



National
Trust

What's on

Corfe Castle
at Christmas



©National Trust Images/John Bish

Father Christmas
at Arlington Court



©National Trust Images/Hannah Burton

Find out more

The selection of events here is a small part of what's on offer. You can visit the events page of the website at nationaltrust.org.uk/whats-on and use the search function to find out everything that's going on near you, or at your favourite place.

Facilities and access information can be found on each place's homepage on the website, as can contact details if you require further information.

Events near you for autumn & winter 2019



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How to book

We have indicated where there is an event charge and where booking is necessary. Please note that normal admission charges apply unless you are a member. All children must be accompanied by an adult. And please check beforehand as to whether or not dogs are welcome. We do take every effort to ensure that all event details are correct at the time of going to press. The National Trust reserves the right to cancel or change events if necessary. Tickets are non-refundable.

Key to symbols

- Half-term
- Halloween
- Christmas
- Father Christmas

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

Bath Skyline

Bath BA2 5AH

Flavours of autumn

Sun 13 Oct, 10am-2.30pm

Join a ranger to explore the Bath Skyline, stopping off for some warming homemade soup for lunch around the campfire.

Booking essential 0344 249 1895
£12 (includes lunch)

A run in nature

Sun 20 Oct, 7.30-10am

Explore the Skyline at a slightly faster pace on a 6-7 mile trail run. A ranger and running coach will lead the way, with stops to admire the views, followed by breakfast.

Booking essential 0344 249 1895
£8 (includes breakfast)

Colours of autumn

Sun 27 Oct, 12.30-5pm

This walk looks at the veteran trees, fungi and autumn colours of the Bath Skyline, led by the ranger and local Bath naturalists.

Booking essential 0344 249 1895
£6

Woodland adventure day

Thu 31 Oct, 10.30am-2.30pm

Go wild outdoors this autumn with a day of exploring, fire lighting, games and creativity, plus treats cooked over the campfire. Family event for children age 5 and over.

Booking essential 0344 249 1895
Adult £5.50, child (5+) £11

New Year's ramble

Sun 5 Jan, 9.30am-2pm

On this fairly fast-paced guided walk of the Bath Skyline you may burn off some Christmas calories, but a diversion to Prior Park for a warming hot chocolate will top them back up.

Booking essential 0344 249 1895
£10 (including light refreshments at Prior Park)

Prior Park Landscape Garden

Bath BA2 5AH

Halloween trail

Sat 26 Oct - Sun 3 Nov, 10am-3pm

A fright of ghosts has settled in the garden for Halloween week. To earn your prize, follow the trail around the garden, keeping your eyes peeled for frights and clues along the way.

£2

Prior Park mansion tours

Thu 31 Oct, 11-11.40am & 2-2.40pm

Prior Park mansion, built for Ralph Allen in the 1730s, is now a private school. On this open day you can join an exclusive guided tour of the Georgian building.

Booking essential 0344 249 1895
£8

Christmas trail

Sat & Sun in Dec & 26 Dec, 10am-3pm

This festive season there's a landscape-wide advent calendar to discover at Prior Park. Open the doors to reveal some challenges and festive finds.

50p

BRISTOL

Leigh Woods

Near Bristol

Fungi walk

Sun 6 & 13 Oct, 9-11am

Wander round the woods looking for fungi and learn to identify the different types growing in the woods with help from two knowledgeable experts. Meeting at North Road entrance (BS8 3PL).

Booking essential 0344 249 1895
£11

Nature walk with the Lead Ranger

Sun 20 Oct, 9-10.30am

Join Lead Ranger Carole for a guided tour of Leigh Woods. Discover why it's so special and what the team are doing to look after it. Meeting at North Road entrance (BS8 3PL).

Booking essential 0344 249 1895
£8.50

Veteran tree walk

Sat 9 Nov, 9-11am

A walk around Leigh Woods National Nature Reserve with ranger Tor, discovering wonderful veteran trees, what makes them so special and how we look after them.

Meeting at North Road entrance (BS8 3PL).
Booking essential 0344 249 1895
£8.50

Walk with an archaeologist

Sat 16 Nov, 2-4pm

Discover the secrets of Cadbury Camp Iron Age hill fort on this walk with archaeologist Martin Papworth. Meeting in the car park at Tickenham village hall (BS21 6RX).

Booking essential 0344 249 1895
£11

Tyntesfield

Near Bristol BS48 1NX

Golden tree walks

Sat 21 Sep - Mon 28 Oct, 10am-6pm & Tue 29 Oct - Sat 23 Nov, 10am-5pm

Tyntesfield's trees come from across the globe and fill the garden with autumnal colour. Follow the free trail to see the best seasonal colour and learn about the trees that make up this display.

Autumnal squash display

Mon 7 - Mon 28 Oct, 10am-6pm & Tue 29 Oct - Sun 17 Nov, 10am-5pm

22 varieties of squash, pumpkins and gourds are grown at Tyntesfield. This autumn, see the crop baking in the glasshouses, and once baked they'll form an artistic arrangement in the orangery.

TYNTEtots

Wed & Thu, 23-24 Oct & 20-21 Nov, 10-11.45am & 1-2.45pm. Fri 13 Dec, 10am-11.45pm, Mon 16 - Thu 19 Dec, 10-11.45am & 1-2.45pm & Fri 20 Dec, 10am-11.45am

Join in with themed crafts, activities, games and storytelling throughout the year with TYNTEtots. The themes this autumn and winter are Hansel and Gretel, and Little Red Riding Hood

Booking advisable 0344 249 1895
£6 child

'Play Hard' storytelling tours

Mon - Fri, 4 - 23 Nov, 11am-2.40pm (45 minute tours every 20 minutes)

Step behind closed doors and find out more about the Gibbs family and how they made Tyntesfield their home, including the nurseries on the second floor, which are normally closed to the public. Admission to the house on weekdays during this time is only on one of these tours.

Booking advisable 0344 249 1895

A Very Victorian Christmas at Tyntesfield 🌲

Sat 23 Nov - Mon 6 Jan, 10am-5pm

We're turning back the clock over a hundred years for a very Victorian Christmas, with newly extended opening hours. Meet the Victorian household, make your own wreath, take in a concert in the chapel and more.

Booking advisable 0344 249 1895

Meet Father Christmas 🎅

Mon - Fri, 2-20 Dec, see web for times

Father Christmas is ready to share some festive cheer, and give a gift to those who are on his nice list. Meet the main man in his new home in the Home Farm courtyard.

Booking essential 0344 249 1895

Child (3-12) £11 (includes gift)

Wassail

Sat 25 Jan, 11am-4pm

Welcome in the New Year with traditional music and celebrations. Make your own shaker, rattle it during the 1.30pm parade, and join the the final blessing of the newly completed orchard at 3pm.

DORSET

Brownsea Island

Poole Harbour

Fungi foray

Sat 12 Oct, 7.30-10.30am

Join mushroom experts from the Dorset Fungus Group on a foray. Head out onto the island to hunt for different fungi, then enjoy a warming cuppa and mushrooms on toast in the harbourside café.

Booking essential 0344 249 1895

Adult £25, child £12.50 (includes guided walk, boat fare and breakfast)

October half term on Brownsea 🍁🍂

Sat 26 Oct - Sun 3 Nov, 10am-4pm

Are you brave enough to venture into the haunted woods to see what new spooks lurk in the trees? Plus daily family red squirrel walks and 'Get toasty' campfires on Halloween and at the weekends.

Brownsea bird boats

Mon 18 & Thu 28 Nov, Sat 14 Dec, Sun 12, Tue 14 & Sun 26 Jan, 9am-1pm

A rare opportunity to view one of the best autumn and winter bird spectacles in the UK, with exclusive access to Brownsea Island when it's closed. Explore the island alone or join a guided walk.

Booking essential 0344 249 1895

Adult £25, child £12.50

Christmas wreath making 🌲

Wed 11 Dec, 9.30am-12.20pm & 12.30-3.20pm

Take a trip to Brownsea to make a beautiful wreath using only natural materials from the island. Enjoy the sounds of a live choir and treat yourself to mulled wine and mince pies.

Booking essential 0344 249 1895

£35 (includes boat fare, festive refreshments and materials)

Festive carols and wildlife wanders 🌲

Thu 19 Dec, 10.30am-2pm

Soak up the sights and sounds of Brownsea's winter wildlife on a walk with an expert, followed by a singalong with a local choir and mince pies and mulled wine in the church.

Booking essential 0344 249 1895

Adult £25, child £12.50

Corfe Castle

Wareham BH20 5EZ

Photography workshops

Beginner workshops: Sat 5 Oct, 8-11.30am & Sun 13 Oct, 2.30-5pm

Intermediate workshops: Sat 5 Oct, 2.30-5pm & Sun 13 Oct, 8-11.30am

Join Purbeck photographer and tutor Richard Jeffery on a short walk from Corfe Castle, learning more about your digital camera and how to take great photographs as you explore the landscape.

Booking essential 0344 249 1895

Adults (14+) £5

October half term 🍁

Sat 26 Oct - Sun 3 Nov, 10am-3pm

Take part in the Great Escape teddy bear zip wire and watch missiles launch from the medieval siege engine. Celebrate autumn with the family castle quest and crafts in the Outer Bailey.

Carols in the castle 🌲

Sun 8 & Fri 13 Dec, 5-7pm

Get into the festive spirit by joining us and a local choir for festive songs in the Outer Bailey.

Winter lights 🌲

Sat 14 - Sun 15, Fri 20 - Mon 23 & Fri 27 - Sun 29 Dec, 4.30-7pm

Explore the castle grounds by the light of braziers, beacons and contemporary lighting. Share your Christmas wish at the wishing bridge or snuggle up by a log fire with a warming festive treat.

Winter solstice

Sat 21 Dec, 7.15-9am

Experience the peace and tranquility of sunrise on the shortest day of the year from the castle ruins. The castle gates open early, in time for you to find the perfect spot.

Booking essential 0344 249 1895

£12.50 (includes hot fruit punch and breakfast bap)

A medieval Christmas adventure with the Lord of Misrule 🌲

Sat 14, Sun 15, Sat 21, Sun 22, Mon 23, Fri 27, Sat 28 & Sun 29 Dec, 10.30am-6.30pm; Fri 20 Dec, 4.30-6.30pm & Mon 30 - Tue 31 Dec, 10.30am-4pm

Dating back to medieval England, the Lord of Misrule tradition continues at Corfe Castle. Journey through the castle ruins with the mischief-maker, learn about medieval traditions and join in with games, dances and entertainment.

Hardy's Cottage

Near Dorchester DT2 8QJ

Autumn apples

Tue 1 Oct - Sat 30 Nov, 11am-4pm

This autumn at Hardy's Cottage we'll be celebrating Dorset's favourite fruit, the apple. On selected days there will be apple pressing, cooking demonstrations, apple-themed craft activities, and poetry writing.

See website for details

Tuneful stories with Tim Laycock

Fri 18 Oct & 22 Nov, 1-4pm

As a boy, Hardy was immersed in the musical and storytelling traditions of his family, which inspired storylines and communal scenes in his novels. Tim Laycock brings the Hardy family home to life with stories, folklore and tunes.

Christmas at Hardy's Cottage 🌲

Thu - Sun, 1 - 29 Dec (excludes 25 & 26 Dec), 11am-4pm

Hardy's Cottage will be decked with natural decorations of evergreen from the cottage garden and surrounding woodlands. Come and warm your toes by the fire and sample seasonal treats prepared using traditional recipes.

Carols at the Cottage 🌲

Wed 11 & 18 Dec, 1-4pm

A cold, crisp day, the log fire roaring, and the sound of harmonious voices warming the air. Throughout the afternoon, members of the Ridgeway Singers perform the old carols sung in Hardy's childhood.

Kingston Lacy

Nr Wimborne BH21 4EA

*Dogs not permitted at these events.

Harvest and hibernation 🍂

Sat 19 Oct - Sun 3 Nov, 10am-4pm

Join us for some fun over half term; celebrate the harvest, seasonal produce and all the beautiful autumn colour with a series of hands-on activities.

Out-of-hours guided walks *

Mon 21 Oct & 18 Nov, 9.30am - 10.30am

An opportunity to experience Kingston Lacy park and estate, including some areas not normally accessible, on these guided walks. Approximately 3 miles, starting from the main Kingston Lacy car park.

November house tickets *

Fri 1 Nov - Sun 24 Nov, 15 minute time-slots from 11am-3.45pm

There's plenty to see in this lavish home, from beautifully detailed carvings to intimate family souvenirs. The house will be closed 25 - 28 November for Christmas preparations.

Stir-up Sunday * 🌲

Sun 24 Nov, 15 minute time-slots from 10am-3pm

Discover the traditions behind the creation of Christmas puddings. Take your turn to stir the pudding mix and make a wish, before taking home your very own mini pudding.

Booking advisable via website

£2.50

Christmas in the house * 🌲

Fri 29 Nov - Sun 5 Jan (excluding 25 Dec), 10am-4pm

Collect a timed ticket for Kingston Lacy house and discover rooms filled with twinkling lights and stunning decorations. Late entry to the house until 6pm on Wednesdays-Sundays from 4 Dec - 5 Jan (excluding 25 Dec).

A family Christmas at Kingston Lacy * 🌲

Fri 29 Nov - Sun 5 Jan (excluding 25 Dec), 10am-4pm

Collect a family trail from Visitor Reception and enjoy a wintry adventure around the grounds. You can also have a go at some Christmas crafts and leave a special Christmas wish.

Illuminated garden * 🌲

Wed - Sun, 4 Dec - 5 Jan (excluding 25 Dec), 4pm-7pm

Experience Kingston Lacy during late night openings on Wednesdays - Sundays as the Formal Gardens are transformed by illuminations, interactive lights and festive music.

Max Gate

Dorchester DT1 2FN

Hardy's poems

Tue 1 Oct - Sat 30 Nov, 11am-4pm

This autumn, discover and celebrate Hardy's poems, with poetry readings, displays and the chance to write your own poem in Hardy's poetry study.

Remembrance Sunday: a selection of poetry and readings

Sun 10 Nov, 2pm & 3pm

Members of the New Hardy Players read poetry and prose to mark Remembrance Sunday.

Suggested donation of £3

Christmas at Max Gate 🌲

Thu - Sun, 1 - 29 Dec (excludes 25 & 26 Dec), 11am-4pm

A festive Hardy welcome awaits you, with the house decked out for a Victorian Christmas, craft activities for children, and delicious festive treats cooked in the Max Gate kitchen.

Food! Eating with Hardy

Thu - Sun from 2 Jan, 11am-4pm

Join us at Max Gate throughout 2020 to celebrate all things edible. There will be cooking demonstrations on selected days, and poetry and novel readings exploring the meals that Hardy's characters enjoyed.

Portland House

Weymouth DT4 8RZ

Portland House autumn opening

Fri 4 Oct, 2-5pm, Sat 5 Oct, 11am-5pm & Sun 6 Oct, 11am-4pm

Overlooking Portland harbour from the Weymouth side, this Art Deco holiday villa is a reminder of a glamorous bygone age. You're invited for a special peek into the villa, not usually open to the public.

Members free

Non-member adult £6, child £3

Studland Bay

Dorchester BH19 3AQ

Train in 10

Every Sun until 24 Nov, 9-10am

A 10 week course designed to get you ready for a 10K, with a weekly plan to help achieve your goal. Perfect if you want to start running or get back into it after a break.

Booking essential via website

£50

Wild food and walk

Sat 5 Oct, 11am-2pm

A walk from Knoll beach over the heathland and through the woodland to discover the variety of wild food found in Studland's woodland, followed by a three course wild food based meal.

Booking essential via website

£45 (includes lunch)

Creatures of the night Halloween trail 🍁🍂

Sat 26 Oct - Sun 3 Nov, 10.30am-3.30pm

Explore new parts of Studland on a family nature-themed Halloween trail, followed by some fantastic craft activities in the Discovery Centre.

Wildlife wanderer

Sat 7 & Sun 8 Dec, 11am-1pm

Meet professional photographer David Bailey for a fascinating talk on photography and wildlife, and view a collection of his finest photos. Enjoy a warming lunch whilst having a chat with him.

Booking essential via website

£15 (includes lunch)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Chedworth Roman Villa

Yanworth GL54 3LJ

Adult mosaic workshops

Sat 5 Oct & 16 Nov, 10am-4pm

Join local mosaic artist Sadie Rowlands for this workshop and create a mosaic masterpiece to take home.

Booking essential 0344 249 1895

£60 (includes lunch and materials)

Tablet weaving workshop

Sat 12 Oct, 10am-4pm

Learn the ancient art of tablet weaving. Make something special to take home, or to give as a gift.

Booking essential 0344 249 1895

£45 (includes lunch and materials)

Nalbinding workshop

Sat 9 Nov, 10am-4pm

Try your hand at the ancient art of nalbinding. This fascinating technique predates both knitting and crochet, and is known as 'single needle knitting.' Join Sue Day as she leads this new workshop.

Booking essential 0344 249 1895

Adult £45 (includes lunch and materials)

Dyrham Park

Near Bath SN14 8ER

Deer park tours

Daily (excluding 24 & 25 Dec), 11am-12.15pm & 2-3.15pm

Discover the beauty and history of this living landscape on a free guided seasonal walk to find out what the herd are up to. These invigorating walks are subject to volunteer availability.

Seasonal garden tours

Daily (excluding 24 & 25 Dec), 12 noon-1pm
Free guided walks around the 17th century-inspired West Garden (subject to volunteer availability). In autumn and winter the structural planting, clipped formal topiary and evergreens come into their own.

Harvest festival pear pressing

Sat & Sun, 5 - 13 Oct, 11am-3pm
Dyrham has a long history of making pears into perry, so why not come and have a go at this enjoyable tradition? Gather in the stables to make and try your own juice.
£1.50 for five pears

Creepy crawly half-term trail

Thu 24 Oct - Sun 3 Nov, 10am-3pm
Get your knees knocking this half term as you become a 17th century scientist and follow a trail around the park to find out what gruesome bugs look like under the microscope.
£1

Thousand years of war walk

Thu 7, Sun 10 & Tue 12 Nov, 2-3pm
To tie in with Remembrance Day, these walks around the garden and church look at the wars that have affected Dyrham and its owners, including William Blathwayt who was Secretary at War.

An escape from Christmas present

Sat 30 Nov - Sun 5 Jan (excluding 24 & 25 Dec), 10am-4pm
Fancy a break from the hustle and bustle of modern Christmas? Encounter 17th century winter traditions: church choirs at weekends, children's trails, a poetry trail and subtle decorations crafted from plants and dried flowers.

Dyrham wassail

Sun 5 Jan, 11am-2pm
Create a hullabaloo and help to scare away bad spirits for a bountiful crop come autumn. We'll be singing and shouting the orchard into good health; join us for mulled perry and music.

Hidcote

Near Chipping Campden GL55 6LR

Christmas tree decorating

Sat & Sun, 30 Nov - 8 Dec, 11am-3pm
Warm up by the fire and help to decorate the Christmas tree in the Drawing Room of the Manor. Make Edwardian decorations to hang on the tree or take home with you.

Wreath making workshops

Fri 6 - Sun 8 Dec, 9.30am-2pm
Get into the festive spirit and get your creativity flowing at these workshops, where you'll be guided through how to make a beautiful wreath with greenery from the garden.

**Booking essential 01386 438333
£70 (includes materials)**

Father Christmas comes to Hidcote

Sat 14 & Sun 15 Dec, 10am-3pm
Follow the festive inspired trail around the garden and meet Father Christmas who'll be waiting to hear your Christmas wish.
**Booking essential 01386 438333
£5**

Lodge Park and Sherborne Park Estate

Near Cheltenham, GL54 3PP

Autumn scavenger hunt

Fri - Mon, 4 - 28 Oct, 11am-4pm
Discover the great outdoors around Lodge Park on this fun scavenger hunt for the whole family. Search the landscape and tick off the autumn treasures as you find them.

Sherborne Park autumn ranger walks

Fri 11 & 25 Oct, 10am-12 noon
See red kites soaring overhead and sweeping views as you join the rangers for a walk off the beaten track to find some of the farmland birds, raptors and other wildlife on the estate.
**Booking essential 01451 844257
£5**

Major Pipework wind ensemble

Sun 13 Oct, 1.30-3.30pm
The Great Room will be filled with music for the afternoon. Returning by popular request, Major Pipework bring their unique playing of period music to Lodge Park.

Dormice, nature talk and tea

Thu 17 Oct, 1.30-4.30pm
Find out about the lives of dormice, where they live, and the dangers they face at this talk with Dr Pat Morris. Followed by afternoon tea with cakes, savoury pastries, sandwiches and scones.

**Booking essential 0344 249 1895
£29 (includes afternoon tea)**

Newark Park

Near Wotton-under-Edge GL12 7PZ

Witches, bats and eerie tales

Sat 26 Oct - Sun 3 Nov, 11am-5pm
This half term, discover the history of Newark Park's witches' marks and make your own from clay (Mon-Fri), listen to a spooky tale, follow the trail through the garden and more.

Christmas fair

Fri 29 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, 11am-4pm
Start your Christmas celebrations at the wonderfully festive Christmas fair, with stalls selling a range of unique gifts, seasonal treats, traditional crafts, hand-made goodies and more.

Christmas wreath making workshop

Tue 3 Dec, 10am-12.30pm & 1.30-4pm
Create a Christmas wreath with foliage from the Newark Park garden and estate. With instructions from flower arranger Gillian, you will make your own wreath and table decorations to take home.
**Booking essential 0344 249 1895
£40 (includes materials, a hot drink and seasonal cake)**

Father Christmas

Sat & Sun, 7 - 15 Dec, 11.30am-3.45pm (15 minute bookable visits)
It's a busy time for Father Christmas, but he's managed to make time to stop by Newark Park before Christmas.
**Booking essential 0344 249 1895
£5 (includes gift)**

Snowhill Manor and Garden

Broadway WR12 7JU

A celebration of autumn

Tue 1 - Thu 31 Oct, 11am-5.30pm
Join us to celebrate the traditions of autumn at Snowhill. Watch craftspeople at work, discover the old varieties of apples in the orchards and try delicious seasonal recipes in the café.

Make time for an autumn mindfulness meander

Tue 1 - Thu 31 Oct, 11am-5.30pm
Relax and use all your senses to appreciate this magical time of year. With plenty of quiet spaces and tucked away benches, the garden is the perfect place to practice a little mindfulness.

Autumn family trail

Sat 26 Oct - Sun 3 Nov, 11am-5.30pm
Wrap up warm and follow the family trail around the garden to discover all the sights and smells of this magical time of the year. Venture inside to uncover some of the secrets of the manor.

Traditional tales of magic and wonder

Mon 28 & Wed 30 Oct & Fri 1 Nov, 12 noon-4pm
Everybody loves to hear a good story. Settle down and listen to a storyteller weave her traditional tales from around the world. Expect magic, mystery and perhaps something out of the ordinary.

November weekends at Snowhill

Sat & Sun, 9 Nov - 1 Dec, 11am-2.30pm
As the days shortened, Charles Wade would close up Snowhill Manor and head to the warmer climes of St. Kitts. Come and hear some of the stories and poems which his winter home inspired.

SOMERSET

Barrington Court

Barrington TA19 0NQ

Apple weekend

Sat 26 & Sun 27 Oct, 10.30am-5pm
Barrington Court is famous for award-winning cider and apple juice. Join us for a day of picking, pressing, identifying and tasting, with plenty of apple-themed games, activities and orchard walks.

Autumn half-term happenings

Mon 28 Oct - Sun 3 Nov, 11am-5pm
There's plenty going on this autumn half term, with a family-friendly trail through the garden and orchards, plus harvest craft activities.

Half-term ranger day

Tue 29 Oct, 11am-3pm
Get togged up in comfy clothes and boots for a day in the woods. Learn how to build a campfire without matches, make campfire popcorn, and create a den with expert guidance from the rangers.
£2

Half term falconry day

Thu 31 Oct, 11am-4pm
Witness the spectacle of working birds of prey, with flying displays taking place at approximately 11.30am and 2.30pm on the south lawn. You can chat to the expert handlers between displays.

Christmas market

Sat 30 Nov & Sun 1 Dec, 10.30am-3pm
Step into a world of festive delights at Barrington's first Christmas market. Experience the sights, sounds and smells of the season, and find handmade gifts and homemade fare to share with loved ones.

Father Christmas at Barrington Court

Sat & Sun, 30 Nov - 22 Dec, 11am-3pm
Spend some exclusive time with Father Christmas in his snuggly study; he'll have a quality gift for each child who books in to see him.
**Booking essential via website
£9.50 (includes gift)**

Jolly midwinter merriment

Fri - Mon, 30 Nov - 22 Dec, 10.30am-3pm
The Court and formal garden will be sparkling and festive with music, dancing and activities for all. Enjoy the relaxed ambiance on Fridays and Mondays, or family fun on Saturdays and Sundays.

Coleridge Cottage

Nether Stowey TA5 1NQ

Frankenstein trail

Sat 19 Oct - Sat 27 Oct
Join us for a spooky trail around the cottage. Follow the trail to find all the clues and make your own Frankenstein's monster!
£2 (includes prize)

Dunster Castle

Near Minehead TA24 6SL

Snowdrop planting

Sat & Sun, 5 - 13 Oct, 11am-3pm
Grab a dibber or just use your hands and help plant over 3,000 new snowdrop bulbs in the River Garden. All equipment is provided but you might get a little mucky.

Ghost tours

Sat 19 & 26 Oct, 45 minute tours between 6.20pm-11pm
Do you dare to join a candlelit tour of the most haunted parts of the castle, with a guide telling tales of ghosts and apparitions?
**Booking essential 0344 800 1895
£13**

The Dunster Castle school of magic trail: mythical beasts

Sat 19 Oct - Sun 3 Nov, 10am-4pm
Have you got the wizarding skills to pass the test? Follow the trail around the grounds, ever wary of what mythical beast might be around the corner.
£2.50 (includes prize)

Creepy critters with Exmoor Zoo

Mon - Thurs, 21 - 31 Oct, 11am-4pm
Exmoor Zoo have brought some of their creepiest critters to visit. Dare you step inside the Tenant's Hall to see them?

A Christmas Castle

Sat & Sun, 8 - 22 Dec & Fri 20 & Mon 23 Dec, 11am-4pm
Soak up the festive atmosphere and experience Christmas as the Luttrell family might have. See the rooms dressed to reflect some of their stories and enjoy live festive music on selected dates.

Fyne Court

Near Taunton TA5 2EQ

Sparks at Fyne Court: Ada Lovelace and the Crosse family

Tue 8 Oct, 5.30-8pm
Ada Lovelace was a mathematician and writer, well-known for her work on the early mechanical computer. In this talk, historian Dr David Taylor will discuss her life, loves and connection to Fyne Court.
**Booking essential 0344 249 1895
£15 (includes a drink and nibbles)**

Pumpkin and swede decorating and autumn trail

Mon 21 - Fri 25 Oct, 10am-3pm
Come to Fyne Court this half term for some Halloween fun, including carving or decorating pumpkins and swedes to make Halloween lanterns and an autumn activity trail around the grounds.
Suggested donation £2

Christmas wreath making

Sat 30 Nov & Sun 1 Dec, 11.30am-3pm
Learn how to make a beautiful Christmas wreath from natural resources: the perfect way to get into the festive spirit. Enjoy a hot drink and a mince pie while you decorate.
**Booking essential 0344 249 1895
£25**

Carols under the stars

Sat 7 Dec, 4.30pm-7pm
Get festive in the outdoors: sing, be merry and enjoy Fyne Court illuminated for Christmas. See the garden lit with torches while members of local choir, Company of Voices, lead the singing.
Suggested donation £2

Glastonbury Tor

Near Glastonbury BA6 8YA

Family apple picking festival

Sat 5 & Sun 6 Oct, 11am-2pm
We need help picking apples in Hermitage Orchard at the foot of Glastonbury Tor, to make juice and cider. A great opportunity to enjoy a day outdoors and learn about orchards, and enjoy some childrens games.

Wassailing at Avalon Orchard

Sat 18 Jan, 1-4pm
Wassailing is an ancient custom that involves drinking cider and singing to the trees to encourage good harvest and scare away evil spirits. Hear stories by the fire, tour Glastonbury Tor and more.
**Booking advisable 0344 249 1895
Adult £3, child (5-16) £1**

Horner Wood

Near Minehead TA24 8HY

Post-Christmas ramble

Sat 27 Dec, 10am-1pm
Enjoy a post-Christmas walk at Holnicote Estate. Get a breath of fresh air and join the rangers for a ramble around Horner Wood, followed by soup and roll provided by Horner Farm.
**Booking essential 0344 249 1895
Adult £10, child £5**

Lytes Cary Manor

Near Somerton TA11 7HU

West Wing open days

Fri - Sun, 18 - 20 Oct, 11am-3pm
Take a peek around the West Wing, added in the early 1900s. The West Wing is normally rented out as a holiday let; take this opportunity to explore.

LyteScary Halloween trail 🍷👻

Fri 25 Oct - Sun 3 Nov, 11am-4pm
What will you find lurking in the woods? Pick up a trail and head to the woods to find out about the local bats. Collect a little prize for finding all the bats.

Winter craft market 🌲

Sat 23 & Sun 24 Nov, 10am-2pm
Held in the courtyard, the winter market showcases handmade products made by local crafters. Entry to the market is free.

Montacute House

Montacute TA15 6XP

Tottington Hall comes to Montacute House

Daily until 4 Nov, various times (see web)
Montacute House was the inspiration for Tottington Hall in 'Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit.' To mark Wallace & Gromit's 30th anniversary, Tottington Hall is on display in Montacute House.
Booking advisable 0344 249 1895

Hunt for the Were Rabbit at Montacute House

Daily until 4 Nov, 10am-4.30pm
Can you help Gromit find Wallace before the full moon rises again? Head out into the garden before the Were-Rabbit makes an appearance at Montacute House for this fun family trail.

Level's best farmer's market

Sat 26 Oct, 30 Nov & 14 Dec, 10am-2pm
Held in the old stables, this ever popular and award winning 'best in Somerset' market is filled with top quality local produce and crafts.

Demonstration of Renaissance warfare and martial arts

Sat 16 & Sun 17 Nov, 11.15am-12 noon, 1-1.45pm & 2.15-3pm
What was the difference between the chivalry, medieval combat and cavalry charge of Richard III's army, and the mercenary warfare employed by Henry Tudor? Learn all about Renaissance warfare and watch sword play displays.

The Lord of Misrule returns 🌲

Fri 20 Dec - Wed 1 Jan (excluding 24 & 25 Dec), 3-6pm
Once met never forgotten, the Lord of Misrule is returning to Montacute. There will be music, dance, feasting and drinking down at the old stables, and a grand parade at 5pm each day.

Montacute wassail

Sat 4 Jan, 4.30-5.30pm
Witness and be part of this ancient ceremony to bless the apple trees, with a sing song, a glass of cider or two and banging on pots and pans. Fun for all ages.

Webber's Post

Near Minehead TA24 8TB

Deer rut treks

Thu 10 Oct, 4-7.30pm & Sat 19 Oct, 6.30-10am
Join the Deer Ranger for some wildlife spying in the low light with breakfast or supper. Hear the stags bellowing and look out for the clash of antlers in a battle to be alpha male.
Booking essential 0344 249 1895
Adult £20, child £14 (includes hearty breakfast or supper)

Deer rut trek

Thu 17 Oct, 6-7.30pm
Join the Deer Ranger for some wildlife spying in the low light. Hear the stags bellowing and keep your eyes peeled for the clash of antlers in a battle to be alpha male.
Booking essential 0344 249 1895
Adult £10, child £5

Wellington Monument

Near Wellington TA21 9PB

Pumpkin and swede decorating and autumn trail 🍷👻

Mon 21 - Fri 25 Oct, 10am-3pm
Come to Wellington Monument this half term for some Halloween fun, with pumpkin and swede decorating and carving plus an autumn activity trail around the Monument.
Suggested donation £2

WILTSHIRE

Avebury

Near Marlborough SN8 1RF

Avebury art: sculpture exhibition in the garden

Daily until Sun 13 Oct, 11am-5pm
Avebury Manor garden is a wonderful place to relax. Experience the garden's beauty and tranquility with the added element of an exhibition of outdoor sculptures, showcasing a range of artists and works.

Half-term adventures at Avebury 🍷

Sat 26 Oct - Sun 3 Nov, 11am-3pm
Follow the children's trail in the Old Farmyard and visit Avebury Manor to discover how beliefs and superstitions influenced the lives of people who once lived there.
£2

Samhain walk

Sat 2 Nov, 11am-3pm
The ancient 'Samhain' festival marks the end of the harvest season and beginning of winter. Join a ranger and local Pagan Celebrant for a five mile circular walk, following the route of this sacred festival procession.
Booking essential 0344 249 1895
£5

Christmas traditions come alive at Avebury 🌲

Sat 23 Nov - Sun 5 Jan (excluding 25-26 Dec), 11am-4pm
Find festive cheer at Avebury as you discover the magic of Christmas carols brought to life with displays in the Manor and across the site.

Wreath making workshops 🌲

Mon 2 - Wed 4 Dec, 10am-2pm
Nothing says 'Christmas is here' like hanging a home-made wreath on your door. At this workshop with a professional florist, craft your own festive wreath using natural greenery and festive decorations.
Booking essential 0344 249 1895
£50 (includes refreshments and a light lunch)

Lacock Abbey, Fox Talbot Museum and Village

Near Chippenham SN15 2LG

Autumn highlights at Lacock

Daily until Sun 3 Nov, 10.30am-5pm
Whisper an autumn wish as you catch a falling leaf, see how many different varieties of apples are growing in the orchard, or help the gardeners rake up some leaves in the Botanic Garden.

Photography exhibition at the Fox Talbot Museum by Maggie Taylor

Daily until Sun 3 Nov, 10.30am-5.30pm
Artist Maggie Taylor returns to Lacock with 'Through the Looking Glass.' Using her point and click camera, flatbed scanners and Photoshop, she creates digital art that transports viewers into dreamlike worlds.

Feel at home at Lacock Abbey

Daily until Sun 3 Nov, 11am-5pm
From the Servants' Hall, through the Stone Gallery, Blue Parlour and the Great Hall, we invite you to bring your slippers and unwind, read, relax in armchairs and take time to write postcards by the fire.

Digital photography workshops with Lacock Photography

Sat 12 & Thu 17 Oct & Fri 15 Nov, 10am-12.30pm & 1.30-4pm
Wed 16 Oct, Thu 14 & Sun 17 Nov, 10am-4.30pm
Bring along your camera and develop your digital photography skills at the UK's birthplace of photography with local trainers, Lacock Photography.
Booking essential 0344 249 1895
Top tips 2.5 hour workshop £32, full day introduction £125

Conservation in action: saving Lacock's tiles

Mon 14 - Fri 18 Oct, 11am-5pm
Lacock's volunteers will be working to clean, process and catalogue the historic tiles in Lacock's collection. Lacock Abbey is home to nearly 900 historic tiles, both medieval and Tudor.

Christmas at Lacock 🌲 🍷

Sun 1 Dec - Sun 5 Jan, 11am-4pm (excludes 25 - 26 Dec & 1 Jan)
Why not make a trip to Lacock one of your cosy Christmas traditions? Christmas trees, traditional decorations, a festive trail, and Father Christmas (booking essential) are all heading to Lacock this December.

Volunteer recruitment day

Sat 18 Jan, 10am-12 noon
Have you ever wanted to volunteer, but weren't sure where to begin? Drop in to find out how volunteers make Lacock so special; helping with conservation, room guiding, gardening, events and more.

Mompesson House

Salisbury SP1 2EL

Family trail

Daily until Sun 3 Nov, 11am-4.30pm
Little ones can have a go at some of the activities Jinny Townsend enjoyed doing when she lived at Mompesson.

Standing by my darling's side: A Victorian experience of life, love and loss

Daily until Sun 3 Nov, 11am-4.30pm
This exhibition tells the untold story of former resident Jinny Townsend and focuses on her life in Salisbury's Cathedral Close and her courtship and eventual marriage to Willie Hammick.

A Victorian Christmas 🌲

Thu - Sun, 23 Nov - 22 Dec, 11am-3.30pm
Explore this welcoming townhouse decorated for a Victorian Christmas, inspired by Jinny Townsend's family Christmases at Mompesson. There'll be beautifully decorated Christmas trees, displays of festive food and gifts and a family trail.

Stourhead

Near Warminster BA12 6QD

Autumn aglow

Tue 1 Oct - Sun 10 Nov, 9am-5pm
As the seasons change, the garden comes to life with reflections on the lake creating the illusion that the garden is ablaze. Colours change throughout autumn, so come back and see the transformation.

Raven's story wands

Sat & Sun, 5 Oct - 10 Nov, 9am-5pm
As the raven tells his tale of Stourhead, taking inspiration from his surroundings, families are invited to gather natural objects and weave them into their own special Stourhead story using natural 'story wands.'
£2

A handmade Christmas 🌲

Sat 23 Nov - Sun 22 Dec, 11am-3.30pm
Visit the house this Christmas, beautifully decorated with handcrafted decorations, flowers, lights and trees. Enjoy a tranquil winter walk in the garden, and discover the handmade wreaths that adorn the temple buildings.

Christmas at Stourhead 🌲

Thu - Sun, 29 Nov - 8 Dec & daily, 12 - 24 & 26 - 30 Dec, 4.20-8pm
For the first time the tree-tops will glisten and the garden shimmer and sparkle. Wander beneath tree canopies drenched in seasonal colour and dripping with shards of light, frosty snowflakes, stars and baubles.
Booking essential
christmasatstourhead.co.uk
Adult £18 (advanced price)

Storytelling with Father Christmas 🍷

Sat & Sun, 30 Nov - 22 Dec, 10.30am-3pm
After festive crafts in the stable yard, saddle up your hobby reindeer and ride to the grotto. Snuggle up on the cushions as Father Christmas shares a festive story followed by gifts.
Booking essential via website
Child £9 (includes gift)

Christmas wreath workshops 🌲

Tue 3 & 10 Dec, 10am-12noon
Create your own traditional Christmas wreath with winter foliage grown on the Stourhead estate, with professional florist Sarah Pettigrew.
Booking essential via website
£38 (includes materials, mulled wine and mince pies)

Behind closed doors

Mon - Fri, 6 - 31 Jan, 11am-3pm
A chance to see behind the normally closed doors of the house. Tours may cover four floors with many stairs and will give you an insight into what goes on behind the scenes.
Booking essential 01747 841152 (option four)

The Courts Garden

Near Bradford-on-Avon BA14 6RR

'Elements of Nature' sculpture exhibition

Daily (closed Wed), Tue 1 Oct - Sun 20 Oct, 11am-5.30pm
Enjoy the elegant, flowing forms of a collection of works by Somerset-based sculptor Ian Marlow, set amidst the glorious autumn colours. The sculptures, created in stainless steel, are inspired by nature and natural forms.

Wiltshire countryside

Stonehenge autumn archaeology walks

Sat 5 & 19 Oct & Sat 9 & Wed 27 Nov, 1-4pm
These 4 mile walks with an expert guide take you around the World Heritage Site, visiting ancient earthworks including the Cursus monument, the Stonehenge avenue and some of the many barrows.
Booking essential 0344 249 1895
Adult £8, child free

Stonehenge Landscape walk with an archaeologist

Wed 9 Oct, 10am-1pm
Join Neolithic expert and National Trust archaeologist, Dr Nick Snashall, on this 4 mile exploration of the Stonehenge Landscape and find out about the latest exciting discoveries.
Booking essential 0344 249 1895
Adult £18, child £5

Discover Durrington Walls

Sat 12 & Wed 23 Oct & Wed 20 Nov, 1.30-4pm
Have you ever wondered where the builders of Stonehenge lived? The landscape guides lead a 2.5 - 3 mile walk to explore the Durrington Walls and discover 6,000 years of hidden history.
Booking essential 0344 249 1895
Adult £8, child free

On the trail of Beowulf 🍷

Tue 29 Oct, 2-5pm
This Halloween hear the action-packed tale of the warrior Beowulf, on a 3 mile walk with storyteller Lizzie Bryant, culminating in a warming fire, mulled apple juice and marshmallow toasting.
Booking essential 0344 249 1895
Adult £7.50, child (8+) £3.50 (includes refreshments)

Midwinter archaeology walk

Thu 19 Dec, 1-4pm
The Stonehenge landscape is an intriguing place, with secrets lying tantalisingly below ground. This enjoyable and informative 4 mile walk with an expert guide will have you looking at this landscape with new eyes.
Booking essential 0344 249 1895
Adult £8, child free