

News Post Leader UK

Here are the favourite hobbies in lockdown

Lockdown has given us a lot more time to try out new hobbies or resurrect old pastimes. Painting, baking, gardening and exercising have helped us while away the hours of leisure.

A study has found that when it's time to clock off from work or education, people in the UK like to pick up the paintbrush and get creative on paper. With so many monthly Google searches, painting has been revealed as the nation's favourite hobby. Looking at ten cities across the UK, researchers have found that painting topped the favourite hobbies list in Nottingham, Liverpool, Leicester, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Birmingham.

Reading was the most popular leisure activity in Bristol and London, blogging topped the table in Leeds and coding in Sheffield.

Here is a breakdown of the hobbies that have gained the most interest in Google searches:

Birmingham - gardening,
Bristol - puzzles,
Edinburgh - learn a new language,
Glasgow - gardening,
Leicester - puzzles,
Liverpool - learn a new language,
London - puzzles,
Nottingham - puzzles,
Sheffield - baking and puzzles,

The study found that the UK has grown an interest in completing puzzles during lockdown.

Question: What were the hobbies in UK cities during the lockdown?



Is a camper vacation right for you?

Andrew Ditton has been touring motor homes and caravans his whole life, and seven years ago gave up stationary life to live permanently on the road in his Airstream Trailer with his faithful dog Dougal. Having reviewed and lived in a variety of vans for over 20 years, he knows a thing or two about van travel, and how much of the Instagram-fuelled veneer (#VanLife) actually translates into reality.

Here he lifts the lid on what a camper vacation actually entails, providing answers to the big questions – from queries over costs to anxieties over lavatories – so you can make an informed decision about whether camper travel is right for your next trip.

There's a wide variety of destinations that are perfect for exploring by van. For many, the primary reason for selecting a country for camper travel is the abundance of beautiful outdoor vistas, but other things to think about include the availability of vans for rent, costs (sometimes more expensive countries are more appealing to travel by motor home as you can skip hotel fees – more on this later) and, crucially if you're a little nervous about driving a larger vehicle, the quality of roads.

In general, first-timers can't really go wrong in New Zealand, Canada or the USA. The roads here are wide and smooth, van travel is common and the camping options are bountiful. If you are happy driving a smaller van, or comfortable driving wide vehicles on narrow roads, then Scotland is a perennial favorite, while more adventurous campers flock to the serene, wintry landscapes of Iceland – just remember to pack your thermal underwear.

Question: Which countries are best for a camper vacation and why?

Should I get a cat or a dog?

Choosing between getting a cat or dog can be a tough decision, but generally speaking, dogs require more attention while cats are more independent.

Cats and dogs have different needs and characteristics, so this decision is influenced as much by the type of lifestyle you have as it is your personal favourite. It's less about 'dog vs cat' and more about which animal would best suit your lifestyle, taking into account your activity levels, the space you have at home, whether you have children or not, and how much time you can give to a pet.

If you're an energetic "outdoorsy" type who loves keeping active, a dog may be the right choice for you. Dogs need lots of stimulation, fresh air and regular walks, so they're best suited to people who have a garden, live in rural areas or have easy access to parks and open spaces.

Well-trained dogs can be taken on trips and enjoy days out and travelling. Unlike cats, they're not naturally solitary animals, so they shouldn't be left alone all day – if you work long hours or have a very demanding job, think about whether you can give them the full attention they deserve.

Cats don't really need as much indoor space as dogs, especially if they have safe access to a garden. Even without outside access, cats can be content as long as they are fed an appropriate diet and have access to a litterbox, toys and scratching posts to keep their minds and bodies busy. It's also essential that you interact with them frequently, so if you're going away you will need to find somebody to look after them.

Question: what are the characteristics of dogs and of cats?