

Ancestral links between England and the US are accentuated as the world marks the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's journey and the 75th anniversary of D-Day. This guide to ancestral tourism contains resources, tips and contacts to help American descendants of English emigrants explore their roots and discover a more personal connection to England.

ANCESTRAL SERVICES

**RECORD OFFICES** 

**EVENTS AND ANNIVERSARIES** 

**SPECIALIST TOUR GUIDES** 

FIT AND GROUP TOURS

**DESTINATION INFORMATION** 



## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

#### **Top Tip**

The content in this guide is bookable product and useful information to enable tour operators to develop themed tours. The content from this guide can be used to build customised itineraries for groups and FITs.

Tour guides are also featured. There's nothing more memorable than hearing stories from a local guide, who can often unlock places, stories and insights your customers may otherwise miss. Specialist tour guides ensure a memorable trip; volunteers in churches, villages and historic sites will bring the experience to life. Visitors will be assured of a warm welcome and experience of the real England.

#### **Useful Resources**

This is one in a series of trade guides.

'US Connections' highlights the cultural and historical connections between England and the US. Other guides in the series are:

- Old Stories of the New World
- Origins of Faith
- United Allies

To support your own marketing of the US Connections themes and destinations, an online image and film gallery is available for you to use at no cost. englandimages.isebox.net Ancestral tourism is tipped as a hot travel trend for 2019 and beyond. A glance through the TV listings, packed with programmes such as Who Do You Think You Are? and Finding Your Roots, shows how much interest there is in this topic; in fact, genealogy is reported to be the second biggest helby in the United States. hobby in the United States.

With 59 million Americans classing themselves as English Americans - and several globally significant anniversaries on the horizon - there has never been a better time to book an ancestral tour of England.

England's destinations are planning a raft of commemorations and tours to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day in 2019 and the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's historic trans-Atlantic journey in 2020. Millions of Americans can take this opportunity to explore and experience their ancestral roots; to take a trip back in time. see the same skies, breathe the same air and watch the same seas as their intrepid forebears.

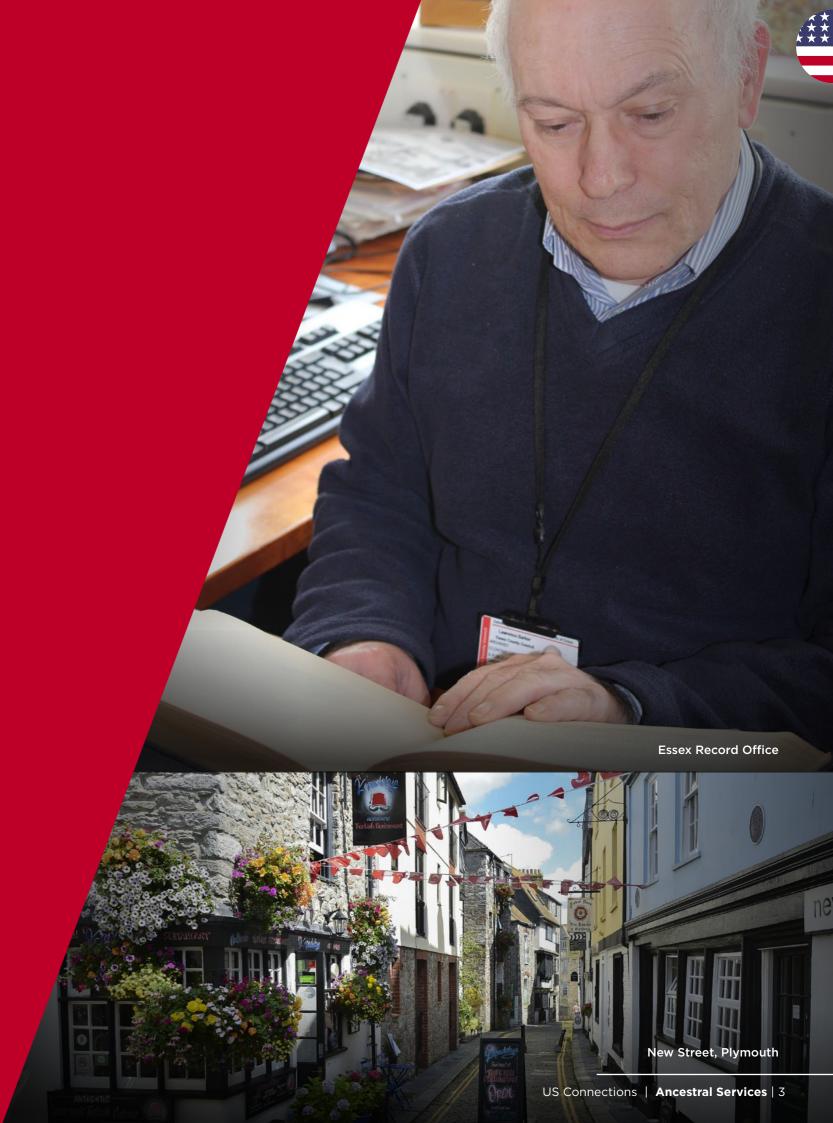
Did you know there are 35 million descendants of the Mayflower pilgrims? Bring their stories to life as you help your clients track the journeys of the pilgrims, their hometowns and the Mayflower's last ports of call. Many airfields used by USAAF pilots who brought home GI brides during World War II are now complemented by moving memorials, museums and public archives. Ancestral tourists can

visit the final resting place of kin who supported the Allied efforts. or see for themselves the rugged cliffs, sweeping bays and tiny fishing villages that would have been familiar to the Cornish tin miners who migrated to the New World centuries ago.

This guide to ancestral tourism in England highlights hundreds of engaging ways for US visitors to connect with their ancestors and discover their ancestral homeland in an authentic, meaningful way. Book a bespoke tour of places linked to your forebears, schedule an appointment with a specialist archivist, follow a costumed guide through streets walked by Jane Austen, Harry Potter or Poldark, follow the same paths marched by US servicemen on D-Day, and walk through rooms that have been preserved to commemorate a globally important moment in

As a destination, England is already crammed with worldclass heritage and attractions, ancient buildings and beautiful countryside but it takes on a deeper level of meaning when there's a more personal connection to explore too.

1. According to Lonely Planet's Top Travel Trends for 2019. 2. CBS News, June 2016







#### FIND OUT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BEFORE DEPARTURE

Genealogy is the second-most popular hobby in the United States so it's likely your client will already have done their research. Ancestral societies and subscription websites dedicated to helping people trace their family tree have millions of members; ancestry.com and myheritage.com are two examples. But it may well be worth highlighting a number of free national resources in England and the United States so your client can be extra thorough before they depart. See page 36 for more details.



#### **LOCAL KNOWLEDGE GOES A LONG WAY**

Having a contact in England could make or break your client's trip. Whether that's a researcher who can locate a specific grave or name on a memorial plaque in advance, or a tour guide with years of experience leading bespoke ancestral tours, a local contact can flesh out any existing research, help save time on your clients' trips and deal with any curveballs that on-the-ground research might throw. You'll find contact details for ancestral tour specialists and archivists throughout this guide.



#### **GO ARMED WITH SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**

Your client's trip is a chance to solve any mysteries that online research in the United States can't unravel. What seems obscure in the United States might become obvious when in England. Advise your client to jot down their burning questions (as well as the straightforward ones) as a checklist to run through at the end of any tours or experiences, so they won't forget to ask them in the excitement of any new



#### **DON'T TRAVEL WITH ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS**

Instead, advise your client to pack copies of all the documents they think might be useful on their trip. This way your client won't run the risk of losing any precious papers, and can leave copies with any archivists or researchers who might be able to help them delve deeper into their ancestors' lives - leaving them with more time to explore England.



#### BE PREPARED TO BE COMPLETELY THROWN BY WHAT'S UNCOVERED

Your client's investigations might not go the way they hope or expect. Their English ancestry could include rogues or royals so prepare them for the possibility that what they discover may differ somewhat from their expectations. Regardless, England is a wonderful country to explore so if the trail runs cold they can find solace in England's countryside, cities and coast.



## BRISTOL

FOR OFFICAL DESTINATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION SEE: VISITBRISTOL.CO.UK

1

#### **GETTING HERE**

Bristol is 120 miles west of London, in southwest England. From London, Bristol is 1 hour 40 mins by rail or 2 hours by road.



The vibrant port city of Bristol has far-reaching American connections. It was the departure point of John Cabot's 15th-century voyage on the Matthew, bound for Newfoundland; 21st-century visitors can take a tour in a modern replica. In 1619, Berkeley Company ship the Margaret left for the shores of America, landing at Jamestown and triggering the first Thanksgiving. Many centuries later, Clifton College was the headquarters of the entire US Army in Britain during World War II.

#### ANCESTRAL SERVICES

#### **Bristol Archives**

Archives of the city of Bristol, surrounding areas, as well as the British Empire and Commonwealth Collection.

- Free to enter for FITs. No booking required.
- Paid research service available to clients in advance of a visit.
- Group visits, tours, workshops and talks are available.
   Specialist subjects include tobacco, chocolate and wine trade; the British Empire and Commonwealth Collection; and local Bristol history. Advance booking required.

bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-archives

#### Brunel Institute at Brunel's SS Great Britain

Access objects and expert help from one of the world's finest maritime collections. The 67,000 items in the collection include books and periodicals, logs and personal diaries of crew members and passengers. The collections also include the complete run of Mariner's Mirror and an almost complete run of Lloyd's Register.

- Access on demand; anyone can view the collections.
- Special requests.

ssgreatbritain.org/brunel-institute

## DID YOU

Bristol-born Archie Leach
changed his name and
his fortunes to become
internationally famous film
star Cary Grant. 2020 is the
100 year anniversary of Archie
Leach emigrating to New York.
Backstage Tours of Bristol
Hippodrome - where Cary
Grant realised his ambitions to
become an actor - are available
on request.



#### ST MARY REDCLIFFE CHURCH

The American Chapel in this beautiful gothic parish church is the final resting place of Sir William Penn, father of Pennsylvania's founder. John Cabot's presence looms large here, too: the chapel's beautiful stained-glass windows depict Cabot's discovery of North America, and visitors can examine the whale bone he returned with. There's also a bronze monument to the daughter of Richard Ameryck, who (legend has it) inspired Cabot to name the new land across the Atlantic.

stmaryredcliffe.co.uk

#### **BRUNEL'S SS GREAT BRITAIN**

Take a thrilling trip into the 19th century with the magnificently restored SS Great Britain, currently residing in Bristol Harbour. The masterpiece of famous British engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel, this extraordinary ship was the first iron steamer in the world. Climb aboard and experience a true taste of Victorian life: see how passengers in steerage would have slept; how those in first class would have dined; and, if you're feeling brave, climb the rigging. Ahoy!

ssgreatbritain.org

#### BERKELEY CASTLE

Built in the 11th century, this stunning red-stone castle has been home to the aristocratic Berkeley family for nearly 900 years. Berkeley Castle has a captivating history, which visitors are encouraged to experience through a complimentary guided tour. The Berkeley family has always had strong ties with the US: in fact, the first ever Thanksgiving was held in Virginia in 1619 to give thanks for the safe arrival of the Margaret - the Berkeley Company ship. Tours of the castle with Charles Berkeley can be pre-booked.

berkeley-castle.com

M-SHED MUSEUM

From ancient city to a centre of contemporary innovation, M Shed tells the story of Bristol in fascinating detail. Located on the harbourside, this unique museum is divided into four sections – People, Place, Life, and Working Exhibits – each capturing a different element of Bristol's rich history. Enjoy a multisensory experience by riding a giant crane or steam railway; or learn about Banksy, Wallace and Gromit and local music via the many exhibits.

bristolmuseums.org.uk/m-shed

#### THE MATTHEW

The Matthew is a modern reconstruction of the ship that carried John Cabot and his crew across the ocean to Newfoundland in 1497. Climb aboard for free and learn the secrets of Cabot's epic voyage. Scheduled and charter tours are available.

matthew.co.uk

#### **BRISTOL CATHEDRAL**

A place of worship since the 12th century, Bristol's beautiful and ancient cathedral is now a vibrant centre of community and culture. Its unique architecture positions the building as one of the world's finest 'hall churches'. The lofty vaulted ceilings are a big draw, but don't miss the stained-glass windows commemorating the roles locals played during the war, including the fire service and St John's Ambulance, or the eastern end of the cathedral.

bristol-cathedral.co.uk

#### FOURS & TOUR GUIDES

#### South West Guild Blue Badge Guides

Whatever your needs, from guided walking tours, coach tours, guided visits to museums or historic houses to more in-depth help with tour planning, there's a Bristol-based Blue Badge Guide to help.

southwestguildoftouristguides.com/ bristol

### The New Room & Charles Wesley's House

Groups of 10+ may pre-book talks and guided tours with an experienced guide of The New Room. Tours may include entry to the museum and Charles Wesley's House.

newroombristol.org.uk

#### **Berkeley Castle**

Group guided tours of the castle available. Tours can be combined with Spetchley Park Gardens or Bristol Cathedral. Private tours with Charles Berkeley (heir to the castle) available on application. Subject to availability.

berkeley-castle.com/groupvisits.html

#### EVENTS

#### **Cary Comes Home**

Every other year this city centre festival brings together Cary Grant's ancestors and fans to celebrate his life in Bristol, the city where he grew up.

carycomeshome.co.uk

#### South West Area Group Family History Day

Thousands of people attend the biennial SWAG Family History Day; it's the largest family history show in southwest England. The programme includes free talks by experts in social history, genealogy, military history and online research.

swag-fair.co.uk

## CAMBRIDGE



FOR OFFICAL DESTINATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION SEE: VISITCAMBRIDGE.ORG

1

#### **GETTING HERE**

Cambridge is 60 miles north of London, in the East of England. From London, Cambridge is 50 mins by rail or 1 hour 30 mins by road.



This historic university city is known across the world for its stunning architecture, punting on the River Cam, as well as the scholars, and religious and global leaders who have lived and studied here. A walking tour of Cambridge with an official guide provides awe-inspiring access to the city's history, from its famous students to filming locations, and a surprising link to Harvard University. Cambridgeshire played a key role in World War II and the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial pays tribute to 3,812 US personnel who rest here.

#### ANCESTRAL SERVICES

### Cambridge American Cemetery & Memorial

The visitor centre incorporates personal stories, photographs, films and interactive displays including Americans in Great Britain.

Group tours are free - book in advance.

abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/ europe/cambridge-american-cemetery

#### The Churchill Archives Centre

Access to millions of historic documents from the 20th century, in Churchill College.

chu.cam.ac.uk/archives

#### entre Cambridge Family History Society

Charity supporting family historians. They hold unique historic records and other resources relating to Cambridgeshire, the former counties of Huntingdonshire and the Isle of Ely and their communities.

cfhs.org.uk

#### IWM DUXFORD

Uncover the moving stories of those who served at RAF Duxford and meet the most celebrated of British planes from World War II, including the Spitfire and Avro Lancaster. The museum is also the permanent home of the American Air Museum, which features original aircraft such as the Sally B17 bomber, used by the Eighth Air Force (known as The Mighty Eighth) who were stationed close to Cambridge during World War II.

iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-duxford

#### KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL

A world-famous masterpiece of medieval craftsmanship, the chapel of King's College was founded by Henry VI. Chapel visitors are drawn to its elaborate, fan-vaulted roof (once the largest self-supporting structure in the world), magnificent stained-glass windows and Rubens' Adoration of the Magi. Groups should be accompanied by an official Cambridge Blue Badge Guide.

kings.cam.ac.uk

#### CAMBRIDGE AMERICAN CEMETERY & MEMORIAL

More than 3,800 US personnel lie at rest in the peaceful grounds of the Cambridge American Cemetery. At its heart stands the Wall of the Missing, inscribed with the names of 5,127 American soldiers lost during the air campaigns over northwest Europe and the build-up to D-Day. The chapel's stained-glass windows display numerous state seals and military decorations. The cemetery, today surrounded by mature woodland and reflective pools of water, is the only World War II American military cemetery and memorial in the UK.

abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/europe/cambridge-american-cemetery

#### EMMANUEL COLLEGE

Established in 1584 to educate protestant preachers, Emmanuel College Cambridge has many renowned alumni, but perhaps its most famous graduate is John Harvard, clergyman and co-founder of Harvard University. Astonishingly, of the first 100 graduates to migrate to the new settlement in Massachusetts Bay, one third came from Emmanuel College, including Puritan minister Thomas Sheppard, one of the best known preachers of the 17th century; he helped establish Cambridge, Massachusetts.

emma.cam.ac.uk

#### CHURCHILL COLLEGE

Part of Cambridge University, Churchill College was founded in 1960 in honour of Winston Churchill. View the Winston Churchill Memorial, walk the extensive college grounds or visit the Churchill Archives Centre, and view documents from more than 570 political, military and scientific figures from the Churchill period.

chu.cam.ac.uk

#### TOURS & TOUR CHIRE

#### Official Tours of Cambridge

Take a walking tour of the city with an official Cambridge Blue Badge guide. Enjoy exclusive access to the awe-inspiring chapel and grounds of King's College with the two-hour King's College & The Backs Tour. Gain a glimpse of student life with the 90-minute Highlights tour, featuring Pembroke College. All tours include the stories of famous Cambridge students such as Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Stephen Hawking.

visitcambridge.org/official-tours





## CORNWALL



#### FOR OFFICAL DESTINATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION SEE: VISITCORNWALL.COM

1

#### **GETTING HERE**

Cornwall is approximately 230 miles southwest of London, in southwest England.

From London, Penzance is 5 hours 20 mins by rail or 4 hours 50 mins by road; Padstow is 4 hours 30 mins by road. Short flights to Newquay are available from London Heathrow.



Dotted with historic tin mines, picture-perfect fishing villages and surrounded on three sides by breathtaking Atlantic coastline, Cornwall is one of England's most appealing destinations. Much of the Cornish landscape was shaped by its pioneering mining industry, which many families left for the mining regions of North America in the 19th century. Today, Cornwall's UNESCO World Heritage Site preserves this unique heritage for future generations. There are many historic mines to explore - you may recognise some from the blockbuster BBC TV series *Poldark*!

#### ANCESTRAL SERVICES

#### Kresen Kernow, Redruth

A modern archive and library space bringing together the world's largest collection of manuscripts, books and documents related to Cornwall. Opening 2019.

cornwall.gov.uk/cro

#### Cornwall Family History Society, Truro

Research library and other resources, for members and the public researching Cornish family history.

cornwallfhs.com

#### The Newlyn Archive

Collection of of material about Newlyn, Lamorna and West Cornwall Art, including a section dedicated to family documents and photographs, organised by surname.

newlynarchive.org.uk



### CORNISH MINING WORLD HERITAGE SITE

During the 19th and 20th centuries an estimated 250,000 people left Cornwall for America, carrying their mining expertise and the English culture with them. Ten unique locations representing Cornish mining make up the UK's largest UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are over 20,000 hectares to explore, including 200 iconic Cornish engine houses, and a myriad of human stories to discover.

whc.unesco.org/en/list/1215

#### ROYAL CORNWALL MUSEUM

A beacon for Cornish Heritage and culture with collections rooted in Cornwall's mining heritage and rare books and manuscripts.

royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk

#### NEWLYN

Picturesque working fishing port where the Mayflower stopped for water supplies.

mayflower400uk.org/visit/plymouth-england/attractions/newlyn-cornwall



### CORNWALL'S REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

300 years of military life are explored in the Bodmin Keep, which was once home to the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry regiment. Of particular interest is the World War II room, where there is detailed exploration of the regiment's role in the war, especially in the Battle of Monte Cassino and Operation Market Garden during the Battle of Arnhem, where they fought alongside the 82nd US Airborne. There's also a panel on the 46th Foot Regiment's role in the US War of Independence in 1776. Part of the display includes a Masonic Bible from 1712, which George Washington used to be sworn into the Masonic Lodge.

cornwalls-regimentalmuseum.org

#### **POLDARK MINE**

A Cornish Mining World Heritage Site and the only tin mine to offer underground guided tours. The heart of tin mining, heavily featured in the BBC drama *Poldark*.

poldarkmine.org.uk

#### **BOTALLACK & BOTALLACK MINE**

The famous Crown engine houses of Botallack Mine cling dramatically to the foot of the seacliffs. It's one of Cornwall's most iconic locations - and a filming location in the BBC's *Poldark*.

nationaltrust.org.uk/botallack

#### KING EDWARD MINE

Another World Heritage Site, offering daily demonstrations of historic mining equipment, including some of the last remaining working equipment of its kind in the world.

kingedwardmine.co.uk



#### TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

#### **America Loves Cornwall**

Customised and World War II specialist tours.

americalovescornwall.com

#### **Unique Cornwall Tours**

Tailor-made tours and holidays for FITs and small groups, specialising in highly personalised genealogy tours designed to add colour to visitors' family history, from seeing ancestors' homes to visiting the same pubs and churches they would have frequented.

uniquecornwalltours.com

#### **Select South West Tours**

Bespoke family history and genealogy tours that delve into the ancestry of visitors with family connections to southwest England. Luxurious themed multi-day driving tours also available for private groups, including Mayflower 400 tours.

selectsouthwesttours.com

10 | Ancestral Services | US Connections | US Connections

# SPOTLIGHT ON:

## ALEX GRAEME, GENEALOGY TOUR GUIDE

Alex Graeme owns and runs Unique Devon Tours and Unique Cornwall Tours, which offer bespoke ancestral tours for overseas visitors who want to retrace their ancestors' footsteps through the southwest counties of Devon and Cornwall.

It's an area of England with particularly strong connections to North America. Since the Mayflower Pilgrims departed from here in 1620, many more people have left Devon and Cornwall to try their luck in the New World. The stories flow the other way too; the southwest saw a huge influx of North American soldiers and sailors during World War II.

Alex weaves a realm of local stories with American links into his tours. One of the most poignant is that of Exercise Tiger, a training mission for the D-Day landings that went badly wrong, just off the coast of South Devon. For visitors tracing the Mayflower Pilgrims, Alex has an anecdote about the building that now houses Plymouth Gin, the oldest working gin distillery in England: "It's a fabulous place to visit as they offer excellent guided tours, and afterwards you can have a complimentary gin and tonic in the very room that supposedly served as the Pilgrims' bedroom all those years ago!"

Here Alex tells us about his job, his expertise, and how specialist local tour guides can help visitors from the United States find out more about their English ancestry.

### What interests you most about your job?

I love meeting people from all over the world, and hearing about their lives and the places that they come from. I think it is the 'people' aspect that I enjoy so much, as it makes every day different from the next. I also love showing off the beautiful places that we visit to my guests. It's a dream job when you think about it, going from one lovely place to another, and seeing how my guests respond to what they're seeing and hearing!

### Have you researched your own family?

I have done a lot of research on some parts of my family. Much of our ancestral story is from Scotland, but that side of my family moved down to Devon, in England, in the 1850s. One of the biggest surprises came when I realised that one of my great grandfathers, a man called Richard Cattell, was captain of the England Rugby Team back in the late 1890s.



### What resources do you use for your research?

I am well used to using the internet for my research, including websites such as genealogy.com and myheritage.com, and then smaller local websites that have been set up by village history societies, for instance. I am a member of the Devon Family History Society, and I am a regular visitor to the Devon Heritage Centre in Exeter where they keep the majority of our county archives.

## How can Unique Devon Tours help US visitors research their ancestry?

Before the tour we ask for a concise sheet of information, including names of ancestors, dates of birth, marriage and death, associated places, occupations – anything that they know, really, but just a summary rather than page after page! We offer different packages for our guests, including a 'starter' package, an 'intermediate' package and an 'advanced' package, as well as a 'Plantagenesta' package.

## What are the benefits of booking a genealogy tour with a local quide?

The local knowledge that I have

makes a huge difference to the guests' experience. First of all, I understand the way of life here in Devon, and can give my guests a lot of information about how people have lived over the last few centuries, and the traditions, industries, legends and other distinctive aspects of the county. Secondly, I am very good at discovering people who can help to enhance the tours; there are many residents living within the local communities who are only too willing to help when they are approached in the right manner, even to the point where they will meet us on the day, perhaps to give us a guided tour of their village or their church. Thirdly, negotiating the notoriously narrow and twisty roads in this area can be a massive challenge to international visitors, so not having to drive makes this a big bonus for our guests. Finally, I have also become very good at surprising my guests, for instance revealing a long lost cousin to my guests during the tour, in person - although this is something that I can't guarantee will happen every time, of course!

## What advice have you got for US tourists coming to England to research their ancestry?

Decide what you want to achieve from your trip. Do you just want

an overview of where your ancestors lived? Do you want to track down their headstone or the house in which they lived? Do you want to discover facts that you didn't know about them? It really depends upon what you are hoping to gain from the experience as to the best way to do it. The very best way to do it is to engage with local experts, who will ultimately always have better knowledge about the area your ancestor came from, and quite probably better access to information than you can access from overseas.

I'd also like to add that visitors should consider spending more than just a day or two in Devon. It's one of the most lovely and interesting areas of Great Britain, so I implore anyone to have an extended stay here, either four or five days, or longer. With the likes of Dartmoor National Park, the Jurassic Coast, cities and towns like Exeter and Totnes, beautiful rolling countryside, and thousands of stories to tell, you will never have enough time to see and enjoy it all. Indeed, to really maximise your time, come on tour with multi-award-winning Unique Devon Tours - you won't regret it, since all you'll have to do is sit back, and enjoy the view!

Find out more about the tours offered by Alex at Unique Devon Tours and Unique Cornwall Tours: uniquedevontours.com | uniquecornwalltours.com

12 | Ancestral Services | US Connections | Ancestral Services | 13

# ENGLISH RIVIER

FOR OFFICAL DESTINATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION SEE: ENGLISHRIVIERA.CO.UK



#### **GETTING HERE**

The English Riviera is approximately 200 miles southwest of London, in southwest England. From London, Torquay is 3 hours by rail or 3 hour 30 mins by road; Dartmouth is 4 hours by road.



The English Riviera is a 22-mile stretch of pretty villages, seaside towns and soaring cliffs that drop into beautiful coves and beaches. The area's charming scenery and Mediterranean climate is rightly popular with ancestral tourists and visitors seeking a classic English seaside experience. It's immediately obvious why Agatha Christie chose the area for her summer home, which was requisitioned by the US Coast Guard during World War II. Four thousand American troops stayed in the area in the buildup to the D-Day landings, and the harbours at Torquay and Brixham were used for embarkation (the latter is a World War II site of international significance).

#### ANCESTRAL SERVICES

#### **Brixham Heritage Museum**

The museum's Family History Centre offers expert help researching family trees in the area.

brixhammuseum.uk

#### **Devon Family History Society**

Local and specialist knowledge of Devon genealogy and history.

devonfhs.org.uk



#### **SLAPTON SANDS**

In preparation for Operation Overlord, an ill-fated, top-secret rehearsal took place on Slapton Sands just five weeks before the Normandy landings. A Sherman Tank stands at nearby Torcross as a memorial to all who lost their lives in the exercise, including at least 749 American servicemen.

#### GOLDEN HIND MUSEUM SHIP

Step back in time on board a replica of this iconic ship. Sir Francis Drake became the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe when he sailed the Golden Hind around the world between 1577 and 1580. The names of Drake's 70-strong crew are listed aboard the ship.

goldenhind.co.uk

#### TORQUAY HARBOUR

On the eve of D-Day, June 6th 1944, 23,000 members of the US 4th Infantry Division embarked from here. Today, plaques in the harbour commemorate this epic event. Torquay, a traditional and thriving seaside town, welcomes visitors with shops, cafes and a marina to explore. The surrounding beaches, such as Babbacombe and cliffside Oddicombe, form part of Devon's English Riviera, a wonderful place to explore and unwind.

tor-bay-harbour.co.uk



#### **BRIXHAM HERITAGE MUSEUM**

Celebrating the town's fascinating past, this museum has displays of archaeology, Victorian life and both World Wars. Visitors can explore exhibitions of D-Day and the Mayflower II, built in Brixham.

brixhammuseum.uk

#### **D-DAY EMBARKATION RAMPS**

Concrete slipways at Beacon Quay in Torquay Harbour were constructed for the embarkation of American troops on D-Day. Plagues at Brixham and Torquay commemorate the American heroes.

torbay.gov.uk/leisure-sports-andcommunity/armed-forces/ww2-slipways

#### **Unique Devon Tours**

Highly personalised genealogy tours designed to add colour to visitors' family history, from seeing ancestors' homes to visiting the same pubs and churches they would have frequented. Tailor-made tours and holidays for FITs and small groups also available, including driver guide service offering D-Day- and World War II-themed tours.

uniquedevontours.com

#### **English Riviera Tour Guides**

Local expert guides for groups and FIT

englishriviera.co.uk/tourist-info-andmaps/english-riviera-visitor-informationcentre/english-riviera-in-resort-guides

#### John Risdon - Tour Guide

Born-and-bred Devonian specialising in history, Agatha Christie and Devon history tours.

englishriviera.co.uk/information/ product-catch-all/john-risdon-tourguide-p1496153

#### **Brixham Heritage Tours**

Downloadable app and online and in print project capturing and sharing Brixham's heritage.

brixhamheritagetrail.com





FOR OFFICAL DESTINATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION SEE: VISITESSEX.COM

1

#### **GETTING HERE**

Essex is northeast of London, in southeast England.

From London, Harwich is 1 hour 20 mins by rail or 1 hour 40 mins by road; Colchester is 1 hou by rail or 1 hour 25 mins by road; and Chelmsford is 30 mins by rail or 1 hour 5 mins by road.



Stretching from east London to the North Sea, Essex has a wealth of stately homes, picturesque villages and a vast coastline to explore. The county has strong links to the United States; throughout the 17th century, thousands of migrants fleeing religious persecution found refuge in America and the area built a reputation as fertile recruiting ground for ships and sailors for trans-Atlantic expeditions. During World War II, the county was home to 43,390 US servicemen and 16 airbases, and played a key role in England's defence strategy; the vital runways, hangars and concrete pillboxes are still visible today.

#### ANCESTRAL SERVICES

#### **Essex Record Office, Chelmsford**

Tracing English ancestors can begin at home, through Essex Record Office's remote search option for US residents.

essexrecordoffice.co.uk

#### Willingale Archive Project

Built in 1942, by the US Army 831st Engineer (Aviation) Battalion, Willingale Airfield was one of 15 airfields in Essex allocated to the USAAF. The Archive Project is a collection of historical items that help tell the story of Willingale Village over the last 150 years, including during World War II.

willingalevillage.uk/archive-project

#### **Essex Society for Family History**

Research centre in Chelmsford, plus an online genealogy database for members. Expert help for family history research offered through pre-bookable one-to-one sessions.

esfh.org.uk



#### MAYFLOWER CONNECTIONS

Follow the immersive Harwich Mayflower Trail through the historic streets. Visit the house of Christopher Jones (the captain of the Mayflower, opening late 2019), have lunch - or spend the night - in the Alma pub, where Christopher Jones's wife lived, and see graffiti drawn in 1777 by sailors captured off a US warship, in the Guildhall. A new Mayflower exhibition includes a document referencing Christopher Martin signed by King lames

Martin, the Mayflower's treasurer who died on board, also lived in Essex, in Billericay's ancient Chantry House, which was the meeting place for Billericay emigrants the night before the Mayflower sailed. Many of the Mayflower pilgrims are thought to have boarded at Leigh-on-Sea, a characterful old fishing village where visitors can still see the cockle boats unloading their daily catch.

visitessex.com/harwich.aspx

historicharwich.co.uk

#### DEDHAM

Set beside the River Stour, the quintessentially English village of Dedham has an important place in Elizabethan history; it was central to the Puritan movement, and proved fertile recruiting ground for the American colonies. Between 1633 and 1640, a dozen descendants of Henry Sherman emigrated to New England and made a significant mark on the United States; their family tree includes a co-founder of Rhode Island, a signatory of the Declaration of Independence, a vice-president and many more US luminaries. Visitors can often tour Sherman's house on Heritage Open Days. Art lovers might recognise the area from artist John Constable's famous paintings.

visitcolchester.com/explore/surroundingareas/constable-country.aspx

heritageopendays.org.uk

#### **CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL**

A mix of 15th-, 19th- and 20thcentury construction, this is one of England's youngest cathedrals. The links with North America date back to 1626, when Thomas Hooker - the future founder of the State of Connecticut - became a preacher in the cathedral (then St Mary's Parish Church). A small blue plaque honours him. In the stained-glass windows, look for the Washington family coat of arms, which later inspired the Stars and Stripes - George Washington was the great-great-grandson of a rector of Purleigh in Essex.

chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

### BRAINTREE & BRAINTREE MUSEUM

In 1632, a group of religious dissenters fled to America aboard The Lyon. They settled at Mount Wollaston, later renamed Braintree in memory of their hometown.

John Bridges, a Braintree resident, founded the school that developed into Harvard University. John Adams, whose ancestors sailed with The Lyon, and his son John Quincy Adams both became US presidents. A replica of The Lyon ship can be seen at Braintree Museum.

braintreemuseum.co.uk

#### OURS & TOUR GUIDES

#### The Harwich Society

The Society preserves the town's rich heritage, and runs fascinating free guided tours.

#### harwich-society.co.uk

#### **Colchester Tour Guides**

Uncover Colchester's fascinating - and long - history on a guided, themed walking tour of the ancient town.
Private and group tours available.

visitcolchester.com/things-to-do/tourssightseeing.aspx

#### **Guide East**

Coach, walking and costumed themed tours, based in Colchester.

guideeast.co.uk





16 | Ancestral Services | US Connections US Connections US Connections

## & GLOUCES

FOR OFFICAL DESTINATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION SEE: VISITGLOUCESTER.CO.UK

0

#### **GETTING HERE**

Gloucester is 100 miles west of London, in southwest England. From London, Gloucester is 1 hours 55 mins by rail or 2 hours 20 mins by road.



More than 9.5 million US citizens trace their roots to the historic inland port city of Gloucester. Gloucester, Massachusetts was even named in recognition of the English city's famously defiant nature, which can seem captivatingly at odds with the peaceful spa towns, magnificent stately homes and lush Cotswold countryside that surround it. Famous locals include US Declaration of Independence signatory Button Gwinnett, Methodist leader Rev George Whitefield, and Robert Raikes, a founder of the Sunday School movement. Don't miss Gloucester Cathedral, one of the most beautiful buildings in England; it's linked to John Stafford Smith, composer of the music of The Star-Spangled Banner.

#### **ANCESTRAL SERVICES**

#### **Gloucestershire Archives**

Provides various records for researching family history, in addition to a guide covering records for the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

#### gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives

#### **Soldiers of Gloucestershire**

Free online soldier search database.

soldiers.soldiersofglos.com

#### **Hidden Heritage**

Gloucestershire's genealogy service (based at Gloucestershire Archives) is run by Liz Jack, a direct descendent of Button Gwinnett.

hidden-heritage.co.uk

#### **Gloucester Cathedral Archivist**

Help with exploring your family's links with Gloucester Cathedral.

archivist@gloucestercathedral.org.uk



#### GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

One of the most beautiful buildings in England, Gloucester Cathedral has been an important centre of Christian worship since 678-9 AD. It has witnessed some of the most important events in British history, from the commissioning of the Domesday Book to the coronation of Henry III. Near Edward II's tomb, look for the British and American flags; a plaque here memorialises local man John Stafford Smith (1750-1836), who was born just behind the cathedral and baptised in it. He wrote The Anacreontic Song, which was adopted as the tune of The Star-Spangled Banner. Button Gwinnett, a British-born American patriot who became the second person to sign the United States Declaration of Independence and was also, briefly, the provisional president of Georgia before dying in the Revolutionary War, was a chorister here, too.

gloucestercathedral.org.uk

#### EVENTS

#### **Gloucester History Festival**

Every September, this two weeklong festival celebrates local and international history through talks, workshops and behind-the-scenes access to historic buildings that are usually closed to the public.

gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk

#### CHURCH OF ST MARY DE CRYPT

Rev George Whitefield was baptised and preached in this medieval church; he was educated in the adjoining Old Crypt School, and you can still see the pulpit he used, and the well-preserved Tudor schoolroom. In 1740, he travelled to North America, where his revivals came to be known as the Great Awakening. Probably the most famous religious figure of the 18th century, newspapers called him the 'marvel of the age'. Whitefield commanded thousands of people across two continents with the power of his oratory - an ability he first practised right here. Button Gwinnet was also schooled at St Mary de Crypt.

discoverdecrypt.org.uk

#### TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

#### **Civic Trust Guided Tours**

Specialist walking tours of Gloucester with expert guides. Pre-booking required.

oucester Cathedral

#### gloucestercivictrust.org

#### **Cotswold Connections**

Personalised tours of the Cotswolds' villages and gardens.

#### cotswold-connections.co.uk

#### **Gloucester Cathedral Tours**

Various tours of the cathedral take in Harry Potter filming locations, views from the tower, and the depths of the crypt.

gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/tours

18 | Ancestral Services | US Connections US Connections US Connections | Ancestral Services | 19

# HAMPSHIRE



FOR OFFICAL DESTINATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION SEE: VISIT-HAMPSHIRE.CO.UK

0

#### **GETTING HERE**

Hampshire is approximately 70 miles southwest of London, in southern England.

From London, Winchester is 1 hour by rail or 1 hour 30 mins by road; Southampton is 1 hour 15 mins by rail or 1 hour 45 mins by road; and Portsmouth is 1 hour 30 mins by rail or 1 hour 30 mins by road.



A tranquil blend of countryside and coastline, Hampshire shares a rich seafaring history with the United States. Iconic trans-Atlantic ships departed from Southampton and Portsmouth docks, including the Mayflower and the ill-fated Titanic. World War II further deepened those links, with many American units calling the county their home-from-home as they prepared for D-Day. Inland, US bombers took off from airfields across the New Forest National Park's heaths and forests. Winchester, England's ancient capital, houses King Arthur's Round Table and its cathedral is the resting place of royalty, Jane Austen, and George Washington's relatives.

#### ANCESTRAL SERVICES

Ancestry & History Tours of the New Forest

See how our ancestors helped shape this unique landscape.

thenewforest.co.uk/things-to-do/ activities/guided-tours

Portsmouth History Centre, Portsmouth Central Library

Family, local and naval history archives.

portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/libraries/ portsmouth-history-centre-and-recordsoffice Hampshire Genealogical Society, Cosham

Registered charity run entirely by volunteers.

hgs-familyhistory.com

#### **Southampton Archives**

Southampton's archives services hold a rich variety of material relating to the city and its people dating back to 1199.

southampton.gov.uk/arts-heritage/ southampton-archives

#### Hampshire Record Office, Winchester

Archives, local studies and help with family history enquiries made via tours operators or individuals.

hants.gov.uk/archives



#### THE D-DAY STORY, PORTSMOUTH

This compelling blend of storytelling, personal accounts and visual imagery brings D-Day and the story of Operation Overlord to life. Witness the scale of preparations and the role US forces played, with first-hand testimony from Harry Butcher, Eisenhower's personal aide, and Group Captain James Stagg, the Scottish meteorologist who determined when to launch the assault.

theddaystory.com

#### WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

One of the most treasured buildings in southern England, Winchester Cathedral was begun in 1070 and completed in 1093. Highlights include one of the longest medieval naves in Europe, the gothic façade, carved medieval choir stall and Jane Austen's grave. The cathedral is also home to the bones of St Swithin, a bishop of Winchester in the 9th century and now the city's patron saint. Visitors are welcome to experience a Tower and Roof Tour, through the interior gallery over the cathedral ceiling and into the largest bell ringing chamber in the UK.

winchester-cathedral.org.uk

### TUDOR HOUSE MUSEUM, SOUTHAMPTON

This attractive timber-framed, late 15th-century building, is located in the heart of Southampton's old town. Charting over 800 years of history, the museum incorporates child-friendly activities, technology and interactive exhibits. Fans of historic ships such as Titanic can also learn about Tudor House's maritime history: its proximity to the former waterfront made it the perfect home for a series of shipowners during the 16th century, as can be seen from the museum's collection of ship-themed engravings.

tudorhouseandgarden.com

#### **TOURS & TOUR GUIDE**

#### See Southampton

Fascinating walking tours led by expert guides. Highlights include the Titanic Trail and an exploration of the Mayflower voyage.

#### seesouthampton.co.uk

#### The Gosport D-Day Trail

Pick up a leaflet and follow this selfguided trail around Gosport's D-Day places of interest, including the Canadian Memorial.

#### discovergosport.co.uk

#### Winchester Tourist Guides

Scheduled, themed or group tours, covering subjects such as St Swithun's Day and Medieval Jewish Winchester.

#### winchestertouristguides.com

#### **Southampton Tourist Guides**

Historic tours with a twist. Of particular note is the Mayflower walk, giving visitors the chance to follow in the footsteps of the Mayflower Pilgrims.

#### southamptontouristguides.com

#### Portsmouth Guided Walks & Tours

Walking and on-coach guided tours of historic Portsmouth including a D-Day walking tour.

visitportsmouth.co.uk/things-to-do/ guided-walks-and-talks

#### **SS SHIELDHALL**

Guests on a cruise on the largest working steamship in Britain can see SS Shieldhall's original steam engines at work in the impressive engine room; visit the bridge with its traditional instruments and gleaming brasswork; walk the teak decks; and talk to the captain and Shieldhall crew. Commentary is provided as Shieldhall steams past the sights of Southampton Water and The Solent, close to the Great Ocean Liners and container ships. Guests can relax in the Saloon with a wide range of refreshments including tea, coffee, real ale, a range of Titanic Ales, wine, ice cream and hot and cold food. Combined walking and boat tours available including themed Mayflower and World War II tours.

## PILGRIM FATHERS MEMORIAL, SOUTHAMPTON

It was in Southampton that the Mayflower pilgrims, including local cooper John Alden, all joined together to embark on their journey. The Pilgrim Fathers Memorial marks their point of departure in 1620. Topped with a replica of the Mayflower, it's inscribed with plaques dedicated to pilgrim descendants and family societies, as well as one that tells the pilgrims' story.

mayflower400uk.org/visit/southampton

ss-shieldhall.co.uk



20 | Ancestral Services | US Connections

# SPOTLIGHT ON:

## **ESSEX RECORD OFFICE**

Lawrence Barker, one of the team of archivists at Essex Record Office, fills us in on the day-to-day life of work in a record office, and how archivists can help ancestral tourists with their research. Lawrence and his team are responsible for collecting. organising and cataloguing historical material on Essex Archives Online, and storing it safely in the repositories so it can be accessed by researchers.

#### What interests you most about your job?

I think it is the discovery of the history of Essex through handling and examining its documentation which excites me most. For example, we have lots of Elizabethan material such as a beautiful coloured map of Chelmsford dating from 1591, the accounts of William Petre dating from 1561 showing what food he bought and preparations he made for a visit by Elizabeth I, or the window into the lives of ordinary Elizabethan men and women provided by the hundreds of wills we have. The oldest document in our care is over 1,000 years old, dating from the year 962.

#### Have you researched your own family?

Yes. My family come from the village of Hatfield Broad Oak in west Essex, where they lived for 250 years between 1700 and 1958. They appear in the parish registers, the census records, trade directories, electoral registers (one owned his own

house) and other parish records (one was the parish clerk), **Dunmow Workhouse records** where some of my family died, and so on. I think the most surprising thing I found was that my great-grandfather was not born in Hatfield Broad Oak as my father thought but in Marylebone, London. Following up the trail, I found he was born in Marylebone Workhouse illegitimately and that the family name comes down to us through his mother who worked as a servant and had three other illegitimate children. My father knew nothing of this.

#### **How can Essex Records Office** help US visitors research their ancestry?

The key records that would appeal to our US visitors are the parish registers, some of which date as far back as 1538; they have all been digitised and can be viewed at home by subscription. Many of those who were part of the 'Great Migration' to America from 1620 onwards appear in them.



Some were ancestors of important people; the greatgreat-grandfather of George Washington was buried at Maldon and a pamphlet dating from 1643 in our library shows how his living at Purleigh was sequestered because he supported the royalist side. We have also digitised 70,000 plus wills, some of which date back to the Middle Ages.

Access to other records that have not been digitised, such as family and estate records, can be obtained by ordering digitised scans.

Of course, US visitors can come to Essex Record Office to carry out their own research; for that they would need to bring some identification such as their passport and a recent utility bill evidencing their current address in the US.

#### What do you know about the Mayflower Pilgrims' lives in Essex?

Two of the most important 'pilgrims' (strictly speaking, most from Essex were actually 'merchant adventurers' and were not escaping religious persecution) were the captain of the Mayflower who came from Harwich, Christopher Jones, who appears in the parish registers,

and the 'governor' of the Mayflower, Christopher Martin, who came from Billericay and managed the provisioning and financing of the ship.

Christopher Martin appears not only in the parish records but also in some of the manorial records for Billericay (he owned a house in the High Street) as well as the Archdeaconry records, which show he was at one point a churchwarden at Great Burstead (the parish in which Billericay was located). He was one of the signatories (along with three other Essex men) of the famous 'Mayflower Compact'. However, most of the stories about the Mayflower appear in what is the only surviving record of the voyage, the account 'Of Plymouth Plantation' written by one of the leading Pilgrim Fathers, William Bradford. We have a copy of a modern edition of this book in ERO local studies library. The account tells us a lot about what a difficult person Christopher Martin was and the controversy he caused in his management of the ship's finances. This is supported by some of our Essex records, such as the Archdeaconry visitations; one entry shows that he was criticised for refusing to kneel at

communion on Easter Day 1612, and in 1620 he failed to provide the accounts for his period as churchwarden.

Our local studies library has a couple of excellent pamphlets telling the stories of Christopher Jones and Harwich by Winifred Cooper, and Christopher Martin and Billericay by R J Carpenter.





Anyone researching their Essex ancestors can also get in touch for advice on their research on: ero.enquiry@essex.gov.uk



## HERTFORDSHIRE



FOR OFFICAL DESTINATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION SEE: VISITHERTS.CO.UK

1

#### **GETTING HERE**

Hertfordshire is northwest of London; it is one of the Home Counties.

From London, St Albans is 30 minutes by rail or 50 mins by road; Hertford is 50 minutes by rail or 55 mins by road.



Close to the capital yet rural in appearance, Hertfordshire's sweeping valleys and forested hills retain the bucolic charm that encouraged some of London's wealthiest to build stately homes here in centuries past. Home to royal heroes, rebels and religious uprisings, the county played a vital role in World War II, with its aircraft innovators and busy airfields helping to liberate the skies of Europe. Its largest city, St Albans, once the third-biggest city in Roman Britain, is now a charming market town with a host of crooked Tudor buildings and Georgian townhouses dominated by its enormous cathedral.

#### **ANCESTRAL SERVICES**

### **Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies**

For an intimate look at this region's unique history, and help tracing your family tree, visit the local archives.

archives.hertfordshire.gov.uk

#### **Herts Memories**

Online advice and resources from Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies.

hertsmemories.org.uk



#### **HATFIELD HOUSE**

Hatfield House has been in the Cecil family for 400 years; today it's the home of the 7th Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury and their family. Documents of national and local significance are held at the house, including papers relating to the Cecil family. Archives are accessible on request. While Mary I of England was on the throne, her sister Elizabeth was kept under house arrest at Hatfield House. She used to walk along the banks of the River Lea to visit John Brocket, a confidant of hers. In 1558. Elizabeth became gueen and bestowed a knighthood on Sir John Brocket. Tours of the house available. New for 2019: group tours of the gardens.

hatfield-house.co.uk

#### TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

#### **St Albans Tour Guides**

Expert guide-led tours covering everything from St Albans' Roman heritage to its close ties to the Ryder Cup. Private groups catered for too.

stalbanstourguides.co.uk

#### Elizabeth Eastwood

The chairman of the British Guild of Tourist Guides specialises in St Albans walking tours and the Wars of the Roses.

britainsbestguides.org/guides/elizabetheastwood

#### **BROCKET HALL**

There's been a house on this site since at least 1239, but this quintessentially English country house really made its mark in 1440 when it was rebuilt and renamed by the Brockets. Originally from Yorkshire, the family established themselves as one of Hertfordshire's leading families. The most famous of the Brocket family was John Brocket, the high sheriff of Hertfordshire in 1553. Nowadays, Brocket Hall is a peaceful hotel with two championship golf courses strung through the 18th-century parkland, but it was a different picture during World War II. The estate was handed over to the War Office and became a maternity hospital run by the Red Cross; more than 8,300 wartime babies were born here. Book one of the elegant afternoon teas and indulge in a traditional selection of finger sandwiches and homemade cakes and pastries, served in traditional butler fashion and accompanied by a live pianist.

brocket-hall.co.uk/what-s-on/afternoon-tea

#### KNEBWORTH HOUSE

Visitors might recognise Knebworth from the big screen; numerous movies including The King's Speech, Batman Returns and Victoria & Abdul were shot on location here, and it has hosted several iconic rock concerts. As well as a chance to admire the house's cultural heft - Knebworth was once home to Victorian novelist, playwright and politician Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, suffragette Lady Constance Lytton, and the Edwardian architect Sir Edwin Lutyens - a visit here is an extraordinary journey through 500 years of British history. Dating back to Tudor times, Knebworth has been home to the Lytton family for 19 generations. Don't miss the British Raj Exhibition, which explores the Lytton family's connection with India. Guided tours available.

#### knebworthhouse.com

Read this interview with the Knebworth archivist: knebworthhouse.com/guest-blog-an-interview-with-jill-campbell-knebworthhouse-archives





24 | Ancestral Services | US Connections | US Connections

## \*\*\*

#### FOR OFFICAL DESTINATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION SEE: VISITKENT.CO.UK

1

#### **GETTING HERE**

Kent is southeast of London, in southeast England.

From London, Dover is 2 hours by rail (the High Speed One train takes just 1 hour) or 1 hour 40 mins by road; Canterbury is 1 hour by rail or 1 hour 25 mins by road.



There's even more to beautiful Kent than its nickname, The Garden of England, suggests. No other county has witnessed such conflict and diplomacy. Its significant stretch of coastline includes sweeping beaches, arty seaside towns, historic ports and the famous White Cliffs of Dover, which leave a lasting impression on all who set sail from England's south coast. Inland, Kent's undulating countryside is lined with pilgrims' pathways leading to the historic city of Canterbury and its significant cathedral, while the skies above were the backdrop to the Battle of Britain in World War II.

#### ANCESTRAL SERVICES

Kent County Council History and Archives Centre, Maidstone

Extensive collections of maps, records, stories and histories of the people of Kent.

kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/ history-and-heritage/kent-archives

#### HEVER CASTLE

Dating back to the 13th century, Hever Castle was once the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII and mother of Elizabeth I. In 1903, it was bought by the richest man in America, William Waldorf Astor, who used his fortune to restore and vastly extend the castle and its gardens. The Astor Suite is dedicated to its more recent history, showcasing pictures and memorabilia relating to the Astor family and the Edwardian period. Private tours of the castle, garden tours and 'Hidden Hever' tours available.

hevercastle.co.uk

#### Medway Archives Centre, Strood

Resources for researching your family story, and the history, geography and people of Medway.

cityark.medway.gov.uk

#### LEEDS CASTLE

Throughout its long history -Leeds Castle celebrates its 900th anniversary in 2019 - the castle has been a Norman stronghold, the private property of six of England's medieval queens, a palace used by Henry VIII and his first wife Catherine of Aragon, a Jacobean country house, a Georgian mansion, and an elegant 20th-century retreat for the influential and famous. Thomas, 6th Lord Fairfax, inherited the castle then, in 1747, moved to his vast lands in Virginia, USA leaving the estate to his younger brother Robert; he was the only peer to make a permanent move to America during colonial

leeds-castle.com

#### CANTERBURY WORLD HERITAGE SITE & CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL ARCHIVES

The lodestar of Canterbury's UNESCO

World Heritage Site status, Canterbury Cathedral was founded in 597 AD on the remains of a previous Saxon church. Enjoy a tour packed with over 1,400 years of stories, including the argument between Thomas Becket and King Henry II that is said to have resulted in the then Archbishop's murder. The four modern stainedglass windows were created by Hungarian artist Ervin Bossányi (who also decorated the memorial chapel for President Woodrow Wilson in the National Cathedral in Washington, DC); they evoke the spirit of humanity and unity that was redefined after World War II. The cathedral's archives include a rich collection of manuscripts, maps, historic records and books dating from the 8th century. Situated outside the city walls and looked after by English Heritage, St Augustine's Abbey, now in ruins, marks the re-birth of Christianity in the south of England. Dating from the 6th century, St Martin's Church is England's oldest parish church in continuous use.

canterbury.co.uk/info/3/things\_to\_do/36/world\_heritage\_site

canterbury-cathedral.org

### THE HISTORIC DOCKYARD CHATHAM

Chatham, one of three Royal British Dockyards, played a crucial role in both World Wars. The first shots of World War I's maritime force were fired by a Chatham Division destroyer (HMS Lance). Now a captivating maritime museum, a number of warships can be seen at the dockyard. HMS Cavalier commemorates the 11,000 lives and 142 Royal Navy destroyers lost during World War II.

thedockyard.co.uk

### KENT BATTLE OF BRITAIN MUSEUM, FOLKESTONE

Located on the former site of RAF Hawkinge, the closest RAF station to enemy-occupied France in World War II, this museum is home to the world's largest collection of Battle of Britain memorabilia. There are artefacts from over 700 aircraft losses - including full-size replicas of authentic Hurricanes and Spitfires - many of which include personal tributes to the servicemen involved.

kbobm.org

#### BATTLE OF BRITAIN MEMORIAL, CAPEL-LE-FERNE

This memorial honours members of the Royal Air Force who fought the crucial Battle of Britain against the might of the Luftwaffe. Located at Capel-le-Ferne (a site that was tactically important in both World Wars), the memorial encompasses an emotive monument dedicated to 'the few' and an interactive centre exploring the key moments of this dramatic and decisive battle.

battleofbritainmemorial.org

#### **TOURS & TOUR GUIDE**

#### **Kent Greeters**

Explore Kent with a local expert on a free walking tour. Booking essential.

kentgreeters.co.uk

#### **South East Guides**

Directory of professional Green and Blue Badge guides in Kent.

southeastbestguides.org

#### Pilgrimage to Canterbury

Follow one of the pilgrimage routes to Canterbury Cathedral: the long-distance St Swithun's Way, from Hampshire, or the shorter Way of St Augustine from Ramsgate.

Idwa.org.uk/ldp/members/show\_path. php?path\_name=St+Swithun%27s+Way

visitkent.co.uk/attractions/way-of-st-augustine-2833



26 | Ancestral Services | US Connections | US Connections



## LINCOLNSHIRE



FOR OFFICAL DESTINATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION SEE: VISITLINCOLNSHIRE.COM AND VISITLINCOLN.COM

0

#### **GETTING HERE**

Lincolnshire is approximately 120 miles north of London, in the East Midlands. From London, Lincoln is 2 hours by rail or 2 hours 50 mins by road.



The historic city of Lincoln and surrounding Lincolnshire countryside is dominated by its ancient cathedral, whose towers served as a beacon for returning World War II pilots. Known as Bomber County, the county is synonymous with military aviation. During World War II, it hosted more than 50 active military airfields and every village learned to love the tens of thousands of USAAF and RAF crews living among them. Lincolnshire is also home to the 'original' Boston, from where Rev John Cotton inspired the mass migration of the 1630s. Boston and nearby Gainsborough played a key part in the early story of the Mayflower Pilgrims.

#### ANCESTRAL SERVICES

### International Bomber Command Centre Digital Archive

Free-to-use digital archive of documents and oral histories from across the world, covering aviation and military heritage.

internationalbcc.co.uk

#### **Lincolnshire Family History Society**

Online resources and research centre with stewards.

lincolnshirefhs.org.uk

#### **Lincolnshire Archives**

Family history search resources, including original documents of national importance plus everything from census records and banns books to workhouse records; advance booking available.

lincolnshire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/lincolnshire-archives





### INTERNATIONAL BOMBER COMMAND CENTRE

Opened in 2018, the centre is the world's most complete resource on the role of Bomber Command in World War II. Interactive displays and first-hand accounts, a library and temporary exhibitions help serve its goals of recognition, remembrance and reconciliation. Set within landscaped peace gardens, the Memorial Spire is the UK's tallest war memorial and offers views over Bomber County – which hosted a third of Bomber Command stations and thousands of American pilots and aircrew.

internationalbcc.co.uk

#### LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

This impressive gothic cathedral has 140 stained-glass windows, including a section dedicated to Lincolnshire explorers, not least John Smith. Born in Lincolnshire, Smith was a soldier and early leader of the Jamestown colony. Smith was supposedly saved from execution by the Native Americans by a young Pocahontas. The library contains many books from the period, including Blaeu's Atlas of 1647, which includes a picture of Smith with Native American Chief Powhatan. The cathedral's towers served as a beacon for returning World War Il pilots. Don't miss the Airmen's Chapel where the names of 21,000 RAF personnel are remembered. Combine with a visit to nearby Lincoln Castle.

lincolncathedral.com

#### **BOSTON GUILDHALL**

Now a museum with exhibits stretching back to the Middle Ages, the Boston Guildhall was where the Mayflower Pilgrims were held after their first attempt to flee to Holland. Stand in the very courtroom in which they were tried, then squeeze into the cramped cells as the door swings shut behind you.

bostonguildhall.co.uk

#### ALFORD & ST HELENA'S CHURCH

The small market town of Alford was the birthplace of preacher Anne Hutchinson, while John Smith, one of the founders of Jamestown, was born in nearby Willoughby and baptised in the village's 14th-century St Helena's Church.

alford.info



#### TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

#### Hidden Lincoln

Customised walking tours of historic Lincoln with local specialists.

hiddenlincoln.com

#### **Pilgrims & Prophets**

Specialist and customised guided tours with Christian heritage experts across Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk

#### **Aviation Heritage Trail**

Self-guided tour of Lincolnshire's aviation heritage.

visitlincoln.com/things-to-do/aviation-trail

#### **Green Badge Guides**

Guided walking tours of Lincoln city centre, for FITs and groups.

lincolnquidedtours.co.uk

#### EVENTS

#### Woodhall Spa 1940s Weekend

Various 1940s, Home Front-themed events take place across the village of Woodhall Spa at this annual weekendlong festival. Expect military displays, vintage vehicles and lots of vintage

woodhall-spa-40s-festival.com



## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



#### FOR OFFICAL DESTINATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION SEE: VISIT-NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.CO.UK



#### **GETTING HERE**

Nottinghamshire is approximately 120 miles north of London, in the East Midlands.

From London, Nottingham is 1 hour 40 mins by rail or 2 hours 20 mins by road; Newark is 1 hour 15 mins by rail or 2 hours 30 mins by road.



As well as giving us legendary outlaw Robin Hood, rebellious spirits, a rich history and sporting glory, Nottinghamshire was central to the movement that triggered the Great Migration period, carrying thousands from England to the distant shores of America. The county was also home to many of the Puritans who sailed on the Mayflower. Centuries later, tens of thousands of US Airborne troops and plane and glider crews made their home in Nottinghamshire; many completed their training here before joining the fight on D-Day and during Operation Market Garden, the Battle of Arnhem, and the Ardennes Campaign.

#### ANCESTRAL SERVICES

#### The Archives

Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries' Archives contain 4 million documents, many of which are searchable online. The Archives are also open to visitors; an Inspire library card is required for those wishing to see original archives. A professional research service is available for a fee.

inspireculture.org.uk/heritage/archives

### **Nottinghamshire Family History**

The Society offers membership for those who are eager to access experts who offer guidance on locating their family history and archived information.

nottsfhs.org

#### **Newark Air Museum Archives**

As well as its array of military aircraft, this former World War II training base has an extensive archive of artefacts covering aviation, including magazines, books, uniforms and 18,000 photographs. Howard Heeley from Down to Earth Promotions is available for talks on USAAF activity in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.

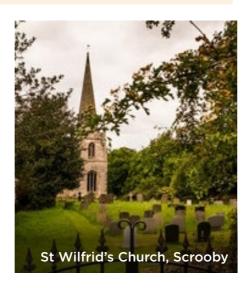
newarkairmuseum.org/Museum-Archive

#### **PILGRIM ROOTS**

Nottinghamshire has strong links to the Mayflower pilgrims. In the 16th century, pastor Richard Clyfton preached Separatist services at All Saints Church in Babworth; his congregation included Mayflower passengers William Bradford and William Brewster. In nearby Scrooby you'll find the wooden pews where Brewster and his family once worshiped. Follow the self-guided Mayflower Trail through these peaceful villages and uncover the many historic sites associated with the principal figures from the Mayflower Pilgrims' story.

visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk/ideas-and-inspiration/mayflower-pilgrims/the-mayflower-

pilgrimroots.org



#### NEWARK CEMETERY

Newark Cemetery contains the grave of hundreds of Canadian, Polish and British airmen. Guided tours available.

newark.gov.uk/Friends-of-Newark-Cemetery.aspx

friendsofnewarkcemetery@yahoo.co.uk

#### **Pilgrims & Prophets**

Specialist and customised guided tours with Christian heritage experts across Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

#### pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk

#### **Howard Heeley**

Aviation historian and writer offering a range of custom talks on regional aviation heritage, including the USAAF.

#### howardheeley.dtep@ntlworld.com

#### **Mayflower Maid**

Take a guided tour of the Pilgrim villages and churches with historian Sue Allan, dressed in period costume.

#### mayflowermaid.com

#### Brackenbury's Britain

Cultural and countryside customised walking tours for FITs and groups.

#### brackenburysbritain.co.uk

#### **Ezekial Bone**

Scheduled and bespoke character-led themed tours of Nottingham, from Robin Hood to the city's lace-making heritage.

ezekialbone.com





## PLYMOUTH

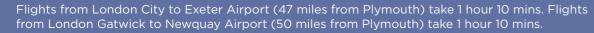


FOR OFFICAL DESTINATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION SEE: VISITPLYMOUTH.CO.UK

1

#### **GETTING HERE**

Plymouth is 230 miles southwest of London, in southwest England. From London, Plymouth is 3 hours 15 mins by rail or 3 hours 50 mins by road.





Set on England's south coast between Cornwall and Devon, Britain's Ocean City has served as a point of departure and arrival for more than a thousand years. Look over the waters of the Sound today and experience the same stirring views as all those who have sailed these waters before, from the Mayflower Pilgrims and great ocean liners to the GIs of World War II; this historic port served as a receiving base for the US Navy's coastal bombardment and 6,000 troops who rested and redeployed from here. Today, their bravery is honoured at Normandy Hill St Budeaux and the dramatic memorial at Saltash Passage.

#### ANCESTRAL SERVICES

#### The Box

As well as housing exhibitions, events and performances, Plymouth's flagship building for the Mayflower 400 commemorations will be the principal archive for the area's historical records. Plymouth's shipping records, house and property histories and cemetery, prison, mortuary and workhouse records are all held here. Archive highlights include Plymouth's Bomb Book, which records where and when various devices were dropped on the city during World War II air raids. Group tours and talks and help from a private researcher are available on request. There's an online catalogue too. Opening 2020.

#### plymhearts.org/thebox

#### **Devon Family History Society**

Promoting the study of genealogy and history, especially for Devon families and places.

#### devonfhs.org.uk

#### THE BOX

Opening in 2020, The Box will be the flagship building for the Mayflower 400 commemorations, bringing Plymouth's rich naval history to life for modern audiences. There will be seven large-scale galleries, events, performances and exhibitions, all designed to showcase and safeguard Plymouth's remarkable archives and historic collections. Don't miss the '100 journeys that shaped the world' gallery. The Box will also be the principal archive for the area's historical records.

#### plymhearts.org/thebox



#### **MAYFLOWER STEPS**

On 16 September 1620, the Mayflower Pilgrims set sail from Plymouth to the New World.

Today, in the historic Barbican area, plaques beside the commemorative Mayflower steps remember this voyage (and others, including the pioneering ship that colonised New Zealand). A board outside Island House remembers each name of the Mayflower passengers. The Mayflower Museum at the visitor centre has interactive displays and exhibitions.

mayflower400uk.org/visit/plymouth-england

#### PLYMOUTH HOE & THE SOUND

The Hoe, at the heart of Plymouth, has breathtaking views across the Sound (an almost perfect natural harbour) and a series of moving memorials, including the Naval War Memorial, the statue of Sir Francis Drake and National Armada Memorial. Visitors can also climb the iconic Smeaton's Tower, a historic lighthouse. Plymouth Hoe is a public space.

visitplymouth.co.uk/explore/areas-to-visit/ the-hoe

#### **ROYAL WILLIAM YARD**

Named in honour of King William IV, this was the major victualling depot for the Royal Navy. One of England's most magnificent industrial monuments, today Royal William Yard is a beautiful leisure area with marina, boat trips, shops, restaurants, accommodation and stunning ocean views.

royalwilliamyard.com

#### **TOURS & TOUR GUIDE**

#### **America Loves Cornwall**

Customisable day and touring packages, including D-Day commemoration tours and holidays, for small groups visiting Plymouth and Cornwall.

americalovescornwall.com

#### Blue Badge Tour Guide

Jane Dymock, based in Plymouth and with Cornish roots, covers everything from Darwin and Cornish mining to the Mayflower Pilgrims.

tourscornwall.com

#### **Select South West Tours**

Bespoke family history and genealogy tours that delve into the ancestry of visitors with family connections to southwest England. Themed multi-day driving tours also available, including Mayflower 400 tours.

#### selectsouthwesttours.com

#### South West Guild Blue Badge Guides

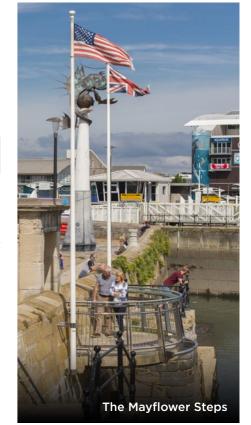
Whatever your needs, from guided walking tours, coach tours, guided visits to museums and historic houses to more in-depth help with tour planning, there's a Blue Badge Guide to help.

southwestguildoftouristguides.com

#### **Unique Devon Tours**

Highly personalised genealogy tours designed to add colour to visitors' family history, from seeing ancestors' homes to visiting the same pubs and churches they would have frequented. Tailor-made tours and holidays for FITs and small groups also available.

#### uniquedevontours.com



#### **EVENTS**

#### Mayflower 2020

As the departure point for the Mayflower, Plymouth is central to commemorations marking the pioneering voyage's 400th anniversary. A world-class culture and heritage programme kicks off with Illuminate 2019 in November 2019. It will be followed by a programme of more than 400 'moments' throughout 2020; highlights include Mayflower Ocean Festival (May), Mayflower Week, Mayflower Muster, a spectacular gathering of military ships in Plymouth Sound, and Mayflower Ceremony (September).

mayflower400uk.org/visit/plymouth-england

## MURCEST

FOR OFFICAL DESTINATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION SEE: VISITWORCESTERSHIRE.ORG

1

#### **GETTING HERE**

Worcestershire is approximately 130 miles northwest of London, in the West Midlands.

From London, Worcester is 2 hours 20 mins by rail or 2 hours 20 mins by road; Droitwich Spa is 2 hours 20 mins by rail or 2 hours 10 mins by road.



The county of Worcestershire has a long history of religious influence and independence. The site of the first and final battles of the English Civil War (1642-51), Worcestershire later sparked the curiosity of Thomas Jefferson who visited Fort Royal Hill to see the site where English democracy was born. Following the Battle of Worcester (1651), 272 Scottish Royalist soldiers were exiled to the Massachusetts Bay Colony; thousands of their descendants now live in the United States. Droitwich Spa is the birthplace of Mayflower pilgrim Edward Winslow, who three times became governor of Plymouth Mass.

#### ANCESTRAL SERVICES

#### **Explore the Past**

Worcestershire's archive and archaeology service has resources and specialist advice available to those hoping to uncover their Worcestershire family stories. Start with their 70-page downloadable research guide.

explorethepast.co.uk

#### **Worcestershire Roots**

Family and local history, genealogy and local research information for Worcestershire, plus general facts about the county.

34 | Ancestral Services | US Connections

britishroots.plus.com

#### **Malvern Family History Society**

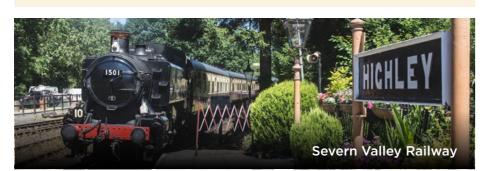
Resources for those interested in researching their family history, from advice for beginners to onthe-ground research support, lists of surnames, dates and places, and lists of relevant local history books.

mfhs.org.uk

#### Vanessa Morgan, Genealogist

Specialising in the Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Birmingham areas, genealogist Vanessa Morgan is on hand to help with every aspect of research for your family tree, from a quick look through local records to on-location photography of places of interest.

oldtowns.co.uk/genealogist/Vanessa\_ Morgan.htm



#### THE HIVE, WORCESTER

This modern five-storey venue combines public and university libraries, and the Worcester Archive and Archaeological Service. Explore your ancestry through church, council, hospital and private family records - some dating back to the 12th century. Staff will guide you through the extensive resources, narrow your search across print, microfilm and Internet, or conduct research on your behalf.

thehiveworcester.org

#### **TOURS & TOUR GUIDE**

#### **Discover History**

Costume and themed guided tours. Ideal for educational and group tours.

discover-history.co.uk

#### Worcester Walks

Guided walking tours of the city centre.

worcesterwalks.co.uk

#### **Evesham Vale Tour Guides**

History-, blossom- and foodie-themed coach tours of the Vale of Evesham, plus guided walking and private group tours of the area's historic market towns and villages.

eveshamvaletourguides.co.uk





#### Mayflower 400 Pilgrim Conference

This two-day conference at Worcester Cathedral in April 2020 explores life and religion in the early 17th century, on both sides of the Atlantic. There's a focus on the life of Pilgrim Father Edward Winslow, who was born in Droitwich Spa and educated at the King's School at Worcester Cathedral before he sailed to the new world on the Mayflower.

mayflower400uk.org/events/2020/ april-2020/mayflower-400-pilgrimconference

#### Severn Valley Railway 1940s weekends

Severn Valley Railway stations and trains puff back in time to wartime Britain for two weekends (usually June/July). Expect costumed re-enactors including Winston Churchill and King George VI, big band entertainment, vintage vehicle displays, evacuation trains and the chance to dress up in 1940s garb.

svr.co.uk

#### The Three Choirs Festival

The cathedral cities of Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester take turns to host the annual Three Choirs - the world's oldest non-competitive classic music festival. Expect a world-class array of choral and orchestral concerts, chamber and solo music recitals, talks, masterclasses and walks every July/August; 2020 is Worcester's turn.

The Commandery

3choirs.org



## NATIONAL ANCESTRAL RESOURCES & SERVICES IN ENGLAND



This selection of ancestral resources and services is available to those researching their family history in England, and may be useful for starting and/or deepening ancestral research before your client embarks on their ancestral tour of England. Most have online research facilities; some charge a fee.

#### **Commonwealth War Graves** Commission

The Commonwealth Graves Commission looks after the graves and memorials of almost 1.7 million servicemen and women who lost their lives during World War I and World War II. Its extensive casualty and cemetery databases help researchers find out more about the circumstances of individuals who died during the wars. Commonwealth War Graves cemeteries and memorials in England include the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial site, which contains the remains of 3,812 American servicemen, and records the names of 5,127 military dead, and Scopwick Cemetery, where 37 Canadian airmen are buried.

#### cwgc.org

#### **Deceased Online**

The central database for UK burials and cremations allows users to search website has access to more than registers by country, region, county, burial authority or crematorium. Registered users are given access to cremation and burial records, including photographs of graves and memorials and maps showing grave locations. Registration is free.

deceasedonline.com

#### **The National Archives**

The UK government's historical resources, from Shakespeare's will to Downing Street's tweets, are looked after by The National Archives. They hold extensive records including those on family history, the world wars, hospital records, taxation records, wills and maps. There's an online search facility, a paid search service or users can recruit the services of an independent researcher. It's also possible to visit the Archives in Kew, London, to see original documents and records in

nationalarchives.gov.uk

## **Federation of Family History**

Of the 180+ family history societies around the world, more than half are in England. Use the Find a Family History Society tool to find and get in touch with a society in the area you want to research. Each society provides different services, but membership is a surefire way to connect with local family history enthusiasts. The Federation also has some useful research tips, including a document with specific advice for North Americans tracing their English ancestry.

ffhs.org.uk

#### **Forces War Records**

This UK military genealogy specialist 21 million servicemen and women's records. The service aims to paint a picture of what life was really like for ancestors, including the regiments, units, bases or ships they served in or on, the battles they may have fought in, information on medals they may have been awarded, and photos of their time.

forces-war-records.co.uk

#### **Society of Genealogists**

Established to support those interested in researching their ancestors, the Society of Genealogists offers research material and guidance both online and at The Library in London, which is full of family history treasures and records, directories and databases. Library tours available.

sog.org.uk

## Cambridge America Cemetery & Memorial

#### **British Roots**

County- and parish-level records and information for those interested in finding out more about their family tree. Village profiles and bespoke research services available for a fee.

britishroots.plus.com

#### **CuriousFox**

This village-by-village contact site is especially useful for anyone researching common family names such as Smith or Davis. It help users delve into family history, genealogy and local history at a village or hamlet

curiousfox.com

#### **Blue Badge Guides**

Reliable and professional tour guides that have achieved a nationally recognised standard in guiding. Search the database of tour guides according to region and/or interest.

britainsbestguides.org

#### Robert Parker, My Family Genealogy

Expert family history research services designed to help start or move along ancestry searches. Robert also gives talks on real-life family history stories. He's based in Kent but his research covers a much wider area.

myfamilygenealogy.co.uk

Births, deaths and marriages information for England is held in regional records offices; it's often possible to obtain copies online or by written request.

#### **US RESOURCES AND SERVICES**

Those seeking to trace English ancestors in the US before their ancestral tour may find the following services useful:

#### **The Library of Congress**

Vast national records and historical resources, including a local history and genealogy reading room. The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center includes a searchable online database of digitised and downloadable photographs and audio and video recordings of World War II veterans.

#### The Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island **Foundation**

The descendants of immigrants who arrived in the United States via Ellis Island make up almost half of the current American population. The passenger record archive includes original manifests, passenger records and ship information; the searchable online database includes 65 million passenger arrival records.

libertyellisfoundation.org

#### **General Society of Mayflower Descendants**

The society for those with proof of lineage from the Mayflower Pilgrims has a genealogy research library containing extensive materials relating to the history, culture and genealogy of the Pilgrims and their descendants.

themayflowersociety.org

#### **New England Historic Genealogical Society**

One of the largest and most comprehensive collections of English genealogical resources in North America, the NEHGS has searchable databases, from immigration records and census, tax and voter lists to the world's largest online database of Mayflower descendants. Research experts are available for hire or consultation, too.

americanancestors.org

#### Pre-visit research tools available online:

- Find My Past: findmypast.co.uk
- Ancestry: ancestry.co.uk
- A membership fee will apply to access these services.

36 | Ancestral Services | US Connections US Connections | Ancestral Services | 37

#### **Getting here and getting around**

Ð

The product in this document can be built as a touring itinerary, or it can be used as modular content and incorporated into existing England tours.

Many of the destinations and things to do can be accessed in a day from London but we recommend you linger for longer in these regions outside of London and uncover the real England.

#### By Air

England is well connected to the US, with frequent daily flights from 35 US airports. Key gateways include London Heathrow, London Gatwick and Manchester.

Regional gateways provide easy access to some of the destinations outside of London, and many provide connecting routes to the US.

#### By Rail

Travelling by rail is a scenic and relaxing way to enjoy England. Most main cities and towns have well-serviced railway stations and all will connect to London. For some of the more rural destinations, a taxi or a driver guide would be necessary for FITs. Train travel tends to be cheaper when booked in advance.

**The BritRail pass** provides ultimate flexibility and value for money for travelling in Britain. The passes must be purchased before visitors leave the US.

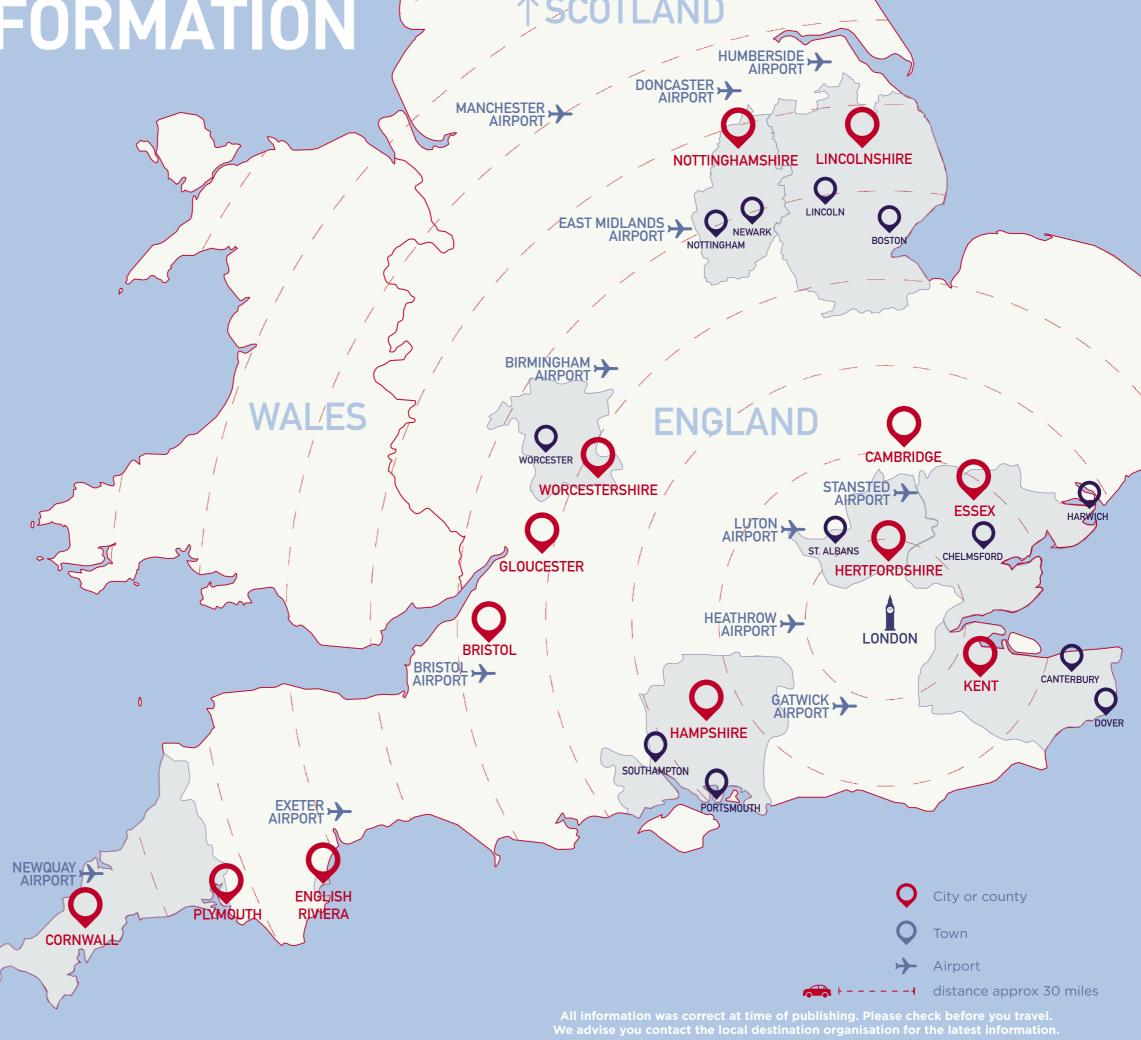
#### britrail.com

Great Western Railway operate the train network from London across the South West of England and Wales and the overnight sleeper service between London and Penzance. Check the website for routes and ticket information and sales:

gwr.com

#### **By Car**

For self-drive visitors, cars in England are right-hand drive and cars drive on the left-hand side of the road. Hire cars tend to be manual (stick shift) so be sure to request an automatic on booking.



Supported by VisitBritain/VisitEngland through the Discover England Fund













