



What's happening at Longleat

Step into 450 years of history with a 21st century twist, experience the grandeur of the Elizabethan stately home, walk among wildlife, explore our drive-through Safari, experience our boat cruise and journey on our 15-inch narrow gauge railway. All included in your day ticket!

The Bat Cave | Now open

Our immersive walk-through Bat Cave has returned and is now home to over 40 Egyptian fruit bats. Enter the cave and watch as our colony fly overhead and say hello to Chico and Truffles, our two-toed sloths.

Mother's Day Weekend | 29 – 30 March 2025

Mums go free* this Mother's Day weekend! From an expedition around the Drive-Through Safari, to our iconic Elizabethan mansion, there's plenty to discover.

*With a full paying adult or child day ticket. Online only and one per transaction.

Medieval love debate | 29 March – 5 July 2025

Set in the Lower Hotplate Corridor of Longleat House, the medieval love debate was created in collaboration with Dr Liv Robinson, Assistant Professor in Late Medieval English at University of Birmingham.

This exhibition tells the story of a late 15th century manuscript once owned by William Thynne, a senior official in Henry VIII's household and uncle of Sir John Thynne, the builder of Longleat.

Focusing on translations of late medieval French love debates by Alan Chartier, including his most famous poem, 'La Belle Dame Sans Mercy' meaning 'beautiful lady without mercy', the exhibition will guide visitors through the themes of medieval love poetry and the language of Middle English.

Easter at Longleat | 5 – 21 April 2025

Calling all eggs-ploers! Join us for a hoppy Easter at Longleat from 5 - 21 April, as you explore an egg-cellent trail, a mysterious live show and plenty of animals to fill your day with seasonal fun.

Hop along to our live shows, ready for an egg-citing adventure as you join Hopkins, the forgetful bunny, in the **Mystery of the Lost Eggs Live**.

Grab your eggs-ploing shoes and spring into action. Follow the trail to find giant animal eggs across the park, including a special golden egg. Create your own bunny headband or animal mask to wear as you explore.

Don't miss out on this egg-cellent adventure - hop to it and book now!

May half term | 24 May – 1 June 2025

Steve Backshall Live is back for 2025! This May half term will see him return to Longleat with another exclusive animal live show.

Steve's latest residency will see a spectacular range of animals and birds of prey take flight and wow audiences. From Harris Hawks, Black kites and an Abyssinian Eagle owl to exclusive reveals during the show, you can expect plenty of facts, thrills and fun!

Taking place from 24 May until 1 June, there are plenty of opportunities to see Steve in action. By reserving your seat and watching the show, you'll also be supporting wildlife organisation Tusk.

Hippos return to Half Mile Pond | Summer 2025

We're pleased to say hippos will be returning to Half Mile Pond after the passing of Spot & Sonia, Longleat's legendary residents in 2024 and 2023 respectively.

Work is underway on new 21st century accommodation, including a classroom for educational talks, behind the scenes tours and group visits.

There are plans to introduce a pod with a bull, females and have room for any resulting offspring.

These improves will mean we will be home to the largest free range water habitat in the UK for hippos in human care.

Summer at Longleat | 19 July – 31 August 2025

Start your adventure at Longleat this summer!

Genteel tourists: Georgian visitors to Longleat | 12 July – 2 November 2025

In *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), Jane Austen – born 250 years ago this year – describes the fashionable Regency pursuit of visiting a grand country house and its grounds when Elizabeth Bennet, and her aunt and uncle, tour Pemberley, Mr Darcy's home, as sightseers.

Drawing on records from the Longleat Archives, this exhibition will explore how similar visits took place at Longleat, where the 2nd Marquess of Bath was one of the first owners of a grand house to open his park gates, and hall door, to such interested parties.

Highlights will include Humphry Repton's 1804 'Red Book' for Longleat, which features a watercolour of day trippers picnicking in Longleat Park. Also on display will be a visitor's book from 1836, in which the signature of Jane Austen's nephew, Rev. J. E. Austen, has recently been discovered.

Could Jane Austen herself have visited Longleat?

60th Anniversary of Longleat Railway | 23 – 31 August 2025

Longleat Railway first opened to guests on 27 August 1965, before our iconic Safari Park, and to mark this anniversary you can join in with over a week's worth of celebrations!

Our very own 15-inch narrow gauge miniature railway will take you pass incredible views as you trundle along the edge of Half Mile Pond. Keep an eye out and you may catch a glimpse of our resident Californian sealions!

With 2025 also marking 200 years of the modern railway, it is the perfect opportunity to come and join us at Longleat Central Station.

Icons of the Sky | 12 – 14 September 2025

Icons of the Sky is reaching greater heights this September 12 – 14 and you're invited to join us as legends take flight at Longleat.

The Great British Autumn | 25 October – 2 November 2025

This October half term, help us celebrate all things seasonal with our much-loved family event, The Great British Autumn.

The Festival of Light: | 8 November 2025 – 11 January 2026

Create unforgettable memories as The Festival of Light returns in spectacular style!

For more information:

- Media can contact Longleat by emailing us at press@longleat.co.uk
- To buy a ticket or book accommodation at Longleat please visit our website by following this link www.longleat.co.uk
- We are pleased to offer group discounts for 12 or more tickets, please contact the team on the following email groups@longleat.co.uk

About Longleat Estate and Safari Park

We are Longleat Enterprises Ltd which brings together two-family attractions. Longleat in Warminster, Wiltshire and Cheddar Gorge & Caves in Somerset – both owned by the 8th Marquess of Bath. Longleat has been the family seat since the 16th century.

At Longleat, guests are invited to step into the Thynn family home where they will find the finest example of Elizabethan architecture; take a walk on the wild side in the first Safari Park to open outside of the UK as well as enjoying a range of other attractions from Safari Boat to Railway Train and the biggest hedge maze in Britain to name but a few.

We host some of the country's biggest events from Icons of the Sky which celebrates not just hot air balloons but other legendary forms of flight including planes, high energy aerobatics, helicopters and wing walkers through to our spectacular Festival of Light at Christmas.

Longleat was the first in the country to introduce a lantern festival, the first to open a Safari Park outside of Africa back in 1966 and one of the first stately homes to open its doors to the public in 1949.

Longleat is in the midst of several big anniversaries, with 2024 marking 75 years of the House opening to the public, 2025 celebrates 60 years of Longleat Railway and 2026 set to be a year of celebrations of the Safari Park turns 60!

Our people and our animals are regularly featured in the media and our guests regularly praise the interaction with our teams, describing it as "making their day".

For more information visit www.longleat.co.uk, or follow on Instagram and TikTok @longleatofficial and Facebook @longleat.

Interested in what we've been releasing recently? Here's a flavour of some of the stories we have available:

[Shakespeare's inspiration](#): O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo? – Longleat should probably be the answer to that famous line as it seems the Bard was inspired by a real-life love affair in the 16th century.

The star-crossed lovers were Thomas Thynne, 16-year-old grandson of Sir John who built Longleat and Maria Tuchet who fell in love and married on the night they met in 1594.

[Rare Dormouse Spotted](#): One of the UK's rarest mammals, a hazel dormouse has been spotted on camera foraging for food, and incredibly conservationists have also been able to capture the tiny animal's footprints in a study. The creatures are rarely spotted because they spend a lot of their time asleep and only come out at night.

[Connections to Austen](#): Legendary author Jane Austen could have been one of the many day-trippers who visited Longleat as practices in place at the estate when she was alive do feature in her novels.

[Podcast success](#): Lead keeper James Dennis has seen his weekly podcast receive national acclaim. James was named as one of the top 50 influencers in the zoo and aquarium community by Bloolooop for 2024 just 18 months after launching the podcast.

[Calendar competition](#): A picture of a tower of Giraffe overlooking Longleat taken by Wiltshire safari park guest Emily Dodd is to feature in the estate's 2026 calendar after being picked from more than 2000 entries.

[To rhyme or not to rhyme](#): On the eve of World Poetry Day (21 March), the Longleat archives reveal a poem written to settle a breakfast table argument over the ease of writing rhyming verse. "With tardy steps my lingering feet, Turn from thy portals, fair Longleat..." is the opening couplet in the six verse poem by Lady Morley, who wrote the poem on her way from the Wiltshire estate to neighbouring Bath.