



FACE TO FACE

TWENTY TWENTY FIVE

DECEMBER 2024

2nd: Bank Holiday (Scotland)
25th: Bank Holiday (UK)
26th: Bank Holiday (UK)

01	SUN
02	MON
03	TUE
04	WED
05	THU
06	FRI
07	SAT
08	SUN
09	MON
10	TUE
11	WED
12	THU
13	FRI
14	SAT
15	SUN
16	MON
17	TUE



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18	WED
19	THU
20	FRI
21	SAT
22	SUN
23	MON
24	TUE

ARCTIC WOLF
(Canis lupus arctos)

25	WED
26	THU
27	FRI
28	SAT
29	SUN
30	MON
31	TUE

DECEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	49
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	50
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	51
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	52
29	30	31					1

2nd: Bank Holiday (Scotland) 25th: Bank Holiday (UK) 26th: Bank Holiday (UK)

NOVEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
					1	2	44
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	45
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	46
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	47
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	48

JANUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	3
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	4
26	27	28	29	30	31		5

ARCTIC WOLF (Canis lupus arctos)

Arctic wolves, although related to the grey wolves of North America and Europe, are only found on Canada's most northern Arctic islands and along parts of Greenland's coastline. They live and hunt in packs, with only the top-ranking individuals - referred to as alpha and beta - allowed to mate. Up to 12 wolf pups are born in a single litter so the limits on reproduction help to ensure every pack member has enough food in such a harsh environment. Arctic wolves are opportunistic but skilled predators, often taking down prey much larger than themselves including deer, elk, caribou and moose.

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JANUARY 2025

1st: Bank Holiday (UK)
2nd: Bank Holiday (Scotland)

01	WED
02	THU
03	FRI
04	SAT
05	SUN
06	MON
07	TUE
08	WED
09	THU
10	FRI
11	SAT
12	SUN
13	MON
14	TUE
15	WED
16	THU
17	FRI



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18	SAT
19	SUN
20	MON
21	TUE
22	WED
23	THU
24	FRI

ZANZIBAR RED COLOBUS AND BABY
(Piliocolobus kirkii)

25	SAT
26	SUN
27	MON
28	TUE
29	WED
30	THU
31	FRI

JANUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
			1	2	3	4	1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	3
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	4
26	27	28	29	30	31		5

1st: Bank Holiday (UK) 2nd: Bank Holiday (Scotland)

DECEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	49
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	50
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	51
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	52
29	30	31					1

FEBRUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	7
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	8
23	24	25	26	27	28		9

ZANZIBAR RED COLOBUS AND BABY

(Piliocolobus kirkii)

The endangered Zanzibar red colobus is found on just three islands of the Zanzibar archipelago, off the coast of Tanzania. They spend almost all of their time in the tree canopy, grazing on their main diet of leaves, unripe fruit, seeds and flowers, and use their long legs to leap between trees. Young Zanzibar red colobus monkeys have only black and white coats at first, their red and brown colouring appearing at between three and five-months old. Although they have few non-human predators, including chimpanzees and crowned eagles, their numbers are threatened by development encroaching on their habitat, restricting their ability to move between trees to find food when forest areas become fragmented.

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FEBRUARY 2025

01	SAT
02	SUN
03	MON
04	TUE
05	WED
06	THU
07	FRI
08	SAT
09	SUN
10	MON
11	TUE
12	WED
13	THU
14	FRI
15	SAT
16	SUN
17	MON



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18	TUE
19	WED
20	THU
21	FRI
22	SAT
23	SUN
24	MON

AUSTRALIAN SEA LION AND PUP
(*Neophoca cinerea*)

25	TUE
26	WED
27	THU
28	FRI

FEBRUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
						1	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	7
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	8
23	24	25	26	27	28		9

JANUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
		1	2	3	4	1	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	3
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	4
26	27	28	29	30	31		5

MARCH 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
30	31					1	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	12
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	13

AUSTRALIAN SEA LION AND PUP

(*Neophoca cinerea*)

Only found on the South and Western Australia coastlines, the Australian sea lion population has declined by approximately 60% in the last 40 years and is now classed as endangered. Females will only breed in the same site where they were born and reach maturity at around 12-years old, with a breeding cycle just once every 18 months. Pups are born with brown fur which moults to reveal their adult colouring: silver grey for females or dark brown with yellow areas on their head and neck for males. Adult males are much larger than females, measuring up to twice their length and weight.

Photo © Martin Harvey/Getty Images

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MARCH 2025

17th: Bank Holiday (N. Ireland)

01	SAT
02	SUN
03	MON
04	TUE
05	WED
06	THU
07	FRI
08	SAT
09	SUN
10	MON
11	TUE
12	WED
13	THU
14	FRI
15	SAT
16	SUN
17	MON



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RETICULATED GIRAFFE
(Giraffa reticulata)

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18	TUE
19	WED
20	THU
21	FRI
22	SAT
23	SUN
24	MON

25	TUE
26	WED
27	THU
28	FRI
29	SAT
30	SUN
31	MON

MARCH 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
30	31					1	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	12
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	13

17th: Bank Holiday (N. Ireland)

FEBRUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
						1	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	7
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	8
23	24	25	26	27	28		9

APRIL 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
		1	2	3	4	5	14
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	15
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17
27	28	29	30				18

RETICULATED GIRAFFE (Giraffa reticulata)

Of the nine giraffe subspecies, the reticulated is the most well known, found in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa including populations in Northern Kenya and Somalia. Despite their size - males can grow to more than five metres in height and weigh nearly 2,000 kilograms - they are able to gallop at 56 kilometres per hour, helping them to escape predators. Giraffes spend much of their time grazing on succulent foliage high in the treetops, out of reach of most herbivores, and they prefer thorny acacia trees above all. Young giraffes start to graze within a few weeks of birth but will continue to nurse from their mother until they are 15 to 17-months old.

Photo © Vicki Jauron/Getty Images

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APRIL 2025

18th: Bank Holiday (UK)
21st: Bank Holiday (UK not Scotland)

01	TUE
02	WED
03	THU
04	FRI
05	SAT
06	SUN
07	MON
08	TUE
09	WED
10	THU
11	FRI
12	SAT
13	SUN
14	MON
15	TUE
16	WED
17	THU



Photo © Pankil Desai/Getty Images

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18	FRI
19	SAT
20	SUN
21	MON
22	TUE
23	WED
24	THU

INDIAN ELEPHANT AND CALF
(*Elephas maximus indicus*)

25	FRI
26	SAT
27	SUN
28	MON
29	TUE
30	WED

APRIL 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
		1	2	3	4	5	14
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	15
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17
27	28	29	30				18

18th: Bank Holiday (UK) 21st: Bank Holiday (UK not Scotland)

MARCH 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
30	31					1	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	12
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	13

MAY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
				1	2	3	18
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	19
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	20
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	21
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22

INDIAN ELEPHANT AND CALF

(*Elephas maximus indicus*)

Indian elephants are one of three subspecies of the Asian elephant which is widely regarded as a cultural icon in India and across mainland Asia. Indian elephants can weigh up to five tonnes and need to consume huge amounts of grasses, roots, leaves and stems for up to 19 hours a day to sustain themselves. They are also partial to cultivated crops such as sugar cane, bananas and rice, sometimes raiding farms and agricultural land to find these foods, particularly where their traditional roaming areas in forests and grasslands have been encroached upon. Living in small groups of adult females and their offspring, elephant young continue to be suckled by their mother for up to three years.

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MAY 2025

5th: Bank Holiday (UK)
26th: Bank Holiday (UK)

01	THU
02	FRI
03	SAT
04	SUN
05	MON
06	TUE
07	WED
08	THU
09	FRI
10	SAT
11	SUN
12	MON
13	TUE
14	WED
15	THU
16	FRI
17	SAT



Photo © Pchoui/Getty Images

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY
(*Sula nebouxi*)

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18	SUN
19	MON
20	TUE
21	WED
22	THU
23	FRI
24	SAT

25	SUN
26	MON
27	TUE
28	WED
29	THU
30	FRI
31	SAT

MAY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
				1	2	3	18
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	19
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	20
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	21
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22

5th: Bank Holiday (UK) 26th: Bank Holiday (UK)

APRIL 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
		1	2	3	4	5	14
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	15
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17
27	28	29	30				18

JUNE 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	23
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	24
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26
29	30						27

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY (*Sula nebouxii*)

Known for the vivid hue of their feet, the success of every male blue-footed booby appears to depend on the richness of colouring: the bluer their feet, the more attractive they are to a prospective mate. The depth of colour also indicates how healthy an individual is, the blue coming from the nutrients in the fish they eat. On land these birds are at their least graceful and appear clumsy, thought to be the origin of their name, from the Spanish 'bobo' meaning stupid. Native to the coasts of Central and South America, at least half of their global population can be found on the Galapagos Islands.

Photo © Pchoui/Getty Images

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JUNE 2025

01	SUN
02	MON
03	TUE
04	WED
05	THU
06	FRI
07	SAT
08	SUN
09	MON
10	TUE
11	WED
12	THU
13	FRI
14	SAT
15	SUN
16	MON
17	TUE



Photo © Roland Seitre/Minden Pictures

GOITERED GAZELLE
(Gazella subgutturosa)

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18	WED
19	THU
20	FRI
21	SAT
22	SUN
23	MON
24	TUE

25	WED
26	THU
27	FRI
28	SAT
29	SUN
30	MON

JUNE 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	23
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	24
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26
29	30						27

MAY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
				1	2	3	18
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	19
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	20
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	21
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22

JULY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
				1	2	3	27
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	28
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	29
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	30
27	28	29	30	31			31

GOITERED GAZELLE (*Gazella subgutturosa*)

The long, ridged horns of a male goitered gazelle curve gracefully at their tips, used for scraping the ground during breeding season to mark their territory. While goitered gazelles usually roam in small family groups, herds of hundreds or thousands are known to exist, but adult males remain solitary except for breeding season, between September and December. Living in the arid and desert regions of Asia and the Arabian Peninsula, from northwestern China and Mongolia to Pakistan and Kazakhstan, they often live in almost waterless habitats, their intake satisfied by extracting water from the hardy grasses and shrubs that they graze.

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Photo © Roland Seitre/Minden Pictures



JULY 2025

14th: Bank Holiday (N. Ireland)

01	TUE
02	WED
03	THU
04	FRI
05	SAT
06	SUN
07	MON
08	TUE
09	WED
10	THU
11	FRI
12	SAT
13	SUN
14	MON
15	TUE
16	WED
17	THU



Photo © Theo Allofs/Minden Pictures

BENGAL TIGER
(Panthera tigris tigris)

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18	FRI
19	SAT
20	SUN
21	MON
22	TUE
23	WED
24	THU

25	FRI
26	SAT
27	SUN
28	MON
29	TUE
30	WED
31	THU

JULY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
		1	2	3	4	5	27
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	28
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	29
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	30
27	28	29	30	31			31

14th: Bank Holiday (N. Ireland)

JUNE 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	23
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	24
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26
29	30						27

AUGUST 2025

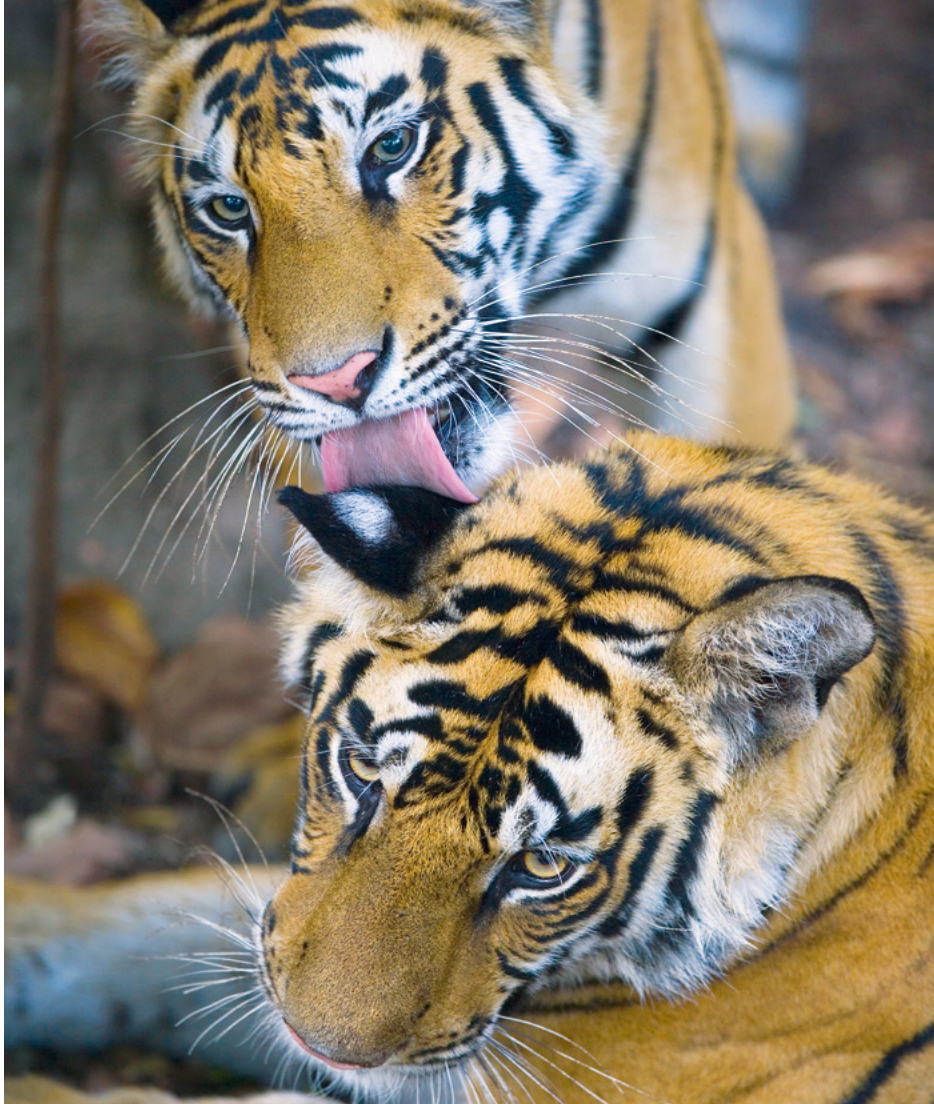
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
31					1	2	31
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	32
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	33
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	34
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	35

BENGAL TIGER (Panthera tigris tigris)

While adult Bengal tigers are solitary animals, a litter of two to six cubs will stay with their mother until they are two to three-years old, only learning to hunt at 18 months. Cubs do not open their eyes until 10 to 12 days after birth and are completely reliant on their mother in their first weeks and months; only half of all cubs survive to adulthood. Nocturnal hunts for prey such as wild pigs, deer or buffalo require stealth and patience, ending with an ambush and a powerful and deadly pounce; adult male Bengal tigers can weigh up to 225 kilograms.

Photo © Theo Allofs/Minden Pictures

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AUGUST 2025

4th: Bank Holiday (Scotland)
25th: Bank Holiday (UK not Scotland)

01	FRI
02	SAT
03	SUN
04	MON
05	TUE
06	WED
07	THU
08	FRI
09	SAT
10	SUN
11	MON
12	TUE
13	WED
14	THU
15	FRI
16	SAT
17	SUN



Photo © Danita Delimont Stock/AWL Images

ALLAN &
BERTRAM

18	MON
19	TUE
20	WED
21	THU
22	FRI
23	SAT
24	SUN

25	MON
26	TUE
27	WED
28	THU
29	FRI
30	SAT
31	SUN

HYACINTH MACAW

(Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus)

AUGUST 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
31					1	2	31
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	32
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	33
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	34
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	35

4th: Bank Holiday (Scotland) 25th: Bank Holiday (UK not Scotland)

JULY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
		1	2	3	4	5	27
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	28
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	29
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	30
27	28	29	30	31			31

SEPTEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
	1	2	3	4	5	6	36
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	37
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	38
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	39
28	29	30					40

HYACINTH MACAW (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*)

The brilliant cobalt feathers of the hyacinth macaw make this largest of parrots stand out among the tropical wetlands, palm swamps and flooded grasslands where it is found in Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay. Their powerful beak, able to apply more than 2,000 kilopascals of pressure, is used to break open the toughest of nuts and seeds, including coconuts, brazil nut pods and macadamia nuts. Hyacinth macaws fly in pairs, keeping in constant contact even when separated through loud vocalisations. They nest in tree cavities or fissures in a cliff face, laying one or two eggs and nurturing the chick or chicks until they reach six months of age.

Photo © Danita Delimont Stock/AWL Images

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SEPTEMBER 2025

01	MON
02	TUE
03	WED
04	THU
05	FRI
06	SAT
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08	MON
09	TUE
10	WED
11	THU
12	FRI
13	SAT
14	SUN
15	MON
16	TUE
17	WED



Photo © Donald M. Jones/Minden Pictures

ALLAN &
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18	THU
19	FRI
20	SAT
21	SUN
22	MON
23	TUE
24	WED

25	THU
26	FRI
27	SAT
28	SUN
29	MON
30	TUE

MOOSE
(Alces alces)

SEPTEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
	1	2	3	4	5	6	36
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	37
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	38
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	39
28	29	30					40

AUGUST 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
31				1	2	31	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	32
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	33
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	34
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	35

OCTOBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
				1	2	3	40
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	41
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	42
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	43
26	27	28	29	30	31		44

MOOSE (Alces alces)

The largest of all the deer species, growing up to two-metres tall at the shoulder, moose can be found in the forests and woodlands of northern Europe, Asia and North America. Male moose grow impressive antlers which can measure 1.8 metres from point to point but the bulk of these antlers can make lowering their head to the ground difficult so they prefer to graze on shrubs, grasses, pinecones, lichen and mosses at head height. Moose are surprisingly good swimmers despite their size and can be seen feeding on aquatic plants in lakes and rivers once the frozen surface melts in the spring and summer.

Photo © Donald M. Jones/Minden Pictures

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OCTOBER 2025

01	WED
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03	FRI
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05	SUN
06	MON
07	TUE
08	WED
09	THU
10	FRI
11	SAT
12	SUN
13	MON
14	TUE
15	WED
16	THU
17	FRI



Photo © Eric Baccega/Robert Harding

GIANT PANDA AND CUB
(*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*)

ALLAN &
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18	SAT
19	SUN
20	MON
21	TUE
22	WED
23	THU
24	FRI

25	SAT
26	SUN
27	MON
28	TUE
29	WED
30	THU
31	FRI

OCTOBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
			1	2	3	4	40
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	41
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	42
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	43
26	27	28	29	30	31		44

SEPTEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
	1	2	3	4	5	6	36
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	37
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	38
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	39
28	29	30					40

NOVEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
30						1	44
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	45
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	46
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	47
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	48

GIANT PANDA AND CUB (Ailuropoda melanoleuca)

One of the rarest and most endangered species in the world, there are thought to be around 1,800 giant pandas in the wild, spread among a limited range of bamboo forests in southwest China. This well-known icon of conservation continues to be at risk due to loss and fragmentation of their habitat. Usually solitary animals, males and females only associate for a few days during the mating season, between March and May. The mother is then left alone to care for her cub, which stays with her for around 18 months or until she successfully mates once again. Cubs are dependent on their mother until weaning onto a diet almost exclusively of bamboo shoots and leaves, at eight to nine-months old.

Photo © Eric Baccaga/Robert Harding

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BERTRAM



NOVEMBER 2025

01	SAT
02	SUN
03	MON
04	TUE
05	WED
06	THU
07	FRI
08	SAT
09	SUN
10	MON
11	TUE
12	WED
13	THU
14	FRI
15	SAT
16	SUN
17	MON



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CLOUDED LEOPARD
(Neofelis nebulosa)

ALLAN &
BERTRAM

18	TUE
19	WED
20	THU
21	FRI
22	SAT
23	SUN
24	MON

25	TUE
26	WED
27	THU
28	FRI
29	SAT
30	SUN

NOVEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
30						1	44
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	45
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	46
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	47
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	48

OCTOBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
		1	2	3	4		40
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	41
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	42
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	43
26	27	28	29	30	31		44

DECEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
	1	2	3	4	5	6	49
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	50
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	51
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	52
28	29	30	31				1

CLOUDED LEOPARD (Neofelis nebulosa)

Named for the particular patterns and appearance of its spotty coat, the clouded leopard is a rarely seen member of the big cat family, living in remote areas from the rainforests of Indonesia to the foothills of the Himalayas in Nepal. They are skilled climbers, using their large paws, sharp claws and powerful legs to grip vertiginous rock faces and trees, their specialised rotating ankles allowing them to descend headfirst. Although little is known about the population of clouded leopards due to the scarcity of sightings, they are thought to be solitary and, due to having a different bone structure to most cats, do not roar or purr but rather growl, hiss and chuff.

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DECEMBER 2025

1st: Bank Holiday (Scotland)
25th: Bank Holiday (UK)
26th: Bank Holiday (UK)

01	MON
02	TUE
03	WED
04	THU
05	FRI
06	SAT
07	SUN
08	MON
09	TUE
10	WED
11	THU
12	FRI
13	SAT
14	SUN
15	MON
16	TUE
17	WED



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18	THU
19	FRI
20	SAT
21	SUN
22	MON
23	TUE
24	WED

POLAR BEAR AND CUBS
(Ursus maritimus)

25	THU
26	FRI
27	SAT
28	SUN
29	MON
30	TUE
31	WED

DECEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
	1	2	3	4	5	6	49
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	50
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	51
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	52
28	29	30	31				1

1st: Bank Holiday (Scotland) 25th: Bank Holiday (UK) 26th: Bank Holiday (UK)

NOVEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
30						1	44
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	45
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	46
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	47
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	48

JANUARY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	WK
					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	3
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	4
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	5

POLAR BEAR AND CUBS (Ursus maritimus)

Polar bears are the largest species of bear in the world and the only one to be classed as a marine mammal due to spending the majority of their lives on the sea ice of the Arctic Ocean. They spend nearly half their time hunting, traversing the sea ice and swimming between ice floes for hours at a time to find ringed and bearded seals. After feeding through the summer and autumn to gain as much weight as possible, pregnant females dig into the snow to create a den, usually giving birth in December to between one and three cubs, although twins are most common. The mother stays in the den with her cubs, without venturing out to eat or drink, until they reach three or four months of age.

Photo © Hao Jiang/500px/Getty Images

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