

Hunt House Town and City Visitor Guide

Days out from Hunt House in Kilsby, CV23 8XR. September 2026 edition. Journey times are estimates; check live routes, opening, tickets and access before travel. Links open current visitor information and maps.

Rugby

[How do I get there? Driving directions](#)

Approximately 15–20 minutes from Hunt House

Best for: Local history, rugby heritage, museums, cafés and an easy half-day

Close enough for an unhurried morning or afternoon, Rugby combines the story of the game with a compact town centre, independent shops and relaxed places to eat. Visit the Rugby Art Gallery and Museum, explore the town's sporting heritage and, when tours are running, discover the history of Rugby School. Caldecott Park provides a pleasant green pause beside the centre.

Make a day of it

Start around the Rugby Art Gallery and Museum and the World Rugby Hall of Fame displays.

Walk through the town centre towards Rugby School and its historic surroundings.

Finish with lunch, coffee or a stroll through Caldecott Park.

Food and drink A useful choice when guests want cafés, pubs and restaurants without committing to a long drive. It works particularly well for lunch or an early evening meal after a local outing.

Along the way Hillmorton Locks makes a separate waterside stop before or after the town; it is not part of the central walking route.

Weather and season Keep a wet-weather day around the museum and cafés. For a shorter outing, choose the town centre and Caldecott Park.

Travel and access Use town-centre parking for the heritage route. Rugby station is outside the core visitor area; allow for the onward walk or taxi. Check the venue's access guide if steps, slopes or longer walks are a concern.

[Discover Rugby](#)

[Rugby Art Gallery and Museum](#)

[Rugby School Tours](#)

Daventry and Braunston

[How do I get there? Driving directions](#)

Approximately 10–20 minutes from Hunt House

Best for: Reservoir walks, canals, boats, countryside and an easy local outing

For a relaxed day close to Hunt House, combine Daventry Country Park with the canal village of Braunston. Guests can choose a short reservoir-side walk, watch narrowboats around Braunston Marina or follow a stretch of towpath before stopping for lunch. It is an easy recommendation for couples, walkers, boat enthusiasts and anyone who would rather spend less time driving.

Make a day of it

Take a short walk beside the reservoir at Daventry Country Park.

Continue to Braunston village, marina and the Grand Union Canal.

Choose a canal-side lunch or a drink in the village before returning.

Food and drink Braunston is best presented as a waterside lunch destination rather than a large restaurant centre. Daventry offers a wider selection of everyday cafés, pubs and restaurants.

Along the way Choose Braunston for a meal beside the canal, or Daventry for a practical shopping stop. Each involves its own parking stop.

Weather and season In spring and summer, pair boats with an outdoor lunch. In poor weather, shorten the towpath section and spend longer over food.

Travel and access Drive between Daventry and Braunston. Do not treat the two as one short walking circuit. Check the venue's access guide if steps, slopes or longer walks are a concern.

[Daventry Country Park](#)

[Braunston Canal Guide](#)

[Braunston Marina](#)

Coventry

[How do I get there? Driving directions](#)

Approximately 25–35 minutes from Hunt House

Best for: Cathedrals, transport, social history, creative independents and international food

Coventry makes a surprisingly varied day out. Stand among the ruins of the old cathedral and visit the modern cathedral beside it, then explore the Coventry Transport Museum or the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum. For a more independent side of the city, continue to FarGo Village for creative shops, events and casual food. Much of the central heritage area can be explored on foot.

Make a day of it

Begin with the old cathedral ruins and the modern Coventry Cathedral.

Choose the Transport Museum or the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum.

Finish at FarGo Village for independent shopping, street food or an event.

Food and drink Coventry offers everything from familiar city-centre restaurants to Indian dining and independent street-food kitchens. FarGo Village is particularly useful for guests looking for something informal and different.

Along the way Coombe Abbey is a possible separate park stop on the eastern side of Coventry; allow extra time rather than treating it as a quick motorway stop.

Weather and season Keep to the cathedral and museums in rain. Look for seasonal exhibitions and FarGo events before choosing your date.

Travel and access Train travel from Rugby is an option. From Coventry station, allow roughly 15–25 minutes on foot to the cathedral area, depending on pace and route. FarGo is a further walk east. Check the venue's access guide if steps, slopes or longer walks are a concern.

[Visit Coventry](#)

[Coventry Cathedral](#)

[Coventry Transport Museum](#)

Market Harborough and Foxton Locks

[How do I get there? Driving directions](#)

Approximately 30–40 minutes from Hunt House

Best for: Canal engineering, waterside walks, independent shops and lunch

Foxton Locks and Market Harborough make a natural pair. At Foxton, watch boats negotiate the famous staircase locks, learn about the inclined plane and enjoy a waterside walk at whatever length suits. Afterwards, continue into Market Harborough for attractive streets, independent shops, cafés and restaurants. It can be a gentle half-day or a fuller outing with the museum and a longer canal walk.

Make a day of it

Start at Foxton Locks before the busiest part of the day.

Visit the canal museum or walk beside the locks and inclined plane site.

Continue to Market Harborough for shopping, lunch and a town-centre wander.

Food and drink Foxton offers waterside refreshments, including the Foxton Locks Inn, Bridge 61 and the Top Lock café area. Market Harborough adds traditional pubs, independent cafés and international restaurants.

Along the way Combine the locks with Market Harborough for lunch and independent shops; drive between the two.

Weather and season The locks suit dry weather. Choose the town and cafés for a shorter or wetter day; check museum opening before relying on it.

Travel and access Choose the correct Foxton visitor car park for your walking ability. The two destinations need separate parking arrangements. Check the venue's access guide if steps, slopes or longer walks are a concern.

[Visit Harborough](#)

[Foxton Locks](#)

[Foxton Canal Museum](#)

Northampton

[How do I get there? Driving directions](#)

Approximately 30–40 minutes from Hunt House

Best for: Historic houses, gardens, museums, shoe heritage and shopping

Northampton works best as a choice of two contrasting outings. Delapré Abbey offers centuries of history, parkland and a café in a peaceful setting close to the town. In the centre, Northampton Museum and Art Gallery explores local history and the town's internationally important footwear story. Guests can combine either with the restored Market Square and town-centre food and shopping.

Make a day of it

Choose a morning at Delapré Abbey and its grounds, or the town-centre museum.

Have lunch at the abbey café or around the Market Square.

Add the second attraction for a fuller day, depending on energy and weather.

Food and drink The Orangery at Delapré is convenient for a relaxed visit. Northampton town centre has a broad mix of cafés, pubs and international restaurants.

Along the way Brampton Valley Way and Northampton and Lamport Railway can form a separate northern outing; they are not in the town centre.

Weather and season In poor weather choose Northampton Museum. Garden and estate events suit the warmer months, subject to the programme.

Travel and access Choose parking for either Delapré or the centre first. Moving between them adds travel time; a short visit works better around one main attraction. Check the venue's access guide if steps, slopes or longer walks are a concern.

[Delapré Abbey](#)

[Northampton Museums](#)

[Northampton Visitor Information](#)

Warwick

[How do I get there? Driving directions](#)

Approximately 35–45 minutes from Hunt House

Best for: A major castle, medieval streets, gardens, riverside walks and traditional food

Warwick offers far more than its famous castle. Guests can make a full day of the castle and its grounds, or create a gentler historic-town visit around the Lord Leycester, St Mary's Church, Market Hall Museum and Warwick's timber-framed streets. St Nicholas Park and the riverside provide space for a walk, while the town centre has plenty of cafés, pubs and restaurants.

Make a day of it

For a big day, devote the morning and early afternoon to Warwick Castle.

For a quieter alternative, explore the Lord Leycester, St Mary's Church and Market Hall Museum.

Finish with the riverside or St Nicholas Park, followed by a town-centre meal.

Food and drink Warwick suits visitors looking for traditional pubs, tearooms and independent restaurants in a historic setting. Castle visitors may prefer to eat inside the attraction, while town explorers have more variety around Market Place and the surrounding streets.

Along the way Hatton Locks is an optional extension outside Warwick. Leamington Spa is another nearby destination, best added only if you are not spending a full day at the castle.

Weather and season Choose indoor heritage visits in rain; seasonal castle shows and Christmas activities require their own date and ticket checks.

Travel and access Castle parking and town parking are different choices. Check the walk from your selected car park and any castle admission time. Check the venue's access guide if steps, slopes or longer walks are a concern.

[Explore Warwick](#)

[Warwick Castle](#)

[The Lord Leycester](#)

Royal Leamington Spa

[How do I get there? Driving directions](#)

Approximately 35–45 minutes from Hunt House

Best for: Elegant architecture, gardens, shopping, cafés and a relaxed day

Royal Leamington Spa is ideal when guests want a polished, unhurried day rather than a single large attraction. Stroll through Jephson Gardens and the Pump Room Gardens, visit the free art gallery and museum in the Royal Pump Rooms, then browse the shops around the Parade and Regent Street. The town's attractive centre also makes it one of the area's strongest choices for lunch, coffee or evening dining.

Make a day of it

Begin in Jephson Gardens and cross towards the Royal Pump Rooms.

Visit the art gallery and museum, then browse the central shops.

Choose lunch, afternoon tea or an evening meal from the wide town-centre selection.

Food and drink Leamington has one of the strongest café and restaurant scenes in the area, with independent coffee shops, brunch spots, pubs and cuisines from around the world. It works equally well for daytime grazing or a more special evening meal.

Along the way Warwick is a nearby extension for a longer day, rather than a compulsory stop. Keep one town as your main destination.

Weather and season The Pump Rooms provide an indoor option. In warmer weather make the gardens the focus and look for local food and music events.

Travel and access Park centrally for the gardens and shops. A railway journey from Rugby normally requires a change; compare the complete journey before choosing it. Check the venue's access guide if steps, slopes or longer walks are a concern.

[Royal Leamington Spa](#)

[Royal Pump Rooms](#)

[Jephson Gardens](#)

Kenilworth

[How do I get there? Driving directions](#)

Approximately 35–45 minutes from Hunt House

Best for: Castle ruins, Elizabethan history, parkland and a relaxed town-centre meal

Kenilworth combines monumental history with a pleasantly relaxed town. Explore Kenilworth Castle and its recreated Elizabethan Garden, then walk or drive to Abbey Fields for open views, paths and the remains of St Mary's Abbey. Guests who prefer a quieter visit can enjoy the old town, cafés and independent businesses without attempting every part of the castle site.

Make a day of it

Spend the morning at Kenilworth Castle and the Elizabethan Garden.

Have lunch around the old High Street or central shopping area.

Finish with Abbey Fields, the abbey ruins or part of the Castle and Abbey Trail.

Food and drink Kenilworth offers a good mixture of traditional pubs, bakeries, cafés and independent restaurants. It is particularly easy to combine a castle visit with lunch around the old town.

Along the way Stoneleigh Abbey is a possible separate visit in the wider area when tours operate. Do not try to squeeze it into an already full castle day.

Weather and season The castle is mainly an outdoor visit. For a gentler day, shorten the ruins visit and allow more time for lunch and the old town.

Travel and access Check the castle car park separately from Abbey Fields parking. Moving between the castle, old town and shopping centre involves walking. Check the venue's access guide if steps, slopes or longer walks are a concern.

[Visit Kenilworth](#)

[Kenilworth Castle](#)

[Castle and Abbey Trail](#)

Banbury

[How do I get there? Driving directions](#)

Approximately 35–45 minutes from Hunt House

Best for: Canal-side heritage, a compact market town, museums and traditional pubs

Banbury is a manageable market-town day with a strong canal connection. Visit Banbury Museum beside the Oxford Canal, walk through the town centre and find the famous Fine Lady statue near Banbury Cross. Guests can add a towpath stroll, browse the shops or seek out a traditional Banbury cake before lunch. Nearby Broughton Castle can turn it into a fuller heritage day when open.

Make a day of it

Start at Banbury Museum and the canal-side area.

Walk through the centre towards Banbury Cross and the historic streets.

Add lunch, shopping, a towpath stroll or Broughton Castle when open.

Food and drink Banbury provides a practical mixture of cafés, pubs and restaurants, with the additional local tradition of Banbury cakes. It suits guests who prefer a compact town rather than a large city.

Along the way Farnborough Hall or Upton House can be paired with Banbury as a separate stop if opening times allow. Both add driving and visiting time.

Weather and season Choose the museum for rain, a canal stroll in fair weather, and check seasonal house openings before making a combined plan.

Travel and access Use central parking for the museum and canal. Broughton Castle is outside the town and requires a separate journey. Check the venue's access guide if steps, slopes or longer walks are a concern.

[Experience Oxfordshire Banbury](#)

[Banbury Museum](#)

[Broughton Castle](#)

Leicester

[How do I get there? Driving directions](#)

Approximately 40–50 minutes from Hunt House

Best for: History, major museums, shopping, culture and food from around the world

Leicester can be several completely different days out. Discover the extraordinary story of Richard III and visit his tomb in Leicester Cathedral; head to the National Space Centre for a family or science-focused day; or combine Highcross shopping with the city's museums and historic Old Town. Leicester's multicultural food scene is a destination in its own right, from familiar Highcross restaurants to the Indian and Gujarati flavours of the Golden Mile.

Make a day of it

History day: King Richard III Visitor Centre, Leicester Cathedral and the Old Town.

Family day: National Space Centre, with Abbey Pumping Station when its opening schedule allows.

Shopping and food day: Highcross, the city centre and a meal chosen from Leicester's international food scene.

Food and drink Leicester is the strongest destination in this guide for culinary variety. Highcross has dozens of cafés and restaurants, while Belgrave Road and the Golden Mile are known for Indian, Gujarati and wider South Asian food, sweets, shops and cultural colour.

Along the way Fosse Park near M1 junction 21 is a useful shopping, food and charging stop on an M1 approach. It is outside central Leicester and adds time; it is not the parking base for the Old Town or Space Centre.

Weather and season Choose a single main theme: history, science, or shopping. Museums make strong wet-weather choices; look up seasonal festivals before travelling.

Travel and access Use city-centre parking for Richard III and the cathedral, or the Space Centre's own parking for a science day. The Golden Mile is a separate area. Check the venue's access guide if steps, slopes or longer walks are a concern.

[Visit Leicester](#)

[King Richard III](#)

[Leicester Cathedral](#)

Stratford upon Avon

[How do I get there? Driving directions](#)

Approximately 50–60 minutes from Hunt House

Best for: Shakespeare, riverside scenery, theatre, gardens and a complete day out

Stratford-upon-Avon is one of the area's fullest day-out destinations. Follow Shakespeare's story through his Birthplace and the town's historic streets, relax beside the River Avon or take a boat trip, visit the Butterfly Farm, and check what is playing at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Guests can shape the day around heritage, family attractions, a gentle riverside visit or an evening performance and meal.

Make a day of it

Begin with Shakespeare's Birthplace and a walk through the historic centre.

Spend time around Bancroft Gardens and the river, with an optional cruise or Butterfly Farm visit.

Finish with dinner or a performance at the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Food and drink Stratford offers everything from tearooms and riverside lunches to pre-theatre dining and international restaurants. Booking is sensible on performance days and during busy visitor periods.

Along the way Charlecote Park is a possible countryside extension near Stratford. A theatre day is usually more relaxed without another major paid attraction.

Weather and season Use the MAD Museum or Butterfly Farm for rain. In summer enjoy the river; in winter check theatre and Christmas-market programmes.

Travel and access Book parking and theatre tickets as needed. Leave time to get from the car park to the performance; railway travel from Rugby is less direct than Birmingham. Check the venue's access guide if steps, slopes or longer walks are a concern.

[Visit Stratford](#)

[Shakespeare Birthplace Trust](#)

[Royal Shakespeare Company](#)

Birmingham

[How do I get there? Driving directions](#)

Best for shopping, canals, museums, international food, concerts and Christmas markets. Allow a full day. Driving may take around 50–75 minutes before traffic and parking; the train is a useful alternative.

Birmingham brings a different scale of day out, with central shopping, the canals around Brindleyplace and a wide choice of places to eat. Start at New Street and choose one compact route rather than trying to cross the whole city.

Make a day of it

Morning: arrive at New Street, browse Grand Central and the Bullring, or head towards Victoria Square for the civic centre. **Lunch:** choose central restaurants or continue towards the canals. **Afternoon:** explore Brindleyplace and the waterside, or book a museum or family attraction. **Evening:** have an early meal before a concert or the train home.

Food and drink Grand Central is convenient for a meal near your return train. Chinatown offers another central food area; Brindleyplace suits a canal-side stop.

Travel Travel from Rugby to Birmingham New Street on a direct service. Allow roughly 40–50 minutes on the train as a planning guide, plus travel to Rugby station, parking and platform time. Check your actual outward and return services.

Arrival From New Street, allow approximately 10–15 minutes to walk to Victoria Square, depending on your exit, pace and crowds. For the NEC, use Birmingham International instead and check that your chosen train stops there.

Weather and season For rain, focus on indoor shopping or a pre-booked attraction. For Christmas, combine the market with an early supper. The tourism site lists the Frankfurt market for 5 November–24 December 2026; check daily hours before travel.

[Walk from New Street to Victoria Square](#)

[Birmingham visitor guide](#)

[Rugby to Birmingham New Street trains](#)

[Birmingham Christmas information](#)