This January we’re challenging you to create your very own bucket list – perhaps watching the sunrise on a beautiful beach, spotting your first red squirrel or discovering something fascinating about the past.

The more time you spend with us, the more we can do to look after the places that bring us peace, relaxation and enjoyment, and our descendants can celebrate another 125 years!

To get you started with that list, we’ve suggested some must-see places. Here’s to you and your year.

**Quarry Bank**

In its heyday, this mighty mill stood on the very cusp of the Industrial Revolution. Today, you can feel the bustle and clatter of the working machinery and explore the homes of the owner, mill workers and child apprentices, giving you a sense of what life here was really like. The large, valley gardens and woodland river walks mean there’s plenty to see outside too.

**Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal**

It’s just an abbey, right? Wrong! There’s so much more to this World Heritage Site, and that’s why it’s worth the journey. Carve out a full day to explore the atmospheric ruins and elegant water garden with its temples, follies, views, canals and bridges. It’s perfect for nature lovers, with 500 wild deer roaming the medieval park. There’s a large adventure playground to burn off that last bit of energy too, before picking up a freshly baked cake for the road.

**Hill Top**

For a touch of nostalgia, head to Hill Top in the heart of the Lake District. This is the special place that inspired Beatrix Potter to create her much-loved characters such as Jemima Puddle-Duck and Tom Kitten. Filled with her personal possessions, including Lakeland furniture and trophies for her prize-winning Herdwick sheep, the house is a true reminder of Beatrix’s legacy.

**Fell Foot**

Take to the water at Fell Foot in a rowing boat, paddleboard or kayak and see Windermere from a new perspective.

**The Hardmans’ House**

Step into a 1950s time capsule at The Hardmans’ House in Liverpool, the home and studio of society photographer Edward Chambré Hardman.

**Little Moreton Hall**

Discover a Tudor survivor at Little Moreton Hall: a 500-year-old hall with crooked walls, uneven floors and a quirky charm.

**Sizergh**

Climb to the roof of the Solar Tower for the first time this year and get a bird’s eye view of three counties: Cumbria, Lancashire and Yorkshire.

**Allan Bank**

Watch red squirrels from the picture window at Allan Bank as you sip a cuppa next to the fire.

**Lyme**

Stroll around the lake at Lyme made famous by a certain Mr Darcy in the BBC adaptation of Pride and Prejudice.

**Borrowdale**

Scale the ladder to the top of the Bowder Stone in Borrowdale, a giant rock six times the height of a person.

**Windermere**

You’ll find your spring What’s on inside
Get your culture fix

William Wordsworth’s anniversary

This year is the 250th anniversary of the birth of William Wordsworth, one of the world’s best-loved nature poets. To celebrate, an anniversary exhibition, ‘The Child’s Father of the Men’ is taking place at Wordsworth House & Garden. See how William was shaped by his wild, outdoor world, and the impact that his country upbringing, with poetry, and emotive photographs that focus on the fragile nature of childhood objects.

The story of Tudor Speke Hall

Fancy learning a little more about Elizabethan England? An exhibition at Speke Hall, ‘Pevsner, Turner and Traynor’, brings out the best of this period, and the life and death secrets of the Norris family that have been kept hidden inside the walls of Speke Hall.

Shaped by the environment

One of Britain’s greatest industrial heritage sites, Quarry Bank, shares the story of the Industrial Revolution via the environment – not just at the mill, but across the world – in a brand new exhibition.

Step on the roof at Sizergh

For the first time you can climb the spiral staircase to the top of Sizhger Solar Tower for an exclusive roof-top view. The top of the tower gives you a bird’s eye view of three countries, Cambria, Lancashire and Yorkshire, as well as a unique perspective over the whole estate. Afterwards, head to the Tower Restaurant, where you’ll find a new menu about the family who have called Sizhger their home for 100 years.

Get active

Button up for a crisp winter walk or get the blood pumping by taking the scenic route for your run or bike ride. Many of the places we care for host parkruns, including Fell Foot and Lyme – a great way to get fit in beautiful surroundings.

Awaken your senses

Nature is coming back to life. The month. Get outdoors and look for snowdrops, crocuses and snowdrops appearing, exciting sensory experiences. Thanks to our top tips below, you can see how it’s all coming together.

Be the first in line

February is the month many of our places open up after a good winter clean. Be the first to visit this year and see what’s new. We’d recommend the Beatrix Potter Gallery in Hawkshead, where there’s a new exhibition of Beatrix’s original artwork, illustrations and letters, exploring how important her work was throughout her life.

Why I love… Quarry Bank’s gardens

At Hare Hill white flowers are planted in pairs, as a tribute to Charles Brockschmitt to his twin brother Patrick. There’s nothing dull about magnolias at Dunham Massey.

See a whole field of yellow tulips at Rydal, planted by William Wordsworth in memory of his daughter, Dora.

Tulips take the Lythme light.

Tulip

Bluebell

Wake up to spring with noisy nature

A spring spring day return, new life begins to unfurl, plants wake up and birdsong fills the lighter mornings. It’s a noisy season for nature.

From April, the air in Langdale fills with the soothing strains of nature as the bees’ lazy song and the birds’ chirps take the first clafunsary steps. And mint roses still beautify the Sizergh’meadow as the Ruffly Highland calves arrive. The cattle at Lyme have an important job to do, guiding the land to shape natural habitats for plants and animals.

As Mother Nature assembles her band of new arrivals, there are plenty of places to get outdoors as a family and ‘join nature’s band’ (one of your 50 things to do before you’re 11¾).

Get your February fabulous

Make your February fabulous! Give your year the kick start it needs by getting out and about this February and making the most of your membership.

Wake up to spring – a great way to get fit in beautiful surroundings.

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National Trust Curator Katie Taylor explores the gardens where industry meets nature on the outskirts of Manchester.

Quarry Bank’s fascinating gardens are the most complete example of an early industrial landscape on the outskirts of the world’s first industrial city. After a major restoration project in the early 2000s, these gardens show us a style of gardening known as the industrial picturesque. This was a historic design movement that celebrated and embraced the natural setting of the mill, with industry and nature sitting side by side. The River Bollin is at the heart of the garden, powering the mill’s great water wheel while creating a soundtrack of rushing water wherever you go – a key feature of 19th century picturesque garden design.

Fyfe head away from the mill and the Cong family gardens, there are different stories to discover. The Apprentice House and 15 Stacks at Quarry Bank today, you’ll discover a landscape that shows us the very different sides of industrial life in Cottonopolis.

For the best views – visit Dunham Massey

In the summer months, the colourful Rose Garden is a very special place. For the hidden gems – visit Hare Hill

Discover a colourful walled garden with a tranquil walled garden at its heart.
Summer must-sees

The RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park, 22–26 July

Play poop sticks, slim a stone and make friends with a bug at Quarry Bank: three of your 50 things to do before you’re 1½, in one day out

Pizza Thursdays on the shore of Windermere; throughout the summer at Fell Foot

Glamping or trying a tree tent at Low Wray campsite

Long summer days

School holiday season is all about fun for the family - but don’t forget that means mums, dads, granddads and grandparents too. Don’t sit on the side lines while the kids tick off their list of 50 things to do before you’re 1½, join in! How about climbing your very first mountain Stick Tarn in the Lakes is a great place to start for beginners and little legs alike.

Autumn is the season to get the gang together, wellies and all, and get out for a woodland walk amidst the changing colours. A meander through Borrowdale’s wooded valley and along the shore of Derwent Water could be just the ticket, or on a rainy day take cover under the canopy on a walk to Aira Force to see the 65ft waterfall in full flow. Nature buries itself this season too: head out to spot red squirrels getting their winter stash together at Allan Bank; stand back for the spectacle of rutting deer at Lyme and Dunham Massey; and find a vantage spot at Speke Hall to enjoy golden hour and spot migrating birds coming in to the Mersey shore.

Autumn must-sees

Spot red squirrels and rutting deer

Enjoy a warming dish that’s travelled metres from the orchards and kitchen garden at Sizergh, continuing its centuries old tradition of self-sufficiency

Head to Little Moreton Hall at Halloween and learn about the superstitious barn marks on the walls

Christmas must-sees

Christmas lights at Dunham Massey

Browse for gifts at our shop in Grasmere

Our Father Christmas experiences book up early – look out for the events listings and bookings from late summer and make your plans.

Getting a taste for autumn

A taste for autumn

For alternative formats, please call us on 01539 435599 or email NW.CustomerEnquiries@nationaltrust.org.uk

News round-up

An anniversary with a difference at our very own Pemberley

Whether you’re a fan of the series or you simply know the reference, there’s no denying that the wet-shirts Mr Darcy scene in the TV series of Pride and Prejudice is iconic. But did you know that Pemberley, home to the man himself, is our very own Lyme? In 2020 it’s 25 years since the series aired and Mr Darcy emerged from the pond at Lyme.

Gawthorpe Hall stars in new novel

Winning fans and awards since it was published last year, bestselling book The Familiars is set at Gawthorpe Hall. It spent months on the Times Bestsellers list and was featured on Richard and Judy’s book club.

Centre around Lancastrian history with the Pendle witch trials as its backdrop, it was written by new author Stacey Halls, originally from Lancashire. Have you read the books Come and see for yourself where all the action takes place.

Wordsworth 250

Young People’s Poetry Competition

World-famous nature poet William Wordsworth was born at Wordsworth House in Cockermouth 250 years ago. Follow in his footsteps and write a poem inspired by the natural world.

There are two age categories: 12 years and under, and 13-18 years old. The best poem in each category, judged by poets Rowan McCabe and Helen Mort, will win a family camping weekend in the Lake District.

For details of how to enter go to nationaltrust.org.uk/wordsworth-house

Closing date for entries 24 February 2020.