



February half-term adventures with the National Trust

From wintery adventures in nature, outdoor trails and welly wanders, to seasonally inspired crafts, activities and games, there are lots of events and activities on offer this February half-term with the National Trust.

Whether you're exploring woodland, gardens and landscapes as a family on cold, crisp winter days, or looking for indoor activities and a warming lunch to escape from the rain, whatever the weather the National Trust has something to entertain you and your family.

Here's a round-up of what's on near you this half-term. To plan your adventure, visit <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/peak-district-derbyshire>

Derbyshire & Peak District:

Calke Abbey

Planning for February half term? We've got you covered, with plenty to see and do at Calke Abbey all week long. Go on an adventure and immerse yourself in nature on a self-guided family trail. Tap into all your senses and see what new things you discover along the way. As you explore all around, be mindful where you step, as you may be treading on someone's home. Download the trail from our website for an afternoon of family fun. As buds begin to burst for the new season, take a trip to the blossom arch in the Pleasure Grounds. Walk through the tunnel and admire an array of handmade blooms mirroring nature's transformation. Revisit after half term to watch the arch spring to life with more recycled creations as blossom develops.

Children's Country House at Sudbury

The Children's Country House at Sudbury is a place to have fun with history for both adults and children alike. Explore the late 17th-century home of the Vernon family, learn about childhood through the ages and revel in the beauty of play in the Stableyard and Gardens. As February unfolds, The Children's Country House transforms into a hub of excitement for FebFest, featuring a myriad of activities. Look out for local habitat on the wildlife cameras, catch captivating tales narrated by the Storytelling Team and enjoy a warm drink and something to eat in the Fairytale Forest Café.

Dovedale

Explore Dovedale with a seasonal scavenger hunt from Saturday 17 February to Sunday 25 February. Be a detective and search the beautiful landscape with its towering ravines for items that match the descriptions on your trail sheet.

While you're on your hunt, challenge your family and friends to a round of the Animal Guessing Game. Can you describe the animal you have on your animal stick without using certain words or phrases? Collect your trail and Animal Guessing Game pack from the Dovedale Welcome Hub near the car park when you arrive.

Trail sheets are £2 per sheet and Animal Guessing Game packs are £1 per pack.

Hardwick Hall

Get hands on at Hardwick Hall this half term and explore the delights of natural play. With activity stations in the Stableyard, a winter warmer pick-me-up is never too far away!

The mud kitchen and bamboo chutes set are where young adventurers thrive. Watch as they sculpt, create, and revel in the joy of messy play. If a family trail is on the cards, become a budding bird expert and navigate through Lady Spencer's wood armed with spotter sheets available from Visitor Reception. Discover the fascinating world of our feathered friends and keep a look out for family workshops on bird box decoration to help give a home to nature.

No pre-booking necessary. Normal admission charges apply.

High Peak near Hope Valley, Derbyshire

Discover tales of local folklore and ancient history with the Family Folklore Walk from Edale, a guided 8km circular walk of the Vale of Edale on Tuesday 13 February.

Explore the beauty of the High Peak in the Peak District with an experienced guide who can tell you all about the landscape and history that surrounds you. Experience the exceptional views and learn about strange folklore, local legends and mythical beasts of the past.

With incredibly knowledgeable walk leaders guiding your way across the terrain, this is a great family activity to get you outside in nature.

Ideal for families with children over the age of 10 years old.

Booking is essential. Dogs on a short lead are welcome but there may be some stiles. The guided walk will start from the Penny Pot Café by Edale railway station.

Ilam

Discover Ilam Park using all your senses in a Winter Sensory Trail. Look for sights, sounds and sensory experiences that connect you to nature. Be mindful as you explore the beautiful surroundings of the park. Listen to the wind that blows through the trees. Look to see how many creepy crawlies you can see, or try exploring using just your sense of smell. If you need some time to relax, try Ilam's Meditation Station or be creative and make bunting with a leaf colour wheel.

On Thursday 22 February, create some beautiful and natural clay mandalas with drop-in workshops throughout the day. Collect materials from around the park and create your clay

mandala, guided by workshop leaders to help you create patterns using the natural materials you have collected. These sessions run from 11am to 2pm and is £3 per mandala.

Kedleston Hall

At Kedleston Hall. 'Go Wild for Winter' with a trail through the short walk with activities from 'Winter Wellbeing' (self-led yoga) to 'Icsey-spy' where families can have a go at nature spotting. 16 - 25 February, admission charges apply.

We know of over 40 species of bird that call Kedleston's lake home in winter. The ranger team will be offering bird box-making experience on Wednesday 21 February (11am-1pm). Construct a nesting box and encourage wildlife at home. £6 per person - under 5s must be accompanied by an adult.

Select rooms in the Hall are also open every day. Check website for opening times.

Longshaw

Find out what it's like to be one of Longshaw's famous wild deer and explore the grounds with a fun sensory trail from Saturday 10 February to Sunday 25 February. Discover more with a series of interactive stations that show you what life is like for these beautiful creatures. What do deer hooves sound like when they walk over different types of terrain? What's it like to have their sense of smell? Can you spot your deer fiends hiding in the woods and what does a deer do if it has an itch?

Use all your senses to find out more about the life of Longshaw's four legged residents and experience the world from a deer-fferent point of view.

Normal admission parking charges apply and is free for National Trust members. Trail sheets are £2 per sheet.

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For further media information please contact:

Simon Prosser – meemarcomms@nationaltrust.org.uk, 07483 981497

Notes to editors

About the National Trust

The National Trust is an independent conservation charity founded in 1895 by three people: Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Hardwicke Rawnsley, who saw the importance of the nation's heritage and open spaces and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy. Today, across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, we continue to look after places so people and nature can thrive.

We care for more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 780 miles of coastline, 1 million collection items and 500 historic properties, gardens and nature reserves. In 2022/23 we received 24 million visitors to our pay for entry sites. The National Trust is for everyone - we were founded for the benefit of the whole nation, and our 5.7 million members, funders and donors, and tens of thousands of volunteers support our work to care for nature, beauty, history for everyone, for ever.

IMAGES CAN BE FOUND [here](#)