



A day out with the kids: Goats are among the many animals you can see at Hackney City Farm

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Farmly fun

For a fun day out with all the family, why not moo-ch around one of the capital's city farms?

HERE are some of MetroTravel's favourites – and advice on how to get there.

Belmont Children's Farm

Home to more than 30 different animals, this working farm in Mill Hill has plenty of furry friends to keep youngsters entertained.

Get up close and personal at a 'meet the animals' session, jump on board a tractor and trailer ride to explore the rest of the surroundings, and if you time it right, you might see baby lambs being bottle fed.

How to get there: The nearest Tube station is Mill Hill East (Northern line). Catch the 240 bus from there. Alternatively, take the Northern line to Totteridge & Whetstone Tube station. The 251 bus route stops close by.

Surrey Docks Farm

Located on the Thames Path in Rotherhithe, this working farm looks after goats, sheep and pigs. They also have smaller animals including rabbits, guinea pigs and ferrets.

The farm hosts events for school groups where young people can learn about working with animals and how to grow their own food. It also has its own apiary and bee shed, which is used for beekeeping courses and beginners' sessions.

How to get there: Rotherhithe (London Overground) and Canada Water (Jubilee line and London Overground) are the nearest stations. Catch the C10 bus from either the Bryan Road/Surrey Docks Farm stop.

Kentish Town City Farm

A breath of fresh air in the busy Borough of Camden, this local charity aims to educate children about food, farming and nature.

Weekly activity sessions give little ones the opportunity to get green fingered in the farm's garden, cook some healthy snacks with seasonal ingredients and discover wildlife by the pond.

There are also riding sessions for people with special needs.

How to get there: The nearest station is Gospel Oak (London Overground), about a six-minute walk away. Kentish Town West (London Overground) is a 12-minute walk.

Hackney City Farm

As well as featuring a range of animals, this farm in Bethnal Green acts as a community hub, with mosaic and pottery classes, a vegetable box scheme for local residents, and a farmer's club for youngsters.

Grab a bite to eat at the Italian café and check out the farm shop, which sells fresh eggs, honey made by the farm's bees and other seasonal goods.

How to get there: The nearest stations are Bethnal Green (Central line and London Overground) and Hoxton (London Overground).

Spitalfields City Farm

Based in a former railway goods depot near Spitalfields, it's the nearest city farm to the Square Mile.

Visitors can meet Bayleaf the donkey and his friends, enjoy nature-themed activities for children, and stock up on wildflowers and veggies from the farm shop.

The annual goat race takes place every year, with two goats representing Oxford and Cambridge hoofing it.

How to get there: The nearest stations are Shoreditch High Street and Bethnal Green (Central line and London Overground), or Whitechapel (District and Hammersmith & City lines and London Overground).

Hounslow Urban Farm

One of London's largest community farms, Hounslow Urban Farm spans 29 acres. Animals here include pigs, cows, alpacas, peacocks, and rheas – flightless birds.

There are family-friendly activities where visitors can learn about their favourite farmyard animals and about the more exotic residents, see an owl display and enjoy animal encounters.

There is also an outdoor play area and indoor bouncy castle.

How to get there: It's about a ten-minute walk from Hatton Cross (Piccadilly line).

■ To plan your journey, visit tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey

Did you know?

Most of these farms are local charities and free to visit, but they rely on your donations.



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