

Hunt House Complete Visitor Guide

Explore towns, countryside and attractions from Hunt House, CV23 8XR. Choose a full day, a short outing or a slower visit, with places to eat and practical stops along the way. This complete guide retains the attractions from our original edition and adds a consistent plan for each town and city.

Driving times are approximate planning estimates, not live route calculations. Check the route, opening times, admission, parking, access and dog policies before leaving. Many outings are within about an hour; the bigger theme parks and safari park are longer full-day excursions. Download this guide for offline reading; its links need an internet connection.

Choose your day

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Three guides for your stay

Use this Local Visitor Guide to plan the outing, the Hunt House Eat and Drink Guide to choose a meal, and the Hunt House Whats On and Seasonal Planner to find events during your stay.

A quick choice

Short local outing: Braunston or Rugby. Wet weather: British Motor Museum, Coventry museums or National Space Centre. History: Warwick, Kenilworth or a National Trust property. Shopping and food: Leicester, Leamington Spa or Birmingham by train.

Walks and countryside

Whether you fancy a short waterside stroll, a full reservoir circuit or a day among wildlife, there are plenty of outdoor options close to Hunt House. Distances and path conditions vary, so choose a route to suit the weather, footwear and energy level of your group.

Daventry Country Park 10–15 minutes

An easy local escape with reservoir views, woodland and flexible walking routes. It works equally well for a short leg-stretch, a family wander or a longer circuit.

Good to know: Parking, toilets and refreshments are available; paths and conditions vary around the wider park.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Braunston and the Grand Union Canal 10–15 minutes

A characterful canal village with a busy marina, narrowboats and towpath walking. Guests can choose a short waterside stroll, browse around the marina or continue farther along the canal.

Good to know: Towpaths can be uneven or muddy. Food and drink are available around the village and marina, but individual opening hours vary.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Hillmorton Locks 15–20 minutes

A relaxed local outing where visitors can watch boats pass through one of the busiest flights of locks on the Oxford Canal. The towpath gives an easy out-and-back walk with no need to complete a fixed route.

Good to know: The canal towpath is generally straightforward but may be narrow, uneven or muddy in places.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Walks and countryside continued

Draycote Water 15–20 minutes

A reservoir with broad views, surfaced sections and a five-mile circuit for confident walkers or cyclists. Guests wanting something gentler can simply walk across the dams and return for refreshments.

Good to know: Parking, café and toilets are available. The exposed setting can feel windy and the full circuit is considerably more demanding than the short dam walk.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

Dogs Do not use the reservoir circuit as a dog walk. Check Severn Trent's designated dog areas and current access rules before bringing a dog.

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

Swift Valley Country Park 15–20 minutes

A quieter nature reserve on the edge of Rugby, with grassland, pools and riverside habitats. Best for guests who prefer an informal local nature walk rather than a developed visitor attraction.

Good to know: Facilities are limited and paths can be wet or uneven, so suitable footwear is sensible.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Coombe Abbey Park 25–30 minutes

Extensive parkland, woodland and lakeside scenery designed around the historic abbey estate. Visitors can keep to an easy central stroll or explore farther into the country park.

Good to know: Visitor parking, food and toilets are available. It can be busy at weekends and during school holidays.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Walks and countryside continued

Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve 25–30 minutes

Wetland, woodland, bird hides and nature trails make this a rewarding choice for wildlife lovers and birdwatchers. It offers a very different experience from the formal country parks.

Good to know: The visitor centre provides current access and trail information; some outdoor routes can be muddy or seasonally affected.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Ryton Pools Country Park 25–30 minutes

Pools, woodland and meadow paths with routes of different lengths. A useful all-round recommendation for families, dog walkers and guests wanting a manageable country walk.

Good to know: Parking, toilets and refreshments are normally available; check the council page for current arrangements.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Foxton Locks 30–40 minutes

A famous staircase of canal locks set in attractive countryside. Watch boats climb the flight, visit the museum or follow the towpath before stopping for a waterside lunch.

Good to know: Parking, toilets and refreshments are available. The site contains slopes, steps and uneven areas, although shorter waterside visits are still possible.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Walks and countryside continued

Hatton Locks 35–45 minutes

Known as the Stairway to Heaven, this impressive flight of 21 locks gives visitors a lively canal walk with plenty of engineering interest and views across the surrounding countryside.

Good to know: A café and parking are available near the top locks. The complete flight includes gradients and a substantial walk; a short out-and-back visit is easier.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Brampton Valley Way 30–40 minutes

A traffic-free former railway route linking Northampton and Market Harborough. It is useful for walking and cycling and can be paired with the Northampton and Lamport Railway on operating days.

Good to know: Choose a short section rather than attempting the full linear route; facilities depend on the chosen access point.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Fosse Meadows countryside stop

Allow roughly 25–35 minutes by car from Hunt House. This is a planning estimate; choose a live route before leaving.

Fosse Meadows near Sharnford offers woodland, open grassland, wildlife areas and a children's play area. Choose a short stroll or a longer wander, then continue towards Leicester only if it suits your day.

Good to know: parking, picnic areas and toilets are listed by the council. Refreshments are available at peak times rather than guaranteed all day. Paths vary and may be muddy. Check gate closing times before setting off.

Along the way: this is a countryside detour on some routes towards Leicester, not the same place as Fosse Park shopping centre. Choose one stop if your main attraction already fills the day.

[Fosse Meadows visitor information](#)

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

National Trust properties

Hunt House is well placed for several National Trust properties across Northamptonshire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire and Buckinghamshire. Canons Ashby is a nearby option, while the wider selection includes grand art collections, moated manor houses, formal gardens and substantial walking landscapes. National Trust members should still check opening arrangements and whether the house as well as the grounds will be open.

Canons Ashby 20–30 minutes

A nearby National Trust day out: a Tudor manor house, terraced gardens, parkland and medieval church in a peaceful rural setting. It is especially well suited to history lovers and visitors wanting a manageable half-day.

Good to know: Parking, tea room and toilets are available. House opening and room access can vary, so check before travelling.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Farnborough Hall 35–45 minutes

An intimate honey-coloured country house with a landscaped terrace walk and far-reaching views. Quieter and less commercial than some larger properties, making it attractive to guests who enjoy architecture and an unhurried visit.

Good to know: Opening days are limited and seasonal. Guests should check the property page before making a special journey.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Upton House and Gardens 40–50 minutes

A country house known for its outstanding art collection and dramatic terraced gardens. It gives guests a strong combination of interiors, history, planting and longer garden exploration.

Good to know: The gardens include steep slopes and many steps. Visitor facilities are available, but the access guide is worth reading for anyone with limited mobility.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

National Trust properties continued

Charlecote Park 45–55 minutes

A Tudor house beside the River Avon, surrounded by parkland and a historic deer park. The short parkland routes, riverside scenery and café make it easy to shape around different energy levels.

Good to know: Parking, food and toilets are available. House access, park routes and deer-related restrictions should be checked before visiting.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Packwood House 45–55 minutes

A much-loved Tudor house with distinctive yew topiary, gardens and surrounding parkland. It works well for guests who enjoy historic interiors and formal gardens without needing a large city itinerary.

Good to know: Parking, café and toilets are available. Parts of the house and grounds have historic surfaces and steps.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Baddesley Clinton 45–55 minutes

A romantic moated manor with priest holes, gardens and centuries of Catholic history. It is one of the area's most atmospheric historic properties and can be paired with nearby Packwood for an ambitious full day.

Good to know: The approach and historic building include uneven surfaces. Parking, café and toilets are available; popular days may be busy.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

National Trust properties continued

Stowe Gardens 45–60 minutes

One of Britain's great landscape gardens, filled with lakes, temples, monuments and broad views. Best for walkers, garden enthusiasts and National Trust members who want a substantial outdoor day.

Good to know: This is a large landscape with considerable walking. A mobility service may operate, but visitors should check availability and access details in advance.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Lyveden 50–60 minutes

An unfinished Elizabethan lodge set within a restored symbolic landscape created by the Catholic Tresham family. Its open setting, unusual history and walking routes reward guests looking for somewhere less familiar.

Good to know: The experience is mainly outdoors and exposed to the weather. Check seasonal opening, food provision and access arrangements.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Stoneywell 50–60 minutes

A highly distinctive Arts and Crafts home by Ernest Gimson, set among rocky Charnwood woodland. Visits feel personal and are particularly appealing to guests interested in design, furniture and architecture.

Good to know: Advance booking is essential and visits use a shuttle arrangement from the car park. It is not suitable as an unplanned drop-in.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

More history houses and gardens

Beyond the National Trust, the region has castles, private gardens, abbeys and historic landscapes ranging from major family attractions to quieter heritage sites.

Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden 35–45 minutes

Vast red-sandstone ruins associated with Elizabeth I and Robert Dudley, with towers, views and a recreated Elizabethan garden. A major historic site that can fill most of a day.

Good to know: Historic surfaces, stairs and gradients are unavoidable in parts of the site; consult the English Heritage access guide.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Warwick Castle 35–45 minutes

A large, highly developed castle attraction with historic rooms, towers, grounds and seasonal shows. Best for families and guests who want a full, event-led day rather than a quiet country house.

Good to know: Advance booking may save money. The extensive grounds and towers involve significant walking and steps.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Stoneleigh Abbey 30–40 minutes

A historic country estate beside the River Sowe, with guided house visits, landscaped grounds and connections to Jane Austen. A quieter alternative to the region's biggest attractions.

Good to know: Opening days and tours vary, so checking and booking ahead is advisable.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

More history houses and gardens continued

Coton Manor Garden 25–35 minutes

A celebrated private garden with terraces, borders, woodland and seasonal planting. Particularly suitable for garden lovers and a relaxed afternoon visit.

Good to know: Seasonal opening applies and the garden includes slopes and steps. Check before travelling.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Kirby Hall 40–50 minutes

An impressive Elizabethan and Jacobean country house, now partly roofless, with formal gardens and a quieter atmosphere than the larger castles.

Good to know: Managed by English Heritage; opening can be seasonal and the historic site includes uneven surfaces.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre 45–55 minutes

Explore the landscape and story of the battle that ended Richard III's reign. Walking trails and exhibitions can be combined with Market Bosworth or the nearby Battlefield Line railway.

Good to know: The outdoor battlefield landscape and indoor centre have different access considerations; check event and opening information.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Coughton Court 55–60 minutes

An imposing Tudor house with Catholic history and gardens, still owned by the National Trust but managed independently by the Throckmorton family from 2026.

Good to know: It is no longer part of the National Trust member offer. Check the family-run website for current opening dates, admission and facilities.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Railways canals and transport

The area's transport story ranges from working canal flights and narrowboat villages to steam railways, motor museums and Coventry's engineering heritage. Heritage railways are volunteer-run and do not operate every day, so checking the timetable is essential.

Northampton and Lamport Railway 30–40 minutes

The nearest heritage railway, running steam and heritage diesel services through the Northamptonshire countryside from Pitsford and Brampton on selected operating days.

Good to know: This is volunteer-run, so check the timetable and traction details before travelling. Parking, refreshments and toilets are available on main operating days.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

The Battlefield Line 45–55 minutes

A rural heritage railway between Shackerstone, Market Bosworth and Shenton, with a museum, Victorian tea room and locomotive interest at Shackerstone.

Good to know: Operating dates and the type of train vary. It pairs well with Bosworth Battlefield for a fuller day.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Great Central Railway 50–60 minutes

A substantial main-line heritage railway centred on Loughborough, with steam and diesel services, stations, special events and dining experiences.

Good to know: Timetables and events vary throughout the year; advance booking is sensible for dining trains and major events.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Railways canals and transport continued

British Motor Museum 35–45 minutes

A major collection of British cars at Gaydon, with extensive indoor displays that make it one of the strongest wet-weather attractions in the area.

Good to know: Large visitor car park, café, toilets and detailed accessibility information are available.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Coventry Transport Museum 25–35 minutes

A city-centre museum telling Coventry's transport and manufacturing story through bicycles, cars and record-breaking vehicles. Excellent for families, engineering enthusiasts and rainy days.

Good to know: Central parking is separate from the museum; check current admission and opening arrangements.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Foxton Locks and Canal Museum 30–40 minutes

Combine the working staircase locks with the story of the remarkable inclined plane, canal engineering and local waterways history.

Good to know: The outdoor site is free to explore; museum charges and seasonal opening may apply.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Braunston Marina 10–15 minutes

A convenient local destination for narrowboats, canal atmosphere and towpath walking in one of the country's best-known canal villages.

Good to know: The marina remains a working business, so visitors should respect operational areas and use public routes.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Family fun and adventure

For families and more adventurous guests, these choices include hands-on museums, animals, water activities and outdoor challenges. Booking ahead is recommended wherever sessions, age restrictions or limited capacities apply.

National Space Centre 40–50 minutes

Interactive galleries, rockets and the planetarium make this one of the best all-weather family attractions within an hour. It can comfortably occupy most of a day.

Good to know: Booking ahead is sensible during weekends and school holidays; parking and food are available.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Stratford Butterfly Farm 50–60 minutes

A tropical indoor attraction filled with butterflies, plants, pools and insects, directly opposite Stratford's riverside. Easy to combine with the town centre.

Good to know: Warm and humid inside; check parking separately as this is a central Stratford attraction.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

The MAD Museum 50–60 minutes

A compact, hands-on collection of mechanical art and automata in Stratford-upon-Avon. Particularly good for curious children, engineers and wet-weather visits.

Good to know: The museum is central and relatively small, making it easy to combine with Shakespeare and the river.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Family fun and adventure continued

The Wave Coventry 25–35 minutes

An indoor waterpark with slides, splash areas and swimming experiences, useful when families want a high-energy activity rather than sightseeing.

Good to know: Sessions should be booked and age, height and supervision rules checked in advance.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Go Ape Coventry at Coombe Abbey 25–30 minutes

High ropes, zip wires and treetop courses for different confidence levels, plus axe throwing, Archery Tag and Mini Land Rovers. Combine an adventure session with woodland walks and refreshments in Coombe Abbey Park, so non-participants can enjoy the day too.

Good to know: Book the specific activity in advance and check age, height, weight and adult-supervision requirements. Wear suitable outdoor clothing and secure footwear. Food, picnic areas and walking routes are available in the park.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Twycross Zoo 50–60 minutes

A substantial conservation zoo known particularly for primates, with indoor and outdoor exhibits suitable for a full family day.

Good to know: This is a large site with significant walking; advance tickets and the accessibility guide are worth checking.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Family fun and adventure continued

Tropical Birdland 45–55 minutes

A smaller wildlife attraction near Desford with tropical birds, woodland paths and close-up experiences. A manageable alternative to a full-scale zoo.

Good to know: Much of the visit is outdoors, so weather and seasonal opening matter.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Avalanche Adventure 20–30 minutes

Outdoor activities near Sibbertoft, with experiences that may include off-road driving, archery and other bookable adventures depending on the current programme.

Good to know: Activities must be booked and may have age, licence, health or group-size restrictions.

[Visitor information and booking](#)

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

Bigger family days out

These outings extend beyond the nearest attractions. Give each a full day and allow extra time for traffic, arrival queues and parking. Driving times below are broad estimates, not live calculations.

Drayton Manor Resort

Allow roughly 50–75 minutes by car. Rides, Thomas Land and the zoo suit a family day with choices for different ages. Choose the attractions your group can use before booking; height restrictions and the operating calendar matter.

Food and practical stops: eat within the resort or plan a meal near Tamworth. A stop at The Fort on a Birmingham route is an optional detour, not a necessary part of the journey.

[Drayton Manor tickets and visitor information](#)

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

Alton Towers Resort

Allow roughly 1 hour 30 minutes to 2 hours by car. This is a longer excursion for a dedicated theme-park day. Plan an early departure, prioritise a few rides and check ride restrictions, opening dates and parking arrangements.

Food and practical stops: use the resort's food options or take permitted picnic food. Avoid adding another attraction; allow for slower roads towards the resort and a tired journey home.

[Alton Towers planning and tickets](#)

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

Safari and indoor entertainment

West Midlands Safari Park

Allow roughly 1 hour 15 minutes to 1 hour 45 minutes by car to Bewdley. Make the safari drive and walk-through areas your main day. Rides may require an additional wristband or payment; check exactly what your ticket includes and follow the safari driving rules.

Food and practical stops: plan refreshments at the park. Bewdley is an optional separate town stop if time allows, rather than an essential addition to a full safari day.

[Safari Park visitor information and booking](#)

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

StarCity Birmingham

Allow roughly 50–75 minutes by car before busy traffic. Cinema, bowling, other bookable activities and restaurants make this a useful wet-weather or evening option. Book the chosen operator and check age rules, opening times and parking conditions.

StarCity sits outside the central New Street walking itinerary. If arriving in Birmingham by train, plan the onward public transport or taxi journey separately. It is not a quick walk from the Christmas market.

[StarCity activities and food](#)

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

Days out at a gentler pace

Choose by interest and energy level. A gentler visit is not automatically step-free: check surfaces, gradients, toilets and mobility arrangements with the venue.

Braunston

Watch the boats and choose a short out-and-back towpath walk, then a meal. Uneven surfaces mean it is not a guaranteed accessible route.

Daventry Country Park

Choose a short waterside section and return when ready rather than committing to a complete circuit.

Canons Ashby

A house, garden and tea-room visit can make a relaxed half-day. Check the accessible route and house opening.

Leamington Spa

Make the gardens and a café your main plan, with the museum optional.

Stratford riverside

Enjoy the river and gardens, with an optional boat trip only if boarding arrangements suit your needs.

Taking a dog

Countryside does not always mean dog-friendly. Check each attraction and eating venue separately. At Draycote, the reservoir circuit is not a dog walk. Keep dogs under control around livestock and wildlife, and check lead restrictions on estate walks.

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](#)

Useful stops and electric car charging

Fosse Park on a Leicester day

Fosse Park is an out-of-town shopping and food stop near M1 junction 21. It can work before or after a Leicester visit if your route uses the M1. Allow time for the detour, shopping and any charging queue.

Charging options include the Fosse Park retail area and Smart Charge at Sainsbury’s Fosse Park. These are separate locations within the wider area. Select the exact charger on the operator map, and check connector compatibility, live availability, tariff and parking restrictions. Charging is not automatically free because parking is free.

[Fosse Park shops food and visitor information](#)

[Smart Charge locations](#)

Pair a destination with a nearby stop

Main outing	Optional stop and purpose
Rugby	Hillmorton Locks for boats and a short walk
Daventry or Braunston	The other destination for a park or canal visit
Coventry	Coombe Abbey Park for an outdoor extension
Warwick	Hatton Locks for canal engineering
Stratford	Charlecote Park for a separate country-estate visit
Northampton	Brampton Valley Way or the heritage railway
Market Harborough	Foxton Locks and waterside lunch
Banbury	Farnborough Hall or Upton House on opening days

These are suggested pairings, not claims that every stop is directly on the fastest route. Check a live map and choose no more than one extra stop for an already full day.

Shopping stops and EV charging

The Fort Shopping Park and Fort Dunlop

The Fort Shopping Park offers shops and food near Birmingham's M6 corridor. It can be an optional stop when driving that way, but adds time and is outside the central city itinerary. Check current shops and parking terms.

Fort Dunlop is the separate converted tyre-factory building, now mainly offices with on-site amenities. For a shopping trip, use The Fort Shopping Park as your destination. Neither is part of the easy New Street to Christmas market walk.

[The Fort shops and visitor information](#)

[Fort Dunlop information](#)

[How do I get there? The Fort](#)

⚡ Fosse Park and Tesla charging

Fosse Park combines shopping, food and charging near Leicester's M1 junction 21. Check Fosse Park's current facilities and the Tesla app or operator map for the exact hub. Non-Tesla drivers must confirm that the specific site accepts their vehicle; do not assume every Supercharger is open to every car.

Smart Charge at Sainsbury's Fosse Park is another location in the wider area. Check connector, tariff, live availability, parking limits and any idle fees. Select the actual charger as your navigation destination, not simply the shopping centre.

[Fosse Park visitor facilities](#)

[Tesla charger map](#)

[Smart Charge locations](#)

[How do I get there? Fosse Park](#)

Seasonal visits and planning links

Spring suits gardens and house reopenings; summer suits canals, river visits and outdoor events; autumn brings colour and family activities; winter brings museums, theatre and festive outings. Use the separate seasonal planner for dated events and the Eat and Drink guide for a meal nearby.

Birmingham Christmas market by train

Travel to Rugby station, take a direct train to Birmingham New Street, then walk towards New Street and Victoria Square. Visit in the afternoon if you prefer to avoid the busiest evening crowds. Allow extra walking time in the market, plan an indoor food break and check the return train before setting out. Book a taxi back from Rugby if needed.

[Market dates and visitor information](#)

[Train planner](#)

Before leaving Hunt House

Check the day's weather, admission slots and opening hours. Save your tickets and destination address. Check parking separately from attraction admission. For evening events, plan the return journey before booking dinner.

[Regional events diary](#)

Hunt House Eat and Drink Guide

Find a meal close to Hunt House or build food into a day out. Start with the village options for an easy supper, choose a canal-side lunch after a walk, or use the town suggestions for a wider choice.

Menus, kitchen hours and availability change. Book directly, especially for Sunday lunch and weekends, and discuss allergies or dietary needs with the venue. A pub may be open when its kitchen is closed. The links below lead to menus, booking or destination information; this is a selection of options, not a claim that we have personally tested every venue.

Choose by the kind of meal

You fancy	Start here
A nearby village supper	The Red Lion or The George in Kilsby
Lunch after watching the boats	The Admiral Nelson at Braunston
A pub meal after Draycote	The Dun Cow in Dunchurch
Food with shopping	Rugby, Leamington Spa or Leicester
An evening by train	Birmingham with the return train planned first

After a long journey

Choose Kilsby first and call ahead about the kitchen. For takeaway or delivery, enter the full Hunt House address and postcode CV23 8XR in your chosen service; delivery areas and evening availability vary. Check your room information for where food can be stored, reheated or eaten.

Village pubs close to Hunt House

The Red Lion Kilsby

[Driving directions](#)

A village pub at 26 Main Road, CV23 8XP, with modern British dishes and pub classics. A convenient option when you want supper nearby rather than another long drive. The published kitchen schedule currently excludes Monday and ends after lunch on Sunday; check it for your date.

Telephone 01788 822265. Discuss dietary requirements when booking. Pair with a local village stroll, using pavements and a route suitable for the conditions.

[Red Lion menus and booking](#)

The George at Kilsby

[Driving directions](#)

On Watling Street, CV23 8YE, The George offers pub food with Asian-inspired choices alongside familiar favourites. It works for a relaxed lunch or dinner close to Hunt House. Check the current menu and food service times rather than relying on bar opening hours.

Telephone 01788 726669. Consider it after a local outing or for an early meal before returning to your room.

[The George menus and booking](#)

Planning the journey

Both venues are in Kilsby. Check the walking route from your entrance before deciding to walk, particularly after dark. For trips to surrounding villages, arrange transport rather than assuming country roads have continuous pavements.

A meal with a walk or a day out

The Admiral Nelson Braunston

[Driving directions](#)

A canal-side pub at Lock 3, Dark Lane, NN11 7HJ. A natural pairing with watching narrowboats and a towpath walk. The venue advertises itself as dog-friendly; confirm the table area when booking. Food service may pause between lunch and dinner.

Telephone 01788 891 900. Braunston is roughly 10–15 minutes by car from Hunt House; use a live route for your journey.

[Admiral Nelson food and booking](#)

The Dun Cow Dunchurch

[Driving directions](#)

A country pub with familiar pub dishes and seasonal menus. Combine it with a look around Dunchurch or a visit to Draycote Water. The pub advertises dog-friendly arrangements, but that does not make the Draycote reservoir circuit a dog walk.

[Dun Cow menus and booking](#)

Foxton Locks and Market Harborough

Choose waterside refreshments at Foxton or continue into Market Harborough for a wider choice. The original visitor guide includes Foxton Locks Inn, Bridge 61 and the Top Lock café area; check each venue's current trading and food service before relying on it. Drive between the locks and the town.

[Foxton visitor information](#)

[Market Harborough visitor information](#)

Food as part of your day out

Rugby and Daventry

Useful local centres for cafés, pub food and a wider evening choice. Pair Rugby with the museum and school area, or Daventry with the country park.

Coventry

Combine the cathedral and museums with a central meal, or check FarGo Village for independent food and events. Allow time to walk between the centre and FarGo.

Leicester

Choose Highcross for convenient shopping and dining, or the Golden Mile for South Asian food and sweet shops. The Golden Mile is outside the main central shopping route.

Leamington Spa

Browse cafés and restaurants around the Parade and Regent Street after the gardens. It works for brunch, lunch or an evening meal.

Warwick and Kenilworth

Historic streets, pubs and cafés suit a castle day. Check the distance from your attraction entrance before reserving a lunchtime table.

Stratford upon Avon

Choose a riverside lunch or pre-theatre meal. Tell the restaurant your performance start time and leave time to reach the theatre.

Birmingham

Grand Central is handy for New Street station; Chinatown and Brindleyplace provide other dining areas. Allow time to return to the correct platform.

Seasonal food and useful links

Match the meal to the season

Spring: lunch after gardens and a short walk. Summer: canal-side stops and outdoor tables, subject to weather. Autumn: a pub meal after a museum or countryside visit. Winter: reserve ahead for festive menus, theatre evenings and Christmas-market days.

Fosse Park shopping and charging stop

On a Leicester trip via M1 junction 21, Fosse Park can combine food, shopping and an EV top-up. Check the exact charging location and move your car as required when charging ends.

[Fosse Park food and shops](#)

[Charging locations](#)

Plan a festive food day

Birmingham's tourism site lists its Frankfurt Christmas Market for 5 November–24 December 2026. Travel from Rugby to New Street, enjoy the stalls and reserve an indoor meal if you want a seated break. Check daily market hours and return trains.

[Birmingham Christmas](#)

[Rugby to Birmingham trains](#)

Find menus and events for your destination

[Leicester](#)

[Coventry](#)

[Warwickshire towns and food events](#)

[Birmingham](#)

Hunt House Whats On and Seasonal Planner

Plan a visit around a concert, a race weekend, a Christmas market or a quieter seasonal day out. This guide separates dates published by organisers from ideas whose dates or programmes still need checking.

Edition checked 17 September 2026. Published dates can change and do not guarantee tickets remain available. Check the organiser before booking accommodation, travel or admission. The month-by-month pages are inspiration for the year, not a fixed event calendar.

Published dates for planning

Event	Published dates	Source
Ward Thomas at Warwick Arts Centre	24 September 2026	Warwick Arts Centre
British Touring Cars at Silverstone	26–27 September 2026	Silverstone
Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market	5 November–24 December 2026	Visit Birmingham
Christmas at Silverstone	11–31 December 2026	Silverstone
World Endurance Championship at Silverstone	23–25 April 2027	Silverstone
Crick Boat Show public days	29–31 May 2027	Crick Boat Show
Crick trade and preview day	28 May 2027	Crick Boat Show
Formula 1 British Grand Prix event	1–4 July 2027	Silverstone

[Silverstone dates and tickets](#)

[Birmingham Christmas dates](#)

[Crick Boat Show dates](#)

[Warwick Arts Centre programme](#)

January to April

January

Make an indoor attraction the anchor: Coventry museums, the British Motor Museum or the National Space Centre. Add a short walk if the weather allows and finish with a nearby meal. Check post-Christmas closures.

February

Look for half-term museum activities, theatre and a bookable meal for a special evening. Heritage railway services can be limited; check operating dates before travelling.

March

Watch for spring garden opening and early flowers at National Trust properties. Choose an estate and a tea-room stop; conditions and flowering depend on the weather.

April

Easter trails and family activities may be available at historic houses and castles. The Easter date changes each year. For motorsport, Silverstone lists its 2027 endurance event for 23–25 April.

Build the day

Choose one main attraction, check the event time, then reserve lunch nearby if needed. Wet-weather alternatives should be in the same area so you do not spend the day driving.

[Regional family and seasonal listings](#)

[National Trust places and events](#)

[Silverstone calendar](#)

May to August

May

Crick Boat Show is close to Hunt House and makes a full day for boating enthusiasts. Public dates for 2027 are 29–31 May; 28 May is the trade and preview day. Check the ticket category and parking plan.

June

Look for garden events, village fêtes, canal gatherings and outdoor performances. Braunston is a useful starting point for canal interest; check the marina's current event programme.

July

Silverstone lists the Formula 1 British Grand Prix event for 1–4 July 2027. Expect heavy traffic and event-specific parking. Make the event the main day, with a simple meal plan before or after.

August

School-holiday family programmes, outdoor music and country shows can shape a summer visit. Check the current regional listings for venue, ticket and weather arrangements before choosing a date.

MotoGP at Silverstone

Silverstone's calendar currently marks the 2027 British MotoGP date as to be announced. Keep it on your ideas list, but do not use a guessed date to book a stay.

[Crick Boat Show](#)

[Silverstone events](#)

[Braunston Marina events](#)

[Festivals and country events](#)

September to December

September

A useful month for food events, heritage activities and walks after the busiest holiday period. Look at the current town diaries. Warwick Arts Centre lists Ward Thomas on 24 September 2026; Silverstone lists touring cars on 26–27 September.

October

Look for autumn colour, half-term programmes and Halloween activities. Check age guidance for evening attractions, and choose a daytime alternative for younger children.

November

Look for organised fireworks displays and the start of Christmas markets. No local fireworks date is confirmed in this guide: check the organiser's current listing, parking and cancellation policy.

December

Choose a Christmas market, theatre visit, festive railway service or light trail. Birmingham's listed market runs until 24 December 2026; Silverstone lists Christmas activities 11–31 December. Individual sessions and closure days may differ.

Food and the return journey

Book an indoor meal for a warm break on winter outings. For evening events, check your train home or arrange a taxi before travelling. A late finish does not guarantee late food service nearby.

[Warwick Arts Centre](#)

[Birmingham Christmas](#)

[Regional Christmas and fireworks listings](#)

Birmingham Christmas market by train

Published 2026 dates: 5 November–24 December. Check the daily opening hours and any special arrangements on the official tourism page.

A relaxed outline for the day

1. Travel from Hunt House to Rugby station. Leave time for parking or a taxi, tickets and the platform.
2. Take a direct train to Birmingham New Street. Around 40–50 minutes on the train is a useful planning allowance; use the timetable for your chosen service.
3. Walk towards New Street and Victoria Square. Allow roughly 10–15 minutes from the station, longer in crowds or at a slower pace.
4. Browse the market in the afternoon, pause for food, and stay for the lights if you wish. For an indoor seated break, book a central restaurant.
5. Return to New Street with time to find the platform. Check the last suitable train and any engineering work before setting out. Arrange your journey from Rugby station back to Hunt House.

Make it suit your group

A weekday afternoon may be more manageable than a busy weekend evening. Crowds, slopes and prolonged standing can be tiring. Keep the route short, plan seating breaks and check station assistance if required.

[Walk from New Street to the market area](#)

[Market information](#)

[Direct train information and tickets](#)

Other Christmas ideas

Check Warwick and Stratford town listings for festive markets, and the heritage railways for seasonal trains. Dates, locations and booking arrangements change; these are ideas to investigate, not confirmed events for a particular date.

[Warwickshire Christmas listings](#)

Find concerts festivals and country shows

Concerts theatre and comedy

Use Warwick Arts Centre for Coventry-area performances and the Royal Shakespeare Company for Stratford theatre. For Birmingham, search the official city events diary and choose the correct venue before booking travel. A city-centre concert and an NEC-area show need different arrival plans.

[Warwick Arts Centre](#)

[Royal Shakespeare Company](#)

[Birmingham events](#)

Food festivals country shows and fireworks

Use Shakespeare's England's event filters for food and drink, festivals, fêtes, fairs and outdoor events. Check Leicester and Coventry tourism diaries for their own programmes. Confirm the actual venue: a town's event may take place outside its centre.

[Regional festivals and food events](#)

[Leicester visitor diary](#)

[Coventry visitor diary](#)

Railways and canal events

Check the operating calendar before choosing a steam day, special train or canal gathering. A seasonal service may require a separate ticket even when an ordinary visit does not.

[Northampton and Lamport Railway](#)

[Great Central Railway](#)

[The Battlefield Line](#)