

What to see and do in November & December 2023

Winter has arrived and its time to wrap up warm enjoy the fresh air and start to feel festive!

The Seals & The Beach

The seals at Horsey are starting to group together on the beach in advance of pupping in the coming months, over 4000 were born last Winter. There are some great walks that incorporate the beach and Horsey Mere which is the home of the National Trust Mill. Alternatively walk from Sea Palling to Waxham on the coastal path, you can walk on the beach to Waxham or Horsey and then follow the coastal path through the Dunes back to Sea Palling where you will find cafes and doing great hot chocolate, coffee and seaside style donuts! If you like a cosy pub with an open fire head for lunch at the Nelsons Head, Horsey. But please remember when you see the seals on the beach or swimming in the sea, please always respect their space as they are a wild animal.

Heydon Village Christmas Fayre 25 November 10am – 5pm

<https://heydon.co.uk/heydon-village/>

Heydon is a chocolate box village where they are holding a festive fayre with local craft makers alongside their independent shops, cafes and cosy pub

Christmas Lights Turn Ons

Holt Christmas Lights Switch on 17 November, events start from 3pm onwards

<https://www.facebook.com/holtlights>

Norwich Christmas Lights Switch on 17 November, events start from 5.45pm

<https://www.visitnorwich.co.uk/event/christmas-lights-switch-on/>

Sheringham Christmas Lights Switch on 3 December, 5pm onwards

<https://sheringhamcarnival.com/events/christmas-lights-switch-on/>

Martham Ferry Boat Yard Winter Boat Hire

<https://www.marthamferryboatyard.co.uk/winter-boat-hire>

Peace and tranquillity, it's a big secret how wonderful the broads are in the winter. They are open 7 days a week from April until November and Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays the winter months.

Christmas Shows

The 2 main Christmas Shows in the area are Thursford Christmas Spectacular and the Cromer Christmas End of the Pier Show both run from late November onwards

<https://www.cromerpier.co.uk/cromer-pier-christmas-show/>

<https://www.thursford.com/christmas-spectacular/>

Blickling Hall, National Trust, neat Aylsham

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/norfolk/blickling-estate/christmas-blickling-estate>

Spend the day exploring the house decked up for a traditional Victorian Christmas with a wild, magical twist! Visit again in the evening for our fundraising Wild Nature After Dark event and take in the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of this magical season. **Saturday 2 – 23 December, 10am–3pm** Enjoy a spot of Christmas shopping in the shop and tuck into delicious seasonal food and warming drinks in the

Stables and Muddy Boots cafés. There's no need to book tickets for your visit during these times. Entry is free to National Trust members, and non-members can pay on arrival.

Wild Winter After Dark at Blickling Saturday 2 – Sunday 17 December, 5pm–8pm

Begin your evening journeying through the magically lit walled garden, before heading into the garden illuminated with colour and light. Listen out for the sounds of nature as you explore, take in the natural scent of the trees in the illuminated Arboretum and look out for tracks and footprints along the way. Tickets for this event must be pre-booked. For food any drink there is warming mulled wine, spiced apple juice, mince pies and gingerbread, or enjoy something more substantial from the delicious outdoor food offers in the Farmyard where you can tuck into burritos, waffles and marshmallows toasted on an open fire. Not forgetting the Buckinghamshire Arms pub next door!

Sandringham Estate Winter Light Trail 2023 <https://luminate.live/sandringham-estate>

Luminate Sandringham will run nightly, from Saturday 11th November to Sunday 24th December 2023
Tickets must be pre-booked online in advance.

Nestled deep within Sandringham Estate, awaits a spectacular, illuminated trail, full of wonder and intrigue, to delight and enthrall your senses. As darkness descends, join us on our enchanting journey, as we weave a captivating light trail through the Royal Parkland at Sandringham. Immerse yourself in our mesmerising mile long trail, with stunning lighting elements and fabulous light play, all set to ambient music. A timeless experience to be enjoyed by all, young and old alike. The courtyard area will have tasty hot food and drinks for before or after the trail. On the route you will find mulled wine and marshmallows for toasting on our fire pits.

The Norfolk Lights Express on the North Norfolk Railway

<https://www.nnrailway.co.uk/norfolk-lights-express/>

10 November until 1 January tickets must be booked in advance

The Norfolk Lights Express is an immersive, wintertime experience that is fun for the whole family! Arrive after dark at Sheringham Station and you'll be greeted by the magical sight of a steam-hauled train illuminated by thousands of tiny lights. Since its debut in 2019, The Norfolk Lights Express has become firmly established as a favourite seasonal treat. As your train steams from Sheringham to Holt and back, you will literally see the countryside adjoining the track in a whole new light as the onboard lights shine on to the scenery in a series of changing colours. During the 5½ mile journey to Holt you'll pass around 10 colourful lit-up dioramas on the lineside or dramatically set in the woods adjoining the track. These create an intriguing story which is brought to life by the on-board narration and music.

The North Norfolk Railway also runs mince pie special trains over Christmas and Santa Specials throughout December