

# UNITED ALLIES D-DAY AND SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP TOURS

Featuring stories and places in England pivotal to Britain and 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 AMERICA'S WARTIME CONNECTIONS**

**SHOWCASING ENGLAND'S REGIONS**

**F.I.T AND GROUP TOURS**



# UNITED ALLIES

## INTRODUCTION TO

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

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, 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 WWII heroes were made; recapture the mammoth beginnings of a military milestone; and relive the groundbreaking efforts made by the US and the UK 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 Britain. 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 which so many Americans and British crossed on the eve of war.

Pay your own tribute to the brave servicemen and women of the Allied forces with a British tour: 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 customized, themed tour. They can even be tailored for groups.**

A new HBO mini series 'The Mighty Eighth' is due in 2019 and will feature some of the stories and places within this suggested itinerary.





# HAMPSHIRE



## GETTING HERE

Rail journeys from London Waterloo station to Southampton take 1 hour 20 mins; and 1 hour 30 mins to Portsmouth. Southampton is 90 miles from London.

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



Blending city, coast and country Hampshire has history at its heart. Prior to D-Day, many American units called Hampshire their home-from-home. Portsmouth played a key role in the Normandy landings – The D-Day Story relays this historic event. Southwick House was the nerve center for Operation Overlord. US Fighter Bombers from Beaulieu Heath, Ibsley and Stoney Cross supported ground forces; and Southampton became the front line of invasion.

## THE D-DAY STORY, PORTSMOUTH

This compelling blend of storytelling 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 Capt. James Stagg, the meteorologist who determined when to launch the assault. Replay historic D-Day, a captivating story of human endeavor.

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

## PORTSMOUTH HISTORIC DOCKYARD

A vast dockyard, with 12 museums and vessels from above and below the water, offers the most comprehensive view of English maritime history. Step aboard Nelson's HMS Victory, best known for her role at the Battle of Trafalgar. And review Henry VIII's favorite ship The Mary Rose - now a boat shaped museum built around the salvaged hull, which sank in Portsmouth bay in 1545.

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

## ROYAL MILITARY POLICE MUSEUM, SOUTHWICK HOUSE

This Georgian house was the nerve centre for Operation Overlord where Eisenhower gave the infamous order "OK, let's go" 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 genuine artifacts from the period, the Royal Military Police Museum provides authentic insight into this crucial period.

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

## 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/thingstodo/countryparks/rvcp](http://hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/countryparks/rvcp)

## BUCKLER'S HARD

This 18th Century shipbuilding village was used to build motor torpedo boats and the river was used as a base for landing craft during Operation Overlord.

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

## FOOD & DRINK

### Wykeham Arms, Winchester

Award-winning pub steeped in charm.

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

### The Dancing Man, Southampton

Brewing fabulous beer and serving delicious food

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

## ACCOMMODATION

### Lainston House

Five-star luxury country house hotel in Winchester.

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

### Grand Harbour, Southampton

An iconic luxury hotel on the Southampton waterfront. 173 rooms and suites.

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

### Solent Forts, private island

Located off the coast of Portsmouth, unique luxury accommodation.

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

## TOURS AND TOUR GUIDES

### See Southampton

Walks and talks with specialist guides; scheduled and bespoke tours on a range of themes.

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

### Southampton Tourist Guides

Themed guided walking tours of Southampton – including a World War II tour.

[southamptontouristguides.com](http://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](http://visitportsmouth.co.uk/things-to-do/guided-walks-and-talks)

## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

### Hampshire Genealogical Society

Registered charity run entirely by volunteers

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

### Hampshire Record Office

Archives and local studies

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

### Portsmouth History Centre, Portsmouth Central Library

Family, local & naval history archives

[portsmouth.gov.uk](http://portsmouth.gov.uk)



The D-Day Story



# ENGLISH RIVIERA



## GETTING HERE

The main train line from London Paddington to Penzance serves the English Riviera, in 3 hours. 216 miles by road, it takes the same time to reach Torquay and Paignton from London.



For more destination information visit: [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 requisitioned by the US Coast guard. The harbours at Torquay and Brixham were used for embarkation - Brixham is the best preserved and a WWII 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 here. Today, plaques in the harbour commemorate this epic event. Torquay, a traditional yet 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

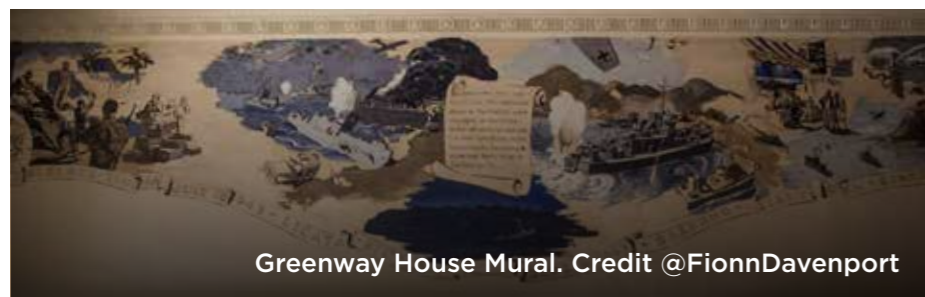
The Brixham slipway and embarkation yard was built in 1943 as part of Operation Overlord and despite some alteration and modification over the years it represents the best preserved example of a historic WWII resource of national significance. Now this pretty harbour with cascading colourful houses mixes tradition with a modern vibrant fishing industry and is home to the Golden Hind Museum Ship with 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 WWII 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

### 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)

### 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 glass-blowing.

[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)

## FOOD & DRINK

### Cream Tea at The Imperial Torquay

Enjoy a traditional Devon 'cream tea' and glorious sea views from this clifftop hotel.

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

### Thatched Tavern, Maidencombe

17th Century thatched tavern serving locally sourced English 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

Overlooking Babbacombe beach, a luxury heritage hotel with 8 rooms, beach suites and beach huts.

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

### The Grand

Stunning location, perched on Torquay seafront. 132 rooms.

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

### The Imperial

Prime clifftop location overlooking Torbay - a favorite of Agatha Christie. 152 rooms.

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

## TOURS AND TOUR GUIDES

### Unique Devon Tours

Award-winning driver guide service. Tailored tours across Devon and Cornwall. D-Day, WWII theme and ancestral - all customized.

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

### English Riviera Tour Guides

Local expert guides for groups and FIT.

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

### Blue Badge Guides

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

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

## 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.

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

## TORRE ABBEY MUSEUM & GARDENS

Over 1000 years old, this impressive abbey is part museum and part arts & culture center. It features two Victorian greenhouses, a formal garden and the 'potent plant' garden. Visit the museum to understand the brutal history behind the dissolution of England's monasteries; join the head gardener as he reveals the killing power of Agatha Christie's potent plants - or explore the quintessentially English playing Fields for a true sense of Devon.

[torre-abbey.org.uk](http://torre-abbey.org.uk)

## DID YOU KNOW?

In preparation for Operation Overlord a top secret rehearsal was planned just 5 weeks before the Normandy landings. A Sherman Tank stands at Slapton Sands as a memorial to all who lost their lives.



Torquay Harbour

# PLYMOUTH



## GETTING HERE

Plymouth is 238 miles by road from London. Direct trains (operated by GWR) depart hourly from London Paddington, with an average journey time of 4 hours.

For more destination information visit: [VisitPlymouth.co.uk](http://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 honored at Normandy Hill St Budeaux and the dramatic memorial at Saltash Passage.

### ROYAL WILLIAM YARD

Named in honor 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 and accommodation. And stunning ocean views.

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

### THE 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](http://english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/royal-citadel-plymouth)

### PLYMOUTH BOAT TRIPS

The premier cruising company in the South West, 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](http://plymouthboattrips.co.uk)

### SALTRAM HOUSE

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

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

### THE BOX - OPENS IN 2020

Opening in 2020, The Box brings Plymouth's rich naval history and ancestral services to life for modern audiences.

Exhibitions will include '100 journeys that shaped the world'.

[plymhearts.org/thebox](http://plymhearts.org/thebox)

### PLYMOUTH HOE & THE SOUND

Soak up the atmosphere of Plymouth Hoe. Visit moving memorials - including the Naval War Memorial, the statue of Sir Francis Drake and National Armada Memorial. Climb the iconic Smeaton's Tower. Memorials open year round. Plymouth Hoe is a public space.

[visitplymouth.co.uk/things-to-do](http://visitplymouth.co.uk/things-to-do)

## FOOD & DRINK

### The Artillery Tower

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

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

### Rockfish

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

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

### Barbican Kitchen

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

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

## ACCOMMODATION

### Boringdon Hall Hotel

Luxury hotel with Spa on the outskirts of the city.

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

### Glazebrook House Hotel

Boutique hotel with beautiful restaurant.

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

### Crowne Plaza

City center hotel, with ocean views.

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



Naval memorial

## TOURS AND 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](http://selectsouthwesttours.com)

### Unique Devon Tours

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

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

### British Guild of Tourist Guides

Walking tours of Plymouth's historic Barbican, the Hoe and the city centre. Tailored for group requirements.

[britainsbestguides.org/guides](http://britainsbestguides.org/guides)



Plymouth Hoe

## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

### Devon Family History Society

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

### The Box, Records Office - opens 2020

[plymhearts.org/thebox](http://plymhearts.org/thebox)

# CORNWALL



## GETTING HERE

The mainline train from London Paddington to Penzance takes 6 hours. 280 miles by road, it takes 5½ hours to reach Penzance from London by car. You can also fly into Newquay airport.

For more destination information visit: [visitcornwall.com](http://visitcornwall.com)



Cornwall's coastline was a key embarkation point for the D-Day Normandy 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 Terligga 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 lawns, rhododendrons, jungle plants, wildlife and ancient woodland – and kitchen gardens and farmland, just as before.

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

### PENDENNIS CASTLE

Built to guard the Falmouth estuary and ordered by King Henry VIII, three separate structures make up Pendennis Castle. The Battery Observation point, added during WWII, retains its wartime appearance - including camouflage paint. Throughout the Summer months a US made howitzer gun rings out at 12 noon sharp, and it's well worth exploring the Elizabethan-era tunnels!

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

### MOUNT EDGCUMBE HOUSE AND COUNTRY PARK

Mount Edgcumbe commemorates the many US troops stationed here during WWII. 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, mystical woodland, forts and chapels. With 865 acres of the remote coastline, secret beaches and smugglers' coves that form the Rame Peninsula close at hand.

[mountedgcumbe.gov.uk](http://mountedgcumbe.gov.uk)



Cornwall Coastline



Mount Edgcumbe House

### PRIDEAUX PLACE

An Elizabethan manor house, that looks out over the little fishing town of Padstow. The Prideaux family still live in the house, but they warmly invite you to step inside and discover its rich history and antiques for yourself, before strolling the Victorian garden and deer park.

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

### LANHYDROCK

A magnificent late Victorian Country house and gardens. The elegant rooms and staff-quarters are open to view. An exhibition is dedicated to WWII. Owned by the National Trust.

[nationaltrust.org.uk/lanhydrock](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/lanhydrock)

### CORNWALL'S REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Exploring 300 years of military life, the museum hosts an extensive display of armory including WWII rifles and machine guns, uniforms and a Masonic Bible from 1712, which George Washington used to be sworn into the Masonic Lodge.

[cornwalls-regimentalmuseum.org](http://cornwalls-regimentalmuseum.org)

## ACCOMMODATION

### Rose In Vale

Close to Truro. Four-star country house hotel. 22 rooms.

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

### Cornwell Hotel & Spa

Close to St Austell, a modern spa hotel in an historic manor house.

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

### Butterwell Farm Bed + Breakfast

A family run farmhouse in gorgeous rural landscape. Ideal for cycling and fishing. Self-catering.

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

## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

### Cornwall Family History Society, Truro

For members and the general public researching Cornish family history established in 1976 offering a research library in Truro.

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

### Kresen Kernow

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

[cornwall.gov.uk/community-and-living](http://cornwall.gov.uk/community-and-living)

## TOURS AND TOUR GUIDES

### America Loves Cornwall

Customized and WWII specialist tours.

[americ lovescornwall.com](http://americ lovescornwall.com)



Mount Edgcumbe House

# KENT



## GETTING HERE

The main High Speed One train from London St Pancras International station reaches Kent in less than 30 minutes. Dover is 80 miles by road, Canterbury 66 miles.



For more destination information visit: [visitkent.co.uk](http://visitkent.co.uk)

Kent is much more than “The Garden of England” having supported the nation throughout history. No other county has witnessed such conflict and diplomacy. Backdrop to the WWII Battle of Britain, home to mighty ports and warships, the famous White Cliffs of Dover, its castle and war tunnels - and witness to the Leeds Castle peace talks of 1978 and 2004.

### DOVER CASTLE AND DOVER WARTIME TUNNELS

An exquisite medieval royal palace and gateway into the inner workings of WWII. 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](http://english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/dover-castle)

### 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](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/the-white-cliffs-of-dover)



### KENT BATTLE OF BRITAIN MUSEUM

Located on the former site of RAF Hawkinge, the closest RAF station to enemy-occupied France in WWII, 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](http://kbobm.org)

### THE HISTORIC DOCKYARD CHATHAM

Chatham, one of three Royal British Dockyards, played a crucial role in both World Wars. The first shots of WWI'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 WWII.

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

### BATTLE OF BRITAIN MEMORIAL

This memorial honors 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 center exploring the key moments of this dramatic and decisive battle.

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

### CHARTWELL

Chartwell is a splendid house in the heart of Kent's beautiful countryside. For forty years, it was the family home of legendary 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](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/chartwell)

## ACCOMMODATION

### Leeds Castle

Beautifully appointed self-catering and 'glamping' on the Leeds Castle estate.

[Leeds-castle.com/accommodation](http://Leeds-castle.com/accommodation)

### Hever Castle

Stay in a castle. Bed and breakfast and self-catering accommodation.

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

### Bromley Court Hotel

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

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

### USN P-22 GUNBOAT SANDWICH, KENT

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 historic experience and even take a trip across the bay.

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

## FOOD & DRINK

### Shepherd Neame Brewery

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

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

### The Smoke House, Folkestone

Head to the towns of Margate, Folkestone or Broadstairs for top-notch fish and chips by the sea.

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

## TOURS AND TOUR GUIDES

### Local Greeters (Guided Tours)

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

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



Dover Castle



White Cliffs of Dover

## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

### Kent County Council History and Archives Center

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

### Canterbury Cathedral Archives

[canterbury-cathedral.org](http://canterbury-cathedral.org)

### Medway Archives Centre

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





# ESSEX



## GETTING HERE

The mainline train from London Liverpool Street to Chelmsford takes just 30 minutes. Colchester takes just over an hour. London is 40 miles by road from Chelmsford.

For more destination information visit: [visitessex.com](http://visitessex.com)



On the eastern edge of London, Essex has strong links to the United States. During WWII, Essex was home to many US troops in the slow build-up to Operation Overlord and the county played a key role in England's defence strategy – concrete 'pillboxes' are still visible today. The Essex records office (in Chelmsford) provides genealogical services and can help trace your ancestral roots.

## THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

Elegant Edwardian gardens designed by Harold Peto, now fully restored. The site of a WWII airfield, the site includes a tree lined memorial walk with varied species commemorating the nations that flew from here.

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

## CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL

One of England's youngest cathedrals, stained glass in the south porch features emblems from the United States including the Department of the Air Force and the Washington family coat of arms.

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

## TOURS AND TOUR GUIDES

### Britain's Best Guides

Blue Badge Tourist Guides are the UK's official guides. Their professionalism is recognised by local tourist bodies throughout the UK and by Visit Britain.

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

## THE FRIENDLY INVASION

During WWII, Essex was home to 43,390 US servicemen and 16 airbases throughout the county. This 'invasion' had an immediate impact on the local scene – Essex people got their first taste of peanut butter, chewing gum and Coke. Today, runways, hangars and buildings serve as reminders of the vital role they played.

[isiteastofengland.com/friendly-invasion/](http://isiteastofengland.com/friendly-invasion/)

## MARKS HALL GARDENS AND ARBORETUM

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.

[markshall.org.uk](http://markshall.org.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.

Providing as much information as possible in advance of your visit can greatly improve search results.

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

## BRAINTREE DISTRICT MUSEUM

The museum holds varied collections relating to both World Wars and their impact on the town and Essex. Information available on WWII memorials in the region.

[braintreemuseum.co.uk](http://braintreemuseum.co.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.

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

## ACCOMMODATION

### Prested Hall

Close to Colchester, a 15th Century part-moated manor house. Suitable for groups.

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

### County Hotel, Chelmsford

All modern facilities, in Chelmsford city center. Easy road and rail access to London. Ideal for groups.

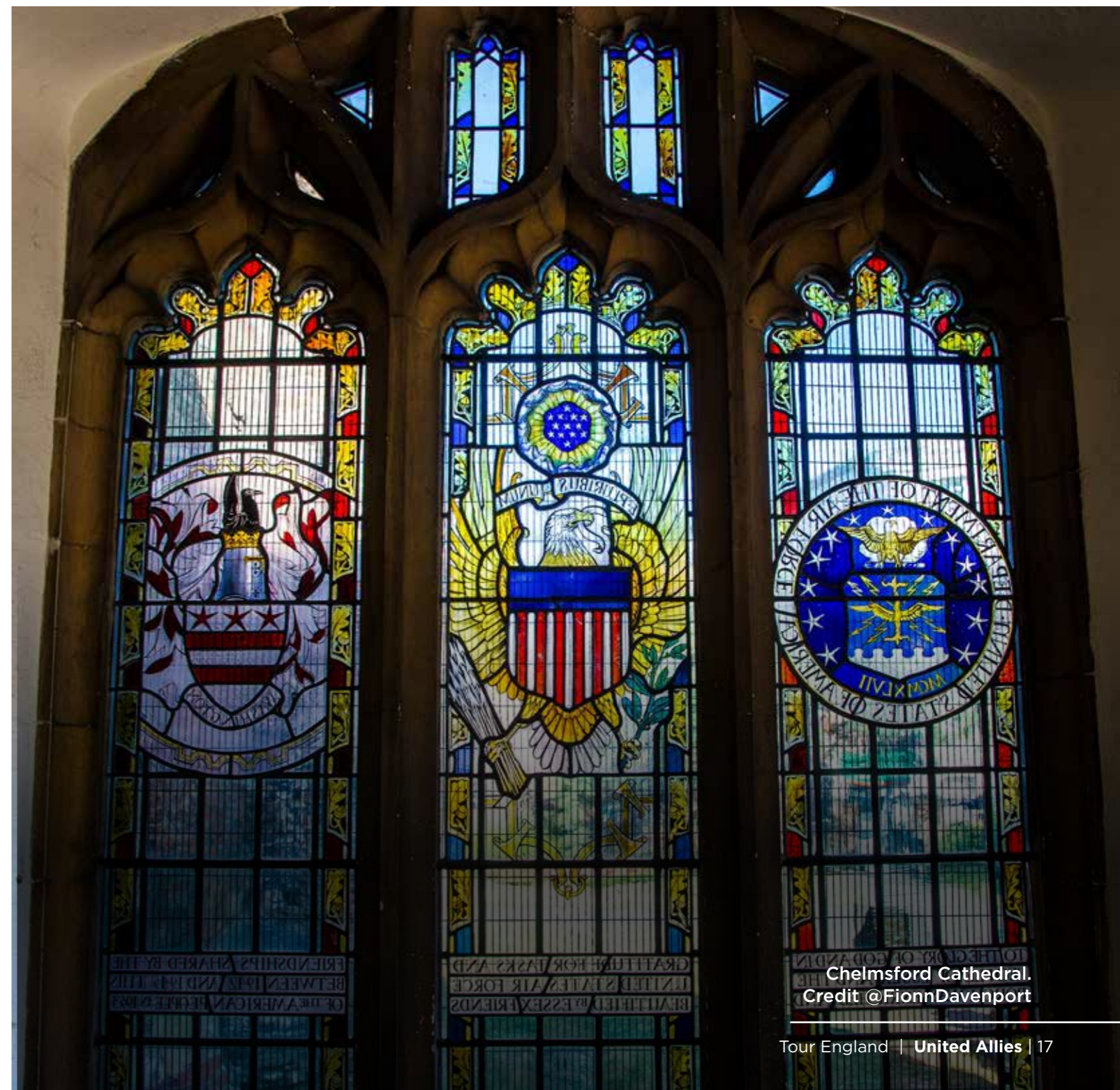
[countyhotelchelmsford.co.uk](http://countyhotelchelmsford.co.uk)

## FOOD & DRINK

### Tiptree Jam

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

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



Chelmsford Cathedral. Credit @FionnDavenport



# HERTFORDSHIRE



## GETTING HERE

St Albans is 30 minutes by train from London's St Pancras station, with trains every 20 minutes. St Albans is 25 miles north of London by road. The whole county is very accessible.



For more destination information visit: [visitherts.co.uk](http://visitherts.co.uk)

North of London, 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 had a vital role in WWII, with its aircraft innovators and busy airfields helping to liberate the skies of Europe.

### DE HAVILLAND MUSEUM & AIRCRAFT BASE

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

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

### BOVINGDON AIRFIELD

Today, this famous airfield is commonly used as a filming location, thanks to its impressive runway (ideal for shooting action sequences). In the 1940s it was an important operational base. Most US bomber crews that came to Britain were trained for combat here.

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

### TOURS AND TOUR GUIDES

#### British Guild of Tourist Guides

Choose from a number of qualified guides within the Hertfordshire region to learn more about the county's stunning stately homes, traditional English villages and famous sites.

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

## ACCOMMODATION

### The Grove Hotel

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

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

### Sopwell House

With 128 rooms and suites, a luxury country house hotel close to London.

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

### Hotel Cromwell

Stylish décor, filled with character and history. 27 minutes train ride away from London.

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

### ROYSTON & DISTRICT MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

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

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

### FOOD & DRINK

#### Ye Olde Fighting Cocks in St Albans

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

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

### ANCESTRAL SERVICES

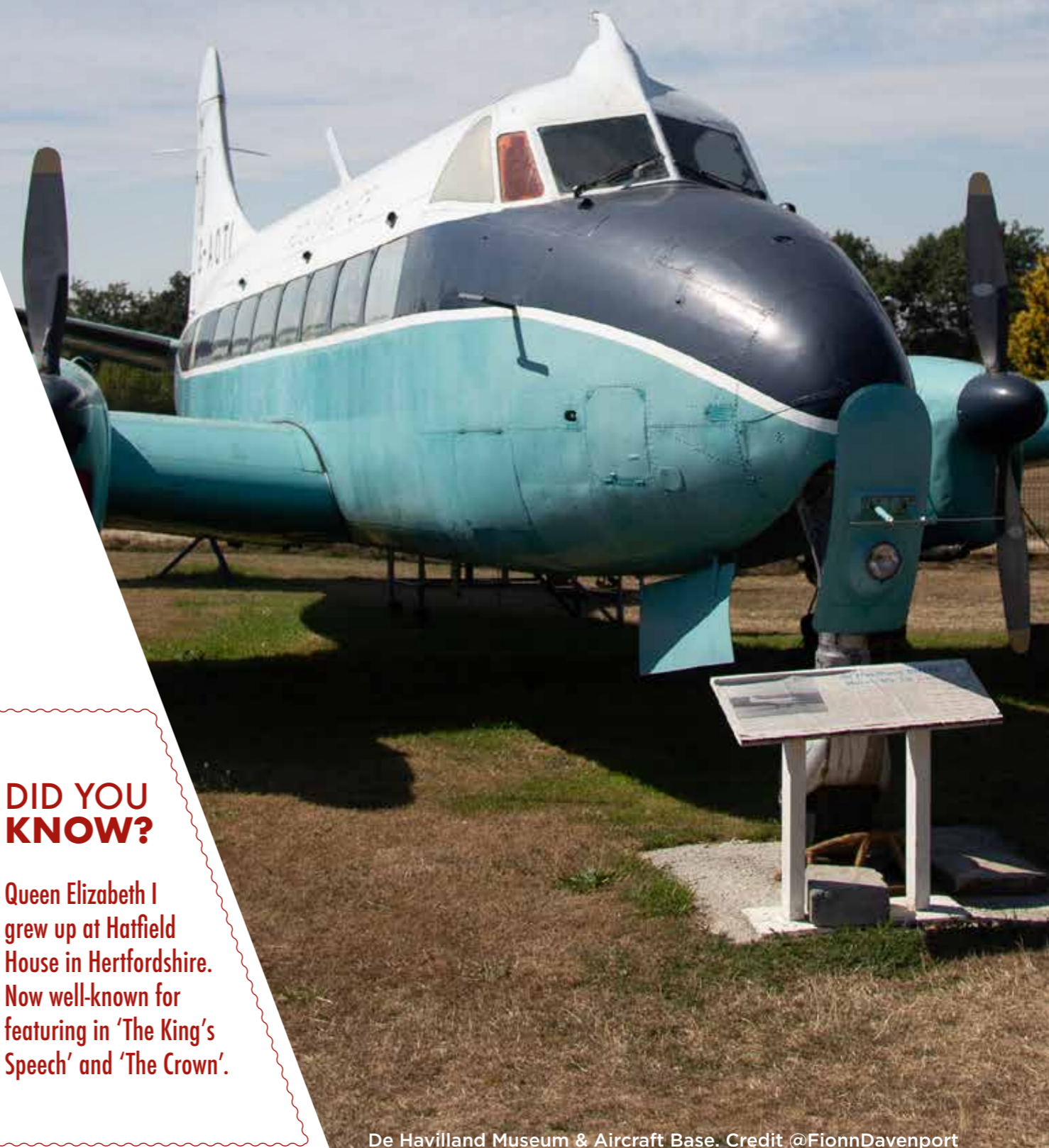
#### Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HAL)

For an intimate look at this region's unique history, visit the local archives.

[hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies.aspx](http://hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies.aspx)

## DID YOU KNOW?

Queen Elizabeth I grew up at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire. Now well-known for featuring in 'The King's Speech' and 'The Crown'.



De Havilland Museum & Aircraft Base. Credit @FionnDavenport



“See the D-Day Map at Southwick House, Hampshire. In this place, the little known American General Dwight D Eisenhower first postponed and then, acting on the advice of an unknown Scottish meteorologist, launched D-Day: the climactic moment of the Second World War in the west. Here history was made!”

**Col Jeremy Green,  
Museum Director, Southwick House**

Image credit: Kate Rossin, D-Day Revisited



# CAMBRIDGE



## GETTING HERE

Cambridge is a 50-minute train journey from London King's Cross. Cambridge is 64 miles north of London along the M11 – a journey which can take up to 90 minutes by road.

For more destination information visit: [VisitCambridge.org](http://VisitCambridge.org)



Cambridgeshire and the region of East Anglia played a key role throughout WWII. Today, the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial pays tribute to 3,812 US personnel who rest there, 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 Eighth Air Force – “The Mighty Eighth”.

## IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM DUXFORD

Uncover the moving stories of those who served at RAF Duxford and meet the most celebrated of British planes from the Second World War, including the Spitfire and Avro Lancaster. The museum is also the permanent home of the American Air Museum, featuring original aircraft like the Sally B17 bomber, used by the Eighth Air Force, stationed close to Cambridge during WWII.

[iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-duxford](http://iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-duxford)

## EMMANUEL COLLEGE

Cambridge's Emmanuel College first opened its gates in 1584 to educate Protestant preachers.

Emma's most famous graduate - clergyman John Harvard - was a co-founder of America's Harvard University, which bears his name to this day. Another student, Puritan minister Thomas Sheppard, helped establish the nearby town of Cambridge Massachusetts in the 17th Century.

[emma.cam.ac.uk](http://emma.cam.ac.uk)

## CAMBRIDGE AMERICAN CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL

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 Second World War American military cemetery and memorial in the UK.

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

## ELY CATHEDRAL

It's only a short trip from Cambridge to the city of Ely. This ancient town is famous for the stunning Norman architecture, stained glass windows and idyllic grounds of Ely Cathedral. Built in 1083 AD, it has appeared in many contemporary dramas including The Crown and Grantchester.

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

## WIMPOLE HALL

Home to the last Second World War 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](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/wimpole-estate)

## ACCOMMODATION

### University Arms Hotel

The newly refurbished University Arms is a touch of class in the city center. Elegant art deco rooms, stunning city views.

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

### The Varsity

City center location, close to the colleges. Rooftop terrace and bar, spa and dining options.

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

## CHURCHILL COLLEGE

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

[chu.cam.ac.uk](http://chu.cam.ac.uk)

## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

### Cambridge American Cemetery & Memorial

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

### Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Collection includes The Commission Archive and The Casualty Archive

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

## TOURS AND TOUR GUIDES

### Official Tours of Cambridge

Take a walking tour of the city with an official 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](http://visitcambridge.org/official-tours)

## FOOD & DRINK

### The Eagle Pub

Enjoy a drink in the Air Force Bar where you can still see the initials and squadron numbers of US and British Airmen, burned into the ceiling with candles and Zippo lighters.

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



Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial



Imperial War Museum Duxford



# LINCOLNSHIRE



## GETTING HERE

Two hours by rail from London King's Cross station direct to Lincoln or 1 hour and 10 minutes via Newark Northgate. London is just 140 miles away from Lincoln by road.



For more destination information visit: [VisitLincolnshire.com](http://VisitLincolnshire.com) and [VisitLincoln.com](http://VisitLincoln.com)

Known as 'Bomber County', Lincolnshire on England's east coast, is synonymous with military aviation. During WWII there were over 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

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, lasting between an hour to an hour and a half, which may include such iconic craft as the Avro Lancaster, Spitfire and Douglas Dakota.

[lincolnshire.gov.uk/heritage-and-tourism](http://lincolnshire.gov.uk/heritage-and-tourism)

## LINCOLN AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE

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 'taxy 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](http://lincsaviation.co.uk)

## 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](http://internationalbcc.co.uk)

## CRANWELL AVIATION HERITAGE MUSEUM

World's first military air academy attended by HRH Prince Charles and HRH Prince William.

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

## SCOPWICK CEMETERY

Resting place of High Flight poet John Magee.

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

## TOURS AND TOUR GUIDES

### Hidden Lincoln

Customized walking tours of historic Lincoln with local specialists.

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

### Aviation Heritage Trail

Explore Lincolnshire's aviation heritage. Self-guided

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

### Green badge guides

Walking tours of Lincoln city center for FITs and groups.

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

### Tour Lincoln

Open-top sightseeing bus.

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

## ACCOMMODATION

### Washingborough Hall Hotel

A luxury family run country house hotel close to Lincoln city centre, ideal for the IBCC.

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

### The Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa

At the heart of Lincolnshire's aviation heritage, stunning gardens. 'Dambusters bar' where the 617 Squadron met. Perfect for groups.

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

### White Hart Hotel, Lincoln

In the heart of historic Lincoln, 'The Tank Room' in the hotel is where the concept for the first tank was created.

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

## FOOD & DRINK

### Wig & Mitre, Lincoln

Traditional pub on Lincoln's cobbled Steep Hill.

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

### The Bronze Pig, Lincoln

Fine dining and a relaxed atmosphere in historic Lincoln.

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

## LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

One of the finest Gothic Cathedrals in Europe whose towers served as a beacon for returning WWII pilots. Visit the Airmen's Chapel where the names of RAF personnel are remembered. Combine with a visit to nearby Lincoln Castle.

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



## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

### International Bomber Command Centre Digital Archive.

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

### Lincolnshire Family History Society

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



International Bomber Command Centre. Credit Jim Dooley



# NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



## GETTING HERE

Regular direct rail services from London St Pancras to Newark, Nottingham and Retford take from 1½ to 2 hours. By road Nottingham is 130 miles from London.

For more destination information visit: [Visit-Nottinghamshire.co.uk](http://Visit-Nottinghamshire.co.uk)



Alongside bomber crews from RAF NO.5 Group, tens of thousands of US Airborne troops, plane and glider crews, made a home in Nottinghamshire. Many completed their training here, before joining the fight on D-Day, during Operation Market Garden (the Battle of Arnhem) and the Ardennes Campaign (Battle of the Bulge).

## CLUMBER PARK

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 Second World War walk to visit the sites of these wartime activities.

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

## WOLLATON HALL

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 WWII - Operation Overlord and Operation Market Garden.

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

## RUFFORD ABBEY

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

## THE NATIONAL HOLOCAUST CENTRE AND MUSEUM

Both memorial and a place of learning, this well-equipped center - 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, explaining 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](http://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 artefacts 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](http://newarkairmuseum.org)

## NEWARK CEMETERY

War graves. Guided tours available.

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



Wollaton Hall

## FOOD & DRINK

### Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem

England's oldest Inn offers local craft beer and plenty to talk about. Built into the rock that Nottingham Castle stands on. Serves traditional hearty meals.

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

### School of Artisan Food

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

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

## TOURS AND TOUR GUIDES

### Brakenbury's Britain

Cultural and countryside customized walking tours for FITs and groups.

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

## ACCOMMODATION

### St James Hotel

Stylish, city center boutique hotel.

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

### Hart's Hotel

Luxury style in Nottingham city centre.

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

### The Lace Market Hotel

City center boutique hotel, 42 rooms.

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

## DID YOU KNOW?

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

## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

### Nottinghamshire Family History Society

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

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



Newark Air Museum

# WORCESTERSHIRE



## GETTING HERE

Rail services from London Paddington to Worcester take 2 1/2 hours. Accessible by air, Worcester is 140 miles from London by road.

For more destination information visit: [VisitWorcestershire.org](http://VisitWorcestershire.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 WWII. The armor-plated railway carriage, built for George VI, is stationed at Highley on the Severn Valley Railway - where, in the private sitting room, 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 both visited the city and battlefield in 1786 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.

[visitworcestershire.org/place/the-commandery](http://visitworcestershire.org/place/the-commandery)

## RAF DEFFORD MUSEUM AT CROOME

This former RAF base was a center of technological innovation 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](http://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 discussed their plans for Operation Overlord.

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

## SPETCHLEY PARK GARDENS

Home of the Berkerley 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](http://spetchleygardens.co.uk)

## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

The Hive, Worcester

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

## BROADWAY TOWER

Hilltop folly with outstanding views.

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

## FOOD & DRINK

Tasting England

Food tours and traditional English cooking classes.

[tastingengland.co.uk/abouttastingengland](http://tastingengland.co.uk/abouttastingengland)

## ACCOMMODATION

### Eastnor Castle

Premier venue in the Cotswold Malvern Hills.

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

### Diglis House Hotel

Super location in Worcester city center, beside the River Severn. FITs and small groups.

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

## TOURS AND TOUR GUIDES

### Discover History

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

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

### Worcester Walks

Guided walking tours of the city center.

[worcesterwalks.co.uk](http://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



Severn Valley Railway



The Commandery



Broadway Tower



“ General Dwight D Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, gave the momentous order at 4.19am on June 5

“Ok. Let’s Go.”

And so was launched the single biggest operation in military history to date: three million men and 2727 ships stormed the beaches of Normandy and in so doing turned the tide of the war. ”





# GLOUCESTER



## GETTING HERE

Direct rail services from London Paddington to Gloucester take 2¼ hours. By road Gloucester is 100 miles from London.

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



The inland port-city of Gloucester (birthplace to the music of The Star Spangled Banner) is surrounded by relaxing spa towns and the glorious Cotswold hills. It was here the Gloster E29/39 - the revolutionary Allied WWII jet, designed by Frank Whittle - was born and made its first perilous flight. A replica can be seen at the Jet Age museum.

## FRANK WHITTLE & THE JET AGE MUSEUM

Brimming with rare artefacts, 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 WWII jet -which was constructed and first flown under top-secret conditions in Gloucestershire.

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

## SOLDIERS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The history of the Gloucestershire Regiment, the 'Glorious Glosters' can be seen through exhibits uniforms and weaponry and highlights the American War of Independence and the Korean War.

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

## NATIONAL WATERWAYS MUSEUM

Housed in an atmospheric and historic Grade II 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.

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

## ACCOMMODATION

### Mercure Bowden Hall

Four-star country house hotel with Panoramic views of the Cotswolds.

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

### Hatton Court Hotel

Independent boutique hotel bordering the Cotswold way. 4 miles from the city.

[hatton-court.co.uk](http://hatton-court.co.uk)

## TOURS AND TOUR GUIDES

### Gloucester Civic Trust guided walking tours

From cathedral to the dockyard and the streets in between, a ninety-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)

## GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

One of the most beautiful buildings in England, Gloucester Cathedral has been an important center of Christian worship since 678-9 AD. Marvel at the stunning craftsmanship, from the 14th Century choir stalls to the Great East Window, and learn more about the building's fascinating heritage. This ancient church has witnessed some of the most important events in British history: the commissioning of the Domesday Book, the burial of Edward II, and the coronation of Henry III all took place here.

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

## 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.



Gloucester Canal



National Waterways Museum. Credit @Fionn Davenport

# BRISTOL



## GETTING HERE

Direct rail services from London Paddington to Bristol take 1¼ hours. By road Bristol is 130 miles from London. Bristol Airport provides connections to US flights via Dublin.



For more destination information visit: [VisitBristol.co.uk](http://VisitBristol.co.uk)

Bristol is a vibrant port-city with fascinating American connections. From John Cabot's 15th Century voyage, to American WWII supply ships carrying rubble from a freshly-bombed Bristol, home to New York's East River - now known as the 'Bristol Basin', to Clifton College, headquarters of the entire US Army in Britain.

## AEROSPACE BRISTOL

Aerospace Bristol explores the pivotal - and remarkable 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 Concorde Alpha Foxtrot: the final Concorde to ever take flight. Visitors are invited to step aboard this magnificent plane - designed and built in Bristol, and capable of traveling from London to New York in under three and a half hours. An unmissable treat.

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

## M SHED MUSEUM

From ancient city to a center of contemporary innovation, M Shed tells the story of Bristol in fascinating detail.

Located on the harborside, 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](http://bristolmuseums.org.uk/m-shed)

## AMERICAN MUSEUM

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

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

## CLIFTON COLLEGE

One of Britain's most respected and elite 'public' schools (for fee paying students), during the Second World War, Clifton College was the headquarters of the US army in Britain. Walk in the footsteps of American heroes including Bradley and Eisenhower. See where Operation Overlord and the D-Day invasion plans were secretly prepared.

## UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL BOTANIC GARDEN

Stunning horticulture and history combine at the University of Bristol Botanic Garden. Visitors can view the room where US General Omar Bradley lived whilst stationed in the UK, as well as enjoying the exquisite gardens.

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

## ACCOMMODATION

### The Bristol

Waterfront location, 4-star boutique hotel.

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

### Doubletree by Hilton Bristol

There are 3 DoubleTree hotels in and around Bristol including one in the city center.

[doubletree3.hilton.com/Hotel/Bristol](http://doubletree3.hilton.com/Hotel/Bristol)

## ANCESTRAL SERVICES

### Bristol Archives

Archives of the city of Bristol, surrounding areas and the British Empire and Commonwealth collection.

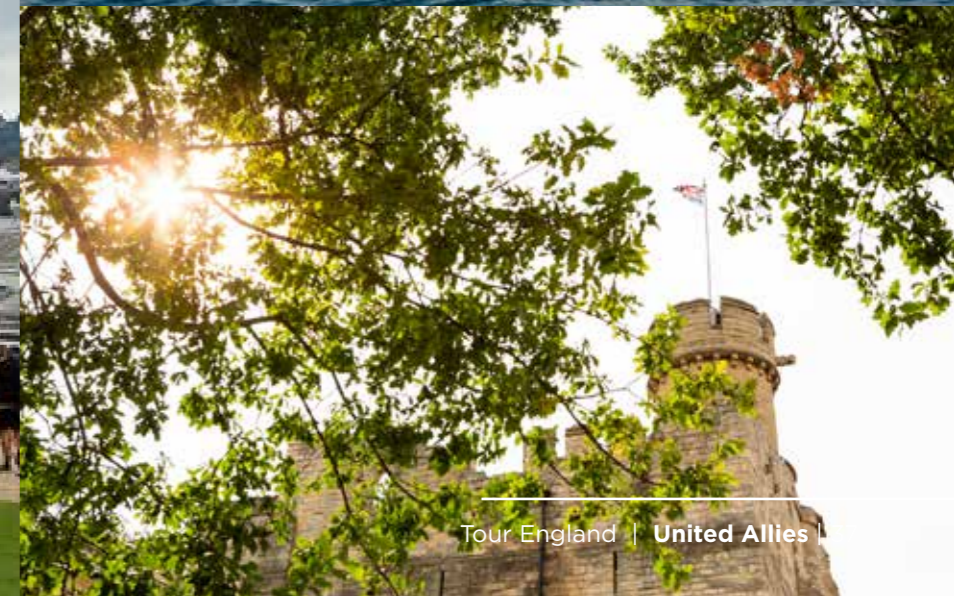
[bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-archives](http://bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-archives)



The Matthew

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

Traveling 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 F.I.T.'s. 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](http://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](http://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



VisitBritain



VisitEngland

visit  
**BRISTOL**

*Worcestershire*  
www.visitworcestershire.org

Lincolnshire  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
*Marking for a better future*

  
VISIT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

visit **essex**

Visit  
**Cornwall**

 **VISIT  
HAMPSHIRE**  
CITY · COAST · COUNTRY

**Cambridge**  
TAKE YOUR TIME

KENT  
GARDEN of ENGLAND  
visitkent.co.uk

  
**ENGLISH RIVIERA**  
BID COMPANY

Marketing  
Gloucester  


  
DESTINATION  
**PLYMOUTH**

  
**VISIT HERTS**