

Out & About

Your Festive What's On Guide

Escape the sofa and head out for some quality together-time with our pick of what's on around the UK this Christmas. Choose from family-friendly days out, jingling and mingling with friends or quintessential Christmas outings...



FESTIVE FAMILY FUN

Remember how ridiculously giddy you were when you were five? Kids spend all year waiting for Christmas, so treat the little elves to some festive fun this December.

1 Pantos & Shows

Cinderella (Starring Paul O Grady), London Palladium
From 10 Dec-14 Jan cinderellapalladium.com

Beauty and the Beast, Liverpool Everyman
From 26 Nov-21 Jan everymanplayhouse.com

Jack and the Beanstalk, King's Theatre, Edinburgh
From 26 Nov-15 Jan edtheatres.com

The Snowman, Birmingham Repertory Theatre
From 3 Nov - 1 Jan peacocktheatre.com

2 Santa's Grotto

National Trust grottos: Bodiam Castle, Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire, Blickling Estate, Norfolk, Quarry Bank, Cheshire, Tericer, Cornwall

Historic grottos: Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, Crampton Tower Broadstairs, Chirk Castle Wrexham, Blair Castle Blair Atholl.

Steam or sail grottos: Dudley Caverns (via boat!), Vale of Rheidol Railway, Watercress Line New Alresford and Ribble Steam Railways Preston.

3 Winter Wonderland

Hyde Park Winter Wonderland, Nottingham Winter Wonderland, Swansea Waterfront Winter Wonderland, Cardiff Winter Wonderland, Yorkshire Winter Wonderland



JINGLE & MINGLE

Want time to relax with friends and let the good tidings roll? We've got ideas for all the big kids and super shoppers among you.

4 Live Gigs

The Cure, Madness, G4, Katie Melua, Bullet for My Valentine, Primal Scream, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Placebo, Human League, Jools Holland, Rod Stewart, Status Quo and Chas N Dave (oh yes!).

5 Seasonal Skating

London: Natural History Museum, Canary Wharf, Hampton Court Palace

South: Brighton Royal Pavilion, Winchester Cathedral, Bournemouth Lower Gardens

West: Bath Royal Victoria Gardens, Eden Project Cornwall, Bristol Harbourside

Midlands: Birmingham Centenary Square, Nottingham Winter Wonderland

East: Norwich Castle Mall Gardens, Lincoln City Centre

Wales: Barry (for all you Gavin and Stacey fans!), Swansea Waterfront, Cardiff City Hall Lawn

North: Manchester Selfridges Trafford Centre, Newcastle Upon Tyne Life Science Centre

Scotland: Edinburgh St Andrews Square and Princes St Gardens, Glasgow George Square

6 Christmas Markets

England: Birmingham, Rochester, Bath, Bristol, Exeter, Oxford, Nottingham, Leeds, York, Manchester, Chester, Harrogate, Stoke-on-Trent

Wales: Cardiff, Llandudno, Wrexham

Scotland: Edinburgh, Glasgow

Northern Ireland: Belfast, Gelnavy, Armagh



QUINTESSENTIAL CHRISTMAS

Some traditions you just can't mess with. Make it magical this year by taking in at least one of these festive faithfuls.

7 Carols

Lincoln Cathedral 14 Dec, or by candlelight on 24 Dec

St Paul's Cathedral London 17, 23 and 24 Dec

Wells Cathedral 20 Dec carol concert by candlelight

Durham Cathedral 2 and 10 Dec

Worcester Cathedral 23 and 24 Dec

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College Chapel, Cambridge Christmas Eve at 3pm on Radio 4

Thursford Christmas Spectacular 10 Nov - 23 Dec, twice daily

8 Ballet

English National Ballet Nutcracker on tour - Milton Keynes, Liverpool and London From 23 Nov - 7 Jan ballet.org.uk

Peter Wright's much-loved Nutcracker at the Royal Opera House, London From 23 Nov - 12 Jan roh.org.uk

9 Opera

Der Rosenkavalier at The Royal Opera House From 17 Dec - 24 Jan roh.org.uk

