

My Tip Offs – Family Day Out Checklist

(Liverpool World Museum Edition — but works for any big museum trip!)

Before the Day

- ☐ Check transport plan (parking, trains, buses, time of first/last return)
- ☐ Book museum tickets if needed
- ☐ Check weather for the day
- ☐ Charge phones & power banks, clear storage on phones for photos
- ☐ Download offline maps (just in case) and plan your route (entrance, meeting spots, where the loos are)
- ☐ Set a leaving time and work backward for breakfast / get-ready timing
- ☐ Pack snacks + lunch (cold picnic style), and refillable water bottles
- ☐ Pack lightweight jackets / layers, clothes laid out (no morning fashion crises), and bags ready the night before
- ☐ Pack any meds or sensory aids needed
- ☐ Prep a “just-in-case” mini first-aid kit
- ☐ Confirm museum opening hours, show times, and temporary exhibits (some rooms were closed!)
- ☐ Pack tissues, wipes, and hand sanitiser

What to Bring

- ☐ Easy picnic lunch (museum lunch area available)
- ☐ Extra snacks for hungry kids and water bottles
- ☐ Tickets (digital or printed)
- ☐ Coffee flask (if you’re a coffee person... ☕)
- ☐ Backup phone battery / power bank
- ☐ Travel-friendly first aid: plasters, antihistamine, Soothing gel, wipes, tissues, paracetamol, hand sanitiser
- ☐ Sensory support items (for kids who need them) and small boredom- busters for little ones
- ☐ Light jackets/ layers / sun hats (weather depending)
- ☐ Headphones or ear defenders (Planetarium and museum can be loud-ish)
- ☐ £5 for the locker deposit
- ☐ Empty space in your bag for kids’ “treasures”

Timing Tips

- ☐ Planetarium: Arrive 10 minutes early and avoid the 15:20 show — you’ll feel rushed
- ☐ Add extra time for the Egyptian section (best part!)
- ☐ Allow time for the cultural gallery — absolutely worth it
- ☐ Don’t save the outdoor park for the end (can feel unsafe)
- ☐ Plan your train back before the kids are exhausted

Money & Budget Reminders

- ☐ £2 + £3 for locker deposit (refundable — don’t forget it!)
- ☐ Train fare + return (check off-peak options)
- ☐ Plan a cheap treat (like hot chips) for after the museum, instead of rushing home for supper/dinner
- ☐ Bring your own food to save money and café queues are slow

Quick Coping Tricks for Bored Kids

- [] Turn the cultural gallery into a “spot this object” game
- [] Give each child a “museum mission” (find 3 unusual things)
- [] Let younger ones take photos of their favourite exhibits
- [] Take mini breaks between floors so no one melts down
- [] Picnic lunch halfway through = morale booster

Planetarium Tips

- ☐ Arrive **10–15 minutes early**
- ☐ Sit **centrally**, slightly back if possible
- ☐ Keep jackets handy — it can get chilly
- ☐ If a child gets nervous in the dark, sit closer to the aisle
- ☐ Remind younger ones: “No loud chatting once the lights go down”

Museum Visit Tips

- ☐ Start with the areas everyone wants to see most
- ☐ Take a short snack break every 60–90 minutes
- ☐ Photograph signs you want to remember (saves brain space)
- ☐ Pace yourself — loads of sitting spots around

Safety & Comfort

- [] Keep valuables deep in your bag (the area outside felt unsafe)
- [] Hold bags close when leaving the museum
- [] Avoid the memorial park if crowded with drinkers
- [] Stick together in busy areas
- [] Check kids’ comfort often — the Planetarium seating was tough on the neck

End-of-Day Checks

- ☐ Everyone has their jackets and bags
- ☐ Phones + water bottles accounted for
- ☐ Quick loo stop before leaving
- ☐ Bus/train times checked
- ☐ Snacks for the trip home
- ☐ Debrief chat: favourite part of the day