Why this year’s is going to be the best ever...

CARNIVAL!

FREE 32-PAGE GUIDE INSIDE
PLUS: LOADS MORE THINGS TO DO THIS WEEKEND
Ten alternatives to Carnival

Not in the UK? Carnival in Barbados is a seven day holiday alternative

If Notting Hill is a little too noisy for your taste this bank holiday weekend it doesn’t mean you have to stay in and watch the telly. Here are ten peaceful, family-friendly alternatives you may want to consider, assembled by the Time Out team.

1 Thames Barrier Park
On the north side of the river the tranquil Thames Barrier Park opened in 2003, was London’s first new park for half a century. It has a lush sunken garden of wargly hedges and offers perhaps the best views from land of the fabulously undulating silver fronds of the Thames Barrier. The park features a children’s play area, a fountain plaza where kids can splash about and a five-a-side football pitch.

2 Morden Hall Park
This workshop with the friendly folk at Spitalfields City Farm will teach you ways of providing yourself with herbs and salad from the end of season through winter. You’ll learn about

3 Morden Hall Park
Morden Hall Park, a beautiful former charmer house and garden, has a network of wide pathways and impressive avenues of trees, perfect for family picnics. Home and longhorns dip into the River Wandle, which runs through the site, and the rose garden is currently in bloom. The walker will find a National Trust information centre, and the old house/mill hosts a monthly craft market (1-4pm every 2nd Sun) Morden Hall Rd, Morden, SM4 7UJ (0863 6868; www.mordenhall.co.uk). Morden tube, 374-0pm daily. Free.

4 London Lido Cycle ride
The first event of its kind challenging cyclists to ride from Parliament Hill Lido to Brockwell Lido, is organised by the Lidos and Brixton Bicycle Art. The swimming centres were both completed in the late 1950s on similar principles and layouts, both faced closure in the 1980s but are now much-loved resources for their respective local communities. Because they are on opposite sides of London, many novices who love one have never visited the other – this cycle ride is the perfect excuse to do just that. To enter, pick up a ‘Rider’ card at either lido and choose your own route between the two venues. Your times will be stamped and the fastest rider wins the Brixton Bicycle Art and Brockwell Lido Perpetual Trophy.

5 Float down the canal
Hop aboard the Jenny Wren for a picturesque 90-minute cruise from Camden Lock, past London Zoo in Regent’s Park, through the tunnel in to the Oxford Canal and back to Walker’s Quay. Jenny Wren, Camden Lock. (071) 221 8630. Camden High St, London, NW1 9JS (071) 434 6284 (www.napoleonxy.com). Camden Town tube 12.30pm & 2.30pm daily, weekends & bank holiday weekends also 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4pm & 6pm (concess: £4.75, children £2.15, under threes free). £7.50.

6 Guerilla Gardens walk

7 London Wetland Centre
Climb the three-storey tower for excellent views of this 100-acre wildlife area of lake, reeds and marshes, or sit under cover into hides to watch ducks and wading birds undisturbed. On August 31 there is a day of children’s activities including a nature race, painting with afternoon sessions, for all ages, £2.50. London Wetlands Centre, Queen Elizabeth’s Walk, SW2 3UW (020) 8993 6012. Southfields tube, 10.30am every Sat. £4.50 (children £4, £2.50 family ticket). Under 4s free, veterans, disabled and members free.

8 South Bank fund
The National Theatre’s Watch: This Space programme of outdoor theatre continues over the bank holiday with a mix of Catalan variety acts and a dance special – join the Cockten Arxenis in a knees-up, take a mago class or experience an after-dark swing and burlesque performance with the Jay Clark winter. On Sunday at Southbank Centre you can join in with a mass synchronised dance routine choreographed by Katie Price, creator of her hit show ‘Into the Woods’. Learn the moves online before hand, or take part in free workshops which take place on the hour from 11am.

9 Go back to Tudors
It’s all go at Hampton Court, where a three-day Tudor Tournament takes over the magnificent gardens with various jousting, Henry VIII himself, well, someone dressed as King Henry will be competing at Joust to the Finish at the end of the weekend, in the first joust to take place at the palace for more than 445 years. The Tudor Tournament takes place Aug 28-31 at Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, KT8 9AL (844 884 7777), bookings 0845 591 9190. www.hrp.org.uk. Hampton Court rail, 10am-6pm daily (last adm 5pm). £14.50, £7.50 children (5-15). £35 family (2 adults, 3 children). £5.50 discounts.

10 Nunhead Cemetery tour
This south-east London cemetery offers a charming location for a languid wander, but if you prefer more direct guidance, the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery run tours on the last Sunday of every month (this is weekend). The tour of the romantic and overgrown cemetery will allow you to glimpse some of the 34,000 vio-

11 Grove Park

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