

A County 10,000 Years in the Making...



Avebury Stone Circle



World-famous Stonehenge



Silbury Hill

Since Wiltshire's story began some 10,000 years ago, it has amassed a treasure-trove of attractions taking you on a journey through time from Stone Age to present day. Probably the most iconic of Wiltshire's sites is [Stonehenge](#) which, to this day, remains a mysterious, monolithic monument known as a site of unique importance. Stonehenge's orientation on the rising and setting sun has always been one of its most remarkable features, but why it was built in this way remains a mystery to this day.

The world-class visitor centre at Stonehenge which opened in December 2013, houses museum-quality permanent and temporary exhibitions, plus a spacious shop and café. Entrance to Stonehenge is managed through timed tickets, and advance booking is strongly advised. Pre-booking is the only way to guarantee entry on the day and at the time of your choice; there is limited walk-up availability on the day.

Further north is [Avebury](#), the largest stone circle in the world. Dating from around 4,500 years ago, the stones form a huge ring a quarter of a mile across and enclose part of the village. Avebury is the focus of an amazing cluster of ancient monuments. Follow an 'avenue' partially marked by stones that originally led to The Sanctuary; visit West Kennet Long Barrow, one of Britain's largest Stone Age burial sites; or gaze across the fields towards the giant mount of Silbury Hill which stands over 130 feet high.

Wiltshire is also home to the vast Iron Age hill fort of [Old Sarum](#) – the original site of the beautiful cathedral city of Salisbury. It was re-used by Romans, Saxons and Normans before growing into one of the most flourishing settlements in medieval England. Other Iron Age hill forts can be found around the county, at Battlesbury Camp, Cley Hill, Bratton Castle in west Wiltshire, Barbury Castle near Swindon, and Oldbury Castle near Calne.

During the industrial revolution, the [Kennet & Avon Canal](#) was created linking Bristol to Reading by water. The canal, although no longer used for industrial reasons, is still buzzing with activity and is the perfect spot for a stroll or cycle along the tow path.

Wiltshire also boasts a number of museums that offer the chance to unearth the secrets of this historic county. The archaeology collections at [Wiltshire Museum](#) in Devizes, for instance, are among the finest in Britain. Displays feature collections excavated from the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site, including finds from Bush Barrow – described as the Crown Jewels of the 'King of Stonehenge'. [The Salisbury Museum](#) also has archaeology collections of outstanding national importance.

For further information or to arrange a press visit please contact Florence Wallace, Travel Trade & PR Manager, flowallace@visitwiltshire.co.uk Tel: 01722 341309 or 07436 588860