



**VISIT
HAMPSHIRE**
CITY • COAST • COUNTRY

Top press trip ideas for 2017

Join the Jane Austen 200 celebrations

Hampshire will be staging a year-long series of events across the county in 2017, to celebrate the creativity and talent of its most famous daughter, Jane Austen - who died 200 years ago on July 18, 1817. Hampshire was Jane Austen's birthplace, as well as place where she was laid to rest. It was also filled with the people, landscape and the society which provided so much of the inspiration for her classic novels.

Those wanting to walk in Austen's footsteps can visit the Jane Austen House Museum, Austen's grave at Winchester Cathedral and numerous other locations in Chawton, Alton and Winchester linked with the author. Full details of events across the whole of Hampshire to mark the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death can now be found at www.janeausten200.co.uk.

Explore Hampshire's vineyards

Just 80 miles north of the chalk hills of Champagne lie the chalk downlands of southern England. Each is, in fact, a part of the same geological structure, enjoying virtually identical soils and a very similar climate. Seven of the top vineyards across Hampshire have now formed the 'Vineyards of Hampshire' group to further promote the county's superb quality sparkling wines.

You're welcome to enjoy tours of the vineyards, as well as tastings of award-winning wines including the Hambledon Classic Cuvée which bested French giants Pol Roger and Taittinger in a blind taste test organised by leading wine publication Noble Rot. Other vineyards include Hattingley Valley, Exton Park and Danebury. www.vineyardsofhampshire.co.uk

Hampshire, the home of windsurfing

It was back in 1958 that young Peter Chivers first attached a freely rotating mast and sail to a makeshift board, inventing windsurfing as we know it today. The destination continues to be an excellent location to learn the basics of the sport. Stretches of coast on Hayling are backed by farmland, or nature reserves and conditions off its award-winning beaches are perfect for a variety of watersports.

2018 will mark the 60th anniversary of Chivers' invention of the sport, which means there's been no better time to come and explore the birthplace of windsurfing and head out onto the water to find out why it is enjoying a resurgence in popularity. www.visithavant.co.uk

Enjoy Hampshire's horticultural delights

A garden-lovers' destination in the South East of England, Hampshire is associated with some of the great names in gardening history, from the world famous Rothschilds' at [Exbury](#) to [Sir Harold Hillier](#) near Romsey. [West Green](#), home of

garden writer and designer Marylyn Abbott, combines neo-classical style with flamboyant contemporary design while the 12th century priory setting of the National Trust's [Mottisfont Abbey](#) offers a stunning rose garden and Winter Garden.

More intimate gardens in Hampshire, with a bigger story to tell, include the beautifully maintained gardens at [Jane Austen's former home](#) at Chawton; and the gardens at [Gilbert White's House](#) in Selborne which helps to introduce the world's first ecologist to a steady flow of visitors.

Hands-on Hampshire food and drink experiences

The blend of valley, sea, forest and river in Hampshire is the source of a wealth of tempting ingredients. Famous for pigs, watercress, trout, game and many other award-winning foods, the destination also offers many opportunities to enjoy a hands-on Hampshire experience.

Cure your own local charcuterie with [Parsonage Farm](#), learn to bake the perfect cakes with [Lime Wood](#) or choose from a variety of cookery courses with the famous [River Cottage](#). There's also the opportunity to make your own cider at [Upper Neatham Mill Farm](#) and take part in cocktail master classes with the experts at the [Bombay Sapphire](#) gin distillery.

For further information about Hampshire, visit <http://www.visit-hampshire.co.uk>.

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