





The welcome you experience as a visitor to Northamptonshire is unique...

Here you will find everything you need to revitalise your personal passions and reclaim your lost weekends.


Take the time to enjoy browsing our Northamptonshire Visitor Guide. All the information you need to plan how to get here, where to stay and what to do is right here.


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Contact us:

Discover Northamptonshire Hub,
Rushden Lakes, Rushden, NN10 6HF.


 info@discover-northamptonshire.co.uk

 www.discover-northamptonshire.co.uk

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 [@discover_northamptonshire](https://www.instagram.com/discover_northamptonshire)

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Discover your new favourite spot...

Whether you're a first-time visitor or a long-time resident, Northamptonshire is the perfect place to discover something amazing...

The county offers a range of days out and holidays for families of all sizes and interests - from relaxing breaks in our breathtaking countryside, to action packed days out at the British Grand Prix.

Ideally located at the heart of the UK, the county is easily accessible by car or rail and offers new discoveries at every turn.

Families will love to explore our unspoilt countryside, which not only plays home to our world class wildlife, but also provides the perfect backdrop for fun-filled activities. From country parks and nature reserves to scenic walking trails, cycle routes and even the opportunity to canoe along the River Nene - there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Looking for something with a little more hustle and bustle? Our historic market towns have got you covered. With a range of theatres, live music venues, restaurants, cinemas, bars and shopping on offer; the likes of Northampton, Oundle, Kettering and Towcester are fully stocked with a range of entertainment options. The Core at Corby Cube has an exciting selection of music, comedy, dance, theatre and family shows.

Explore the UK's largest concentration of historic houses, as well as a plethora of churches, museums, stately homes and National Trust properties to delve into our rich local heritage.



Images:
Ferry Meadows, Nene Valley Festival, Barnwell Country Park, Nene Active.



Offering a range of activities, attractions, and accommodation options that cater to all ages; whether you're looking to explore the region's history, enjoy the great outdoors, or soak up some culture, Northamptonshire has something for everyone.

So why not plan your next family holiday in Northamptonshire and discover all that this charming county has to offer?

Discover

— Northamptonshire —

CULTURE · TOURISM · HERITAGE

We are a sustainable and engaging culture, tourism and heritage organisation. Our goal is to shine a light on the outstanding assets we have within Northamptonshire, whilst protecting and preserving our heritage and culture for future generations.



Why are we here?

Rushden Lakes is one of the biggest attractions in Northamptonshire, receiving over 6.7million visitors annually, with over 20% coming from over 30 miles away. We want to showcase our great county and help you discover where to go next time you visit Northamptonshire.

Our Challenge

Currently there is little awareness of Northamptonshire as a visitor destination. While we are centrally located, we are perceived as a "drive through" area - one to pass through on the way to somewhere else.



Our Aim

Working with partners and stakeholders, we aim to improve and grow the tourism economy by developing infrastructure and introducing pioneering marketing strategies to attract inward investment and visitors to our county.



Northamptonshire's visitor economy in numbers

4,478
Visitor economy assets including attractions, hospitality venues, events, sports and retail.

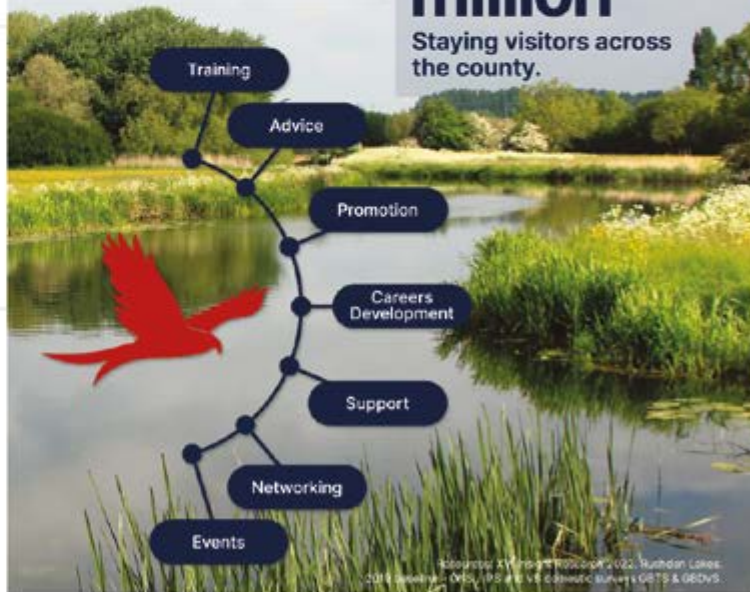
£567 million
Spent in the local economy by visitors.

15.9 million
Annual visitors to Northamptonshire.

14.8 million
Day visits across the county.

31,000
Local jobs supported by the visitor economy.

1.1 million
Staying visitors across the county.



Visit our website

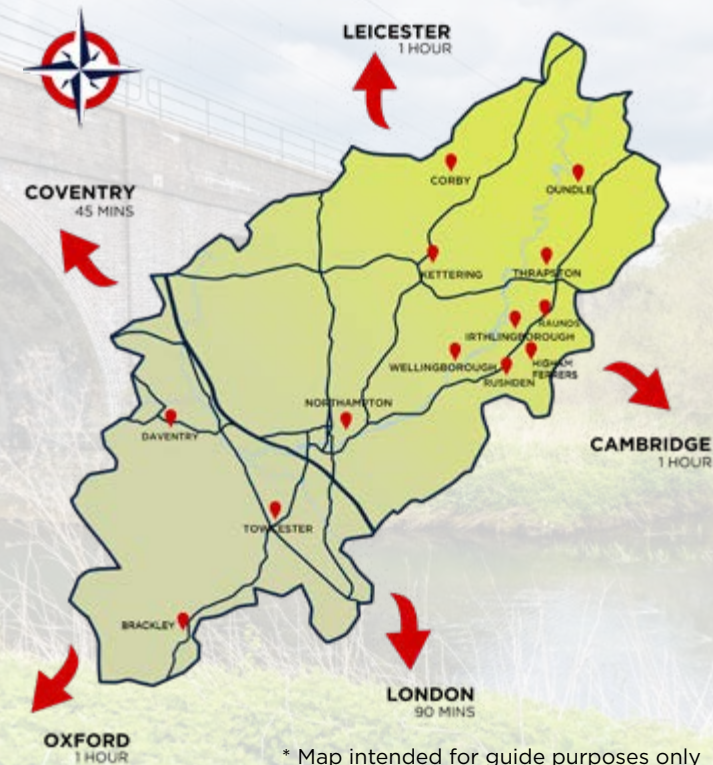
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Connect on Social Media

Find us on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn - search "Discover Northamptonshire".

Northamptonshire Map



* Map intended for guide purposes only





It's a family affair...

Whatever your family make up, a visit to Northamptonshire will keep everyone from the youngsters to the grandparents happy.

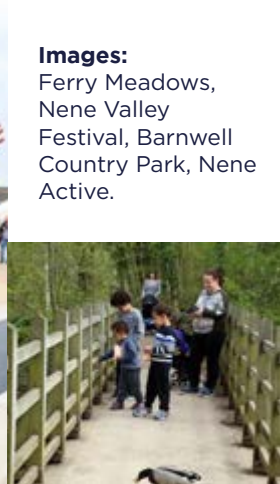
Northamptonshire has more than 4,300 miles of footpaths, bridleways and byways nestled amidst quintessentially British countryside.

So, pack your wellies or walking boots, we're not fussy – and pick your path to explore. Whatever part of Northamptonshire you base your trip, you won't be far from our country parks or outdoor attractions.

Enjoy all the fun of the fair at Wicksteed Park or for a breath of fresh air take your bikes and a picnic to Stanwick Lakes, where the assault course, adventure playground and many events will keep everyone entertained.

You are sure to be near the action on a visit to Northamptonshire, from go-karts, rapids to rides, adrenalin junkies will be spoilt for choice. Test your nerve on one of the tracks, test the water with some of our watersport specialists or test your balance with a skate session at Adrenaline Alley.

Fulfil your adventurous dreams with Nene Active and explore whitewater rafting and tubing. Learn to build a raft or a shelter, or maybe even orientate your way down the River Nene!



Images:
Ferry Meadows, Nene Valley Festival, Barnwell Country Park, Nene Active.



Where history comes alive...

As home to the largest concentration of historic houses in England, Northamptonshire's rich tapestry of heritage is ripe for exploration.

From stately houses to gardens of grandeur, art collections to ancient monuments, this is truly a county with a tale to tell.

With internationally recognised landmarks such as 78 Derngate, the unique Rennie Mackintosh designed house and Althorp, home to the Spencer family and resting place of Diana, Princess of Wales, the breadth of interest on offer is not hard to see.

Heritage remains a time-honoured celebration in the county and our annual events recognise the intrigue and importance of days gone by.

Northamptonshire and its towns and villages feature heavily in the nation's history; commonly the home or stopover for many notable figures. Charles Dickens was a regular visitor to the county, and he took his inspiration for 'Bleak House' from one of his many stays at Rockingham Castle.

As you explore our rolling landscape, you'll find the past truly comes alive around you, with re-enactments of history and many other spectacular heritage events, all happening right where onlookers were first thrilled all those years ago.

Even our green spaces have their own place in history, with numerous sites of significant events, examples of landscaping by Capability Brown and restored medieval gardens.



Images: Chester House, 78 Derngate, Rushton Triangular Lodge, Stanwick Lakes Lyveden.



FIND OUT MORE

Connect with Discover Northamptonshire on Social Media - Find us on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn - search "**Discover Northamptonshire**".



Spend the day out in Northamptonshire...



Whether you're looking for rural relaxation or action packed adventure - we're sure to have everything you need right here in Northamptonshire.

For more ideas on great days out in Northamptonshire - be sure to visit our website at discover-northamptonshire.co.uk or visit our Discover Northamptonshire Hub at Rushden Lakes!



"A day out along the Nene"

Morning: Kickstart your day with a morning stroll around **Stanwick Lakes** - grab a coffee and enjoy acres of unspoilt walkways and cycle paths. Before you leave be sure to check out the artefacts from over 10,000 years over history on the site in the visitor centre!

Lunchtime: Rushden Lakes offers a range of dining options overlooking the stunning Nene Wetlands at the heart of its development. And while you're here, it would be a shame not to browse the big brand fashion and local independent stores!

Afternoon: Enjoy a delicious coffee and slice of cake at **The Chester House Estate**. Explore the rich history of the site, as well as taking in over 80 acres of stunning countryside!



"Something for everyone"

Morning: Start the day with a visit to **Northampton's Cultural Quarter** and the **Northampton Museum and Art Gallery**, the stunning architecture of **St Peters Church** and the boutique retailers of **St Giles Street**. All within easy walking distance!

Afternoon: To get away from the hustle and bustle of the town centre, enjoy a delicious cup of coffee and cake at **Delapré Abbey** and explore the beautiful landscaped grounds.

Evening: You are spoilt for choice - whether you want to catch a performance at the **Royal & Derngate** or enjoy a burger and a seat for a **Northampton Town** football game - we're sure to have you covered, whatever your interests.



"A little rural relaxation"

Morning: Start the day with a relaxing stroll taking in the stunning surroundings of **Lyveden**.

Lunchtime: Oundle offers a range of boutique retailers as well as a range of culinary options to cater to even the most demanding of palates!

Afternoon: Take a visit to **Barnwell Country Park** to explore their nature and orientation trails - while smaller kids will love the zip line and play area. The visitor centre onsite is open daily and free to enter, the centre has a range of free activity sheets for the children as well as nature games and feely boxes.





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Iconic Northamptonshire

made at Lyveden

Visit one of Northamptonshire's quintessential scenes at Lyveden. nationaltrust.org.uk/lyveden For everyone, for ever



HOLDENBY HOUSE GARDENS & FALCONRY

A Magical Day of History, Beauty & Birds



THE GARDENS

OPEN TIMES

No wonder you'll find Holdenby in the book '1000 Gardens you must see before you Die'. There are the remains of the Palace gardens, the greatest of their age. You can enjoy Rosemary Verey's Elizabethan garden & her Tous Tous Fragrant garden has been re-imagined by the award-winning designer Rupert Golby. There's a fully functioning Kitchen Garden, a stunning Silver border and Pond Garden. You can walk along Charles I's favourite walk and stand on the spot where he stood, when he was taken away by Cromwell's men to his eventual execution.

April to the end of September on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays (11am-4pm) There will be flying display or talks on birds or wildlife on all open days and the Stableyard Tearoom and Shop will be open. Some days may be closed owing to prior event booking. See website for details. On event weekends days will differ as below.



THE FALCONRY & WILDLIFE CENTRE

Icarus Falconry's magnificent collection of 30 Eagles, Hawks, Falcons and Owls is unrivalled and evokes the time when Holdenby was the Palace of King James I & Charles I, both keen falconers.

The flying displays on open days are unique and spine-tingling. And in our Wildlife section, you can meet Roxy the Fox, Norma the Hedgehog, Neal & Neon the Rats, Sly & Simba the Tortoises as well as some exciting new arrivals! Children love them all!

ADMISSION PRICES

Gardens & Falconry: Adult £9 Child: (5-16) £5 Concession (over 65's) £8 Family Pass: (2+2) £25. Guests with disabilities and under 4's are free.

House, Gardens & Falconry: Adult £13 Child (5-16) £6 Concession (over 65's) £11 Family Pass (2+2) £35. Guests with disabilities and under 4's are free

Friends of Holdenby Pass* Adult £27 Child (5-16) £15 Concession (over 65's) £25 Family Pass (2+2) £75

To view our list of events visit our website: www.holdenby.com



Master the arts...

It's not only culture lovers, art aficionados and craft connoisseurs that feel at home in Northamptonshire, our creative and artistic scene is one of the most innovative, imaginative and accessible to be found.

Whatever your level of interest in the arts, Northamptonshire is sure to ignite it with its ready mix of homegrown talent, world-class venues and year-round calendar of events.

The likes of the Royal and Derngate in Northampton, the Castle Theatre in Wellingborough and the Lighthouse Theatre in Kettering, regularly put on performances from the countries best touring performances whilst also developing quality original content.

Meanwhile - annual celebrations including the Oundle International Festival and Northamptonshire Open Studios offer up unique experiences and unforgettable performances for local arts enthusiasts every year.

Whatever you're looking to explore - you can discover it here in Northamptonshire.



Images:
Oundle International Festival, Northants Open Studios, Royal & Derngate, Northampton Cultural Quarter, Nene Valley Festival, Nene Park.





A county of *gast*ronomic pro-*port*ions

With its annual Food and Drink Awards, top class eateries and a wealth of award-winning food and drink producers, Northamptonshire's growing reputation as a food-lover's heaven is well deserved!

Going local - Make the most of the wide selection of pubs, restaurants and hotels that make up our local culinary landscape; creating seasonal menus from local produce.

Time for tea? - A visit to Northamptonshire wouldn't be complete without sampling one of our infamous afternoon teas in any of our favourite spots!

From plot to plate - Our market places might be historic but there's nothing fresher than the produce for sale at our general and farmers' markets.

A celebration for your taste buds - Every year, a range of food & drink festivals take place across the county, bringing together a range of producers, foodies and more to celebrate the best of Northamptonshire food and drink.

Farmers' markets:

Burton Latimer - First Saturday of the month

Higham Ferrers - Last Saturday of the month

Oundle - 2nd Saturday of the month

Thrapston - First Saturday of the month

Towcester - Second Friday of the month



Images:
White Mills Marina,
The Smoke Pit
Northampton,
Oundle Food
Festival, Nene Valley
Festival. Saracens
Head Little Brington.



Places to stay...



Whatever kind of break your looking for and whatever the budget, and whether you choose to stay in town or country, in a chic hotel or a cosy B&B, we know you'll find just the thing to make you feel at home.

For those looking for a luxurious and comfortable stay, there are plenty of hotels and guesthouses scattered throughout the county. These establishments offer a range of amenities, including swimming pools, spas, and child-friendly activities to keep the whole family entertained.

Families seeking a bit more independence and space can also opt for self-catering accommodation. Northamptonshire offers a wide range of holiday cottages, apartments, and houses that cater to families of all sizes. These accommodations provide a perfect home away from home, with all the necessary amenities such as fully-equipped kitchens, living areas, and outdoor spaces.

If you are looking for something truly unique, Northamptonshire also offers a range of glamping options. From yurts and bell tents to treehouses and cabins, there are many different ways to experience the great outdoors without sacrificing comfort and convenience.

No matter what your family's size or preferences, Northamptonshire has the perfect accommodation option for you. So why not book your stay today and start exploring all that this beautiful county has to offer!



Images:

Talbot Hotel @ Oundle,
The Lily Pad @
Nassington, Apartment
@ Chester House,
Morland Manor @
Ashton Country Estate,
Hind Stile @ Rushden.

Dates for Your diary

Memories are made in Northamptonshire, with over 50 large annual events every year, plus hundreds of smaller regular and one-off events.

Witness history come alive, indulge in music, antiques, literature, food and gardening or experience the glamour and adrenaline of some of the world's finest motorsport events.

May

- **Waendel Walk** - 12-14 May
- **Open Gardens, Oundle** - 21 May
- **Crick Boat Show** - 27-29 May

June

- **Northampton Carnival** - 10 June
- **Oundle Food Festival** - 10 June

July

- **British Grand Prix** - 9 July
- **Food & Drink Fair, Rockingham Castle** - 15-16 July
- **Party at the Wharf, Oundle** - 15 July

August

- **Northampton Balloon Festival** - 18-20 August

September

- **The Euro Finals, Santa Pod** - 7-10 September
- **Northamptonshire Open Studios** - 2-30 September
- **Nene Valley Festival** - 9-17 September



Through the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum



Heritage

Northamptonshire has witnessed the birth of Richard III and the death of Mary, Queen of Scots. It has seen the Battle of Naseby and the hatching of the Gunpowder Plot.



Culture

Our museums and galleries display the rich heritage of the county with exhibits that often span 1000s of years. The many heritage societies and organisations celebrate the county's history.



History

Some of the country's best historic houses are to be found here. Each is full of unique treasures, history and wonderful stories of those who lived, loved and worked in and around them.



Visit our website to discover the full list of what Northamptonshire has to offer



CONTACT US

Northamptonshire
HERITAGE FORUM


www.northamptonshireheritageforum.co.uk
northamptonshireheritageforum@gmail.com






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