



What's New in England 2026

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Key highlights

- **Happy birthday to Beatrix Potter and Winnie-the-Pooh** – This year marks 160 years since the birth of **Beatrix Potter**, whose charming children's stories and illustrations will forever be associated with the Lake District – so look out for special events throughout the region this year. **Winnie-the-Pooh** will also turn 100, with celebrations at East Sussex's **Ashdown Forest** (the inspiration behind Hundred Acre Wood) and a touring exhibition of illustrations, manuscripts and memorabilia at **Nymans**, **Tatton Park** and **Anglesey Abbey**. Other big creative birthdays this year include **John Constable's** 250th (June), **Eric Morecambe's** 100th (May) and the **Southbank Centre's** 75th – while **Aardman** animation studio in Bristol, the creator of *Wallace & Gromit*, will turn 50. Believe it or not, it's also a quarter of a century since the first *Harry Potter* film was released.
- **Period dramas shine on screen** – According to *Expedia*, 81% of Gen Z and Millennials plan trips around locations featured in their favourite films and TV. This year, you can incorporate time-travelling too, with several high-profile costume dramas hitting our screens. In January, the movie adaptation of Maggie O'Farrell's **Hamnet** will bring Shakespeare's family to life – while showcasing the rural beauty of Herefordshire, where it was filmed. Other highlights include the new **Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man** movie (early 2026) and two new **Peaky Blinders** series (TBC 2026), a fourth season of **Bridgerton** (Surrey, Bath and London; Jan), and the **Wuthering Heights** movie starring Margot Robbie (Hertfordshire and Yorkshire; Feb). Netflix will present a fresh look at **Pride and Prejudice** (filmed in London, the Peak District and East Sussex), and a new film of **Sense and Sensibility** is currently in production – both release dates TBC 2026.
- **Football fever** – England *always* has football fever (after all, the modern game *originated here!*) but this will be a bumper year for the sport. **Attending a Premier League game** has been named one of *Lonely Planet's* Best in Travel Experiences for 2026, for its "unique window into the country's passions and character" – while the **2026 FIFA World Cup** will kick off across the Atlantic in June. On home turf, Manchester City FC's **Etihad Stadium** will unveil its full £300m redevelopment, including a new museum, fan zone and **The Medlock**, a 401-room hotel (late 2026), and Everton FC's **Hill Dickinson Stadium** will continue its behind-the-scenes stadium tours (which launched in September 2025). **Brighton & Hove Albion FC** will celebrate its 125th birthday this August with a new exhibition at Brighton Museum & Art Gallery – a truly inspirational tale of football's underdogs – while Burslem's **Port Vale FC** will kick off the year with its 150th anniversary match on 4 January. Fans of Apple TV's footie favourite **Ted Lasso** can look forward to the fourth series this summer after the cast were spotted filming in Richmond last September. Also looking ahead, Gurinder Chadha's sequel to **Bend it Like Beckham** will hit cinemas in 2027 and England's stadiums will be preparing for the arrival of **UEFA EURO 2028**, with matches set to take place in Manchester, London, Liverpool, Newcastle and Birmingham in June and July 2028.
- **Seaside celebrations** – To the seaside! England's coastline will see new openings and anniversaries galore this year – including the 20th instalment of the Isles of Scilly's **Walk Scilly festival** (April), the 200th year of **Cowes Week** sailing regatta on the Isle of Wight (August) and the 90th birthday of **Butlins**. As **Hull** prepares to unveil the final phase of its £30m new attractions honouring its 800 years of seafaring history (spring), the city has been crowned one of *National Geographic's* Best Places in the World to Travel in 2026. On the North West coast, **Southport 2026** will see the historic seaside town host a year-long programme of circus, theatre, art and music performances – such as Lightport (Feb), a light installation casting rainbows across the town. On Eric Morecambe's 100th birthday, **Morecambe** in Lancashire will celebrate its famous son with a comedy extravaganza (May) and **The Bay International Film Festival** will return to the town in January. Meanwhile, **Blackpool Pleasure Beach** will mark its 130th birthday and launch its new Aviktas "gyro swing" ride: a giant spinning pendulum, the first of its kind in the UK (TBC 2026). Blackpool's **Royal Carlton Hotel** will also be restored to its former glory in spring, a timely renaissance for the Art Deco icon. Folkestone's heritage **Leas Lift cliff railway** will reopen in spring, and

Portsmouth will celebrate 100 years of city status while the world's top paddleboarders will race on the English Riviera at the **Paddle UK SUPER Festival and ICF SUP World Cup** (May). London's **Southbank Centre** marks its 75th anniversary, with its **A Poet in Every Port** project which will see the National Poetry Library hit the road, bringing year-round performances and workshops to seaside towns including **South Shields**, **Southend**, **Great Yarmouth** and **Penzance**. And the final sections of the **King Charles III England Coast Path** are due to open in spring, when it will become the world's longest continual seaside hiking route: a whopping 2,700 miles (4,498km) running the length of England's coast.

- **See the world's sports stars in England** – Beyond England's football fever, we're gearing up for the cricket **ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026** which will be held in Bristol, Manchester, Leeds, London, Birmingham and Southampton (June and July), Birmingham's **European Athletics Championships** (Aug) and the **Formula E World Championship final** (Aug) in London. For something a little different, look to the **ISU European Figure Skating Championships** in Sheffield (Jan) and the **Paddleboarding World Cup** on the English Riviera (May). E-sports are also taking off, with the launch of **Sunderland's Gaming and Esports Arena** (spring) and the **DreamHack and ESL One** tournaments in Birmingham (Mar).
- **Mind-bending art and performance** – Step into the unexpected at England's new immersive experiences and VR attractions. In Bristol, **Wake The Tiger** – the UK's largest immersive art experience – is getting even bigger, and a second outpost will open in west London with a giant maze and interactive installations (summer). **Kynren**, Durham's outdoor theatre extravaganza with 1,000 performers, will launch **The Storied Lands** this summer: a live-action theme park with vast sets and special effects bringing 2,000 years of British history to life. For more mind-bending action, look to London for Bompas & Parr's new **Museum of Shakespeare** (TBC), the world's largest **immersive Pixar exhibition** (Feb) and Sandbox VR's **Age of Dinosaurs**, a prehistoric journey created in partnership with the Natural History Museum (spring).
- **Homegrown musical talent takes to the stage** – What do **RAYE**, **Lily Allen**, and **Take That** have in common? These English A-listers will all be gracing our arenas this year! For noughties nostalgia, **The Streets** will tour their 2004 album *A Grand Don't Come for Free* in full (June–Aug) and animated alt-rockers **Gorillaz** will hit the road (Mar–June), while indie favourites **The Maccabees** are back for a series of open-air gigs in London, Leeds Cornwall, Bristol and Brighton (July). It's a fallow year for Glastonbury, but look out for a fresh music festival at **Blenheim Palace** (summer) and the first **Roundhay Festival** in Leeds (July), to be headlined by Lewis Capaldi. In February, **The BRIT Awards** will leave London for the very first time, heading to Manchester's Co-op Live arena – which will also host the **MOBO Awards** (Mar). And who knows, maybe we'll even see the Gallagher brothers taking England's arenas by storm again in 2026.
- **New spas, saunas and water wellness** – There's a wealth of new ways to relax this year, from saunas and ice baths at Sheffield's Scandi-style **Güs** wellness hub and Norwich's **The Lion's Den** rooftop, to home-grown vinotherapy spa treatments at Horsham's **South Lodge** hotel – all recently launched in winter 2025. Yorkshire's **Gisborough Hall** and Bath's **Francis Hotel** will open new spas in spring, while in summer Canary Wharf will make a splash with **Sea Lanes lido** pool – created by the team behind **Sea Lanes Brighton**, the UK's first National Open Water Swimming Centre. **Thermae Bath Spa** will mark its 20th anniversary with special events and treatments, and **Cambridge House, Auberge Collection** – a new hotel in Mayfair – will debut its two-storey wellness centre in spring.
- **Battle of Hastings 960th anniversary sees first UK display of the Bayeux Tapestry** – The fight for England's throne in 1066, between the Anglo-Saxons and Normans, altered our nation's governance and culture forever. 960 years later, hundreds of actors and horses will recreate the Normans' victory at **Battle Abbey in East Sussex**, the very spot where the Battle of Hastings was fought: the biggest reenactment to-date, with living camps and interactive activities (Oct). In September, the Bayeux Tapestry – which depicts the battle – will be displayed in the UK for the first time at London's **British Museum**, ahead of the 2027 **Year of the Normans**, a cultural celebration across England and France to mark the millennium of William the Conqueror's birth.

- **Top hotel launches across England** – From five-star suites to rural retreats, a huge range of new hotels will open across England this year. In Derbyshire, **Chatsworth Estate** will open a new hotel and restaurant **The Hide**, while **CABÜ in the Cotswolds** will debut low-carbon cabins featuring hot tubs, saunas and plunge pools (spring). For the first time in its 41-year history, **The Groucho Club** will venture outside the capital to establish a new hotel and members' club in West Yorkshire (TBC 2026). Luxury hospitality brand Fairmont will launch **Fairmont Cheshire The Mere** in Knutsford (summer) – and in Bristol, **Hotel Gotham Bristol** will transform the city's historic Guildhall into a lavish new landmark hotel (early 2026). For a country escape, **Dumbleton Hall** in the Cotswolds will open shepherds' huts and treehouses in spring, and New Forest hotel **Chewton Glen** will mark its 60th birthday after revamping its suites and dining last year. High-profile London launches include Fitzrovia's **The Newman** (early 2026) and Mayfair's **Cambridge House, Auberge Collection** (spring) – plus the hotly anticipated **Waldorf Astoria Admiralty Arch** in the iconic Admiralty Arch (spring).

Trends

Trips down memory lane

Many of Britain's best-loved childhood books, movies and characters will make a return this year, such as a new film adaptation of Enid Blyton's **The Magic Faraway Tree** starring Claire Foy and Andrew Garfield (March) and Netflix's **Narnia** film (Nov), a retelling of C.S. Lewis's children's tale written by Greta Gerwig – who also wrote *Barbie*. Not only will **Winnie-the-Pooh** and **Beatrix Potter** celebrate big birthdays this year (see Key highlights, above), but as **Aardman** animation studio turns 50, we'll also be treated to a new Halloween-themed **Shaun the Sheep** movie (autumn). Fans of Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows* can follow the new sculpture trail at **Woodchester Park** in Gloucestershire (May–June), Southport will host its new **Books Alive!** children's literature festival (Oct) turning the town into a living storybook and London's **Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration** – founded by the world-renowned *BFG* and *Matilda* illustrator – will open in May. It's also 25 years since the film release of **Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone**: the perfect excuse to follow in Harry and co's footsteps at Northumberland's **Alnwick Castle**, Oxford University's **Bodleian Library** and on set at **Warner Bros. Studio Tour London**. Looking ahead, there's a new *Harry Potter* TV series on the horizon too (2027).

In search of the sacred

Travellers are turning to faith this year, with almost half (47%) of us considering a “spiritual journey” to sacred sites or mystical spots, according to research by **Booking.com**. That could entail an equinox visit to **Avebury**'s Neolithic stone circles in Wiltshire, or walking one of England's **pilgrimage routes** – such as North Yorkshire's **Way of St Hild**, Durham's **Northern Saints Trails** or Canterbury's **Augustine Camino**. Northumberland's **Holy Island of Lindisfarne** offers everything from seal-spotting and beach walks to mead-tasting and music festivals – and can be reached, of course, by a pilgrimage on-foot. If neopaganism and #witchtok are more your thing, look to Cornwall's **Museum of Witchcraft and Magic** (reopening in April), or **Burley** in the New Forest – dubbed England's answer to Salem for its rich history of sorcery. If neopaganism and #witchtok are more your thing, look to Cornwall's **Museum of Witchcraft and Magic** (reopening in April), or **Burley** in the New Forest – dubbed England's answer to Salem for its rich history of sorcery. Seek out North York Moors National Park's new **dark skies observatory** which will launch in February, or explore the crystal shops and energy healing experiences of **Glastonbury**, **Totnes** and **Whitby**. 800-year-old **Greyfriars** in Lincoln, believed to be England's oldest friary, will reopen in spring following major restoration supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Or maybe you'll try “**champing**”, an overnight camping adventure in one of England's historic churches?

England's unsung heroes

Now's the moment to explore England's lesser-known corners: our towns, villages and regions that are coming into the spotlight. Like the creative quarter of **Digbeth** in Birmingham, recently named one of *Time Out*'s coolest neighbourhoods – where the new **Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man** movie was filmed (release date TBC), and where BBC Birmingham will move to in 2027. Also in the West Midlands, **Wolverhampton** will mark 25

years of city status in 2026 with 12 months of special events. Happy 100th birthday to Manchester's sister city **Salford**, which will see its new **Salford Rise** elevated walkway open in the summer – and you can celebrate 400 years since **Leeds** was awarded the Royal City Charter at its all-new **Roundhay music festival** in July. In Lancashire, Fleetwood will debut its **Cine-Wyre Film Festival** in February, while Dorset's newly crowned Town of Culture 2026 **Wimborne Minster** will host a year of festivities. Many high-profile exhibitions are heading to England's regions too, such as Barnsley Museum's **Cleopatra & the Queens of Egypt** (from Mar), Wolverhampton Art Gallery's **Andy Warhol Artist Rooms** (May to Oct), and the touring **Meltdown music festival** – part of the Southbank Centre's nationwide 75th anniversary programme (throughout 2026).

Soul nourishment: Slow down and savour

England has a bumper crop of new slow-food openings this year, such as **Chatsworth Estate's The Hide** hotel and restaurant (spring), the first wine tastings at Yorkshire's **Loversall Vineyard** (winter) and the launch of **THE PIG-at Groombridge** in Kent (TBC 2026). Just in time for spring and summer, **CABÜ in the Cotswolds** – featuring low-energy but high-style timber cabins – will also offer a “sitooterie” for al fresco barbecues, dining and gatherings. Celebrities are getting in on the action, too: after all, Sir David Beckham is now a **professional beekeeper**, and **Beyonce and Jay Z** are reportedly moving to the Cotswolds! For farm-to-fork dining, book Guy Ritchie's new **WildKitchen** experience at Herefordshire's Rosemaund Farm Distillery, with a guided tour, tasting and fire-cooked lunch of hyper-local cuisine (Feb). In Surrey, Simon Stallard of Cornwall's Hidden Hut will launch **The Fire Club** (Jan) at The Walled Garden bringing long-table open fire feasts and guest-chef residencies. The menu at **Freyja**, a new restaurant with rooms on Northumberland's **Close House Estate**, will feature organic produce grown on the estate (autumn), while the **Bamford Group** – of Daylesford Organic Farm fame – will open the first phase of its hotel in the Cotswolds village of Kingham (2026–28). Other foodie highlights include Wiltshire's new wine-led hotel **Corsham House** (Feb), seasonal Cotswolds fare at the renovated **Wild Duck** pub (spring), and the multi-million-pound gastro redevelopment of County Durham's **Rockliffe Hall** – which will include a new fine-dining restaurant (TBC 2026).

Seeking stillness: Gardens, forests and outdoor art

Silence is golden this year, with a growing appetite for getaways that offer genuine tranquillity. According to the VisitEngland Domestic Sentiment Tracker*, 32% of people say they simply “want to get away from it all and have a rest” – while research by **Booking.com** indicates that 25% of us are planning trips to embrace “quieter” hobbies such as foraging and wildlife watching. British solitude seekers needn't venture far, for there are new peaceful joys popping up all over England – including an outdoor exhibition of Henry Moore's sculptures at **Kew Gardens and Wakehurst** (May to Sep), the opening of **RHS Chinese Streamside Garden** at RHS Garden Bridgewater, Salford (TBC 2026), and the *Wind in the Willows* trail at Gloucestershire's **Woodchester Park** (May). **Kielder Forest** in Northumberland, England's biggest woodland, will celebrate its 100th anniversary too: a glorious location for birdwatching, watersports and spotting red squirrels, while **Kielder Castle** will reopen with new facilities in summer.

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Fantastic freebies

Value is paramount in 2026, and there's a wealth of free activities and attractions launching across England this year. It won't cost a penny to visit the new-look **Lincoln Museum** (opening in summer), join the year-round centenary celebrations of **Portsmouth**, nor to appreciate the groundbreaking art and design on display at London's new **V&A East Museum** (spring). Other freebie highlights include cultural events as part of **Southport 2026**, exploring **Bristol's legendary street art** – named one of *Lonely Planet's* Best in Travel experiences for 2026 – and hiking, stargazing and cycling in the **Peak District**, which will mark its 75th anniversary as one of England's treasured National Parks this year. London's **Southbank Centre** will also blow out 75 birthday candles, celebrating with complimentary year-round events, exhibitions and workshops all over the country, while in Salford tickets to The Lowry's immersive **LOWRY 360** exhibition (ongoing) and **We Invented the Weekend** festival (June) will also be free.

Anniversaries

100 years of [Winnie-the-Pooh](#), Nationwide

Throughout 2026

One of the most popular children's storybook series of all time, *Winnie-the-Pooh* will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2026. Fans can honour the occasion with a trip to [Ashdown Forest](#) and its Poohsticks Bridge in East Sussex, which was the home of author A.A Milne. Ashdown was the inspiration for Hundred Acre Wood, the fictional forest where Pooh lived with his friends Piglet, Tigger, Eeyore, Rabbit, Kanga and Roo, and it will host a number of commemorative events this year. Throughout the area, discover the Heffalump Trap and Roo's Sandy Pit on the [Pooh Walk](#) trails (varying lengths) or join a guided [Hike and Heffalump tour](#) or [Pooh Trek](#). Then, refuel at [Pooh Corner](#) – the Pooh-themed tearoom, museum and gift shop that dates back to 1703, where Christopher Milne used to buy sweets. Other local highlights include Piglet's House, Eeyore's Gloomy Place, and a memorial to A.A Milne and illustrator E.H. Shepard.

Winnie-the-Pooh Day is celebrated annually on 18 January (A.A Milne's birthday) – which this year will fall on a Sunday, meaning more time to enjoy a winter picnic and play Poohsticks in one of England's many wildlife reserves. Honey-loving fans can also try their hand at beekeeping with a [Quince Honey Farm](#) one-day workshop in North Devon, learning how to tend to hives and coming away with their very own honey.

Children's publisher Farshore is also working with the National Trust and Cheshire East Council to bring an exhibition and book trail to life, which will include archive material from the Shepard and Milne estates. The exhibition will visit National Trust and Cheshire East Council properties throughout 2026, including [Nymans](#) (Sussex) in spring, [Tatton Park](#) (Cheshire) in summer and [Anglesey Abbey](#) (Cambridgeshire) in winter.

ACE Cultural Tours will launch a five-day [Winnie-the-Pooh at 100](#) tour in June, featuring nature walks through Ashdown Forest and sites in Hartfield associated with A A Milne, and a chance to see original manuscripts in Trinity College's Wren Library in Cambridge. Other Milne must-sees across England include his [birthplace in Kilburn](#), North London; [Cotchford Farm](#) in Hartfield where he wrote *Winnie-the-Pooh* (now a holiday rental); and [The Bear Inn](#) in Hartfield which has four themed rooms named after Pooh, Tigger, Kanga and Piglet.

160th anniversary of [Beatrix Potter's birth](#), Lake District, Cumbria

Throughout 2026

2026 will mark 160 years since the birth of Beatrix Potter, the world-famous author and illustrator who drew untold inspiration from the Lake District, where she lived for most of her life. As well as enjoying commemorative events in the local area, visitors can explore her legacy and holiday home at the National Trust's [Hill Top House](#), stay at the 17th Century [Tower Bank Arms](#) inn – which is illustrated in *The Tale of Jemima Puddleduck* – and see her stories and characters brought to life at [The World of Beatrix Potter Attraction](#) in Bowness-on-Windermere.

130 years of [Blackpool Pleasure Beach](#) and 40 years of [Sandcastle Waterpark](#), Blackpool

Throughout 2026

This year marks the 130th anniversary of one of England's most iconic amusement parks: Blackpool Pleasure Beach, which was founded in 1896 by American entrepreneur William George Bean. His vision of thrilling rides for young and old remains true, with 10 rollercoasters and five water rides, including the high-speed twists of ICON and the award-winning spills of Valhalla. Also this year, Blackpool's Sandcastle Waterpark – the UK's biggest indoor waterpark – will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

[Salford 100](#): celebrations to mark 100th anniversary as a city, Greater Manchester

Throughout 2026

100 years after it was granted city status by King George V, Salford will host a full year of live entertainment, street parties and cultural events – all in celebration of the talented people and communities that call it home. The programme will span from grass-roots festivities to high-profile happenings in Salford's cultural landmarks, such as Salford Quays and The Lowry arts centre.

Portsmouth 100: centenary of the city of Portsmouth, Hampshire

Throughout 2026

Portsmouth will celebrate a century of its city status this year, with a full calendar of events, a new sculpture trail and community events. Designed to put the city's local talents in the spotlight, the programme will launch in January on New Year's Day, with highlights including a Centenary civic service (22 March), a concert of Music in Portsmouth presented by Portsmouth Cathedral at Portsmouth Guildhall (9 May), the Pride of Portsmouth lion trail (July and August) and a Portsmouth 100 fireworks display (November).

Wolverhampton celebrates 25 years of city status, West Midlands

Throughout 2026

It's 25 years since Wolverhampton was granted city status on 31 January 2001, and celebrations will take place throughout this year. The West Midlands city is known for its rich cultural diversity and thriving entertainment scene, home to the long-established [Wolverhampton Grand Theatre](#), one of England's finest collections of Pop Art at [Wolverhampton Art Gallery](#), the [Wolverhampton Halls](#) concert venue and Premier League football at [Molineux](#), home of Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Leeds 400: 400 years since the city was granted its charter

Throughout 2026

This year, Leeds will celebrate four centuries since it was granted its charter by King Charles I, allowing it to become a self-governing town. To mark the occasion there will be 400 events taking place across the city throughout the year, with key festivities to celebrate in July.

100th anniversary of [Kielder Forest](#), Northumberland

Throughout 2026

This will be a bumper year for Kielder Forest, which will not only mark its 100th anniversary throughout 2026, but also the reopening of [Kielder Castle](#) in summer following a major refurbishment, and the 10th anniversary of the [Dirty Reiver](#) cycling event in April. A haven for hiking, cycling, birdwatching, fishing and watersports, Kielder is England's biggest forest and is home to the nation's largest population of red squirrels.

75th anniversary of the [Peak District](#), Derbyshire, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Staffordshire and Yorkshire

Throughout 2026

75 years ago, the Peak District became the UK's first ever national park – thanks to the 1951 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. To celebrate, expect special events and activities throughout the 1,437km² reserve this year, which spreads across five counties and is home to red deer, mountain hares and rare wild orchids. The perfect excuse to hit one of its 1,600 miles of pathways, bridleways and tracks, which includes a section of The Pennine Way.

25 years since the release of [Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone](#)

Throughout 2026

A quarter of a century since its first installment hit cinema screens, the *Harry Potter* film series continues to put England's spectacular visitor attractions in the spotlight. What better excuse to revisit Northumberland's [Alnwick Castle](#) as Hogwarts, London's [King's Cross Station](#) (Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$), Oxford University's [Bodleian Library](#) (the Hogwarts infirmary) and other key filming locations? [Warner Bros. Studio Tour London](#) will also launch four new tours and experiences this year: Magical Mischiefs (spilling the secrets of the films' special effects), a Philosopher's Stone exhibition (promising magical surprises and spellbinding sets), Dark Arts (a Halloween celebration of Dementors and Death Eaters) and Hogwarts in the Snow (a festive makeover of the Great Hall).

90th anniversary of [Butlins](#), nationwide

Throughout 2026

Happy birthday to Butlins, which will blow out 90 candles this year. To celebrate, expect a full calendar of family entertainment across its three holiday resorts in Bognor Regis, Minehead and Skegness. All summer, urban dance group Diversity will perform their new and exclusive show Time Capsule, celebrating pop culture's most memorable moments – while throughout the year, Maximum Pro Wrestling will present a wrestling show with celebrity guests and edge-of-your-seat drama galore.

20 years of [Thermae Bath Spa](#), Bath

Throughout 2026

The UK's only natural thermal spa, Thermae Bath Spa, will celebrate 20 years in 2026. As well as special events and treatments at the spa itself, the city will also see the return of [ReBalance Bath](#) for the fourth year (28 January to 16 February) – the annual wellbeing festival that features wellness workshops, meditation and exclusive spa and hotel packages.

260th anniversary of [Bristol Old Vic Theatre](#), Bristol

Throughout 2026

Bristol Old Vic, the oldest continuously working theatre in the English-speaking world, will mark its 260th birthday in 2026 with a special programme of productions and events. It's not the only Bristol cultural hub celebrating a landmark year: [The Wardrobe Theatre](#) will turn 10, the [Redgrave Theatre](#) reaches its 60th year, and it will be 125 years since the first public cinema screening in Bristol, held at the Tivoli in June 1896.

[Port Vale FC](#) turns 150, Stoke, Staffordshire

Throughout 2026

Founded in 1876, Port Vale FC will mark 150 years in 2026 with a season of celebrations. A commemorative home match at Vale Park in January will kick things off, followed by the club's first ever Hall of Fame event at the end of the season. Other highlights include a new community mural at the stadium and anniversary merchandise honouring the club's proud history.

25 years of [Derwent Valley Mills](#) UNESCO World Heritage Site, Derbyshire

Throughout 2026

Praised by UNESCO for its historic cotton mills and rich cultural significance, Derwent Valley Mills was recognised as a World Heritage Site 25 years ago – and the milestone will be honoured with events and exhibitions throughout 2026. Also this year, the Belper 250 celebrations will mark the 250th anniversary of Belper's first cotton mill, a key component of the town's 18th Century commercial successes. It is also 300 years since the birth of Jedediah Strutt, a hosier and cotton-spinner who galvanised local industry with his inventions and investment.

60 years of [Chewton Glen Hotel](#), Hampshire

Throughout 2026

Happy Birthday to Chewton Glen, the New Forest country estate hotel which was founded in 1966. Last summer it unveiled a new-look restaurant, bar, suites and drawing rooms, blending modern elegance with historical warmth – further complementing its James Martin bistro, award-winning spa, golf course and tennis courts. Expect a programme of exclusive events, special menus and celebrations to mark its 60th year.

[The Archers](#) turns 75, West Midlands and Essex

1 January 2026

First broadcast on 1 January 1951, *The Archers* is the world's longest-running radio drama – and has aired more than 20,000 episodes on the BBC. It is recorded in Birmingham at the Mailbox studios, and brings stories of rural

life in England to households all over the world. Alongside commemorative programming across the BBC, Essex's Saffron Hall will host a special [Friday Night is Music Night](#) featuring music from *The Archers* performed by The BBC Concert Orchestra (31 May).

50th anniversary of Concorde's first commercial transatlantic flight

21 January 2026

A half century since its first commercial flight across the Atlantic, Concorde may be grounded but its legacy lives on. You can step on board the British-built prototype Concorde 002 at Yeovilton's [Fleet Air Arm Museum](#), or explore the last Concorde to fly at [Aerospace Bristol](#) – which was also the filming location for *that* opening scene of Disney+'s *Rivals*. Other places to get up-close with Concorde include [Imperial War Museum Duxford](#) (Cambridgeshire) and [Brooklands Museum](#) (Surrey), while London's [Brooklands Bar](#) features an original Concorde nose cone in its aviation-themed décor.

50th anniversary of [L.S. Lowry's](#) death

23 February 2026

50 years after the death of English painter L.S. Lowry, his artistic legacy and oeuvre live on in Salford's The Lowry – which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2025. Drawing inspiration from North-West England's industrial districts, Lowry depicted the likes of Salford and Pendlebury using just five colours, and perfected his style while working as a rent collector. Fans can explore his works at The Lowry's ongoing immersive [LOWRY 360](#), a free audio-visual experience that takes you "inside" the painter's *Going to the Match* painting, which launched to coincide with the gallery's anniversary last year – alongside an extensive exhibition of his works.

20th anniversary of [Walk Scilly](#) festival, Isles of Scilly

10-19 April 2026

With guided hikes, swims, talks and events throughout the five inhabited Isles of Scilly, this ten-day outdoor festival will be bigger than ever before, as it marks its 20th anniversary this year. Highlights will include heritage walks with islanders, wildlife watching with the Wildlife Trust, shipwreck and lighthouse tours, and coastal swimming races – all amid the islands' famously mild spring weather.

100 years since the birth of Queen Elizabeth II

21 April 2026

This spring, venues nationwide will mark 100 years since the birth of Queen Elizabeth II. One flagship event will be Buckingham Palace's new exhibition [Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Style](#) (spring to autumn) – the largest ever display dedicated to the style and outfits of Britain's longest-reigning monarch. Featuring gowns, ceremonial outfits and iconic ensembles spanning her seven decades on the throne, the show will explore how her majesty used clothing as a tool of diplomacy and personal expression. Expect dazzling dresses and sharp British tailoring, as well as never-before-displayed examples of her practical everyday style.

[75th anniversary of the Southbank Centre](#), London and nationwide

From May 2026

2026 marks 75 years of the Royal Festival Hall, the first chapter in the Southbank Centre's story. In May, its anniversary season will launch with *You Are Here*, a full takeover created, directed and designed by Danny Boyle. Other highlights will include Anish Kapoor's first Hayward Gallery show in nearly three decades, and pianist Yuja Wang's immersive mixed-reality concert *Playing with Fire*. Outside London, a national outreach programme will bring anniversary events to more than 40 UK towns and cities: highlights include a touring poetry library in ten coastal locations, the Meltdown music festival visiting six towns, and a national touring exhibition by the Hayward Gallery looking back over 45 years of British art. The nationwide events are expected to reach over one million people.

100 years of Eric Morecambe, [Morecambe](#), Lancashire

14 May 2026

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of notable comedian Eric Morecambe – and the town he was born in (and named himself after) is getting ready to celebrate. There will be events throughout the year to celebrate Eric and his lasting impact on the world of comedy and theatre, culminating in a large-scale special gathering on his birthday, 14 May.

250th birthday of artist [John Constable](#), Suffolk

11 June 2026

250 years after the birth of John Constable in Suffolk, the county's Christchurch Mansion will host a year-long programme of three exhibitions honouring the *The Hay Wain* painter's life. Featuring works on loan from the Tate, National Galleries of Scotland, Victoria & Albert Museum, Royal Academy and the Government Art Collection, the exhibitions – which will commence on 28 March – will be entitled Constable: A Cast of Characters; Constable: Walking the Landscape; and Constable to Contemporary. Until April, London's [Tate Britain](#) will continue its Turner and Constable exhibition, which opened in November 2025 and features works by Constable and JMW Turner, whose 250th anniversary was celebrated last year. The site which inspired *The Hay Wain*, at National Trust's [Flatford](#) in Suffolk, includes the locations of five Constable scenes depicting life on the river, while the nearby village of [East Bergholt](#) features his childhood home, church and school.

20th anniversary of [Leeds Pride](#)

18 & 19 July 2026

This year marks 20 years of Leeds Pride, one of the biggest LGBTQ+ festivals in England. Highlights include the parade and market stalls throughout the city, and live entertainment in the Rainbow Quarter – which in previous years has been headlined by Liberty X, Booty Luv and tributes to Chappell Roan and Sabrina Carpenter.

200th anniversary of [Cowes Week](#), Isle of Wight

1-7 August 2026

The world's most famous sailing regatta will celebrate its bicentenary this year, with the Solent set to host an unmissable mix of competition and pageantry. Highlights will include a Parade of Sail, anniversary races such as the Bicentenary Gold Cup, and a Revival Day featuring classic yachts. Ashore, Cowes will buzz with live music concerts for the first time ever, as well as street entertainers, a new 1826 Stage at Northwood House, pop-up attractions and the Bicentenary Exhibition, telling the story of Cowes Week's remarkable 200-year journey. Fireworks and a Red Arrows flypast will complete the festival atmosphere.

375th anniversary of the [Battle of Worcester](#), Worcestershire

3 September 2026

On 3 September 1651, Worcester witnessed the final clash of the English Civil Wars – the nine-year battle between the Royalists and Parliamentarians for power over England. The escape of defeated King Charles II has become legendary, including the city's [King Charles House pub](#) which he is said to have fled through, and the Royal Oak tree at [Boscobel House](#) in Shropshire, which he climbed to evade capture. This autumn, Worcester will host commemorative events and activities throughout the city.

250th anniversary of [St Leger Festival](#), Doncaster Racecourse, South Yorkshire

September 2026

In previous years, winning jockeys of the St Leger Festival have included the likes of Frankie Dettori, Ryan Moore and William Buick – and this year will see many of its most famous names return for the Leger Legends charity race. Over four days of world-class horse racing, the festival will celebrate its 250th year with its famous Ladies' Day, Doncaster Cup Day and Betfred St Leger Day – all featuring some of the nation's finest horses.

960th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, [Battle, East Sussex](#)

October 2026

960 years after the clash between the Anglo-Saxons and Normans at [Battle Abbey](#) in East Sussex, hundreds of costumed actors and horses will recreate the fight of 1066, with living battle camps and interactive activities to explore. The reenactment takes place every year, but 2026's production will be the biggest yet, accompanied by an extended programme of entertainment. In September, the Bayeux Tapestry – which depicts the battle that shaped English culture and governance – will go on display in the UK for the first time, at [London's British Museum](#). Looking ahead, 2027 will be the [Year of the Normans](#), an international cultural celebration of the 1,000th anniversary of William the Conqueror's birth.

Starring England: Films, TV and Theatre

New film: [Hamnet](#), filmed in Weobley, Herefordshire

9 January 2026

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. Visit Herefordshire has introduced a new trail inspired by the movie locations showcasing stays under Tudor beams, mapped-out walks through original Shakespearean-era architecture, wild swim spots and ways to explore the villages featured in the film. From March 2026, dedicated setjetters will be able to stay at the National Trust's [Cwmmau Farmhouse](#) featured as Agnes's family home in the film.

New series: [The Seven Dials Mystery](#), filmed in Bristol and Somerset

15 January 2026

Written by *Broadchurch* creator Chris Chibnall, Netflix's new adaptation of *The Seven Dials Mystery* will bring Agatha Christie's murder mysteries to a fresh generation of crime fiction fans. It was filmed predominantly at Bristol's Bottle Yard Studios, as well as on location throughout Bath, the [West Somerset Railway](#) and Bridewell Street in central Bristol. Mia McKenna-Bruce will star as Lady Eileen “Bundle” Brent, alongside Helena Bonham Carter and Martin Freeman.

New film: [Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man](#), filmed in Birmingham

Early 2026

Following on from the end of series six (which aired in 2022), the *Peaky Blinders* movie is set during WW2 and will tell the stories of the family's new generation. Cillian Murphy stars as Tommy Shelby and Stephen Graham returns as union leader Hayden Stagg, with new characters played by stars including *Dune*'s Rebecca Ferguson and *Saltburn*'s Barry Keoghan. Unlike the series, which was filmed mostly in Liverpool, the film was shot in Digbeth, Birmingham – recently named as one of *Time Out*'s coolest neighbourhoods. Check out VisitEngland's new [Peaky Blinders filming locations and experiences](#) guide.

New theatre tour: Jodie Comer's [Prima Facie](#), Nationwide

From 23 January 2026

Jodie Comer is returning to the stage for her Olivier- and Tony Award-winning performance in *Prima Facie*, which will tour England from January to March. The tour will visit English cities including Canterbury, Birmingham and Liverpool. Comer stars in the one-woman play as Tessa, a brilliant barrister who confronts the flaws in the legal system.

New series: [Bridgerton](#), filmed in Surrey, Bath and London

29 January 2026

The next chapter in Shondaland's hit period drama *Bridgerton* will hit screens this year. Expect even more intrigue, saucy romance and lavish Regency settings when Netflix's Season 4 arrives in two parts: the first on 29 January, and the second on 26 February. Filming has reportedly taken place predominantly in a purpose-built set at Surrey's Shepperton Studios, alongside locations in Bath and London. Look out for [Bath's Royal Crescent](#) and London's [Hampton Court Palace](#) and [Old Royal Naval College](#), as well as [Ranger's House](#) in Greenwich Park which stars as the Bridgerton family home.

New film: [Wuthering Heights](#), filmed in Hertfordshire and the Yorkshire Dales

13 February 2026

A new adaptation of Emily Brontë's classic novel *Wuthering Heights* will be released in cinemas on 13 February, directed by Emerald Fennell, the creator of hit 2023 black comedy film *Saltburn*. The retelling promises to bring a fresh twist to the tragic Gothic tale of Cathy and Heathcliff, who will be played by Margot Robbie and Jacob Elordi. Filming has been split between Sky Studios Elstree in Hertfordshire and the [Yorkshire Dales](#), with crews spotted in Arkengarthdale, Swaledale, the village of Low Row, Surrender Bridge and Simonstone Hall.

New theatre production: [Gentleman Jack](#), Leeds Grand Theatre, Leeds

7–14 March 2026

Northern Ballet will premiere *Gentleman Jack*, bringing to life the extraordinary story of Anne Lister of [Shibden Hall](#) in Calderdale, Halifax, who defied conventions in 19th Century Britain. Known as the "first modern lesbian", Lister broke conventional taboos to have several affairs with women, and was known as Gentleman Jack for her masculine appearance and dress – but the full complexities of her life weren't revealed until her diaries were read after her death. The ballet's accessible performances will be supported by audio description and touch tours.

New film: [The Magic Faraway Tree](#), filmed in southern England

27 March 2026

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.

New film: [Shaun the Sheep: The Beast of Mossy Bottom](#)

September/October 2026

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Aardman animation studio, and to celebrate it will release a new film starring one of its most beloved characters: Shaun the Sheep. The Halloween-themed tale will be released in cinemas and on Sky in autumn, and will tell the tale of the fluffy hero's race to save the pumpkin patch at Mossy Bottom Farm. The studio will also partner with BAFTA throughout this year to encourage young talents in Britain's creative industries. In September 2025, *Wallace & Gromit* creator Nick Park opened the renovated [Harris Museum](#) in his birthplace of Preston, which includes a life-size version of the duo's living room.

New DC Universe film: [Clayface](#), filmed in Liverpool

Autumn 2026

Liverpool was transformed into Gotham City last summer, with filming for the horror-thriller *Clayface* taking place across the city region. Shooting locations reportedly included Liverpool Crown Court, Derby Square in the city centre, [St. George's Hall](#), the Cunard Building and Water Street. Directed by James Watkins, the movie will star Tom Rhys Harries as Clayface and Naomi Ackie as Elizabeth Holmes.

New film: [Narnia](#), filmed in Surrey, London, Manchester and Bradford

November 2026

Netflix will present a star-studded retelling of C.S. Lewis's children's story *The Chronicles of Narnia*, written by Greta Gerwig – who also wrote the *Barbie* and *Little Women* films. Daniel Craig and Carey Mulligan are confirmed talents, while Meryl Streep is rumoured to be playing Aslan – and the cast have been spotted filming all over England. Key locations include Surrey's Shepperton Studios and London's [Battersea Park](#), [Tower of London](#) and St Bartholomew-the-Great church. In Manchester, Castlefield and [Victoria Baths](#) will feature, as well as parts of Bradford in West Yorkshire.

New film: [Werewolf](#), filmed in Dartmoor, Devon

25 December 2026

Described by American writer and director Robert Eggers as “the darkest thing I have ever written, by far”, this werewolf-themed horror film set in medieval England will star Willem Dafoe, Lily-Rose Depp and Aaron Taylor-Johnson. The production was granted permission to film in [Dartmoor](#) in autumn 2025, with two temporary movie sets built in the national park near Widecombe in the Moor and Postbridge, featuring medieval-style buildings and farmsteads.

New series: [Peaky Blinders](#), filmed in Digbeth, Birmingham

TBC 2026

Welcome to a new era of the Peaky Blinders – and a new generation of the Shelby family. The year is 1953, and post-war Birmingham is rebuilding after the bombing, but the race to own the city's biggest reconstruction project becomes a bloody battle with the Shelby clan at its heart. The BBC and Netflix have announced two new series of *Peaky Blinders*, which will be written by creator Steven Knight and filmed at Birmingham's Digbeth Loc Studios – which was named one of [Time Out's coolest neighbourhoods](#).

New series: [The Rings of Power](#), filmed in Dorset

TBC 2026/2027

The third instalment of Amazon Prime's acclaimed *The Lord of the Rings* series will hit the streaming service this year, featuring scenes filmed in [Portland Bill](#), Dorset. The cast and crew were spotted on location by local residents in October 2025, who said that Pulpit Rock and the shore around Portland's white-and-red lighthouse were busy with characters in costume – and that some even popped into the Lobster Pot restaurant for breakfast.

New film: [Wife and Dog](#)

TBC 2026

Hot on the heels of the success of *The Gentlemen*, Guy Ritchie will return to the director's seat for this new thriller. It has been described as a “return to the colourful, back-stabbing world of the British aristocracy” – so expect Ritchie's signature swaggering style. Names revealed of the all-star cast include James Norton, Benedict Cumberbatch, Anthony Hopkins and Rosamund Pike.

New film: [Fackham Hall](#)

TBC 2026

Stand-up comedian Jimmy Carr has picked up his feature-writing pen for the first time, to create this period comedy in partnership with Patrick Carr and the Dawson Brothers. Set in rural England, it will follow the story of pick-pocket Eric Noone, who moves into Fackham Hall – the stately manor house home of Rose Davenport, with whom Noone falls in love. It will star British actors Ben Radcliffe, Thomasin McKenzie, Katherine Waterston and Emma Laird.

New film: [Sense and Sensibility](#)

TBC 2026

After the nationwide celebration of Jane Austen's 250th birthday in 2025, a new film adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* will star Daisy Edgar-Jones as Elinor Dashwood and George MacKay as Edward Ferrars. Production commenced in summer 2025, and while it is reportedly being filmed on location in England, exact locations are currently under wraps.

New Series: [Pride and Prejudice](#), filmed in London, the Peak District and East Sussex

TBC 2026

Starring Golden Globe winner Emma Corrin as Elizabeth Bennet, BAFTA winner Jack Lowden as Mr Darcy and Academy Award winner Olivia Colman as Mrs Bennet, Netflix's forthcoming adaptation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* is truly star-studded. It was written by bestselling British author Dolly Alderton, and will feature locations including [Spitalfields](#) in London's East End, the [Peak District](#) in Derbyshire and [Rye](#) in East Sussex.

New series: [Young Sherlock](#), filmed in Bristol

TBC 2026

Directed by Guy Ritchie, this new Netflix series will tell the origin story of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous detective – tracing his life back to his late teenage years, when he was entangled in a murder mystery at Oxford University. It was filmed throughout Bristol, at locations including Queen Square and Broad Street. Hero Fiennes Tiffin will take the title role, while Colin Firth will appear as Sir Bucephalus Hodge and Natascha McElhone as Sherlock's mother.

New series: [The Gentlemen](#), filmed in Gloucestershire, Surrey and Hertfordshire

TBC 2026

Buckle up for a second instalment of Netflix's *The Gentlemen*, directed by Guy Ritchie. It delves even deeper into the lives of aristocrat Eddie (Theo James) and gangster Susie (Kaya Scodelario), as their empire becomes ever more volatile and complex. Though it is set in Northern Italy, the series will also feature several of England's beautiful manor houses and estates, such as Gloucestershire's [Badminton House](#), Surrey's [Loseley Park](#) and Hertfordshire's [Wrotham Park](#) – which also appeared in *The Crown* and *Bridgerton*.

New series: [Rivals](#), filmed in Bristol, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somerset

TBC 2026

After the success of its first season, Dame Jilly Cooper's *Rivals* will return to Disney+ in 2026. Filmed once again at The Bottle Yard Studios in Bristol and on location across the city and South-West England, the second series will feature scenes in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somerset. Expect to spot Bristol landmarks on screen too – last season even opened with a jaw dropping scene filmed aboard Concorde at [Aerospace Bristol](#).

New series: [MasterChef](#), filmed in Birmingham

TBC 2026

For the first time ever, *MasterChef* was filmed at Birmingham's historic Banana Warehouse, bringing a new backdrop to the long-running BBC series. The 200-year-old building features authentic heritage features such as red-brick walls and exposed beams, many of which feature on the set, giving the new relocated series a fresh industrial look.

New series: [This City Is Ours](#), filmed in Liverpool

TBC 2026

Following the success of its debut season, *This City Is Ours* will return this year with a second series. Filming is currently underway in Liverpool, showcasing locations across the city region once again. In the first series, filming spots included [Duke Street Market](#), [Heswall Golf Club](#), the [Radisson Blu Hotel](#) and various restaurants including [Duman](#), [Panoramic 34](#) and [Gaucho Liverpool](#).

Visitor Attractions, Museums and Galleries

Bristol street art named “Best in Travel 2026” by Lonely Planet, Bristol

Throughout 2026

Lonely Planet's *Best in Travel 2026* guide has named Bristol's street art as one of the best travel experiences in the world, spotlighting the city's unrivalled creative scene. Home to Banksy and many other internationally renowned artists, the city and its vibrant murals can be explored via guided tours, self-guided trails, spray-art workshops and the biennial Upfest festival. Experiences to look out for include [Where the Wall](#), [Graft](#) and the [Bristol Tour Map of Banksy](#) app.

Oldham Coliseum Theatre reopening and 50th anniversary of Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester

Early 2026

Oldham Coliseum Theatre, which dates back to the 1800s, will reopen soon after a £10m refurbishment. During the closure, the theatre has hosted performances at local arts venues, but its return will herald a fresh programme of live productions, music, plays, comedy and pantomime. Also this year, Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a new season of plays, musicals and film. Entitled “A Homecoming”, the programme will be dedicated to the venue's history and its future, featuring productions by the likes of Stephen Sondheim, Noël Coward and Tolu Okanlawon, winner of the 2025 Bruntwood Prize.

Coughton Court returns to the family estate with new events and facilities, Warwickshire

February 2026

The Throckmorton family will resume management of their ancestral home, Coughton Court, breathing new life into the 15th Century estate. Plans include a new café in the stableyard, a shop selling local produce, a children's play area and seasonal activities such as Easter egg hunts and Halloween pumpkin races. Craft workshops, yoga in the orchard and supper clubs will also be offered. Magnus and Imogen Birch Throckmorton, who are descendants of Sir Robert Throckmorton who built the house in 1409, will take over from the National Trust's stewardship from February.

New dark skies observatory for the North York Moors National Park

February 2026

The launch of the Dark Skies Station, a new observatory for the North York Moors National Park, will coincide with the return of the [Dark Skies Festival](#) in February. Featuring a powerful telescope and retractable roof, the observatory will host stargazing events, talks and workshops throughout the festival and beyond, adding an exciting new element to the national park's astronomy offering. It will also include a mini multi-sensory exhibition, while outdoor “sound posts” will play audio descriptions and star-themed poems to passers-by. The new observatory launches as a growing number of national park residents are signing up to the Dark Skies Friendly Community scheme, pledging to uphold minimal light pollution in the area.

Southport Year of Culture: Southport 2026, Southport

February – October 2026

Southport will fill its cultural calendar this year with art installations, shows and festivals galore, as it hosts its first ever Year of Culture. Lightport (14-16 February) will feature a “walk-through rainbow of colour and creativity” with vibrant immersive light and sound installations, while Cristal Palace (3 & 4 April) will see renowned French street theatre company Transe Express transform the town into an open-air ballroom, complete with flying chandelier, aerial performances and live music. Other must-sees include modern circus hijinks at Big Top (2-4 May), and author workshops and literary-themed fun at Books Alive! (October).

V&A East Museum, east London

18 April 2026

As part of the £1.1bn development of Stratford's East Bank cultural quarter, this all-new museum will explore contemporary design culture both across England and all over the world – and will put east London's creative scene in the spotlight too. Highlights will include the Why We Make galleries, which will explore the interplay between art and societal events, and its first exhibition *The Music is Black: A British Story*, which will showcase how Black British music has shaped British culture. In recent years, the V&A's new openings have included a £13m renovation of its childhood-focused [Young V&A](#), and the “working museum store” of [V&A East Storehouse](#), offering a behind-the-scenes peek at its collection.

[Gladiators Experience](#), NEC, Birmingham

May 2026

Contenders, ready! If you've always thought you could triumph at the Duel, keep your cool on Hang Tough and beat the Eliminator with ease, now's your moment to shine. Packed with challenges from the *Gladiators* TV series, this new arena game will test your fitness and stamina to the limit, with obstacles and games spanning 10,000 sqm of Birmingham's NEC – as well as a gladiator “training facility” and backstage insights into the show.

Folkstone's iconic [Cliff Railway](#) to reopen, Kent

Spring 2026

Kent's colourful seaside town of Folkestone will see the reopening of its much-loved heritage Leas Lift which has been closed since 2017. Following additional funding from the National Lottery, the £4.8m repairs and renovations will restore the Grade II listed hillside railway to its former glory with improved accessibility, a new café and an exhibition showcasing its history.

Launch of [Gaming and Esports Arena](#), Sunderland, Tyne and Wear

Spring 2026

The British Esports Federation will launch a flagship esports arena for live events, competitions and immersive audience experiences. Featuring a 200-seat auditorium and 17m-wide LED screen, it will be the first of its kind in Europe – and will be located next to Sunderland's Stadium of Light. The arena will be affiliated with the National Esports Performance Campus, which opened in the city in 2023, featuring high-spec gaming rooms and the headquarters of the British Esports Federation.

[New Mersey Ferry](#), Liverpool

Spring 2026

A brand new Mersey Ferry will take to Liverpool's waters this spring – the first addition to the Mersey Ferries fleet for more than 60 years, featuring modern interiors, an open-plan layout and fully accessible facilities. Named the *Royal Daffodil*, the boat will offer a fresh way to enjoy one of Britain's most iconic river crossings, with panoramic views of the UNESCO-listed waterfront and beyond. Currently, there is a display at Seacombe Terminal detailing the progress of the build and fun facts about the ferry.

Reopening of [Greyfriars](#), Lincoln, Lincolnshire

Spring 2026

Believed to be England's oldest friary building, Greyfriars – a 13th Century Franciscan friary – will reopen in 2026 following major restoration supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Architectural Heritage Fund and the Pilgrim Trust. It has been closed since 2001, but after the £3m renovation the atmospheric space will relaunch as a museum and venue for events, weddings and performances.

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. 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.

Unveiling of new £30m [Maritime City](#), Hull, East Yorkshire

From spring 2026

Giving 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, along with the newly-revamped Queen's Gardens. Later in the year (scheduled for summer), 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 ambitious five-year £30m Hull Maritime project, which will include the refurbished Maritime Museum, featuring new galleries and visitor facilities: set to open in summer. In recognition of the extensive cultural project, *National Geographic* has named Hull one of its [Best Places in the World to Travel to in 2026](#).

Opening of [Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration](#), London

May 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.

Opening of [On Freedom's Wings](#), Norton Disney, Lincolnshire

15 May 2026

Dubbed the Midlands' answer to the *Angel of the North*, this life-size sculpture will feature an Avro Lancaster bomber heading "home" to RAF Swinderby – honouring the region's deep connection to RAF Bomber Command and the pilots of WW2 who flew from Lincolnshire's airfields. Costing £1m to design, build and install by the Bomber County Gateway Trust, it will officially open on the weekend of 15 May 2026.

[Wake The Tiger](#) expansion and new venue, Bristol and London

Spring and summer 2026

Bristol's popular immersive art experience, Wake The Tiger, will expand in spring with a new outdoor dining, socialising and events space called Junk Yard. It will host live music, entertainment and DJs, alongside a street food menu. Later in the year, Wake the Tiger will open its second outpost at Westfield in White City, London. Launching in summer, its maze will span over 80,000 sq. ft making it the largest of its kind in Europe, and will feature installations that engage all the senses. As with Wake The Tiger Bristol, visitors can expect to spend several hours exploring the otherworldly industrial spaces on a self-guided tour.

[Brunel's SS Great Britain](#) – Dockyard Museum Redevelopment, Bristol

July 2026

The SS *Great Britain*, Bristol's top-voted visitor attraction (TripAdvisor 2025), will unveil a £1m redevelopment of its Dockyard Museum this summer, which sits at the entrance of the ship. The new immersive design will explore the lives and journeys of more than 30,000 passengers and crew who travelled on the pioneering SS *Great Britain* between 1845 and 1886, via original artefacts and interactive exhibits.

[Kielder Castle](#) reopening, Northumberland

Summer 2026

Kielder Castle is set to reopen after extensive refurbishment works, after closing in 2020. The 18th Century hunting lodge, which was built by the Duke of Northumberland in the 1770s, will return as a visitor gateway to Kielder Forest's natural and cultural heritage – featuring a refreshed café, a more accessible entrance and a wheelchair-friendly lift to the first floor. Kielder Forest will also mark its 100th anniversary throughout 2026.

New lido pool: [Sea Lanes Canary Wharf](#), East London

Summer 2026

Opening just in time for a summer splash, this new Olympic-sized lido will float on Canary Wharf's Eden Dock, upgrading the existing facilities with permanent lanes, a poolside boardwalk and outdoor saunas. Designed and built by the team behind [Sea Lanes Brighton](#), the 50-metre fresh water lido will be open year-round and will also feature fitness classes, lifeguards and food and drink.

Opening of [Salford Rise](#), Greater Manchester

Summer 2026

In the style of New York's High Line and [Manchester's Castlefield Viaduct](#), the new Salford Rise will be an elevated walkway and cycleway combining connectivity with green space. Covering five acres, the Rise will form part of the £2.5bn Crescent Salford regeneration project and will provide traffic-free connections across the University of Salford, Salford Museum and Art Gallery and the Working Class Movement Library.

New theme park: [Kynren: The Storied Lands](#), Bishop Auckland, Durham

Summer 2026

The multi-award-winning Kynren production will open a new live-action theme park this year, featuring thrilling stunts, immersive storytelling, music and technology. You'll travel in time from Neolithic Britain through to the Vikings, medieval period and Victorian era. Rather than rides, the park will offer live entertainment and immersive experiences allowing visitors to step into the history books with enormous sets and extraordinary special effects. Alongside this, [Kynren – An Epic Tale of England](#) will continue its epic show on Saturday nights throughout summer 2026, featuring a 1,000-strong cast and crew.

[Lincoln Museum](#) transformation, Lincoln, Lincolnshire

Summer 2026

Formerly known as The Collection, Lincoln's flagship museum will reopen as the Lincoln Museum after a two-year £1m transformation. The reimagined venue – which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2025 – will debut a major Viking exhibition alongside a redesigned archaeology gallery, displaying treasures including a 4,000-year-old Bronze Age coffin and axe discovered on a Lincolnshire golf course.

[Scala Theatre](#) opening in Worcester, Worcestershire

Autumn 2026

The city of Worcester will welcome a new 500-seat performance space, hosting film screenings, cultural festivals, visual arts, community outreach and interactive workshops. This new creative hub will be funded by part of a £17.9m grant from the government's Future High Street Fund, breathing new life into the city's arts and heritage scene.

Proposed direct [Grand Central train](#) from Newcastle to Brighton

December 2026

Rail operator Grand Central has applied to operate a new direct train service between Newcastle and Brighton via London Gatwick, which would alleviate the requirement to transfer at London's King's Cross or Victoria stations. It would also call at York, Sheffield, Birmingham New Street, Oxford and Reading, greatly improving public transport connectivity across the north-east and south of England. If approved, the service will launch in December 2026.

New museum: [The U-Boat Story](#), Merseyside

TBC 2026

The U-Boat Story will be a new museum on Birkenhead's waterfront, telling the story of U-534, a rare German submarine from WW2. As part of a £19.6m regeneration project, the visitor centre will include immersive exhibits, views of the submarine, and an events space.

New [South West Coast Path visitor centre](#), Plymouth, Devon

TBC 2026

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.

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 theatrical designers 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. For more Shakespeare-themed entertainment look to Stratford Upon Avon, which will host [the Bard's 462nd birthday parade](#) through the town on 25 April, while the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#) will welcome award-winning actors Helen Hunt, Kenneth Branagh and Mark Gatiss to six new productions this year.

[London Museum](#) to relocate to Smithfield, London

TBC 2026

The London Museum 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.

New attraction: [Valgard: Realm of the Vikings](#) at Paultons Park, Hampshire

TBC 2026

Paultons Park will unveil a £12m Viking-themed expansion, inspired by the "realm of the Valgard". Look out for the new high-speed Drakon rollercoaster, whose tracks will intertwine with an existing rollercoaster, plus the new 12-metre high Vild Swing and bobsled-style Raven ride. Featuring new attractions, a Viking playground and Nordic dining hall, the new zone will sit next to the Lost Kingdom area and will be suitable for older children, teens and adults.

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.

Launch of [Aviktas rollercoaster](#) as Blackpool Pleasure Beach celebrates its 130th anniversary

TBC 2026

Hold on tight! As Blackpool Pleasure Beach celebrates its 130th anniversary this year, it will also debut its biggest, scariest new ride: the Aviktas “gyro swing”, which is costing a reported £8.72m to build. Riders will face outwards, with legs dangling, as this gigantic spinning pendulum swooshes higher and higher – promising “world-class height, speed and breathtaking angles” that will feel like flying through the air. It’ll be the first ride of its kind in the UK, all part of the theme park’s Project 2026 vision.

Plymouth Guildhall refurbishment, Plymouth, Devon

TBC 2026

After a £3.9m refurbishment, Plymouth’s historic Guildhall will reopen as a multi-purpose events and gig venue this year, with upgraded staging, lighting and facilities. The likes of David Bowie, Queen and The Who have played here over the years, and the renovations will see it returned to a landmark live music hotspot – as well as upgrading its current facilities for weddings, private functions and civic events.

RHS Chinese Streamside Garden, RHS Garden Bridgewater, Salford, Manchester

TBC 2026

Celebrating the traditional Chinese arts of music, chess, calligraphy and painting, this series of four interlinked pavilions has been inspired by classical Chinese landscapes and gardens – and has been developed by the Royal Horticultural Society in partnership with the local Chinese community. The first pavilion, Qing Yin Pavilion which focuses on music, is already open, but the full project is set for completion this year. The city of Salford has much to celebrate in 2026, with its [100th anniversary](#) and the launch of the [Salford Rise](#) green walkway.

Tours and Trails

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 high-profile 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) Sutton Bridge to Skegness (2024) and Isle of Sheppey in North Kent (2025). Formerly known as the England Coast Path, the trail was renamed in 2023 to mark King Charles III’s coronation; most of its sections are currently either open, complete or in progress.

New art trail: *Wind in the Willows* at Woodchester Park, near Stroud, Gloucestershire

23 May to 28 June 2026

To celebrate 50 years of wildlife research at Woodchester Park, the Animal & Plant Health Agency is partnering with Wild in Art on a brand-new sculpture trail. Beloved characters from Kenneth Grahame’s *Wind in the Willows* – including Mole, Badger, Toad and Ratty the water vole – will feature in a contemporary retelling that explores the connections between wildlife, farming, communities and the environment. The trail will run at the National Trust’s Woodchester Park from 23 May to 28 June 2026 before touring nationally, with additional anniversary events planned across the Cotswolds throughout the year.

New trails and access: Viking Way & Lincolnshire Coast Path, Lincolnshire

Throughout 2026

Lincolnshire will celebrate two major milestones for walkers and nature lovers in 2026. The Viking Way, the 149-mile route running from the Humber Bridge to Rutland, turns 50 this year, following two years of improvements along the Lincolnshire stretch. Passing through the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape and the city of Lincoln, the trail can be tackled in its entirety or enjoyed in shorter sections, with “Viking Way Shorts” offering circular walks from 1.5 to 3 miles. Meanwhile, the King Charles III England Coast Path continues to take shape,

with a new pedestrian bridge at Lincolnshire's Gibraltar Point Nature Reserve opening in spring 2026 to create a year-round dry route. This follows the completion of a new 50-mile section from Mablethorpe to the Humber Bridge. To ensure that these sections of the King Charles III England Coast Path are accessible to all, Easter 2026 will also see the launch of four all-terrain mobility scooters and nine beach wheelchairs – provided free of charge. Hire sites will include [RSPB Frampton Marsh](#), the North Sea Observatory at [Chapel Point](#), the new National Trust [Sandilands Nature Reserve](#) and the Colonnade at [Sutton on Sea](#).

New Trail: [The Comedy Coast Trail](#), Lancashire and Cumbria

TBC 2026

Visit Lancashire has launched a new trail highlighting coastal spots where you can feel close to comedy legends hailing from or linked to the Northwest. Snap selfies with statues or stand proud over the words that made these icons famous, with locations to enjoy in Morecambe, Blackpool, Lytham and Ulverston. You can even embark on a 30 mile "Comedy Way" walk should you wish!

[Food, Drink and Shopping](#)

New restaurant: No. 31 by [The Beaumont Hotel](#), Hexham, Northumberland

TBC 2026

After the success of its pop-up restaurant in Hexham marketplace, The Beaumont Hotel in Hexham will reopen the same venue as a permanent dining destination. No. 31 will continue to specialise in Italian-style small plates and pizza; expect a relaxed, informal setting with modern flair.

New food hall: Manchester Street Food, [Ducie Street Warehouse](#), Manchester

TBC 2026

Manchester Street Food will open a major new food hall on the ground floor of Ducie Street Warehouse, near Piccadilly Station. The space, which will sit alongside the Native Manchester aparthotel, will be transformed with 10 kitchens, two bar areas, seating for 500 and an outdoor terrace, while retaining the building's 36-seat cinema.

New restaurant: [The Cordia Collective](#), Borde Hill, West Sussex

TBC 2026

Chef Chantelle Nicholson – whose Mayfair restaurant Apricity received a Green Michelin star – will launch The Cordia Collective at Borde Hill, a historic 2,300-acre estate in West Sussex. The project will bring Nicholson's regenerative dining ethos into the English countryside, offering a menu shaped by sustainability and a deep connection to the land.

New experience: Guy Ritchie's [WildKitchen](#) at Rosemaund Farm Distillery, Herefordshire

14 February, 28 March & 18 April 2026

Combining English whisky tasting and a lunch of hyper-local fare, this new foodie experience puts Herefordshire's natural bounty in the spotlight. First, learn how prized whisky is made from Maris Otter grain grown in Rosemaund Farm's own fields and distilled in the on-site distillery – before a seasonal lunch at Guy Ritchie's WildKitchen, where ingredients are grown, reared or foraged within a few miles' radius. Cooked over an open fire, each dish is paired with house spirits and local drinks, and enjoyed in a communal, convivial setting.

New visitor centre: [Northern Roots](#) the UK's largest urban farm and eco-park

Located in Oldham, just 30 minutes outside of Manchester City Centre, the first phase of Northern Roots launched in 2023, when it became the UK's largest eco-park and urban farm spanning across 160 acres. This summer the eco-park will open its highly anticipated visitor centre which will offer a café, shop and production kitchen with activities around food and farming, health and wellbeing, arts, heritage, learning, enterprise and nature recovery. There are also future plans for a natural swimming pond, equestrian routes and sports pitches.

New experience: First tastings at [Loversall Vineyard](#), Doncaster, South Yorkshire

Winter 2026

Set in 129 acres of Yorkshire countryside, Loversall Vineyard completed its first harvest in autumn 2025 – and 12 months later, its debut vintage will be ready for tasting this winter. In the meantime, visitors will be able to tour the estate's growing plantation of vines throughout the spring and summer, before the opportunity to join the harvest in autumn. Winter will bring the first pourings of this newest generation of English-grown wines.

[Festivals, Exhibitions and Events](#)

Legacy of S&DR200, [Hopetown Darlington](#) and [Preston Park Museum](#), Stockton, County Durham

Throughout 2026

After the success of last year's Railway 200 and S&DR200 – the bicentenary celebration of the British railways – Hopetown Darlington and Preston Park Museum in the Tees Valley will continue to celebrate the legacy of the Stockton & Darlington Railway. Events and exhibitions will explore the story of the world's first passenger trains, giving visitors the chance to connect with the heritage of this globally significant milestone even after the main festival has concluded.

[Wimborne Minster Town of Culture 2026](#), Wimborne Minster, Dorset

Throughout 2026

The market town of Wimborne Minster has been awarded Dorset's Town of Culture 2026, and will launch a year-round calendar of special events, exhibitions and gatherings. Under the theme of "Bridging the Past and Future", many of the celebrations will be free of charge and will feature local artistic, musical and theatrical talents.

[The National Gallery Masterpiece Tour 2025 to 2027](#), Norwich, South Shields, Blackpool & Hull

28 March – 13 June 2026

London's National Gallery has selected four locations across England to exhibit Claude Monet's *The Petit Bras of the Seine at Argenteuil*. As part of The National Gallery Masterpiece Tour 2025 to 2027, the painting – which dates to 1872 and depicts a quiet tributary of the Seine – will be displayed at Norwich's Sainsbury Centre (until 11 January), South Shields Museum and Art Gallery (17 January – 25 March), Blackpool's Grundy Art Gallery (28 March – 13 June) and Hull's Ferens Art Gallery (19 June – 13 September).

Age of Dinosaurs, [Sandbox VR](#), London and worldwide

Early 2026

The Natural History Museum has partnered with immersive virtual reality venue Sandbox VR on Age of Dinosaurs, a scientifically accurate VR adventure for families launching worldwide. Players will discover two distinct prehistoric eras – the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods – where they'll encounter some of the most accurate life-sized dinosaurs depicted in any medium to-date. The VR journey will encompass 15 expertly crafted locations, using digital tools to enable participants to photograph, interact with and learn about prehistoric life.

[ISU European Figure Skating Championships 2026](#), Utilita Arena, Sheffield

13–18 January 2026

The ISU European Figure Skating Championships will return to the UK for the first time in more than a decade this January, bringing Europe's best skaters to compete in one of the sport's most prestigious events. As well as unforgettable performances and world-class competition, the championships will also serve as the final major international meet before the [2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympic Games](#).

Re/Assemble and On The Line at [People's History Museum](#), Manchester

From 17 January 2026

The People's History Museum will present two major exhibitions throughout this year. [Re/Assemble](#) (17 Jan 2026 – 3 Jan 2027) will explore the legacy of the 1988 Section 28 protest marches, the largest LGBTQIA+ demonstration in British history, when 20,000 people gathered in Manchester to protest against Section 28. On [The Line](#) (21 Mar – 1 Nov 2026) will mark the centenary of the 1926 General Strike, when workers across the country withdrew their labour for nine days in an unprecedented act of unity. Both shows will feature newly commissioned artworks and historic protest objects, including banners, posters and archive photographs.

[Beryl Cook at The Box, Plymouth, Devon](#)

24 January to 31 May 2026

To celebrate the centenary of Beryl Cook's birth, The Box will stage the most extensive exhibition of her work to-date, including rarely seen paintings and archival material. The show will explore Cook's distinctive depictions of everyday life in Plymouth, the city she called home for 40 years. It will also feature works by artists that inspired Cook, such as Flemish painter Pieter Bruegel the Younger and English artist Stanley Spencer.

[York Ice Trail 2026, North Yorkshire](#)

7–8 February 2026

Follow the free trail around York to discover its spectacular hand-crafted ice sculptures, before warming up in the Ice Village – new for 2026 – with hot chocolate, family entertainment and craft stalls. For one weekend, the city will be transformed into an “enchanted land” where glittering ice meets art: think Vikings, animals, York landmarks and more.

[Cine-Wyre Film Festival, Fleetwood, Lancashire](#)

26 February to 1 March 2026

Fleetwood will launch its first Cine-Wyre Film Festival this spring, featuring a four-day film marathon showcasing award winning stories and new content from filmmakers around the world – alongside masterclasses, workshops and Q&As. The festival will take place at Marine Hall overlooking Morecambe Bay, with an eclectic programme covering family friendly, documentary, LGBTQIA+ and horror movies.

[Tracey Emin: A Second Life, Tate Modern, London](#)

26 February to 31 August 2026

Comprising more than 90 works created across four decades, this landmark retrospective exhibition will include Emin's early installations, famous paintings and recent bronzes created in the years following her recovery from cancer. Highlights will include the seminal *My Bed* and *Why I Never Became a Dancer*, an autobiographical film set in Margate, Kent – where Emin was born and in 2021 founded her acclaimed [TKE Studios](#) gallery and charity. Some pieces in the exhibition have never been displayed before, such as *The Last of the Gold* (2002).

[DreamHack and ESL One, Birmingham, West Midlands](#)

March 2026

Birmingham will host both DreamHack and ESL One, two of the world's biggest esports and gaming events. Visitors can expect professional esports tournaments, live gaming, cosplay competitions and a festival atmosphere celebrating online culture. DreamHack Birmingham will be the festival's first ever iteration held on UK soil in its 20+ year history, while ESL One will return to the UK for its fourth edition – bringing 16 of the world's top Dota 2 teams to compete for a \$1m (£743,522) prize pool.

[Cleopatra & the Queens of Egypt, Experience Barnsley Museum, Barnsley, South Yorkshire](#)

7 March 2026 to February 2027

After the success of its Tut' 22: The life of Tutankhamun exhibition, Experience Barnsley Museum will host a landmark exhibition focusing on Cleopatra and the women who shaped her legacy, created by Barnsley-born BAFTA-winning Egyptologist Professor Joann Fletcher. Featuring loans from the Egypt Exploration Society,

Bolton Museum and more, the exhibition will explore ancient Egypt's female rulers and their surprising links to Yorkshire, supported by a year-long programme of talks, tours and events.

[David Hockney](#) at Serpentine North, London

12 March – 23 August 2026

This free exhibition will be Hockney's first display at London's Serpentine Gallery, and will include both classic pieces and modern works – such as *Moon Room*, which honours the cycle of light and time passing, and *A Year in Normandy*, a 90m-long frieze inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry. Digital paintings from his Sunrise series of work will also be displayed. Hockney fans should also look to East Yorkshire, whose Yorkshire Wolds landscapes feature in some of his most celebrated works; there's even a [self-guided trail](#) revealing the exact perspectives they depict.

Henry Moore at [Kew Gardens](#) and [Wakehurst](#), London and Sussex

9 May to 27 September 2026

Kew Gardens will host the biggest ever outdoor exhibition of Henry Moore's work this summer, with 30 monumental sculptures positioned throughout the grounds encompassing his extraordinary vision and legacy. Alongside this, the gardens' Shirley Sherwood Gallery will display the celebrated 20th Century sculptor's drawings, prints and models, exploring how he was inspired by nature. From 5 June, Wakehurst in Sussex will host a partnership exhibition featuring four of Moore's works alongside bold new pieces by contemporary artists. Fans can also visit Hertfordshire's [Henry Moore Studios & Gardens](#), where Moore's sculptures are displayed amid 70 acres of gardens.

Andy Warhol Artist Rooms, [Wolverhampton Art Gallery](#), West Midlands

23 May to 4 October 2026

17 years after first displaying Andy Warhol Artist Rooms, Wolverhampton Art Gallery will revisit the collection on loan from Tate and National Galleries of Scotland with a much larger exhibition across three of its galleries. Works will date from the 1960s to the last years of his life in the late 1980s, including screenprints, drawings, paintings and photographs by the internationally renowned American Pop artist.

[Paddle UK SUPER Festival & ICF SUP World Cup](#), English Riviera

24-28 May 2026

Torquay, Paignton and Brixham will host the Paddle UK SUPER Festival alongside the ICF SUP World Cup, bringing around 200 elite stand-up paddleboard athletes to the UK for the first time. As well as the professional events on the coast's sheltered bays, the five-day programme will also include taster sessions for beginner paddlers, community paddles, workshops and live entertainment.

International Cricket Council [Women's T20 World Cup 2026](#), Nationwide

12 June to 5 July 2026

England is set to host the world's biggest biennial celebration of women's T20 cricket next year. The International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's T20 World Cup 2026 will take place across six cities in England, with 12 teams competing for the trophy. The English host cities will be Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Leeds, London and Southampton. While tickets are yet to be released, the countrywide format will offer plenty of opportunities to see and support this elite women's cricket tournament on home soil.

New [RHS Flower Shows](#), Gloucestershire and Norfolk

8-12 July & 22-26 July 2026

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) will debut two new flower shows this year: RHS Badminton Flower Show in Gloucestershire and RHS Sandringham Flower Show in Norfolk. Set within historic grounds in the South Gloucestershire countryside, the former will feature pocket planting techniques, artisan stalls, street food, live

music and a celebration of roses. Meanwhile, the Sandringham show will take place in the grounds of the royal family-owned Norfolk estate, with cutting-edge design in the Show Gardens and specialist growers and artists in the Floral Marquee.

Brighton & Hove Albion FC at Brighton Museum & Art Gallery, Brighton

August 2026

As Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club celebrates its 125th anniversary this year, a new exhibition dedicated to the team will debut at Brighton Museum & Art Gallery – telling the story of its rise to fame and success. From the fan-led battle to save the club from extinction in the late 1990s to its ascent to the Premier League and UEFA Europa League in 2023, this is a football story worth telling. Expect lots of team nostalgia, photographs and memorabilia, including trophies, medals, shirts and personal stories.

European Athletics Championships, Birmingham

10-16 August 2026

Birmingham will host the European Athletics Championships next summer, which will be the first time it is held in the UK. The event will take place primarily at the Alexander Stadium, one of the continent's biggest and best sporting facilities, and will draw elite athletes with a full programme of track and field events.

ABB FIA Formula E World Championship final, Excel London

15 & 16 August 2026

The finale of the all-electric ABB FIA Formula E World Championship is coming to London this summer, after an action-packed race calendar spanning Brazil, Mexico, the USA, Saudi Arabia, Europe, China and Japan. The single-seater motorsports tournament not only delivers thrilling race action, but also showcases the EV technology of the future – so all eyes will be on its final instalment at Excel London.

The Bayeux Tapestry: The British Museum, London

September 2026

From September 2026 to July 2027, the British Museum will display the Bayeux Tapestry, a 70m-long embroidery which retells the Norman conquest of 1066. It will be the first time in over 900 years that the Bayeux Tapestry – which is widely believed to have been created in Kent – will return to the UK, as part of a loan agreement between the French and British governments. Visitors to the exhibition can then visit [Battle and Hastings](#), the famed sites of the 1066 Battle of Hastings, and explore the real locations from the 2025 BBC TV series [King and Conqueror](#) – just a short hop away by train from London. Looking ahead, 2027 will mark the [Year of the Normans](#), an international cultural celebration of the 1,000th anniversary of William the Conqueror's birth.

Gig tripping

Kaiser Chiefs “More Employment” tour: Bradford, Manchester, Stockton-on-Tees, London, Hull, Norwich, Bournemouth, Cambridge, Northampton

13-28 February 2026

After the success of their come-back gigs in 2025 – which included a set on Glastonbury's Pyramid Stage – the Kaiser Chiefs will return to venues across England this spring. Last year's tour celebrated two decades since the release of their *Employment* album, which included the anthems *I Predict a Riot* and *Every Day I Love You Less and Less*. This year's “More Employment” tour will include London's Eventim Apollo, as well as Bradford Live, Stockton Globe and University of Wolverhampton.

RAYE “This Tour May Contain New Music” tour: Manchester, Birmingham, London

17 February to 20 May 2026

With her sparkling stage presence and incredible vocal talents, this London-born singer-songwriter is one of England's hottest talents – and her new world tour promises to deliver old favourites and new material alike. Spanning Canada, the USA, Europe and UK, the show will feature support acts Absolutely and Amma, who also happen to be Raye's younger sisters.

The BRIT Awards: Iconic British awards to leave the capital for the first time, Manchester

28 February 2026

In a historic first, The BRIT Awards will be hosted outside of London for the first time in its 48-year history. The famous celebration of British music will come to Manchester's Co-op Live in February, featuring some of the biggest acts in music. The event follows the city's hosting of the MTV EMA's in 2024, and cements the city's reputation as a growing global music events destination.

Lily Allen "West End Girl" tour: Liverpool, Birmingham, Sheffield, Newcastle, Manchester, Nottingham, Cambridge, Bristol & London

3–22 March 2026

Hot on the heels of her acclaimed – and explosive – album *West End Girl*, Lily Allen announced a UK tour, her first since 2019. Locations include Liverpool's Philharmonic Hall, Birmingham's Symphony Hall, Sheffield's City Hall and the London Palladium; tickets have already sold out, but fans have appealed to the singer to add more to the 19-date line-up.

Gorillaz "The Mountain Tour": Manchester, London, Birmingham, Nottingham, Liverpool, Leeds

20 Mar to 20 June 2026

It's a welcome return for Gorillaz this spring, as the animated group will embark on a new tour across the UK and Europe – with dates in Manchester, London, Birmingham, Nottingham, Liverpool and Leeds. The band was created 28 years ago, in 1998, by Blur frontman Damon Albarn and artist Jamie Hewlett – and the live shows feature animated backdrops with live musicians, including Albarn himself on vocals, keyboard and guitar.

MOBO Awards: Manchester to host 30th anniversary of landmark awards ceremony

26 March 2026

One month after Manchester hosts The BRIT Awards, the MOBO Awards – which celebrate Music of Black Origin – will also take place at the city's newest arena, Co-op Live. The MOBOs are a cornerstone of the UK's music scene, recognising the achievements of Black artists across a variety of genres, and 2026 will mark their 30-year anniversary. In the run-up look out for the MOBO Fringe festival too, featuring live music, workshops and artist Q&As.

Take That "Circus Live" tour: Southampton, Coventry, Sunderland, Manchester and London

29 May to 1 July 2026

Pop supergroup Take That have announced the return of their Circus Live tour, coming to venues throughout England this year. The Circus Live tour last took place in 2009, and Gary, Mark and Howard have promised to recapture its original magic – along with "some new surprises". The *Shine* and *Could it be Magic* stars will play stadiums in Southampton, Coventry, Sunderland, Manchester and London, alongside support acts The Script and Belinda Carlisle.

We Invented the Weekend: Salford, Greater Manchester

6–7 June 2026

The free-to-attend festival, We Invented the Weekend, will return to Salford's MediaCity this summer. The award-winning event celebrates leisure, hobbies, and downtime – celebrating the historic 'invention of the weekend' – the founding of the five-day working week in Salford in 1847 by workers' rights activist Robert Lowe (who also happens to be the great-great-grandfather of Wigan-raised movie legend, Sir Ian McKellen).

The Weeknd “After Hours Til Dawn” tour: Manchester and London

11–12 June & 14–19 August 2026

The *Blinding Lights* and *Can't Feel My Face* singer will drop into Manchester's Etihad Arena and London's Wembley Stadium this summer, as part of his global 2026 tour. The Canadian singer-songwriter will play two nights in Manchester and five nights in London, featuring hits from his albums *After Hours*, *Dawn FM* and *Hurry Up Tomorrow*.

The Streets “A Grand Don't Come For Free” tour: Margate, Bristol, Manchester, London, Essex, Norwich

26 June to 21 August 2026

22 years after the release of *A Grand Don't Come for Free*, The Streets will perform the studio album in full to audiences across England. Frontman Mike Skinner, the Birmingham-born rapper and producer who established the band in the 1990s, will headline London's Alexandra Palace Park, Norwich's Earlham Park, Manchester's Castlefield Bowl and more. The concept album follows the plight of Skinner as he tries to find a lost £1,000, and includes classics like *Fit but You Know It* and *Dry your Eyes*.

New music and arts festival at Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxfordshire

27 June – 3 July 2026

The UNESCO World Heritage Site and birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill will launch a new cultural festival this summer, promising an "eclectic line-up of global superstars, award-winning artists and emerging talent". It will combine music with performance and art, staged throughout its grounds. This year Blenheim Palace will also host *Blueprints of Power* (Feb – April), a major interactive exhibition marking the 300th anniversary of Blenheim Palace's architect Sir John Vanbrugh (1664–1726). Visitors will be able to step back in time and discover how this flamboyant architect's ties to high society helped define an age.

Roundhay Festival, Roundhay Park, Leeds

3–4 July 2026

This all-new music festival will open with headline performances by Pitbull and Kesha on 3 July, and Lewis Capaldi on 4 July – with a full line-up of musical talents yet to be revealed across its multiple stages. It will be set amid the 700 acres of grassy fields and woodlands of Roundhay Park, with tickets providing both day and full weekend access.

My Chemical Romance “Long Live The Black Parade Tour”: Liverpool and London

30 June to 11 July 2026

Celebrating 20 years since the release of their seminal album *The Black Parade*, alt-rockers My Chemical Romance will be hitting the road on an extensive world tour – which will include nights in Liverpool and London. Gerard, Ray, Frank and Mikey will play Wembley Stadium and Anfield Stadium on selected dates this summer; support acts are yet to be announced, but the likes of Franz Ferdinand and Iggy Pop have joined the band on previous tours.

Metallica “M72 World Tour”: London

3 & 5 July 2026

Expect crushing guitar riffs, thrashing drums and raging pyrotechnics as the heavy metal legends return to London this year. Across two nights at London Stadium, this double-header of live shows will explore Metallica's past, present and future – the grand finale of a 22-city world tour. Dubbed the "No Repeat Weekend", the dates will delve into the band's archive without repeating a track; Pantera, Avatar, Gojira and Knocked Loose will support across the two nights.

Accommodation

Accommodation: New Openings

New hotel: Mollies Manchester

December 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.

New hotel: The Other House Covent Garden, London

Early 2026

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. The views across Covent Garden from the rooftop bar promise to be spectacular. The property comprises seven historic buildings and a glazed inner atrium.

New hotel: The Zetter Bloomsbury, London

January 2026

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 Orangery, and its members' club-esque cocktail bar.

New hotel: Corsham House, Corsham, Wiltshire

February 2026

Located just outside Bath, Corsham House will open as a wine-led townhouse hotel – combining a brasserie restaurant with a terrace, a Beckford Bottle Shop and 14 elegant bedrooms upstairs. It will be part of the Beckford Group, which operates boutique inns and hotels throughout South-West England.

New hotel: Hotel Indigo Gloucester – The Forum, Gloucester

Early 2026

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.

New hotel: The Newman, Fitzrovia, London

Early 2026

Situated on Newman Street in Fitzrovia, The Newman will soon open as 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.

New hotel: The Hide, Chatsworth Estate, Peak District

Early 2026

Set in moorland on the Chatsworth Estate, The Hide will be a new hotel and restaurant designed to help its guests connect with nature and embrace the outdoors. Inside, 26 bedrooms will be styled with reclaimed furniture, natural materials and art drawn from Chatsworth's own collection, alongside warm, sociable communal areas. The Hide Grill and Pizzeria – led by Executive Chef Adam Harper – will serve a campfire-inspired menu, cooked over open flames and celebrating the best produce from the Peak District's farms, gardens and suppliers.

New hotel: [Hotel Gotham Bristol](#), Bristol

Early 2026

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, so we can expect it to be daring, glamorous and opulent.

New hotel: [Waldorf Astoria Admiralty Arch](#), Westminster, London

Spring 2026

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, along with 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.

New hotel: [Cambridge House, Auberge Collection](#), Mayfair, London

Spring 2026

A fresh addition to Mayfair's luxury hotel scene, this new accommodation will comprise of 102 bedrooms, a private members' club, wellness suite and dining venues. It's part of the Reuben Brothers' £1bn regeneration of the Piccadilly Estate, and will be located across an 18th Century Georgian mansion and Grade I-listed townhouse – which formerly housed the In and Out military club. The hotel's double-level destination spa will feature two heated swimming pools and seven treatment rooms with extensive hydrotherapy facilities.

New eco retreat: [CABÜ in the Cotswolds](#), Langley, Oxfordshire

Spring/summer 2026

CABÜ is set to bring its signature eco-minded timber cabins to the Cotswolds, creating a new sustainable retreat on a former Marconi radio transmission works. Facilities will include the Cabin Club bar, an indoor pool, spa, shop and summerhouse-style "sitooterie" for al fresco barbecues, dining and gatherings. It will champion wellness, featuring outdoor hot tubs, saunas and plunge pools, while the UK-made cabins will combine modern aesthetics with low-energy, low-waste construction methods. A tranquil, wild base camp for walks and adventures in the wider Cotswolds.

New luxury hotel: [Fairmont Cheshire The Mere](#), Cheshire

Summer 2026

Cheshire will welcome a new five-star resort to its hotel scene with the opening of Fairmont Cheshire The Mere. Having taken over the former Mere Hotel in Knutsford for a £50m renovation, Fairmont will transform the property into an elite golf, dining and leisure destination, featuring 100+ rooms, a new golf pavilion and a celebrity-backed restaurant. It will be the brand's fourth hotel in the UK.

New restaurant with rooms: Freyja at [Close House Estate](#), Wylam, Northumberland

Autumn 2026

From the team behind Northumberland's Michelin-starred restaurant [Hjem](#), Freyja will open on the 500-acre Close House Estate near to Newcastle. Its restaurant will showcase ambitious farm-to-fork dining, complemented by on-site rooms that immerse guests in its picturesque Tyne Valley setting. Much of the produce served will be grown on the grounds under the guidance of Hexhamshire Organics, in both the gardens and a purpose-built glasshouse.

New hotel: [The Medlock, Etihad Campus](#), Manchester

Late 2026

Radisson Hotel Group will open The Medlock, a 401-bedroom hotel at Manchester City Football Club's Etihad Campus towards the end of this year. Connected directly to the stadium, the hotel will add a major new hospitality and events hub to east Manchester, enhancing the area's wider regeneration and offering a range of accommodation for those enjoying the stadium's varied sports and music events.

New hotel: [The Groucho Club](#)'s arrival into Bretton Hall, West Yorkshire

TBC 2026

The Groucho Club, a stalwart of London's social scene that has been a celebrity favourite since it opened in 1985, 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 41-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.

New hotel: [THE PIG-at Groombridge](#), Kent

TBC 2026

The newest PIG 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 a 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 local produce and eco-friendly practices. Meanwhile near Stratford-upon-Avon, [THE PIG-on the farm](#) is currently in planning stages; its opening date is yet to be confirmed, but it will feature accommodation in a converted 16th Century manor house, set on 53 acres of private rural grounds.

New hotel: [Bamford Group](#) debut hotel opening in Kingham, Oxfordshire

TBC 2026, phased opening until 2028

The Bamford group – which owns Daylesford Organic Farm and runs wellness spas in London and the Cotswolds – 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.

New hotels: [The Duchess & The Mason Arms](#), Clanfield, Cotswolds

TBC 2026

Sam and Georgie Pearman, former founders of The Lucky Onion group, will add two new hotels to their growing Country Creatures collection. The Duchess will bring 10 stylish new bedrooms to the Double Red Duke in Clanfield, while the nearby Mason Arms pub will open nine bedrooms – its first foray into overnight stays. Each room will feature Georgie Pearman's signature look: think cosy corners, indulgent comfort and British design details – adding further charm to this Cotswolds village.

Accommodation: reopenings and enhanced facilities

New experience: Vinotherapy at [South Lodge](#), Horsham, Sussex

1 November 2025

After autumn's first-ever harvest from its vineyard – which was planted three years ago in collaboration with Ridgeview English Sparkling Wine – this country house hotel will launch a new range of wine-themed experiences. The first finished bottles will be served exclusively to guests in 2028, but in the meantime you can enjoy new vinotherapy spa treatments using grape skins, seeds and stems from the hotel's vineyard, such as the Fresh Leaf Fusion Face & Body Treatment and Vine Leaf & Herbal Infusion Poultice Massage.

New spa: [SubRosa](#) at The Grand Hotel York

8 December 2025

Gold winner of "Large Hotel of the Year" at the 2024 [Visit England Awards for Excellence](#), The Grand Hotel York has just launched its new SubRosa spa after a £2.5m investment. Offering individual treatments, spa days and spa breaks, the wellness centre features a double hammam, mineral steam room, Himalayan salt sauna and mud rasul room, as well as a hydrotherapy pool.

Reopening: [Dumbleton Hall](#), near Winchcombe, Cotswolds

Early 2026

This manor house hotel in the Cotswolds foothills will unveil a major renovation of its 34 bedrooms and communal areas. As well as a new restaurant, the project will include the addition of new treehouse accommodation and shepherd's huts in its landscaped grounds, creating a countryside retreat that blends heritage with modern rural luxury.

New spa: [Francis Spa](#) opening at Francis Hotel, Bath

Early 2026

Marking the final stage in the redevelopment of Francis Hotel, the new Francis Spa will offer a serene retreat in the heart of Bath. Rooted in the city's heritage of holistic healing, it will feature a thermal suite with purifying steam room, whirlpool, soothing mud experiences and a circuit of hot and cold experience showers. Massages, facials and signature wellness rituals will also be offered.

New lodges: [Giraffe and Rhino accommodation](#) at West Midlands Safari Park

Spring 2026

Eight new holiday lodges will open at West Midlands Safari Park, with unrivalled views of the giraffe and rhino enclosures. The four additional Giraffe Safari Lodges and four all-new Rhino Safari Lodges will feature private balconies and windows overlooking the animals, with stays also including a three-course dinner, breakfast and after-hours access to parts of the park. The Giraffe lodges will open in spring, and the rhino lodges later in 2026; when complete, there will be a total of 42 lodges.

New spa: Sakura Spa at [Gisborough Hall](#), North Yorkshire

Spring 2026

Set in the woodland grounds of Gisborough Hall hotel, Sakura Spa will be a peaceful retreat featuring six treatment rooms and a "thermal garden" with a vitality pool, saunas and a steam room – plus garden relaxation lounges and a dining space for spa guests. Sustainability and wellbeing will be at its core, blending nature-inspired design with innovative treatments.

Refurbishment of [Wild Duck](#) near Cirencester, Cotswolds

Spring 2026

Currently undergoing a major refurbishment, the Wild Duck in Ewen will relaunch as a pub in spring with 20 bedrooms styled by Georgie Pearman – one half of the duo behind the boutique Country Creatures hospitality

brand. Expect antique furnishings, roll-top baths and king size beds upstairs, with the downstairs pub serving seasonal dishes and local Cotswolds produce.

Redevelopment: [The Royal Carlton Hotel](#), Blackpool, Lancashire

Spring 2026

On Blackpool's South Promenade seafront, a multi-million-pound refurbishment will see the Art Deco Royal Carlton Hotel restored to its former glory. Due to reopen in spring 2026, the 40-bedroom property will feature redesigned public spaces, a refreshed bar and restaurant, a tiered terrace, and new pergola and bi-fold doors to connect the indoors with its beachfront setting.

New restaurant: Sister Moon, [Treehouse Hotel Manchester](#)

Late 2025

Opening on the 14th floor of the new Treehouse Hotel Manchester, Sister Moon will be a destination restaurant and lounge from chef Sam Grainger, who featured in *Great British Menu*. Expect bold Southeast Asian-inspired flavours, a stand-alone bar and music by local Manchester artists – all set against panoramic city views.

New restaurants: [Rockliffe Hall](#), Darlington, County Durham

TBC 2026

The award-winning Rockliffe Hall is undergoing a major gastronomy-focused redevelopment, with work now underway on the restoration of its Grade II-listed Old Hall and the construction of a new 36-cover restaurant. The Orangery and its kitchen will be transformed into the main hotel restaurant, with refreshed sections between the cocktail bar, drawing room and terrace. The multi-million-pound project will elevate the five-star resort's culinary credentials while preserving its historic character.

Expansion of [Village Hotel Solihull](#), West Midlands

TBC 2026

Village Hotel Solihull is undergoing a multi-million-pound expansion, adding 48 new bedrooms as part of the brand's nationwide investment programme. The four-storey extension will connect to the existing property via a modern link bridge, with the hotel remaining open throughout the works. As well as being convenient for the centre of Solihull and Birmingham, the hotel is also close to the NEC and Birmingham Airport.

[2027 and Beyond](#)

[Year of the Normans](#), Kent & Hertfordshire

Throughout 2027

Next year will mark 1,000 years since the birth of William the Conqueror, with a nationwide cultural programme exploring the Normans' profound legacy in Britain and Europe. A full line-up of events across the country will be announced in the lead-up, featuring castle tours and historical events year-round. Heritage sites in Kent and Hertfordshire are set to play a key role, with institutions such as the British Council, British Library, National Archives and Historic Royal Palaces also expected to take part.

[Tour de France 2027](#): UK Dual Grand Departs, multiple locations

Summer 2027

The 2027 Tour de France will kick off in the UK, passing through England (along with Scotland and Wales) prior to heading across the channel, marking the first time the Tour will start in three different nations. England has previously hosted the Tour four times since 1974, when it started with a single stage circuit in Plymouth. Since then, it has seen stages conclude in the seaside cities of Brighton and Portsmouth plus two other Grands Departs in London and Yorkshire.

New heritage: [Bath Assembly Rooms](#), Bath

2027

The National Trust is transforming Bath's Assembly Rooms into a multi-sensory "Georgian Experience" that will recreate an extravagant 18th Century costume ball. Visitors will step into an immersive world of music, dance and revelry, with costumed characters projected into the building's grand spaces – all based on real Bath residents of the Georgian era. From the eligible debutante to the hired help and the master of ceremonies, it will bring a real cross-section of stories to life.

Reopening of [Tate Liverpool](#), Liverpool, Merseyside

TBC 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, 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.

New events arena to open at [The Sage](#), Newcastle Gateshead, 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.

Redevelopment: [Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons](#), Oxfordshire

Summer 2027

The famous Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons hotel, founded by Raymond Blanc OBE, closes at the end of 2025 for a full renovation. The new-look manor house will reopen with enhanced gardens, elevated accommodation, new courses and a fresh focus on its philosophy of garden gastronomy. Expect a high-profile reopening of this Michelin-starred property in summer 2027.

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.

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.

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 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.

Centenary of [Leicester Cathedral](#), Leicester, Leicestershire

TBC 2027

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.

TV release: [Harry Potter series](#), filmed in London, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cornwall and Devon

TBC 2027

A new television adaptation of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* novels is currently filming, with release planned for 2027. Cast and crew have been spotted on location in London, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Devon and at Cornwall's Kynance Cove, Coverack and Cadgwith. Rumour has it that each season will explore one book in the series, with an entirely new cast set to bring the story to life – including John Lithgow as Dumbledore, Nick Frost as Hagrid and Katherine Parkinson as Molly Weasley. Filming locations in the capital reportedly include London Zoo, Embankment station and Borough High Street.

Film release: [The Batman – Part II](#)

TBC 2027

The sequel to the 2022 film *The Batman* will continue director Matt Reeves' dark and gritty take on Gotham's Caped Crusader. Details of the plot are tightly under wraps, but the film is set for release in 2027; Robert Pattinson will once again star as Batman.

Cultural programme: [Docks 200](#), Gloucester

TBC 2027

Gloucester will mark the 200th anniversary of its historic docks with a city-wide cultural programme. Early plans for Docks 200 include exhibitions, performances and community events. The city's cathedral is also a landmark Norman building, and the final resting place of Robert II, Duke of Normandy – William the Conqueror's son – tying in with the nationwide [Year of the Normans](#) festivities throughout 2027. Edward II rests here too, and 2027 will mark 700 years since his death.

New wellbeing destination: [Stroud Waters](#), Kings Stanley, Gloucestershire

TBC 2027

Currently at design stage, Stroud Waters is envisioned as a natural outdoor pool and wellbeing hub. Designed as a hybrid between a lido and wild swimming spot, the project will feature biofiltered pools for families, leisure users and lane swimmers, alongside a sauna and community space. The site has been identified on farmland in the Cotswolds village of Kings Stanley.

Launch of [PEAK resort, hotel and activities centre](#), Chesterfield, Peak District, Derbyshire

TBC 2027 or 2028

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 more than 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.

British stadiums to host [UEFA EURO 2028](#), Nationwide

9 June to 9 July 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).

Cultural programme: [Thomas Hardy Centenary](#), Dorset

Throughout 2028

2028 will mark 100 years since the death of novelist and poet Thomas Hardy. While details are yet to be announced, Dorset – the county where he lived for most of his life – is expected to host commemorations and cultural events in honour of one of Britain's greatest literary figures.

100 years since the [Equal Franchise Act](#), nationwide

TBC 2028

2028 will mark 100 years since the Equal Franchise Act, which gave women the right to vote on equal terms with men. Prior to the landmark ruling in 1928, women were not permitted to vote until they were 30, and only if they were property owners, but the stipulations were revised to mirror the rules for men. All major political parties have committed to gender-equal representation in parliament by 2028; currently, according to the [UK Parliament](#), just 40% of MPs are women.

New attraction: [Eden Project Morecambe](#), Morecambe Bay, Lancashire

TBC 2028

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 – 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.

New attraction: [Eden Project Portland](#), Portland, Dorset

TBC 2028

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.

New theme park: [Puy du Fou](#), Oxfordshire

TBC 2029

Celebrated in France for its spellbinding live shows and painstakingly recreated historical villages, Puy du Fou will launch its first UK park in Oxfordshire. The £600m attraction will immerse visitors in Hollywood-scale historical performances and evocative storytelling, offering a dramatic journey through the past.

New hotel and resort: [Great Wolf Lodge](#), near Bicester, Oxfordshire

By 2030

Great Wolf Lodge is renowned in the US for its indoor waterparks and family-friendly resorts, with hotels in Chicago, Atlanta, San Francisco and beyond. It's all about adventurous, life-affirming fun: think water slides, live entertainment and play areas, with dining that caters for all ages. Its new property in Chesterton will be its first European resort: a £200m project, featuring a golf course, waterpark and extensive accommodation.

New theme park: [Universal United Kingdom Resort](#), Bedfordshire

TBC 2031

Universal will bring its world-class cinematic theme park experience to the UK for the first time in Bedfordshire. Expect state-of-the-art cinematic rides and attractions inspired by blockbuster films, with the park set to attract more than 8.5m visitors annually once it opens its doors.

New hotel: [Nobu Hospitality](#) coming to Manchester

TBC 2031

Manchester's Viadux 2 skyscraper will become the third tallest building in England after London's The Shard and 22 Bishopsgate when it opens in 2031 – and will be the focus of a landmark Nobu Hospitality project. With 160 hotel rooms, 452 Nobu residences and a signature Nobu restaurant and bar, the 76-storey tower will raise the bar for luxury accommodation in the city. A swimming pool and podium garden will complete the offering. Expect elevated dining and high-quality interiors from the brand, which was founded by Chef Nobu Matsuhisa, Robert De Niro and Meir Teper.

New attraction: [Mullin Motor Museum](#), Chipping Norton, Cotswolds

TBC

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. The development is due to commence in 2026, and will take several years to complete.