

Delegate itineraries to discover ...

Experience the idyllic southern county of Hampshire, where medieval myths and literary legends merge with modern city life, quaint countryside, and expansive coastline.

Historic Winchester and Literary Inspirations in the South Downs

Once the most important royal church in England, the history of **Winchester Cathedral** spans an impressive 15 centuries. Find the resting place of kings, queens and bishops as well as much-loved author Jane Austen. Visitors may also recognise the spectacular cathedral as the setting of the Vatican in the film adaptation of the Da Vinci Code.

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

Follow in the footsteps of beloved author Jane Austen to

the pretty village of Chawton and explore the Grade I listed cottage in which she lived and found inspiration, the **Jane Austen House Museum**.

Travel a little further to **Chawton House** to this quintessentially English manor house which was once owned by Austen's brother Edward Austen Knight. Set on 275 acres of Hampshire countryside, Chawton House Library features many treasures by women writers of the past.

Close by in Selborne you can also visit **Gilbert White's House Museum**. Its surrounding landscape nestled in the South Downs National park, inspired Gilbert White's life-long investigation of the natural world, culminating in his world-famous book *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*.

Remarkable North Hampshire Architecture

Visit the unique **Bombay Sapphire Distillery** where creative architecture, gin masterclasses and highly delicious drinks are all on the menu at this state-of-the-art distillery and home to the famous blue bottled gin.

On the county border sits **Highclere Castle**, with Egyptian antiquities exhibited within its cellars, this magnificent house was once home to the explorer who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamen. Today visitors may recognise it as Downton Abbey in the popular BBC drama.



New Forest Delights

Visit the world famous 200 acre **Exbury Gardens** in the heart of the National Park along the Beaulieu River. Once described as 'heaven with the gates open' Exbury Gardens were the inspiration of Lionel Nathan de Rothschild and his vision has made them what they are today.

Embark on a panoramic **Hop On And Off Bus** tour, with the opportunity to soak up the picturesque chocolate-box villages, cosy thatched pubs and wild ponies which adorn the heathland. Key photo opportunities can be found in the villages and towns of Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst, Lymington and Burley.

In the afternoon stop at the award winning **Beaulieu National Motor Museum**. Uncover a fascinating collection of over 250 automobiles and motorcycles telling the story of motoring from when it began to the present day. Enjoy time to explore the onsite exhibitions such as Top Gear, the ruins of Beaulieu Abbey, historic Palace House and the mono-rail.



Sea-Faring city of Portsmouth

The historic naval city of Portsmouth is home to one of the south coast's most popular outlet shopping centres, **Gunwharf Quays**.

Whilst there, soar up the 170 metre tall **Emirates Spinnaker Tower** and soak up the panoramic views of Portsmouth Harbour and beyond before enjoying a light lunch at the Café in the Clouds.

Next door sits the famous **Historic Dockyard**, where majestic battleships, impenetrable submarines, and a fleet of unforgettable naval stories lie. Climb on board HMS Warrior 1860, once the pride of Queen Victoria's fleet, then follow in Lord Nelson's footsteps on board **HMS Victory**, his flagship which played an important role in the Battle of Trafalgar. Finally discover 19,000 artefacts at the state-of-the-art Mary Rose Museum, home to Henry VIII's beloved warship which sank in Portsmouth Harbour.



Contact Hampshire Conference Bureau for further information about the suggested itineraries described, recommended tour guides, local coach providers and more.

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