

**BRITANNIA
RESCUE**



Road Trip Soft Play Guide

April 2026





Welcome to the
**Britannia Rescue
Road Trip Soft Play Guide**

As one of the UK's leading breakdown providers, we know a thing or two about rescuing people. We're on a mission to help save parents from stressful journeys with kids.

No matter how many snacks you pack, long journeys with little ones can hit bumps in the road. That's why we've created a definitive guide to the best soft play centres near major motorways across the UK, helping parents find the perfect pit stops to break up those dreaded long car journeys.

Every soft play featured has been tried and tested by our very own parenting inspector squad (and their children), so you can trust they'll get your journey back on track.

Safe travels,
The Britannia Rescue Team

Introducing our Influencer Inspector Squad

53% of British parents admit that long car journeys with children are one of the most stressful parts of parenting, so who better to put the soft plays to the test?

We tasked our squad of parents across the UK to review the soft play centres, scoring them on a set criteria and putting their road trip readiness to the test.



Kelly Brady

@the_manc_family
Mum to three children
based in Manchester.

Road trip top tip:

"Plan, plan and plan! Set off early in the morning to beat the traffic and schedule stops along the way. Break up the journey so it's not too much strain on the driver or the passenger who is chief snack supplier and argument negotiator!"



Grace Cullen

@londonlifewithtwokids
Mum to two children
based in London.

Road trip top tip:

"Always allow extra time - way more than you think you need. This means you enjoy the journey more and won't end up being late due to multiple toilet stops, snack breaks, leg stretches and anything else."



Rose Fox

@bristolfamilyblog
Mum to two children
based in Bristol.

Road trip top tip:

"All the snacks and a few new activity books - stickers and water painting are both great! Also, toys wrapped up as surprises are a fun way to entertain them and we love downloading children's audiobooks to listen to."



Zoe Stewart

@mylittlewildlings
Mum to four children
based in Edinburgh.

Road trip top tip:

"Car-a-oke - we have the kids build a playlist before the trip so we can sing along. They are always excited to hear if their choice is next!"



Talia Price

@girlaboutsouthwales
Mum to two children
based in Cardiff.

Road trip top tip:

"Pack plenty of snacks and drinks so you don't end up paying a fortune at service stations, as well as small toys or puzzles to keep them entertained. Don't forget a flask of coffee or tea - because us parents need something too!"

The Soft Play Scoring Criteria

Read more about the scoring criteria our influencer inspector squad used to put the soft play centres' road trip readiness to the test.



Fun Factor

Soft plays are all about stretching those legs and having fun! This considers how much the squad's children enjoyed the visit, the breadth of activities available keeping them entertained and active, plus any highlight features!



Parental Perks

This is all about the perks for parents because let's face it, they deserve a break too! It covers what the facilities were like, whether there was enough space to relax and reset, and the quality of the food & drink (most importantly coffee) options.



Nap Enhancement

Car journeys can mean backseat boredom and traffic tantrums. This one rates how well the soft play centre allows the kids to burn off energy and tire them out making for a more peaceful onward journey for the parents.



Road Trip Readiness

A perfect pit stop means convenience. This rating evaluates how easily accessible it is from a motorway or major road without adding significant time to the journey.



Overall Road Trip Respite Score

The big one! A total score taking all of the ratings into consideration.

The Road Trip Soft Play Map

Plan a visit to one of these soft play centres near motorways and major roads on your next road trip.

1 Adventure Forest
Unit 16 Textilose Rd, Trafford Park, Stretford, Manchester M17 1WA
www.adventureforestplay.co.uk

2 Clown Town
Unit C, Coppetts Centre, N Circular Rd., London N12 0SH
www.clowntown.co.uk

3 Conifox
Adventure Park, Conifox, Kirkliston EH29 9ER
www.conifox.co.uk

4 Fun Shack
Unit A3, Benfield Business Park, Benfield Rd, Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 4NQ
www.funshack.co.uk/locations/newcastle

5 Little Centurions
Unit 18, The Brewery Quarter, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 4FA
www.littlecenturionssoftplay.co.uk/cheltenham

6 Mambo Play
Ocean Way, Cardiff CF24 5PG
www.mamboplay.com

7 The Play Shed
Unit 4a, Rainbow Court, Armstrong Way, Yate, Bristol BS37 5NG
theplayshedbristol.co.uk

8 Space World
2-3 Sinclair Way, Prescot L34 1QN
www.spaceworldplaycentre.co.uk

9 Play Zone
Unit 4, Imperial Centre, Lion Way, Llansamlet, Swansea SA7 9FY
www.theplayzone.co.uk/home-swanea

10 Snakes & Ladders
Syon Park, Brentford TW8 8JF
www.snakes-and-ladders.co.uk





Reviewed by: The Manc Family

Adventure Forest Manchester

LOCATION:

5 minute drive from M60 motorway (Junction 10 or 11)

PRICE:

Kids £7.30-£13.90 / Adults £5

"Located just off the M60 in Trafford Park, this is a fabulous soft play centre. It has two areas split between toddlers and older children - with lots to climb and play on but not too overwhelming - and it's bound to be lots of fun for kids of all ages. As well as soft play apparatus, there's a role play area, football pitch and go karts.

"The coffee and cake are delicious, so perfect for parents needing a pick me up before getting back on the road, and the cafe has lovely hot food options for kids which are included as part of a meal deal entry. There's lots of high chairs and seating space, plus the toilets are big and clean with added extras like wipes and nappies in there.

"It's easy to get to with lots of onsite and on-road parking available making it a great place to stop off, tire the kids out and grab something to eat."



Road Trip Ratings:

- FUN FACTOR: 5 balloons
- PARENTAL PERKS: 5 coffee cups
- ROAD TRIP READINESS: 5 cars
- NAP ENHANCEMENT: 5 ZZZ clouds



Reviewed by: London Life with Two Kids

Clown Town London

LOCATION:

30 second drive from the North Circular Road (A406)

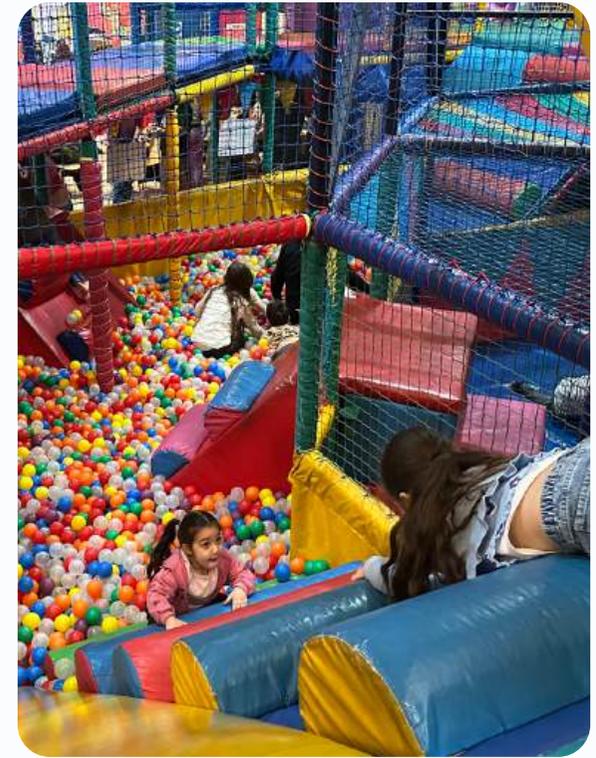
PRICE:

Kids £4-£8.50 / Adults £4

"Clown Town is a perfect place to stop and break up a long car journey, especially if you have children who need to burn off some energy. The soft play is great if you are catering for children of different ages as it has three separate areas - a 0-2 years area with a sensory section, a 2-4 years area which is ideal for toddlers then the main frame is perfect for 4 years+. It has three levels and is big enough for us parents to join in too, with the slides into a huge ball pit a highlight.

"If you need a rest after driving there's a spacious seating area with plenty of natural light which overlooks the frames so it's easy to keep an eye on older children. The facilities are clean, staff are friendly and there's a range of delicious coffees and snacks available for the kids, as well as hot food if you visit near lunchtime.

"A session lasts two hours which is more than enough time, and booking in advance is cheaper. Plus parking is easy so you can easily stop off before hitting the road again."



OVERALL ROAD TRIP
4.5
STARS
RESPITE SCORE

Road Trip Ratings:

FUN FACTOR:

PARENTAL PERKS:

ROAD TRIP READINESS:

NAP ENHANCEMENT:



Reviewed by: My Little Wildlings

Conifox Edinburgh

LOCATION:

7 minute drive from the M9

PRICE:

Kids £13.95-£14.95 / Adults £3.45

"The soft play area at Conifox is exactly what kids need to ward off backseat tantrums and boredom. It's spacious, well-laid out and full of opportunities for climbing, running and exploring with a huge play frame.

"There is plenty to keep children of all ages entertained, including a toddler corner which is a fantastic, safe space for younger children to play while giving parents peace of mind. Since it's located within the adventure park, there's lots of outdoor space for kids to run around and there's ample onsite parking making it a convenient pit stop.

"Another highlight was the parenting room with sofas, toilets and changing facilities which is ideal to make sure your little ones are ready to get back on the road again. Tickets must be prebooked on arrival so make sure to factor this into your visit, and check opening times in advance."



Road Trip Ratings:

FUN FACTOR: 

PARENTAL PERKS: 

ROAD TRIP READINESS: 

NAP ENHANCEMENT: 



Reviewed by: My Little Wildlings

Fun Shack Newcastle

LOCATION:

10-15 minutes drive from the A1 motorway

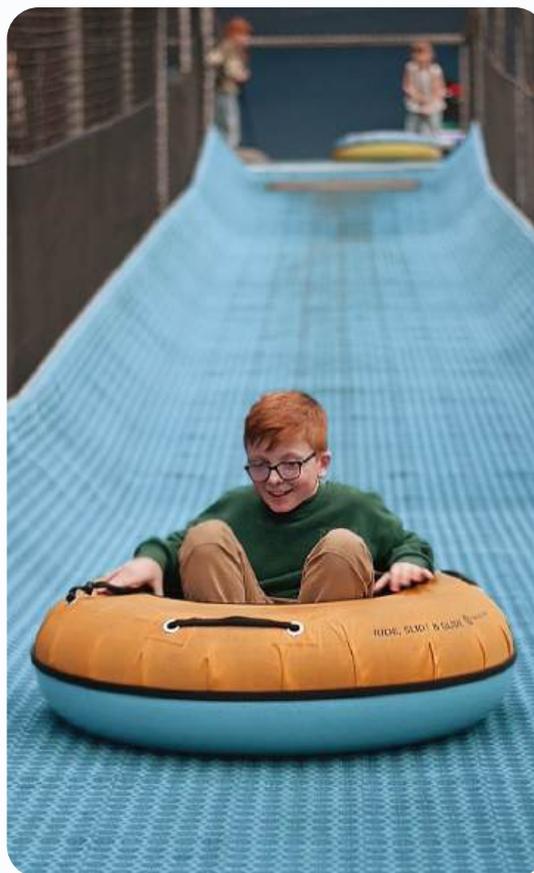
PRICE:

Kids £9.50-£12.50 / Adults £2

“Fun Shack is a fun and worthwhile stop for any road trip, and a great place for kids to burn off lots of energy. The soft play area is packed full of climbing frames, slides and space to explore so there is plenty to keep them busy and excited during the visit. Essentially, a great set up for kids who just want to run, climb and let off steam after being in the car.

“There’s also a few hidden extras such as go-karts and claw machines which prove a hit with kids, but make sure to bring coins for these as they aren’t included in the price. This soft play centre is guaranteed to happily tire children out and ensure they are more settled for the journey ahead.

“The atmosphere was welcoming and family-friendly, making it an easy and enjoyable stop for parents too. It didn’t feel stressful or overcrowded which makes a difference when you need a breather from traveling with little ones.”



Road Trip Ratings:

FUN FACTOR:

PARENTAL PERKS:

ROAD TRIP READINESS:

NAP ENHANCEMENT:





Reviewed by: Bristol Family Blog

Little Centurions Cheltenham

LOCATION:

10-15 minute drive from M5 motorway (Junction 10 or 11)

PRICE:

Kids £10.95-£12.95 / Adults free

"Little Centurions is a brilliant soft play. It's new, clean and just the right size with lots to explore and keep them entertained, but not so big that little ones get overwhelmed. In particular, the Roman theme adds lots of fun and makes it stand out from other soft play centres - the kids loved the hanging shields and play swords!

"The seating area is spacious, so it creates a pleasant environment for parents and carers to relax, while the kids run about and have fun. The free WiFi is also a bonus if you need to catch up on work. The staff were friendly and there's a good range of simple crowd pleasing food including paninis, kids lunchboxes, coffee and cake, so all of the family can leave feeling full before continuing with the onward journey.

"Parking is straight forward making it a convenient pit stop and it's open seven days a week. Booking tickets online is recommended to avoid disappointment and the children are guaranteed to fall asleep in the car after so you don't hear a peep for a little while."

Road Trip Ratings:

FUN FACTOR: 

PARENTAL PERKS: 

ROAD TRIP READINESS: 

NAP ENHANCEMENT: 





Reviewed by: Girl About South Wales

Mambo Play Cardiff

LOCATION:

10-15 minute drive from the M4 motorway (Junction 29-33)

PRICE:

Kids £4.99-£12.99 / Adults £1.99

“Mambo is one of those soft play centres that your kids will ask to go back to over and over again. It’s slightly on the pricer side compared to some soft play centres but worth every penny with a wide variety of fun activities for children.

“The soft play centre is well kept and works via a band system when it’s busy during the school holidays, otherwise there is no time limit on length of stay. One of its standout features is the dedicated area for toddlers and babies which is separated by a gated fence, with all toilets and baby changing facilities super clean.

“There’s also plenty of tables and seating for parents to relax and the cafe food is tasty and filling. It also has strong WiFi connection making it an ideal spot for parents looking to use their kids’ play time wisely before getting back in the car.”



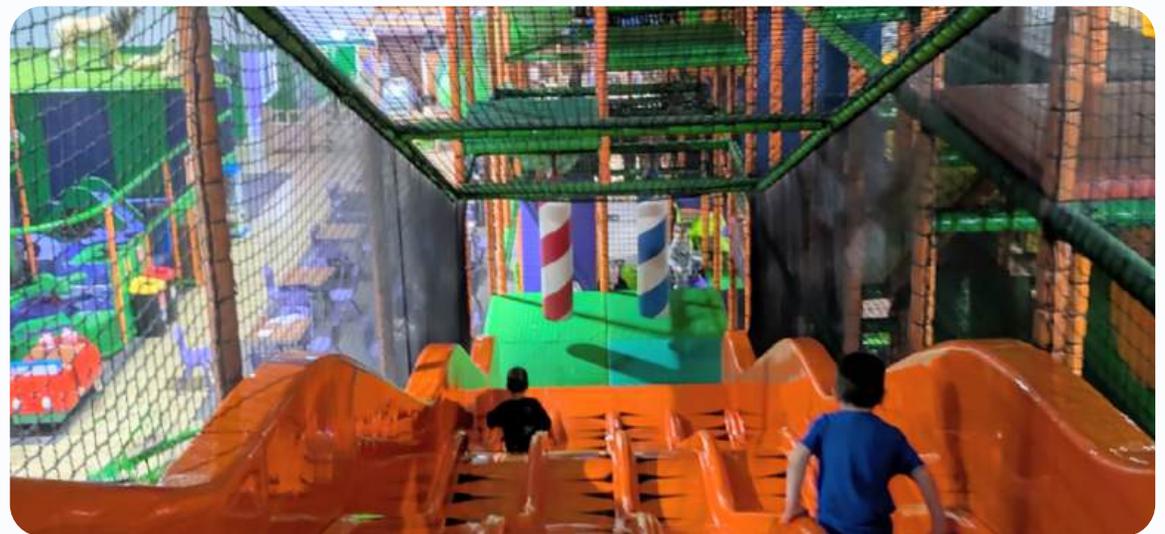
Road Trip Ratings:

FUN FACTOR:

PARENTAL PERKS:

ROAD TRIP READINESS:

NAP ENHANCEMENT:





Reviewed by: Girl About South Wales

Play Zone Swansea

LOCATION:

5 minute drive from M4 motorway (Junction 44 or 45)

PRICE:

Kids £1-£7.25 / Adults £2

"Play Zone is definitely a soft play centre that pleasantly surprises you! It offers a large play area with plenty of slides, a football area for children that just love to kick a ball about, and it also has a separate area for younger children.

"Overall it's a perfect place for the kids to stretch their legs during long car journeys and let off some steam - it's definitely one that tires them out making the chance of a post soft play car nap very likely.

"Entry and the cafe are reasonably priced, and the staff were friendly and helpful. As well as being easily accessible from the motorway, it has a huge onsite car park which is free - although this can get busy during the holidays. There's plenty of seating available on the ground floor and mezzanine level. Top tips are to prebook online and pack long sleeves and trousers for the larger slides."



Road Trip Ratings:

- FUN FACTOR: 5 balloons (4 active, 1 faded)
- PARENTAL PERKS: 5 coffee cups (4 active, 1 faded)
- ROAD TRIP READINESS: 5 cars (4 active, 1 faded)
- NAP ENHANCEMENT: 5 ZZZs (4 active, 1 faded)



Reviewed by: The Manc Family

Space World Liverpool

LOCATION:

5-10 minute drive from the M62 motorway (Junction 5 or 6)

PRICE:

Kids £2.95-£9.25 / Adults £1

“Space World is a great place to stop during a road trip, with bright colours, a space theme throughout and extras like a mini bouncy castle, football pitch and go karts - the children get super excited by it.

“The toddler area is packed full of toys and puzzles, then the bigger soft play structure is perfect for older children with lots to climb and a big slide to keep them busy. There are also extras such as rides but worth noting these aren’t included in the price and you have to pay for them but overall it’s really affordable.

“The extensive food options stood out and it’s ideal for enjoying a lovely lunch and coffee when on the road, and there’s plenty of seating and space. Plus, being so close to the motorway and with good parking options, it’s super convenient.”



Road Trip Ratings:

FUN FACTOR:

PARENTAL PERKS:

ROAD TRIP READINESS:

NAP ENHANCEMENT:





Reviewed by: Bristol Family Blog

The Play Shed Bristol

LOCATION:

15 minute drive from M4 Junction 19 and M32

PRICE:

Kids £4.95-£8.25 / Adults £1.75

"You may hear kids saying this is the "best soft play ever" and there's plenty of reasons why. Designed for 0-11 year olds there is so much to offer, including lots of areas to explore, colour-changing sensory lights, a mini football pitch - a unique feature for a soft play - and even a drop slide for little thrill seekers. With it having so much to offer, it's ideal for helping take the edge of children's restlessness from being in the car.

"The soft play is spread across two sides of the building with seating positioned centrally so it's easy to keep an eye on the kids, giving us parents the chance to relax too, along with the free WiFi.

"The staff are friendly and there's a great food menu to choose from, with everything from breakfast baps and burgers to kids meals, coffee and cake - ideal when you're on the road. There's free parking right outside, making it an easy pit stop when traveling on the M4 and even better, there is no need to prebook."



Road Trip Ratings:

FUN FACTOR:

PARENTAL PERKS:

ROAD TRIP READINESS:

NAP ENHANCEMENT:



Reviewed by: London Life with Two Kids

Snakes & Ladders London

LOCATION:

5-10 minute drive from the M4 motorway (Junction 2)

PRICE:

Kids £12.80-£16.15 / Adults £6.30

“Snakes & Ladders is an excellent pit stop for kids of multiple ages who are in need of an energy release during a long car journey. It has a dedicated area for under-5s and a role play village which is perfect for children up to six years old.

“However, the main attraction is the huge multi-level play frame which has tunnels, obstacles, slides and different parts to climb, plus there is an indoor football pitch and outdoor activities too for when the weather allows. Overall, the soft play has plenty to keep the children entertained and is ideal for active children.

“It has a great family-friendly atmosphere, which has lots of seating with good visibility of the soft play so parents can sit down, supervise and relax. The options of hot meals, snacks and drinks available are good and the coffee in particular was delicious. Parking was convenient too which is ideal for a quick stop before getting back on the road.”

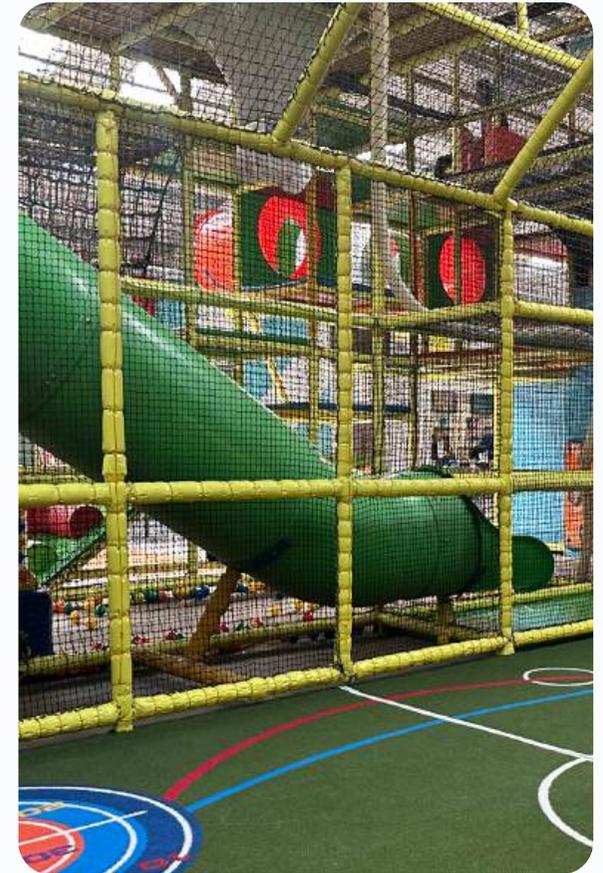
Road Trip Ratings:

FUN FACTOR:

PARENTAL PERKS:

ROAD TRIP READINESS:

NAP ENHANCEMENT:



**BRITANNIA
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Need help?

Call our 24-hour breakdown line:
0330 678 711

For all questions about your coverage
or general enquiries visit:
[britanniarescue.com](https://www.britanniarescue.com)

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