

Press release

Tuesday 28th February, 2017

Last chance to bid for Herts Big Weekend tickets!

Time is running out to grab free tickets for fantastic days out in the 2nd Herts Big Weekend!

Registration for this year's Big Weekend (1st and 2nd April 2017) opened at the beginning of February and there have been a whopping 16,000 entries so far.

Over 50 tourist attractions and businesses have donated tickets to Visit Herts' second celebration of the county's tourism industry, and Herts residents are invited to bid for the fantastic variety of fun-filled activities on offer. But hurry – the ballot at www.hertsbigweekend.co.uk closes this Friday (3rd March)!

So far Hertfordshire's wizarding and wildlife residences have attracted the most interest, with Warner Bros. Studio Tour London and Paradise Wildlife Park receiving the most bids to date.

But there are scores of interesting and alternative tickets up for grabs, including St Albans Cathedral, Rye House Kart Raceway, Knebworth House, Hatfield Park Farm, The XC, Willows Activity Farm, Vertigo Adventures, Lee Valley White Water Centre, Lee Valley Park Farms, Natural History Museum Tring, Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation and Henry Moore Studios & Gardens.

Experiences on offer include magical studio tours and stunning stately homes, private cathedral tours, close encounters with wild animals, and thrilling white water or high wire experiences.

There will also be extra prizes up for grabs for ticket holders on 1st and 2nd April.

Herts residents can apply for as many tickets as they like at www.hertsbigweekend.co.uk until Friday 3rd March.

Two tickets will then be allocated per household by ballot (some family tickets are available).

Visit Herts Head of Marketing Sinead Hanna said: "The Big Weekend marks the beginning of the tourist season and is a fantastic way to celebrate all that is on offer in Hertfordshire. We want people who live here, who are our biggest advocates, to have the chance to discover something new – and for free!

"Thanks to the generosity of the attractions and organisations that are taking part we're looking forward to a truly incredible Big Weekend, with a total of 2,400 tickets donated. But you've got to be in it to win it so get online, get registered and get out and enjoy yourself! And don't forget to share your stories and pictures on social media using #hertsbigweekend17!"

Some attractions have also donated extra tickets to the Family Holiday Association charity, which helps struggling families to enjoy a day out for free.

The event is run as part of <u>English Tourism Week</u>, which highlights tourism as one of the fastest growing sectors in the national economy. Last year, more than 13,000 people applied for tickets to the big event, so make sure you get your last minute bids in for as many tickets as possible to be in with a chance of winning!

For more information about Hertfordshire, please visit www.visitherts.co.uk

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Notes to Editors

For further media information on Visit Herts, please contact PR & Marketing Manager Sinead Hanna at Sinead@visitherts.co.uk or Marketing Co-ordinator Lana Crouch at Iana.crouch@visitherts.co.uk, or call 01227 812914.

About Visit Herts

Visit Herts is the destination management organisation for the county of Hertfordshire. Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership awarded the county's tourism service to destination management specialists Go to Places on a two-year contract following an open competitive tender process in 2015.

For further information tweet @visithertsuk, or visit www.visitherts.co.uk