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THREE NEW THEME PARKS



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SMURF'S UP...
the loveable characters have their own village for children to run around and explore

of roller-coasters and some automated ticket villains in for studios Columbia Pictures, DreamWorks and Lionsgate. Get a photo with the stars of Madagascar, watch street The main promenade, Studio will get you feeling – not just watching – the blood splatters and rats running past.

BEST BRITISH CITY BREAKS FOR 2017

WHILE London, Bath, Brighton and Liverpool will always be favourite city breaks, there are plenty more great options in the UK. From Hull to Southampton, here VisitEngland gives a shout-out to the new urban hotspots that deserve a place on your bucket list.

HULL

HULL is UK City of Culture 2017, following major work including a £4.5million overhaul of the Ferens Art Gallery, which reopens in January.

There has also been a huge revitalisation of the waterfront and public spaces, including a refurb of award-winning aquarium, The Deep.

Visitors can now enjoy a vibrant cafe culture and top-notch restaurants around the marina, as well as great music venues, festivals such as the Hull Freedom Festival,



inset, galleries and boutique markets in the arts and cultural quarter known as the Humber Street Fruit Market.

See hull2017.co.uk and visithullandeast.yorkshire.com.

LEEDS

SHOPPERS' paradise Leeds now boasts another attraction after the refurbishment of Grade I-listed Kirkgate Market – famed as the birthplace of Marks & Spencer.

One of the largest indoor markets in Europe, wares include food and drink, fashion, jewellery, flowers, hardware and haberdashery.

Opened in October 2016, Victoria Gate, inset, is another treat for shoppers. A modern take on the Victorian arcades for which Leeds is renowned,



the new shopping area will house the largest John Lewis store outside London.

See visitleeds.co.uk, leeds.gov.uk/leedsmarkets and victoriagate.co.uk.

SOUTHAMPTON

WITH the development of its Cultural Quarter well underway and the Harbour Hotel – the city's first 5★ venue – set to open next year, Southampton is set to become a lot more popular.

At the centre of its arts offerings is Studio 144.

Opening in 2017, this spans buildings framing the Guildhall Square. It will be home to the Nuffield Theatre, due to open in September 2017, as well as an art gallery, café bistro and bar. The



exciting new complex is estimated to attract 350,000 visitors a year.

See discoversouthampton.co.uk and nuffieldtheatre.co.uk/about-us/studio-144.

DERBY

HAVING benefitted from more than £2billion worth of regeneration, Derby has changed beyond recognition in recent years.

Beyond its brilliant beer and reputation as one of Britain's real ale capitals, the lively cathedral city also has a great selection of excellent restaurants that are propelling the city's food scene past the famous Derby pyclets (flattened crumpets, if you're not in the know). Future plans focus on



promoting the city's excellent cycling, which can already be sampled at the Derby Arena, inset, a gigantic new sports arena and velodrome. For more, see visitderby.co.uk.