

# National Trust Press Release

1 October 2026

IMAGES CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).

## Autumn adventures with the National Trust this October half term

Enjoy the magic of autumn as a family with a whole host of adventures and activities at National Trust places near you. From ghoulish tricks to nature's treats, the conservation charity is offering heaps of fun for all the family this October half term.

Escape into the great outdoors together on an autumnal walk to collect a rainbow of fallen leaves. Embark on a nature trail to discover wildlife, as well as the weird and wonderful fungi that's emerged. Challenge friends and family members to seasonal fun and games during autumn days out at National Trust places.

There are plenty of Halloween-themed activities and events to help celebrate the spookier side of the season too. From pumpkin displays to creepy crafts, spooky story-telling sessions and frightfully entertaining Halloween trails, there's plenty of fun for everyone.

Here's the top pick of exciting events and activities in Derbyshire and the Peak District to keep the whole family entertained this October half term.

### **Hardwick, Doe Lea, Chesterfield, Derbyshire**

Autumn has arrived at Hardwick with a programme of activities that blends family fun with an Elizabethan twist. The **Apple Jack Story Trail** invites visitors to enjoy a family adventure in the orchard as they follow the enchanting tale of Apple Jack. A new **Pokémon Art Trail** offers explorers the chance to hunt for Pokémon art signs.

The **Stranger Folk Mobile App Experience**, meanwhile, gives visitors the opportunity to take part in a digital Halloween team adventure as it invites groups of up to six to close the crack between ours and the spirit world.

Between 17-31 October, there will also be a series of **Hallowtide half term activities** with the opportunity to have a go at witches' hat hoopa, broomstick barefoot walk, apple games and traditional crafts.

An after-hours **Hallowtide Storytelling** in the Hall's High Great Chamber takes place on 30 October. These stories of myths and legends are inspired by Hardwick's vast 16<sup>th</sup> century collections. For details: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hardwick](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hardwick)

## **Peak District**

### [Ilam Park](#)

Families can enjoy history, magic and wildlife adventures across the Peak District this half term, with activities at Ilam Park and Longshaw.

At Ilam Park, families can step back in time with a Journey Through Time trail, running 24–31 October. Explore millions of years of history, from ancient landscapes and prehistoric creatures to events from the past, while solving clues and challenges along the way. £3 per trail, with a prize for every completed trail.

On 28 October from 11am, young witches and wizards can get creative with a broom-making workshop. Guided by an experienced ranger, children will use natural materials from the estate to make and decorate their own magical broomstick. £10 per child – every child makes a broom.

### [Longshaw Estate](#)

Over at Longshaw on 30 October from 10am, families can build their own bat box using hand tools, helping provide a home for local wildlife. All ages are welcome, although children must be supervised by an adult. £15 per bat box. Booking essential. Car parking charges apply, with free parking for National Trust members.

With hands-on activities, outdoor exploration and plenty of opportunities to learn, there's something for the whole family to enjoy this half term in the Peak District.

## **Calke Abbey, Ticknall**

- The inaugural [scarecrow competition trail](#) will run from 17 October – 1 November
- [Spooky tunnels](#) run from 17 October – 1 November
- Halloween storytelling sessions are bookable online, running from 23-25 October

Calke Abbey, the 'country house in decline', is the perfect place to spend spooky season, with eerie abandoned rooms and peeling wallpaper. Visitors can venture into the tunnels if they dare and enter a world of witchcraft and sorcery, where mysterious potions are brewing and unknown creatures lurk in every corner. Outside, the first ever Scarecrow Competition Trail invites visitors to spot the scarecrows around the gardens and vote for their favourite one. The Spooky Tunnels and Scarecrow Trail are included in admission or free for National Trust members.

Bookable Storytelling Sessions with Fiona the Witch are running from Saturday 24 to Sunday 25 October, with tailored under-5s and SEND-friendly sessions taking place on Friday 23. Sessions cost £5 per child; each ticket includes up to two accompanying adults and all the materials to make a Halloween craft during the session that the child can take home with them as a memento of their visit.

Visitors can find out more and book via Calke's event webpage: [Events at Calke Abbey](#).

### **Staunton Harold reservoir**

Sneaky goblins, cunning boggarts and Stranger Folk are slipping through the cracks to stir up trouble this October half-term at Staunton Harold. Download the Stranger Folk app (at home, as signal onsite can be unreliable) and set off on a magical folklore adventure from 17 October – 1 November. Find out more: [Stranger Folk at Staunton Harold | National Trust](#)

### **The Children's Country House at Sudbury**

- Enter a magical world of colour and light in [Myriad by Architects of Air | National Trust](#) from 16 October – 25 October
- Join The Very Hungry Caterpillar™ [The Very Hungry Caterpillar™ trail | National Trust](#) trail from 2 October – 2 November
- Discover the historic parkland and Deercote on a hosted Head Gardener walk [Hosted Deercote Parkland Walk | National Trust](#)

Set to bring a sense of awe, wonder and adventure for visitors this autumn, The Children's Country House brings extraordinary experiences for all ages across half-term.

For an immersive journey unlike no other, enter Myriad by Architects of Air: a monumental walk in inflatable 'Luminarium' structure. Inspired by forms found in nature, geometry and architecture, this enchanting sensory world will bring maze-like spaces filled with winding paths, radiant light and soaring domes.

Fully accessible, enter a mesmerising labyrinth of light and colour which invites rest, curiosity and reflection. To book tickets, head to the property website events page.

Also new for this season, experience a captivating story of nature's greatest transformation within The Very Hungry Caterpillar™ trail. Enhanced by illustrated trail markers, giant food posts, activities and games, children learn about the days of the week, counting, and the life cycle of a butterfly.

And on selected dates across October, discover The Children's Country House's surrounding parkland on a guided walk. Hosted by the property Head Gardener, learn about the historic Deercote building and discover how nature is nurtured through inspiring conservation projects. Limited spaces are available, to book visit: [Hosted Deercote Parkland Walk | National Trust](#)

### **Kedleston Hall, near Quarndon, Derby**

- Diwali will arrive at Kedleston Hall from 23 October – 15 November, normal admission prices apply for non-members, prebooking not required.  
To find out more visit: [Lighting up Kedleston for Diwali 2026 | National Trust](#)

Widely anticipated, and a cherished highlight in Kedleston Hall's calendar each year, Diwali returns with a joyful programme of events and a spectacle of colour for 2026. For this Diwali, expect a historic house transformed by music, light and engaging performances led by local community collaborations.

Across Kedleston, uncover thousands of hand-crafted marigolds designed into intricate floor rangoli patterns, and follow mesmerising light projections casting Diwali inspired designs across century worn walls.

As the celebrations unfold, Kedleston welcomes visitors for an unmissable fusion of music, craft and cuisine including Indian block printing workshops, stick dancing and instrumental recitals led by Diwali tradition.

Family creative workshops will also be on offer, where visitors all ages are invited to create paper marigolds and nature inspired autumn lanterns.

**– ENDS –**

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**For images:**

[October Half Term](#)

### **Notes to editors**

#### **About the National Trust**

The National Trust is an independent conservation charity founded in 1895 to preserve historic and natural places in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and open them up for everyone to enjoy. 131 years later and that mission is still at the heart of what we do.

Over the next decade, our cause will be delivered through our [People & Nature Thriving strategy](#). We have three ambitious goals: to restore nature - not just on National Trust land, but everywhere; to end unequal access to nature, beauty and history; and to inspire millions more people to care and take action.

With our 5.3m members, 40,000 volunteers, and our supporters, partners and communities, we collectively represent a cause that's bigger than just ourselves: it's about caring for nature and heritage everywhere, for everyone, for ever.