

National Trust Press Release

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Lighting up Kedleston Hall for Diwali 2026

- [Celebrate Diwali at Kedleston Hall | National Trust](#) Kedleston Hall, the National Trust property near Derby, will welcome visitors from all communities to experience the Festival of Lights in a spectacular setting.
- From Friday 23 October to Sunday 15 November, Diwali will bring immersive and uplifting celebrations through colour, light and community-led partnerships.
- Across Diwali, visitors will have an opportunity to engage in themed drop-in craft sessions, sample South Asian cuisine and join in hosted story-telling sessions.
- New for 2026 and for October half-term, on 27 October Prints of the Punjab will provide guided workshops to showcase the intricacies of traditional Indian Block Printing.
- On 14 November, a day of South Asian inspired musical residencies will be held in the domed Saloon and will feature performers including sitar as well as a bansuri flute and tabla duo. The day will include late-night opening until 7pm where visitors can experience Diwali illuminations into the sunset across the property.

Bringing colour, cuisine and community-led programming partnerships, including live performances by musicians from Derby itself, Diwali will bring an immersive and memorable experience for visitors with a house transformation at Kedleston Hall unlike any other this year.

Preparations are in place at the spectacular 18th century country-house setting, due to bring its most anticipated autumn highlight, as Diwali celebrations return on Friday October 23.

Inspired by connections to South Asia held through objects found within its Museum collection, 2026 will mark a fourth year of Diwali programming at the scenic National Trust parkland property, located around five miles from Derby.

Morgan Feely, Kedleston Hall's Property Experience Curator said:

"Kedleston Hall's strong connection to South Asia goes back over a century to the time when Lord Curzon of Kedleston was Viceroy of India (1899–1905).

The Museum of over 1,000 objects from across Asia that he established on the ground floor, reflects this colonial history, as well as celebrating the beauty and craftsmanship of the arts of Asia.

Today, the National Trust is working with diaspora communities to explore the relevance of this collection to people in Derby and beyond."

Building on Kedleston's community focused programming, partnerships for programming this year include Indian Block Making crafts on 27 October with Prints of the Punjab, and a day of South Asian inspired musical and dance residencies on November 14.

A brand-new Diwali Kedleston events concept for this year, performers will include Soulful Sangeet, a tabla and bansuri flute duo, and Chithrinie Nirupama, a Sri Lankan Sitarist and Composer based in Derby, who fuses Indian classical music and Sri Lankan Folk with electronic sound effects.

Developed as a day to capture the warmth and community spirit of Diwali, visitors will also have a rare opportunity to experience Kedleston Hall after-hours into the late evening and see the house illuminated after sunset.

Sophie Wightman-Kitts, Senior Visitor Experience Officer explained:

"On Saturday 14 November, visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy this Diwali showcase until 7pm, as we extend our opening to be able to appreciate the lights, music and decorations after dark."

In addition, during the day and brand-new for this year, we are also particularly excited to be welcoming local South Asian artists and performers who will fill the domed Saloon with music and dance."

Enhancing the visitor experience for Diwali throughout the 250-year-old property, vibrant patterned light illuminations, draped saris, and intricate floor rangolis will bring Kedleston's historic interiors alive to dramatic effect as joyful plans unfold to welcome thousands of expectant visitors.

One of the most iconic pieces of the property's decorations, colourful floor marigold rangolis, will feature throughout the house, but the largest will be installed within the Marble Hall. This showstopping centrepiece will follow the design of a honey suckle marble inlaid floor and will be delicately created by hand - taking around 12 hours to complete.

Revealing the origin story of the rangoli's marigolds and adding an insight into the craftsmanship of Diwali decorations, a special film will also be on display in Kedleston's historic Smoking Room. This will allow visitors to uncover the craftsmanship of the detailed rangoli: comprising of over 3,000 exquisite sholapiths (derived from plant cores) and marigold garlands created in Bengal using traditional methods, natural materials, and skills passed through generations.

Sophie Wightman-Kitts, Senior Visitor Experience Officer at Kedleston Hall says:

"During Diwali it is always great to welcome new and existing audiences to enjoy the rangolis and lights which have been carefully laid throughout the Hall at Kedleston."

Leading from the Marble Hall's rangoli work of art, visitors will experience expressive South Asian music, dance and performance on Saturday 14 November. The Saloon, crowned by a magnificent Pantheon inspired domed ceiling, will provide a unique and beautiful backdrop for a day of musical residencies.

Also bringing a sense of togetherness and engagement for families, hands-on craft experiences and Diwali hosted storytelling sessions will also be on offer during Kedleston's Diwali schedule. Across weekend celebrations, which lead into October half-term and end on

Sunday November 15, all ages can create Diwali themed decorations. Whilst newly planned for half-term this year, on October 27 authentic Indian Block Printing sessions will be led by the expertise of Prints of the Punjab.

Sophie Wightman-Kitts concludes:

“For 2026, our programming focus has been very much community led as we continue to cultivate relationships in celebrating Diwali each year.”

Through collaborative input from community stakeholders, we have aimed to create an authentic and engaging event; ultimately showcasing local talent and Kedleston’s connection with Diwali in a meaningful way.”

Diwali will be held from Friday 23 October until Sunday 15 November.

Celebrations are included in general admission, and no entry bookings are required. Free for National Trust members, however, donations are welcomed.

To find out more about Diwali 2026 at Kedleston Hall including opening times visit:

[Celebrate Diwali at Kedleston Hall | National Trust](#)

[Events at Kedleston Hall](#)

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For further media information please contact:

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For images:

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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.

