

2026

JULY - DECEMBER

PATRON EVENTS PROGRAMME

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF ZSL

200 YEARS OF ZSL

For two centuries, ZSL has led the way in science-driven conservation, inspiring people to protect wildlife across the globe.

As we mark our 200th anniversary, we celebrate this extraordinary legacy and look ahead to the vital work still to come. It is a celebration of our shared impact - your support has advanced scientific discoveries, empowered people to act for nature, and made a lasting difference for wildlife.

THE MONTHS AHEAD

As we continue our bicentenary year, we are delighted to offer a programme of special events, talks and experiences that highlight our ongoing work to help people and wildlife thrive together.

Over the coming months, you will have the opportunity to connect with fellow supporters and hear directly from the experts driving our conservation work. This calendar highlights events taking place from July to December. We look forward to updating you on further opportunities to get involved.

Invitations with full details will follow as each event approaches. For now, please save the dates - we look forward to welcoming you. Please note, dates and times are subject to change. For the latest updates, please refer to our website, your Patron e-news or the invitations sent ahead of each event.



SAVE THE DATE

Please see dates below for your exclusive events, as well as wider activity taking place across ZSL. **Please email specialevents@zsl.org to secure your place at any of the events marked 'RSVP now'.**

Disney's The Lion King Exhibition

Now until Monday 31 August, London Zoo

Disney's The Lion King is roaring into London Zoo with a showcase of masks, puppets and costumes in a fabulous special exhibition.



Bicentenary Breakfast Celebration

Thursday 9 July, 9.30am-12pm, London Zoo

Join us for this special breakfast event as we celebrate 200 years of ZSL and recognise the vital role supporters have played in protecting wildlife around the world. Connect with fellow supporters and enjoy refreshments, speeches and a few surprises as we mark this extraordinary milestone together.

RSVP NOW

EXCLUSIVE

Early opening for Patrons, Fellows and Gold members

Sunday 12 July, 9am-10am, London and Whipsnade Zoos

Enjoy early access to our Zoos before gates open to the public. There is no need to pre-book, simply arrive at the main gate between 9am-9.30am on the day.

Summer holidays - Horrible Science and Zoo Crew

Saturday 18 July - Wednesday 2 September, London and Whipsnade Zoos

If you're visiting with family this summer, don't miss the special activities taking place across our conservation Zoos. At London Zoo, Celebrate 200 years of ZSL with a time-travelling Horrible Science trail bursting with brilliant discoveries, bold ideas and seriously smart scientists! At Whipsnade Zoo, children can step into the shoes of zookeepers and conservationists as part of Zoo Crew.

Legacy Breakfast: Restoring Wildlife Together through Gifts in Wills

Thursday 10 September, 9.30am-12pm, Whipsnade Zoo

Join us for a legacy breakfast event and discover the extraordinary impact that gifts in Wills have on wildlife conservation. Enjoy breakfast refreshments, hear about our projects from ZSL experts, take part in a short tour of the Zoo, and meet the team to learn more about this meaningful way of supporting wildlife.

RSVP NOW

River Restoration: Behind the Scenes

Friday 11 September, location TBC

Join us in the field for an exclusive visit to one of ZSL's river restoration sites. Guided by the conservationists leading the project, you'll experience firsthand the science, challenges and successes of restoring London's rivers, while gaining a behind-the-scenes insight into the practical conservation work helping wildlife recover. *Spaces are limited. Priority booking will be offered to President's Circle Patrons, with further booking information to follow.*

EXCLUSIVE

Run Wild at London Zoo

Sunday 20 September, London Zoo

Join us for the first-ever Run Wild at London Zoo, a family-friendly fun run with 1-mile and 5km routes for all abilities. Enjoy access to the Zoo before opening and raise funds to protect tigers around the world. [Enter the code MPFSV25 for your 25% discount.](#)

BOOK NOW



Lighting up the Whipsnade White Lion

Wednesday 23 September and at regular intervals until the end of 2026

Look out for the iconic Whipsnade White Lion as it is illuminated to mark the Autumn Equinox. First carved into the hillside in 1933, this much-loved landmark has watched over Whipsnade Zoo for almost a century and stands as a symbol of our enduring commitment to wildlife.



Patron Morning

Sunday 4 October, 8am-10.30am, Whipsnade Zoo

Enjoy exclusive early-morning access to Whipsnade Zoo before it opens to visitors. This family-friendly event will include a guided walking tour, offering the chance to see some of our animals as they start their day. You can also meet fellow supporters and the ZSL team with welcome refreshments and activities.

RSVP NOW

EXCLUSIVE

ZSL Wild Talks - Conservation by Design: Technology & the Future of Wildlife Protection

Tuesday 6 October, 6pm-7.30pm, Huxley Lecture Theatre, ZSL (and online)

From chalk marks on a hill to satellites in space, conservation has always been driven by innovation. Discover how ZSL scientists are creating and using technologies to protect species, and what the next 'grand design' could mean for the future of wildlife.

Early opening for Patrons, Fellows and Gold members

Sunday 18 October, 9am-10am, London and Whipsnade Zoos

October Half Term at our Zoos

Saturday 24 October - Sunday 1 November, London and Whipsnade Zoos

Families can enjoy special activities across both Zoos during October half term. At London Zoo, celebrate 100 years of Winnie-the-Pooh alongside ZSL's 200th birthday with a special book trail, based on A Little Boy and His Bear, following Pooh and Eeyore's adventures in the zoo. Meanwhile at Whipsnade, our popular Boo at the Zoo event returns with science shows and Halloween-themed activities.

ZSL Wild Talks - Back from the Brink: Saving Species, Inspiring Hope

Tuesday 17 November, 6pm-7.30pm, Huxley Lecture Theatre, ZSL (and online)

From tigers to tiny snails, discover how ZSL's unique approach - uniting zoos, science and fieldwork - has brought species back from the edge of extinction. This lecture celebrates conservation wins and shows why, despite challenges, there is real hope for the future.





Festive Drinks Reception **Wednesday 2 December, London Zoo**

Celebrate the season with fellow supporters at our festive drinks reception. Together, we'll reflect on the difference your generosity has made this year, share highlights from across ZSL's work, and look forward to another year of impact for wildlife.

EXCLUSIVE

ZSL Awards Celebration **Tuesday 8 December, 6.30pm-8.30pm, Huxley Lecture Theatre, ZSL**

Join us for an evening celebrating excellence at ZSL's annual Science and Conservation Awards. The awards recognise outstanding contributions across a range of fields, including exceptional undergraduate zoological research to internationally renowned scientists. The evening will include a drinks reception with canapés, followed by award presentations and short talks.

EXCLUSIVE

Christmas at the Zoos **November and December, London and Whipsnade Zoos**

Join us for festive celebrations across our conservation Zoos this winter, featuring seasonal animal talks, family-friendly activities, and opportunities to meet Santa. More information will be shared in the coming months, and Fellows and Patrons will receive priority booking access to Meet Santa experiences.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your continued support of ZSL. Your belief in our mission and your passion for wildlife play a vital role in driving our work forward. We are incredibly grateful to have you in our community as we celebrate this milestone year and work together towards a future where wildlife thrives.