

#### **EXPERIENCE THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS IN WILTSHIRE**

Experience the wonder of Christmas in Wiltshire, where festive events and activities await groups of all kinds. Explore charming Christmas markets, marvel at sparkling light displays, and soak up the seasonal cheer. Make Wiltshire part of your holiday plans and celebrate the season in unforgettable style.

#### **ILLUMINATED ADVENTURES**

Longleat Festival of Light (Selected dates from Sat 8 Nov – Sun 11 Jan 2026): The Festival of Light: British Icons with Wallace & Gromit and Friends invites visitors to explore beloved Aardman characters and iconic UK landmarks reimagined as stunning lantern displays. Highlights include a 15m Tower Bridge, Stonehenge, the Giant's Causeway, and the Glenfinnan Viaduct, alongside tributes to Jane Austen's 250th anniversary and iconic British music stars. Two group ticket options are available, Day Ticket and Non-Safari Day Ticket, with the Day Ticket including a Winter Safari, boat cruise, lantern trail, animal encounters, adventure play areas, and The Enchanted Christmas Tree show.

Experience the Magic of Christmas at Stourhead (Fri 28 Nov – Wed 31 Dec): Immerse yourself in a new, reimagined trail at Stourhead as the garden is illuminated by millions of sparkling festive lights and comes alive with sound of festive cheer. You will be able to feel the magic of Christmas as you wander through this stunning setting.

<u>Hawk Conservancy Trust</u> light up those gloomy winter nights in January at **Winter Woodland Lights (Fri 16 Jan – Sun 1 Feb 2026)** with a stunning illuminated owl flying display with lights, special effects, music and narration in beautiful woodland. Group discounts are catering packages are available for pre-booked groups of 15+.

## **CHRISTMAS DAYS OUT**

Christmas Carols at Salisbury Cathedral (Tues 9 Dec at 2pm). The Salisbury Cathedral Choir will perform much-loved carols and seasonal music for groups to join in and sing along with. Seasonal refreshments will be served and the whole Cathedral (including the Chapter House with Magna Carta) will be exclusively available to your guests until the evening service starts. Pre-book only, the group rate is not available to walk-up groups.

<u>Mompesson House</u> are welcoming visitors to **Mrs Portman's Regency Christmas Celebration (Fri 21 Nov – Tues 23 Dec, 11am-3pm)** for a Regency Christmas celebration to explore the house as Mrs Portman prepares for her Twelfth Night Ball and discover how the Georgians spread their Christmas joy over a whole month.

Experience the magic of Christmas at <u>Cholderton Rare Breeds Farm</u> (Fri 28 Nov - Tues 23 Dec) where festive fun meets countryside charm across 40 acres of adorable animals, exciting activities, and seasonal surprises! A Festive Laser show, enchanting Christmas Farm Trail or Festive Murder Mystery Night makes for a perfect Christmas celebration. Accommodation

available in the onsite 70-bed <u>Stonehenge Hostel</u>, with bespoke optional extras for groups of all sizes.

Hawk Conservancy Trust kicks off the festive season with a magical evening with **Owls by**Moonlight at Christmas (Sat 6,Sun 7, Fri 12, Sat 13 Dec). Watch these mystical birds twist and turn through the night sky and make sure you duck as they skim silently over the top of your head or join in with the Christmas Carols and Owls (Fri 19-Mon 22 Dec).

The Christmas House (Fri 21 Nov - Tues 23 Dec, 11am-3pm) at <u>Stourhead House</u> awaits you, with beautiful handmade decorations adorning Christmas trees in every room. Each tree has its own theme showcasing the beauty and history of Stourhead.

# AND OF COURSE... A PANTO

Wiltshire Creative will be bringing Jack & The Beanstalk to Salisbury Playhouse (Sat 29 Nov - Sun 11 Jan 2026) in this giant musical pantomime written by Plested, Brown & Wisher. Salisbury Playhouse is known for its vibrant and original musical pantomimes, so treat your group to fee-fi-fo fun which promises to be a festive delight for all. Group discounts apply for 10+ and for standard and off-peak performances only, with up to £6 off for groups of 20+. T's & C's apply.

## **FESTIVE ACCOMMODATION**

Celebrate with family and friends or book a cosy winter escape for your group to stay in Wiltshire this festive season.

Milford Hall Hotel, Salisbury, are offering fabulous festive breaks for either 2 or 3 nights over the Christmas period. From cosy lunches, wreath making, or lively party nights, groups can enjoy the twinkling lights, festive cheer, and a delicious menu crafted for a truly special celebration.

<u>Holiday Inn Salisbury – Stonehenge</u>, offers the perfect setting for intimate festive lunches and dinners with a relaxed and welcoming seasonal charm. For something a little livelier, book to stay and join their 'Party Nights', held every Friday and Saturday throughout December. Bookings also available for the Christmas Day feast and New Year's Bash.

<u>The Stones Hotel</u>, are perfect for those looking for the ultimate festive party. With a huge event space that accommodates up to 250 guests, this is the perfect venue for company parties, group gatherings, and festive blowouts. Expect a mouth-watering festive menu, plenty of fizz, and a dancefloor that stays busy all night long. Plus, stay the night with exclusive party night bedroom rates.

#### **MARKET TOWN EXPERIENCES**

Wiltshire has many beautiful market towns who have Christmas light switch on events as well as great independent shops - ideal for a festive outing.

<u>Marlborough's Christmas Lights Event</u> (**Fri 28 Nov**): Visit Marlborough High Street for a traditional Christmas all-day festive market, with street entertainment, live music and performances not forgetting the switching on of the Christmas lights at 18.30, illuminating this beautiful market town.

<u>Christmas comes to Corsham</u> (Sat 6 Dec): Christmas comes to Corsham when the Christmas lights are switched on at 6pm. The High Street becomes a Christmas Market (from 3pm) and there's live music, fairground rides, Christmas tree, fun and games, and a special appearance from Father Christmas.

Bradford on Avon's Christmas Lights Switch-On Event (Fri 29 Nov). A evening of Christmas fun and excitement, with live music, fairground, Santa's grotto, a gift fair and more. The town's lights will be switched on by the town's Mayor at 6pm.There's also be the traditional Christmas tree in Westbury Garden as well as decorated trees at the Tithe Barn and outside the train station and a Giving Tree in Lamb Yard. In St Margaret's Hall, you'll find over 25 local artisans offering festive gifts at the Christmas fair from 4pm to 8pm.

# **CHISTMAS SHOPPING**

McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Swindon satisfies all your Christmas shopping needs as shoppers will adore the quality mix of High St and Designer brands, reduced by up to 60 per cent, at over 100 top name stores, starring Levi's and Tommy Hilfiger. Discover thoughtful gifts for luxury-lovers and anyone who deserves a little special something. Or let them choose with a McArthurGlen Gift Card.

<u>Hawk Conservancy Trust</u> has a festive **Christmas Market** (27-30 November) in this unique setting, with over 60 local businesses selling personalised presents, decorations, treats and much more.

Wiltshire's festive calendar promises to create lasting memories for groups and travel trade visitors. Group benefits include group rates and free tickets for group leaders / coach drivers etc. please enquire directly for details.

For further information about what's on in Wiltshire this Christmas take a look at <a href="https://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/whats-on/christmas">www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/whats-on/christmas</a> and to help plan your next group visit <a href="https://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/groups">www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/groups</a>

Issued by VisitWiltshire. For further information or to arrange an interview or press visit please contact Florence Wallace <a href="mailto:flowallace@visitwiltshire.co.uk">flowallace@visitwiltshire.co.uk</a> Tel: 07436 588860.

### **Editors Notes:**

VisitWiltshire is the official Local Visitor Economy Partnership for Wiltshire, representing 400 investing Wiltshire destinations and businesses. It is part of the Great West Way and established as a public/private sector partnership organisation. VisitWiltshire's role includes growing the county's Visitor Economy by raising awareness of the destination and generating additional tourism visits and spend. Wiltshire's Visitor Economy generates an estimated £1.5billion and supports over 28,000 jobs.

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