PRESS RELEASE

Pensthorpe reimagines October half term with new Pumpkin Festival and After Dark events

Three ways to experience Pensthorpe this autumn, with Pumpkin Festival entry from just £5

Pensthorpe Natural Park is reimagining the October half term for 2026 with a new-look **Pensthorpe Pumpkin Festival**, giving visitors more choice over how they experience autumn in Norfolk.

Running from **23 October to 1 November**, visitors can experience the dedicated Pumpkin Festival from just **£5**, enjoy an autumn day across Pensthorpe from **£9.95**, or combine the two with **Pumpkin + Play from £12.95**.

Pumpkin Festival (from £5)

For just **£5 per person**, visitors can enter the dedicated Pumpkin Festival area, featuring the **Pumpkin Patch, Pumpkin Carving Tent, family games and seasonal photo opportunities**.

Pumpkins of all shapes and sizes will be available to **purchase separately from the Pumpkin Patch**, ready to take home or carve during the visit.

Pensthorpe's popular maize maze will also receive a spooky transformation for half term, becoming the **Curse of the Cornfield** - a new look adventure with an eerie theme.

The new £5 ticket means visitors can soak up the festival atmosphere without needing to purchase admission to the wider park.

Autumn at Pensthorpe (from £9.95)

For those looking for a more traditional Pensthorpe day out, general admission starts from just **£9.95 per person - one of Pensthorpe's lowest October half-term prices for many years**.

While the Pumpkin Festival brings plenty of activity to one area of the site, there is still an abundance of peace and serenity to discover across Pensthorpe's **700-acre nature reserve**.

Visitors can watch the colours of autumn transform the landscape, explore beautiful gardens, discover sculptures and nature trails, and encounter wildlife including Pensthorpe's **Greater Flamingos and cranes**.

Indoor and outdoor play is also included, offering a full family day out without needing to visit the Pumpkin Festival.

Pumpkin + Play (from £12.95) The best of both?

Families who want to experience it all can choose **Pumpkin + Play from £12.95 per person**.

The ticket combines access to the Pumpkin Festival with full admission to Pensthorpe, allowing visitors to explore the Pumpkin Patch, carve pumpkins and brave the Curse of the Cornfield before heading into the wider park for **wildlife, gardens, nature and indoor and outdoor play**.

A Pensthorpe spokesperson said:

> "We wanted to give visitors much more choice this October half term, with different options to suit different families and budgets. Some might simply want to come along for pumpkins, carving and the maize maze, while others will want to make a full day of it and explore everything Pensthorpe has to offer. By offering different ways to visit, we hope to keep October half term both flexible and affordable for as many families as possible
>
> "We're also really pleased to offer general admission from £9.95, one of our lowest October half-term prices for many years. Even with the excitement of the Pumpkin Festival taking place, there are still 700 acres of nature, beautiful gardens, sculptures, play areas and wildlife to escape into and enjoy at what is one of the most beautiful times of year at Pensthorpe."

Pumpkin Festival After Dark

For two special evenings, the festival will continue beyond sunset as the **Pumpkin Festival After Dark** transforms the Pumpkin Patch, maize maze and play areas under the floodlights.

Family Night will bring together the floodlit Pumpkin Patch and Curse of the Cornfield, pumpkin carving, outdoor play, fire entertainers, fire pits, marshmallow toasting, street food and bookable Hootz House play sessions.

Then it's the grown-ups' turn with **Adults Only Night**, offering an alternative autumn night out with the floodlit Pumpkin Patch and maize maze, carving, fire entertainment, food and drink, marshmallow toasting and the chance to take over Pensthorpe's outdoor play without the kids.

The **Pensthorpe Pumpkin Festival runs from 23 October to 1 November 2026**.

ENDS

Notes to editors

Pensthorpe Pumpkin Festival: 23 October - 1 November 2026

Pumpkin Festival: from £5 per person
Autumn at Pensthorpe: from £9.95 per person
Pumpkin + Play: from £12.95 per person

Pensthorpe Natural Park is located near Fakenham, Norfolk, and encompasses approximately **700 acres of nature reserve**, alongside gardens, wildlife, sculptures, trails and indoor and outdoor play.