



Near you

From little acorns mighty oaks grow...



© National Trust Images/Paul Harris

Hill Top

We're celebrating this year – it's 125 years since the Trust was set up. It's a momentous occasion and we'd love the year ahead to be momentous for you too.

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.

Must-sees in the North West

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

Climb to the roof of the Solar Tower at **Sizergh** for the first time this year and get a birds' eye view of three counties: Cumbria, Lancashire and Yorkshire.

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

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



© National Trust Images/Chris Lacey

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.



Allan Bank

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

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

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

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



Little Moreton Hall

We'd love to hear what you've been up to. Join the adventure and share your top spots this season:

Make your February fabulous



No need to wait for spring. Give your year the kick start it needs by getting out and about this February and making the most of your membership.

Dunham Massey

© National Trust Images/Chris Lacey

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 this month. Get outdoors and look for snowdrops, cyclamen and winter aconite beginning to flower. Our top tip? Head to the winter garden at **Dunham Massey**. It opened exactly ten years ago and it's one of the largest in the UK. Home to over 1,600 colourful trees and shrubs and thousands of snowdrops and blue winter iris, it's one of the best ways we know to brighten up the last days of winter.

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 correspondence was to her throughout her life.

Get your culture fix

There's a packed programme of new exhibitions in the North West this year. Here are some of the highlights.

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 is Father of the Man'* is taking place at **Wordsworth House and Garden**. See how William was shaped by his wild, outdoor upbringing, with poetry, and emotive photographs that focus on the fragile nature of childhood objects.



Wordsworth House & Garden

© National Trust Images/Paul Harris

The story of Tudor Speke Hall

Fancy learning a little more about Elizabethan England? An exhibition at **Speke Hall**, *Tension, Turmoil and Traitors*, brings out the turmoil of this period, and the life or death secrets of the Norris family that have been kept hidden inside the walls of Speke Hall.

© National Trust Images/Seb Sturhead

Shaped by the environment

One of Britain's greatest industrial heritage sites, **Quarry Bank**, shares the impact that the Industrial Revolution had on 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 **Sizergh's Solar Tower** for an exclusive roof top tour. The top of the tower gives you a birds' eye view of three counties, Cumbria, Lancashire and Yorkshire, as well as a unique perspective over the whole estate. Afterwards, head to the Tower Basement, where you'll find a new film about the family who have called Sizergh their home for 800 years.



Sizergh

© National Trust Images/Mick Whelan

Find out more in What's on

Wake up to spring with noisy nature



Derwent Water

© National Trust Images/Mark Jefferson

As spring days 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 bleats of native Herdwick lambs making themselves known. Cheeps and chirps sound at **Little Moreton Hall** as coots, moorhens and ducklings take their first clumsy steps. And mini moos will be heard on **Lyme's** moorland as the fluffy Highland calves arrive. The cattle at Lyme have an important job to do, grazing 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*). On a walk among the trees at **Wray Castle**, pick up some sticks and tap out a tune.

If you're looking to turn the sound down and escape the hustle and bustle, then there's no better soundtrack to a peaceful afternoon than nature. To disconnect entirely, head to the **Bowder Stone** in Borrowdale – an area protected from the outside world by steep crags and cliffs. Walk along the access-for-all track to hear the orchestra of birdsong and climb the ladder up the stone to enjoy the dawn chorus from the same height as the tree canopy.

© National Trust Images/Chris Lacey



Quarry Bank

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 edge 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 formation of the land, 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 whilst creating a soundtrack of running water everywhere you go – a key feature of 18th century picturesque garden design.

If you head away from the mill and the Greg family's gardens, there are different stories to discover. The Apprentice House and 13 Oak Cottages have gardens that show us what the mill workers' lives were like, through a contrasting style of productive gardening. These kitchen gardens were used to grow high carbohydrate, low maintenance vegetables to provide food for the workers in the mill.

As you explore the gardens at Quarry Bank today, you'll discover a landscape that shows us the very different sides of industrial life in Cottonopolis.

Must-see gardens in the North West

For the **best roses**... visit **Dunham Massey**

In the summer months, the colourful Rose Garden is a very special place.

For the **book lover**... visit **Hill Top**
Uncover Beatrix Potter's very own cottage garden – watch out for Jemima Puddle-Duck!

For a **hidden gem**... visit **Hare Hill**
Discover a colourful wooded garden with a tranquil walled garden at its heart.

Why I love... Quarry Bank's gardens

Nature's colour palette

At Hare Hill white flowers are planted in pairs, as a tribute from Charles Brocklehurst to his twin brother Patrick.

There's nothing dull about magnolia at Dunham Massey.

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

Tulips take the Lyme light.

Shasta daisy

Patches of bright purple crocus pop out across the Knoll at Sizergh.

Crocus

Magnolia

Quarry Bank's new varieties will add even more colour at rhododendron time.

Rhododendron

Daffodil

Rare Teesdale violets hide amongst the wildflowers on the coast at Arnside.

Violet

Tulip

Tiptoe through a woodland carpet at Tarn Hows.

Bluebell

Your 2020 vision



We hope that we've inspired you to explore the landmarks on your doorstep, and a little further afield. With a busy spring put to bed, it's time to start looking forward to the rest of the year and keeping that list alive. It's never too early to make plans for Christmas... is it?

Summer must-sees



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

Play pooh sticks, skim a stone and make friends with a bug at **Quarry Bank**: three of your *50 things to do before you're 11¾*, 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

School holiday season is all about fun for the family – but don't forget that means mums, dads, grandads and grandmas too. Don't sit on the side lines while the kids tick off their list of *50 things to do before you're 11¾*, join in! How about climbing your very first mountain? **Stickle Tarn** in the Lakes is a great place to start for beginners and little legs alike.

Long summer days



Quarry Bank

Getting a taste for autumn



Sizergh

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 busies 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.

And all over the region we'll be serving up the spoils from our kitchen gardens as we reach peak harvest season. At **Sticklebarn**, join us for Octoberfest where Cumbrian food and drink will be served all weekend – just the thing to round off a day adventuring on the surrounding rugged fells.

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 their centuries old tradition of self-sufficiency

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

Make your list, and check it twice

You may have just gotten over this year's celebrations, but Christmas will be back again before you know it. So like the big man in red, it's worth making your list early this year, whether it's booking in to see the thousands of sparkling lights at **Dunham Massey** or getting that pre-Christmas catch up planned in with friends over a mince pie. Look out for Christmas listings and bookings from late summer and make your plans.

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 event bookings going live from late summer

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-shirted 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.



© National Trust Images/Robert Morris

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.

Centred 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 book? 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.



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