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London: your Christmas escape plan

Christmas weekend isn't all about TV – walk with Dickens, watch swimmers break the ice at the Serpentine and bake macarons...

WALK THE DICKENS WAY

With his bicentenary celebrations in full swing, join the [Christmas Day Charles Dickens' London Walk](#) and imagine festive London as the great writer experienced it. 25 December; 2pm; £8; meet at Trafalgar Square Christmas tree, WC2N



SING ALONG TO CAROLS

As an eventful year draws to a close for St Paul's Cathedral, arrive early to secure a good spot for their [free](#) Christmas carol service. All together now: "Oh come let us adore him..." 24 December; 4pm; free; St Paul's Cathedral, Saint Paul's Church Yard, EC4M

CREATE LAST-MINUTE FOODIE TREATS

Get away from the panic of shopping and book a Christmas Eve macaron cookery class. You'll learn a variety of recipes from chocolate and mandarin to salted caramel butter. 24 December; 9am and 12pm; £72; [L'atelier des Chefs](#), 19 Wigmore Street, W1U



CHEER ON THE SERPENTINE SWIMMERS

At the annual [Peter Pan Christmas Cup](#) brave swimmers compete in a 100-yard race in The Serpentine. Do the sensible thing – wrap up and cheer them on from the shoreline. 25 December; 9am; free; The Serpentine, Hyde Park, W2

WATCH A CLASSIC CHRISTMAS FILM

We defy anyone to watch *It's A Wonderful Life* and not come away with "something in my eye". [W Hotel](#) is screening the film in its 39-seat private screening room. To book, email denne.dempsey@whotels.com. 24 December; 7.30pm; free; Wardour Street, W1D



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