



WHEN YOU SEE THIS SYMBOL

...it means special offers or discounts are available for Boundless members. Head to boundless.co.uk for more info.



LONDON & SOUTH EAST

STEP INTO A SLICE OF MADAGASCAR

Orchids Festival, London, 3 February–3 March

Here's a taste of tropical paradise without the long-haul flight. Kew Gardens' annual orchid festival is here to brighten up your winter with vivid hues and exotic blooms. This year's theme whisks visitors away to the enchanting world of Madagascar, a land of spectacular beauty and remarkable biodiversity. Boundless members enter free; you'll just need to pick a time slot when you book your ticket. For full details, members should log in to boundless.co.uk/kew.



NATIONWIDE

WINGING IT
RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, 26–28 January

A treasured tradition for experts and beginners since 1979 – why not join the flock and help make this year's event the biggest yet? All you need to do is dedicate an hour to observing birds and note what you see, whether in a local park or your own garden. It's a delightful escape, while you help provide a snapshot of the UK's beloved birds. rspb.org.uk

LONDON & SOUTH EAST

ENJOY A MARDI GRAS IN EAST SUSSEX
Hastings Fat Tuesday Music Festival, Hastings, 9–13 February

A music festival in February? You read right! Warm up your winter with the UK's biggest Mardi Gras bash – five lively days of over 350 free gigs, gatherings, parties and parades. It's a chance to see acclaimed artists from across the globe as well as some top-notch local bands. hastingsfattuesday.co.uk

PHOTOS: GETTY, BRISTOL LIGHT FESTIVAL

TRY SOMETHING NEW... MAKE A MINI WETLAND

World Wetlands Day on 2 February is a chance to celebrate the vital conservation work of organisations such as WWT – a Boundless partner – to preserve these crucial habitats. But you can help too. There are voluntary opportunities at wetlands sites across the UK – or why not add a mini wetland to your back garden for a small but important biodiversity boost? You can repurpose an old sink or metal tub to create your mini pond, then watch the water boatmen, dragonflies, frogs and newts arrive. For tips on how to create your mini wetland, visit wwt.org.uk/discover-wetlands/gardening-for-wetlands



SOUTH WEST & WALES

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT
Bristol Light Festival, Bristol, 2–11 February

This magical light festival sets familiar and unexpected corners aglow with vibrant colour (see right). Don your cosiest layers, grab a hot drink and get ready to explore Bristol in a dazzling new light. bristolightfestival.org



MIDLANDS & EAST OF ENGLAND

DIPPY AND FRIENDS
Warwickshire Jurassic Sea, Coventry, until 23 February 2024

A focus on fossils at Herbert Art Gallery & Museum concludes this February and has some incredible finds on show – like the ichthyosaur skull unearthed down the road in Harbury. Dippy the Diplodocus, the nation's favourite dinosaur, is also on display (and is staying until 2026!) – he's been there a year, so why not pay a visit to mark the anniversary? theherbert.org

NORTH OF ENGLAND

UNLEASH YOUR INNER LINGUIST
Looking for Languages Trail, Manchester, 20 February

This half term, explore Manchester Museum's collections through the fascinating lens of language on this family-friendly trail. Discover everything from ancient scripts to contemporary idioms, plus enjoy a range of activities as you explore, including learning how to write your name in hieroglyphs and mastering the art of roaring like a dinosaur – honest! museum.manchester.ac.uk

SCOTLAND & N.I.

TIME FOR SELF-CARE

Aberdeen Health & Wellbeing Festival, Aberdeen, 13 January

Post-Christmas is a fantastic time for a personal reboot. If you want to make this year your healthiest, happiest yet, grab this chance to meet experts, be inspired by speakers and get stuck into classes on all things wellness. From the power of decluttering to using technology to boost your wellbeing, you'll leave full of fresh ideas on ways to nurture your mind and body in the new year and beyond. abdnhealthandwellbeingfest.com >>

