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What's on in December? The best things to do and events this month across the UK

DECEMBER 2018's best things to do across the UK include events in Birmingham, Edinburgh and London. Culture Trip have revealed what to do this month, with a Christmas market, a film installation and Hogmanay celebrations on the list.

Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations kick off with fireworks



What's on in the UK this December? James McLachlan, UK Editor for [Culture Trip](https://theculturetrip.com/) (<https://theculturetrip.com/>), recommends [Christmas](https://theculturetrip.com/latest/christmas) ([/latest/christmas](https://theculturetrip.com/latest/christmas)) days out, a comedy show and more.

Cats on the Page, British Library

Lewis Carroll's personal copy of an early edition of *Through the Looking Glass* and Judith Kerr's original illustrations for her world-famous story *Mog the Forgetful Cat* are two of the standout highlights at the British Museum's feline-inspired exhibition, [Cats on the Page](https://www.bl.uk/events/cats-on-the-page) (<https://www.bl.uk/events/cats-on-the-page>).

Through a collection of artwork, sound recordings, letters and old manuscripts, *Cats on the Page* explores the myriad ways in which these majestic creatures have been depicted by writers in literature from the 16th century to the modern day.

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What is Hogmanay? How is New Year's Eve celebrated in Scotland?

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The best things to do this month across the UK

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Soak up the festive vibes at [Birmingham's Frankfurt Christmas Market](https://visitbirmingham.com/whats-on/birmingham-frankfurt-christmas-market-p1323321)

(<https://visitbirmingham.com/whats-on/birmingham-frankfurt-christmas-market-p1323321>), the biggest German market outside of Germany and Austria. Running until 23 December, the market offers up a bevy of Bavarian-inspired delicacies such as bratwurst to glühwein, as well as hundreds of twinkly huts selling handcrafted gifts, live music and interactive workshops.

Christmas at Kew Gardens

See a different side of London's [Kew Gardens](http://www.kew.org/kew-gardens/whats-on/christmas-at-kew) (<http://www.kew.org/kew-gardens/whats-on/christmas-at-kew>), one of the largest botanical gardens in the world, by visiting its annual festive trail of lights. This year, the event – which is on from the end of November until early January – features a new Laser Garden installation as well as Firework Trees and a Cathedral of Light. Be sure to catch the 300 illuminated origami boats by Italian artists Aether & Hemera that will light up Kew's lake, and end your walk with some mulled wine or spiced cider to get you into the Christmas spirit.

**December 2018 events:
Best things to do this
month from a
Christmas market to
Christmas lights and
more**



December events: The best things to do this month have been revealed by Culture Trip (Image: Getty Images)



The Clock, Tate Modern (1 - 2 December)

Get down to [Tate Modern](https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/exhibition/christian-marclay-clock/christian-marclay-clock) (https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/exhibition/christian-marclay-clock/christian-marclay-clock) on the first week of December for the last 24-hour screening of Christian Marclay's ingenious film installation The Clock. From 10am Saturday to 10am Sunday you'll be able to experience the virtual timepiece, which is made up of thousands of film clips and perfectly synced to real time. Entry is free but based on a first-come, first-served basis, so expect queues, but rest assured it's worth every second, minute and hour you can spare.

Google Curiosity Rooms

For the second year running, [Google](https://events.withgoogle.com/curiosityrooms/) (https://events.withgoogle.com/curiosityrooms/) will host a series of inspirational workshops, talks, pop-up stores and immersive dining experiences in a three-storey space in Piccadilly. Events are free to attend and celebrity hosts include Pixie Geldof, who will be talking about her wardrobe in collaboration with British Vogue, Professor Green and Jessie Ware. Guests must register online in advance.

Edinburgh's Hogmanay (30 Dec-1 Jan)

Bring in 2019 at [Hogmanay](https://www.edinburghshogmanay.com/) (https://www.edinburghshogmanay.com/), a festive fusion of live music, traditional ceilidhs, food, drink and fireworks. Alongside the annual torchlight procession and street party, this year's Concert in the Gardens will be headlined by Scottish indie fivesome Franz Ferdinand. On 1 January, round off the celebrations with a plunge into the freezing Firth of Forth for Edinburgh's New Year's Day tradition, the Loony Dook.

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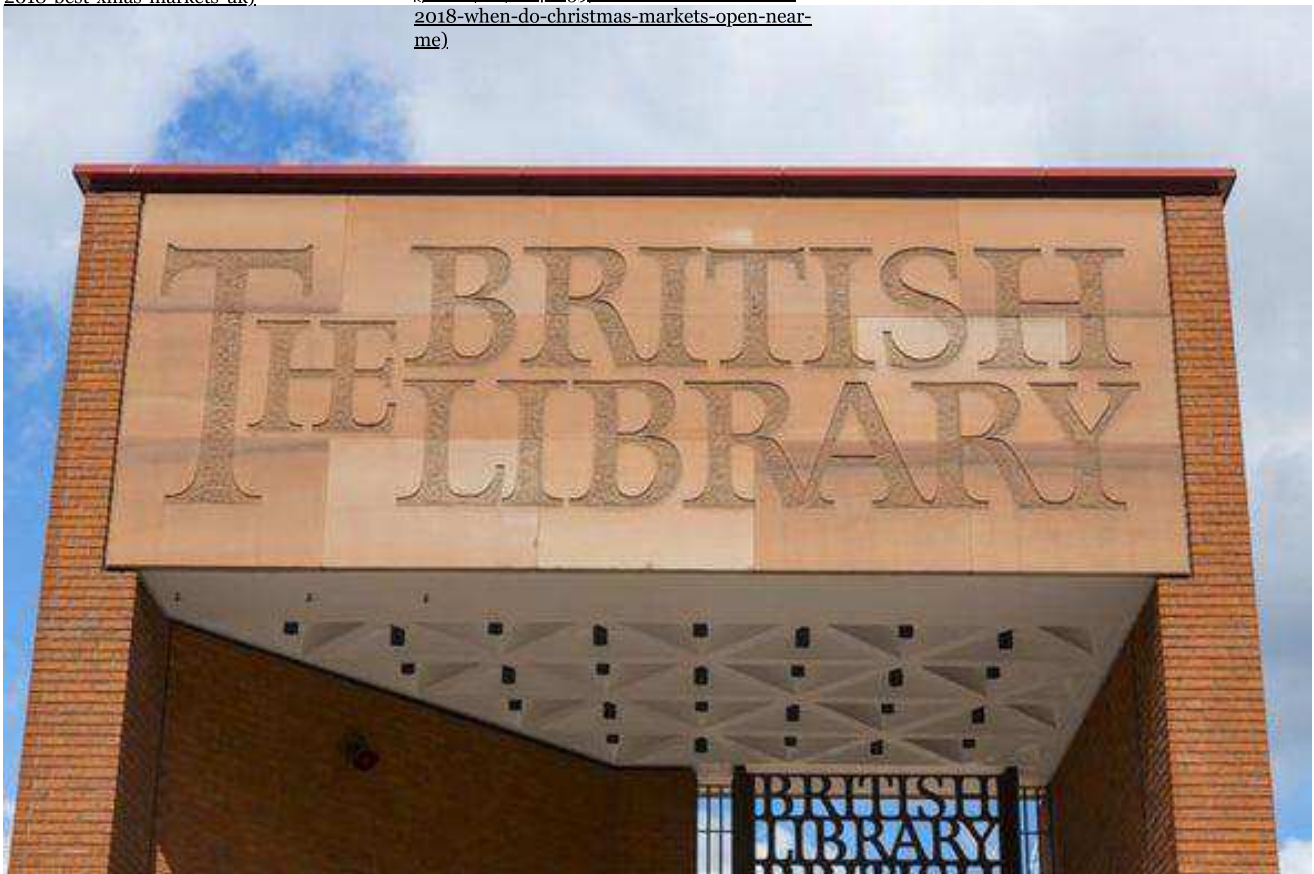
Christmas 2018: The top 10 BEST Christmas markets in the UK revealed

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December events: The British Library is hosting a cat inspired exhibition (Image: Getty Images)



December events: US band The War On Drugs perform their only UK headline show this month (Image: Getty Images)

The War On Drugs (13 December)

US band [The War On Drugs](http://www.theo2.co.uk/events/detail/the-war-on-drugs) (<http://www.theo2.co.uk/events/detail/the-war-on-drugs>) bring their mellow blend of breezy indie rock to London's O2 Arena for their only headline show in the UK this year. Think Bruce Springsteen at his most laid-back. The group will be supported by British shoegaze legends Slowdive for what promises to be an epic gig.

Whose Line is it Anyway? 30th Anniversary Christmas Show (15 - 16 Dec)

Britain's much-loved improv show celebrates its 30th anniversary with a festive makeover and a three-show run at the [Royal Albert Hall](https://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/events/2018/whose-line-is-it-anyway/) (<https://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/events/2018/whose-line-is-it-anyway/>) this December. Expect classic improv games and plenty of audience participation as host Clive Anderson is joined by a star-studded cast of comedians, including Colin Mochrie and Josie Lawrence.

Home Futures, Design Museum

Go back to the future with the Design Museum's illuminating new show, which explores today's home through the eyes of innovative 20th-century architects and designers. From portable plastic properties to mobile showers and loos, discover how accurate these designers were in predicting houses of the future. Home Futures runs until 24 March 2019.

[Christmas \(/latest/christmas\)](#)