great living in a palace until you try to order a takeaway"). Creepier still are the winter Twilight Tours.
Hampton Court Palace	Henry VIII amassed over 60 houses, but his favorite retreat from the city was Hampton Court Palace, where he entertained his six wives (until divorcing or beheading them).	Play hide-and-seek in the U.K.'s oldest (17th-century) surviving maze, whose 7-foot-high hedged pathways lead to false routes and dead ends.
Kensington Palace	William and Kate spent one million pounds renovating their 20-room "apartment," where Prince George is the latest resident. The hoi polloi can explore the sumptuous state rooms through interactive exhibits.	Scale the giant pirate ship in the nearby Princess Diana Memorial playground, then stroll across Hyde Park for fish-and-chips at the lakeside Lido café.

ATLAS

London, England



In Tudor times, 200 staff churned out 600 meals twice a day in the 50-room kitchen at Hampton Court Palace, where 600,000 gallons of ale were consumed annually.

For a closer look at London's landmarks, hop aboard one of **THAMES CLIPPERS'** river boats. You can cruise past all the city's top sights, including the London Eye, Big Ben, St. Paul's Cathedral, and Shakespeare's Globe theater, in an afternoon without paying any admission fees (the family boat ticket covers rides for two adults and three children). From London Bridge City pier, below the Shard, sail west toward Putney, taking in the sights along the way. Walking across the **NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM's** interactive Great Map, kids can act out swashbuckling expeditions using a motion-sensitive tablet. Tour the 19th-century *Cutty Sark*, a British ship used to carry tea around the world. Then pop into the Even Keel Café, located under the *Cutty Sark's* hull, for a slice of chocolate fudge cake. —R.H.

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