

Half term activity ideas for all weathers and budgets across the Stroud District

1. Take a walk along the canal

Wrap up warm and admire the seasonal colours along the miles of canal towpath. Most of the route between Eastington and Brimscombe is flat and accessible, so ideal for family walks or bike rides. For a different perspective why not book a paddle boarding lesson on the canal? SUP Paddleboarding Stroud runs regular beginners sessions all year round, as well as bespoke launches, and you can even take your dog. Visit www.supstroud.co.uk for details.

2. Join a parkrun

The 5k parkruns in Stroud and Wotton are open to all ages, and take place every Saturday at 9am. Younger runners may want to try a gentler 2k course - the Stonehouse junior parkrun is just for 4-14 year olds, and held every Sunday at 9am at Oldends Lane Playing Fields. Parkruns are free, but you'll need to register before your first visit and take a printed copy of your barcode. Visit www.parkrun.org.uk for details of all events.

3. Get active at the Pulse, Dursley.

Activity days for children aged 5-11 years run throughout half term and include a packed day of sports, team games and a session in the pool. Check the website for more details and to book www.pulsedursley.co.uk

4. Get your skates on

There's regular roller skating sessions at Stratford Park Leisure Centre in Stroud on Saturdays, 1.30pm - 3.30pm. Skate hire is available for all sessions. Other half term activities at Stratford Park Leisure Centre include trampolining, Zumba kids, gymnastics and a range of intensive swim courses. For more information about activities phone 01453 3766771.

5. Ride a miniature train

At certain times a miniature train runs in Stratford Park, Stroud. See the Stratford Park Miniature Railway Facebook page for more details of upcoming rides https://www.facebook.com/stratfordparkrailway/?tn-str=k*F

6. Explore the Museum in the Park

There are over 4,000 objects on display at Stroud's museum, many with strong connections to the local area. Wander round the free museum and garden, pick up a quiz trail or join a half term workshop.

7. Follow a sculpture trail

The artwork at Dursley Sculpture and Play Trail in Twinberrow Woods has been created by local community groups. It's free, and open access to visit any time. <http://www.valevision.org.uk/information/Trail>

8. Play outdoors with Gloucestershire's Play Rangers

Free, outdoor community based activities for 7-14 year olds - whole families can join in; children with disabilities and their families are welcome. For more info about any local planned events see www.playgloucestershire.org.uk

9. Explore Woodchester Mansion

Explore the unique Grade I listed 'unfinished' Woodchester Mansion and enjoy a treat in the café.

Visit the website to check details about public opening times, prices and events www.woodchestermansion.org.uk .

Explore the surrounding National Trust-owned Woodchester Park, including lakes that are home to giant carp and a woodland play trail. £3 to park.

Www.nationaltrust.org.uk/woodchester-park

10. Admire the views from a common

As well as the spectacular views and walks you can enjoy locally from Cam Peak, Longdown and Stinchcombe Hill, you can visit one of the district's many commons.

There are miles of footpaths across Selsley, Rodborough and Minchinhampton commons, great for dog walking, kite flying too. Watch out for the resident cows and please pick up after your dog. Free parking.

11. Gaze at a ships graveyard

The Purton Hulks is the largest collection of boat wrecks in maritime Britain. The boats were intentionally beached in an attempt to protect the banks of the River Severn from erosion. Each barge has a plaque indicating its name, build date and the date it was abandoned; one is even said to be haunted. There is parking just off the mini roundabout in Purton. For more information see www.friendsofpurton.org.uk

12. Get arty

Check out Prema arts centre in Uley and Kingshill House in Dursley, for their latest programme of workshops and activities aimed at children: www.prema.org.uk
<http://www.kingshillhouse.org.uk/>

13. Visit your local library

Pop along and choose a book to read during the holiday. Dursley Library host activities aimed at children during half term.

There are also regular story time events aimed at younger ones during term time and a Lego Club every Saturday, 9.30 am onwards - Lego provided.