

# Legendary tales for a modern-day adventure

## Hampshire

England's literary heritage has produced a wealth of authors, books and characters that are known and adored throughout the world. The celebrated works of England's literary greats are endless and over the years both the stories and their authors have attracted an abundance of visitors to the country.

**From stepping into the landscapes that inspired these authors and following in the footsteps of much-loved characters, to getting immersed in the scenery that became the settings for film and TV adaptations, England's Literary Greats presents ideas and itineraries from the tales of Hampshire to inspire your next visit to England.**



ENGLAND'S  
LITERARY  
GREATS



Supported by VisitBritain/VisitEngland through the Discover England Fund

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Winchester Cathedral, Jane Austen's resting place
- Jane Austen and the idyllic village of Chawton
- King Arthur's Round Table, Winchester
- Discover famous filming locations such as Downton Abbey



Jane Austen Information Centre, Steventon



Chawton House Library

Experience the idyllic southern county of Hampshire, where medieval myths and literary legends merge with modern city life and quaint countryside. Home to England's ancient capital of Winchester, find cosy pubs and fantastic dining within the charming streets, or marvel at magnificent architecture and legendary relics.

Follow in the footsteps of beloved author Jane Austen to the pretty village of Chawton and explore the cottage in which she lived and found inspiration. Travel a little further to check out famous locations from the big screen, impressive coastal ports, national parks and grand country estates.

## Two-day itinerary example



King Arthur's Round Table, The Great Hall

### DAY ONE

#### WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Once the most important royal church in England, the history of Winchester Cathedral spans an impressive 15 centuries. Visit the resting place of Jane Austen, where there are three memorials dedicated to her, from her simple gravestone to others which were added as her novels gained acclaim. Visitors may also recognise the spectacular cathedral as the setting of the Vatican in the film adaptation of the Da Vinci Code.

[winchester-cathedral.org.uk](http://winchester-cathedral.org.uk)

#### THE GREAT HALL

Thought to be the site of Camelot, this 13th century hall is all that remains of the once magnificent Winchester Castle and is linked to the legend of King Arthur. Admire the gothic archways and marble columns and be filled with wonder at the iconic Round Table, around which sat famous kings of British medieval history.

[hants.gov.uk/greathall](http://hants.gov.uk/greathall)

### DAY TWO

#### JANE AUSTEN'S HOUSE MUSEUM

Drive to the picturesque village of Chawton to see the traditional English cottage in which Jane Austen wrote and spent the final years of her life. Explore this Grade I listed building and its gardens, which have all been authentically recreated as the 19th century home in which Jane lived. The charming atmosphere is accompanied by much information and interactive activities alluding to the beloved writer's life and works.

[jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk](http://jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk)

#### CHAWTON HOUSE LIBRARY

Take a leisurely ten-minute walk to this quintessentially English manor house which was once owned by Austen's brother Edward Austen Knight. Set on 275 acres of Hampshire countryside, Chawton House Library is a haven for female literature and features many treasures by women writers of the past. Along with many curious and ornate features of the house to discover, you can browse current exhibitions, explore the tranquil gardens, and enjoy lunch in the Old Kitchen Tea Rooms.

[chawtonhouse.org](http://chawtonhouse.org)



Jane Austen's House Museum

## RECOMMENDED TOURS

### JANE AUSTEN'S WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL AND TRADITIONAL AFTERNOON TEA

Winchester Cathedral not only has an immense 1500-year history but is also the resting place of one of Britain's most beloved authors. Discover Jane Austen's connections to the Cathedral and see the house in which she spent her final days. Afterwards you are invited to delight in a traditional afternoon tea of finger sandwiches and afternoon fancies at The Refectory in the Cathedral grounds.

[winchester-cathedral.org.uk](http://winchester-cathedral.org.uk)

### JANE AUSTEN'S HAMPSHIRE

Immerse yourself in the beauty of the rolling Hampshire countryside while discovering the real-life locations in which Jane Austen found inspiration. Join Hidden Britain Tours at your meeting point of Basingstoke before embarking on a driver guided tour through the picturesque villages connected to the author's life. Explore former Tudor palace, The Vyne, before heading to Jane Austen's House Museum and Chawton House Library.

[hiddenbritaintours.co.uk](http://hiddenbritaintours.co.uk)

*Note: This is an adapted tour for large groups. Hidden Britain's regular Jane Austen touring route, for independent travellers and small groups, allows additional visits to small villages that cannot accommodate coaches.*



## TOUR GUIDES

### Hidden Britain Tours

Driver guided experiences, taking in the picturesque villages of Jane Austen's Hampshire.

[hiddenbritaintours.co.uk](http://hiddenbritaintours.co.uk)

### Winchester Tour Guides

Regular guided walking tours of Winchester city centre which can incorporate the Jane Austen story.

[winchestertouristguides.com](http://winchestertouristguides.com)

### Southampton Tourist Guides

Walking tours of Southampton with cruise terminal meet and greet, including a Jane Austen themed tour exploring the time in which she lived there.

[southamptontouristguides.com](http://southamptontouristguides.com)

### See Southampton

Multilingual walking tours of Southampton.

[seesouthampton.co.uk](http://seesouthampton.co.uk)

## CRUISING



Southampton port provides four dedicated cruise terminals which can handle the largest cruise ships afloat smoothly and efficiently.

Southampton Port is a short distance from Southampton city centre, Hampshire's largest city. It's well connected by all modes of transport, making access to and from the port effortless.

Contact Rebekah Keeler: [rkeeler@abports.co.uk](mailto:rkeeler@abports.co.uk)

Ocean Gate, Atlantic Way, Southampton, SO14 3QN



## TOUR DISTANCES AND DRIVE TIMES

### Winchester – Chawton

16 miles | 25 mins

### Winchester – Southampton

14 miles | 27 mins

### Winchester – Portsmouth

30 miles | 45 mins

## DISTANCES AND JOURNEY TIMES TO WINCHESTER

### London

67 miles | 1 hr by rail | 1 hr 30 mins by road

### Bath

69 miles | 1 hr 45 mins by rail | 1 hr 45 mins by road

### Stratford-upon-Avon

107 miles | 1 hr 40 mins by rail | 2 hrs by road

### York

236 miles | 2 hrs 45 mins by rail | 1 hr 50 mins by road

### Salisbury (for Stonehenge)

25 miles | 1 hr by rail | 45 mins by road



## OTHER THINGS YOU MIGHT LIKE TO DO

### THE VYNE

Grand stately rooms, a quaint summer house, and vast rolling gardens are just a few of the things to explore at this former historic Tudor palace. Now a National Trust property.

### BOMBAY SAPPHIRE GIN DISTILLERY

Creative architecture, gin masterclasses and highly delicious drinks are all on the menu at this state-of-the-art distillery and home to the famous blue bottled gin.

### HIGHCLERE CASTLE

With Egyptian antiquities exhibited within its cellars, this magnificent house was once home to the explorer who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamen. Today visitors may recognise it as Downton Abbey in the popular BBC drama and soon to be movie.

### SEASON COOKERY SCHOOL, LAINSTON HOUSE

Offering a variety of inspiring cookery classes to suit a range of appetites and abilities, this distinguished school blends historic surroundings and the ease of modern facilities in a converted 17th century well house.

### HAMPSHIRE TOURS

Small private sparkling wine vineyards and wineries group tours which take in the beautiful scenery and villages of Hampshire and the South Downs National Park.

## ALSO NEARBY

### PORTSMOUTH HISTORIC DOCKYARD

Majestic battleships, impenetrable submarines, and a fleet of unforgettable naval stories lie in this historic dockyard museum where Jane Austen's brothers underwent training for the Royal Navy.

*32 miles southeast of Winchester*

### JANE AUSTEN FILMING LOCATIONS

Avid Austen fans can jump in a car and be at several stunning Jane Austen filming locations in less than 2 hours. Visit the Netherfield of Keira Knightley's *Pride and Prejudice* at Basildon Park, or the delightful village of Lacock, depicted as Meryton in the BBC production.

*Various locations in and around Hampshire*

### COACH PARKING

#### Winchester city centre

The coach park is located just 1.5 miles outside of the city centre and is open daily.

Tel: **+44 (0)196 284 8346** to pre-book

**Coach Park, Worthy Lane, Winchester, SO23 7AB**

**Chawton** Coaches are advised to enter from Selborne Road (A339/B3006) and exit at the Chawton Roundabout, using the stretch of road by the Village Hall for dropping off and picking up passengers. Coach parking is available in the nearby town of Alton.

Email: [info@alton.gov.uk](mailto:info@alton.gov.uk)

Tel: **+44 (0)142 083 986**

## CONTACT VISIT HAMPSHIRE

[visit-hampshire.co.uk/travel-trade](http://visit-hampshire.co.uk/travel-trade)

Email: [andrew.bateman@hants.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.bateman@hants.gov.uk)

Tel: **+44 (0)196 284 5478**

## FOOD AND DRINK

### WYKEHAM ARMS

Minutes from Winchester Cathedral. The Wykeham Arms has everything you could want from a classic country pub, from friendly service and characterful interiors to outstanding ales and locally sourced food.

### THE IVY WINCHESTER BRASSERIE

Offering casual dining in sophisticated surroundings, here you can enjoy a menu featuring British classics like Shepherd's Pie, international dishes and champagne afternoon tea.

### THE OLD VINE, WINCHESTER

Blending style, character, and comfort, this charming 18th century coaching house is complete with beamed ceilings and a roaring fire – perfect for cosy dinners.

### THE CATHEDRAL REFECTORY

A bright and airy cafe in the Cathedral grounds, stop for lunch or a refreshing coffee or indulge in home cooked food and daily made sweet treats.

### THE OLD KITCHEN TEA ROOM

Located in Chawton House Library, this homely kitchen radiates a welcoming countryside charm, with an idyllic courtyard for summer days and good quality cake.

### CASSANDRA'S CUP

Ticking all the boxes for a pretty English tea room, Cassandra's Cup is located in Chawton and serves traditional afternoon tea, rustic scones, and hot lunches, all made with love and care.

## PLACES TO STAY

### WINCHESTER ROYAL HOTEL

Offering complete comfort and superior service, choose from contemporary styled rooms and with modern facilities to lavishly decorated suites featuring king size beds and antique furnishings.

### MERCURE WINCHESTER WESSEX HOTEL

Perfectly located just steps from Winchester Cathedral, this hotel features a pool, gym, sauna, golf course and plenty of in-house services, making it a wonderful base for exploring the city.

### WYKEHAM ARMS

A true home from home, the Wykeham Arms provides a select range of beautifully styled cosy rooms, fluffy towels and tempting breakfasts in the heart of Winchester.

### LAINSTON HOUSE

Just outside of Winchester, this 5-star country hotel dates back to the 17th century and is the ultimate getaway in serene surroundings, with spacious rooms and deluxe interiors throughout.

### OAKLEY HALL HOTEL

Offering a selection of elegant rooms, pamper treatments, landscaped gardens and exquisite dining, Oakley Hall is a most luxurious break for visitors exploring Hampshire and was once home to Jane Austen's friends.