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- [Lighting Up Kedleston Hall for Diwali 2023](#) - visitors across all communities are warmly invited to join us in celebration of Diwali at Kedleston Hall, the National Trust house near Derby.
- Between 3-19 November, visitors can experience Kedleston Hall transformed by music, light installations and filled with the warm colour of marigolds and flickering diya lamps.

Known to many as the 'Festival of Light' Diwali is the most celebrated festival in India. The festival, which means different things to different religions and people, is celebrated over five days in late autumn. Many people light diyas (small clay oil lamps) and entrances of homes are decorated with rangolis (colourful traditional patterns created on the floor.) The rangoli is a symbol of welcome, positive energy and good luck and these designs are usually placed on the threshold to homes - everyone is welcome to this celebration of Diwali at Kedleston Hall.

This November 2023, in celebration of Diwali, there will be a festival of light and colour at Kedleston Hall. The Dressing Room and the Library will be lit with light projections of rangoli patterns (delivered in conjunction with [QUAD](#)) and there will be traditional decorations including diyas. The Museum of Kedleston, displaying the Curzon (original custodians of the Hall) collection, will also be open.

Simran Sandhu, Senior Programming and Partnerships Officer at Kedleston Hall elaborates, "Diwali is the most widely celebrated festival across India, and it is the time of the year when everything looks magical.

"Kedleston is working with the local Indian community, volunteers, and staff to fashion marigolds (often used for festive occasions in India) out of vivid coloured yarn and paper. We will be decorating the Library, Kedleston's room of enlightenment, with hundreds of diyas made by local artist Sheena Holland. Local community groups and primary schools have also been involved in the effort to paint some of these diyas traditional colours of turquoise, pink, yellow and gold.

"We want all communities to be part of this festival of joy and light so please do get in contact if you would like to play a part."

Jennie Lloyd, Interim General Manager at Kedleston Hall explains further, "In previous years, Kedleston Hall's events programme included a number of activities in celebration of Diwali. This 2023 sees Kedleston build and expand on these previous events. It is particularly relevant for Kedleston to include a programme in celebration of Diwali due to the links of Lord Curzon's time as Viceroy of India and the extensive South Asian collection in our care.

"Diwali, provides the perfect opportunity for us to share in those festivities and welcome everyone by bringing light and celebration to the Hall."

During the festivities, visitors can also experience a dance performance by professional dance artist, Priya Sundar, who will use the Indian Classical dance style of Bharatnatyam to tell the story of Diwali. Produced and delivered by [Surtal Arts](#). This event is free (admission charges apply), but numbers are limited so booking online via the Kedleston website is essential.

It is also the final opportunity to see the current seasonal exhibition in the Hall. 'My Adornment is My Power' by artist and jewellery designer [Anisha Parmar](#) is inspired by historic jewellery from South Asia at Kedleston Hall. She explores inherited jewellery and themes of power and female adornment both in Kedleston's collection and through her own work that she has created.

Our Diwali programming runs from 3-19 November. For further information and opening times, please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kedleston-hall

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Image 1: Diyas in production for Diwali

Images credit 1: Sheena Holland

Image 2: Hundreds of marigolds are being spun out of yarn in celebration of Diwali at Kedleston Hall.

Images credit 2: National Trust Images

Web: nationaltrust.org.uk/kedleston-hall

Twitter: @KedlestonNT

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Notes for Editors:

About Kedleston Hall

Kedleston Hall was designed not as a family house, but to be a show palace for lavish entertaining and for displaying extensive collections of paintings, sculpture and original furnishings. Kedleston is a stunning example of the work of the 18th-century architect Robert Adam. Kedleston is surrounded by over 800 acres of naturalistic parkland including a lake, cascades and original Adam features. The parkland is full of wildlife, woodlands and walks for all to enjoy. The Curzon family have lived here since the 12th century and continue to live at the Hall.

About the Museum

Kedleston Hall has over one thousand objects from across the Asian continent. This collection was brought together by George Nathaniel Curzon, 1st Marquess Curzon of Kedleston (1859-1925) who inherited the Hall in 1916. Curzon travelled extensively across Asia and in 1899 became the Viceroy of India, making him the highest British representative in colonial India.

Once known as the 'Indian Museum' and later the 'Eastern Museum', the collection includes objects from countries as diverse as Japan and Turkey, Korea and Nepal. The largest group of objects originate from India, and reflect the period when Curzon was Viceroy (1899-1905).

The collection ranges from tourist souvenirs to diplomatic gifts, commissioned pieces and personal items.

The museum at Kedleston was established in 1927 in collaboration with the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The mode of display and the labelling reflect the period in which it was created.

Research is now underway to conserve and inform a re-presentation of the objects. There are many things we do not know about this collection, numerous questions to be answered and stories to unravel. How and where Curzon acquired the objects is one important question. So too, is their cultural, religious, and artistic significance. Over the coming months, different partners will help us re-present objects selected from the museum. By shining a light on small groups of objects we hope to explore different stories, spark conversations, and uncover new connections.

About the National Trust

The National Trust is a 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.

The Trust has committed to achieving carbon net zero emissions by 2030, and establishing 20 million trees to help tackle climate change, creating green corridors for people and nature near towns and cities, running a year-long campaign to connect people with nature and continuing investment in arts and heritage. Ensuring everyone who visits feels welcome, and more people can access its places continues to be another key aspect of the charity's work.

Entirely independent of Government, the National Trust looks after more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 780 miles of coastline and hundreds of special places across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.



Painted diyas Credit: Sheena Holland



Marigolds Credit: National Trust