



© Highclere Castle

Downton Abbey and Gardens

Follow in the footsteps of the fictional Grantham family with a visit to **Highclere Castle**, the backdrop for popular period drama Downton Abbey. Soak up the magnificent library, bedrooms, drawing room and entrance hall, now familiar to millions.

Away from the cameras this superb country estate belongs to Lord and Lady Carnarvon and their presence is felt around the house. From family photographs to painted portraits, visitors will gain an insight in to how important this home has been to the Carnarvon's over generations. After a tour of the house, explore the extensive grounds, gift shop and Egyptian exhibition.

In the afternoon visit the fascinating **Sir Harold Hillier Gardens** in the Test Valley region of the county. Opened in 1953, this 180 acre site is famous for its magnolias, seasonal gardens and centenary border.

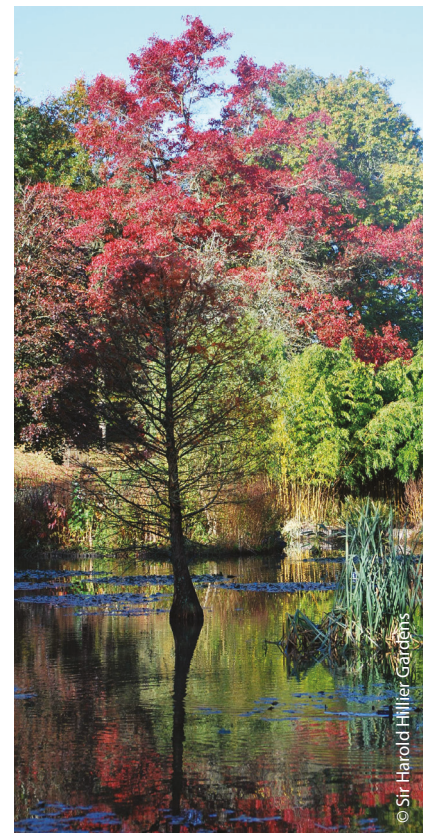
Enjoy a delicious lunch at the on site café, before embarking on a relaxing stroll learning more about the flora and fauna. Highlights include Magnolia Avenue, Centenary Border and Acer Valley.

Similar attractions nearby:

Visitors may also want to consider stops at: Milestones Museum, The Wyne, Mottisfont, Houghton Lodge and Gardens, Basing House

Nearby hotel options:

Esseborne Manor, Hampshire Court Hotel, Norton Park, Oakley Hall Hotel, Potters Heron Hotel



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