

Cinderella a ballet by Michael Pink c. Northern Ballet 2026

A Magical
LEEDS CHRISTMAS

What's on guide 2026

VISITLEEDS

Christmas Markets





Leeds Christmas Markets
Thu 19 Nov to Wed 23 Dec
City Square
This year, Leeds Christmas Markets, from the team at THOR'S offer a distinctly local flavour. City Square transforms into a green and twinkling evergreen Winter Wonderland, filled with Christmas trees and celebrating Yorkshire makers, independent businesses and fantastic local food and drink.
Find out more

Ice Cube Christmas Experience
Thu 19 Nov to Thu 31 Dec
Millennium Square
Leeds' iconic festive attraction returns to Millennium Square with outdoor ice skating, festive food and drink, family rides and winter bars. Be sure to visit Victoria Gardens where you'll find the Wheel of Light, traditional carousel and THOR'S Tipi.
Find out more

Discover more of Leeds' Independent Markets

For shoppers seeking something a little different, Leeds offers an incredible choice of festive markets throughout the Christmas season. Taking place at a choice of indoor and outdoor settings, these markets showcase hundreds of local artists, makers, artisans, bakers and producers. You'll find everything from handcrafted gifts and original artwork to sustainable products, local delicacies and festive treats.

Artsmix Craft Markets
Sat 7 Nov to Sat 26 Dec
(Saturdays only) Albion Place
artsmix.co.uk

Harewood Christmas Market in partnership with Little Bird Made
Fri 27 to Sun 29 Nov
Harewood House
harewood.org

Swarthmore Educational Centre Christmas Pop-Up
Mon 30 Nov to Fri 4 Dec
markets.leeds.gov.uk

Little Fox Charity Christmas Fair
Fri 20 Nov to Sun 22 Nov
Leeds Corn Exchange
leedscornexchange.co.uk

Sunny Bank Mills Christmas Markets
Fri 27 Nov to Sun 29 Nov
sunnybankmills.co.uk

Real Markets at Lotherton
Sat 5 December
Lotherton Hall
museumsandgalleries.leeds

Christmas Markets
Left Bank Leeds
Sun 22 Nov Sat 5 Dec & Sat 12 Dec
leftbankleeds.co.uk

Little Fox Charity Christmas Fair
Sat 28 November
Leeds Kirkgate Market
@littlefoxcraftfair

Mindful Market
Sat 12 Dec
Leeds Corn Exchange
leedscornexchange.co.uk

Outdoor Adventures & Trails



Temple Newsam c. Tom Martin for Northern Lights

Northern Lights Leeds
Fri 20 Nov to Thu 31 Dec
Temple Newsam
Northern Lights Leeds is a spectacular mile-long Christmas light trail transforming historic Temple Newsam estate into an enchanting winter wonderland for visitors of all ages. This immersive experience features stunning light installations and festive storytelling, alongside a vibrant Christmas Village with seasonal food, drinks and fairground attractions. New for this year, visitors can discover The Lost Light of Christmas, a brand-new folklore-inspired theme that brings fairy tales, wonder and festive imagination to life throughout the trail. **northernlightsleeds.com**

The Christmas Adventure
Sat 21 Nov to Thu 24 Dec
Stockeld Park
Step into the magic of Christmas at Stockeld Park with a dazzling Christmas light show, enchanting Santa's Grotto, live theatre show and festive ice skating. Families can journey through the magical North Pole village to meet Father Christmas, explore the illuminated Enchanted Forest and wander through the festive Snowflake Maze.
stockeldpark.co.uk

Following Yonder Star Trail
Sun 29 Nov to Thu 24 Dec
Kirkstall Abbey
Take a family friendly tour around the atmospheric ruins of Kirkstall Abbey, following the trail of hidden Christmas stars. Included with admission to the Abbey, this is an affordable way to enjoy a festive adventure at one of Leeds' most iconic attractions. After the trail visitors can warm up with a hot chocolate from the on-site cafe.
museumsandgalleries.leeds


Kirkstall Abbey c. LMG

Historic Houses, Estates & Museums



c. Studio McGuire & Harewood House

The Christmas Experience
Sat 21 Nov to Sun 3 Jan
Lotherton
Explore the festive wonder of Lotherton's beautifully decorated hall and grounds, with an enchanted '12 days of Christmas' walk, with larger-than-life installations bringing the classic song to life, plus crafts, toasted marshmallows, the Elf Village and of course the chance to meet Santa and Mrs Claus.
leedstickethub.co.uk

Christmas at Abbey House
Thu 26 Nov to Sun 20 Dec
Abbey House Museum
With singing, crafting, dancing and, of course, a visit from Santa, Abbey House Museum is here to help you get into the festive spirit.
museumsandgalleries.leeds

A Very Pom Pom Christmas
Tue 1 Dec to Sun 3 Jan
Leeds Industrial Museum
Pom poms, twinkles and pure Christmas magic! Head to Leeds Industrial Mueseum for festive crafts and family films by fairylight.
museumsandgalleries.leeds

Family Fun Trails
Tue 1 to Thu 31 Dec
Leeds City Museum
In December, mini elves make the museum their playful home. museumsandgalleries.leeds

Magic at the Mansion
Fri 6 Nov to Sun 3 Jan
Harewood House
This Christmas Harewood House is transformed with an immersive festive experience filled with wonder, storytelling and seasonal surprises by the award-winning Studio McGuire. Expect talking furniture, cheeky presents and choral surprises from the most unexpected places as Harewood and Studio McGuire bring the mansion to life! Kids will love to follow the Snow Globe Trail. And from 5 to 24 Dec, Father Christmas returns to Harewood's Elf Village. harewood.org

Christmas at Temple Newsam
Tue 1 to Thur 24 Dec
Temple Newsam House & Farm
New for 2026, The Elf Academy trains mini elves in time for Christmas, take part in workshops and tours, and don't miss the Christmas Tree Trail around the estate.
museumsandgalleries.leeds

Winter Holidays:
Seasonal Sniffles
Sat 19 to Wed 30 December
Thackray Museum of Medicine
Sneeze the day with Thackray this winter and catch the science behind seasonal sniffles! From coughs and colds to runny noses and sneezes, winter bugs are hard to avoid – but what causes them, how can we dodge them and what remedies really help us bounce back?
thackraymuseum.co.uk

Spectacular Shows...


Leeds Grand Theatre


c. Leeds Heritage Theatres

Rapunzel: The Rock 'n' Roll Panto
Fri 27 Nov 2026 to Sun 10 Jan 2027
City Varieties Music Hall
Turn your average pantomime experience up a notch to 11 with Rapunzel: The Rock 'n' Roll Panto at the world-famous City Varieties Music Hall. Cheesy jokes, laugh-out-loud audience participation, iconic rock anthems and chart hits played on stage by a showstopping cast of multi-talented actor-musicians.
leedsheritagetheatres.com

Dr Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas the Musical
Thu 19 Nov 2026 to Sat 16 Jan 2027
Leeds Playhouse
Following its Broadway success, this brand-new UK production is packed full of charm and humour. Narrated by his loyal dog Max, the story follows the misadventures of the Grinch as he tries to steal Christmas from the residents of Who-ville. A festive musical for the whole family!
leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Northern Ballet's Cinderella
Tue 15 Dec 2026 to Sat 2 Jan 2027
Leeds Grand Theatre
A Christmas tradition for many, Northern Ballet's production of Cinderella brings festive sparkle to the historic Leeds Grand Theatre, with stunning choreography, live music in a heartwarming retelling of the classic fairytale. Expect romance, laughter and plenty of enchantment in this spellbinding seasonal production.
leedsheritagetheatres.com

Jack and the Beanstalk
Fri 20 Nov 2026 to Sun 3 Jan 2027
Carriageworks Theatre
For the ultimate traditional family pantomime, Carriageworks Theatre is back with Jack and the Beanstalk for 2026. Follow Jack as she takes a chance on a handful of mysterious beans... featuring stunning costumes, toe-tapping musical numbers and a heartwarming story of bravery and family... with guest star Sir Kevin Sinfield voicing the Giant!
carriageworkstheatre.co.uk

Opera North's A Christmas Carol
Fri 18 to Thu 24 Dec 2026
Howard Assembly Room
This musical retelling of Charles Dickens' classic Christmas story, featuring members of the Chorus of Opera North, is a brand new production developed for the intimate splendour of the Victorian Howard Assembly Room. Expect a heartwarming festive tale brought to life through music, storytelling and seasonal charm.
operanorth.co.uk

....& Festive Entertainment



Sorry, Christmas is Cancelled... Katie Saves The Day
Sat 12 to Thu 31 Dec 2026
Carriageworks Theatre
Join Katie on this interactive seasonal treat to help her and Father Christmas save Christmas after all the presents in Santa's Grotto are stolen. From the same team behind Christopher's Christmas, this show is made especially for children aged 2-7 (and their big people too).
carriageworkstheatre.co.uk

Oh Yes It Is
Wed 2 to Thu 3 Dec 2026
Leeds Playhouse
Bright Sparks Theatre Company are back for another roller-coaster of a Christmas show, with a pantomime-inspired story of positivity and love.
At the Enchanted Castle, trouble is brewing. The Princess has gone missing, Peter Pan has forgotten how to fly, and the Fairy Godmother has lost her wand.
leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Mrs Doubtfire
Thu 10 to Sun 29 Nov 2026
Leeds Grand Theatre
The West End's hit comedy musical Mrs Doubtfire is heading to Leeds for an early festive treat, featuring all your favourite iconic moments from the beloved film, plus fabulous new songs and dance numbers.
leedsheritagetheatres.com

Christmas Carol Goes Wrong
Tue 8 to Sat 12 Dec
Leeds Grand Theatre
The sell-out West End smash hit production of Christmas Carol Goes Wrong crashes into The Grand. With no hope of a silent night, disaster strikes with hilarious consequences.
leedsheritagetheatres.com

Red Robin's Winter Song,
Sat 12 to Wed 23 Dec 2026
Leeds Playhouse
A delightful and gentle play designed for children aged 3 upwards, Red Robin's Winter Song follows a brave little Red Robin hearing a mysterious song on the winter wind – one that leads to new friendships, unexpected discoveries, and a special place to call home.
leedsplayhouse.org.uk

A Christmas Carol – As Told By Marley (Deceased)
Sun 6 Dec 2026
The Old Woollen
Winner of Best Performer in Theatre at the Fringe Report Awards, this take on Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol is told from the perspective of Scrooge's deceased business partner, and has been hailed as one of the top Christmas shows in the UK.
oldwollen-seetickets.com

Paranormal Activity
Wed 9 to Thu 24 Dec 2026
Leeds Playhouse
If you're feeling a bit bah humbug, then check out Paranormal Activity over the festive period. This highly rated West End hit, inspired by the iconic film series, is a chilling production promising to keep you on the edge of your seat from the start.
leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Ballet of Lights: Sleeping Beauty
Riley Smith Theatre at the University of Leeds
Sun 20 Dec
The beloved tale of Sleeping Beauty is brought to life with classical dance, stunning choreography, and beautiful glow-in-the-dark costumes.
feverup.com

Step Into Christmas
Fri 4 Dec 2026
Leeds Grand Theatre
After a sensational run last Christmas, Step Into Christmas returns bigger, brighter and more festive than ever before. This spectacular Christmas concert is the ultimate way to kickstart your festive celebrations, packed with your favourite Christmas classics played by a live band.
leedsheritagetheatres.com

Jack and the Beanstalk On Ice
Fri 11 Dec 2026
Planet Ice
Planet Ice presents a spectacular rendition of Jack & The Beanstalk, brought to life by the Show & Skate class of amateur skaters and supported by their Professional on Tour cast.
A must-see event that captures the spirit of adventure and holiday cheer, perfect for the festive season.
iceaccount.co.uk

Clinton Baptiste's Christmas Presence
Weds 9 December
The Wardrobe
Clinton Baptiste, the useless clairvoyant medium psychic from Peter Kay's smash hit comedy Phoenix Nights, is back to deliver an exclusive seasonal treat featuring the best of his recent work plus some brand-new bits.
thehouseoffun.co.uk

It's a Wonderful Life (film)
Fri 11 to Thu 24 Dec
Hyde Park Picture House
Get cosy in the iconic Hyde Park Picture House and watch Frank Capra's perennial festive favourite, starring James Stewart as a desperate man offered salvation by his guardian angel.
hpph.co.uk

Carols & Candlelit Concerts



Viennese Christmas Spectacular by Candlelight
Leeds Minster
Sat 14 Nov & Fri 18 Dec
Enjoy a programme of Viennese opera and orchestral favourites from Johann Strauss II, Tchaikovsky, Korngold and more, for an evening of elegance, nostalgia and festive delight.
feverup.com

Carols in the Abbey
Kirkstall Abbey
Sun 13 Dec
Bright Sparks Theatre Company The Heritage Singers return to one of Leeds' most iconic venues for a concert of carols from festive favourites to Christmas classics.
museumsandgalleries.leeds

Boar Lane Carols
Holy Trinity Church
Mon 14 to Fri 18 Dec
Five festive nights of interactive carols with live music, sing-alongs, and pop-up food and drink stalls.
boarlane.church

Candlelight: Christmas Classics
Leeds City Museum
Fri 18 Dec
An evening of Christmas classics with a string quartet awaits, with songs like Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, Last Christmas by Wham!, and Jingle Bells.
feverup.com

Joy to the World Service
Leeds Minster
Sat 19 Dec
Join the Joy Choir at Leeds Minster for an early evening Carol service with contemporary songs.
leedsminster.org

The Christmas Orchestra
Leeds Minster
Fri 20 Nov
Discover the atmosphere, music and unforgettable moments from The Christmas Orchestra, a live orchestra playing Christmas classics at the historic Leeds Minster.
thechristmasorchestra.co.uk

Leeds Cathedral Carol Service
Leeds Cathedral
Sun 13 Dec
Join Leeds Cathedral for their beautiful carol service – with traditional readings, congregational carols and the stunning voices of Leeds Cathedral Choir.
thomasleech.com

Macmillan Leeds Christmas Concert Leeds Minster
17th Dec
Raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support, this magical Christmas concert returns for a fourth year with a mix of musical performances and readings.
macmillan-org

Carols and Readings
St John's
Sun 20 Dec
Head to the oldest church in Leeds to enjoy a traditional Christmas service with carols and readings from the clergy and choir of Leeds Minster.
leedsminster.org

Home Alone in Concert: presented by Opera North
Leeds Grand Theatre
Sun 13 Dec
One of the most beloved Christmas comedies, Home Alone comes alive with the Orchestra and Chorus of Opera North performing John Williams' charming score alongside a screening of the movie.
leedsheritagetheatres.com

Nine Lessons and Carols
Leeds Minster
Sun 13 Dec
Enjoy traditional readings, anthems and carols with the choir of Leeds Minster.
leedsminster.org

Candlelight Christmas: Love Actually, Home Alone & More, Leeds City Museum
Fri 18 Dec
Under the gentle glow of candlelight in the Leeds City Museum's Brodrick Hall, enjoy some Christmas classics from Holiday Inn's White Christmas, Carol of the Bells from Home Alone, and The Nightmare Before Christmas Medley, all played by a string quartet.
feverup.com



c. The Christmas Orchestra

Festive Gigs & Live Music

The Pogues
Tue 1 Dec
O2 Academy Leeds
Following the success of their anniversary tours, The Pogues are back with original members and special guests.
academymusicgroup.com

Bryson Tiller
Fri 4 Dec
first direct bank arena
Acclaimed R&B superstar Bryson Tiller is set to bring his signature blend of smooth vocals, hip-hop beats and emotionally charged storytelling to Leeds.
firstdirectbankarena.com

UB40 ft. Ali Campbell
Tue 8 Dec
first direct bank arena
Experience the magic of the Big Love Tour – a celebration of timeless reggae classics, feel-good energy, and singalong moments.
firstdirectbankarena.com

Shed Seven
Sat 12 & Sun 13 Dec
O2 Academy Leeds
Yorkshire heroes Shed Seven return for two nights of 'Shedcember', the definitive start to the festive season.
academymusicgroup.com

Leeds Punk Rock Xmas / 20 Years of Geoffrey Oi!Cott,
Sat 19 Dec
Brudenell Social Club
Featuring: Dirt Box Disco, Pizzatramp, The Mau Maus, Geoffrey Oi!Cott, Quick Romance, The King Effers and Litterbug. This show is a benefit for Batley Food Bank.
brudenellsocialclub.co.uk

Electric Six
Wed 2 Dec
O2 Academy Leeds
The cult American rock band's blend of disco, punk, new wave and garage rock is a great excuse for a night out in Leeds!
academymusicgroup.com

Pete Tong Ibiza Classics
Sat 5 Dec
first direct bank arena
Expect euphoric energy, unforgettable music, and the sun-drenched spirit of the White Isle.
firstdirectbankarena.com

The Darkness
Wed 9 Dec
first direct bank arena
Enjoy a night of unforgettable rock 'n' roll with The Darkness, and special guests Brothers Osborne.
firstdirectbankarena.com

Weetwood Mac
Thu 17 to Sun 20 Dec
Brudenell Social Club
Enjoy Yorkshire's answer to Fleetwood Mac – a night of epic tunes from one of the UK's most authentic tribute acts.
brudenellsocialclub.co.uk

The Boss & The Beeston Street Band
Sun 27 Dec
Brudenell Social Club
The Leeds based tribute to Bruce Springsteen and The E-Street Band!
brudenellsocialclub.co.uk

Blossoms
Thu 3 Dec
first direct bank arena
Stockport indie favourites Blossoms are heading to first direct bank arena this December as part of their upcoming UK tour.
firstdirectbankarena.com

Dave Hill's Slade
Tue 8 Dec
O2 Academy Leeds
With a roller-coaster ride of pure unadulterated rock 'n' roll and a dynamic stage performance, enjoy music from Slade's six-decade spanning hits.
academymusicgroup.com

Sounds Familiar Music Quiz - Christmas Party
Fri 11 Dec
Belgrave Music Hall
Zero boring trivia,
100 killer tunes, 1 epic quiz.
dice.fm

Back Chat Brass (Christmas Blowout)
Sat 19 Dec
The Domino Club
Leeds number one party starters will be blowing the rood off just in time for Christmas.
eventbrite.co.uk

Slade UK
Mon 28 Dec
Brudenell Social Club
Recreating the look and raw power of Slade at their best, Slade UK are now one of the top tribute acts in the country.
brudenellsocialclub.co.uk

Where to see Santa



Santa's certainly clocking up the miles this Christmas, popping up everywhere from woodland cabins and enchanted grottos to heritage railways, stately homes and city-centre festive hideaways. Across Leeds and the surrounding area, families can enjoy magical Santa experiences featuring elves, Mrs Claus, festive shows, train rides, afternoon teas, immersive North Pole adventures and special one-to-one meetings with the man himself, complete with gifts, festive treats and memories to treasure long after Christmas Day.

Santa's North Pole & Santa's Cabin
Sat 21 Nov to Sun 3 Jan
The Christmas Experience at Lotherton
leedstickethub.co.uk

Santa At The Museum
Sat 12 & Sun 13 Dec
Sat 19 & Sun 20 Dec
Abbey House Museum
museumsandgalleries.leeds

Meet Santa at St Johns
Sat 5, 12, 19, Mon 21,
Tue 22 & Wed 23 December
St Johns Centre
stjohnsleeds.co.uk

Harewood's Elf Village Father Christmas Experience
Sat 5 to Thu 24 Dec
Harewood House
harewood.org

Santa's Cabin
Sat 28 Nov to Thur 24 Dec
Merrion Centre
merrioncentre.co.uk

Santa's Tea Party
Fri 4 & Sat 5 Dec
John Lewis
johnlewis.com

Santa Special Train Rides,
Sat 5 & Sun 6, Sat 12 & Sun 13,
Sat 19 & Sun 20, Wed 23,
Thur 24 Dec
Middleton Railway
middletonrailway.org.uk

Santa Experience at The Mansion
Sat 5 & Sun 6, Sat 12 & Sun 13,
Sat 19 & Sun 20 Dec
The Mansion, Roundhay Park
dine.co.uk

Santa's Grotto, The Christmas Adventure
Sat 21 Nov to Thu 24 Dec
Stockeld Park
stockeldpark.co.uk



c. Harewood House Trust