

Historic Bucks - #3DaysInBucks

Buckinghamshire and The Chilterns is a fantastic tourism destination, rich in history and culture, as well as plenty of beautiful scenery. Enjoy three days discovering its many must-see manors and historic houses, rich in intrigue, history and stories.

Day 1 – Milton’s Cottage & Cliveden



Cliveden House

On your first day in Buckinghamshire, you could start at [Milton's Cottage](#) in Chalfont St Giles. It's the only surviving home of the visionary poet and parliamentarian, John Milton. Although he lived here for less than 2 years – after fleeing the outbreak of Bubonic plague in London in 1665 - Milton's Cottage was an important place in the writer's life. Within these walls he completed his epic masterpiece, 'Paradise Lost', and was inspired to write its sequel, 'Paradise Regain'd'. Today, this Grade I listed 16th century cottage is a museum, containing books, paintings and prints that give a fascinating insight into Milton's life, plus a unique literary garden, stocked with flowers, trees and herbs referenced in his poetry.

Another house with an intriguing past is [Cliveden](#) which is a 20 minute drive from Chalfont. Built in 1666 by the 2nd Duke of Buckingham as a gift to his mistress, the Grade I listed stately home now has 350 years of power, politics and parties. You can learn more about Cliveden's past with their guided tour. This gives you a chance to see some of the most intriguing rooms enjoyed by

the likes of Winston Churchill, Charlie Chaplin and the Queen Mother. Not only can you explore the house and gardens, you can also stay in it. A luxurious 5 star hotel, beloved by the rich and famous and chosen by Megan Markle to spend the night before her wedding to Prince Harry.

Day 2 – Hughenden Manor & Bletchley Park



Hughenden Manor

[Hughenden](#) is best known as the home to Victorian prime minister Benjamin Disraeli. However, it was also home to a secret map-making operation in the Second World War, so secret that it was only discovered 60 years later! Codenamed 'Hillside,' Hughenden's role was vital in supporting the pilots of nearby Bomber Command, so much so that it was on Hitler's list of top targets.

You can visit [Hughenden Manor](#) and take a look through its permanent display which features original photographs, records and memories of personnel involved at the time. The house, in all its Victorian splendour, is well worth a visit in its own right and there are beautiful formal gardens, a walled garden with fruit trees (delicious apple juice is available during the autumn) and acres of parkland with ancient woods to enjoy.

[Bletchley Park](#) is an hour's drive from Hughenden and is the home of the WW2 codebreakers. There is much to see here: explore the 19th Century Victorian Mansion and its lovely grounds, Codebreaking Huts and Blocks, Nissen Huts, The National Radio Centre, and immersive onsite exhibitions, including a D-Day exhibition and cinematic experience and regular temporary exhibitions. The interactive media guides are extremely authentic and engaging and they have ones specially for children with spy missions and more. You can eat in at Hut 4

café, grab a coffee from Block C coffee shop or indulge in a vintage afternoon tea in the mansion.

Day 3 – Stowe House & Gardens and Waddesdon Manor



Waddesdon Manor

[Waddesdon Manor](#) is the most well-known manor of Buckinghamshire. This 16th-century French chateau is managed by the Rothschild Foundation and sits in the heart of Waddesdon town. The Manor was built by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild between 1874 and 1885 to display his collection of arts. It is still home to an expanded collection of paintings, sculpture and decorative arts for the public to see. A beautiful manor with stunning grounds, including an aviary of tropical birds, it is easy to spend a whole day here. There are often exhibitions and festivals held here too.

A forty minute drive north takes you to Stowe. Not only should you visit [Stowe House](#) for its beautiful exterior but to learn of the scandalous past that happened inside Stowe's walls. This stunning house was built in the 18th century by the Temple-Grenville family who wanted to create a landscape filled with temples, the most lavish of those temples being Stowe House. The family's scandals and debt meant the house was close to demolition but was saved by Stowe School in 1923, which is a very popular and prestigious school till this day.

The Stowe House Preservation Trust have been looking after the house since 2000, you can explore the house by taking part in one of their guided tours or,

visit the museum and exhibition. [Stowe Gardens](#) are run by the National Trust and they are dotted with Greek and Romanesque temples, follies and statues with a lovely lake in the middle. Well worth a visit!

Where to Stay

There are many places to choose from including B&Bs, pubs with rooms and hotels. If you want to go for luxury, then you can stay at [Cliveden House Hotel](#) and live like an Astor. Or just up the road, the lovely town of Marlow has many options including the very reasonably priced [Crowne Plaza](#). Or you could make a base at [Missenden Abbey](#) or the [Nags Head](#) which is not too far from everything. In Waddesdon, the [Five Arrows Hotel](#) is a stylish option or [Hartwell House Hotel](#) near Aylesbury is another historic house hotel, once home to Louis XVIII of France whilst in exile.

Check out our [accommodation page](#) for more options.

This is just a snippet of what can be found in Buckinghamshire. There is plenty more to discover in and around this beautiful county.

Head to our website at [Homepage - Visit Buckinghamshire](#) for more ideas and inspiration on what to see and do in Buckinghamshire and The Chilterns.