

Press release

The country delights of Christmas in Wiltshire



11 December 2013: From country houses and carol singing to great shopping and family fun, it's not too late to enjoy a Christmas break in the quintessentially English county of Wiltshire. Here are some of [VisitWiltshire](#)'s top picks for visitors looking to enjoy a short break in the county over the festive period.

Markets, Culture and Christmas Shopping

[Salisbury's Christmas Market](#) – one of the finest in the country – has returned this year featuring 71 delightful little wooden chalets all beautifully decorated and neatly arranged. Visitors can expect to find an array of tasteful, inspiring, high quality gifts and festive goods including arts and crafts, with a strong emphasis on products coming from Britain and Europe. The market will run until 21 December.

And Salisbury's festive offerings don't stop there. [Salisbury Cathedral](#) is running Twilight Christmas Tower tours until 2 January plus a series of events including candlelit carol services on 21 and 22 December, while the [Salisbury Playhouse](#)'s ever-popular pantomime – this year 'Dick Whittington And His Cat' – will run through to 11 January. At [Salisbury Museum](#), Father Christmas and three of his reindeer will be in residence at the King's House in Cathedral Close on Saturday 14 December when the museum will be hosting a day of free, festive activities for the all the family.

Trowbridge Museum will once again host its fantastic [Dickensian Christmas Experience](#); a Christmas experience like no other, including traditional Victorian hymns, a Dickensian Christmas grotto, Christmas market and more. The [American Museum](#) has also been

transformed once more for Christmas – featuring a magnificent 17-foot Christmas tree that fills the central hall and Father Christmas set to visit the museum on the last day of festivities, on Sunday 22 December. And history buffs would also be well served by visiting [Avebury Manor](#) – until 22 December the house, which was transformed by the BBC in the 2011 series “To the Manor Reborn”, will be dressed in styles from the 1780s to the 1930s, as well as running a number of Christmas tours and seasonal events.

There’s a whole host of other festive events taking place across the county, too. Highlights include the [Christmas festival of the voice at Stourhead](#) on 15 and 22 December; Lacock’s [Christmas tree festival](#) and [family trail](#); the annual [Larmer Tree Christmas Fair](#) running daily until 22 December; the [Bradford on Avon Santa Cruise](#); and various seasonal performances from the Malmesbury Community Choir.

When it comes to doing your Christmas shopping, visitors to the north of the county can treat themselves to a [North Wiltshire Christmas shopping break](#) from as little as £59 – and enjoy their favourite designer brands for up to 60% less. [Fisherton Mill](#) in Salisbury, meanwhile, is a retail one-off packed with unusual stocking fillers, designer jewellery, affordable art and glorious glassware. And while you’re there, be sure to check out this year’s ‘Yuletide Showcase Exhibition’ running until Christmas Eve. If you’re looking for more unusual Christmas gift ideas, the famous [Castle Combe Circuit](#) is offering free gifts with all Driving Experience Gift Vouchers purchased this Christmas.

Last-minute Christmas getaways

Planning a last-minute break over Christmas? With these offers, there’s no better place to experience a very country Christmas than Wiltshire this year:

- [The Old Manor Hotel](#) is getting ready for a Christmas to remember with some fantastic food from Chef Mathew Briddon and roaring open fires creating a cosy feel for guests. £265 per person (based on two sharing) for a two night package over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, including a stocking from Santa!
- A grade II listed B&B steeped in history, [Rollestone Manor](#) is offering a special package for those looking to enjoy Salisbury’s wonderful Christmas Market. £140 for two people to include dinner, overnight stay, breakfast and a spot of afternoon tea
- Situated in the north west of the county, the beautiful [Guyers House Hotel](#) will offer guests a warm welcome over Christmas. Arrive on Christmas Eve to a glass of mulled wine and Christmas cake before enjoying festive carol singing and a mouth-watering gala dinner in the award winning 2 AA Rosette restaurant. Full package for two nights £695 per room; three nights £850 per room
- Looking for some luxury this Christmas? The stately [Bowood Hotel, Spa and Golf Resort](#) and [Lucknam Park, Hotel and Spa](#) are both offering special Christmas break packages. Two night Christmas breaks start from £450 per adult

Be sure to follow [VisitWiltshire](#) for the latest events, deals and festivities throughout the county this Christmas period.

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Images of all the above attractions and events are available on request.

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VisitWiltshire

VisitWiltshire Ltd was established in August 2011 and is the official Tourist Board for Wiltshire. It is a private sector membership organisation representing 530 partners. VisitWiltshire's priority is to grow the county's Visitor Economy by raising awareness of the destination and generating additional tourism visits and spend. Wiltshire's Visitor Economy currently generates an estimated £1billion and supports over 21,000 jobs.