

# UNITED ALLIES D-DAY AND SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP TOURS

Featuring stories and places in England pivotal to Britain and the United States of America's Special Relationship - and the part 450,000 US servicemen played in the Allied victory, under the leadership of President Roosevelt and General Eisenhower.

MEMORIALS, MUSEUMS, TOURS

75TH D-DAY ANNIVERSARY — 2019

ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA'S WARTIME CONNECTIONS

SHOWCASING ENGLAND'S REGIONS

FIT AND GROUP TOURS





# UNITED ALLIES

## INTRODUCTION TO

D-Day was the pinnacle of the special wartime relationship between the United States of America and the United Kingdom. Commemorate the 75th anniversary of the largest seaborne invasion in history – and mark a milestone in military history – with a unique tour of England in 2019.

June 6, 1944 was the start of the largest naval, air and land operation the world has ever seen. Referred to by the codename Operation Overlord, the D-Day invasion enabled the United States, the United Kingdom and their allies to land vast numbers of troops in Normandy, leading to the Allied victory in Europe.

Operation Overlord required many months of planning and an unprecedented level of international cooperation. Indeed, without the special relationship forged between the United States and the United Kingdom, triumph over Nazi Germany would have been impossible. Between 1943 and 1944 alone, over 1.4 million American servicemen and more than 9 million tons of equipment and supplies crossed the Atlantic to Britain, in preparation for D-Day.

The 75th anniversary offers a chance to revisit those shores and discover the places where World War II heroes were made; to recapture the mammoth beginnings of a military milestone; and to relive the groundbreaking efforts made by the United States and the United Kingdom and their allies.

The operation was mounted from land, sea and air: much of its planning and preparation have been preserved and await your discovery in England. Experience the hidden delights of Cornwall and Plymouth, and learn what made this enchanting coastline the ideal place from which to launch a secret operation.

Visit the RAF bases and airfields of Lincolnshire, the launch sites for the troop carriers of the United States Ninth Air Force. Look over the English Channel from the gentle Kent countryside towards those iconic French beaches, and witness the treacherous waters that so many American and British servicemen crossed on the eve of war.

Pay your own tribute to the brave men and women of the Allied forces with a tour of England: a true journey through history.

**The following suggested itineraries showcase content that can be used to add half or full-day excursions to existing tours, or combined to build a fully customised, themed tour. They can even be tailored for groups.**



Gloucester Cathedral



American Cemetery, Cambridge





# HAMPSHIRE



## 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.

For more destination information see: [visit-hampshire.co.uk](https://www.visit-hampshire.co.uk)



Prior to D-Day, many American units called the county of Hampshire their home-from-home. The waterfront city of Portsmouth, a major naval base, played a key role in the Normandy landings. Nearby, Southwick House was where General Eisenhower gave the go-ahead for Operation Overlord. Across the mouth of Portsmouth Harbour, Gosport was another major embarkation point for D-Day, while Southampton became the front line of the invasion. US fighter bombers took off from airfields across the New Forest National Park, where the heaths and forests provided excellent cover for men and equipment. At Lepe Beach, you can still see remains of where the Mulberry Harbours' enormous Phoenix Caissons were built and launched.

### 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](https://www.theddaystory.com)

### BUCKLER'S HARD & BEAULIEU, NEW FOREST

Bucker's Hard, an 18th-century shipbuilding village, was used to build motor torpedo boats and the river was used as a base for landing aircraft during Operation Overlord. A top-secret training school for special agents of the Special Operations Executive was established on the nearby Beaulieu Estate; uncover their clandestine actions at the Secret Army Exhibition.

[bucklershard.co.uk](https://www.bucklershard.co.uk)  
[beaulieu.co.uk](https://www.beaulieu.co.uk)

### PORTSMOUTH HISTORIC DOCKYARD & THE MARY ROSE

Get the most comprehensive view of English maritime history at this vast dockyard, with 12 museums and vessels from above and below the water. Step aboard Nelson's HMS Victory, best known for her role at the Battle of Trafalgar. And discover Henry VIII's favourite ship The Mary Rose, which sank in Portsmouth bay in 1545; there's now a boat-shaped museum built around its salvaged hull. Across the harbour in Gosport, you can explore two World War II-era submarines and uncover the history of naval firepower.

[historicdockyard.co.uk](https://www.historicdockyard.co.uk)

### ROYAL VICTORIA COUNTRY PARK, NETLEY

This former site of the Royal Victoria Hospital was used in 1944 by US Forces prior to D-Day and still hosts the original hospital chapel within its grounds.

[hants.gov.uk/things/todo/countryparks/rvcp](https://hants.gov.uk/things/todo/countryparks/rvcp)

### ROYAL MILITARY POLICE MUSEUM, PORTSMOUTH

Southwick House, a Georgian house on the outskirts of Plymouth, was the nerve centre for Operation Overlord. It was here that Eisenhower gave the infamous order "OK, let's go," thus launching the single biggest operation in military history. The breathtaking Map Room features the original D-Day wall map charting the progress of Allied forces.

With its stock of genuine artifacts, the Royal Military Police Museum provides authentic insight into this crucial period.

[rhqmp.org/rmp\\_museum.html](https://rhqmp.org/rmp_museum.html)

## FOOD & DRINK

### Wykeham Arms, Winchester

Award-winning pub steeped in charm.

[wykehamarmswinchester.co.uk](https://www.wykehamarmswinchester.co.uk)

### Dancing Man Brewery, Southampton

Independent brewhouse and restaurant in a 14th-century wool house, opposite the pier.

[dancingmanbrewery.co.uk](https://www.dancingmanbrewery.co.uk)

## ACCOMMODATION

### Lainston House, Winchester

Five-star luxury country house hotel with beautiful grounds and a resident falconer.

[exclusive.co.uk/lainston-house](https://exclusive.co.uk/lainston-house)

### Grand Harbour Hotel, Southampton

An iconic hotel with 173 rooms and suites on the city's waterfront.

[grandharbourhotel.co.uk](https://grandharbourhotel.co.uk)

### Solent Forts, private island

Unique luxury accommodation on military landmarks used during World War I, off the coast of Portsmouth.

[solentforts.com/luxury-hotel](https://solentforts.com/luxury-hotel)

## TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

### See Southampton

Scheduled and bespoke walks and talks with specialist guides, on a range of themes; see graffiti made by US soldiers as they queued to board their warships.

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

### The Gosport D-Day Trail

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

[discovergosport.co.uk](https://discovergosport.co.uk)

### 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](https://visitportsmouth.co.uk/things-to-do/guided-walks-and-talks)

## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

### Hampshire Genealogical Society, Portsmouth

Registered charity run entirely by volunteers.

[hgs-familyhistory.com](https://hgs-familyhistory.com)

### Hampshire Record Office, Winchester

Archives and local studies.

[hants.gov.uk/archives.htm](https://hants.gov.uk/archives.htm)

### Portsmouth History Centre

Family, local and naval history archives.

[portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/libraries/portsmouth-history-centre-and-records-office](https://portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/libraries/portsmouth-history-centre-and-records-office)



## DID YOU KNOW?

American troops watched World Heavyweight Champion Joe Lewis box in Matterley Bowl, a natural amphitheatre in Hampshire.



# ENGLISH RIVIERA



## 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. For more destination information see: [englishriviera.co.uk](http://englishriviera.co.uk)



This 22-mile stretch of Devon coastline on England's south coast welcomed 4,000 American troops in the build up to the D-Day landings. Agatha Christie's house Greenway was even requisitioned by the US Coast Guard. The harbours at Torquay and Brixham were used for embarkation; Brixham is the best preserved and a World War II site of international significance.

### TORQUAY HARBOUR

On the eve of D-Day, June 6th 1944, 23,000 members of the US 4th Infantry Division embarked from Torquay Harbour. Today, plaques in the harbour commemorate this 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](http://tor-bay-harbour.co.uk)

### BRIXHAM HARBOUR

The Brixham slipway and embarkation yard was built in 1943 as part of Operation Overlord and, despite some alteration and modification over the years, represents the best preserved example of a historic World War II resource of national significance. Nowadays this pretty harbour with cascading colourful houses mixes tradition with a modern vibrant fishing industry and is home to the Golden Hind Museum Ship, which has great views over the harbour. [visitbrixham.com](http://visitbrixham.com)

### GREENWAY HOUSE

Just outside Brixham, Agatha Christie's former summer house stands as a 1930s time capsule. Requisitioned during World War II and home to the US Coastguard prior to the D-Day landings, this grand family home showcases 13 murals, painted by Lt Marshall Lee who was stationed here. Depicting the journey from the USA to the River Dart, Christie herself requested they should be preserved. [nationaltrust.org.uk/greenway](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/greenway)



Greenway House Mural. Credit FionnDavenport

### COCKINGTON COUNTRY PARK

A 420-acre parkland with gardens and woodlands surrounding a 17th-century manor house. The workshop yard is filled with craft studios from blacksmiths to glassblowers. [countryside-trust.org.uk/cockington](http://countryside-trust.org.uk/cockington)

### 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](http://brixhammuseum.uk)

### DARTMOUTH STEAM RAILWAY

Enjoy superb sea and country views from your restored carriage. Depart Paignton along the coast to Goodrington Sands, where the line passes right above colourful beach huts. Cross the towering Hookhills Viaduct, built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Journey through Churston and its stunning views of the Torbay coast to Greenway Halt and Greenway House - Agatha Christie's secluded summer home. End your trip in the picturesque village of Kingswear, across the river from historic Dartmouth. [dartmouthrailriver.co.uk](http://dartmouthrailriver.co.uk)

## FOOD & DRINK

**Cream tea at The Imperial Torquay**  
Traditional Devon cream teas come with glorious sea views at this clifftop hotel. [theimperialtorquay.co.uk](http://theimperialtorquay.co.uk)

**Thatched Tavern, Maidencombe**  
17th-century thatched tavern serving locally sourced foods. [thethatchedtaverndevon.co.uk](http://thethatchedtaverndevon.co.uk)

**The Drum Inn, Cockington Village**  
Lutyens-designed country pub and restaurant steeped in charm and rustic character. [vintageinn.co.uk/restaurants/south-west/thedruminncockington](http://vintageinn.co.uk/restaurants/south-west/thedruminncockington)

## ACCOMMODATION

**Cary Arms & Spa, Babbacombe Beach**  
A luxury heritage hotel with beach huts and suites, overlooking Babbacombe Bay. [caryarms.co.uk](http://caryarms.co.uk)

**The Grand, Torquay**  
In a stunning location on Torquay seafront, many of the 132 bedrooms have sea views. [grandtorquay.co.uk](http://grandtorquay.co.uk)

**The Imperial Torquay**  
One of Agatha Christie's favourites, The Imperial has 152 rooms overlooking Torbay from a prime clifftop location. [theimperialtorquay.co.uk](http://theimperialtorquay.co.uk)

## TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

**Unique Devon Tours**  
Driver guide service offering tailored themed tours across Devon and Cornwall; D-Day, World War II and ancestral tours available. [uniquedevontours.com](http://uniquedevontours.com)

**English Riviera Tour Guides**  
Local expert guides for groups and FIT. [englishriviera.co.uk](http://englishriviera.co.uk)

**Agatha Christie Potent Plants**  
Torre Abbey Museum & Gardens runs a tour that pays tribute to the Queen of Crime's knowledge of pharmacy through its potent plants garden. Find out more on a pre-booked guided tours with the head gardener. [torre-abbey.org.uk/gardens/tours-and-talks](http://torre-abbey.org.uk/gardens/tours-and-talks)

### BYGONES, TORQUAY

One man's obsession with railwayana has overtaken an entire building at Bygones. One part of the collection covers wartime Britain; see a genuine Anderson Shelter and militaria displays of everything from uniforms to ration tins. The 45-minute guided tour goes into detail on the original artifacts and displays from World War I and II. [bygones.co.uk](http://bygones.co.uk)

### D-DAY EMBARKATION RAMPS

Concrete slipways at Beacon Quay in Torquay Harbour were constructed for the embarkation of American troops on D-Day. Plaques at Brixham and Torquay commemorate the American heroes. [torbay.gov.uk/leisure-sports-and-community/armed-forces/ww2-slipways](http://torbay.gov.uk/leisure-sports-and-community/armed-forces/ww2-slipways)

## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

**Brixham Heritage Museum**  
The museum's Family History Centre offers expert help researching family trees in the area. [brixhammuseum.uk](http://brixhammuseum.uk)

**Devon Family History Society**  
Local and specialist knowledge of Devon genealogy and history. [devonfhs.org.uk](http://devonfhs.org.uk)

### DID YOU KNOW?

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.



# PLYMOUTH

## 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.  
Flights from London City to Exeter Airport (47 miles from Plymouth) take 1 hour 10 mins.

For more destination information see: [visitplymouth.co.uk](https://www.visitplymouth.co.uk)



From April to June 1944, over 36,000 US soldiers embarked from Plymouth, Britain's Ocean City. Set on England's south coast between Cornwall and Devon, 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.

### 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](https://www.royalwilliamyard.com)

### ROYAL CITADEL

A dramatic 17th-century fortress built to defend the coastline from the Dutch, the Royal Citadel is still in military use. The Citadel is open to guided tours. Pre-booking required.

[english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/royal-citadel-plymouth](https://english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/royal-citadel-plymouth)

### PLYMOUTH BOAT TRIPS

Plymouth Boat Trips offer themed tours and harbour cruises - including a dockyard and warship boat trip. Cross the River Tamar to Cornwall's Mount Edgcumbe (full details on Cornwall page).

Private hire available for groups. Regular scheduled tours throughout the season.

[plymouthboattrips.co.uk](https://www.plymouthboattrips.co.uk)

### THE BOX

Opening in 2020, The Box will bring Plymouth's rich naval history to life for modern audiences.

Exhibitions will include '100 journeys that shaped the world'. The Box will also be the principal archive for the area's historical records.

[plymhearts.org/thebox](https://www.plymhearts.org/thebox)

### SALTASH PASSAGE

Follow in the footsteps the US troops would have taken as they walked along Normandy Hill 'US Route 43' to the embarkation ramps at Saltash Passage. Local tour guide is advised. Named for the old ferry route between Plymouth and Saltash and known for impressive views of the River Tamar, here spanned by two lofty bridges, Saltash Passage is the gateway to much of Plymouth's naval heritage. It was from here that 40,000 US troops from the Vth and VIIth corps of the US Army embarked on the D-Day landings. The location is commemorated by an unusual stone memorial.

[visitplymouth.co.uk/things-to-do/saltash-passage-history-detective-p1765193](https://www.visitplymouth.co.uk/things-to-do/saltash-passage-history-detective-p1765193)

## DEVONPORT NAVAL HERITAGE CENTRE

Track Plymouth's naval heritage since 1300, including both World Wars, at the Devonport Naval Heritage Site and Visitor Centre, which records the close and dramatic relationship of the Royal Navy, the people of Plymouth, the Dockyard and Devonport Naval Base (the largest naval base in Western Europe). Open to groups by appointment. Visitors can also tour HMS Courageous, a decommissioned nuclear submarine.

[devonportnhc.wordpress.com](https://devonportnhc.wordpress.com)

## SALTRAM HOUSE

The Georgian mansion of Saltram House, owned by the National Trust, is full of treasures, stories and intrigue. During World War II, Saltram House hosted the US 29th Infantry Division who landed at Omaha beach in Normandy. Groups welcome. Café on site.

[nationaltrust.org.uk/saltram](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/saltram)

## 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](https://www.visitplymouth.co.uk/explore/areas-to-visit/the-hoe)

## FOOD & DRINK

### The Artillery Tower

Modern British cuisine served in a 1500s military building, with sea views.

[artillerytower.co.uk](https://www.artillerytower.co.uk)

### Rockfish

Fresh, sustainable fish and shellfish, in a New England-style beach shack setting.

[therockfish.co.uk](https://www.therockfish.co.uk)

### Barbican Kitchen

Brasserie kitchen set in the famous Plymouth Gin Distillery Building, within the historic Barbican.

[barbicankitchen.com](https://www.barbicankitchen.com)

## ACCOMMODATION

### Boringdon Hall Hotel

Luxury manor house hotel with 40 rooms, two restaurants and a spa on the outskirts of the city.

[boringdonhall.co.uk](https://www.boringdonhall.co.uk)

### Glazebrook House Hotel

Secluded boutique hotel once owned by a naval commander and visited by the Queen Mother.

[glazebrookhouse.com](https://www.glazebrookhouse.com)

### Crowne Plaza

City centre hotel, with ocean views. Ideal for groups.

[ihg.com](https://www.ihg.com)

## TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

### Select South West Tours

Expert, personalised tour guide service. Walking and driving tours, including specialist D-Day and World War II-themed tours.

[selectsouthwesttours.com](https://www.selectsouthwesttours.com)

### Unique Devon Tours

Specialist driver-guided tours with local experts, tailored to your individual requirements.

[uniquedevontours.com](https://www.uniquedevontours.com)

### America Loves Cornwall

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

[amicalovescornwall.com](https://www.amicalovescornwall.com)

## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

### Devon Family History Society

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

[devonfhs.org.uk](https://www.devonfhs.org.uk)

### The Box, Records Office

The principal archive for the area's historical records. Opens spring 2020.

[plymhearts.org/thebox](https://www.plymhearts.org/thebox)



Plymouth Hoe



Plymouth Naval Memorial

# CORNWALL

## 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. Flights from London Gatwick to Newquay take 1 hour 10 mins.

For more destination information see: [visitcornwall.com](https://www.visitcornwall.com)



Cornwall's coastline was a key embarkation point for the D-Day landings, using Mount Edgcumbe to ferry thousands of American troops, armour, equipment and supplies to the beachheads of northern France. Aircrews were also trained at St Merryn Naval Air Station near Padstow and Treligga on Cornwall's north coast.

### THE LOST GARDENS OF HELIGAN

Cornwall's real-life secret garden was landscaped hundreds of years ago. When the gardeners left in 1914 to join the Great War, their world was lost beneath tangles of weeds. The gardens were only rediscovered in 1990, following a huge Atlantic storm. Today, visitors can explore acres of restored lawns, rhododendrons, jungle plants, wildlife, ancient woodland, kitchen gardens and farmland.

[heligan.com](https://www.heligan.com)

### PENDENNIS CASTLE

Ordered by King Henry VIII to guard the Falmouth estuary, Pendennis Castle has a Tudor keep and Elizabethan-era tunnels to explore, and it played a role in both World Wars. The Battery Observation point, added during World War II, retains its wartime appearance, including camouflage paint. A US-made howitzer gun rings out at 12 noon sharp throughout the summer months.

[english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/pendennis-castle](https://english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/pendennis-castle)

### MOUNT EDGCUMBE HOUSE AND COUNTRY PARK

Mount Edgcumbe commemorates the many US troops stationed here during World War II. A dedication is made to heroes of the 29th Infantry Division, who gave their lives during the battle for Omaha Beach on D-Day and in subsequent operations. The house is a true taste of Poldark's Cornwall, surrounded by ancient barrows, woodland, forts and chapels set within 865 acres of remote coastline, secret beaches and smugglers' coves on the Rame Peninsula.

[mountedgcumbe.gov.uk](https://www.mountedgcumbe.gov.uk)

### PRIDEAUX PLACE

The Prideaux family's Elizabethan manor house looks out over the little fishing village of Padstow. The family still live in the antique-filled house, but they warmly invite you to step inside and discover its rich history. The 121st Engineer Combat Battalion of the US Army marched from here to take its place for the D-Day Landings.

[prideauxplace.co.uk](https://www.prideauxplace.co.uk)

### LANHYDROCK

The elegant rooms and staff quarters of this magnificent late-Victorian country house and gardens are open to view, and the family's varied roles in World War I are well documented. The property is now owned by the National Trust.

[nationaltrust.org.uk/lanhydrock](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lanhydrock)

### 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](https://www.cornwalls-regimentalmuseum.org)



Cornish coastline

## ACCOMMODATION

### Rose in Vale, St Agnes

Four-star country house hotel with 22 rooms in a secluded spot close to Truro.

[roseinvalehotel.co.uk](https://www.roseinvalehotel.co.uk)

### Cornwall Hotel, Spa & Estate, Tregorrick

A modern spa hotel in a historic manor house, with self-catering woodland lodges, close to St Austell.

[thecornwall.com](https://www.thecornwall.com)

### Butterwell Farm, Bodmin

A family-run farmhouse with self-catering holiday cottages and a B&B in a gorgeous private estate. Ideal for cycling and fishing.

[butterwellfarm.com](https://www.butterwellfarm.com)

## FOOD & DRINK

### JH & M Choak's Traditional Cornish Pasties, Falmouth

Watch Cornish pasties being hand made to a traditional Cornish recipe, or have a go at making your own in Charlie Choak's Pasty School.

[choakspasties.co.uk](https://www.choakspasties.co.uk)

### Jamie Oliver's Fifteen Cornwall, Watergate Bay

Jamie Oliver's social enterprise makes a difference to young people's lives through daily menus served to ocean views.

[fifteencornwall.co.uk](https://www.fifteencornwall.co.uk)

## TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

### America Loves Cornwall

Customised and World War II specialist tours.

[americalovescornwall.com](https://www.americalovescornwall.com)

### Finesse Chauffeurs

Fully bespoke or pre-planned chauffeur-driven themed tours for groups of up to six.

[finessechauffeurs.co.uk](https://www.finessechauffeurs.co.uk)

## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

### Cornwall Family History Society, Truro

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

[cornwallfhs.com](https://www.cornwallfhs.com)

### 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.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/cro>

## DID YOU KNOW?

Sir Tim Smit, one of the enthusiasts behind the restoration of the Lost Gardens of Heligan, went on to co-found the Eden Project, Cornwall's world-class eco-attraction.



Pedennis Castle



## 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.

For more destination information see: [visitkent.co.uk](https://www.visitkent.co.uk)



Known as The Garden of England, there's even more to beautiful Kent than its nickname suggests. No other county has witnessed such conflict and diplomacy. Its stretches of coastline, which include the famous White Cliffs of Dover, and undulating countryside were backdrop to the Battle of Britain in World War II, home to mighty ports and warships, and witness to the Leeds Castle peace talks of 1978 and 2004.

### DOVER CASTLE AND SECRET WARTIME TUNNELS

Dover Castle is an exquisite medieval royal palace and gateway into the inner workings of World War II. Built in the 12th century by Henry II, the castle welcomed pilgrims travelling to worship at the shrine of martyr Archbishop Thomas Becket, and bolstered the defenses of this valuable coastline. During World War II, the castle served as a command post and military hospital. Buried deep within the cliffs, an amazing series of secret wartime tunnels await discovery. Visitors can explore this underground network, guided by vivid recreations and video projections.

[english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/dover-castle](https://english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/dover-castle)

### 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](https://thedockyard.co.uk)

### THE WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER

The most famous cliffs in Europe, the White Cliffs of Dover are arguably the UK's most iconic natural feature. A clifftop walk reveals dramatic views across the bustling English Channel to the coast of France.

The White Cliffs of Dover are a symbol of freedom, hope and home, as captured by Dame Vera Lynn in the famous wartime song. An area steeped in military history that is not to be missed.

[nationaltrust.org.uk/the-white-cliffs-of-dover](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/the-white-cliffs-of-dover)

### 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 artifacts 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](https://kbobm.org)

### CHARTWELL, WESTERHAM

Chartwell is a splendid house in the heart of Kent's beautiful countryside. For 40 years, it was the family home of inspirational wartime British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill. Here he wrote his most famous works and the speeches that shaped the history of a nation. Visit the gardens' artist's studio, estate and house.

[nationaltrust.org.uk/chartwell](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/chartwell)

### 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](https://battleofbritainmemorial.org)

## ACCOMMODATION

### Leeds Castle, Maidstone

Beautifully appointed self-catering and 'glamping' on the Leeds Castle estate, which played an intriguing secret role in World War II.

[leeds-castle.com/accommodation](https://leeds-castle.com/accommodation)

### Hever Castle

Stay in the castle once owned by the richest man in the United States, William Waldorf Astor. Self-catering and B&B options available.

[hevercastle.co.uk/stay](https://hevercastle.co.uk/stay)

### Bromley Court Hotel

Modern luxury in a historic setting. Ideally placed for visiting Kent and London.

[bromleycourthotel.co.uk](https://bromleycourthotel.co.uk)

## USN P22 GUNBOAT, SANDWICH

The P22 Rhine Patrol vessel is a unique craft. Initially operated by the US Navy, she was built in Germany to an American design. In 1958 Germany was granted its own navy and all 17 patrol vessels served as survey craft for the German army. Today, visitors can step aboard for a first-hand experience and even take a trip across the bay.

[p22.org.uk](https://p22.org.uk)

## FOOD & DRINK

### Shepherd Neame Brewery, Faversham

Britain's oldest brewery and home to nostalgically-named beers like 'Spitfire' and 'Bishop's Finger'. Guided tours are available.

[shepherdneame.co.uk](https://shepherdneame.co.uk)

### The Smoke House, Folkestone

Head to the town of Folkestone for top-notch fish and chips by the sea.

[thesmokehousefolkestone.co.uk](https://thesmokehousefolkestone.co.uk)

## RAF MANSTON SPITFIRE & HURRICANE MEMORIAL MUSEUM, MANSTON

Iconic World War II fighter planes are on display at the historic Battle of Britain airfield. A Spitfire MK XVI (LF) and a Hurricane IIC are complemented by other war artefacts, plus a Spitfire flight simulator experience.

[spitfiremuseum.org.uk](https://spitfiremuseum.org.uk)

## TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

### Kent Greeters

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

[visitkent.co.uk/stay-and-eat/getting-here/kent-greeters](https://visitkent.co.uk/stay-and-eat/getting-here/kent-greeters)

### South East Guides

Directory of professional Green and Blue Badge Guides in Kent.

[southeastbestguides.org](https://southeastbestguides.org)

## 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](https://kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/history-and-heritage/kent-archives)

### Canterbury Cathedral Archives

Rich collection of manuscripts, maps, historic records and books dating from the 8th-century.

[canterbury-cathedral.org/heritage/archives-library/visits](https://canterbury-cathedral.org/heritage/archives-library/visits)

### Medway Archives Centre, Strood

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

[cityark.medway.gov.uk](https://cityark.medway.gov.uk)



The White Cliffs of Dover



Battle of Britain Memorial



## 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 hour by rail or 1 hour 25 mins by road; and Chelmsford is 30 mins by rail or 1 hour 5 mins by road.

For more destination information see: [visitessex.com](https://visitessex.com)



Essex has strong links to the United States. During World War II, the county, which bridges eastern London and the North Sea, was home to 43,390 US servicemen and 16 airbases, and played a key role in England's defence strategy. This 'friendly invasion' had an immediate impact on the local scene - Essex people got their first taste of peanut butter, chewing gum and coke, and the vital runways, hangars and concrete pillboxes are still visible today.

### THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE, GREAT EASTON

These elegant Edwardian gardens designed by Harold Peto are now fully restored. The site of a World War II airfield, the gardens include a tree-lined memorial walk with various species commemorating the nations that flew from here.

[eastonlodge.co.uk](https://eastonlodge.co.uk)

### STOW MARIES GREAT WAR AERODROME, MALDON

Europe's largest surviving World War I aerodrome is now a museum with hangars packed with late production and replica World War I aeroplanes. Regular events include air displays, talks and Great War Living History. Visitors can eat in the original Mess. Tailored group visits available.

[stowmaries.org.uk](https://stowmaries.org.uk)

### BOXTED AIRFIELD MUSEUM, MALDON

Dedicated to the USAAF and RAF airmen who were stationed here during World War II, including 56th Fighter Group - the top-scoring American fighter group during the War in Europe - Bosted Airfield Museum has loan of the largest surviving piece of a B-26 Marauder in the UK.

### MARKS HALL GARDENS AND ARBORETUM, COGGESHALL

In 1944, Marks Hall served as the 'Wing HQ' for over 750 American bombers, flying from airfields across the county of Essex. Today visitors can imagine the sounds and sights leading up to D-Day or simply explore the geographically themed gardens, arboretum and picturesque lakes; there is a memorial to the fallen of Operation Varsity in the North American section.

[markshall.org.uk](https://markshall.org.uk)

### WILLINGALE AIRFIELD AND 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 its time during World War II.

[willingalevillage.uk/archive-project](https://willingalevillage.uk/archive-project)

### TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

#### Guide East

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

[guideeast.co.uk](https://guideeast.co.uk)

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 1941, a German fighter landed at RAF Debden, before inexplicably flying away as fast as possible.

### ANCESTRAL SERVICES

#### Essex Record Office, Chelmsford

This large records office connects US families with their distant relatives.

[essexrecordoffice.co.uk](https://essexrecordoffice.co.uk)



US Memorial Marks Hall Arboretum  
Credit Fionn Davenport

## ACCOMMODATION

### Wivenhoe House Hotel, Colchester

Eighteenth-century country house hotel in parkland, requisitioned by the War Department during both World Wars. Profits support the University of Essex.

[wivenhoehouse.co.uk](https://wivenhoehouse.co.uk)

### County Hotel, Chelmsford

Hotel with modern facilities in the city centre but with easy road and rail access to London. Ideal for groups.

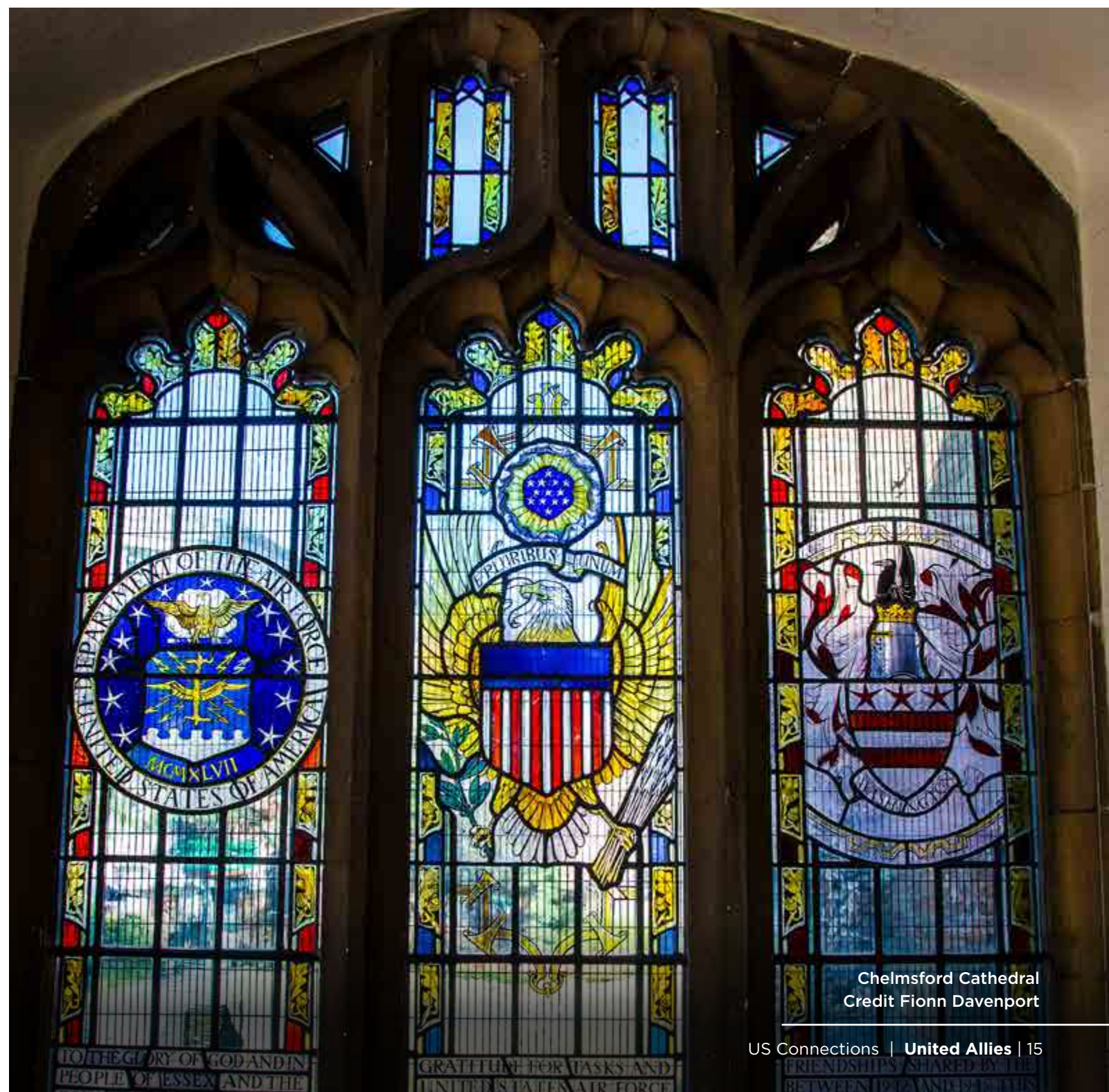
[countyhotelchelmsford.co.uk](https://countyhotelchelmsford.co.uk)

## FOOD & DRINK

### Tiptree Jam Shop, Tea Room & Museum, Tiptree

Jam factory experience and award-winning tea rooms, serving locally produced jam, cream teas and afternoon teas.

[tiptree.com](https://tiptree.com)



Chelmsford Cathedral  
Credit Fionn Davenport





# HERTFORDSHIRE



## 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.

For more destination information see: [visitherts.co.uk](https://visitherts.co.uk)



North of London, bucolic Hertfordshire is one of England's 'Home Counties' with a rich history all of its own. 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. Bovingdon Airfield was an important operational base where most US bomber crews that came to Britain were trained for combat; thanks to its impressive runway, this famous airfield is now used as a filming location.

### DE HAVILLAND MUSEUM, SHENLEY

A small and charming aviation museum - the oldest in Britain - dedicated to the aeronautical innovations of the de Havilland company. Iconic World War II Mosquitos sit alongside Tiger Moths, Hornet Moths, and the world's first commercial aircraft (the Air France DH106 Comet).

[dehavillandmuseum.co.uk](https://dehavillandmuseum.co.uk)

### ASHRIDGE ESTATE, RINGHSALL

Now run by the National Trust, Ashridge is a working estate with miles of footpaths criss-crossing through its downlands and beech and oak woodlands. It was used as a base to train and billet troops during both World Wars and was a convalescent home for St Albans Hospital in World War II; it's easy to imagine recovering soldiers walking these same trails.

[nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge-estate](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge-estate)

### BROCKET HALL, WELWYN

This quintessentially English country house is now 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 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](https://brocket-hall.co.uk/what-s-on/afternoon-tea)

### ROYSTON & DISTRICT MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

During World War II, this unique space housed the American Airforce 91st Bombardment Group's social club and is now a free community museum.

[roystonmuseum.org.uk](https://roystonmuseum.org.uk)

### FOOD & DRINK

#### Ye Old Fighting Cocks, St Albans

Britain's oldest pub. Award-winning ales, fresh food, and cosy timber interiors await you.

[yeoldefightingcocks.co.uk](https://yeoldefightingcocks.co.uk)

## ACCOMMODATION

#### The Grove, Chandler's Cross

A luxury five-star hotel just 18 miles from London.

[thegrove.co.uk](https://thegrove.co.uk)

#### Sopwell House, St Albans

Historic country house hotel with 128 rooms and suites.

[sopwellhouse.co.uk](https://sopwellhouse.co.uk)

#### Hotel Cromwell, Stevenage

Characterful hotel with history in the old town centre, a short train ride from London.

[cromwellstevenage.co.uk](https://cromwellstevenage.co.uk)

## DID YOU KNOW?

Queen Elizabeth I spent much of her childhood at Hatfield House; you can visit the oak tree where she stood when she heard she was queen. More recently, the house is also known for featuring in *The King's Speech* and *The Crown*.

## 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](https://archives.hertfordshire.gov.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](https://stalbanstourguides.co.uk)



de Havilland Museum  
Credit Fionn Davenport



# CAMBRIDGE

## 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.

For more destination information see: [visitcambridge.org](https://www.visitcambridge.org)



Cambridgeshire and the region of East Anglia played a key role throughout World War II. Today, the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial pays tribute to 3,812 US personnel who rest here, with a further 5,127 names featuring on the Wall of the Missing. Nearby, IWM Duxford, with its American Air Museum, features a selection of restored aircraft flown by The Mighty Eighth.

## 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](https://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-duxford)

## THE RAF BAR AT THE EAGLE

The Eagle pub opened in 1667 but its recent history is particularly interesting. The RAF Bar is covered in graffiti by US and British airmen, who burned their initials and squadron numbers into the ceiling with candles and Zippo lighters. While you're here, sit down for a drink and something to eat and imagine James Watson and Francis Crick interrupting diners to announce they had discovered "the secret of life" - the DNA double-helix - just as they did here in 1953.

[greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/cambridgeshire/eagle](https://www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/cambridgeshire/eagle)

## CAMBRIDGE AMERICAN CEMETERY

3,812 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](https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/europe/cambridge-american-cemetery)

## ELY CATHEDRAL

It's only a short trip from Cambridge to Ely, a city whose ancient cathedral is famed for its stunning Norman architecture, stained-glass windows and idyllic grounds. Ely Cathedral also has longstanding connections to the US Armed Forces. On the outside of the wood panels is graffiti inscribed by American servicemen at the nearby US bases at Alconbury and Lakenheath, including the green footprints of the Jolly Green Giant, the signature of the pilots of the Sikorsky MH-53 helicopter used in Vietnam.

[elycathedral.org](https://www.elycathedral.org)

## WIMPOLE HALL

Home to the last World War II US hospital, closing in 1946, and to Britain's first Prime Minister, Wimpole Hall remains the largest country house in Cambridgeshire. Take time to stroll around the magnificent gardens, visit the working Home Farm and discover the 'big skies' that make this such an inspiring county to visit.

[nationaltrust.org.uk/wimpole-estate](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wimpole-estate)



Ely Cathedral  
Credit Fionn Davenport

## ACCOMMODATION

### Hilton Cambridge City Centre

One of the largest hotels in the city centre, this Hilton is well located for colleges, museums and shopping.

[www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/united-kingdom/hilton-cambridge-city-centre-STNHCHI/index.html](https://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/united-kingdom/hilton-cambridge-city-centre-STNHCHI/index.html)

### The Varsity Hotel & Spa

Rooftop terrace and bar, spa and dining options in a convenient city-centre location close to colleges.

[thevarsityhotel.co.uk](https://thevarsityhotel.co.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](https://chu.cam.ac.uk)

## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

### Cambridge American Cemetery & Memorial

The visitor centre incorporates personal stories, photographs, films and interactive displays.

[abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/europe/cambridge-american-cemetery](https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/europe/cambridge-american-cemetery)

### The Churchill Archives Centre

Access to millions of historic documents from the 20th century.

[chu.cam.ac.uk/archives](https://chu.cam.ac.uk/archives)

## TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

### Official Tours of Cambridge

Take a walking tour of the city with an official Cambridge Blue Badge Guide. Enjoy 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](https://www.visitcambridge.org/official-tours)



IWM Duxford

## FOOD & DRINK

### Fitzbillies

A Cambridge institution that has been serving its traditional Chelsea buns since 1920.

[fitzbillies.com](https://www.fitzbillies.com)

### The Anchor

Fresh seasonal food served on the banks of the River Cam; it's got strong links to English rock band Pink Floyd too.

[anchorcambridge.com](https://www.anchorcambridge.com)

### Parker's Tavern

Located in the University Arms hotel, Parker's Tavern has been serving Cambridge visitors since 1834.

[parkerstavern.com](https://www.parkerstavern.com)



Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial





# LINCOLNSHIRE



## 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.

For more destination information see: [visitlincolnshire.com](https://www.visitlincolnshire.com) and [visitlincoln.com](https://www.visitlincoln.com)



Known as Bomber County, Lincolnshire, on England's east coast, is synonymous with military aviation. During World War II, there were more than 50 active military airfields across the county and every village learned to love the tens of thousands of USAAF and RAF crews living among them. Today, the county's many museums and heritage sites keep their stories and connections alive. All who contributed to Bomber Command are remembered at the new International Bomber Command Centre, Lincoln.

### BATTLE OF BRITAIN MEMORIAL FLIGHT CENTRE, CONINGSBY

Guided tours at RAF Coningsby include aircraft from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. These World War II machines, once the sharp point of Britain's air combat technology, can still be seen taking to the skies on ceremonial occasions. Knowledgeable volunteers run the tours, which take between 1 hour and 1 hour 30 mins and may include such iconic craft as the Avro Lancaster, Spitfire and Douglas Dakota.

[lincolnshire.gov.uk/history-and-heritage/battle-of-britain-memorial-flight](https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/history-and-heritage/battle-of-britain-memorial-flight)

### LINCOLN AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE, EAST KIRKBY

A family-run museum dedicated to Bomber Command, based on an original airfield, complete with hangar and control tower. Exhibits include 'Home Front' and 'Escape', a rare collection of ground vehicles and a bouncing bomb. Visitors can experience a taxi ride in Just Jane, a restored Lancaster Bomber (advance booking essential), witness dogfight displays and parachute drops, or simply browse hundreds of unique photos arranged by squadron. Special events take place on the site. Suitable for groups.

[lincsaviation.co.uk](https://www.lincsaviation.co.uk)

### INTERNATIONAL Bomber COMMAND CENTRE, LINCOLN

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](https://www.internationalbcc.co.uk)

### LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

One of the finest gothic cathedrals in Europe, Lincoln's towers served as a beacon for returning World War II 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](https://www.lincolncathedral.com)

### HEMSWELL ANTIQUES CENTRES

Europe's largest antiques centre is based in an old RAF base a few miles outside Lincoln; RAF Hemswell was the home of the Lancaster bomber during World War II. There's a wide range of militaria among the extensive antiques for sale.

[hemswell-antiques.com](https://www.hemswell-antiques.com)

### RAF DIGBY, ASHBY-DE-LA-LAUNDE

The faithfully restored Operations Room at RAF Digby has the plotting table, operations clock and status boards set up as they were on 21 October 1939. Learn about RAF Digby's role during World War II, and visit memorials to various squadrons and the Canada Room, which is dedicated to the RCAF and their time here.

[visitlincoln.com/things-to-do/raf-digby](https://www.visitlincoln.com/things-to-do/raf-digby)

## ACCOMMODATION

### Washingborough Hall Hotel, Lincoln

A luxury family run country house hotel close to Lincoln city centre, and ideal for the International Bomber Command Centre.

[washingboroughhall.com](https://www.washingboroughhall.com)

### The Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa

With its Dambusters bar, where the famous 617 Squadron met, this hotel is at the heart of Lincolnshire's aviation heritage; the gardens are stunning too. Perfect for groups.

[petwood.co.uk](https://www.petwood.co.uk)

### White Hart Hotel, Lincoln

In the heart of historic Lincoln, the White Hart Hotel's Tank Room is where the concept for the first tank was created.

[whitehart-lincoln.co.uk](https://www.whitehart-lincoln.co.uk)

### CRANWELL AVIATION HERITAGE MUSEUM, SLEAFORD

Royal Air Force College Cranwell was the world's first military air academy (HRH Prince Charles and HRH Prince William both attended). The Cranwell Aviation Heritage Museum tells its story through interactive exhibits, including a Jet Provost flight simulator.

[community.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Cranwellaviationheritagemuseum/](https://www.community.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Cranwellaviationheritagemuseum/)

### SCOPWICK CEMETERY

Scopwick Cemetery is the final resting place of RCAF pilot John Gillespie Magee, better known as The Pilot Poet who wrote High Flight.

[visitlincoln.com/things-to-do/interest/scopwick-cemetery](https://www.visitlincoln.com/things-to-do/interest/scopwick-cemetery)

## FOOD & DRINK

### Wig & Mitre, Lincoln

Traditional pub on Lincoln's cobbled Steep Hill.

[wigandmitre.com](https://www.wigandmitre.com)

### The Bronze Pig, Lincoln

Fine dining and a relaxed atmosphere in historic Lincoln.

[thebronzepig.co.uk](https://www.thebronzepig.co.uk)

### Stokes Coffee, Lincoln

This family business has been serving tea and coffee since well before World War II; they even served George VI when he was an officer at nearby Cranwell.

[stokes-coffee.co.uk](https://www.stokes-coffee.co.uk)



International Bomber Command Centre

## TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

### Hidden Lincoln

Customised walking tours of historic Lincoln with local specialists.

[hiddenlincoln.com](https://www.hiddenlincoln.com)

### Green Badge Guides

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

[lincolnguidedtours.co.uk](https://www.lincolnguidedtours.co.uk)

### Aviation Heritage Trail

Self-guided tour of Lincolnshire's aviation heritage.

[visitlincoln.com/things-to-do/aviation-trail](https://www.visitlincoln.com/things-to-do/aviation-trail)

### Tour Lincoln

Open-top sightseeing bus tour of Lincoln, with live commentary.

[visitlincoln.com/things-to-do/bus-tour-lincoln](https://www.visitlincoln.com/things-to-do/bus-tour-lincoln)

## 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](https://www.internationalbcc.co.uk)

### Lincolnshire Family History Society

Online resources and research centre with stewards.

[lincolnshirefhs.org.uk](https://www.lincolnshirefhs.org.uk)



# NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

## 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.

For more destination information see: [visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk](https://www.visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk)



Alongside bomber crews from RAF NO. 5 Group, tens of thousands of US Airborne troops and plane and glider crews made a 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 (the Battle of the Bulge).

### CLUMBER PARK, WORKSOP

This National Trust property and stunning parkland was home to Churchill's prototype trench-cutting tank testing. The park was also a secret storage location for large quantities of ammunition. Follow the World War II walk to visit the sites of these wartime activities.

[nationaltrust.org.uk/clumber-park](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/clumber-park)

### WOLLATON HALL, NOTTINGHAM

Within the grounds of this 16th-century stately home stands a memorial to the men of the US 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. Many of these young men assembled here before seeing action in two of the most challenging engagements of World War II - Operation Overlord and Operation Market Garden.

[wollatonhall.org.uk](https://wollatonhall.org.uk)

### RUFFORD ABBEY, RUFFORD

A country estate, open to visitors. The abbey was requisitioned for wartime use and housed cavalry offices, a tank regiment and, later, Italian prisoners of war.

[parkwoodoutdoors.co.uk/centre/rufford-abbey](https://parkwoodoutdoors.co.uk/centre/rufford-abbey)

### THE NATIONAL HOLOCAUST CENTRE AND MUSEUM, NEWARK

Both memorial and a place of learning, this well-equipped centre on the edge of Robin Hood's Sherwood Forest is the only one of its kind in the UK. The permanent exhibition for adults and children aged 12 and over is complemented by an interactive display for younger children, which explains the Holocaust through the eyes of a fictional German-Jewish boy. Pictures, reconstructed rooms, objects and first-hand accounts bring the story of the Jewish struggle and the horrors that followed to life.

[holocaust.org.uk](https://holocaust.org.uk)

### NEWARK AIR MUSEUM

Explore a varied array of military aircraft, from Tiger Moths to the English Electric Lightning, at this former World War II training base. Climb inside cockpits, examine rare Avro Lancaster artifacts and browse the dedicated shop for prize books and collectibles. Howard Heeley from Down to Earth Promotions is available for talks on USAAF activity in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.

[newarkairmuseum.org](https://newarkairmuseum.org)

### NEWARK CEMETERY

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

[newark.gov.uk/Friends-of-Newark-Cemetery.aspx](https://newark.gov.uk/Friends-of-Newark-Cemetery.aspx)

[friendsofnewarkcemetery@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:friendsofnewarkcemetery@yahoo.co.uk)



Wollaton Hall

## FOOD & DRINK

### Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem, Nottingham

Built into the rock that Nottingham Castle stands on, England's oldest inn has craft beer, hearty meals and a moving tribute wall for ex-servicemen from Canada, England and the USA.

[greeneaking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/nottinghamshire/ye-olde-trip-to-jerusalem](https://greeneaking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/nottinghamshire/ye-olde-trip-to-jerusalem)

### The School of Artisan Food, Welbeck

Based in the heart of Sherwood Forest, the school is housed in the former fire stables, which date back to 1870, and offers tailored artisan courses from foraging to baking.

[schoolofartisanfood.org](https://schoolofartisanfood.org)



Newark Air Museum

## TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

### Brackenbury's Britain

Cultural and countryside customised walking tours for FITs and groups.

[brackenburysbritain.co.uk](https://brackenburysbritain.co.uk)

### Pilgrims & Prophets

General history and Christian and America heritage tours.

[pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk](https://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](mailto:howardheeley.dtep@ntlworld.com)

### Ezekial Bone

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

[ezekialbone.com](https://ezekialbone.com)

## ACCOMMODATION

### St James Hotel, Nottingham

Stylish, city centre boutique hotel.

[stjames-hotel.com](https://stjames-hotel.com)

### Hart's Hotel, Nottingham

Luxury style in Nottingham city centre.

[hartsnottingham.co.uk](https://hartsnottingham.co.uk)

### Lace Market Hotel, Nottingham

City-centre boutique hotel with 42 rooms.

[lacemarkethotel.co.uk](https://lacemarkethotel.co.uk)

## DID YOU KNOW?

Newark Airfield was used to launch Operation Market Garden in 1944.

## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

### Nottinghamshire Family History Society, Nottingham

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

[nottsfnhs.org](https://nottsfnhs.org)



# WORCESTERSHIRE

## 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.

For more destination information see: [visitworcestershiresociety.org](https://www.visitworcestershiresociety.org)



Worcestershire's rolling Malvern hills, ancient properties and secure radio network stood ready to protect the British royal family during the darkest hours of World War II. The armour-plated railway carriage, built for George VI, is stationed at Highley on the Severn Valley Railway; it was here, in the private sitting room, that General Eisenhower and Winston Churchill revealed their D-Day plans to the King.

## THE COMMANDERY & FORT ROYAL HILL

Housed in an historic building, this Worcester museum is dedicated to the English Civil War. In 1651, it formed King Charles I headquarters for his troops gathered to fight the decisive Battle of Worcester. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson chose to visit the city and battlefield in 1786, and were inspired to learn how they shaped England's politics, and the concepts of liberty and democracy. Just two years later, they would use this experience to help draft the US Constitution.

[museumworcestershiresociety.org](https://www.museumworcestershiresociety.org)  
[thebattleofworcestersociety.org](https://www.thebattleofworcestersociety.org)

## RAF DEFFORD MUSEUM AT CROOME

This former RAF base was a centre of technological innovation and testing during World War II, where airborne radar was first developed. Easy to reach, it's set within a beautiful country estate just outside the city of Worcester.

[nationaltrust.org.uk/croome/raf-defford](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/croome/raf-defford)

## SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY

A wonderfully nostalgic experience, this heritage steam railway runs for 16 miles between the stations of Kidderminster and Bridgnorth, and even hosts 1940's weekends throughout the Summer. Built in 1862, the railway delivers breathtaking scenery, as it follows the beautiful River Severn into Shropshire. Visitors to Highley station can enter King George VI's armor-plated carriage - where General Eisenhower and Winston Churchill briefed the King on Operation Overlord.

[svr.co.uk](https://www.svr.co.uk)

## BROADWAY TOWER

Hilltop folly in the Worcestershire Cotswolds, with outstanding views.

[broadwaytower.co.uk](https://www.broadwaytower.co.uk)

## FOOD & DRINK

### Tasting England

Food tours and traditional English cooking classes.

[tastingengland.co.uk](https://www.tastingengland.co.uk)

## SPETCHLEY PARK GARDENS

Home of the Berkeley family for over 400 years, in the 1940s the property welcomed pilots from the USAAF 8th Air Force recovering from action in the Battle of Britain. Today, the property is renowned for its spectacular floral displays.

[spetchleygardens.co.uk](https://www.spetchleygardens.co.uk)

## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

### 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 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](https://www.thehiveworcester.org)

## ACCOMMODATION

### The Wood Norton

Country house hotel with royal connections that served as a BBC monitoring base during World War II.

[thewoodnorton.com](https://www.thewoodnorton.com)

### Diglis House Hotel, Worcester

Super location in Worcester city centre, beside the River Severn. Ideal for FITs and small groups.

[diglishousehotel.co.uk](https://www.diglishousehotel.co.uk)

## TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

### Discover History

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

[discover-history.co.uk](https://www.discover-history.co.uk)

### Worcester Walks

Guided walking tours of the city centre.

[worcesterswalks.co.uk](https://www.worcesterwalks.co.uk)

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 1875, US demand for Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce was so high it had to be imported in casks. It wasn't manufactured in the US until 1902.



Severn Valley Railway



The Commandery



Broadway Tower



# GLoucester

## GETTING HERE

Gloucester is 100 miles west of London, in southwest England.

From London, Gloucester is 1 hour 55 mins by rail or 2 hours 20 mins by road.

For more destination information see: [thecityofgloucester.co.uk](http://thecityofgloucester.co.uk)



The inland port city of Gloucester - birthplace of the music of The Star Spangled Banner - is surrounded by relaxing spa towns and the glorious Cotswold hills. The city and surrounding county of Gloucestershire played a major part in World War II airborne operations: invasion glider training and aircraft construction was carried out in the area; gliders used at Arnhem, D-Day and the Rhine Crossing took off from RAF airfields across the county; and the Gloster E28/39 - the revolutionary Allied World War II jet, designed by Frank Whittle - was born and made its first flight here.

## NATIONAL WATERWAYS MUSEUM

Housed in an atmospheric and historic warehouse, the museum reveals Gloucester's historical position as the United Kingdom's foremost inland port. Discover the story of the region's diverse waterways through fascinating and surprising insights, including the key role of women on the docks during World War II. Don't miss the chance to tour the canal and docks on Queen Boadicea II, one of the little boats used in the evacuation of Dunkirk in 1940.

[nwm.org.uk/gloucester](http://nwm.org.uk/gloucester)

## FRANK WHITTLE & THE JET AGE MUSEUM

Brimming with rare artifacts, the Jet Age Museum is a must-see for aviation fans. Don't miss the extraordinary replica of Frank Whittle's revolutionary Gloster E28/39 - the first Allied World War II jet - which was constructed and first flown under top-secret conditions in Gloucestershire. Sir Frank Whittle's son is still a patron of the museum.

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

## ACCOMMODATION

### Hallmark Gloucester

On the fringes of historic Gloucester, 95 rooms. Suitable for groups.

[hallmarkhotels.co.uk/hotels/hallmark-hotel-gloucester](http://hallmarkhotels.co.uk/hotels/hallmark-hotel-gloucester)

### GLoucester Cathedral

One of the most beautiful buildings in England, Gloucester Cathedral has been an important centre of Christian worship since 678-9 AD. Marvel at the stunning craftsmanship, from the 14th-century choir stalls to the Great East Window. This ancient church 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.

[gloucestercathedral.org.uk](http://gloucestercathedral.org.uk)

### The Cheltenham Chase Hotel

A modern, four-star hotel with 122 bedrooms, well located for Gloucester, Cheltenham Spa and the Cotswolds.

[qhotels.co.uk/our-locations/the-cheltenham-chase-hotel](http://qhotels.co.uk/our-locations/the-cheltenham-chase-hotel)

## SOLDIERS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE MUSEUM

The history of the Gloucestershire Regiment, the 'Glorious Glosters', is told through exhibits, uniforms and weaponry in this museum located in the historic Gloucester Docks. The regiment's roles in D-Day, the American War of Independence and the Korean War are highlighted.

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



Gloucester Cathedral

## DID YOU KNOW?

The tour boat Queen Boadicea II was one of the 'Little Ships' of Dunkirk and in May 1940 helped evacuate troops from the beaches of Dunkirk.

## FOOD & DRINK

### Hillside Brewery

Brewery tours and experience days in the countryside.

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

### The Fountain Inn

Historic, traditional English pub in the heart of the city centre.

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

### Greek On The Docks

Exceptional Greek cuisine and relaxing dockside atmosphere.

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

## 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](http://gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives)

### Hidden Heritage

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

[hidden-heritage.co.uk](http://hidden-heritage.co.uk)

### Soldiers of Gloucestershire

Free online soldier search database.

[soldiers.soldiersofglos.com](http://soldiers.soldiersofglos.com)

## TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

### Gloucester Civic Trust guided walking tours

From cathedral to dockyard and the streets in between, a 90-minute stroll with an expert guide is a great way to discover the rich layers of history that have shaped Gloucester for over 2,000 years.

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

### National Waterways Museum Boat Trips

See historic Gloucester Docks (a filming location for Alice Through the Looking Glass) from Queen Boadicea II, one of the 'Little Ships' of Dunkirk.

[canalrivertrust.org.uk/places-to-visit/gloucester-docks/boat-trips](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/places-to-visit/gloucester-docks/boat-trips)



Gloucester Docks



# BRISTOL

## 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.

For more destination information see: [visitbristol.co.uk](https://www.visitbristol.co.uk)



Bristol is a vibrant port city with far-reaching American connections. It was the departure point of John Cabot's 15th-century voyage, which was backed by many Bristolian merchants and the Sheriff of Bristol. Many centuries later, American World War II supply ships used rubble from a freshly-bombed Bristol as ballast, dumping it in New York's East River and creating a landfill now known as the Bristol Basin. Clifton College, meanwhile, was the headquarters of the entire US Army in Britain and where much of the United States' involvement in the D-Day landings was planned.

## AEROSPACE BRISTOL

Aerospace Bristol explores the pivotal - and remarkable - role that Bristol has played in the story of flight.

Historic planes, like the 1910 Bristol Boxkite, sit alongside icons of modern invention such as the supersonic Alpha Foxtrot, the final Concorde to ever take flight. Visitors are invited to step aboard this magnificent plane, which was designed and built in Bristol, and capable of travelling from London to New York in less than three and a half hours. An unmissable treat.

[aerospacebristol.org](https://aerospacebristol.org)

## 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](https://bristolmuseums.org.uk/m-shed)

## AMERICAN MUSEUM, BATH

Claverton Manor, in nearby Bath, is worth a visit for the extensive grounds and arboretum alone, but it also houses the American Museum - the only museum of decorative and American folk art outside the United States.

[americanmuseum.org](https://americanmuseum.org)

## BRISTOL CATHEDRAL

A place of worship since the 12th century, Bristol Cathedral contains one of the world's finest examples of a medieval hall church. 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.

[bristol-cathedral.co.uk](https://bristol-cathedral.co.uk)

## UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL BOTANIC GARDEN

Stunning horticulture and history combine at the University of Bristol Botanic Garden. Visitors can enjoy the exquisite gardens as well as view the room where US General Omar Bradley lived during Clifton College's tenure as the headquarters of the US First Army.

[bristol.ac.uk/botanic-garden](https://bristol.ac.uk/botanic-garden)

## ACCOMMODATION

### The Bristol

Four-star boutique hotel in a waterfront location.

[www.doylecollection.com/hotels/the-bristol-hotel](https://www.doylecollection.com/hotels/the-bristol-hotel)

### Avon Gorge Hotel

Grand hotel with views of the Clifton Suspension Bridge.

[theavongorgehotel.com](https://theavongorgehotel.com)



Clifton Suspension Bridge

## FOOD & DRINK

### No.1 Harbourside

Bar/restaurant serving locally sourced food, with an emphasis on sustainability.

[no1harbourside.co.uk](https://no1harbourside.co.uk)

### Cream Tea Cruise

Maritime heritage-themed boat tours through the Floating Harbour and River Avon, with a fresh cream tea.

[bristolpacket.co.uk](https://bristolpacket.co.uk)

### Bristol Hoppers Craft Beer Tours

Walking tours combining Bristol's heritage and culture with at least seven local beers.

[bristolhoppers.co.uk](https://bristolhoppers.co.uk)

## TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

### Bristol Balloons

See the city's varied architecture from above.

[bristolballoons.co.uk](https://bristolballoons.co.uk)

### Bristol Insight

Bristol's hop-on, hop-off bus tour mentions Clifton College, as well as diving into the city's wider history.

[bristolinsight.co.uk](https://bristolinsight.co.uk)

## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

### Bristol Archives

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

[bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-archives](https://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.

[ssgreatbritain.org/brunel-institute](https://ssgreatbritain.org/brunel-institute)



Brunel SS Great Britain



Aerospace Museum





## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### Getting here and getting around.

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 traveling in Britain. The passes must be purchased before visitors leave the US.

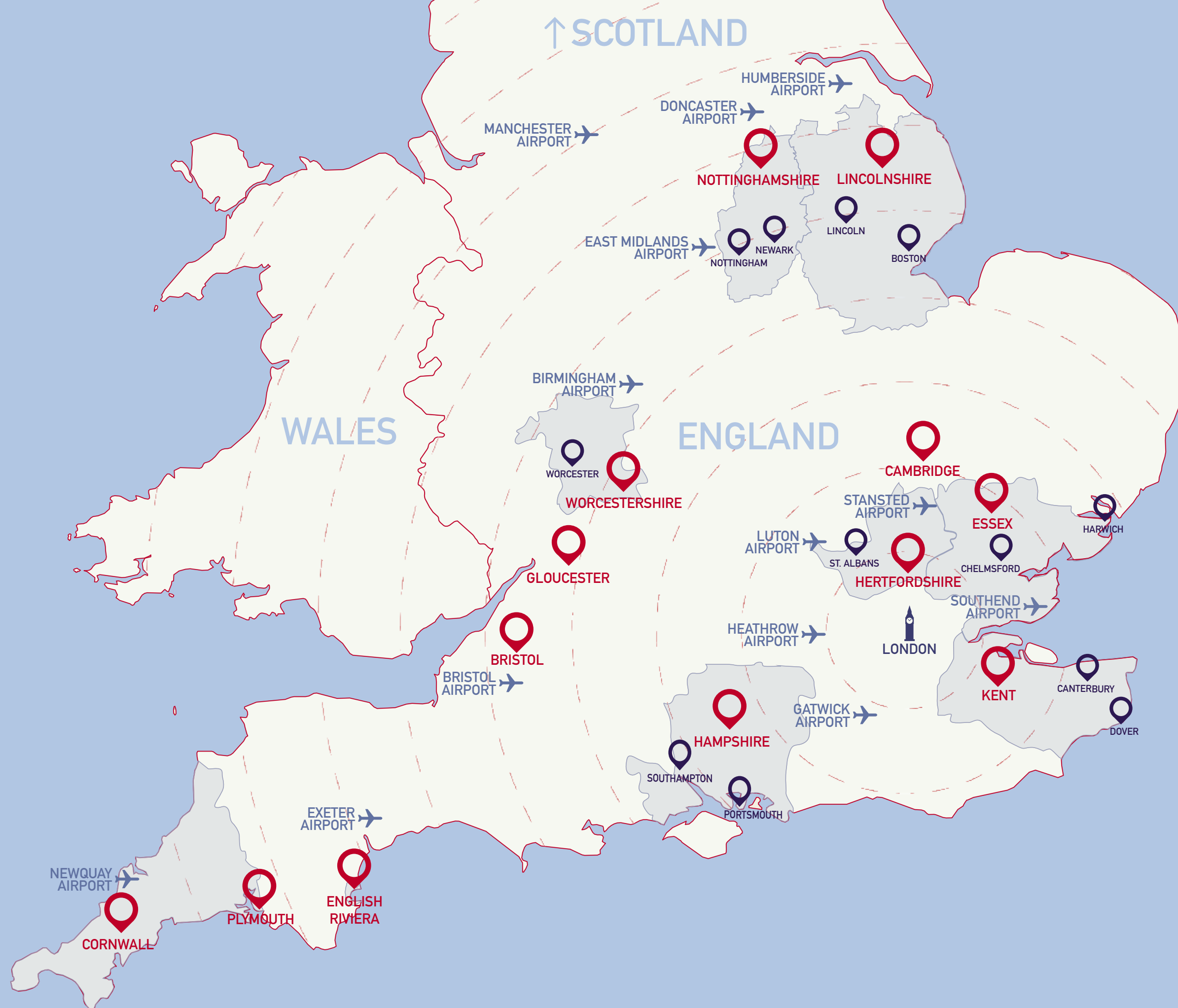
[britrail.com](https://www.britrail.com)

**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. For routes and ticket information and sales:

[gwr.com](https://www.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.







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(PAST, PRESENT AND RELATIVES)  
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www.visitworcestershire.org

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