

THINGS TO DO IN AND AROUND SOUTHAM, WARWICKSHIRE

Whether you are holidaying with your family or taking a break with a group of friends, here are some ideas and suggestions for days out, to help make your stay with us one of the best breaks you have ever had.

For families with children - some favourites are:

- [rugrats and half pints](#) - fun for 0 -8 years in Banbury
- [playfarm](#) - Leamington Spa
- [Drayton Manor Park and Zoo](#) – theme park for an all action packed family day out including Thomas Land and award-winning Apocalypse thrill ride. A favourite with children of all ages!
- [Hatton Country world](#) - farmyard animals, indoor and outdoor play barn suitable for all ages (including adults!), tractor rides, shopping village.....
- [Heritage Motor Centre](#) - the world's largest collection of historic British cars, 4X4 experience, outdoor go- karting, children's electric car mini road way
- [Legoland, Windsor](#) - is a unique family theme park where children aged 2 – 12 can take to the road, soar through the skies and let their imagination take over. Easy access via the M40.
- [Museum of British Road Transport](#) - For a special treat suitable for children and adults alike, take a trip to the Coventry Transport Museum - **free entrance**.
- [Redwings Oxhill Horse Sanctuary](#) - visit rescued horses, ponies and donkeys in beautiful surroundings - **free entrance**
- [Stratford on Avon Butterfly farm](#) - UK's largest tropical butterfly paradise, where you can feed butterflies and see other insects and scary spiders too. Suitable if cold outside.
- [Stratford Armouries](#) - a unique collection of arms and armour including one for an elephant, indoor play barn and outside play equipment, good restaurant
- [Stratford Bike Hire](#) - hire a bike and cycle down a 5 miles traffic free path (old railway line) with cafes along the way, or venture further afield.
- [Stratford Museum of Wizardology](#) - Two magical attractions in a haunted building
- [St Nicholas Park](#) - With kids play areas, Adventure Mini-Golf, sport, swimming and boat rides, St Nicholas Park really has something for everyone.
- Tenpin Bowling in [Leamington Spa](#) and [Banbury](#)
- [The National Herb Centre](#) - wonderful herbs and plants, gift shop, bistro, nature trail, maze, ducks, free entrance

Warwickshire's Countryside parks:

- [Burton Dassett Hills](#) - viewed from the cottages, great for walking, flying a kite or seeing the mediaeval church
- [Ufton Feilds Nature Reserve](#)
- [Draycote Water Nature Reserve](#)
- [The Stratford Greenway](#) - great traffic-free environment, where you can take your own bikes or hire them
- [Ryton Pool Country Park](#) - 100 acres of lakes, grassland and woodland waiting to be explored. Great organised activities for children

Some suggestions for group activities:

- [Hire bikes or walk](#) - on a country pub crawl
- Treasure hunt by rowing boat at Stratford
- [Mr Karting](#)- fantastic indoor timed go karting
- [Spooky tales](#) in the most haunted house in Stratford or see the sites on a [ghost walk and river cruise](#) in Stratford
- [Adventure Sports](#), clay pigeon shooting, quad bikes, paint balling and loads more.....
- Horse Racing, at [Warwick](#) and [Stratford](#)
- Boys only night out at the [Cazbar](#) (a security deposit held against your credit card will be required for groups of 11 people or more)

Activities and Attractions

We have some fantastic activities and attractions nearby to us, whether it is historic Warwick Castle, the picture box villages of the Cotswolds such as Stow or Bourton on the Water, Shakespeare's Stratford or something a little more active such as mountain biking, paint balling or playing golf.

Museums and Heritage

- [Althorp](#) - home to the Spencers for 5 centuries and the final resting place of ' Lady Diana'
- [Baddesley Clinton \(NT\)](#) - romantic Medieval moated manor
- [Blenheim Palace](#) - home to the 11th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and is the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill with Capability Brown gardens
- [Broughton Castle](#) - has been described as one of the most beautiful in England, starred in many films, Madness of King George and Shakespeare in Love
- [Cannons Ashby \(NT\)](#) - is an Elizabethan Manor House and has been the family home of the Drydens since Elizabethan times
- [Charlecote Mill](#) - powered by 2 large undershot waterwheels from the river Avon. Open on specific dates
- [Compton Verney](#) - Award winning art gallery, in a grade 1 listed Georgian setting with Capability Brown gardens, adventure playground and great restaurant.
- [Coughton Court \(NT\)](#) - Explore this historic house with gunpowder plotters, priest holes. Walled garden, restaurant and plant sales
- [Coventry Transport Museum](#) - fantastic museum, devoted to the collection of British road transport. Free admission
- [Farnborough Hall](#) - is a beautiful stone house, richly decorated in the mid-18th century, is surrounded by elegant lakes and fine landscape gardens.
- [Falstaff Experience](#) - this award winning museum and gift shop is in a haunted 16th Century building, they do ghost tours and hunting too.

- Heritage Motor Centre - the world's largest collection of historic British cars, 4X4 experience, outdoor go- karting, children's electric car mini road way
- Hidcote Manor Garden (NT) - A famous Arts and Crafts garden, made by Lawrence Johnston c1905. Characterized by its many 'garden rooms'
- Hall's Croft (Shakespeare) - An impressive 16th century house, with Jacobean additions, outstanding furniture, paintings and a medicine exhibition
- Harvard House - Home of Katherine Rogers, mother of John Havard, contains a unique collection of roman pewter.
- Kenilworth Castle (EH) - one of the most spectacular castle ruins in England, now with revamped Elizabethan Garden
- Lord Leycester Hospital - A group of 14th Century buildings converted to house old soldiers in 1571 and still to this day. Very friendly people great tea room
- MAD - this museum is a wonderful and exciting collection of machines incorporating gears, chains, pulleys and whirligig paraphernalia.
- The National Herb Centre - wonderful herbs and plants, gift shop, bistro, nature trail, maze, ducks, free entrance
- Packwood House (NT) - much restored Tudor House, with 16th century textiles and furniture. Park and gardens with notable topiary
- Ragley Hall - fantastic house, 2mile sculpture trail, massive tree hidden adventure playground
- Rousham House - Rousham and its landscape garden should be a place of pilgrimage for students of the work of William Ken
- Snowhill Manor and garden - holds a treasured collection of Japanese armour and swords as well as beautiful gardens.
- Stonleigh Abbey - walk in the footsteps of Jane Austin - beautiful house set in 690 acres of parkland and gardens with the river Avon flowing through
- St Johns Museum - early Jacobean house with Warwickshire social history, period 19th century kitchen and school room and Museum of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment
- Sulgrave Manor - Is famous for being the Home of George Washington's Ancestors. But it is a really quirky house and a great day out.
- Upton House (NT) - is a magnificent mansion built in the golden age of country living by the heir to the Shell Oil fortune, Walter Samuel, an avid art collector
- Waddesdon Manor - This astonishing Renaissance-style château was designed by French architect Destailleur in 1874 for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild.
- Warwick Castle - Full day out in Britain's Greatest Mediaeval Experience, lots to do inside and out, marvellous fun

Outdoor Pursuits

- Clay pigeon Shooting
 - [Warwick](#)
 - [Edgehill](#)
- [Day boat Canal cruises](#) - why not take a day to see the beautiful countryside
- Model Boat Club - on site at the farm, meets most Thursdays and some Saturdays and Sundays
- [Model flying club](#) - on site at the farm
- [Model railway club](#)- onsite at the farm, with N, OO, EM, P4 and O gauges. A warm welcome awaits those from the cottages on Thursday club nights.
- [Mr Karting](#) - Warwickshire's favourite indoor go karting track with the latest timing system and reception software provided by TAG Heuer
- Fishing
 - [Kingston farm fishing lakes](#) - Kingston
 - [Bishops Bowl lakes](#)
 - [Heathcote Trout lakes](#)
- [Frisbee Disc Golf](#) - You have to throw a frisbee round a parkland course of 18 metal brackets in as few shots as possible
- [Ghost tours](#) - The Stratford Ripper Experience - terrifying tales for the brave at heart in Warwickshire's most haunted scare attraction
- Gliding
 - [Stratford upon Avon Gliding club](#)
 - [Shennington Gliding Club](#)
- Golf
 - [The Warwickshire Golf and country club](#) - 36 holes of championship golf - 2 x 18 holes courses par 72
 - [Newbold Common Golf Club](#) - one of the finest municipal courses in the Midlands, suitable for golfers of all standards - 18 hole par 70
 - [Ingon Manor Golf Club](#) - 18 hole par 72 championship golf course par 3. The 17th signature hole at 203 yards is over water to an island green.
 - [Drayton leisure golf centre](#) - Driving range and 9 hole, par 3 Golf Course
- [Lazer quest](#) in Coventry

- Horse Racing
 - [Stratford Racecourse](#)
 - [Warwick Racecourse](#)
- [Horse Riding](#) - Radway riding school lovely horses, ponies and instructors.
- [Ice skating](#)- Coventry
- [Paint balling](#) - Warwick
- [Quad biking](#)- Warwick
- Bancroft [River Cruise](#) - day (cream tea) or night, spooky or magical, afternoon tea or dinner, wheel chair accessible.
- [Roller Disco/ skating](#) - Banbury Spicepool
- [Sailing](#)- Draycote water
- [Shakespeare County Raceway](#) – Drag racing and tractor Pulling
- [Stratford town walk](#) - Award winning town walks by day or spookily by night, fantastic.
- Ten pin bowling
 - [Leamington](#)
 - [Banbury](#)
- [Vintage tractors](#) - on the farm site. Please wander around this impressive collection of tractors.
- [Warwick boat centre](#) linked with St Nicholas park and near to Warwick castle

Shopping and Towns

- Warwick
- Leamington Spa
- Stratford upon Avon
- Banbury
- Oxford
- Coventry
- [Southam](#)
- Cotswolds
- [Bicester Shopping Village](#)
- [Hatton Shopping Village](#)

General Markets

- Southam - Every Tuesday 9.00 - 2.00
- Banbury - Every Thursday and Saturday 9.00 - 2.00
- Warwick - Every Saturday 9.00 - 4.00
- Wellesbourne Airfield Market - one of the UK's Largest- open every Saturday and Summer Bank Holiday Mondays 9.00 - 4.00

Farmers Markets are a great place to get fresh and organic food from our local farms and producers

- Southam - Market Hill - 2nd Saturday of every month 9.00 - 2.00
- Stratford - Rother Street - 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month - 9.00 - 2.00
- Warwick - Market Place - 3rd Friday of every month - 9.00 - 2.00
- Shipston on Stour - Mill Street - 4th Wednesday - 9.00 - 2.00
- Leamington Spa - Pump Rooms - 4th Saturday - 9.00 - 2.00
- Kineton - 2nd Saturday of every month - 9.00 - 2.00

Cinemas and Theatre

- Royal Shakespeare Company
 - Royal Shakespeare Theatre
 - The Swan
 - The Other Place
- The Belgrade - great theatre in Coventry
- Spa Centre - super theatre in Leamington Spa
- Odeon Cinema - Banbury
- Apollo Cinema Leamington Spa

Health, Fitness and Beauty

- My personal Sanctuary visiting Organic spa - will give treatments in the cottages.
- Curalistic Hands - Massage, lava shells, Reiki and facials
- Wildmoor Spa and sanctuary - Health Club is a luxurious five star Spa and Fitness club, who offer an exceptional choice of spa days and spa treatments.
- Leisure Centres and Swimming pools
 - Southam
 - Stratford
 - Banbury
 - Leamington

Walking and Cycling

Whether your pleasure is a leisurely stroll, some uphill exhilaration on a bike, a walk on the wildlife side or to skirt a battlefield or historic house, there really is a vast network of trails and bike rides in Warwickshire which can truly stretch your legs and your imagination.....

Provided at the cottages :

- Information and local guided walks
- OS maps and car maps
- Cycle routes and historic town trail leaflets.
- Dry and secure barn storage for bikes
- Washing facilities for boots and bikes

Cycle and Walks from the cottages.

- You can walk or cycle in any direction from the cottages, north, south, east and west.
- All our farmland is linked by road, small tracks and pathways to provide 600 acres of Warwickshire farmland that is hidden away and but easy to explore.
- Why not wander around the village to see the thatched cottages, small chapel still used regularly, watering holes and natural spring? Knightcote is a hamlet nestling in the county of Warwickshire. The origin of the name dates back to 1242 when Ralph de Knyghtcote held it for ½ a Knight's fee.
- Take a 1 ½ mile circular walk/ride. Head straight down the village, until you see a triangular piece of grass. Take a left past the natural spring, then a left again. Past the Manor House and farm, built in 1765 by the Yardleys whose relatives still live and work there to this day. Then take another left, following the River Itchen and finally another left. Maybe pick up some fresh eggs at the farm and past the village playground back to the cottages.
- This circular walk/ride can be extended to Bishops Itchington – 6 ½ miles. Walk straight down the village, until you see a triangular piece of grass. Take a left past the natural spring, then a left again. Past the Manor House and farm, built in 1765 by the Yardleys whose relatives still live and work there to this day. You can either take a left back to Knightcote or pass over a small red brick bridge called Ham Bridge along a lovely old gated road, where the hedges grow tall and the fields are still meadows, untouched by modern farming methods. The road meanders through farms and over and under railway bridges. If you have time, wait and wave at the trains. The drivers either toot or wave, great for all of us young at heart. Half way round you arrive at Bishops Itchington where there is a playground, pub, shop, post office, and fish and chip shop. You can either head to the main road (still fairly quiet) and follow the signs to Knightcote, or return the way you came and discover all the things you missed on the way.
- Another 6 ½ miles route is to head down the village and south towards the sunshine and the country park of Burton Dassett Hills. Burton Dassett is mentioned in the Domesday book as a large Norman settlement and evidence of this can be seen in the church, which is one of the grandest in the Midlands. After traveling for 1 mile and over a small humped backed railway

bridge you are met by a T junction. (Here's a web site with a [map](#) of this route from here). Head straight on towards the hills on a gravel road called Stoney Bump. Once up on the hills you can visit the Church, spring and the beacon tower, built as a late medieval look out and used in the Civil War (1642) to signal neighbouring Edge Hill. In the summer there is normally an ice cream van here. There are also toilet facilities. You can choose to head left to Northend, or right to Fenny Compton where there is a Co-op and then follow the signs for Knightcote.

- [This is a great walk](#) (11 ½ miles) goes from Knightcote (join it at number 3). It takes in Ladbroke, Knightcote Bottoms, Itchington Holt, Bishops Itchington, some great names if nothing else!

Below are some leisure cycle routes, with loads of information and things to see and do on the way. They will be of interest not just to cyclists but to walkers and those who may want to drive some of the way too.

- A cycle route that runs directly through the village is the national cycle route [no 48 Shipston to Southam](#) . We are in the middle of this 28 mile route. It connects with the National Cycle Route no 41 at Leamington Spa.
- the [National Cycle Route no 41](#) Lias Lane from Warwick to Rugby connects to the no 48 Shipston to Southam
- The no 48 Shipston to Southam route also connects to the [The Shipston-on-Stour to Moreton-in-Marsh Route](#) and the [The Cotswold and Feldon Cycle Route](#)
- A nice local [cycle route into Royal Leamington Spa](#), you will need to join the route at Bishops Itchington 2 miles away. It goes past Chesterton Windmill and down the Fosse Way, one of the most famous of Britain's Roman roads.
- 2 cycle routes that start from Stratford upon Avon, where you can hire bikes from www.stratfordbikere.com - both are fabulous and take in the very essence of Stratford and Shakespeare [route 1](#) and [route 2](#)

A very useful cycle web site is the [Warwickshire Cycle Routes](#)

Hire of Bikes

You don't even need to bring your own bikes. We have a great local hire company www.stratfordbikere.com They will deliver them to the cottages for you, or you can meet them in Stratford at the Greenway. They have bikes for all ages and ability, they even have tandems.