

Day Out – Hop on Borders Railway for a time travelling adventure this summer

FAMILIES in search of a fun and fascinating day out that won't cost the earth are being urged to hop on board the Borders Railway for a time travelling adventure this summer.

As well as taking advantage of ScotRail's popular Kids For A Quid offer rail day-trippers can enjoy free child places at five fascinating major attractions south of the Capital over the school summer holidays.

Check out the unmissable new virtual reality experience taking visitors 2000 years back in time to Roman Iron Age Scotland at Trimontium, Museum or discover the Story of Coal right back to the Carboniferous period 360 million years ago at the National Mining Museum.

Wander the halls of Sir Walter Scott's extraordinary Abbotsview Estate near Tweedbank – and why not summon your courage to explore further at Witch Corner, a supernatural sculpture trail based on the Scottish legends and folklore which inspired the world famous 19th century novelist, or stop by for a bite to eat at Ochiltree's Café overlooking the house and gardens.







Feast your eyes on 420 million years of Scottish history and culture immortalised in tapestry form by 1,000 stitchers at The Great Tapestry of Scotland in Galashiels, featuring everything from Vikings, royalty, sport and innovation to religion, castles, abbeys and comedy.

Or take a guided tour to experience the splendour of the Georgian Arniston House and estate near Gorebridge, home to the Dundas family since 1571 and brimming with history, art and architectural highlights.

Those taking advantage of the offer must simply show their rail tickets on arrival at the attraction – one child gets free entry for each paying adult.

ScotRail Tourism Manager, Alasdair Smart, said: “ScotRail is delighted to support the South of Scotland Destination Alliance to promote family-friendly local attractions along the Borders Railway.

“Families looking for a great-value day out during the summer holidays can now combine ScotRail’s popular Kids for a Quid ticket promotion with free child entry to these attractions.

“All the participating attractions are within easy reach of ScotRail stations on the Borders Railway, and families are reminded to keep hold their train ticket to claim free entry.”

David Hope-Jones OBE, Chief Executive of the SSDA, said: “The long summer holidays can be an expensive time for families, so it’s brilliant to be able to offer such amazing value for money on the Borders Railway, with some of Scotland’s best attractions offering ‘Kids go free’ in addition to ScotRail’s ‘Kids for a Quid’ deal. There’s never been a better time to take the family to the South of Scotland for a time-travelling experience! Whether you fancy channelling your inner Roman, wandering in the footsteps of Sir Walter Scott, discovering Scotland’s coal mining history or the seat of the Dundas family in Midlothian, or marvelling at the exquisitely detailed Great Tapestry of Scotland in Galashiels, there’s something for everyone to experience and enjoy this summer.”

Liz Young, Midlothian Tourism Forum, said: “Midlothian Tourism Forum is thrilled to be working collaboratively with the SSDA and Scotrail to promote Midlothian’s fantastic attractions to families visiting our region by public transport this summer. We believe this joined-up approach will be a great success in encouraging more people to explore Midlothian using sustainable travel options.”

A spokesperson for Trimontium Museum, said: “The new VR experience at Trimontium Museum brings the past into the 21st century as families experience life two thousand years ago at the edge of the Roman Empire using the latest immersive technologies, right here in the Scottish Borders in 2024!”