

Superbly situated in southern England's rural heartland, few destinations can match the amazing diversity of Salisbury and Stonehenge and with a history dating back over 5,000 years. The magnificent medieval city of Salisbury has it all: historic streets and alleyways, charming half-timbered buildings, characterful shopping streets, traditional English eating houses and a superb range of attractions, including the UK's finest medieval cathedral. Away from Salisbury, the mysterious and imposing monument of Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain is a remarkable sight.



Salisbury Cathedral

Consecrated in 1258, Salisbury Cathedral is considered the finest medieval cathedral in the UK. It is a wonderful example of Early English Gothic architecture and has the tallest church spire in the country. Visible from every direction and dominating the landscape for miles around, it rises a breathtaking 123m into the sky. The cathedral houses the best preserved of only four original copies of the Magna Carta (AD1215) and Europe's oldest working clock (AD1386).



Stonehenge

Stonehenge stands impressively as a prehistoric monument of unique importance, a World Heritage Site, surrounded by remains of ceremonial and domestic structures – some older than the monument itself. Many of these features – earthworks, burial mounds and other circular 'henge' monuments – are accessible by road or public footpath. Stonehenge's orientation on the path of the rising and setting sun has always been one of its remarkable features.



Salisbury City Centre

Amongst the medieval streets, alleyways and half-timbered buildings can be found a wealth of interesting and individual shops to explore, as well as regular open-air markets. There are fine English eating houses, restaurants from all around the world and charming public houses, such as the Haunch of Venison, for you to enjoy. The Cathedral Close gives some of the most spectacular views of the cathedral and houses a number of other interesting attractions (see below).



Saturday Charter Market

The outdoor Charter Market has been coming to Salisbury every Saturday for over 800 years. Colourful, noisy, bustling, friendly and full of enticing aromas, from freshly ground coffee and fresh bread to hot doughnuts and newly cut flowers. Selling everything from clothes, jewellery and furniture to fresh fruit and vegetables, meats and cheese and including a local farmers' section where everything has been produced from the surrounding area, including local English wine.

What else can I see and do?

Don't miss the walk along the **Town Path** across the water meadow for more awe-inspiring views of the cathedral. The National Trust property **Mompesson House**, built in 1701, with its peaceful walled garden and tearoom, is a perfect example of Queen Anne architecture and is noted for its period furniture, magnificent plasterwork and award-winning collection of 18th-century drinking glasses. It was used in the filming of the award-winning cinema version of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*.

The **Tower Tour** lets you explore the medieval roof spaces of the cathedral and climbs 332 steps to the base of the spire for magnificent views across Salisbury. The **Rifles (Berkshire and Wiltshire) Museum**, dating from the 13th century, tells the story of three great soldier regiments. There is also the **Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum**: displays include the story of early man, the Romans and Saxons and the history of Old Sarum and Salisbury, including its **Stonehenge Gallery**.

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