

DISCOVER THORNBURY CASTLE & THE LOCAL AREA

Things to do

Truly immerse yourself in the Tudor period while visiting Thornbury Castle. Its grounds have such wonderful secrets to explore, and we are pleased to offer the opportunity to dive even deeper into Tudor tradition with experiences that glimpse into historical life in the Tudor period.

Longbow Archery

After mastering the fundamentals of becoming an archer, with instruction on shooting a longbow from our Archery GB instructor, guests will be given the chance to participate in Tudor pastimes to see if they are able to match up to the archers of the period, while absorbing the history of Thornbury Castle and Tudor England's famous longbows.

Axe Throwing

Accompanied by our qualified marshals, guests have the chance to throw hatchets and axes at a target in a safe environment in the picturesque grounds of the Castle. Need more of a challenge? Our marshals will challenge guests to a 'Throw-Off' – who can score the most points?

These experiences are offered by Battle Archery Bristol, and available for hotel guests on Saturdays and Sundays, subject to availability and weather dependent. Maximum of 6 persons per session. The experiences are subject to availability and additional costs will apply based on party size and activity desired. Each experience must be booked at least 48-hours in advance. Should guests cancel their reservation less than 24-hours prior to their experience, the full amount will still be payable.

Thornbury Castle History Tours

Built in the 1500s, Thornbury Castle has housed kings, queens and dukes over the centuries, and we are so pleased to offer the opportunity of a guided historical tour with a local historian of both the inside and outside of the Castle. The tour starts with our local historian weaving a detailed history of the Castle and the people who have owned or lived here. Guests will then be accompanied around the Castle interior where the historian will highlight different features which can be seen, but not necessarily noticed. The tour then concludes outside in the grounds and gardens, where the fascinating architecture is discussed.

These tours are offered by the team at Thornbury & District Museum and available for hotel guests, subject to availability of the historians. Pre-booking is essential. A charge will apply to join a history tour. Please speak with our reception team to check availability and to make your history tour booking.

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Lady's Wood Clay Shooting School

The UK's finest clay pigeon shooting in Bristol.

Set in 55 acres of natural woodland, the renowned Lady's Wood Shooting School offers unparalleled shooting instruction and comprehensive clay pigeon shooting facilities. Combining over 100 years of shooting experience and a passion for sporting life, with a personable, tailored approach, the school provides shooting tuition to the experienced, novice, game and clay shooter alike.

The school's grounds are unrivalled in both their beauty and variety of targets on offer, with over 30 stands, six onsite towers (including the 120ft high tower), a wide variety of sporting stands, grouse butt and the infamous Lady's Wood Extreme Tower located nearby. It has also recently unveiled an exciting new collaboration with Bowman Traps: the Bowman Sporting Practice. This challenging ten-stand pay and play system features seven brand new stands as well as old favourites.

Bookings must be made in advance of a stay at the Castle, email: shoot@ladyswood.co.uk.

Open Tuesday to Saturday, 9am to 4.30pm.

Prices for a one hour lesson from £90 per person, plus the cartridges, and for two people £65 per person plus cartridges.

Full details of pricing are available on ladyswood.co.uk/shooting-school/prices/

Transfer time from Thornbury Castle Hotel is 30 minutes.

Falconry

Falconry displays are a wonderful experience to enjoy while staying at the Castle. Demonstrations with birds of prey are accompanied with excellent entertaining, educational and informative commentary.

The sport of hunting with falcons and hawks is believed to date back at least 2,000 years and to have originated in the Far East. As world trade grew, so falconry spread to Europe, where it quickly became a popular pastime of royals and aristocrats, and for many other people a way of putting fresh meat onto the table. Today it is hugely popular with people of all ages rediscovering the excitement and skills of working with birds of prey.

Displays must be pre-booked in advance and prices range from £350.00 for an hour.

Please book with the reception team at Thornbury Castle Hotel on 01454 281182 or email reception@thornburycastle.co.uk.

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Things to Do

Horse Drawn Carriage Ride

The horse and carriage ride collects the guests from the Castle and takes a journey to the local town and back for approximately 45 minutes.

A complimentary video of your trip is provided for wedding proposals and weddings.

Spa Treatments

Beauty and holistic therapy havens offering exclusive professional skincare and advanced beauty treatments. Some treatments can be offered in our treatment room here at Thornbury Castle so that you don't even have to leave the hotel!

Please visit: thornburycastle.co.uk/explore-and-relax for more information.

Small Horse Carriage Ride – £650.00

'Big White' Horse Carriage Ride – £850.00

Please book with the reception team at Thornbury Castle Hotel on 01454 281182 or email reception@thornburycastle.co.uk.

To check availability, or to discuss our treatments in more detail, please contact Thornbury Castle on 01454 281182 or email reception@thornburycastle.co.uk.

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Clay Pigeon Shooting

Test your aim with clay pigeon shooting. We are now pleased to offer our guests a 2-hour clay pigeon shooting experience here on the grounds at Thornbury Castle. If you fancy a fun few hours partaking in a sport that was invented to refine the shooting skills of huntsman, then this is for you. You can take part with a minimum of four people up to a group of 20.

Guests will need to wear comfortable, flat shoes and the activity will take place under a gazebo, just in case the heavens open - so you can enjoy the experience no matter what the weather!

The team use de-commissioned, original 12 bore shot guns, so you'll get the full country pursuit experience with the security of knowing it is entirely safe, even for children to join in!

Helicopter Rides

We are now offering private helicopter rides picking guests up directly outside the castle on the front lawn. Experience amazing aerial views of the local area with Stonehenge, Bath and Cotswolds all visible within the hour's ride (weather dependent).

The helicopter can accommodate three people and the total cost for the one hour ride is £1,200.00. Larger groups can enjoy the experience on request

If you're feeling more adventurous, we are also offering helicopter taster lessons, available at Cotswold Airport, which is a 50-minute transfer away. Half hour lessons are £290.00 and one hour lessons are £550.00.

Pre-booking essential. Please book with the reception team at Thornbury Castle Hotel on 01454 281182 or email reception@thornburycastle.co.uk.

Pre-booking essential and subject to safe weather flying conditions. Please book with the reception team at Thornbury Castle Hotel on 01454 281182 or email reception@thornburycastle.co.uk.

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Things to Do

Wolfridge Alpaca

An exciting experience for animal lovers, get to meet these native South American creatures up close and personal. Wolfridge Alpaca Farm is only ten minutes from Thornbury Castle, it's a great activity for couples and families alike. With mostly flat ground and not too much walking involved, you'll get to enjoy a walk through the beautiful Cotswolds countryside as well as the opportunity to feed and cuddle an alpaca. Not something you do on an average day! Afterwards you can enjoy a coffee or bite to eat in the cafe on-site.

See more here: www.wolfridgealpaca.co.uk

Prices are £16 per adult for a 45 minute experience. Please book with the reception team at Thornbury Castle Hotel on 01454 281182 or email reception@thornburycastle.co.uk.

Newbrook Farm Equestrian

Newbrook Farm is a specialist retirement livery where horses can live out their remaining days enjoying life to the full in a natural environment. It's a lovely place to visit meeting over 125 different horses, but you can also experience the thrill of horseback riding through the countryside with a two-hour session with fully insured trainers.

From £80 per person, you'll need to book in advance of your stay and provide details of height/weight and your previous riding experience so the team can match the right horse to your needs. If you'd like to make a day of it, you can also book a picnic for £37 per person which Chef will specially prepare on the day.

See more here: www.newbrookfarmequestrian.co.uk

Prices from £80 per person. Please book with the reception team at Thornbury Castle Hotel on 01454 281182 or email reception@thornburycastle.co.uk.

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Local Attractions – Bristol

Bristol

Thornbury is located approximately 12 miles from Bristol City Centre. Bristol is a city of bridges, hot air balloons, boats, bikes, Brunel and Banksy. Whether you're looking for a great day out for all the family, a romantic atmosphere or a little adventure, there's a fantastic range of things to do in Bristol.

visitbristol.co.uk

Brunel's SS Great Britain

Visit Bristol's award-winning visitor attraction, Brunel's SS Great Britain, and discover the ship that changed the world. SS Great Britain is a museum ship and former passenger steamship. The Brunel built ship lies in the original Great Western Dockyard where she was built. Step 'underwater' for a unique and magnificent view of the ship below the beautiful glass sea; investigate the Riggers' Yard and the Great Western Dockyard, test your skills with interactive displays and choose from a selection of fascinating audio companions. With storytelling and games for children, to in-depth historical research in Brunel's Institute, there is something for everybody to enjoy at Brunel's SS Great Britain.

ssgreatbritain.org

Bristol Aquarium

Located in the famous Bristol harbour, the new Bristol Aquarium is a must-see attraction for nature lovers. Admire the tropical sharks, the beautiful seahorses, and sit down to be amazed in the undersea tunnel.

bristolaquarium.co.uk

Clifton Suspension Bridge

The Clifton Suspension Bridge's spectacular setting on the cliffs of the Avon Gorge has made it the defining symbol of Bristol, drawing thousands of visitors a year just to stroll across, for views of the ancient Avon Gorge, elegant Clifton and the magnificent city of Bristol beyond.

cliftonbridge.org.uk

Bristol Museum and Art Gallery

Bristol Museum and Art Gallery has collections of regional, national and international importance. It is one of the few museums to have been awarded designated status by the government – the mark of an outstanding museum.

bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery

Aerospace Bristol

Aerospace Bristol provides a fun yet informative family day out. The museum highlights examples of great innovation, such as Concorde and space flight, to inspire the budding engineers of tomorrow! Bristol can safely claim to be the true home of Concorde - the airframe and engines were largely developed here, the UK assembly line was also located here, and all UK Concorde's made their maiden flight from Filton's runway. With interactive exhibits, an outdoor play area, and children's trails it's something not to be missed.

aerospacebristol.org

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Local Attractions – Bath

Bath

Relax in one of the world's most beautiful cities. Nourished by natural hot springs, Bath offers a unique experience with stunning architecture, great shopping and iconic attractions.

visitbath.co.uk

Roman Baths

Visit the heart of the World Heritage Site. Around Britain's only hot spring, the Romans built a magnificent temple and bathing complex that still flows with natural hot water. Audio guides are available in 8 languages, with a special one for children in English and French, and are included in the admission price. Enjoy morning coffee, lunch or afternoon tea in the magnificent 18th century Pump Room, accompanied by music from the Pump Room Trio, and try a glass of Spa water from the fountain.

romanbaths.co.uk

Thermae Bath Spa

Located in the heart of Bath and fed by the naturally warm, mineral-rich springs, thermae is a remarkable combination of the best of the historic Spa and the stunning Architecture of the New Royal Bath.

thermaebathspa.com

Jane Austen Centre

The Jane Austen Centre offers you a snapshot of life during Regency times and explores how living in Bath affected the famous Jane Austen and her writing.

janeausten.co.uk

The Royal Crescent

The Royal Crescent is one of the world's best-known landmarks. Built between 1767 and 1775 and designed by John Wood the younger, the crescent contains some 30 houses, one of which is “Number 1” which is now a heritage museum, and open to the public.

no1royalcrescent.org.uk

Bath Abbey

There is nowhere else quite like Bath Abbey. Magnificent stained-glass windows, columns of honey-gold stone and some of the finest fan vaulting in the world, create an extraordinary experience of light and space. But there is more to it than that. There has been a place of Christian worship on this site for over 1,200 years and The Abbey remains very much a living church today with services taking place throughout the entire week. Experience the special atmosphere and rich history of this holy and uplifting place.

bathabbey.org

Bath Park & Ride

The best way to travel into Bath for business, leisure or shopping. Whatever you're planning to do in the city, using the Park & Ride means a stress-free visit and no worries about driving, congestion or high parking charges. With a journey of just 10 minutes to the centre of Bath, it's quick, easy and greener! Bath Park & Ride is situated just next to Bath Racecourse.

travelwest.info/park-ride/lansdown-park-ride

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Cotswold Villages

Cotswold Villages

The Cotswold District is one of England's favourite destinations; famous for hundreds of honey-colour limestone villages in a beautiful rural setting. If you only visit a couple, it is a MUST during your stay! Here are some of the more famous Cotswold villages.

cotswolds.com

Stratford-upon-Avon

Birthplace of Shakespeare!

Stow-on-the-Wold

A delightful market town and along with Moreton in Marsh, perhaps the best known of the small Cotswolds towns.

Bourton on the Water

Only four miles from Stow-on-the-Wold, straddling the river Windrush with its series of elegant low bridges beside neat tree-shaded greens and tidy stone banks. Standing back from the river are traditional Cotswolds buildings, many of which are now tourist shops for the day-trippers and visitors.

Castle Coombe

Castle Coombe lies in a valley and is considered one of the loveliest villages in the Cotswolds. It is one of the most visited and frequently finds favour as a backdrop for period television and cinema dramas, including the hit film War Horse.

Bradford on Avon

The magical appeal of the town's position on the banks of the River Avon gives visitors a wonderful setting for leisure, cultural and tourist activities.

Tetbury

The town of Tetbury is in the Gloucestershire Cotswolds and is proud of its 1300 years of recorded history. Tetbury is well known for its 25 antique shops and its close proximity to Highgrove House and Gardens, the private residence of Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.

Visit escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/things-to-see/placestovisit/townsvillages to discover more Cotswold retreats and additional information.

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Closer to home

Thornbury Golf Centre

A beautiful pay and play golf course situated just two minutes from Thornbury Castle. As well as offering a 6300-yard Marlwood High Course and the 18-hole Par3 Low course, both of which are maintained to a high standard, there is also a 25-bay floodlit driving range and a well-stocked golf shop.

thornburygc.co.uk

Thornbury History Trail

This historic trail follows an easy pedestrian route around the historic town centre, with an optional return along country footpaths. The way-marked route starts outside the Town Hall in the High Street. A trail guide at 30p or booklet at £1.00 can be purchased from the museum or the Town Hall, although the trail can be followed entirely from the way-markers.

Thornbury and District Museum

Located in the centre of Thornbury, This lovingly tended to, local community museum boasts a wealth of interesting exhibitions, collections and activities for all ages.

thornburymuseum.org.uk

Nature/Animals

Tumpy Green Equestrian Centre
tumpygreenequestriancentre.co.uk

Slimbridge Wetlands Centre
wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/slimbridge

Westonbirt Arboretum
forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

Historic

Tintern Abbey
castlewales.com/tintern.html

Berkeley Castle
berkeley-castle.com/index.php

Stonehenge
english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/stonehenge

Tyntesfield House (National Trust)
nationaltrust.org.uk/tyntesfield

Dyrham Park (National Trust)
nationaltrust.org.uk/dyrham-park

Please do not hesitate to ask a member of our reception team should you require any further information or directions.