

World War & 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 stories from during the wars. You may be surprised by how much Buckinghamshire contributed to the war effort.

Day 1 – Buckingham Old Goal & Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes



On your first day in Buckinghamshire, you could start in the county town of Buckingham at [The Old Goal Museum](#), where the Buckinghamshire Military Museum has a wonderful collection dating back to the 1500s. From there, it's a 20 minute drive to Bletchley Park (pictured above). As the home of the WW2 codebreakers, there is so 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.

Find out more [here](#).

If you have time, it's a 40 minute drive from Bletchley to the [Trenchard Museum](#) which displays and preserves items that relate to the history of

Royal Air Force Halton. The museum is named in honour of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Viscount Trenchard, who is regarded as the Founding Father of the Royal Air Force. As you cannot visit RAF Halton since it is still in use today, the museum is the next best thing! See a variety of artefacts including complete aircrafts, cockpits, aero engines, simulators, as well as memorabilia which illustrate life, training and notable events during 100 years of the Royal Air Force.

Day 2 – Hughenden Manor & High Wycombe



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.

A 10 minute drive takes you to the centre of High Wycombe where you can prepare yourself to step back in time and discover the town as it was during WW1. Follow the [Heritage Trail](#) from outside the library with WW1 Soldier John who will lead you around the town with exciting insights into life in High Wycombe during the Great War.

The trail is designed for use with a mobile phone and includes videos, photos and commentary as you navigate from point to point.

In keeping with the wartime theme, you could head back to the town centre and visit [the Air Raid Shelter Café and Tea Room](#). Here you can grab yourselves some refreshments at the 1940's themed furnished café with menu to match.

Day 3 – Amersham and the Chiltern Open Air Museum



Amersham is a lovely town and the old High Street has numerous independent shops and award-winning restaurants. You could stay here after your visit to Hughenden and High Wycombe on Day 2 (see below for more options) or enjoy as stroll admiring the beautiful old houses and perhaps doing a bit of shopping before heading to the Amersham Museum.

Amersham Museum

The [Amersham Museum](#) has a fascinating collection housed in a Medieval hall with modern glass extension. You can explore Amersham's past which

includes details about [Latimer House](#) (now a hotel) through which thousands of German prisoners passed during the war. The Intelligence Services would listen in to the prisoners without them knowing and were able to gather a large volume of important information and secrets which helped win the war. It is rumoured that Randolph Hess, Hitler's deputy, was even held at Latimer House for a short time, probably during 1942.

A 15 minute drive back in the direction of London can take you to the [Chiltern Open Air Museum](#) where you can discover their original [Nissen Hut](#) which were invented during the First World War. Step back in time and enter the hut where you can find a WW2 RAF briefing room, where aeroplane crews would go for their meetings and be given flight instructions. Discover the history of Nissen Huts, who invented them, why they were built and what they were used for [here](#).

Where to Stay

There are many places to choose from including B&Bs, pubs with rooms and hotels. [Missenden Abbey](#) is a 12th century Medieval Abbey which offers B&B rooms and is in a good location for this itinerary, as is [The Nags Head](#) in Great Missenden, renowned for its food. The [Wendover Arms](#) is also a good option for night 1. [The de Vere Latimer](#) would be of interest because of its historical secrets as mentioned above and is near the Chiltern Open Air Museum. In Amersham, [the Lodge at Manor Barn](#) is a grade II listed 17th century barn converted into a charming B&B within walking distance of the High Street.

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.