



National
Trust

This is Calke Abbey

This visual story will give you an idea of what you might see and hear, and who you might meet when you come to visit Summer of Play.



Summer of Play

There are three main Summer of Play areas you can explore. These are marked on this map.

At Calke Explore, you will find a natural play area and cycle hire.

The Garden of Imagination, in the walled garden, includes themed zones for multisensory play.

In the Stableyards, you will find several spaces to play.



-  **Garden of Imagination**
-  **Horseplay in the Stableyards**
-  **Play Along the Way**
-  **Natural Play Area**
-  **Cycle Hire**

-  **Pokémon space**
-  **Stop by our shop to find something to take the fun home**
-  **Feeling peckish? There are plenty of options around the Stableyards, Calke Explore and in the Garden of Imagination**



Middle Lodge

When you get to Calke Abbey, you will arrive at Middle Lodge and will meet a member of the Welcome team.

You will need to show your National Trust membership cards here or pay for admission to the Park and Gardens.

If you want to visit the House, you will need an additional ticket, which you can get from the Ticket Office. If you're a National Trust member, just show your card at the House.



Parking for Calke Explore

Main parking for Calke Explore is on the grass field just beyond the admission hut. It is a short walk from here to Calke Explore, with directional signs in place.

The car park beyond remains open for accessible parking and EV charging as usual, but may be limited.



Calke Explore

You will find a natural play area in the woods. There is a level path throughout, and several benches along the way.

There is a kiosk selling refreshments, and you can find cycle hire near the car park.

There are toilets here, including an accessible toilet and Changing Place. Both include a baby changing facility.

Construction work will be taking place next to the main car park. This may be noisy at times, with heavy machinery. Calke Explore will be open as usual, but car parking spaces may be limited.



Main car park

If you do not stop at Calke Explore, you will arrive in the main car park. You can find accessible spaces close to the Ticket Office if you need one.

Staff may direct you to park in one of the grass overflow areas on busy days. Please let them know if you need the accessible car park, and they will direct you.



Ticket Office

You may meet a member of our welcome team outside the Ticket Office, or you can come inside. They will be wearing a black uniform and will have a lanyard with their name badge on.

This place can be loud during busy times. Busy times include: 10.00-10.30 and 11.30-1.30.

You can borrow a sensory bag from the Ticket Office. These include ear defenders and sensory play resources and are hanging on hooks just inside the door.



Stableyards

You will find the toilets, restaurant and shop in the Stableyards. There are wheelchair and buggy-friendly paths throughout.

There are places to play in the Stableyards, including ping pong, cups and balls, juggling, horse-shoe toss and hobby horses.



Play area

This is the main play area, which is marked on your visitor map. Here you'll find things to explore, touch and play with.

This place can get noisy during busy times. Other visitors may be running, jumping or shouting as they play.



Toilets and baby change

The main toilets are in the Stableyards, near the Restaurant and Shop. Here you'll find an accessible toilet, ladies' and gents' toilets, and baby changing facilities.

Breast feeding is welcome anywhere, but there is a chair in the baby changing facility if you would prefer a private place.

The hand driers in the toilets make a loud sound.



Restaurant and Café

There is a large map at the far end of the Stableyards which shows food and drink options across Calke, and a 'what's on' board outside the Ticket Office.

In the Stableyards you will find the Restaurant and Café. Highchairs are available at both.

You may also find other places to buy refreshments on busier days, including a BBQ near the car park, or a small kiosk.



Route to the Garden of Imagination

This is the route to the Garden of Imagination. The route is 600m. It will take about 10 minutes to walk there.

The route is friendly for prams and wheelchairs. There are several benches to take a break along the way.

There is a buggy service that runs between the Ticket Office, House and Gardens, if you need extra assistance.



Route to the Garden of Imagination

You can follow the bunting and signs to get to the Garden of Imagination.

On your way, you'll pass the Stableyards. There is a short, steep hill in the middle, between the Stableyards and the House. The path down this hill is winding and can be busy.

There is a second hill leading up to the Gardens from the front of the House.



Garden of Imagination

This is the Garden of Imagination. You'll go in through a wooden archway. You'll see coloured bunting, deckchairs and tents. Here you'll find things to touch and play with.

This is a good place to relax and enjoy a picnic. You can also buy drinks, snacks and ice-cream from a van here.



Garden of Imagination

The wooden shed is called the 'Shed of Imagination'. You will meet staff here who will be wearing yellow t-shirts and a lanyard with their name badge. You can borrow a sensory bag from here, which includes ear defenders and sensory play resources.

This place can get noisy during busy times. Other visitors may be running, jumping or shouting as they play.



Slip Garden

To the right of the Garden of Imagination, you will find a door leading into the Slip Garden. This is labelled on the map as the Zen Zone.

This is a quiet space where you can sit and watch the clouds and listen to the birds.



Toilets and baby change

The nearest toilets to the Garden of Imagination are in the garden. It takes 3 minutes to walk there, and there are signs to follow.

Here you'll find ladies' and gents' toilets, and an accessible toilet which includes a baby changing table.

The hand driers in the toilets make a loud sound.





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If you'd like this information in an alternative format, please email calke.abbey@nationaltrust.org.uk or call 01332 863822.

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