



The
RETREAT

ELCOT PARK



Local
ADVENTURES

This booklet provides an overview of things to do in the local area, and our reception team will be happy to provide you with more detailed information.

Country Pursuits

Shooting

We have teamed up with local shooting school Pennsport to offer guests a range of shooting experiences, with something for everyone. Please ask the reception team for details.

Fishing

Just two minutes drive from The Retreat, Barton Court Estate serves up the crystal-clear water, that is home to some of the finest trout and grayling to be found in the country.

bartoncourtestate.com | 01488 658 323

Canal Boat Trips

Whether you choose the horse-drawn barge, a leisurely cruise on the famous Rose of Hungerford or a trip on the Jubilee from Newbury Wharf, there's no better way to relax and take in the magnificent Kennet & Avon Canal scenery. Please ask the reception team for full details.

Horse-riding

Little Hidden Farm in Hungerford is a relaxed, family-owned riding school, sharing their passion for riding, regardless of age or experience.

littlehiddenfarm.co.uk | 07713 467676

Walks

Starting and finishing right here at The Retreat, our 5km and 9km walks are a perfect way to discover the local countryside and wildlife. Please ask our reception team for a map.

A Day at The Races

Newbury's famous racecourse hosts fixtures and events throughout the year. Please visit newburyracecourse.co.uk for the most up-to-date information and to purchase tickets, or ask the reception team for a list of upcoming fixtures.

Stately Homes & Historic Houses

Highclere Castle

Enjoy a breathtaking cross-country drive to this stunning 17th century country house, home to the acclaimed TV series Downton Abbey, just 15 minutes from The Retreat. Advance booking advised.

highclerecastle.co.uk | 01635 253 210

Shaw House

One of the best preserved Elizabethan mansions in England, historically fascinating and set in tranquil gardens.

westberkshireheritage.org/shaw-house | 01635 279 279

Welford Park

A beautiful country house and estate in the village of Welford, 5 miles from The Retreat, Welford Park is open for special events and limited times round the year. Please visit the website for details.

welfordpark.co.uk | 01488 608 691

Further Afield

Blenheim Palace

Woodstock, Oxford

This extraordinary English baroque-period stately home is the birthplace of Winston Churchill and a world heritage site with 300 years of history.

blenheimpalace.com | 01993 810 530

Englefield House

Theale

An Elizabethan country house, often used as a film and TV location. The gardens are open to the public all year round on weekdays.

englefieldestate.co.uk | 0118 930 2504

Ashdown House

Lambourn

A National Trust property with a history of romance, war and royalty, Ashdown House is an unusual Dutch-style house with beautiful woodlands.

nationaltrust.org.uk/ashdown | 01793762209

Local History

West Berkshire Museum

Housed in two of Newbury's most historic buildings, the recently refurbished West Berkshire Museum tells the fascinating story of the local area with a huge range of exhibits.

westberkshireheritage.org/west-berkshire-museum | 01635 519 562

Donnington Castle

The remains of medieval Donnington Castle offer a glimpse of history and a good base for walking, with great views of the area and lovely picnic spots.

Sandham Memorial Chapel

The world-famous chapel was built to accommodate a series of paintings by Stanley Spencer, inspired by his own experiences of the First World War. It is 10 miles from The Retreat.

nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel | 01635 278 394

Greenham Common & Control Tower

The famous airbase is now a large nature reserve with wild ponies, cattle and more, perfect for rambling and exploring. The runway and bunkers are still visible, and you can look around the original 1950s control tower, which often hosts art or photography exhibitions and has a charming café.

greenhamtower.org.uk | 01488 608 691

The Merchants House, Marlborough

A glorious restoration of a 17th Century silk merchant's house, incorporating the Marlborough Museum. Please check the website for opening times.

themerchantshouse.co.uk | 01672 511 491

Crofton Beam Engines

Crofton Pumping Station is one of the most significant industrial heritage sites in the United Kingdom and a fascinating visitor attraction that invites you to step into our industrial and social history and turn back the clock to a time when steam was king. 11 miles from The Retreat.

croftonbeamengines.org | 01672 870 300

A breath of fresh air

Kennet & Avon Canal

Slow the pace and return to a simpler age as you take in this stunning rural canal and its adjacent river, easily accessible from Kintbury, a stones throw from The Retreat.

Beacon Hill

One of the best known iron age hill forts in England, and part of the Highclere Estate. After an exhilarating walk to the peak, you will be rewarded with spectacular views across the North Wessex Downs.

Snelsmore Common

A wander through nearby Snelsmore Common will take in a range of habitats including heathland, wet mires and woodland. Look out for varied wildlife, from ponies to reptiles to nationally rare birds. Snelsmore Common is about 7 miles from us and there's a café & toilets onsite.

Combe Gibbet

A short, stunning drive from The Retreat, Combe Gibbet strikes an imposing and haunting image on top of Gallows Down, where two murderers were executed in 1676. It also offers amazing views of four counties and with a large car park is a great starting point for a ramble along the ridgeway.

Highclere Estate Walks

There's a whole host of stunning walks on the Highclere estate, including one that leads to Heaven's gate, so called because it frames a perfect view of Highclere Castle. It's also the burial site of Lord Carnarvon, who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb. Full details and a map can be found on the website.

highclerecastle.co.uk/where-can-i-walk

Watership Down

A few bunny-hops from The Retreat is the real Watership Down, popular with walkers and cyclists, and the inspiration for Richard Adams' beloved novel.

Theatre

Watermill Theatre

Newbury's famous Watermill Theatre, set in the picturesque village of Bagnor, is home to a programme of high-quality productions and is a unique venue, just a few miles from The Retreat.

watermill.org.uk | 01635 46044

The Corn Exchange

A beautiful Grade II listed 19th century building in the very heart of Newbury's Market Place that presents and produces theatre, dance, music, film, comedy and visual arts.

cornexchangenew.com | 0845 521 8218

Shopping

Hungerford

Just a few minutes drive away you'll find the historic market town of Hungerford, famed for its many antique shops and arcades.

Swindon Outlet Centre

Housed in the Grade II listed buildings of the Great Western Railway Works, McArthurGlen's Swindon Designer Outlet outpost is one of the largest covered designer outlets in Europe.

Something for gin lovers

Bombay Sapphire Distillery

Uncover the secrets of the world-famous gin on the site of an historic paper mill in the Hampshire countryside. Learn about the processes that go into the craft of making Bombay Sapphire gin, how to make perfect cocktails and more. Advance booking advised.

bombaysapphire.com | 01256 890090

Ramsbury Estate & Distillery

Discover the secrets of the Ramsbury distillery, with plenty of gin and vodka to try on the way!

ramsbury.com | 01672 541407

Adventures for the whole family

The Living Rainforest

At the Living Rainforest you will experience the sights, sounds and smells of a lush tropical rainforest. Three glasshouses are home to over 850 types of rainforest plants and animals – including rare and endangered species of global conservation value.

livingrainforest.org | 01635 202 444

4 Kingdoms

This wonderful Adventure & Farm Park, just outside Newbury, is a place to create memories for old and young alike. With 21 play zones, a petting zoo, laser tag, giant slides, the beach, pedal boats and events held all year round it's the perfect family-friendly environment.

4-kingdoms.co.uk | 01635 269 678

Bucklebury Farm & Deer Safari Park

This picturesque animal park to the west of Newbury has lots of animals to meet, pet and feed, including deer, pigs, alpacas, lambs and ponies. There's also amazing play areas and a lovely café.

buckleburyfarm.co.uk | 01189 714002

Beale Park

An outdoor wildlife park within 40 acres set against the River Thames, and home to an exciting mix of animals and attractions.

bealepark.org.uk | 0118 976 7480

Science Centre

Winchester

Electrifying science, out-of-this-world space journeys, outdoor nature explorations and hands-on fun, perfect for enquiring minds and playful hands. Around 40 minutes drive from The Retreat.

winchestersciencecentre.org | 01962 891 942

Cobbs Farm

At Cobbs Farm in Hungerford, there's indoor and outdoor play for younger guests, as well as a farm shop and pick-your-own fruit.

cobbsfarmshops.co.uk/cobbs-Hungerford | 01488 686770



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The Retreat at Elcot Park, Newbury, Berkshire RG20 8NJ
01635 800520 | www.retreatelcotpark.com