What's New in England 2025

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England's 2025 highlights

- **Bradford: UK City of Culture 2025** – All eyes are on Bradford this year, as it takes the helm as **UK City of Culture 2025** – endorsed by leading creatives such as artist **David Hockney**, magician Steven Frayne and singer **Zayn Malik**. Bradford will host more than 1,000 new performances by local, national and international creatives including 365 artworks, as well as festivals and live music shows – many of which will be free. Also this year, the city's new dining hub **Darley Street Market** will open its doors, while music venue **Bradford Live** and the **Bradford National Science and Media Museum** will unveil fresh renovations (dates TBC). And keep an eye out for the new biopic TV series ***Gandhi***, which was filmed in Bradford.

- **200th anniversary of the modern railway, nationwide** – 200 years ago on 27 September 1825, the world's first steam-powered passenger train travelled on the Stockton and Darlington Railway: the birth of modern rail travel. The anniversary will be celebrated with **Railway 200** festivities all over England this year, including York's National Railway Museum reopening its **Station Hall** (September), Stockton and Darlington Railway's **S&DR200 festival** (March – November) and new exhibition **Fuelling the Railway Revolution** in County Durham (from June). Meanwhile, this summer the ***Britannic Explorer*, A Belmond Train** will become England's first luxury sleeper hotel traversing London, Cornwall and the Lake District with fine dining, spa treatments and spectacular views.

- **Jane Austen's 250th birthday, nationwide** – Happy birthday, Jane Austen! The great author was born in Hampshire on 16 December 1775, and what better excuse to revisit her era-defining novels – and the places that inspired them? In Bath, don your bonnet for three **Austen-themed gala balls** complete with Regency dance lessons (May, June and December) – while **Jane Austen's House** in Hampshire will host festivals, pop up talks and writing workshops year-round. There will be Austen exhibitions at Bath's **No.1 Royal Crescent** (July – November), Winchester's **Gallery in The Arc** (July – November) and Southampton's **SeaCity Museum** (March-October). And for the first time ever, her **schoolroom in Reading** will open to visitors (April – October), as will **No. 8 College Street** in Winchester (June – August), where she spent the final few weeks of her life. With the new four-part BBC drama ***Miss Austen*** released in February 2025, this anniversary is a great opportunity to explore England's many famous literary and filming locations associated with the renowned author's work.

- **Women's Rugby World Cup 2025, nationwide** – Come on, Red Roses! The world's elite women's rugby teams will go head-to-head at the **Women's Rugby World Cup 2025**, at arenas all over England (August and September). Games will take place in **Brighton and Hove**, **Bristol**, **Exeter**, **London**, **Manchester**, **Northampton**, **Sunderland** and **York** – giving fans the chance to see top teams in action.

- **Top new hotels** – From shepherds' huts to city havens, a vast range of new hotels will open across England this year. In the capital, look out for the deluxe **Six Senses London** (late 2025), **Dorsett Canary Wharf** (spring) and **The Newman** (summer) – while in June, **The Chancery Rosewood** will bring five-star flair to the former US Embassy in Mayfair. Elsewhere, other hot properties include **Treehouse Hotel Manchester** (spring 2025) and Northumberland's **Bailiffgate Hotel** in Alnwick (June), and new outposts for **THE PIG in Stratford-upon-Avon** and **Hotel Gotham in Newcastle** (June 2025). For more details and new openings all over England, check the *Accommodation* section below.

- **Fresh wellness experiences** – England has a wealth of new ways to put a spring in your step: **Tudor Farmhouse Hotel** in the Forest of Dean will debut new journalling and mindfulness retreats (June), Tofte Manor's **Wellbeing Escapes** in Bedfordshire will offer seasonal eating and sound baths (March) and the Isles of Scilly will host Tresco's inaugural **Festival of Wellness** (March) with coastal yoga and Qi Gong. Hop on the hot sauna trend at Lancashire's **Hidden Hills Glamping**, whose cabins all feature private saunas (January) or splash out on the two-storey hydrotherapy suite at Mayfair's **Cambridge House** (winter).

Trends

All-star anniversaries
It's set to be a bumper year for birthday parties. Not only is this the **250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth**, and the **200th year of the modern British railway**, but London-born artist **J.M.W. Turner** will turn 250 in April with celebrations including Margate's **Turner Contemporary** gallery displaying the Turner painting *Margate Beach* from February 2025. In the capital, the **Greenwich Royal Observatory** will mark its 350th year, honoured by the launch of a three-year regeneration programme which will include new galleries, refurbishments and accessibility improvements and the **London Eye** will turn a comparatively youthful 25 years old in the spring. The **New Forest** will celebrate its 20th year as a national park – while **UNESCO**, the UN's cultural conservation organisation which was founded in London, will blow out 80 candles on its cake. To celebrate, why not visit one of England's 19 UNESCO-listed treasures, such as Stonehenge, the Lake District or Derby's Derwent Valley? Other anniversaries are more poignant, such as **80 years since VE Day** – which marked the end of WW2 in Europe on 8 May 1945 – and 85 years since the daring **Operation Dynamo** rescued Allied troops at Dunkirk. It is also 60 years since the death of **Sir Winston Churchill**, the former Prime Minister who led Britain to victory in WW2. And finally, a very happy wedding anniversary to **King Charles III and Queen Camilla**, who are celebrating their platinum year: believe it or not, it has been two decades since they wed at Windsor's Guildhall.

Noctourism: a new after-dark travel trend
When the sun goes down, "noctourism" begins – a new holiday trend for 2025, says Booking.com in its **annual travel forecast**. After-dark nature adventures will be more popular than ever this year, predicts the hotel booking platform – and England's new nightlife is certainly looking star-studded. In the south west, **Exmoor's Dark Skies Festival** (17 October – 2 November) will feature twilight yoga and astronomy suppers, while in the Lake District, the **Cumbria Dark Skies Festival** (autumn) offers starlit adventures including canoeing and bushcraft workshops. In Lancashire, you can look skywards from the hot tubs at **Hidden Hills Glamping** (opened in January), while **Beamish** in County Durham and **Chester Zoo** in Cheshire will be launching accommodation – your chance to bed down in a Georgian-style cottage or a cabin overlooking the snoozing giraffes. And what better excuse to revisit some of England's other night-time adventures? It's worth staying up for **moonlit kayaking** across **Dorset's Studland Bay** and the **River Tyne** in Newcastle; **nighttime rockpool safaris** in **Cornwall**; or **stargazing swims** in the **Lake District**.

Amazing days out – for free
Leave your wallet at home, because England is bursting with free events and festivals. Most tickets for **Bradford's UK City of Culture 2025** theatre performances, art shows and live music won't cost a penny (year-round), and nor will many celebrations for **Railway 200** – including Stockton and Darlington Railway's **S&DR200 festival** (March – November) and the new-look Power Hall at Manchester's **Science and Industry Museum** (summer). Explore the **Lake District** and **Yorkshire** on the freshly designated **Coast to Coast National Trail** (late 2025) meaning improved accessibility and higher maintenance/environmental standards, while wheelchair users in **Nidderdale**, **York** and **Selby** will be able to access **free accessibility info packs** for action-packed days out. Meanwhile, the **V&A East Storehouse** in London (May) will be gratis for all – as will the colourful summertime sculpture trails around **Hull**, **Bristol** and **Gloucestershire**.

Get up-close with legends
Autograph books at the ready! A stellar crop of A-list actors, musicians and sports teams will be heading to England this year – bringing star quality to our theatres, galleries and arenas. This summer, **Kylie**, **Oasis**, **Coldplay, Beyonce**, **Robbie Williams** and the **Scissor Sisters** will be headlining concerts all over the nation. Fans of legendary performance artist **Marina Abramović** can catch her premiere of ***Balkan Erotic Epic*** in Manchester (autumn), while another cultural must-see is the inaugural **SXSW London** festival (June), featuring top creative talents and speakers from across the globe. And prepare for sporting history with the arrival of the **Women's Rugby World Cup 2025** in August**,** which will see the world's top teams playing fixtures nationwide – in the likes of **Bristol**, **Exeter**, **Sunderland** and **York**.

England starring on screen
Calling all film buffs and TV lovers: England's landscapes and landmarks take a starring role for 2025. The trend of 'set-jetting' – visiting the places that star in your favourite shows and movies – will gather momentum this year, predicts **Expedia's 2025 travel forecast**, thanks to the bumper crop of new releases hitting our screens. Maybe ***The Salt Path*** (May) – based on Raynor Winn's best-selling novel – will inspire you to hike the South West

Coast Path, which will see a new visitor centre open in Plymouth (summer). Or perhaps you'll track Tom Cruise to the Lake District, where he shot daredevil stunts for ***Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part II*** (May)? Birmingham and Liverpool set the scene for the hot new ***Peaky Blinders*** film, while Netflix's adaptation of ***The Thursday Murder Club*** was shot in Buckinghamshire and Berkshire (both release dates TBC). And in February, the *Bridget Jones* films reached their finale with ***Mad About the Boy*** – a love letter to London, as its haphazard heroine returns to her roots. Also this year, Greenwich's **Old Royal Naval College** celebrates 100 years as a film location: to mark the occasion, it will offer special themed tours (TBC).

Bites for all budgets
England's thriving dining scene continues to inspire travellers, with VisitEngland's Domestic Sentiment Tracker revealing that that close to a third (32%) of UK holidaymakers say a top holiday activity in early 2025 will be trying local food and drink. And we have a huge range of new foodie openings this year: from fresh street food markets in **Bristol**, Birmingham (**Society Birmingham** and **BOXPARK**), London's **St Paul's** and **Derby,** to the launch of **Gordon Ramsay's latest restaurants** at London's 22 Bishopsgate – Europe's highest new dining spot (February). In Manchester, members can enjoy fine dining at the new **Soho House** (early 2025), or feast on street bites in **STACK**'s trendy market (spring). Elsewhere in the north, Hairy Biker Si King will launch new takeaway restaurant **PROPA!** in Sunderland and Bradford's **Darley Street Market** will open its doors during the city's reign as Capital of Culture. Whilst in Kent, wine lovers can savour the first ever sip of **Domaine & Evremond** vineyard's sparkling vintage and experience its new winery and visitor centre and in the West Midlands, **Judith's** in Stratford-upon-Avon will host new rum tastings from February. For something a little different, go **calvados tasting at The Angel Inn**, Suffolk (April), or toast a fruity kir royale on an e-bike tour of **White Heron Estate** – a family-run Herefordshire cassis farm (April).

Going green for good
It's never been easier to embrace responsible travel in England – the nation is full of new low-carbon, low-impact ways to explore. What's more, nearly a third (32%) of UK holidaymakers say their top activity for this spring will be 'walking, hiking, rambling' so it's a great time to join the **20th Malvern Walking Festival** for guided hikes and nature trails (May – June), explore the Lake District and Yorkshire on the newly designated **Coast to Coast National Trail** (late 2025) or spot **Wallace and Gromit** on Bristol's new art trail (June). Alternatively, leave the car at home and take the train instead – it's the year of **Railway 200**, after all – to discover pioneering sustainable fashions at **Kew Gardens' Material World** exhibition (September – October) or the **community-boosting** art and theatre projects of **Bradford's UK City of Culture 2025** celebrations (year-round). **Bristol** will also mark 10 years since it became the first UK city to be awarded European Green Capital status, so now's the time to leap into its vegan dining scene, vintage emporiums and trailblazing **hydrogen-powered cruises**. Lots of new hotels are going green too, from **Zeal Hotel Exeter**'s energy-saving smarts (January) and the 25-mile menu at **THE PIG-on the Farm** in Stratford-upon-Avon (autumn), to exclusive discounts for guests who use public transport to reach Hertfordshire's **Bethnal&Bec Luxury Stays** (spring).

A new look for landmarks
Some of England's best-loved landmarks are getting a glow-up – with new renovations being unveiled at York's **National Railway Museum** (September) and Leicester's **Jewry Wall Museum** (summer). In East Anglia, named in Lonely Planet's 'Best in Travel 2025' hotlist, **Norwich Castle** will reveal a sparkling new gallery and viewing area (spring), while visitors to London will have the chance to stay in Trafalgar Square's iconic Admiralty Arch for the first time, with the opening of **England's first Waldorf Astoria hotel** . This summer, Manchester's **Science and Industry Museum** will celebrate all-things steam-powered with the launch of its multi-million-pound **Power Hall** – set to be one of the city's hottest tickets – while the £40m transformation of Hull's **Maritime City** will gather pace with two new attractions (spring and autumn). In London, look out for fresh outposts of legendary arts institutions, too: **Sadler's Wells East** theatre debuted in Stratford in February, with the **V&A East Storehouse** museum opening in May. And just as Bradford is crowned UK City of Culture 2025, its live music venue **Bradford Live** and cultural hotspot **Bradford National Science and Media Museum** will unveil their state-of-the-art renovations.

Accommodation

Accommodation: New Openings

The Bat and Ball Pub with rooms, Oxfordshire

8 January 2025
Ben Moss's Montgomery Group is set to launch its latest venue, The Bat and Ball Pub in Cuddeston, Oxfordshire this January. The pub will have five rooms, each individually designed to capture the quintessential warmth and character of a Cotswold home. The restaurant is set to collaborate with local suppliers to showcase the best seasonal produce, key partnerships include third-generation butcher The Calnan Brothers in Watlington for meats, Flying Fish Seafood for fresh catches, DBF Banbury for organically grown vegetables; and Somerset's famed Longman's Cheese, all delivered daily.
www.instagram.com/batandballoxford

Hidden Hills Glamping, Carnforth, Lancashire
January 2025
Just outside Carnforth in North Lancashire, Hidden Hills Glamping is set to open the first of its five luxurious cabins – the Jungle and Angel themed pods. Overlooking the Lune Valley, every cabin will feature its own hot tub and sauna, plus a private outdoor cinema area for movie nights under the stars. The site is around 20 minutes' drive from the city of Lancaster, with two countryside pubs and multiple walking trails on its doorstep.
www.hiddenhillsglamping.co.uk

The Welbeck Hotel, London
January 2025
The Welbeck Hotel, Marylebone's latest luxury addition, opens its doors this January. The hotel is conveniently located on Welbeck Street, only a stone's throw from Selfridges and Bond Street Station, and boasts Edwardian architecture paired with contemporary design throughout its 164 rooms and suites. Guests can relax with the knowledge that the hotel is committed to minimising its carbon footprint through schemes such as eliminating single-use plastic, green building certifications and ongoing recycling programmes.
www.thewelbeckhotel.com

House of George, Broadway, Cotswolds
January 2025
Created by the businessman behind Next, George at Asda and Per Una, this new boutique hotel is sure to be stylish – and each of its 10 sumptuous rooms and suites will feature an individual look. Rumour has it, George Davies is planning some personal nods too, such as cocktails named after his retail empire and his beloved football team – Liverpool FC. The building itself dates back to 1657, and its period features will be restored into a characterful home-from-home, plus it will offer a restaurant that specialises in seasonal private dining.
www.houseofgeorge.uk

The Alfriston, South Downs
March 2025
This boutique hotel will feature just 38 accommodations, alongside a brasserie and orangery bar overlooking its grounds. It is named after its location, the village of Alfriston, where the South Downs meet the Cuckmere River – a beautiful setting for weekend escapes and longer getaways. As well as a spa, it will feature a heated outdoor pool, sauna and steam room, plus a vegetable garden providing hyper-local cuisine. It will be the newest addition to The Signet Collection, which includes Elcot Park's The Retreat and The Mitre at Hampton Court.
www.signet.ltd/our-hotels/the-alfriston

Soho House, Manchester, Greater Manchester
Early 2025
Soho House is set to open its first property in the north of England, encompassing the upper three floors of Manchester's former Granada Studios – located in the up-and-coming St John's neighbourhood. The building, which is also home to Aviva Studios, is one of Manchester's most iconic locations. As well as 23 deluxe rooms

and suites, there will be a rooftop pool, workspaces that transform into a club after dark, dining rooms and lounges – all with Soho House's signature creative flair.
www.sohohouse.com/houses

Treehouse Hotel Manchester, Greater Manchester
19 March 2025
With its bold bedrooms, botanical-inspired décor and sustainable ethos, the Treehouse Hotel brand is a breath of fresh air – and its new Manchester location will be no different. Featuring 224 bedrooms and a rooftop terrace with panoramic views of the city, Treehouse Hotel Manchester will include pet-friendly rooms and dining curated by celebrated Manchester chefs – including Luke Cowdrey, Justin Crawford and Mary-Ellen McTague. It will be located on Deansgate, after an extensive redevelopment of a former hotel.
www.treehousehotels.com/manchester

Dakota, Newcastle Quayside
29 March 2025
Featuring some of Newcastle's biggest hotel bedrooms and suites, the all-new Dakota will occupy a premium position on St. Ann's Wharf, with perks such as butler service and private dining. Its 118 accommodations will feature views of the city and waterfront, alongside brasserie-style cuisine at Grill and the members' club-style Dakota Bar. This is a hotel to linger in on city breaks, with plush furnishings and sultry-yet-glossy décor.
www.dakotahotels.co.uk/newcastle

Shepherd Huts at The Victoria, Holkham Estate, North Norfolk
28 April 2025
Within walking distance of Holkham National Nature Reserve, Holkham beach and Wells-Next-The-Sea, The Victoria's four new shepherds' huts will be ideal for a coastal and countryside getaway. Each one will feature a kingsize bed with a dog snug underneath, plus a self-contained kitchen, bathroom, sofa and private outdoor patio with seating and a BBQ. They're located in Holkham Village, with shops and cafés nearby – plus The Victoria's award-winning pub on the doorstep.
www.holkham.co.uk/visit/things-to-do/eat-stay-shop/places-to-stay/shepherd-huts-victoria

Glamping pods at Leeds Castle, Kent
Spring 2025
In the 500-acre grounds of Leeds Castle, this new collection of chic glamping pods will combine stylish interiors and homely conveniences with a spectacular natural setting. Their balconies, bedrooms and outdoor bathtubs will overlook the castle's Great Water lake, which is a haven for wildlife – while the castle itself will be just a short walk away.
www.leeds-castle.com/stay/lakeside-lodges

Dorsett Canary Wharf, London
Spring 2025
The latest hotel to pop up in London's Canary Wharf, Dorsett Alpha Square will feature 231 guestrooms, modern interior design and state-of-the-art facilities – including a fitness centre, fine-dining restaurants and a terrace bar with panoramic city views. Just a short walk from Canary Wharf's key transport links, the hotel will provide easy access to Central London, London City Airport and the Elizabeth Line: great news for business travellers and city breakers alike.
www.dorsetthotels.com/dorsett-canary-wharf-london

The Gallivant Littlestone Beach, Kent
Spring 2025

This new seaside hotel will be The Gallivant's second property, with its sister hotel located in Camber Sands, Sussex – which won 'Small Hotel of the Year' in the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence 2024. The building itself was built in 1929 and welcomed famous guests such as Noel Coward and the Astor family. Renovated to offer guests a luxury experience, the hotel will have a choice of 12 bedrooms as well as a sitting room, orangery, dining room, library, members bar, yoga studio, sauna and treatment room. Outside, the hotel will feature a coastal garden with a beach gazebo, kitchen garden and dining area. The hotel will aim to appeal to both visitors and locals alike, and its design will pay homage to the glamour of east coast America in the late 1920s.
www.thegallivant.co.uk

Bailiffgate Hotel, Alnwick, Northumberland
June 2025
The Bailiffgate will be Northumberland's new luxury getaway, set within a beautiful Georgian house in Alnwick – featuring 48 bedrooms, suites and apartments. The hotel will connect to a modern five-story building via a conservatory, offering views of Alnwick Castle and featuring a stylish bar and restaurant together with a private dining space.
www.bespokehotels.com/bailiffgate-hotel

Hotel Gotham, Newcastle, Tyne and Wear
June 2025
Gotham Group's £11.5m project will transform the former Newcastle Fire Station into a five-star hotel – featuring 60 elegant rooms, destination dining and a private bar for members, guests and VIPs. Expect opulent interior design, slick service and decadent cocktails: all of which are hallmarks of this glamorous, upmarket brand, which first opened in Manchester in 2015.
www.gothamhotelcollection.com

The Chancery Rosewood, Mayfair, London
June 2025
This new five-star hotel will open in London's Mayfair, in the former US Embassy on Grosvenor Square – a Grade II listed landmark. There will be 146 spacious rooms and suites, alongside a variety of formal and casual dining options. Guests will be able to relax in the Asaya wellbeing spa designed by Yabu Pushelberg, shop in the five onsite flagship boutiques, and let their hair down in the grand ballroom.
www.rosewoodhotels.com/en/the-chancery-rosewood

Launch of the *Britannic Explorer*, A Belmond Train – London, Cornwall and the Lake District
July 2025
Belmond will launch England's first luxury sleeper hotel train this summer, to coincide with the nationwide Railway 200 anniversary. All aboard the *Britannic Explorer* for fine dining, spa treatments, sumptuous cabins and spectacular views. Its inaugural three-night journeys will traverse London, Cornwall and the Lake District, with on-board cultural entertainment to enable passengers to delve deeper into their destinations. By day, it will host optional guided excursions, and by night guests can mingle in the Observation Car's botanical-inspired bar.
www.belmond.com/trains/europe/uk/britannic-explorer

The Newman, Fitzrovia, London
Summer 2025
Situated on Newman Street in Fitzrovia, The Newman will open in summer 2025 to become a new 81-roomed hotel – featuring a European brasserie, cocktail bar and wellness floor. Breathing new life into its heritage Victorian setting, the design will exude international luxury with a polished, bold style. The spa will be influenced by Nordic simplicity, and feature hot and cold experience cabins, a salt therapy room and hydrotherapy pool.
www.thenewman.com

Chester Zoo: Safari-style lodges to open with views of giraffes, Cheshire
August 2025
Chester Zoo is set to open 51 new safari-style lodges overlooking the area where its resident giraffes roam. Located beside the savannah-style enclosure and scenic lake, the accommodation will feature all the creature comforts of a deluxe hotel – with views that are straight out of Africa. Each one will sleep up to four or six people, making them well-suited to families seeking adventure. The project will also include a two-storey reception area with a restaurant and bar, and a new lake for the animals to enjoy.
www.chesterzoo.org

citizenM London Olympia
Late summer 2025
The fifth London property of the trendy CitizenM hotel brand, this 146-room property will be located in West London's Olympia. It will be part of the transformation of the Olympia exhibition centre, with a multi-functional arts space, theatre, four-screen cinema, restaurants and cafés on its doorstep. The hotel will feature co-working spaces, a 24/7 dining spot and the Apex Room – a historically-listed lounge and living area that will be open to the public.
www.citizenm.com

Hotel Gotham Bristol, Bristol
Autumn 2025
The Guildhall in Bristol is currently undergoing major development and will be transformed into a lavish new hotel – featuring 75 bedrooms, a restaurant, spa and (rumour has it) a rooftop terrace bar. The listed building will form part of the Hotel Gotham Group, whose Manchester property is renowned for its unapologetically glitzy rooms and suites. More details on the hotel's features are yet to come, but it promises to be daring, glamorous and opulent.
www.gothamhotelcollection.com

THE PIG-on the Farm, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire
Autumn 2025
This will be the latest addition to THE PIG's portfolio of laid-back luxury boutique hotels with a culinary focus – known as 'restaurants with rooms'. Located near Stratford-upon-Avon, THE PIG-on the Farm will feature a 16th Century stone farmhouse surrounded by barns and stables and will champion the brand's '25-mile menu' ethos and sustainable practices, including an on-site kitchen garden. The estate spans 53 acres and is steeped in history; it was formerly owned by the Mordaunt family and includes part of a Medieval village.
www.thepighotel.com/on-the-farm

Six Senses London, Bayswater, London
Late 2025
Premium hotel brand Six Senses is set to make its much-anticipated London debut in Bayswater this year. Located in The Whiteley – the Art Deco former department store – this luxurious retreat will feature 109 beautifully designed bedrooms and suites, alongside fine dining restaurants and a Six Senses Spa. For those seeking a longer stay, 14 branded residences will be available for purchase, complete with bespoke design and high-quality amenities. Located near Hyde Park and Kensington Palace, this new property will be a high-profile addition to the UK's luxury hotel scene.
www.sixsenses.com/en

Launch of Leafield luxury holiday park, Leafield, Oxfordshire
Winter 2025
The former home of the Caterham Formula 1 team headquarters in the Cotswolds is set to be transformed into a luxurious holiday park, scheduled to open in late 2025. According to the planning application, it will feature 51

cabins, eight larger suite-style barns and two loft houses – alongside an indoor swimming pool, spa, outdoor hot tubs, changing rooms, shop, bar and restaurant. Expect a tranquil, nature-inspired atmosphere to suit both families and couples, with wood-built accommodation and extensive gardens.
www.cotswolds.com/listing/leafield/208251301

Cambridge House, London
Winter 2025
94 Piccadilly has already welcomed its fair share of high-profile guests – from Prime Minister Lord Palmerston to Queen Victoria herself – and with its transformation into a hotel and members' club this year, its guestbook is set to get even more glittery. This Georgian mansion and Grade I listed Palladian-style townhouse will be reimagined as a 102-room bolthole, with fine-dining restaurants and a double-level spa – featuring a two-storey wellness centre with heated pools and a hydrotherapy suite. A city break fit for a queen.
www.aubergeresorts.com/cambridgehouse

Mollie's Manchester
Late 2025
Mollie's will unveil its third and largest location at the iconic Old Granada TV Studios in Manchester. This bold reimagining of a historic site will feature 128 stylish rooms across five floors, making it the brand's most ambitious project yet. Situated in the heart of the city, it promises to offer a fresh and vibrant stay experience in one of Manchester's most iconic landmarks.
www.mollies.com/manchester

The Other House Covent Garden, London
Late 2025
In the heart of Covent Garden, this new 'nano' neighbourhood will feature around 200 Club Flats – all with sleek and stylish living areas, bedrooms and kitchens. Its upmarket private spaces, restaurant, bars and wellness centre will be available to residents and private members, while a destination bar and a bistro-style kitchen with seasonal menus will be open to the public. Views from the rooftop bar promise to be spectacular. The property comprises seven historic buildings and a glazed inner atrium.
www.otherhouse.com/covent-garden

Victoria Warehouse music venue to add 200-room hotel, Manchester
TBC 2025
Manchester is expecting the addition of 200 hotel rooms to the iconic Victoria Warehouse, one of the city's staple music venues. The venue, which already hosts major live music concerts and exhibitions, will expand in 2025 to include accommodation, a roof terrace and a new conferencing and events space.
www.victoriawarehouse.com

Waldorf Astoria, Trafalgar Square, London
TBC 2025
London's iconic Admiralty Arch is being transformed into a five-star hotel, private members' club and serviced residences: England's first Waldorf Astoria. The Edwardian landmark marks the boundary between Trafalgar Square and The Mall – two of the capital's most famous landmarks – with views of the icons from its rooms and suites. There will also be a premium spa and several bars, and a restaurant spanning the first bridging floor, the first time that the building will be opened to the public. The hotel promises a brush with rich political and royal heritage: Winston Churchill was based here as First Lord of the Admiralty, it was a hub for WW1 code-breaking operations, and Ian Fleming worked here during WW2. Royal processions still pass under the main arch today, as they have done for over a century.
stories.hilton.com/emea/releases/reuben-brothers-accelerates-plans-waldorf-astoria-admiralty-arch

Eden Project hotel, Bodelva, Cornwall
TBC 2025
From a swimming pool heated by geothermal energy, to cutting-edge architecture using all-local and recycled materials, every inch of the Eden Project's new hotel will raise the bar for regenerative tourism. Sustainability isn't just a buzzword here: it underpins the entire ethos of this carbon-positive new property, which will open at the Eden Project's Bodelva site. The full details are yet to be revealed, but at its launch The Eden Project's co-founder promised "the greatest hot water pools in mainland Europe" – so it's definitely one to watch.
www.edenproject.com

Another Place, The Garden, Andover, Hampshire
TBC 2025
The team behind Another Place in the Lake District and Cornwall's Watergate Bay Hotel has acquired a Grade II-listed country house in the Test Valley and plans to transform it into a luxury hotel called Another Place, The Garden. Dating from 1857, the property has formal gardens, vast grounds and expansive views across the Hampshire countryside. The house has an interesting military heritage too: the RAF used it as the base for their chaplains and, in 2004, it hosted a historic moment in British military history – the first LGBTQ+ armed forces conference. Plans for the hotel include 50 bedrooms, a restaurant, bar and pool, as well as all the facilities that Watergate Bay and Another Place are known for, such as Swim Club and Ofsted-registered Kids' Zone.
www.another.place/blog/introducing-another-place-the-garden

The Gainford Tower, Newcastle, Tyne and Wear
TBC 2025
Newcastle is thinking big for its new development, The Gainford Tower – which at 37 storeys will be the tallest building in the North East. Featuring a five-star hotel, fitness club, upmarket bars and restaurants, and a range of luxurious apartments, it is part of a £50m development project led by local hospitality group The Gainford Group. Its eponymous skyscraper will be built on the site of the New Bridge Street hotel, in the heart of Newcastle city centre.
www.gainfordgroup.com/news/gainford-tower

Hotel Indigo Gloucester – The Forum, Gloucester
TBC 2025
Located in central Gloucester's The Forum development, this new hotel will feature 131 rooms and suites – topped with a rooftop cocktail bar. Indigo is synonymous with boutique hotels in vibrant communities, and its newest outpost will be no different: from the locally sourced ingredients in its neighbourhood-focused restaurant, to the lush private courtyard and modern fitness centre at its heart.
www.gloucester.gov.uk/news/2023-news/gloucester-city-council-signs-landmark-deal-with-ihg-hotels-resorts-to-bring-hotel-indigo-to-the-forum

The Zetter Bloomsbury, London
TBC 2025
Based in a row of red-brick townhouses, this new Bloomsbury hotel will blend Georgian style (think sumptuous fabrics, claw-foot bathtubs and four-poster beds) with facilities that are bang up-to-date – including a gym, cocktail bar and private garden. It will be located mere steps from the British Museum and Russell Square, with Tottenham Court Road's transport links on the doorstep too. In true Zetter style, its restaurants will be destinations in their own right, including the lush, light-filled The Orangery, and its members' club-esque cocktail bar.
www.thezetter.com/bloomsbury

Georgian-themed accommodation at Beamish Museum, County Durham
2025

Don't just spend the day time-travelling at Beamish – enjoy a night of it, too. County Durham's award-winning living museum will open the new (but old) self-catering Pockerley Farm Cottages and Flint Mill Cottages this year, for an authentic Georgian-style stay. All of the accommodations will be styled just as they would have looked in their heyday, though with a few discreet modern comforts like flushing toilets! Two holiday lets will be opened initially, with plans for more to follow – including one with an accessible bedroom and bathroom.
www.beamish.org.uk/exhibits/pockerley-and-flint-mill-cottages

Hjem, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Northumberland
Late 2025
The team behind Michelin-starred Hjem in Wall, Northumberland, is preparing to unveil a restaurant-with-rooms in Heddon-on-the-Wall. It will combine elevated farm-to-fork dining with luxurious accommodations, helmed by Chef Alex Nietosvuori and wife Ally. There will be a total of 12 bedrooms, overlooking the restaurant's walled garden and the wider Tyne Valley.
www.restauranthjem.co.uk

Accommodation: reopenings

Dumbleton Hall near Winchcombe, Cotswolds
February 2025
In the foothills of the Cotswolds, this lavish (yet dog-friendly) hotel and wedding venue is set to reopen after an extensive refresh, bringing new life to its 38 bedrooms, restaurants and celebration spaces. It also promises a new dining concept and refreshed landscaping of its picturesque 19-acre gardens and woodland – with new treehouse and shepherd's hut accommodation set to open in the grounds.
www.dumbletonhall.co.uk

Accommodation: new and enhanced facilities and packages

Refurbishment: Hotel du Vin Bristol City Centre, Bristol
January 2025
Once an 18th Century sugar warehouse and now one of Bristol's most luxurious boutique hotels, Hotel du Vin Bristol City Centre is currently undergoing a £900,000 refurbishment – which will be unveiled in January. This boutique hotel has 40 rooms and suites, all of which are being refurbished: part of its plan to celebrate and enhance the history of the building while bringing a fresh, modern touch.
www.hotelduvin.com/locations/bristol-city-centre

Refurbishment: The Grand Brighton, East Sussex
March 2025
The Grand Brighton is revealing its new look following a £16 million interior refurbishment. The iconic seafront hotel boasts 205 rooms across seven floors and has been a staple on Brighton's seafront since 1864. The re-furnishment, which is set to be completed by March 2025, has prioritised preserving the Victorian architectural features while revamping the facilities to include modern touches.
www.grandbrighton.co.uk

Refurbishment: Best Western Premier Dover Marina Hotel & Spa, Dover, Kent
Spring 2025
Over the past year, this seafront hotel has increased its room capacity by 40% and introduced new high-end accommodation in the form of Presidential and Royal Suites as well as opening a larger events space, new conference facilities and new reception area. Its spa has also received a full refresh, with new treatment rooms –

while the lounge bar is sporting a fresh look, too. The hotel has remained open throughout the project, but its full makeover is set to be unveiled in spring.
www.dovermarinahotel.co.uk

Sustainability: Bethnal&Bec Luxury Stays, Buntingford, Hertfordshire
Spring 2025
This family business offers stylish adults-only self-catering accommodation in Hertfordshire, and will soon offer guests who arrive by public transport 50% off their electric bike hire and a free "Dine In" box worth £30. Bethnal&Bec Luxury Stays won the 2023-2024 East of England Tourism Award 'Best Self-Catering Accommodation', and Bronze in the Visit England Awards Self-Catering category.
www.bethnalandbec.com

Refurbishment: The Belfry Hotel & Resort, Wishaw, Warwickshire
September 2025
Having hosted more Ryder Cup tournaments than anywhere else in the world, this West Midlands hotel and golf resort is synonymous with championship golf – and now it's teeing up for the future with a huge £80m redevelopment. Its new look will include more than 100 additional bedrooms and the cutting-edge Masters Suite events space, plus a new leisure club with swimming pools, hot tubs and four gym studios. The hotel, resort and golf facilities remain open throughout the project, which is expected to be completed in September.
www.thebelfry.com/development

Stargazing Weekend at Yarn Market Hotel, Dunster, Exmoor National Park
October 2025
Look to the heavens in one of England's finest stargazing regions – Exmoor National Park. Dunster's Yarn Market Hotel will host a special themed weekend this October, featuring stargazing activities and excursions hosted by local astronomers – timed to coincide with the visibility of Saturn, Venus, Jupiter and Mars in the (hopefully) clear winter sky. The programme will include two nights accommodation, with breakfast and dinner too.
www.yarnmarkethotel.co.uk

Anniversaries

Railway 200: 200 years of train travel – Nationwide
Throughout 2025
This year is the bicentenary of the modern British railway – 200 years since the world's first passenger train journey under steam power. It all started with the Stockton and Darlington Railway, which opened to passengers in north-east England on 27 September 1825 – and though its original 26-mile route (41.841.8km) at 15mph sounds rather humble now, it changed public transport across Britain and the world. To mark this momentous occasion, Railway 200 will offer a year-long nation-wide celebration of all-things rail, with events and activities for all ages. Celebrations started with the Railway 200 New Year Whistle event, with heritage locomotives across the UK sounding their whistles at noon on 1 January. Later in the year, the National Railway Museum in York will reopen its transformed Station Hall after a three-year renovation. And on the Stockton and Darlington Railway itself, S&DR200 will be a nine-month festival (March to November) of free outdoor spectacles, exhibitions and art across Tees Valley and further afield, celebrating the history and future of transport.
www.railway200.co.uk & www.sdr200.co.uk

Jane Austen 250: 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth – Nationwide
Throughout 2025
Jane Austen was born in Hampshire on 16 December 1775 making 2025 the 250th anniversary of her birth. This year, Austen 250 events and experiences will entice Brits to revisit Austen's era-defining novels, along with their

iconic film and television adaptions, and the places that inspired them. In Hampshire, where the great author was born in 1775, Jane Austen's House will host festivals, pop up talks and writing workshops year-round and Austen's travelling desk will go on display at God's House Tower in Southampton for the first time, as part of a city-wide programme of events and activities. In Berkshire, visitors will be able to visit her schoolroom in Reading, while Bath – Austen's home from 1801 to 1806 – will host several events to mark the anniversary, including three Austen-themed gala balls complete with Regency dance lessons (May, June and December). With the new four-part BBC drama *Miss Austen* being released in February 2025, this anniversary is a great opportunity to explore England's many famous literary and filming locations associated with the renowned author's work.

250th anniversary of J.M.W. Turner's birth – Nationwide
Throughout 2025
Famous for his violent storm scenes and colourful skyscapes, artist J.M.W. Turner is one of the UK's most celebrated English Romantic painters and printmakers. This year marks Turner's 250th birthday, with various exhibitions throughout England – including Turner and Constable at Tate Britain (27 November 2025 – 12 April 2026) and Austen and Turner: A Country House Encounter at Harewood House (2 May – 19 October). In the autumn, the annual Turner Prize will head to Bradford's Cartwright Hall Art Gallery to showcase the most exciting new developments in British art during the city's reign as Capital of Culture. Look to Margate, too: regarded as the painter's spiritual home, this seaside town inspired him with its sea views, coastal scenes and rich maritime history, and its Turner Contemporary gallery will display the Turner painting *Margate Beach* from February 2025. Meanwhile in Manchester, The Whitworth presents J.M.W Turner: In Light and Shade, displaying the artist's *Liber Studiorum* masterpiece in full for the first time in 100 years (now until November). Looking ahead to autumn, the annual Turner Prize will head to Bradford's Cartwright Hall Art Gallery to showcase the most exciting developments in British art during the city's reign as UK Capital of Culture.

UNESCO celebrates its 80th anniversary, Nationwide
Throughout 2025
As UNESCO celebrates its 80th anniversary this year, what better time to explore England's 19 World Heritage Sites? The esteemed organisation was founded in London to foster peace and mutual understanding through cultural heritage, and this milestone offers an opportunity to delve into the extraordinary built and natural environments that define England's global significance – from the tangible history of Blenheim Palace and the Tower of London, to the wild natural beauty of the Jurassic Coast.
www.unesco.org.uk/our-sites

10th anniversary of Richard III reinterment – Leicester, Leicestershire
12 – 31 March 2025
After hundreds of years in an unmarked grave, eventually found beneath a Leicestershire car park, the body of King Richard III was finally reinterred at Leicester Cathedral on 22 March 2015. In the 10th anniversary year of this remarkable righting of wrongs, visit Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre where you can explore the detective work involved in locating his body, learn more about the man himself and see the exact place where his remains were buried. Separately, Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre will also mark the anniversary with a weekend of re-enactments, living history camps, craft workshops and a new exhibition about the return of the King (21-23 March 2025), and Leicester Cathedral will also host a three-week programme of talks, installations, concerts and a special afternoon tea.
www.kriii.com

20th wedding anniversary of King Charles III and Queen Camilla
9 April 2025
Happy 20th wedding anniversary, your Majesties! In 2025, King Charles III and Queen Camilla will celebrate their platinum year, making it a fitting time to visit Highgrove, their rural estate in the Cotswolds. His Majesty first

arrived at Highgrove in 1980 – 45 years ago – and has devoted untold time and energy into transforming its gardens, which are now open to the public. On a Champagne Tea Tour, visitors can explore the gardens on a guided tour before raising a glass of bubbly to celebrate the royal anniversary.
www.highgrovegardens.com

80th anniversary of VE Day
8 May 2025
All over England, there will be local and national events to celebrate 80 years since VE Day. It marked the end of WW2 in Europe on 8 May 1945, with the Nazis' unconditional surrender – and this year's festivities will focus on this shared moment of peace and joy. Events will include the lighting of beacons and 'lamplight of peace', street parties, special exhibitions and a national fish-and-chip lunch – in tribute of it being one of the very few dishes not rationed in wartime.
www.veday80.org.uk

85th anniversary of Operation Dynamo: The Rescue at Dunkirk – Dover, Kent
26 May – 4 June 2025
Just across the Channel from France, Kent has many links to Operation Dynamo – the codename for the 1940 evacuation of troops from Dunkirk during WW2. It was masterminded at Dover Castle, and this spring the Ramsgate Royal Harbour will play a prominent role in events to commemorate the 85th anniversary. The 850 non-military 'little ships' that were sent to evacuate Allied troops from France were coordinated from the Royal Temple Yacht Club, with 50 of the surviving vessels set to visit to mark the anniversary.
www.ramsgateroyalharbour.co.uk

London Eye's 25th Birthday – London
Spring 2025
Happy birthday, London Eye! Though originally intended to be a temporary attraction, the 'Millennium Wheel' is still as popular as ever, and has just been repainted (by abseiling decorators!) to ensure it looks tip-top for its landmark year. Throughout 2025, this iconic attraction will feature exciting events, activities and commemorative experiences, to celebrate a quarter-century of breathtaking views.
www.londoneye.com/tickets-and-prices

North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales Dark Skies Festival 10th anniversary, North Yorkshire
14 February – 2 March 2025 and autumn 2025
Heavens above! The North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Parks celebrated their 10th Dark Skies Festival this year, with more than 100 special events including an elaborate launch party; two days of kids-only fun (from 'astro crafts' to rocket making); night cycling and walking tours, astrophotography masterclasses and moonlit mindfulness evenings. In autumn, the area's Dark Skies Fringe Festival will also be packed with nocturnal fun. Did you know that North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales are two of only 21 certified International Dark Sky Reserves in the world?
www.darkskiesnationalparks.org.uk

10th anniversary of sustainable Bristol
Throughout 2025
2025 marks ten years since Bristol became the first UK city to be awarded European Green Capital status – and it's still leading the way for sustainability. It is the UK's second Gold Sustainable Food City, the first Cycling City, a Fairtrade City and the home of renowned environmental organisations such as the Soil Association and sustainable transport charity Sustrans. What better excuse to plan your own low-carbon adventure in Bristol? From a hydrogen-powered cruise on Hydrogenesis (the first boat of its kind in the UK), to walking tours, vintage shopping and award-winning vegan restaurants, there are so many ways to go green in Bristol.
www.visitbristol.co.uk/discover/ideas-inspiration/sustainable-and-green-bristol

The New Forest celebrates 20 years as a National Park – Hampshire and Wiltshire
Throughout 2025
When the New Forest became a national park back in 2005, this former royal hunting ground was given a new lease of life – and is now a thriving domestic tourism destination, with a huge range of activities, top-quality hotels and an exciting food scene. 2025's commemorative festivities are yet to be announced, but expect a bumper year for the national park's regular events – such as the New Forest and Hampshire County Show (July) and the New Forest Food Festival (August).
www.thenewforest.co.uk

60th anniversary of Sir Winston Churchill's death
Throughout 2025
This year marks 60 years since the death of Sir Winston Churchill, who passed away at the age of 90 – his last words famously "I'm so bored of it all". The former Prime Minister, who led Britain to victory in WW2, had personal connections to many of England's most treasured landmarks, including the National Trust's Chartwell in Kent, where he lived for more than 40 years, and Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, where he was born in 1874 – and which unveiled a new statue of Churchill in November to commemorate 150 years since his birth. Look out for commemorative events throughout 2025.
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/kent/chartwell & www.blenheimpalace.com

350th anniversary of Greenwich Royal Observatory – London
Throughout 2025
Home of the Cutty Sark, Prime Meridian and Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), Greenwich Royal Observatory will celebrate 350 years as a world-leading centre of astronomy, science and navigation this year. As well as special events and exhibitions, its landmark birthday will be honoured by the launch of the First Light project – a three-year regeneration programme which will improve its accessibility, refurbish The Peter Harrison Planetarium, and create new immersive and innovative galleries.
www.rmg.co.uk/press-release/royal-museums-greenwich-appoints-jamie-fobert-architects-on-redevelopment-project

Old Royal Naval College celebrates 100 years as a filming location – London
Throughout 2025
This year, the iconic Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich will mark its 100th anniversary as one of Britain's top film locations. Known for its baroque architecture, this UNESCO World Heritage Site has featured in countless blockbusters and period dramas – including *Napoleon* (2023), *Les Misérables* (2012) and *Sons of the Sea* (1926 – one of the first films ever shot here). To celebrate this milestone, it will offer special tours, giving visitors an insider's look at the sets of major productions. A treat for film fans and history enthusiasts alike.
www.ornc.org

60 Years of Severn Valley Railway – Worcestershire and Shropshire
Throughout 2025
All aboard the Severn Valley Railway, as it celebrates both its 60th birthday and the Railway 200 anniversary in 2025. A journey on this heritage line is always one to savour, but this year will also bring a cavalcade of steam galas, diesel festivals and special events – including two vintage 1940s-themed weekends in June. From 'Singin' on the Train' events to a Model Railway Weekend and ghost-themed journeys, expect lively entertainment for all ages.
www.svr.co.uk/news/special-events-2025

50th anniversary of Nottinghamshire's LGBTQ+ Network, Nottinghamshire
Throughout 2025

Nottinghamshire's LGBTQ+ Network will mark half a century of support, solidarity and celebration this year. Run entirely by volunteers, the network is used by thousands of people in and around Nottinghamshire, and has even received the King's Award for Voluntary Service. As ever, this year will be packed with special events and social meet-ups, covering everything from rock climbing and real ale tasting to badminton, quizzes and bowling.
www.nottslgbt.com

25 Years of We the Curious, Bristol
Throughout 2025
Next year will mark the 25th anniversary of Bristol's harbourside interactive science centre We the Curious. To celebrate, the museum is planning to host a range of events for all ages to enjoy and get hands on with learning. Back in 2019, We The Curious became the world's first science centre to declare a climate emergency; with a pledge to become carbon neutral by 2030. The museum reopened in July 2024 with over 300 exhibits, all designed to spark visitors' curiosity about the world: from anatomy to robots, and food to flight. Also new for 2024, was its launch of the UK's only 3D planetarium with full surround sound, revealing extraordinary vistas from around the universe.
www.wethecurious.org

25th anniversary of The Lowry – Salford Quays, Manchester
2025
It was the catalyst for the regeneration of Salford Quays, an ambitious arts project that aimed to put Manchester on the map and local artists in the spotlight – and a blueprint for how culture and creativity can boost underprivileged communities. 25 years later, The Lowry is fulfilling every one of its ambitions, and is looking to the future too. Expect special retrospective and celebratory exhibitions this year, as well as its signature mix of theatre, art, dance and comedy. Also located in Salford Quays, MediaCityUK opened in 2011 – and is now home to BBC and ITV studios, where the likes of *Coronation Street*, *Dragon's Den* and *BBC Breakfast* are filmed.
www.thelowry.com

60 years of the Pennine Way – Derbyshire, Yorkshire and Northumberland
Throughout 2025
When it opened on 24 April 1965, the Pennine Way became England's first National Trail. Weaving through Derbyshire, Yorkshire and Northumberland (and a little of Scotland), it paved the way for public access to some of the nation's wildest landscapes, and today is one of the UK's most famous long-distance walks. Expect a variety of celebration events along the Trail throughout 2025, including 'A Trail of Inspiration' exhibition at the Dales Countryside Museum.
www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/pennine-way/news

20th anniversary of the Malvern Walking Festival – Malvern, Worcestershire
24 May – 1 June 2025
Look forward to nine days of guided walks and community events at the 20th Malvern Walking Festival this spring – set to be a bumper year in celebration of its landmark anniversary. The Malvern and Teme Valley area features more than 9,320 miles (15,000km) of glorious walking trails, with views over Malvern, Worcestershire and as far as the England/Wales border from the Malvern Hills' summit beacon. It's a delight to discover at all times of year, but especially when this annual festival strides into town.
www.malvernwalking.uk

800th anniversary of the sealing of the 1225 Magna Carta
June 2025
Celebrate 800 years since the sealing of the Magna Carta in 1225 – the royal charter that, in essence, first established that the monarchy and government are not above the law. It hadn't been an illustrious start, with the previous charter in 1215 being almost immediately repudiated, then annulled – but the 1225 version was issued

to King Henry III, and helped to bring much-needed stability to the nation. Home to an original 1300 Magna Carta, Faversham will host two days of immersive events, historical re-enactments and educational experiences this June, bringing the medieval world to life. Visitors can explore this pivotal moment in history while enjoying the charm of one of England's most picturesque towns – a celebration of liberty, legacy, and community.
www.magnacartatrust.org & www.favershamcharters.org

20th anniversary of Trentham Monkey Forest – Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire
July 2025
The only place in the UK where you can walk among 140 free roaming Barbaray macaques – which are endangered in the wild – will celebrate its 20th birthday this year. Trentham Monkey Forest opened on 19 July 2005, and has since seen over 100 babies born and welcomed thousands of visitors, while also becoming a leading centre for primatology research and conservation. As well as special anniversary events, it will unveil a bespoke monkey mosaic made from hundreds of photos taken at the attraction.
www.monkey-forest.com

10th Manchester International Festival – Manchester
3 – 20 July 2025
Every two years, the Manchester International Festival fills the city with music, dance, theatre and ideas – and this year will be its 10th instalment. It celebrates the radical, the unpredictable: art that changes perspectives and pushes boundaries, but always with a fun and colourful edge. We can expect an extraordinary show: previous highlights have included Yayoi Kusama's *You, Me And The Balloons* artwork, and performances by Marina Abramović, Björk and Willem Defoe.
www.factoryinternational.org/about/manchester-international-festival

75th anniversary of *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*
20 August – 7 September 2025
C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* was first published in October 1950 – and has since sold more than 85 million copies, been translated into 60 languages, and become one of the best-selling books of all time. To celebrate the anniversary, the West End production will hit the stage of London's Sadlers Wells Theatre this summer, transporting the audience to Narnia once more – a fantastical journey through this mythical land, with a cast led by award-winning actor Katy Stephens as the White Witch.
www.sadlerswells.com/the-lion-the-witch-and-the-wardrobe

50th anniversary of Museum of Oxford – Oxfordshire
Throughout 2025
As it enters its 50th year, the Museum of Oxford will host a year-long public programme of special events to showcase the popular and lesser-known stories from the people who live, work and play in the city. From marmalade to Morris Motors, patron saints to pubs, the museum reveals more than 1,000 years of Oxford's history, and is the only institution dedicated to telling – and gathering – the stories of the people and places it calls home. Expect an informative, entertaining and compelling series of talks, events and exhibitions.
www.museumofoxford.org

Liverpool Empire Theatre celebrates 100 years – Liverpool
Throughout 2025
2025 marks the 100th anniversary of Liverpool's historic Empire Theatre – home to the UK's largest two-tier auditorium, with spectacular ruby-red and gold interior design. This centennial celebration will honour a century of world-class performances, from West End touring musicals to orchestral concerts, plus the behind-the-scenes legends of one of the country's most iconic theatres. With special events planned throughout the year, there's no better time to experience the magic of live performance in this cultural landmark.
www.visitliverpool.com/listing/liverpool-empire-theatre/35713101

25th anniversary of The World Garden – Dartford, Kent
Throughout 2025
The idea for Lullingstone Castle's World Garden was born 25 years ago, in the depths of the Colombian jungle. Curator Tom Hart Dyke – the 20th generation of Hart Dykes to live at the castle – had been kidnapped by guerrillas while on an orchid-hunting expedition, and was being held hostage. While captured, he decided to design his dream garden – and when he was finally released after nine months, he decided to make that dream a reality. This year also marks two decades since the garden opened to the public, so expect a year-long programme of special events, talks and experiences.
www.lullingstonecastle.co.uk/the-castle

700th anniversary of Samlesbury Hall – Samlesbury, Lancashire
Throughout 2025
Samlesbury Hall will mark its 700th anniversary in 2025 with a programme of festivals, tours and events – ranging from ghost-hunting tours to lavish costume balls, and even an 'audience' with Henry VIII. Known as 'Samlesbury 700', this year-long celebration will honour its past and look to the future, and delve into its many myths and legends – from tales of witchcraft and murder, to the priest hides hidden in its walls. Visitors can stay overnight in the estate's self-catering Gatehouse and shepherd's huts.
www.samlesburyhall.co.uk/samlesbury-700

75th anniversary of RHS Harlow Carr – Harrogate, North Yorkshire
Throughout 2025
When RHS Garden Harlow Carr first opened its gates in 1950, it quickly became a popular natural haven of woodland, rock gardens and wildflower meadows – and has continued to grow ever since. Now part of the RHS, it's a fount of horticultural inspiration and knowledge, and hosts RHS Garden Weekends and spectacular Glow festive illuminations every year. Throughout 2025, it will also launch a series of commemorative special events and festivities.
www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/harlow-carr

400th anniversary of Kiplin Hall – Richmond, North Yorkshire
Throughout 2025
Built in the 1620s for George Calvert – Secretary of State to King James I and the founder of Maryland, USA – Kiplin Hall will celebrate its 400th anniversary in 2025. What better excuse to stroll through its scenic woodlands and formal gardens, discover its lavish interiors (including a spectacular Gothic library with more than 2,500 books), and tuck into afternoon tea in its award-winning tearoom? Look out for live music, half-term fun and themed seasonal events too.
www.kiplinhall.co.uk

Visitor Attractions, Museums and Galleries

£1 entry to Windsor Castle, Berkshire
1 January – 4 April 2025
Windsor Castle will offer £1 entry tickets to visitors on Universal Credit and other benefits this year, throughout a trial period in spring. Those eligible will be able bring up to five members of their household with them to explore the castle for £1 each. The scheme is part of Royal Collection Trust's charitable aim to find inclusive ways for everyone to enjoy its treasured locations. The castle's wider range of concessionary rates will continue to be available.
www.rct.uk/visit/windsor-castle

Unveiling of new £40m Maritime City, Hull, East Yorkshire
Throughout 2025
For a first glimpse of Hull's new-look maritime attractions, the *Spurn Lightship* – which guided ships safely through the treacherous River Humber for almost 50 years – is scheduled to reopen as a floating museum this spring. Later in the year (scheduled for autumn/winter), the *Arctic Corsair* – Hull's last sidewinder trawler – will also open to the public, after undergoing an extensive renovation. It's all part of the five-year £40m Hull Maritime project, which will also include the refurbished Maritime Museum, featuring new galleries and visitor facilities: set to open in early 2026.
www.maritimehull.co.uk/the-city

Reopening of Bradford National Science and Media Museum, Bradford, West Yorkshire
January 2025
As Bradford takes the spotlight this year as the UK's City of Culture, its National Science and Media Museum will reopen in January after an extensive renovation – with new permanent Sound and Vision galleries, improved accessibility and a facelift for its entranceway. It has been closed since June 2023, but this £6m project will breathe new life into the city's arts and culture scene with world-class collections of photography, film, television, animation, video games and sound technologies.
www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk

A new £5 million planetarium at Sherwood Observatory, Nottinghamshire
January 2025
Having opened at the end of last year, the new planetarium at Sherwood Observatory is set to reveal the mysteries of the night sky from January – the first new planetarium of its size in the UK for more than a decade. Its 10-metre screen has 4K resolution: ideal for its 'full dome' animated films and presenter-led tours. The observatory is staffed by volunteers, and will host special events and screenings year-round.
www.sherwood-observatory.org.uk

Refresh of John Rylands Library, Manchester, Greater Manchester
February 2025
The Grade I listed John Rylands Library will celebrate its 125th anniversary this year, and will reopen to the public in February after a one-year restoration project. The unveiling will include a refresh of the library's impressive Victorian Gothic architecture, with a new-look entrance, new exhibition spaces and enhanced academic facilities.
www.library.manchester.ac.uk/rylands

New theatre: Sadler's Wells East, Stratford, London
February 2025
After years of anticipation, Sadler's Wells East will commence its inaugural season in February – when it opens in Stratford's East Bank in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. As the fourth Sadlers Wells theatre venue, it will continue the company's world-renowned dance programme, promising "everything from hip hop to ballet, rave to rhumba and waacking to welding", with a flexible auditorium to accommodate ambitious new works. Its opening season will commence with Vicki Igbokwe-Ozoagu's *Our Mighty Groove*, featuring young dancers from East London with Uchenna Dance. Later, look out for new performances by Botis Seva and Jasmin Vardimon, and leading UK companies Phoenix Dance Theatre and BRB2.
www.sadlerswells.com/your-visit/sadlers-wells-east/welcome-to-sadlers-wells-east

Wild Escapes to launch outdoor spa and sauna, Herefordshire
Spring 2025
The team behind the award-winning restaurant The Riverside at Aymestrey is set to open The Wild Escapes, a low-impact health and wellbeing spa set in the Herefordshire countryside. Guests will be able to unwind in wood-fired hot tubs, sweat it out in a sauna created from a reclaimed horsebox (followed by a cold dip in the plunge

pool) and enjoy treatments in shepherd's hut spas. As with their other ventures, The Wild Escapes team will have sustainability and regenerative practices at the core of the business.
www.riversideaymestrey.co.uk

Blenheim Palace to launch Life Below Stairs experience – Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire
March 2025
Step into the little-known world of Blenheim Palace's servants on its new Life Below Stairs experience. From maids and butlers to valets and cooks, it will reveal the characters who have lived and worked behind the grandeur of the palace in an immersive sound- and story-filled tour. In May, Blenheim Palace will also launch its new Rooftop View, a panoramic platform overlooking its most spectacular features – including the Grand Bridge, Great Court and the Column of Victory.
www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/events/life-below-stairs & www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/events/rooftop-view

Goods Yard – to open in the year that marks Railway 200, Stoke
Spring 2025
Located between Stoke railway station and the Trent and Mersey canal, Goods Yard is set to become a major destination for residents, locals and visitors. It will feature workspaces, bars, restaurants, coffee shops and stores, as well as 174 rental homes and a lush public garden designed for socialising and exercise. Expect to find plenty of local brands, eateries and producers in this multi-million-pound regeneration project.
www.capitalandcentric.com/goods-yard

Opening of new animal habitat at Twycross Zoo, Leicestershire
Spring 2025
Leading conservation charity and attraction Twycross Zoo is set to open a brand-new animal habitat, featuring ten exotic species – including some of the world's most endangered reptiles and insects. Visitors will also have the opportunity to get closer than ever to some of its cold-blooded creatures, including a three-metre-long boa constrictor.
www.twycrosszoo.org

Launch of Goodwood Art Foundation, West Sussex
Spring 2025
An innovative contemporary art gallery at Goodwood Estate, the Goodwood Art Foundation will showcase international artists in a landscape designed by Dan Pearson OBE – featuring both indoor and outdoor exhibition spaces. The foundation will blend art and nature, with striking sculptures and artworks displayed throughout its gardens, woodlands and pavilion.
www.goodwoodartfoundation.org

REOPENING: Robin Hill activity park, Isle of Wight
April 2025
After closing in 2023, Robin Hill's activity park is set to return this spring – just in time for the Easter holidays. Its new attractions will include a disco-themed indoor ice rink, boating lake with electric boats, mini diggers for the kids, and an adventure park featuring climbing boulders and swings. Families can also enjoy crazy golf, tubing slides, and an underground adventure tunnel. A six-part 'fly-on-the-wall' documentary will chronicle the park's transformation, to be televised this year (channel and date yet to be announced).
www.robin-hill.com

Opening of Norwich Castle Keep at Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery, Norfolk
Spring 2025

All eyes are on the mighty Norwich Castle, which has undergone an extensive renovation – to be revealed this spring. For the first time in the Castle's history, visitors will be able to access the Keep for impressive vistas of Norwich and its other medieval marvels. The renovation includes a new glass atrium for clear views of the East façade and Bigod Tower, as well as a visitor facility with a café, shop and accessible facilities. Cutting-edge projection and digital technology will immerse visitors in King Henry I's lavish castle, revealing its untold stories and Norwich's medieval importance. There will also be a new gallery, showcasing national medieval treasures alongside objects from Norfolk's own significant collection – the first of its kind in the UK.
www.norwichcastle.norfolk.gov.uk

New attraction: Jane Austen's school room at Reading Abbey, Reading, Berkshire
April – October 2025
When she was just nine years old, Jane Austen spent 18 months at school in Reading – and as part of the 250th anniversary of her birth – her old schoolroom in Reading's Abbey Quarter will open to the public this year for a series of special events and tours. Her school experience is often cited as the inspiration for Austen's Mrs Goddard's School in *Emma*; guided visits will run every Saturday between April and October, as part of Reading Museum's Abbey Quarter Austen-themed tours and events.
www.readingmuseum.org.uk/jane-austen-250-2025

Launch of V&A East Storehouse, London
31 May 2025
Part-museum, part-research centre, V&A East Storehouse will finally open this year in London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Its first exhibition will be The Music Is Black: A British Story – which will celebrate 125 years of Black music-making in Britain, exploring how it has shaped British culture. This will be one of London's hottest cultural openings this year, taking visitors on an immersive journey through dazzling displays and exhibitions, with cutting-edge storage and display techniques to allow for optimum exposure of each exhibit.
www.vam.ac.uk/info/futureplan

New indoor ride at Paultons Park, Romsey, Hampshire
May 2025
Calling all ghost hunters! Hampshire's leading family theme park – home of the UK's only Peppa Pig World – is set to open its new haunted-house attraction this May: Paultons Manor. Promising an immersive and interactive experience, it will add a spooky twist to Paulton Park's array of family-friendly attractions. The ride's façade is inspired by the old house that once stood in the gardens of the theme park – but do you dare venture inside?
www.paultonspark.co.uk

Launch of Becketwell Live, Derby, Derbyshire
May 2025
A new £45.8m, 3,500-capacity performance venue is set to open in Derby this year, part of the city's ambitious rejuvenation project. It will be managed by world-leading venue operator ASM Global, enabling it to host top-tier international music, dance, theatre and comedy productions, as well as local and national talents. Becketwell Live will also be a state-of-the-art business centre, welcoming high-profile conferences and exhibitions year-round.
www.becketwell.co.uk

Carbon Garden opening at Kew Gardens, Richmond
July 2025
The new permanent Carbon Garden at Kew Gardens will be one of its most ambitious projects yet. As well as communicating the scale of the climate crisis, the garden will explore the extraordinary potential of the natural world to combat it. It will centre around a spectacular central installation inspired by fungi and created using natural materials, alongside a striking display of perennials inspired by climate stripes, a dry garden featuring

drought-tolerant plants, and an exposed coal seam showing fossilized plants. Thought-provoking and inspiring, this will be gardening as activism and education.
www.kew.org/about/kew-announces-carbon-garden

Refurbishment of Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester, Leicestershire
Summer 2025
Known as Ratae Corieltavorum in Roman times, Jewry Wall Museum will reopen in early 2025 with cutting-edge digital technology to bring Roman Leicester to life. Around 2,000 years ago, this area was the thriving tribal capital of the Corieltauvi people, and the new-look attraction will use Leicester's rich Roman collection to reveal its intriguing history. Visitors can explore the museum alongside the city's Roman Walking Trail, a 90-minute self-guided tour of local heritage highlights.
www.leicestermuseums.org/jewry-wall

New attraction: The Greatest Gathering at Alstom, Derby
1 – 3 August 2025
As part of England's Railway200 festivities, Alstom – the UK's leading supplier of new trains – will open its historic Derby factory to the public for the first time for one weekend only, to host the largest temporary gathering of trains and rail-related exhibits in a generation. Entitled The Greatest Gathering, the open weekend will feature vintage and modern locomotives alike, as well as model railways, fairground attractions and live music.
www.alstom.com

New South West Coast Path visitor centre, Plymouth
Summer 2025
Hikers on the South West Coast Path will soon be able to access information and resources from a new visitor centre in Plymouth. It will feature exhibitions about the local landscape, and offer assistance with public transport, tours, hotels and other vital logistics – as well as serving as a hub for adventure and outdoor enthusiasts. This promises to be a landmark year for the wider trail too, with the release of *The Salt Path* – the film adaptation of Raynor Winn's best-selling novel, based on a year-long trek along the South West Coast Path.
www.southwestcoastpath.org.uk

Folkstone's iconic Cliff Railway to reopen, Kent
Summer 2025
Kent's colourful seaside town of Folkstone will see the reopening of its much-loved heritage cliff lift which has been closed since 2017. Following additional funding from the National Lottery, the essential £4.8m repairs and renovations will restore the Grade II listed hillside railway to its former glory with improved accessibility, a new café and exhibition showcasing its history.
www.leaslift.co.uk

Reopening of Power Hall gallery at Science and Industry Museum, Manchester
Summer 2025
After a five-year renovation, the Science and Industry Museum's Power Hall is set to reopen its doors – and will be reinstated as the home of one of the UK's largest collections of working steam engines. The works are part of the museum's multi-million-pound regeneration, and the new gallery will reveal the history of the machines and the stories of those who built, maintained and restored them. The reopening will coincide with the nationwide Railway 200 celebrations, marking two centuries since the first steam-powered passenger train journey in 1825.
www.scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk/about-us/we-are-changing/power-hall

Station Hall to reopen at The National Railway Museum, York
September 2025

After years of renovation works, York's National Railway Museum will finally open its new-look Station Hall this September – just in time for Railway 200, a year-long celebration of the 200th anniversary of the modern railway. Once home to York's main goods station and later a freight depot, the Station Hall will host permanent and temporary locomotive exhibitions, revealing the stories of the people working on, using and passing through the nation's railway stations.
www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/ourmasterplan/station-hall

Launch of Coventry City Centre's Cultural Gateway, West Midlands
Autumn 2025
Coventry's former IKEA building is currently being transformed into a new centre for the arts, performance and technology, which is set to open this autumn. The City Centre Cultural Gateway (CCCG) has already been used as a filming location for various productions (including Lenny Henry's *Three Little Birds*) since it was purchased by Coventry City Council in 2020, but this new phase will see it open as an arts hub for Coventry University – alongside a dance studio, exhibition space, shops, café and library.
www.coventry.gov.uk/regeneration-1/city-centre-cultural-gateway

Reopening of Redhills Miners Hall, Durham, County Durham
Autumn 2025
A focal point for the living heritage and culture of County Durham's coalfield communities, the former Redhills Miners Hall is set to reopen this autumn. It dates back to 1915, when it was founded by more than 100,000 working miners as a democratic hub – and its beautiful Grade II listed architecture will soon become a vibrant hub for the community and visitors. The new-look Redhills will feature exhibitions, creative workshops, a wedding venue and archives of Durham Coalfield.
www.thisisdurham.com/whats-on/redhills

Opening of the Schwarzman Centre, Oxford, Oxfordshire
Autumn 2025
For the first time in Oxford University's history, all of its humanities faculties will be housed together in this state-of-the-art centre for learning and culture – which will include a library, lecture theatres and an exhibition venue. The public will benefit too, with the opening of a new 500-seat concert hall and 250-seat auditorium, plus flexible performance spaces for music, dance and art. Made possible by £185m of donations from philanthropist and businessman Stephen A. Schwarzman, the centre will also be a community hub, and will host local festivals, events and cultural celebrations.
www.schwarzmancentre.ox.ac.uk

Oldham Coliseum: 138-year-old theatre to reopen, Manchester
December 2025
Following a passionate local campaign, Manchester's much-loved Oldham Coliseum theatre will reopen by Christmas – just in time to host its 2025 pantomime show. The theatre, which was founded in 1887, lost its funding in 2023 but has been saved by a £10m grant from Oldham Council for refurbishment and futureproofing. It is expected to run a full programme throughout 2026 and beyond, regaining its place amid the city's thriving cultural scene.
www.coliseum.org.uk

Reopening of The Harris Museum, Preston, Lancashire
TBC 2025
The historic Grade I Listed Harris Museum in Preston, closed since 2021, is undergoing an exciting transformation through the Harris Your Place Project. A £16m endeavour, this renovation aims to modernise the site, creating a dynamic community and cultural hub. The revamp will introduce new spaces, improved café facilities, event areas, and innovative zones for learning, creativity, and socialising. Preston's accessible location and bustling atmosphere, along with nearby attractions such as The Flower Bowl, Brockholes nature reserve,

and the historic Samlesbury Hall, make the city an ideal backdrop for this revitalised museum, which will enrich both local and visitor experiences.
www.theharris.org.uk

Relaunch of Bradford Live, Bradford, West Yorkshire
TBC 2025
A magnificently renovated art deco building – formerly the Bradford Odeon – will reopen this year as a grand new entertainment venue with a 3,800-person capacity. Originally built in 1930 and overlooking City Park, Bradford Live is billed as a 'world-class leisure and business destination', which is 'bringing the beat back to Bradford'. *Thank you for the Music - The Ultimate Tribute to ABBA* and *Legend - The Music of Bob Marley* are the two live shows announced for the long-awaited venue re-opening. As well as music, the events venue will host a full-to-bursting calendar of comedy and family entertainment, making it a vibrant cultural centre for Bradford and beyond. Bradford will be the UK City of Culture in 2025.
www.bradfordlive.co.uk

Walthamstow Theatre, London
TBC 2025
Walthamstow's set to welcome a new theatre, set inside the Grade II listed Granada cinema building which dates to 1930. The space has been purchased by Walthamstow Forest Council and is anticipated to be developed into a major new 1,000 seater theatre that will be run by the Soho Theatre team.
www.sohotheatre.com/walthamstow

New attraction: National Science and Conservation Centre, Leicestershire
TBC 2025
Twycross Zoo will unveil its new National Science and Conservation Centre this year, poised to become a cornerstone in global biodiversity conservation efforts. This purpose-built facility will serve as a hub for researchers and educators, fostering collaborations to tackle the pressing challenges of biodiversity loss. From advancing animal welfare to spearheading STEM initiatives and public outreach, the centre's multifaceted approach promises to shape the trajectory of the global extinction crisis.
www.twycrosszoo.org/our-charity/our-future

Launch of Modern Surf, Manchester, Greater Manchester
TBC 2025
The company behind Surf Snowdonia is taking its 'inland surfing' concept to Manchester – where it will launch the region's first surf lagoon. The £60m project will feature a cutting-edge surfing lagoon, bar and restaurant facilities, as well as other interactive attractions for visitors including a pump track and fitness gym, halfpipe/boarding area and bouldering/balancing zones. Expect perfect waves for surfers of all abilities to hone their skills, as well as professional tournaments, beginners' tuition sessions and social events.
www.traffordcity.co.uk/modernsurf

Transformation of HOME Arches, Manchester, Greater Manchester
TBC 2025
Work is underway in central Manchester to transform three heritage railway arches into a 'talent development centre' for aspiring and established artists. The project is led by HOME Manchester, which aims to provide a space to help nurture, attract and retain local creatives – by providing high-quality and low-cost rehearsal spaces and training. It will be located close to HOME itself, a popular hub for theatre, comedy and cinema, which features famous performers and new talents alike.
www.homemcr.org

Everton's new stadium: opening of Bramley Moore Dock, Liverpool

TBC 2025
Kicking off the 2025/2026 season, Everton FC will move into its state-of-the-art stadium at Bramley Moore Dock later this year, located on Liverpool's iconic waterfront. This long-awaited opening marks a major milestone for both the club and the city, bringing a new era of football to a world-class venue that will inspire fans and visitors alike – and will also host live music and festivals year-round, as well as vibrant bars and restaurants. This is set to be a monumental year for Everton and the Liverpool community.
www.evertonstadium.com

New play zones at Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury, Gloucestershire
TBC 2025
As part of its mission to empower families to engage with nature, Westonbirt Arboretum will open new children's natural play areas this year. After the success of its two new playgrounds in the Old Arboretum (which opened last autumn), the woodland will create a new zone for discovery and exploration, as well as a quiet play space designed for young visitors on the autism spectrum. Parents and carers will appreciate the observation areas, while further plans include the redevelopment of Exploratree – its play area for younger age groups.
www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt-the-national-arboretum

Relaunch of Killhope Lead Mining Museum, Weardale, County Durham
TBC 2025
This year, visitors will be able to explore the underground tunnels and caverns of Killhope lead mine – as this award-winning attraction reopens to the public after extensive restoration. With repairs to the underground mine, washing floor, mine shop, buddle house and jigger house, the new-look visitor experience will reveal how its miners worked in back-breaking conditions, as well as the camaraderie and ingenuity that kept them alive.
www.killhope.org.uk

Reopening of the Grade I listed Rochdale Town Hall in Greater Manchester
TBC 2025
Rochdale Town Hall is set to reopen after a £20 million restoration this year, as well as Touchstones Rochdale gallery and museum which is also undergoing renovation. Across Greater Manchester, other attractions with new stories include Oldham Coliseum which will reopen following renovation and a local campaign to save it from closure, and Stockport's Hat Works Museum which will feature 1,000 new items on display for the first time.
www.visitmanchester.com

Festivals, Exhibitions and Events

Bradford is UK City of Culture 2025, West Yorkshire
Throughout 2025
Bradford has been named UK City of Culture 2025 and has a year of festivals and exhibitions in the planning – featuring more than 1,000 new performances and events. As well as putting local talents in the spotlight, the festivities will include a whopping 365 bespoke works by national and international artists. Bradford's unique culture, character and heritage will take centre stage, with everything from parades and live music to theatre shows, street art and hands-on workshops. Did you know that Bradford has the UK's youngest city population, with 29% of its population aged under 20? So expect energy – and lots of it!
www.bradford2025.co.uk

A year of Jane Austen 250 celebrations at Jane Austen's House, Chawton, Hampshire
Throughout 2025
Jane Austen lived in Chawton, Hampshire, for the final eight years of her life – during which she wrote and published multiple novels. Her home, Jane Austen's House, is restored exactly as it looked during her lifetime,

and this year it will host multiple events and exhibitions to celebrate 250 years since her birth – and will launch limited-edition commemorative silk ribbons, in collaboration with Whitchurch Silk Mill (available from the gift shop). Also look out for festivals based on her novels *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Emma* and *Persuasion* – with themed tours, pop-up talks, writing workshops, late views and more. Chawton also features Chawton House, which was owned by her brother Edward, and which will also be marking the anniversary year-round.
www.janeaustens.house/visit/jane-austen-250

John Lyons Carnivalesque exhibition at The Box, Plymouth
Now, until 5 May 2025
Step into the vibrant world of John Lyons, the Caribbean-British artist and poet whose career spans six decades. This retrospective will delve into the extraordinary contribution that Lyons has made to British art, literature and art education, bringing more than 40 of his paintings, drawings, poetry and sketchbooks to Plymouth. A unique insight into his creative process and his roots in Trinidad and Tobago, with exclusive audio and video featuring Lyons himself.
www.theboxplymouth.com/events/exhibitions/john-lyons-carnivalesque

New exhibition: Between the Covers with Vita at Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Cranbrook, Kent
February -September 2025
From serving as a prison in the 1700s to being the headquarters of the Women's Land Army, Sissinghurst Castle Garden has a colourful history – and it was also the home of best-selling author Vita Sackville-West. Between the Covers with Vita, a new exhibition about her life, work, and love of her Kent home, will feature paintings, writings and photography that have never been displayed in public before. Expect a rich insight into this trailblazing 20th Century queer female writer.
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/kent/sissinghurst-castle-garden

***Margate Beach* on display at Turner Contemporary, Margate, Kent**
From February 2025
To celebrate 250 years since the birth of J.M.W. Turner, Margate's Turner Contemporary gallery will display his painting *Margate Beach* from February onwards. The seaside town is regarded as the painter's spiritual home, having so inspired him with its sea views, coastal scenes and rich maritime history. Further themed exhibitions and events will take place throughout this anniversary year at the Turner Contemporary.
www.turnercontemporary.org

Miffy turns 70 with a special exhibition at Leeds City Museum, West Yorkshire
7 February – 7 September 2025
Miffy, the cartoon rabbit beloved by children – and adults – all over the world, will celebrate her 70th birthday this year. Leeds City Museum will host a special anniversary exhibition in her honour: a chance to explore Miffy's colourful world created by Dutch illustrator Dick Bruna, via interactive exhibits, creative displays and activities. After Leeds, the exhibition will move to Norfolk's Time and Tide Museum of Great Yarmouth Life, from 11 October 2025 until 1 March 2026.
www.museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/news/miffy-exhibition-lcm

The Great Pottery Throw Down coming to Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent
From March 2025
Fans of Channel Four's The Great Pottery Throw Down will have the chance to see ceramics crafted by series eight's potters, with the launch of a new exhibition at Gladstone Pottery Museum. As part of Stoke-on-Trent's centenary celebrations, it will display creations from episode seven in which the contestants were challenged to create bird baths honouring the six towns of Stoke-on-Trent. Visitors will also be able to watch live demos and

see traditional pottery skills in action, as well as trying their hand at throwing a pot, crafting a bone china flower and decorating their own ceramic piece.
www.stokemuseums.org.uk/gpm

Launch of The Festival of Wellness, Tresco, Isles of Scilly
14 – 22 March 2025
True to its sea-breezy style and relaxed pace of life, the isle of Tresco is launching a week-long wellness festival with sessions guided by island practitioners and guest experts. The week-long programme will feature events and activities for all experience levels – such as outdoor yoga classes, guided nature walks, mindfulness seminars and Qi Gong workshops.
www.tresco.co.uk/enjoying/events/festival-of-wellness

SURF! exhibition at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall
From 28 March 2025
Cornwall has been synonymous with surfing for more than 100 years, and this new exhibition will explore how the sport has evolved over the decades – as well as its impact on music, art, film and fashion. Discover how it is inextricably linked to the culture of Cornwall itself, and the hidden histories of surfing's local pioneers and home-grown champions – who were hitting the waves long before the rest of the world caught on.
www.nmmc.co.uk/surf

Easter Arts Festival – North York Moors National Park, North Yorkshire
7 – 27 April 2025
North Yorkshire's new three-week Easter Arts Festival will coincide with the school holidays, with events held at Sutton Bank, Danby Lodge and venues across the North York Moors. Blending nature and culture, its activities programme will feature a kite-flying festival, art workshops, live music and craft demonstrations. Also in the North York Moors region this season, look out for the new dry stone wall maze opening at Dalby Forest, the largest maze of its kind in the world at 80 x 80 metres, with over 4,000 tonnes of regional stone being used (opens 14 April). From 1 to 27 April, the new North York Moors Beacon for the Arts Festival will also celebrate the National Park's rich creative inspiration across a series of events, exhibitions, open studios and craft workshops.
www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/things-to-do/arts-and-culture/arts-and-music-festivals,
www.forestryengland.uk/dalbymaze
www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/artsfestival

Stockton and Darlington Railway festival: S&DR200, Tees Valley, County Durham
March – November 2025
As part of Railway 200, Stockton and Darlington Railway – which hosted the world's first passenger steam train journey in 1825 – will host a nine-month festival this year. Celebrating the foundations and future of rail travel, the S&DR200 festival will take place across the Tees Valley, with free outdoor events, exhibitions and artworks. Discover how the 26-mile journey between Shildon and Stockton on 27 September 1825 changed the world of travel and transport forever.
www.sdr200.co.uk

Launch of the Easter Arts Festival – North York Moors National Park, North Yorkshire
7 – 27 April 2025
North Yorkshire's new three-week Easter Arts Festival will coincide with the spring school holidays this year, with family-friendly events held at Sutton Bank and Danby Lodge National Park Centres, as well as venues across the North York Moors. Blending nature and culture, its activities programme will feature a kite-flying festival, arty workshops, live music and craft demonstrations.
www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/things-to-do/arts-and-culture/arts-and-music-festivals

The Power of Trees: New Art Exhibition at Kew Gardens, London
12 April 2025 – 14 September 2025
Kew Garden's Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art will showcase the spectacle of trees through a range of creative works. 20 newly commissioned pieces by Bedgebury Florilegium Society will be displayed along with a cinematic video installation of spruce forests in Finland from Finnish artist Eila-Liisa Ahtila.
www.kew.org

Agatha Christie Spring Gathering in Torquay, Devon
12 April 2025
In honour of the 'Queen of Crime' who was born in Torquay, this one-day special event will be a crime fiction extravaganza – with talks by the likes of Death in Paradise creator Robert Thorogood and debut murder mystery novelist (and Christie super-fan) Jeremy Vine. A new sculpture of Christie and her dog will be unveiled at the harbourside in Torquay, and the day will end with a gala dinner at the Imperial Hotel, which is said to have inspired the settings of several of her novels. The event comes hot on the heels of a new TV adaptation of Christie's Towards Zero, which aired on the BBC from March 2025, with scenes filmed on Devon's coast and the South West.
www.iacf-uk.org/festival-2025/spring-gathering

New exhibition: Stories – Brought to Life at MediaCity, Salford, Manchester
From 2 May 2025
Explore the remarkable stories behind some of the nation's best-loved portraits in this new immersive experience inspired by London's National Portrait Gallery. Stories – Brought to Life will use digital technology to reveal the lives of people who have shaped England's history and culture, from the Tudors to the present day. It will feature the likes of Elizabeth I, Grayson Perry, Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai, Emmeline Pankhurst and William Shakespeare – and after its Manchester debut the exhibition will embark on a national tour.
www.npg.org.uk/beyond/exhibitions/partnership/2025/stories-brought-to-life

Largest ever retrospective of acclaimed English sculptor Stephen Cox at Houghton Hall, Norfolk
4 May – 28 September 2025
Stephen Cox's stone sculptures have graced galleries all over the world, from London's Tate Britain to New York's MOMA – and in May, they will arrive at Norfolk's Houghton Hall. This will be the acclaimed British sculptor's largest-ever retrospective, featuring more than 40 years of work across its park, gardens and interiors. As well as monumental marble and stone outdoor sculptures, it will include smaller pieces in the State Rooms and a collection of artworks and sketches on paper. Shrine, Cox's large marble and porphyry sculpture which was created for the National Gallery's Encounters exhibition in 2000, will also be displayed.
www.houghtonhall.com

RETURNING: Norwich Jazz Festival: back after a hiatus of 20 years, Norfolk
15 – 24 May 2025
Returning after a 20-year break, Norwich Jazz Festival will celebrate its revival with performances from top UK and international jazz artists. Headliners include Norwich trio Mammal Hands, Brazilian Jazz-Funk legends Azymuth, 20-piece collective National Youth Jazz Orchestra, and saxophonist and composer Jasmine Myra. Hosted across multiple venues including Anteros, EPIC Studios and Cinema City, the festival will coincide with Norwich Arts Centre's 45th anniversary.
www.norwichartscentre.co.uk/nac-stories/norwich-jazz-festival-launches-may-2025

10th anniversary of Bridlington Kite Festival, East Yorkshire
17 & 18 May 2025
Flying high over the coastal cliffs of East Yorkshire, the two-day Bridlington Kite Festival has grown to become a spectacular event – and this year will mark its 10th anniversary. See some of the world's largest inflatable kites

flown by internationally renowned kite experts in high-speed displays, alongside have-a-go sessions, fairground rides and the parachuting teddy bear drop.
www.bridlingtonkitefestival.co.uk

Iron Age treasures to be displayed at Barbican House Museum, Lewes, Sussex
Spring 2025
Two fragments of a rare Iron Age gold torc – or neck ring – which were discovered in West Sussex in 2019, will be displayed at the Barbican House Museum in Lewes this year. According to analysis by the British Museum, the pieces date back around 2,400 years, and signified status and power in late prehistoric society. They were discovered by a metal detectorist near Pulborough, West Sussex, and have since been acquired by the Sussex Archaeological Society.
www.sussexpast.co.uk/whats-on

Austen and Turner: A Country House Encounter, Harewood House, Yorkshire
2 May – 19 October 2025
In a year that marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of both Jane Austen and JMW Turner, this new exhibition shines a spotlight on two legendary figures of Regency England, their shared interest in the social and cultural life of the British country house and their creative legacy. Exhibits will include Turner's paintings of Harewood House and a first-edition copy of Austen's Sense and Sensibility, as well as rarely seen artefacts, paintings, period costume and writing and artistic tools.
www.harewood.org/whats-on/event/jmw-turner-and-jane-austen/

Back to Mine festival launching near Bristol
23 – 25 May 2025
Set in Somerset's Chew Valley, this new music festival will feature curated DJ sets with live dancers and instrumental performances – not to mention panoramic views and a luxurious glamping set-up. It's over-21s only, and designed to create an intimate and exclusive club atmosphere amid the great outdoors. Headliners include Sam Divine, Gok Wan and Felix Joy.
www.visitbristol.co.uk/event/back-to-mine-the-secret-valley-in-chew-valley/366961301

Portsmouth to be host city for UK Pride, Portsmouth, Hampshire
7 June 2025
Portsmouth has been selected as the UK Pride host city for 2025, so expect its parades, protests and parties to be bigger and brighter than ever before. Last year, the city hosted around 20,000 people at its Pride events – ranging from talks and workshops to its parade along the waterfront – plus live concerts, after parties and a meet-and-greet with the Cheeky Girls!
www.portsmouthpride.org.uk/find-out-more/main-day

Stoke100: Stoke-on-Trent Centenary Celebration Weekend, Staffordshire
Throughout 2025
5 June 2025 will mark 100 years since Stoke-on-Trent officially became a city, as declared by King George V in 1925. In honour of the Stoke100 anniversary, it will host a weekend of parties, processions, street theatre and live music on 5 June, alongside more than 60 events planned throughout the year ahead. The city gained its status thanks to its importance as the centre of the pottery industry – and is now the home of Channel 4's *Great Pottery Throw Down* – so expect plenty of ceramics-themed fun too. This year also marks the 50th year of Gladstone Pottery Museum (where the *Throw Down* is filmed), 40 years of Emma Bridgewater's factory and the 10th anniversary of the V&A Wedgwood Collection at World of Wedgwood.
www.wearestaffordshire.co.uk/news/save-the-date-for-the-stoke-on-trent-celebration-weekend

New festival: 2025 Waterways Festival, Foxton and Market Harborough, Leicestershire

7 & 8 June 2025
Featuring a rally of historic boats, floating traders, food stalls and live music, the inaugural Waterways Festival in Market Harborough will be fun for all the family. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the town's first Festival of Boats and Arts, and proceeds from this year's new festival will be used to support the conservation of local waterways. On the Saturday, don't miss the floating cavalcade of classic, unique and modern boats.
www.iwaharborough75.org

30th Meltdown festival, curated by Little Simz – The Southbank Centre, London
12 June – 22 June 2025
Happy birthday to The Southbank Centre's Meltdown festival, whose 30th edition will be curated by English-Nigerian rapper Little Simz. The 11-day line-up will be devised by the MOBO, Brit and Mercury Prize-winning artist, featuring live music, art, workshops and more. Little Simz will join a long list of high-profile musicians and singers to have curated the festival, including Chaka Khan, Grace Jones, Nile Rodgers, Yoko Ono and David Bowie.
www.southbankcentre.co.uk/events/meltdown

Inaugural RHS Flower Show at Wentworth Woodhouse, Rotherham, South Yorkshire
16–20 July 2025
RHS Flower Show Wentworth Woodhouse will take place for the first time this year, at one of England's grandest stately homes. Wentworth Woodhouse in South Yorkshire will host five days of horticultural artistry, featuring up-and-coming designers, growers and local artisans – as well as contests including RHS Young Designer of the Year and RHS Career Changer of the Year. The first day of the show will be reserved for RHS Members.
www.wentworthwoodhouse.org.uk/news/rhs-show-coming-to-wentworth-woodhouse-in-2025

New exhibition: Discover Elizabeth I's Visit to Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire
July 2025
When Elizabeth I visited Kenilworth Castle 450 years ago in 1575, she spent nearly three weeks as a guest of the Earl of Leicester, Robert Dudley – who was desperate to woo her. Dudley spent around £1,000 per day entertaining the queen, a total equivalent to £7 million in today's money, on everything from lavish feasts to fireworks displays – but the queen was unconvinced. In July, the castle will unveil a new immersive art installation by British artist Lindsey Mendick, re-examining the 1575 visit from a female perspective and exploring the complex relationships behind the Tudor era's extraordinary power-struggle.
visit.kenilworthweb.co.uk

Melton SKA Fest: Play Close Park, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire
26 July 2025
The inaugural Melton SKA Fest will feature some of the UK's best ska and reggae bands, alongside new artists who are making their name on the scene. The line-up will include Gladness, Stereotype, Kingsize, Skabratts, Tann-I Browne and The Dualer International – as well as DJs from Bootboy Radio, merch from Raw Menswear, a beer tent and more.
www.discovermelton.com/event/melton-ska-fest

100 years of Arthur Berry – Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire
Throughout 2025
A century since the birth of author, playwright and artist Arthur Berry, Stoke-on-Trent – his home city – has announced a year-round celebration of his many achievements. The New Vic Theatre has been awarded a £147,193 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to design and deliver stage events based on the Potteries writer's works, alongside exhibitions and touring productions. One of Staffordshire's most famous cultural icons, Berry depicted 20th-century working class life in his own inimitable style.
www.arthurberry100.co.uk

Short seaplane exhibition at Rochester Cathedral, Rochester, Kent
August 2025
Rochester Cathedral will become the unlikely home of a vintage seaplane this summer, to commemorate the history of the local Short seaplane factory. Short Scion floatplanes are an iconic part of British aeronautical engineering, and one such aircraft will be on display in the Cathedral Nave throughout August. The factory was located on the banks of the River Medway near the cathedral, and the planes would often be seen landing and taking off on the waterway during the early and mid-20th Century.
www.rochestercathedral.org

Rugby fever at the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025, Nationwide
22 August – 27 September 2025
England is set to host the biggest ever women's rugby tournament this year, with the arrival of the Rugby World Cup 2025. For the first time ever, the elite women's rugby contest will take place across eight cities in England, with 16 teams competing. The host cities will be Brighton and Hove, Bristol, Exeter, London, Manchester, Northampton, Sunderland and York. The nationwide fixtures will be an unparalleled opportunity to see and support the stars of the women's game.
www.rugbyworldcup.com/2025

Japan Week: arts and cultural events to take over Manchester
4 – 9 September 2025
A cultural festival featuring hundreds of Japanese performers and showcasing Japanese culture will take over Manchester for a week following the city's selection as host to Japan Week 2025. The 50th anniversary of the international event will bring arts, music, fashion and sports to the city with a series of free events, coinciding with EXPO 2025 in Osaka.
www.manchester.gov.uk/news

New exhibition: Material World at Kew Gardens, Richmond, London
20 September – 31 October 2025
Can the natural world unlock a sustainable future for fashion? That's the question that Material World will ask this autumn, as it explores how trees, flowers and fungi – and innovative designers – are offering eco-friendly solutions to the "fast fashion" problem. Featuring innovative installations and demonstrations, the exhibition will engage and educate visitors on the intersection of nature and design and celebrate the pioneering new creations that respect our planet.
www.kew.org/home

Marina Abramović: large-scale work to premiere at Aviva Studios, Manchester
Autumn 2025
Renowned performance artist Marina Abramović will bring a large-scale premiere piece to Manchester's Aviva Studios this year. Abramović is famous for her daring and provocative installations which span decades, such as *Rhythm 0* (1974) and *The Artist is Present* (2010). Entitled *Balkan Erotic Epic*, her new work will explore ritual and spirituality, and will draw on her Balkan heritage – combining performance, dance and traditional Balkan throat singing.
www.factoryinternational.org/whats-on/marina-abramovic

The Grand Sumo Tournament, London
15 – 19 October 2025
For five days in October, London's royal Albert Hall will host the UK's largest Sumo wrestling event, the first of its kind to take place outside of Japan. Over 40 of Japan's elite makuuchi rikishi (wrestlers) will take to the authentic soil and sand dohyo (ring) to compete. Each match will feature the traditional elements including hand

embroidered silk Kesho-mawashi robes and ancient salt-throwing rituals for guests to fully immerse themselves in the history and cultural heritage of the sport.
www.royalalberthall.com

New Turner and Constable exhibition at Tate Britain, London
27 November 2025 – 12 April 2026
This year marks 250 years since the birth of J.M.W. Turner – one of the nation's greatest painters – in 1775, while his contemporary and rival John Constable was born the following year. To celebrate, Tate Britain will host a new exhibition from this November, featuring landmark works by both artists, as well as sketches, letters and personal items.
www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-britain/turner-and-constable

Launch of Brickwrecks: Sunken Ships at The Historic Dockyard Chatham, Kent
8 March – 31 August 2025
Featuring large-scale LEGO models, genuine artefacts and interactive experiences, this all-new exhibition will recreate real-life shipwreck stories with a little help from LEGO. Ryan "The Brickman" McNaught will present spectacular bespoke pieces, complete with audio-visual effects to bring the scenes to life. Visitors will be invited to try their hand at marine archaeology, rebuild part of a Dutch East India Company wreck and pilot a remotely operated vehicle beneath the Arctic ice. It will aim to inspire and engage all ages, whether you're learning how to clean oil pollution from a penguin or trying to sink an ancient warship.
www.thedockyard.co.uk

The Matrix: Choose Your Reality, location TBC, London
TBC 2025
Enter the world of *The Matrix* via this interactive movie screening and dance party, featuring encounters and spaces inspired by the film's iconic red and blue pills. With live DJs and musicians setting the scene, plus visual effects and actors portraying key characters, this is your chance to "choose your reality" – and take a sensory journey into the cyberpunk classic.
www.cinaesthesiaproductions.com/shows

Whitby Lit Fest in Whitby, Yorkshire
6 – 9 November 2025
While Whitby is well known as the inspiration behind Bram Stoker's *Dracula* novel, did you know that it has also served as a muse – and setting – for the likes of Charles Dickens, Lewis Caroll and Elizabeth Gaskell? This new festival will explore Whitby's rich links to literature, with events and exhibitions focusing on the writers and works that are intertwined with the town. Expect thought-provoking talks, themed tours and creative workshops.
www.whitbylitfest.org.uk

Food, Drink and Shopping

Sustainable Shopping: Charity Super.Mkt – Nationwide
From January 2025
Following the success of stores in London, Brighton, Reading and Bristol, second-hand shopping chain Charity Super.Mkt is preparing to open a dozen more stores across England in 2025. Created in collaboration with over 55 national and regional charities including Crisis, Oxfam and FARA, the stores curate high-quality second-hand clothing and accessories that would have otherwise ended up in landfill. Having already confirmed the launch of Canary Wharf in East London in January and Sheffield in 2025, shoppers will be able to browse while minimising their carbon footprint on the planet.
www.charitysupermkt.com

Wine Tasting and Cheese Train Experiences at the Spa Valley Railway, Tunbridge Wells, Kent & Sussex
Now, until 19 October 2025
The Spa Valley Railway is launching two new experiences for 2025, pick from a wine-tasting voyage or a fromage-filled journey through Kent and Sussex on a heritage train. The picturesque route will be paired with a selection of speciality local cheeses or vineyard tours and tastings. On the cheese train experience, each table will offer a box Kent cheese varieties plus chutney, gourmet biscuits and a complimentary drink, whilst wine tasters will be able to hop off and visit a family-run vineyard to try limited-edition English wines.
www.spavalleyrailway.co.uk

Fresh additions to England's Michelin Guide, Nationwide
Spring 2025
Did you know that 25 restaurants were added to England's star Michelin Guide in January? Five received a Green star for their sustainable cuisine, 16 received one star, three received two stars, and one received three stars. This spring is the ideal opportunity to sample their seasonal star-worthy menus, both in London and across England's regions. Lancashire's Moor Hall became the newest recipient of the Guide's highest three-star accolade, while Herefordshire's Native and Leicestershire's Jericho were among those who received green stars.
www.guide.michelin.com/ae-du/en/selection/united-kingdom/restaurants

Hairy Biker Si King to launch new restaurant at Sheepfolds Stable, Sunderland
Early 2025
Welcome to PROPA!, the new restaurant and bar designed by TV chef and Hairy Biker Si King. Just a few minutes' walk from Sunderland's Stadium of Light, the eatery will champion British-grown ingredients and local pub grub: think egg and bacon stotties, lamb panackelty casserole and crispy potato floddies. It will partner with Sunderland charities to minimise waste, and its artisan ales will put local brews in the spotlight – including Hairy Bikers IPA, of course.
www.sheepfoldsstables.co.uk

Five new Gordon Ramsay restaurants at 22 Bishopsgate, London
February 2025
Gordon Ramsay will open five restaurants on the 59th, 60th and 61st storeys of 22 Bishopsgate this year – making them the capital's new highest dining destinations – including Lucky Cat and Bread Street Kitchen, plus the Gordon Ramsay Academy cookery school. With an exclusive 14-seat chef's table, Restaurant Gordon Ramsay will also occupy the 60th floor: an homage to the chef's first Michelin-starred restaurant, serving a fine dining menu to match. Following in the footsteps of Lucky Cats in Mayfair, Manchester and Miami, this new addition will feature a 61th-floor rooftop cocktail bar with panoramic views of the City and beyond.
www.gordonramsayrestaurants.com/whats-on/22-bishopsgate

Launch of Rum Tasting at Judith's – Shakespeare Distillery in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire
February 2025
Located in a beautiful half-timbered building that was once home to Shakespeare's daughter, Judith's is the new experience studio of Shakespeare Distillery – and in February it will add rum experiences to its repertoire. Visitors can learn how the distillery creates its award-winning spirits, while enjoying a rum cocktail and three guided tastings. Look out for rum-blending and gin-tasting workshops too.
www.shakespearedistillery.com/experiences/rum-tasting-at-judiths

New street food hall: Society Birmingham, West Midlands
February 2025
On a mission to champion the West Midlands' home-grown chefs and artisan producers, Society Birmingham will feature a huge street food hall with five independent kitchens – plus an outdoor terrace, craft beer bar, café and

cocktail bar. This lively new venue will be located in the city centre, seating up to 350 diners amid colourful murals and artworks by local creatives. Like its sister food hall, Society Manchester, we can expect live music, events and DJ sets too, with a buzzing atmosphere from lunchtime until late.
www.instagram.com/society.brum

Launch of Topsy Turvy Tea at Mr Fogg's Pawnbrokers, Soho, London
From 15 February 2025
Turn the idea of afternoon tea on its head this year, with the launch of Topsy Turvy Tea at Mr Fogg's Pawnbrokers. Putting the drinks first, the Soho bar will offer the chance to eat your cocktails and drink your food. The two-hour experience will be a sensory adventure where the line between food and drink is blurred: think Earl Grey tea-infused chicken-mayo sandwiches paired with cucumber sandwich cocktails, and champagne scones matched with strawberry jam scone cocktails.
www.mr-foggs.com/mr-foggs-pawnbrokers

Peter Rabbit Cafe at World of Beatrix Potter, Windermere, Cumbria
April 2025
The first of its kind in Europe, this Peter Rabbit-themed eatery will serve light bites and cakes inspired by the author's most beloved characters. Amid the playful exhibits at World of Beatrix Potter, the new café will be a must-visit for peckish fans – whether for a slice of Peter's favourite carrot cake or fresh sandwiches and salads that would make Mr McGregor proud.
www.hop-skip-jump.com

Kitchen Garden restaurant opening at Down Hall Hotel & Spa – Bishop's Stortford, Essex
April 2025
From hand-crafted tables made from Down Hall's felled trees, to a fire pit where chefs prepare garden-to-plate specialities, this new dining experience is deeply connected to its surroundings. It's all about sustainable, natural cuisine: think salads harvested from the kitchen garden, wild herbs whipped into fresh marinades, and a bounty of local produce sourced from Essex and Hertfordshire's finest estates.
www.downhall.co.uk

Calvados tasting experiences at The Angel Inn, Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk
April 2025
The Angel Inn boutique hotel and restaurant will launch a calvados tasting experience in spring – showcasing the lesser known and lesser appreciated cousin of cognac. The spirit's rich character is based on apples, not grapes, and it hails from Normandy in France. Tastings will include calvados from Château de Breuil, whose 400-year history has set the benchmark for calvados distillation, refinement and blending.
www.angelinnsuffolk.co.uk

Pour Choices natural wine fair – Wagner Hall, Brighton, East Sussex
12 April 2025
Brighton's inaugural – and only – natural wine fair, this one-day event will showcase England's leading sustainable and low-intervention winemakers. Aiming to 'demystify' this up-and-coming drinks trend, it will explore how mindful farming can enrich the land and elevate natural wines – featuring tastings and workshops from the nation's pioneering producers, alongside local food and live music.
www.pourchoices.wine

New e-bike tours and tastings at White Heron Estate, near Kington, Herefordshire
April – October 2025
White Heron Estate will launch new guided e-bike tours and tastings this spring, to discover its abundant vineyards, orchards and blackcurrant fields. The tour will reveal the estate's heritage, harvest and production

processes, while the tastings will feature its home-grown produce – such as the award-winning British cassis liqueur. Where better to raise a kir royale cocktail, having explored the fields where the blackcurrants are grown?
www.whiteheronproperties.com/white-heron-estate-tours

First taste of a new vineyard: Domaine & Evremond, Kent
10 April 2025
The team behind celebrated winemaker Champagne Taittinger has transformed 69 hectares of a former Kent apple orchard into prime vineyards – known as Domaine & Evremond – and its first official bottles will be ready to taste this spring. It will also open a new winery and visitor centre, revealing the processes behind wine-making and why Kent is so well-suited to growing vines. Be among the first to enjoy the fruits of this ambitious project, which has been planted with Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier grapes to produce top-quality English sparkling wine.
www.domaineevremond.com

Norwich Craft Beer Festival – Norwich, Norfolk
3 & 4 May 2025
Hosted by Sir Toby's Beers, a stall and bar in Norwich Market, this new two-day craft beer extravaganza will feature grassroots breweries and producers from all over the nation. Expect a huge range of styles, from New England IPAs to stouts, lagers and sours, alongside small-batch ciders, spirits and wines. Food stalls, live music and garden games will add to the party atmosphere, with tickets offering half-day or full weekend access.
www.norwichcraftbeerfest.co.uk

Bath Restaurant Week launching in Bath, Somerset
3 – 11 May 2025
Coinciding with the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth, the author's adopted home city will launch its first Bath Restaurant Week – featuring special foodie events, exclusive offers and limited-edition menus. It will kick off with the Waiter's Race along the Royal Crescent, in which waiters from leading local restaurants will compete while holding a tray of drinks and a Bath Bun.
www.bathrestaurantweek.com

Opening of STACK Manchester street food market
Spring 2025
Taking over Manchester's shipping container venue formerly known as Hatch, food market pioneer STACK will open a new clutch of independent food and drink retailers this year. It will extend the Oxford Road site with more global cuisines and local producers – joining its market ventures in Seaburn, Lincoln and Newcastle.
www.stackleisure.com/locations/manchester

Reopening of The Market Hall, Derby, Derbyshire
Spring 2025
Derby's new-look Victorian Market Hall will invigorate the city's independent shopping, dining and entertainment scene when it reopens in spring, offering a curated mix of local food stalls, pop-up events, creative events and a cosmopolitan food court with bars. Building on the region's strong trading roots, this beautifully restored venue will be a new community hub and visitor attraction – a feast of the region's best food, drink and entertainment.
www.derbymarkethall.co.uk/what-is-derby-market-hall

Opening of Cotswolds Designer Outlet, Cotswolds
Spring 2025
The first phase of the new Cotswolds Designer Outlet is planned to open this year, featuring more than 90 fashion and lifestyle brands. But this will be more than just a shopping centre: it will be part of a new purpose-built village of 1,500 homes, with supporting infrastructure and leisure facilities such as bars, cafés and

restaurants. As well as the outlet's opening event in spring, expect a full calendar of street food festivals, art exhibitions and music events, breathing new life into the local area.
www.cotswoldsdesigneroutlet.com

Launch of Darley Street Market in Bradford, West Yorkshire
Spring 2025
With a food hall at its heart, this new Bradford hub will also feature three storeys of entertainment venues, pop-up events spaces and shopping opportunities – plus an outdoor dining terrace overlooking the city. Great timing, as the city will be in the spotlight throughout this year as the 2025 UK City of Culture. From morning coffees to dinner for two, Darley Street Market will showcase Yorkshire's top produce and chefs, with 13 street food vendors and a market-style setup true to Bradford's trading roots.
www.bradfordmarkets.com/the-markets/darley-street-coming-soon

The Cordia Collective regenerative dining in Haywards Heath, West Sussex
Spring 2025
Green Michelin-starred chef Chantelle Nicholson is the mastermind behind The Cordia Collective, a new dining experience at the 2,300-acre Borde Hill estate. It will evolve as the year progresses, launching in spring as a bakery and garden café before developing into a restaurant, wine bar and workshop space in autumn. Nicholson will work with local growers and producers – as well as the estate's own kitchen garden – to champion seasonal cuisine and regenerative farming.
www.thecordiacollective.com

Sussex Winelands Project vineyard trail, 1066 Country – Sussex
June 2025
Raise a glass to the Sussex Winelands Project, which will work with the region's top vineyards and wineries to create a new trail for wine lovers. The "Rother Triangle" will highlight the producers that are open to the public for tours, tastings, dining and accommodation, with an interactive online tool enabling visitors to create their own bespoke itinerary. The project will be launched in time for English Wine Week in June.
www.visit1066country.com

Samlesbury Hall Food & Drink Festival, Lancashire
7 & 8 June 2025
Tuck into the inaugural food and drink festival at 700-year-old Samlesbury Hall, which will feature two days of cooking classes, tasting sessions and live entertainment. As well as showcasing Lancashire's finest food and drink producers, the estate will open its manor, gardens and playgrounds – and reveal the stories that earned its reputation as one of England's most haunted houses. There will also be a special 'Dinner with Dickens' event on 6 June, featuring live performances of his writings that may have been inspired by his stay at the hall in 1867.
www.samlesburyhall.co.uk

Chotto Matte: new Japanese-Peruvian restaurant coming to Manchester
Summer 2025
Covering 20,000 sq ft, the UK's second Chotto Matte will open as the largest restaurant in Manchester on top of the new St Michael's development overlooking Manchester Town Hall. The restaurant is set to seat 450 diners, serving Nikkei (Japanese Peruvian fusion) dishes.
www.chotto-matte.com

New food, beer and music hall: BOXHALL, Bristol
2025
Bringing more fresh flavours to Bristol's dining scene, BOXHALL will serve a mix of elevated street food, craft beers and cocktails in one stylish waterfront location. From the creators of BOXPARK in London, it will be

helmed by its “Food Ambassador” and Michelin-starred local chef Josh Eggleton, a torchbearer for Bristol’s pioneering chefs and concepts – alongside live music and events year-round.
www.boxhall.co.uk

Launch of Market Place St Paul’s, London
TBC 2025
Featuring more than 60 independent food producers, Market Place already has outlets in Peckham, Vauxhall and Harrow – and this year it will open a fourth, in St Paul’s, central London. Expect its signature blend of bottomless brunches, live music and globetrotting dishes: anything from Korean fried chicken and fragrant pad Thai, to authentic Argentinian churrasco steak.
www.marketplaceuk.com

New street food hotspot: BOXPARK Birmingham, West Midlands
TBC 2025
With its sizzling street food stalls, open-plan layout and lively line-up of live music and DJs, the new BOXPARK Birmingham will be true to the brand’s “EAT.DRINK.PLAY” style. It’ll be located at Digbeth’s historic Floodgate Street Arches, with four former railway arches given a new lease of life as a vibrant, creative dining hotspot – in addition to an outdoor “suntrap” for sunset drinks and summertime dining.
www.boxpark.co.uk/birmingham

Opening of STACK Wigan street food market – Wigan, Greater Manchester
TBC 2025
Calling all street food fans: trendy marketplace brand STACK is set to open a new venue in Wigan’s Grand Arcade, seating up to 2,000 people. This vibrant entertainment and dining hub will occupy the town’s former Debenhams building, and will feature top local live music, bars and street food vendors. A hip hangout, from morning coffee time to nights out with friends.
www.stackleisure.com/locations/wigan

Gig-Tripping: Live Music Events & Festivals

MOBO Awards 2025, Newcastle
18 February 2025
Newcastle was this year's host city for the annual MOBO Awards ceremony, a celebration of black music and culture featuring a range of live performances from some of the UK’s best musicians and artists. The show featured a line-up of fan favourites including Ghetts, King Promise & Camidoh, Sugababes and performances which celebrate the 30th anniversary of UK Garage.
www.mobo.com

Manchester Eurovision Festival: song contest celebration comes to Manchester
11 – 13 April 2025
Eurovision fans, assemble! Following its 2024 debut in Copenhagen, the ManchHagen Eurovision Festival will come to Manchester for the first time this year, as Britain’s biggest celebration of the European song contest. As well as two concerts by Eurovision stars and previous years’ winners, the three-day extravaganza will feature drag shows, red carpet parades and glittering events – and will raise funds for charities and celebrate Manchester’s strong Ukrainian community links. Up to 50,000 tickets will be available, including VIP packages.
www.manchagen.uk

The Big Brass Blowout: venues throughout Bradford
11 – 13 April 2025

The Big Brass Blowout brings together a variety of brass acts for three days and nights of music across the Bradford District. From traditional tunes to Afrobeat rhythms, this event will spotlight the power, versatility and all-round brilliance of the great British brass band. Celebrating Bradford's brass scene, Yorkshire's own Richard Hawley will join the Black Dyke Band for a special performance, BD1 Brass will score acclaimed archive film Echoes of the North and City of Bradford Brass Band will soundtrack family favourite *Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers*, as well as an array of free events and activities taking place at City Park across the weekend.
www.bradford2025.co.uk/programme/the-big-brass-blowout

New festival: WestWorldFest, Shepton Mallet, Somerset
2 – 4 May 2025
Designed for Gen X music lovers (if you're aged 45 to 60, that's you), WestWorldFest is a new festival that celebrates the best of the UK's ska, rock and alternative acts which dominated the 80s and 90s music scene. It will be held at the Bath & West Showground in Somerset, with three stages, a theatre, street food stalls and pop-up bars. There will also be space for tents, glamping and campervans. So far, headliners include The Undertones, Pete Wylie & The Mighty WAH!, and Nine Below Zero.
www.westworldfest.com

Bassline Symphony – St George's Hall, Bradford
9 May 2025
4x4 legends Jamie Duggan, DJ Q and TS7 join arranger Katie Chatburn and the Orchestra of Opera North to celebrate the sound of Bradford in this one-night-only spectacular, curated by Tanya Vital. Bassline is among the most thrilling musical subcultures of the 21st Century and Bradford is a hotbed of the electrifying style, but it's never sounded quite like this – with the trademark rhythms and pulsing low end supercharged by Opera North's orchestra. Alongside new symphonic versions of classic cuts from the trio of headliners, a galaxy of guest vocalists and DJs will be bringing tunes both new and old to this special showcase set.
www.bradford2025.co.uk/event/bassline-symphony

Scissor Sisters live tour, venues nationwide
16 – 25 May 2025
Don't feel like dancin'? You will if you've got tickets for Scissor Sisters' UK tour this spring, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the band's number-one debut album. They'll be performing at venues across England, including Nottingham, Bournemouth, Leeds and Birmingham – with support from Alison Goldfrapp.
www.scissorsisters.com

20 years since Employment: Kaiser Chiefs to play Temple Newsam Park, Leeds
31 May 2025
Home-grown heroes Kaiser Chiefs will return to Leeds to celebrate 20 years of their debut album Employment at iconic venue Temple Newsam – the former home of Leeds Festival. They'll be supported by fellow noughties indie icons The Cribs, Razorlight and We Are Scientists, who will all also be playing 20th-anniversary sets.
www.ticketmaster.co.uk/kaiser-chiefs-leeds-31-05-2025/event/350061424E1C9447

Kylie Minogue: Tension Tour 2025, venues nationwide
May & June 2025
Pop sensation Kylie Minogue will be bringing her highly anticipated Tension Tour to England this summer, playing at arenas in London, Birmingham, Nottingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle. Known for her infectious hits and captivating stage presence, Kylie promises a spectacular show filled with fan-favourite songs and stunning visuals – her 16th headlining concert tour to-date!
www.ticketmaster.co.uk/kylie-minogue-tickets/artist/735661

New festival: SXSW London – Shoreditch, London

2 – 7 June 2025
Since 1987, SXSW (pronounced "South By Southwest") has gathered the world's top musicians, creatives, thinkers and entrepreneurs in Texas, USA – and this year, it will host its first European festival in London. The likes of Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi, Tilda Swinton, NASA and Meghan Markle have featured at past events, and the London iteration will cover music, film, tech and creativity – so expect a similarly high-profile lineup. It'll be held at venues throughout Shoreditch.
www.sxswlondon.com

New festival: Come Together Festival, Newcastle
4 – 8 June 2025
Come Together, the North East's largest ever music festival, has released the first round of headliners, which include Robbie Williams, Kings of Leon, Kaiser Chiefs, in preparation for next summer. The festival will showcase rock, pop and indie artists plus local food and drinks vendors and immersive art experiences.
www.cometogetherfestival.co.uk

Beyoncé: Cowboy Carter Tour at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, London
5 – 16 June 2025
Whether or not you manage to get tickets for Beyonce's much-anticipated summer 2025 London Tour, you can guarantee Cowboycore will be alive across the capital as we welcome Queen Bey back to Britain. Beyond the action at her six Tottenham Hotspur Stadium shows, watch this space for events and experiences to welcome the global Beyhive...
www.tottenhamhotspurstadium.com/whats-on/2025/beyonce

Oasis tour: legendary Mancunian band to reunite, venues nationwide
Summer 2025
Legendary British rock band Oasis will reunite for a highly anticipated tour this summer, with dates at Manchester's Heaton Park and London's Wembley Stadium. Fans can expect an electrifying performance from the Gallagher brothers, featuring hits that defined a generation – including *Wonderwall* and *Don't Look Back in Anger*. Richard Ashcroft, the former frontman of The Verve, will be supporting the band on its UK dates.
www.oasisinet.com/live

New festival: Melton Country and Blues Festival, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire
2 August 2025
Grab your cowboy boots and Stetson hat, there's a new country music festival in town. The first event of its kind to be held in Melton Mowbray, the Melton Country and Blues Festival will feature local musicians and bands, showcasing the Leicestershire town's thriving cultural scene. Expect a mix of free and ticketed gigs across multiple venues.
www.facebook.com/groups/meltongigguide

Broadstairs Folk Week 60th Anniversary, Kent
8 – 15 August 2025
Broadstairs' Folk Week will return for its 60th year with a range of family shows, concerts and performances from some of the biggest names in folk music. The festival will also host craft stalls, interactive workshops and local food and drink vendors. Performances will take place in pubs across the town, and this year there will be a new series of 'Coffee Concerts' which will take place at Queen's Road Baptist Church throughout the week.
www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk

10th anniversary of Lindisfarne Festival – Northumberland
28 – 30 August 2025
A hedonistic gathering of live music, breathtaking performance and some of the best fancy dress costumes you'll ever set eyes on, Lindisfarne Festival is an all-out celebration of summer's finale overlooking Northumberland's

Holy Island. It began in 2015, when 2,000 free-spirited souls visited the island to mark the changing of seasons – and now it's firmly on England's festival calendar. Expect plenty of big names across its eight stages, with previous headliners including Primal Scream, Madness and Rudimental.
wwww.lindisfarnefestival.com

Tours, Trails and Wellbeing

New tours of Buckingham Palace's East Wing, London
Mid-January – late May 2025
Visitors to Buckingham Palace will soon be able to explore its East Wing, seeing the detail and craftsmanship of its artworks and architecture up-close – all at a time when the Palace isn't usually open to the public. These new 90-minute tours, which do not include a visit to the State Rooms, will be led by expert guides in groups of up to 20 people. Visitors will enter through the Palace's front gates and across the famous Forecourt – just as guests do for official royal events – before touring the Centre Room, from which they will have a view of the central balcony and the Victoria Memorial.
www.rct.uk/visit/buckingham-palace

New wellness retreats at Three Choirs Vineyards, Gloucestershire
January 2025
The award-winning Three Choirs Vineyards will kick off the year with its first ever wellness weekend breaks – taking place on 10 – 11 January, and 31 January – 1 February. They'll commence on the Friday afternoons with a wine tasting session, while the Saturdays will feature exercise classes, pilates, yoga, breathwork and sound-healing. All meals and accommodation are included too, and guests will also be able to explore the vineyards at their leisure.
www.three-choirs-vineyards.co.uk

New Tour: Official Peaky Blinders walking tour of Liverpool
March 2025
Launching ahead of the release of the hotly anticipated Peaky Blinders film (expected in late 2025 or 2026), the official Peaky Blinders Tour in Liverpool will reveal iconic filming locations from the hit series. Visitors will step into the world of the Shelby family, hear stories from on-set, and explore the places where key scenes were shot. With official Peaky Blinders accreditation, this will be a thrill for fans looking to capture the drama in the heart of Liverpool.
www.britmovietours.com/bookings/peaky-blinders-tour-liverpool

Wellbeing Escapes to launch a new retreat at Tofte Manor, Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire
14 – 16 March 2025
Stella Photi, the founder of Wellbeing Escapes, will host her first retreat at Tofte Manor this spring – combining restorative yoga and Qi Gong sessions, stress management masterclasses, seasonal eating workshops and pre-bedtime sound baths. The two-night itinerary is designed to help first-timers discover which wellness practices work best for them, and will include all accommodation, activities and meals. Tofte Manor hosts spiritual and wellbeing retreats year-round and is owned by crystal therapist and energy healer Suzy Castleman.
www.wellbeingescapes.com

New guided tours of St James's Palace, London
Spring 2025
Following successful trials, St James's Palace will host exclusive guided tours on selected weekends this spring. From its origins as Henry VIII's residence to its status today as the official seat of the British monarchy, the palace is steeped in 500 years of royal history. The tour will include views of the Palace's Tudor courtyard and

gatehouse; paintings, furniture and art from the Royal Collection; and the Throne Room and Picture Gallery where the Accession Council of King Charles III was held. It will also reveal the chapel where Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were married, and where Prince George and Prince Louis were christened.
www.royal.uk/royal-residences-st-jamess-palace

Behind-the-scenes tours of Aerospace Bristol, Filton, Bristol
Spring 2025
Home of the last Concorde aircraft, Aerospace Bristol is working on a new behind-the-scenes tour launching in spring, which will allow visitors to access areas and objects of the museum that are usually hidden from view. Current attractions include a Red Arrows simulator, alongside classic aeroplanes, helicopters and rockets on display. The museum's Concorde was used as a filming location for the 2024 adaptation of Jilly Cooper's *Rivals* on Disney+, in its rather risqué opening scene!
www.aerospacebristol.org

GOOD: Stories in Food launches new tours, Bristol
Spring 2025
After huge success, GOOD: Stories in Food will be launching a range of new tours and experiences in 2025. They will continue to champion independent businesses, showcasing iconic flavours of the West Country on the new Flavours of the West Country tour and self-guided drinks tour around Bristol Old City.
www.goodstoriesinfood.com

Walking route created to mark William Wordsworth's 255th birthday, Cumbria
7 April 2025
A new 14-mile waymarked trail celebrating William Wordsworth will open in April, to mark 255 years since the famous poet's birth. The 14-mile walk will start at Ullswater, and pass through key locations from Wordsworth's life such as the Parting Stone and Grasmere – where you can find his gravesite at St Oswald's Church, and his former homes at Dove Cottage and Allan Bank. A new accompanying guidebook will feature excerpts from his poetry, as well as writings by his sister Dorothy Wordsworth and his friend Samuel Taylor Coleridge.
www.ullswaterheritage.org

Accessible viewing platform at the Hole of Horcum, North York Moors National Park
April 2025
A new accessible viewing platform overlooking the Hole of Horcum will allow more visitors to enjoy panoramas of this natural amphitheatre in the North York Moors National Park. An accessible path is already in place from Saltergate car park, while the wider national park offers several 'miles without stiles' pathways – allowing step-free access for wheelchair users, pushchairs and those with limited mobility.
www.northyorkmoors.org.uk

Wild Spa Escapes, Herefordshire
Spring 2025
The team behind the award-winning restaurant The Riverside at Aymestry is set to open The Wild Escapes, a low-impact health and wellbeing spa set in the peaceful Herefordshire countryside. Guests will be able to unwind in wood-fired hot tubs, sweat it out in a sauna created from a reclaimed horsebox (followed by a cold dip in the plunge pool) and enjoy treatments in shepard's hut spas. As with their other ventures, The Wild Escapes team will have sustainability and regenerative practices at the core of the business.
www.riversideaymestrey.co.uk

Launch of Walney Island new cycling path, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria
Spring 2025

A new 1.4 mile cycling and walking route will open on Walney Island in south Cumbria, an island in Morecambe Bay. It will be a dedicated walking, wheeling and cycling route from the Promenade to Earnse Bay, with upgraded energy efficient lighting and dedicated road crossings. As part of a £1.5 million investment, a total of 3,370 square meters of surfacing has been completed, the equivalent of more than 12 tennis courts.
www.visitbarrow.org.uk

Two drovers' walking trails launching at Bishop's Castle, Shropshire
Spring 2025
To mark the 25th anniversary of the Bishop's Castle Walking Festival, two new circular trails will retrace historic drover routes through the Shropshire Hills. The 6.5km Stroll and the more challenging 14.5km Stomp will be waymarked with 25 newly planted Scots pine trees, following the old routes once used by livestock drovers. QR codes will provide walkers with audio stories about this historic landscape, and a special exhibition at the Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre will explore the history of the drovers.
www.visitshropshire.co.uk/articles/a-locals-guide-to-bishops-castle

New e-bike wine tours and tastings, Herefordshire
April – October 2025
Ready, steady, pedal! Set amongst the rolling hills of Herefordshire, The White Heron Estate's is launching a new range of e-bike tours and tastings. Guests will be able to explore acres of working vineyards and orchards while learning about the region's landscape, history and heritage.
www.whiteheronproperties.com/white-heron-estate-tours

New sculpture trail: A Mischief of Rats around Hull and East Yorkshire
May to August 2025
Did you know that the collective noun for rats is a 'mischief'? This summer, the mischief will spread throughout Hull and East Yorkshire, with the arrival of 50 giant artist-designed rats – a unique new trail to explore. It's inspired by Hull musician Mick Ronson, who was the lead guitarist with David Bowie's 'Spiders from Mars' and also played in his Hull hometown band 'The Rats'. When the trail ends, the sculptures will be auctioned in support of The Daisy Appeal, a charity which helps people living with cancer, heart disease and dementia.
www.amischiefofrats.co.uk

A regency ramble at The Vyne estate, Hampshire
3 May 2025 – 4 January 2026
Part of the 250th anniversary celebrations of Jane Austen's birth in 2025, the National Trust's historic estate, The Vyne, will offer the chance for visitors to walk in the footsteps of the famous author on a regency ramble. The route from the former Tudor powerhouse turned 17th Century family home near Basingstoke to the neighbouring village of Sherborne St John will run from 3 May 2025 until 4 January 2026 with a free trail map.
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/hampshire/the-vyne

Dickens-themed walking trail on the Isle of Wight
3 May 2025
This 6.3-mile literary trail follows in the footsteps of Charles Dickens, who spent a summer on the Isle of Wight in 1849. Starting in Shanklin, the route – which has been devised by the writer's great-great grandson – crosses the Downs before descending to the Victorian seaside resort of Ventnor, and ending at Bonchurch. The trail map includes a free audio tour narrated by his descendants, featuring letters that Dickens wrote while on the island. The trail explores the local inspirations behind David Copperfield and Great Expectations, with an opportunity to stop for afternoon tea at the Royal Hotel where Dickens stayed.
www.visitisleofwight.co.uk/things-to-do/walking/charles-dickens-trail

Nature journalling tour in the Forest of Dean at Tudor Farmhouse Hotel in Coleford, Gloucestershire

From June 2025
Take a moment for mindfulness on a journalling experience in the Forest of Dean. Hosted by naturalist and wildlife expert Ed Drewitt, this 2.5-hour tour will immerse its participants in nature, giving them the tools and encouragement to capture their surroundings through words and sketches. No experience is necessary: this is an opportunity to relax, slow down and engage with a woodland landscape like never before. Group trips will run from Tudor Farmhouse Hotel on June 1 and October 12, with private experiences on request.
www.tudorfarmhousehotel.co.uk

New art trail: Gromit Unleashed Trail, Bristol
From 30 June 2025
Fans of *Wallace and Gromit* can look forward to The Gromit Unleashed Trail, which will fill Bristol's streets from June. This vibrant, playful collection of sculptures has been on a world tour, but will return to Bristol – the home of Aardman Animations – for a summer of sculpture-spotting fun. As well as everyone's favourite man-and-dog duo, expect plenty of evil penguins, innovative trousers and mischievous sheep: don't forget your Wensleydale and crackers!
www.grandappeal.org.uk/gromit-unleashed/trails/gromit-unleashed-2025

Launch of Bosworth 1485 Trail, Leicestershire
22 August 2025
Discover the 'lost' stories of the 1485 Battle of Bosworth and revel in Leicestershire's glorious countryside. Spring will see the launch of the Bosworth1485 Trail, which will spotlight lesser-known tales of the Battle of Bosworth and King Richard III's demise. The trail will feature interpretation panels and four outdoor artworks by Broadbent Studio near the battlefield site, all filled with stories, facts and beauty to bring its monumental history to life.
www.richardiiicountry.com/richard-iii/bosworth1485

GoGo Safari: new art trail around Norwich and Norfolk, East Anglia
Summer 2025
Lions, elephants, giraffes, rhinos… and is that a gorilla on the high street? This summer, the wildlife of Norfolk will take an exotic turn with the launch of GoGo Safari, a new African Savannah-themed art trail. There will be 50 sculptures in total, all of them designed, displayed – and finally auctioned – in support of Break, which supports children and young people in care in East Anglia. Norfolk has never felt wilder! *Lonely Planet* named East Anglia one of its top global destinations to visit in 2025, in its prestigious 'Best in Travel' list – what better excuse to explore its characterful towns, lush countryside and unspoilt coastlines this year?
www.wildinart.co.uk/events/gogosafari

New sculpture trail: Lions at Large – The Pride of Gloucestershire Trail
July – September 2025
Watch out, there'll be lions about! This summer, Lions at Large – The Pride of Gloucestershire Trail will stalk through the streets of Cheltenham and Gloucester, in support of new cancer care facilities in Cheltenham. It will feature more than 30 large Lion sculptures – all of which will be designed and painted by local artists – as well as the Cub Club, a collection of baby big-cats created by local schools and community groups. Roarsome stuff!
www.lionsatlarge.co.uk

New Coast to Coast National Trail: Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks
Late 2025
Ever since Lake District explorer Alfred Wainwright published *A Coast to Coast Walk* in 1973, his cross-country jaunt has become one of England's most popular long-distance hiking routes – and this year, it will officially become a National Trail, meaning improved accessibility and higher maintenance/environmental standards. It stretches between St Bees on the west coast and Robin Hood's Bay on the east, for 197 miles (317km) of

restorative rambling through three glorious National Parks: the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors. Fun fact: David Nicholls' best-selling novel *You Are Here* (released in 2024) is set on the trail too.
www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/coast-to-coast

Castlefield Viaduct: extension planned for 'park in the sky', Manchester
TBC 2025
Plans have been submitted to extend the 125-year-old Victorian Grade II listed former railway bridge Castlefield Viaduct, which opened in 2022 as a small urban public park. The 150-metre project will increase to over 350 metres allowing city visitors to connect with more nature. The project is currently open to visitors and run by the National Trust.
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/cheshire-greater-manchester

Next phase of Cotswold Canals Connected, Cotswolds
TBC 2025
A haven for wildlife, locals and visitors alike, Cotswold Canals Connected will link the Stroudwater Navigation canal with the Gloucester and Sharpness canal at Saul Junction. The restoration project is already underway, with its mission to unite communities, towns and villages with the rest of the UK's canal network, create a thriving wildlife corridor and enable new opportunities for walking, cycling, sightseeing and boating holidays in the Cotswolds.
www.cotswoldcanals.org/about-us/cotswold-canals-connected

Accessibility info packs for Nidderdale, York and Selby, North Yorkshire
TBC 2025
Open Country, a charity whose 'Breakfree' guides share accessibility information and inspiration for key destinations throughout England, will release a new series covering Nidderdale National Landscape, York and Selby this year. The guides will feature clear colour maps for each location, and details ranging from accessible parking and step-free walking trails to refreshment spots and wheelchair-friendly toilets. They will be free of charge, available via download or post. This is part of a wider 12-month project to improve accessibility to the Nidderdale National Landscape area.
www.opencountry.org.uk/breakfree

Starring England: Films, TV and Theatre

New TV series: *Gandhi* – filmed in Whitby, Dudley, Dover and Bradford
Early 2025
As well as being filmed in South Africa and India, the upcoming TV series *Gandhi* was also shot in various English locations – including Whitby, Dudley, Dover and Bradford. Described as India's answer to *The Crown*, the period drama will tell the story of Gandhi's career as a lawyer, revealing the moments that played a formative role in shaping him into a Mahatma ('great soul'). It will star Pratik Gandhi, Bhamini Oza and Tom Felton, with direction by Bollywood filmmaker Hansal Mehta. The channel/streaming platform is yet to be confirmed.
www.imdb.com/title/tt20317334

New TV series: A Thousand Blows, Disney+ – a vision of Victorian London
Out now
Created by Steven Knight, the mastermind behind Peaky Blinders, this new six-part series has already received glowing reviews for its twisty plot and all-star cast (including Malachi Kirby, Erin Doherty and Stephen Graham). Based on true events, it delves into the little-known world of illegal boxing in 1880s London, and was filmed on-set at the capital's Story Works – recreating the sights, sounds and stories of the Victorian-age capital in extraordinary detail.

www.press.disney.co.uk/news/disney+-unveils-official-trailer-and-new-key-art-for-highly-anticipated-original-series-a-thousand-blows

New TV series: Agatha Christie's Toward Zero – filmed in Bristol and Devon
Spring 2025
The BBC will present a slick new adaptation of Agatha Christie's Towards Zero, featuring an ensemble cast led by Anjelica Huston and Matthew Rhys. Adapted for screen by BAFTA-nominated Rachel Bennette and directed by the Olivier Award-winning Sam Yates, this intricate murder mystery has all the ingredients of a gripping Christie whodunnit, including a scandal-hit celebrity couple, a long-suffering lady's companion, a mysterious gentleman's valet, a French con man and a troubled detective...Plus some beautiful Devon and south west backdrops.
www.bbc.com/mediacentre/2024/bbc-agatha-christie-towards-zero-first-look

New TV series: *Beyond Paradise* – filmed in Looe, Cornwall
Early 2025
Fans of the BBC's comedy crime-drama *Beyond Paradise* will enjoy a third instalment of the hit TV series early this year. It is set in the fictional seaside town of Shipton Abbott, and is filmed throughout Looe in south-east Cornwall – putting its dreamy beaches, characterful streets and wild charm in the spotlight. A must-visit for all crime-fiction aficionados!
www.visitlooe.co.uk

Theatre premiere of *Oedipus* – The Old Vic Theatre, London
21 January – 29 March 2025
Rami Malek and Indira Varma will star in this intimate version of Sophocles' epic tragedy, the premiere of Ella Hickson's new stage adaptation. The *Bohemian Rhapsody* and *Game of Thrones* actors will be the first A-listers to grace The Old Vic's stage in 2025: recent stars also include John Simm and Michael Rosen, so expect more big names throughout the coming year too.
www.oldvictheatre.com/stage/event/oedipus

New TV series: *Miss Austen*
2 February 2025
To mark the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth, the BBC will air a new four-part drama based on Gill Hornby's best-selling novel, Miss Austen, adapted by a BAFTA winning female writer and director team, Andrea Gibb and Aisling Walsh. The story begins in 1830, many years after Jane's death and follows Cassandra Austen (Keeley Hawes) as she attempts to find and destroy a bundle of hidden letters which she fears would ruin her sister Jane's reputation. Transported back to her past, the series explores the stories that helped lay the foundations for Jane's iconic stories. Filming locations are yet to be announced but the show wrapped filming in the Home Counties in 2024.
www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/2024/bbc-releases-new-pictures-for-miss-austen

Tom Hiddleston in *Much Ado About Nothing* – Theatre Royal Drury Lane, London
10 February – 5 April 2025
Two of Britain's best-loved screen actors will take on Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*: Tom Hiddleston as Benedick, and Hayley Atwell playing Beatrice. This classic comedy of wits and romance will be directed by Jamie Lloyd, whose production company will also offer 25,000 tickets at £25 for under 30s, key workers and those receiving government benefits.
www.lwtheatres.co.uk/whats-on/much-ado-about-nothing

New film: *Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy* – filmed in north London
14 February 2025

In summer 2024, residents of Haverstock Hill and Hampstead Heath in north London spotted film crews working throughout the local area – shooting the fourth and final instalment of the *Bridget Jones* series. Starring Renée Zellweger, Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson and Isla Fisher, the film will be released this February, picking up Bridget's story after the death of Mark Darcy, with Leo Woodall playing a new flame. Fun fact: Helen Fielding, the author of *Bridget Jones*, also lives in Hampstead Heath.
www.imdb.com/title/tt32063050

TV's *Gladiators* to headline Butlin's – Skegness, Minehead and Bognor Regis
From 14 February 2025
Gladiators, ready! Holidaymakers, ready! Butlin's has announced that the TV warriors will headline three of its resorts throughout 2025: in Skegness, Minehead and Bognor Regis. From February half term, families will be able to see some of their favourite 'superhumans' on selected breaks – and even meet them too – as they compete in a series of fun and interactive games where the whole audience can get involved. *The Masked Singer Live* will also return to Butlin's in 2025.
www.butlins.com/discover-butlins/things-to-do/gladiators

Shakespeare's Hamlet Reimagined with Radiohead, Manchester & Stratford-upon-Avon
April – June 2025
Shakespeare's great tragedy will collide with Radiohead's seminal album in the Royal Shakespeare Company's new 2025 production *Hamlet Hail to the Thief*. Thom Yorke, Christine Jones and Steven Hoggett have collaborated on a dynamic new version of *Hamlet* where the famous play will be soundtracked by Radiohead's Yorke and performed live by onstage musicians and actors. The show will have its world premiere at Factory International, Manchester (27 April – 18 May) before transferring to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (4 – 28 June).
www.rsc.org.uk

Theatre premiere of *Muriel's Wedding* – Curve, Leicester
10 April – 10 May 2025
It'll be the wedding of the year, the party of her dreams – all Muriel needs now is a groom. Based on the iconic Australian film, the new *Muriel's Wedding* theatre comedy will premiere at Leicester's Curve theatre and promises big laughs and (perhaps) big white dresses. Its feisty heroine follows her dreams to Sydney – but in the capital, her best-laid plans start to unravel…
www.curveonline.co.uk/whats-on/shows/muriels-wedding

New film: *The Salt Path* – filmed on the South West Coast Path, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall and Dorset
30 May 2025
The inspiring story of Raynor Winn's journey along the South West Coast Path will soon grace the silver screen with *The Salt Path,* shining the spotlight on the dramatic coastlines of Somerset, Devon, Cornwall and Dorset. Filmed on location in south-west England, Gillian Anderson and Jason Isaacs take the lead roles to tell the story of a couple who have recently lost their home, coupled with a diagnosis of a terminal illness, which leads them on a year-long coastal trek. The book spent an impressive 85 weeks on the London Sunday Times bestseller chart.
www.southwestcoastpath.org.uk/about-coast-path/the-salt-path

New film: *Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part II* – filmed in the Lake District and London
May 2025
The eighth instalment of the *Mission Impossible* franchise will hit screens this year, after extensive filming throughout Cumbria and London – which included daredevil stunts by Tom Cruise himself. The movie was shot on location in the Lake District, London's Trafalgar Square and South Kensington, as well as Longcross Studios. Fans can follow in Tom Cruise's footsteps on established sightseeing tour *The Mission: Impossible* Tour of

London, which includes key filming locations from the blockbuster series – including famous landmarks, hidden alleyways and the 17th Century pub where Ethan enjoys a pint in *Mission: Impossible I*.
www.imdb.com/title/tt9603208 & www.britmovietours.com/bookings/mission-impossible-tour-london

New film: F1 – shot on location at Silverstone
25 June 2025
Brad Pitt will star in a new film about Formula One, which was shot on location at Silverstone in 2023. The Apple Original movie will see Pitt play a former driver returning to the circuit for fictional team APXGP, with British actor Damson Idris as his rookie team-mate. British racing driver Lewis Hamilton has also been listed as executive producer, alongside Top Gun: Maverick director Joseph Kosinski as director. Fans wanting to step into the heart of British motor racing themselves can visit the Silverstone Musuem year-round with its immersive exhibits and sim racing experiences.
www.imdb.com/title/tt16311594 & www.silverstonemuseum.co.uk

New film: Downton Abbey 3, filmed in Hampshire
12 September 2025
The eagerly awaited third Downton Abbey movie hits cinemas in the autumn of 2025 and will feature Hampshire's iconic Highclere Castle. Located in the heart of 5,000 acres of Hampshire's countryside, visitors can explore the castle's 13th Century gardens before wandering through some of the 300 stately rooms that feature in Downton Abbey.
www.highclerecastle.co.uk

Premiere of *GREASE: The Immersive Movie Musical* – Evolution London, Battersea Park, London
1 August – 7 September 2025
Grease is the word! The classic musical will take over London this summer with the return of Secret Cinema. Featuring live performances and music, plus a fairground and all-American food, the immersive new production will transform Evolution London into the legendary Rydell High – with artistic direction by a multi-award-winning creative team.
www.greasetheimmersivemoviemusical.com

Return of *The Lord of the Rings – A Musical Tale* – Theatre Royal Plymouth, Devon
4 – 11 October 2025
The critically acclaimed *The Lord of the Rings - A Musical Tale* will commence its inaugural season at Devon's Theatre Royal Plymouth this autumn – after touring the US, New Zealand, Australia and Asia. Told from the Hobbits' perspective, director Paul Hart's production is a large-scale interpretation of J.R.R. Tolkien's epic trilogy, with a 32-strong ensemble of actors and actor-musicians. As the Hobbits celebrate Bilbo's eleventy-first birthday in the Shire, he gifts his nephew Frodo his most precious belonging – a gold ring. It launches Frodo on a perilous quest across Middle-earth to the darkest realms of Mordor, to vanquish evil with his loyal Fellowship.
www.lotrmusical.com

New film: *28 Years Later* – filmed in Bristol and North Yorkshire
TBC 2025
Filmed in Bristol and Yorkshire, the third film of the 28 horror series will transform the likes of Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal into a post-apocalyptic dystopia – a chance to see one of England's best-loved UNESCO World Heritage Sites as never before. Starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Jodie Comer and Cillian Murphy – all of whom were spotted at local restaurants and attractions during filming – the movie explores the aftermath of a devastating 'rage virus', with its protagonists still locked in a battle to survive 28 years after it hit.
www.imdb.com/title/tt10548174/

New film: *Hamnet* – filmed in Weobley, Herefordshire

TBC 2025
The film adaptation of Maggie O'Farrell's bestselling novel *Hamnet* will hit cinemas this year, starring Paul Mescal and Jessie Buckley – and the beautiful scenery of Herefordshire. One of its main shooting locations was the village of Weobley (pronounced "weblee"), whose black-and-white architecture provided a fitting backdrop for the story set in 16th Century England. It follows William Shakespeare and his wife Agnes after the death of their 11 year-old son Hamnet, and was directed by Oscar-winner Chloé Zhao.
www.imdb.com/title/tt14905854

New TV series: *The Forsyte Saga*, PBS – filmed in Bristol
TBC 2025
The team behind the hit TV series *Poldark* have assembled to create *The Forsyte Saga* – a period drama that follows the wealthy and ambitious fictional Forsyte dynasty in 1880s London, which was filmed on location in Bristol. The plot is based on John Galsworthy's Nobel Prize-winning tale of love, loyalty and scheming, and will star BAFTA-winner Francesca Annis as the matriarch, and *True Blood* actor Stephen Moyer as her eldest son.
www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/specialfeatures/a-new-forsyte-saga-is-coming-to-masterpiece-on-pbs

NEW TV SERIES: *Outrageous* – filmed in and around Buckinghamshire
TBC 2025
UKTV has begun filming *Outrageous*, a drama set in the 1930s chronicling the lives of the infamous Mitford sisters. Filmed on location in Buckinghamshire and based on Mary Lovell's biography *The Mitford Girls*, the series will delve into the lives, loves and scandals of Nancy, Pamela, Diana, Unity, Jessica, and Deborah Mitford. The six-part series will star Bessie Carter, Joanna Vanderham, Anna Chancellor and James Purefoy.
corporate.uktv.co.uk/newsroom/filming-begins-for-new-drama-outrageous-the-story-of-the-notorious-mitford-sisters

New TV series: *The Seven Dials Mystery*, Netflix – filmed in Bristol
TBC 2025
At a lavish party in 1925, a practical joke appears to have gone fatally wrong – but was it a murder? The previous credits of this new mystery's creators include *Broadchurch*, *The Crown* and *Doctor Who*, so you know you're in for a treat. Based on Agatha Christie's classic novel, it was filmed partly in Bristol and will star BAFTA Rising Star Award winner Mia McKenna Bruce as the leading sleuth, alongside Helena Bonham Carter and Martin Freeman.
www.netflix.com/tudum/articles/seven-dials-mystery-agatha-christie

New film: *The Magic Faraway Tree* – filmed in southern England
TBC 2025
Claire Foy and Andrew Garfield will headline the upcoming film adaptation of Enid Blyton's children's series, *The Magic Faraway Tree* – which was filmed in the south of England and at Shinfield Studios. Portraying husband and wife Polly and Tim, they embark on a magical journey with their children after moving to the English countryside. Nicola Coughlan will also star as Silky, and Jessica Gunning as Dame Washalot.
www.nealstreetproductions.com/film/the-magic-faraway-tree

New film: *Peaky Blinders* – filmed in Birmingham
TBC 2025 / 2026
Following on from the end of series six, the *Peaky Blinders* movie will be set during WW2 and will tell the stories of the family's new generation – with Cillian Murphy starring as Tommy Shelby. Unlike the series which was filmed mostly in Liverpool, the film is being shot in Birmingham. Speaking to the BFI London Film Festival, creator Steven Knight said: "[the film] will probably be the end of the road for *Peaky Blinders* as we know it" – so expect a bombastic send-off for this darkest of dynasties.
www.visitbirmingham.com

New film: *The Thursday Murder Club* – locations nationwide
TBC 2025
Whodunnit fans can look forward to the Netflix film adaptation of Richard Osman's best-selling debut novel, *The Thursday Murder Club* – which was filmed on location throughout Berkshire and Buckinghamshire in 2024. Directed by Chris Columbus, the movie will feature a star-studded cast including Helen Mirren, Celia Imrie, Ben Kingsley and Pierce Brosnan. Osman has also announced Netflix's acquisition of his novel *We Solve Murders*: one to watch out for in the future.
www.netflix.com/tudum/articles/thursday-murder-club-cast-release-date-plot

Launch of *Paddington on Stage* – venue TBC
TBC 2025
McFly's Tom Fletcher is set to compose the music and lyrics for a new *Paddington* stage musical, adapted from Michael Bond's beloved books and film series. Currently in development, the musical is scheduled to debut in the UK in 2025. Fletcher, known for his success with McFly and children's storybooks, will use his musical talents to capture the magic of Paddington's adventures and mishaps with the Brown family.
www.paddington.com/gb/experiential/stage-shows

Premiere of *200 Years of the Railways* on BBC Two – filmed throughout England
TBC 2025
As part of the 2025 Railway200 celebrations, Michael Portillo will host a new two-part series on BBC Two this year, exploring the birth of the modern railway in 1825 in England and its journey since. The two one-hour special entitled *200 Years of the Railways* will also look to the future, exploring how the nation's railways could develop and innovate in years to come. Michael Portillo's *Great British Railway Journeys* will also return to BBC Two this year, putting some of England's loveliest train travels in the spotlight: from Epping Forest and the Black Country, to the Lake District and the Weald.
www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/2025/michael-portillo-returns-two-new-series-railway-journeys

And Beyond

Completion of King Charles III England Coast Path, Nationwide
Spring 2026
When complete, the King Charles III England Coast Path will be the world's longest continual coastal walking route, clocking in at 2,700 miles (4,498km). It is opening in phases: the first 66-mile (106km) stretch in Kent and East Sussex launched in July 2016, and subsequent sections have included Whitehaven to Silecroft in the Lake District (2021), Grain to Woolwich in London and Kent (2022), Aust to Clevedon along the Bristol Channel shore (2023) and Sutton Bridge to Skegness (2024). Formerly known as the 'England Coast Path', the trail was renamed in 2023 to mark King Charles III's coronation; the majority of its sections are currently either open, complete or in progress.
www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/england-coast-path

Opening of Central African Forest at Bristol Zoo Project, Bristol
Spring 2026
Bristol Zoo Project, which runs conservation projects in nine countries across the world, will unveil its ambitious new Central African Forest area in 2026. Located at its Bristol site, it will feature critically endangered western lowland gorillas, endangered cherry-crowned mangabey monkeys, endangered African grey parrots, critically endangered slender-snouted crocodiles and several extremely threatened species of West African freshwater fish. It will also include a state-of-the-art Central Africa-themed learning space.
www.bristolzoo.org.uk/news/news-on-the-central-african-forest-habitat

New attraction: Mullin Motor Museum, Chipping Norton, Cotswolds

Summer 2026
This £150m car museum will showcase the star-studded car collection of businessman and philanthropist Peter W. Mullin, as well as exhibitions exploring the past and future of motoring. It will also feature 28 holiday cottages and a demonstration track, which will be built on Enstone Airfield on the Great Tew Estate. Mullin's collection includes the world's largest selection of early 20th Century Bugattis, so expect a thrilling, high-octane experience.
www.themullinproject.co.uk

New theme park: Kynren – The Storied Lands, Bishop Auckland, County Durham
Summer 2026
The multi-award-winning Kynren will open a new live-action theme park next year, featuring thrilling stunts, immersive storytelling, epic music and innovative technology. You'll travel in time from Neolithic Britain and the era of the first settlers, through to the Vikings, medieval period and Victorian era. Rather than rides, the park will be rich in live entertainment: like stepping into the history books, with enormous sets and extraordinary special effects. Alongside this, Kynren – An Epic Tale of England will continue its show on Saturday nights, featuring its 1,000-strong cast and crew.
www.11arches.com/news/post/kynren-announces-its-new-time-travelling-theme-park

Manchester Town Hall to reopen, Manchester, Greater Manchester
July 2026
After a multi-year transformation, Manchester's 19th Century Town Hall will reopen next July – one of England's most significant heritage projects in the pipeline. Visitors will be able to join guided tours of previously off-limits areas, such as the Victorian police cells, courtyard and clocktower, and see the original mosaic floors from the 1870s which feature the city's famous bee emblem. Highlights of the Town Hall's art and cultural collection will also be displayed in a visitor centre, telling Manchester's story through an eclectic array of interactive exhibitions.
www.manchester.gov.uk/ourtownhall

Launch of PEAK hotel and activities centre, Chesterfield, Peak District, Derbyshire
Winter 2026
A major new activities resort is to be developed on 300 acres of reclaimed land in Chesterfield, on the edge of the Peak District National Park. A £120m scheme over three decades in the making, PEAK will feature a 2,000-bed hotel, 250 holiday lodges, indoor activities and a wellness centre. 70% of the estate will be dedicated to nature and conservation, after the success of an extensive local 35-year rewilding project. A zero-carbon transport network – the PEAK Express – will connect the site to the National Park and wider region, enabling seamless car-free journeys.
www.peakliaison.co.uk

New attraction: Eden Project Morecambe, Morecambe Bay, Lancashire
Late 2026
The botanical trailblazers behind Cornwall's Eden Project are turning their nature-focused vision to Lancashire's Morecambe Bay. Aiming to create a modern-day seaside experience alongside the area's important natural environment, Eden Project North will host wellness experiences across its outdoor and indoor spaces – a remarkable structure comprising five mussel shell-inspired domes. Key highlights will include reimagined lido pools, marine-inspired gardens, performance areas, observatories and immersive spaces – to name but a few.
www.edenproject.com/new-edens/eden-project-north-uk

New attraction: Museum of Shakespeare, Shoreditch, London
TBC 2026
This groundbreaking arts centre is set to open on the site of the Curtain Playhouse – an ancient theatre in Shoreditch, which was discovered in 2011. The concept was created by Bompas & Parr in collaboration with Cain International, Museum of London Archaeology and Historic England. The museum will be part of The

Stage, a new public space featuring leisure areas, offices, housing and a stylish roof terrace. It will focus on the culture of London in the 16th Century, and the colourful life and inspirations of the famous playwright.
www.museumofshakespeare.org.uk

Opening of Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration, London
TBC 2026
The Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration – formerly known as the House of Illustration – is the UK's sole charity dedicated to celebrating the art of illustration. Founded by world-renowned illustrator Quentin Blake, who has worked on more than 500 books, the organisation is currently restoring the industrial heritage site of New River Head in London's Clerkenwell, to establish a national hub for illustration. Opening this year, the centre will feature art galleries, a learning studio, public gardens and a shop and café – and will become a cultural centre within the local community, as well as a launching point for touring exhibitions and projects.
www.qbcentre.org.uk

New hotel: THE PIG-at Groombridge, Kent
TBC 2026
THE PIG-at Groombridge will offer luxury accommodation in the historic setting of Groombridge Place, a moated manor house steeped in more than 350 years of history. Originally built in 1662 by barrister Philip Packer and architect Sir Christopher Wren, it overlooks its moat, gardens and vineyard. The latter is currently undergoing renovation, planted with Seyval Blanc and Pinot Meunier vines to create a crisp English rosé. With sustainability at its core, THE PIG-at Groombridge will be committed to locally sourced produce and eco-friendly practices.
www.thepighotel.com/at-groombridge

New hotel by Bamford Group opening in Kingham, Oxfordshire
TBC 2026
The Bamford group – which owns Daylesford Farm – is set to refurbish a 38-bedroom hotel in the Oxfordshire village of Kingham. The hotel has been designed around a historic mill, and will feature a restaurant, alehouse, bakehouse, gym, pool and demonstration barn – as well as a two-bedroom holiday cottage. A free electric shuttle bus is also part of the plans, running between Kingham railway station, The Mill, The Wild Rabbit pub and Daylesford Organic Farm – which Bamford also owns.
www.boutiquehotelier.com/lord-bamford-new-cotswolds-hotel

The Groucho Club's arrival into Bretton Hall, West Yorkshire
TBC 2026
The Groucho Club, a stalwart of London's social scene that is ever-popular with celebrities, is set to expand to West Yorkshire's Bretton Hall – the home of Yorkshire Sculpture Park. This new location will be Groucho's first new permanent venture outside the UK capital in its 40-year history, and will feature 40 bedrooms as well as dining and wellness facilities. It will be open to Groucho members and non-members alike.
www.thegrouchoclub.com

Museum of London to relocate to Smithfield, London
TBC 2026
The Museum of London is creating a new home for its collections in the grand market buildings of Smithfield, one of the capital's historic creative quarters. Within the renovated Victorian trade building, the Museum of London will offer new themed galleries, exhibitions and events, as well as a street-level entrance and handy train links via TFL's Elizabeth Line. Filled with artefacts, photography and stories, this will be an exciting new place to delve into London's vibrant history.
www.londonmuseum.org.uk/smithfield

New attraction: Eden Project Portland, Portland, Dorset

TBC 2026
Eden Project Portland will combine cutting-edge technology with the ancient art of stone carving in an awesome underground labyrinth. The isle of Portland sits off the coast of Dorset, and is famous for its maritime heritage and pure-white stone – which has been used to build the likes of St Paul's Cathedral and the UN building in New York. Housed in the former mine tunnels, the £30m project will tell stories about biodiversity, extinction and evolution, in close conjunction with local charities and conservation initiatives.
www.edenproject.com/new-edens/eden-project-portland-uk

Reopening of The Saville Theatre on Shaftesbury Avenue, London
TBC 2026
Set to become the home of the prestigious Cirque Du Soleil theatre company, this new performance space will be developed by Yoo Capital – the team behind London's Sky Gardens, Olympia and Greenwich Square. While full details are yet to be confirmed, the building originally opened as a theatre in 1931, was later converted into a cinema, and is currently undergoing restoration. It will also host a boutique hotel by citizenM on its upper floors.
www.yoocapital.com/project/the-saville/

Reopening of Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, Merseyside
2027
After closing for years of extensive renovation work, Tate Liverpool will reopen in the city in 2027 – with a landmark programme that will showcase its world-class collection and £30m refurbishment. Until then, the Tate has partnered with RIBA North, the Royal Institute of British Architects' national architecture centre, to host a series of exhibitions on Mann Island on Liverpool's waterfront. Tate Liverpool is the northern home of the national collection of British and international modern and contemporary art.
www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-liverpool

New events venue: Bristol YTL Arena, Bristol
TBC 2027
Plans are underway to transform the Brabazon Hangar – the birthplace of the Brabazon aircraft and supersonic Concorde – into the UK's third largest arena. The new Bristol venue will be a year-round entertainment hub, with the aim of being the most sustainable arena in Europe and carbon neutral "from day one". The wider Brabazon development will include a 15-acre park, leisure areas, playgrounds and a public square – which will host markets, street food trucks and outdoor events throughout summer.
www.ytlarenabristol.co.uk

Launch of the Camden Highline, Camden, London
TBC 2027
Camden is getting its very own "sky park", which will run along a disused railway line between Camden and King's Cross. The north London park will be split into three sections, starting at Camden Gardens with a staircase through a tree canopy, followed by an area of viewing platforms, communal tables, woodland areas, purpose-built habitats and an orchard of fruit trees. Planning approval has been granted: the project is currently raising funds, with the intention of opening in 2027.
www.camdenhighline.com

Opening of Therme Manchester, Trafford City, Greater Manchester
TBC 2027
The UK's first city-based wellbeing resort, Therme Manchester will combine hundreds of water-based activities with spa treatments, art, nature and technology. Visitors will have the chance to unwind in a 28-acre tropical environment (that's the size of 19 football pitches!) with warm-water lagoons and spectacular botanical gardens. Expect more than 25 pools, a huge wellbeing garden, urban farms, beehives and dedicated family and adults-only sections.

www.thermemanchester.co.uk

Centenary of Leicester Cathedral, Leicester, Leicestershire
TBC 2027
In two years, Leicester Cathedral will celebrate 100 years since the Diocese of Leicester was re-established in 1927 – which saw the church reclassified as a cathedral. 2027 will also mark the 1,100th anniversary of its use as a place of worship, so expect a year-round line-up of celebratory events, concerts and exhibitions. The cathedral is the final resting place of King Richard III, who died in 1485 at the Battle of Bosworth – the last English king to perish in combat. He was reburied here in 2015, and the nearby King Richard III Visitor Centre tells the story of his life, death and the centuries-long search for his body.
www.leicestercathedral.org

New events arena to open at The Sage, NewcastleGateshead, Tyne and Wear
Phased opening, until 2027
Sitting between the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art and Sage Gateshead on the banks of the Tyne, The Sage will be a state-of-the-art venue for meetings, conferences and events. Costing £260m, the 12,500-capacity venue will feature a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces, restaurants and two hotels. A conference centre will offer 5,700 square metres of exhibition space, capable of hosting major business events – in addition to public green areas, an outdoor performance square and several bars and restaurants. It will launch in stages over the next few years, with the arena set to open in 2027.
www.thesage.co.uk

British stadiums to host UEFA EURO 2028, Nationwide
2028
UK and Ireland will host the UEFA European Football Championship in 2028 – the third time that the Euros will be played in England, after 1996 and 2021. The matches will be held at London's Wembley Stadium, London's Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, Manchester's City of Manchester Stadium (to be renovated), Liverpool's Everton Stadium (new stadium), Newcastle's St James' Park and Birmingham's Villa Park (to be renovated).
www.uefa.com/news-media/news/0286-192e549c1d40-e31d3ee8a335-1000--hosts-appointed-for-uefa-euro-2028-and-2032/