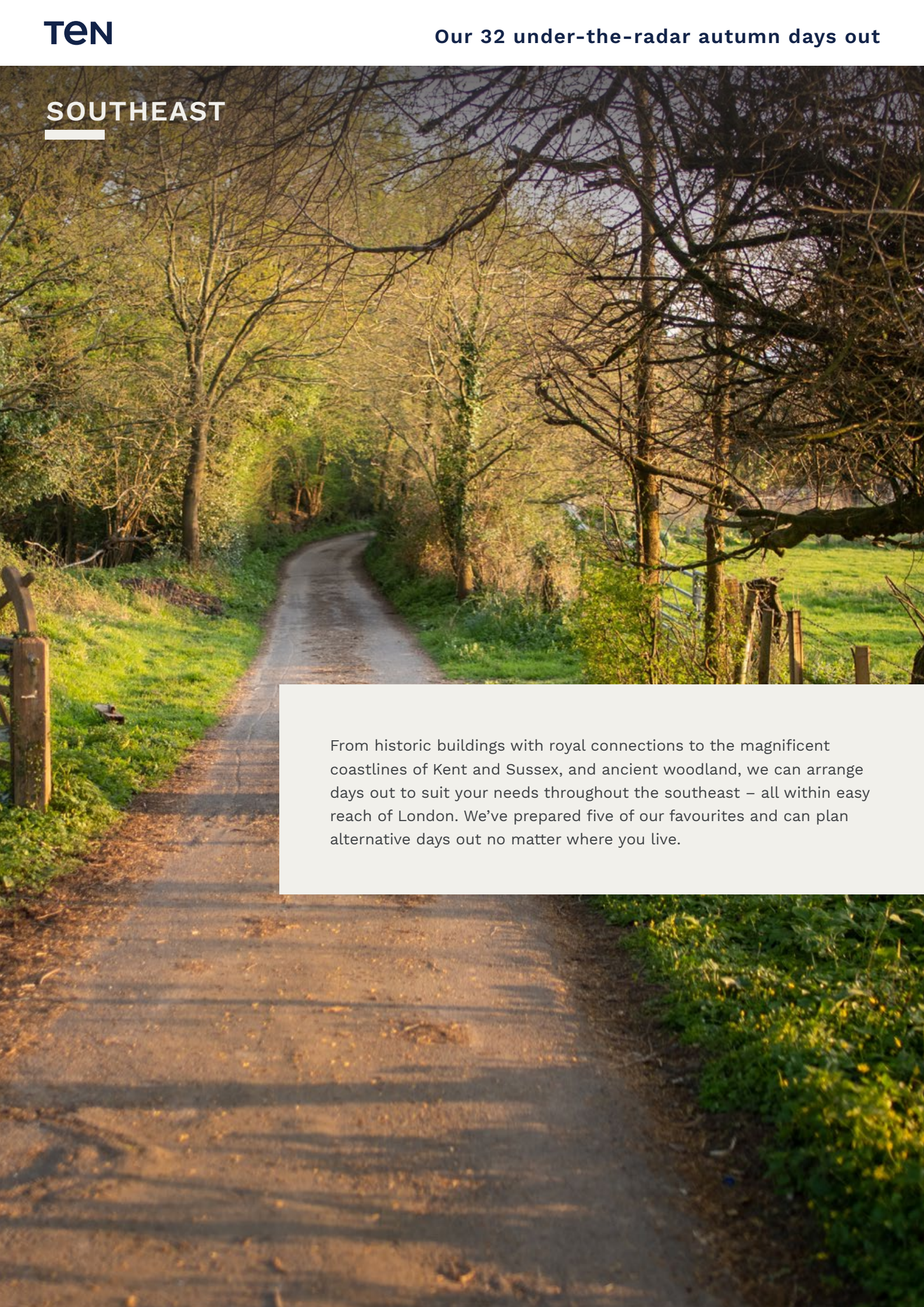




**TEN**

Our 32  
under-the-radar  
autumn days out

## SOUTHEAST



From historic buildings with royal connections to the magnificent coastlines of Kent and Sussex, and ancient woodland, we can arrange days out to suit your needs throughout the southeast – all within easy reach of London. We've prepared five of our favourites and can plan alternative days out no matter where you live.

## SOUTHEAST

**Capture the colours of autumn at Alice Holt Forest**

Located within the beautiful South Downs National Park, Alice Holt Forest offers a number of walking and cycling trails surrounded by woodland, as well as child-friendly play and adventure experiences (due to the changing COVID-19 situation, please check for the current opening information). The area was once an ancient oak forest, providing the wood for the Royal Navy's ships. Accessible by bus (starting and

finishing in Farnham, Surrey), the forest stands at the start of the 50-mile Shipwrights Way.

**Concierge tip:** There is also a self-guided circular tree trail through the town of Farnham, taking you past landmarks including the 12th-century Farnham Castle Keep and Waverley Abbey.

**Step back in time at Hampton Court Palace**

The home of King Henry VIII's Tudor court, this magnificent baroque palace was originally built in 1515 for Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, before he fell out of favour with King Henry. Relive your Wolf Hall fantasies, from the grandeur of the Great Hall to the ingenuity of the Tudor kitchens, with 60 acres of gardens to explore – plenty of space for social distancing. [www.hrp.org.uk/](http://www.hrp.org.uk/)

**Concierge tip:**

Arrive in style via Thames River Boats, who organise circular trips taking in Westminster, Kew, Richmond and Hampton Court Palace.

## SOUTHEAST

**Go on safari in Kent**

Port Lympne Hotel & Reserve is the southeast's largest wild animal park. The sprawling 600-acre site is home to over 900 animals including western lowland gorillas, lions, bears, and the largest herd of black rhino in the UK. Through our partnership with Port Lympne, you and your family can enjoy an exciting day-out experience curated exclusively for concierge members. The package includes entry, a ranger safari tour, an animal encounter and a two-course lunch with a hot or soft drink at Babydoll's Restaurant.

**Concierge tip:**

**Contact us to discover the preferential pricing and to secure your tickets.**



## SOUTHEAST

**Walk along the White Cliffs of Dover**

There are few sites more iconic in England than the famous White Cliffs of Dover. You can walk the clifftop trail to spots such as the South Foreland Lighthouse and St Margaret's Bay (the closest point to France and launch pad for many a cross-Channel swimmer). The chalk cliffs – which rise to 350ft

above the sea at their highest point – are part of the North Downs rock formation.

**Concierge tip: Explore the magnificent and historic naval buildings in the beautiful seaside town of Deal at the start of the clifftop trail.**

**Explore the cobbled streets of Rye**

The picture-postcard beauty of Rye's steep, cobbled streets are well worth a day exploring, with commanding views across the surrounding countryside, stretching out to sea. The Rye Harbour Nature Reserve should be your next stop, as should the Grade II-listed 18th-century Lamb House, a haunt of King George I and the author Henry James. Grammar School Records, housed in an old school, is popular with vinyl hunters, and the impressive beach at Camber Sands is a short drive away.

**Concierge tip: Climb the steep steps of the bell tower at St Mary's Church for a unique view across the rooftops.**



## SOUTHEAST

**Take a private tour and enjoy afternoon tea at Cliveden House**

Standing proudly atop chalk cliffs 200ft above a bend in the Thames, the Palladian mansion is surrounded by 376 acres of parkland, ancient woodland and immaculate gardens, which are now managed by the National Trust. We have partnered with the hotel to bring you an exclusive private tour of the house and gardens, followed

by afternoon tea or a picnic with a half-bottle of Champagne. **Get in touch to book.**

**Concierge tip: This package is usually priced at £275 for two people, but you can enjoy the day out for just £175 – get in touch to secure a booking. Please note, bookings are subject to availability and available until 31 October 2020.**


**Take in the bleak beauty of Dungeness**

A windswept pebble beach overlooked by a nuclear power station may not sound all that romantic on paper, but this bleak, otherworldly landscape is a well-kept secret among converts – many of whom discovered it thanks to the late filmmaker and artist Derek Jarman's Prospect Cottage, a Victorian fisherman's hut that he converted into a living work of art, with its garden of hardy coastal plants, driftwood and stones. Several neighbouring fishermen's huts can now be rented, and a narrow-gauge steam railway terminates nearby.

**Concierge tip: Climb the winding steps to the top of the old lighthouse (the cavernous internal space isn't recommended for sufferers of vertigo) for 360-degree views across the Channel and back across Romney Marsh.**



## EAST

A scenic view of a forest with a path leading through trees under a cloudy sky. The path is a narrow, unpaved road that curves through a dense forest of tall, leafy trees. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds, and the overall atmosphere is serene and natural. The text is overlaid on a white rectangular box in the center of the image.

With the coastal counties of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex in its midst, the east of England comes up trumps when it comes to beautiful beaches. Add The Broads, Constable Country, Thetford Forest and picture-perfect hamlets serving up delicious bounty to the deck, and you've got a full house. Cambridgeshire plays the heritage card, with art, culture, gastronomy and history aplenty – experiences we can help you discover.

## EAST

**Take a walk around Sandringham, Norfolk**

Home to four generations of British Monarchy since 1862, the 800-hectare Sandringham Estate takes in Sandringham House (the Norfolk residence of the Queen), Anmer Hall (occasional home of Kate and William) and a 142-hectare Country Park with nature trails and a large play area ideal for welly-wielding kids. When the weather turns, tour the grand House, buy a souvenir from the gift shop, take lunch at the café or indulge in creamy Norfolk ice cream from the kiosk.

[www.sandringhamestate.co.uk/](http://www.sandringhamestate.co.uk/)

**Concierge tip: Join an Autumn Colour tour of the gardens to see the trees, foliage and berries in their seasonal glory.**



## EAST

**Focus your binoculars at Holkham National Nature Reserve**

A great day out for budding botanists, Holkham National Nature Reserve – stretching from Burnham Norton to Blakeney – is a nature-lover's dream. There's plenty going on this autumn for families, too, from deer walks and foraging courses to food trucks and spooky Halloween fun. Listen out for the seasonal call of the pink-footed geese, the screech of the barn owl and the distant crash of the waves

hitting the sand at unspoilt Holkham Beach, regularly voted the UK's best.

[www.holkham.co.uk](http://www.holkham.co.uk)

**Concierge tip: Make sure you have binoculars (and cameras) at the ready: visiting seals waddle up on to the sand at Holkham Beach during the cooler months.**

**Take a food tour of Cambridge**

When the seasons change, thoughts tend to turn to food, and Cambridge, with its international influences, has its fingers in many pies. Book a Taste Cambridge food tour and you'll be tucking into Chelsea buns, Spanish tapas, Sicilian pastries and craft beer on a four-hour walking tour around the city. The three-and-a-half-hour Gin O'clock tour combines a visit to a gin distillery with 14 tastings; tacos, falafels and slow-cooked meats from a street market; and cake served with an elderflower cocktail.

**Concierge tip: A moderate level of fitness is required to join a food tour; bring sensible shoes, a raincoat, and an umbrella.**



## EAST

**Spend the day in Suffolk's Stour Valley**

Made famous by artists Constable and Gainsborough, the Stour Valley – an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the Suffolk-Essex border – is almost as well preserved as the paintings of yesteryear. Rolling farmyards, flowing rivers, lush meadows and ancient woodland are interrupted only by picturesque towns and villages, including bustling Sudbury and quaint Clare. But it's pastel-hued Lavenham – with its half-timbered houses and 15th-century churches – that

attracts visitors in their droves; the village of Long Melford is where *Lovejoy* was filmed.

**Concierge tip: Combine free central parking in Lavenham with a pub lunch at The Cock Horse Inn – a thatched listed building serving British classics.**

**See the changing seasons at Audley End House and Gardens in Essex**

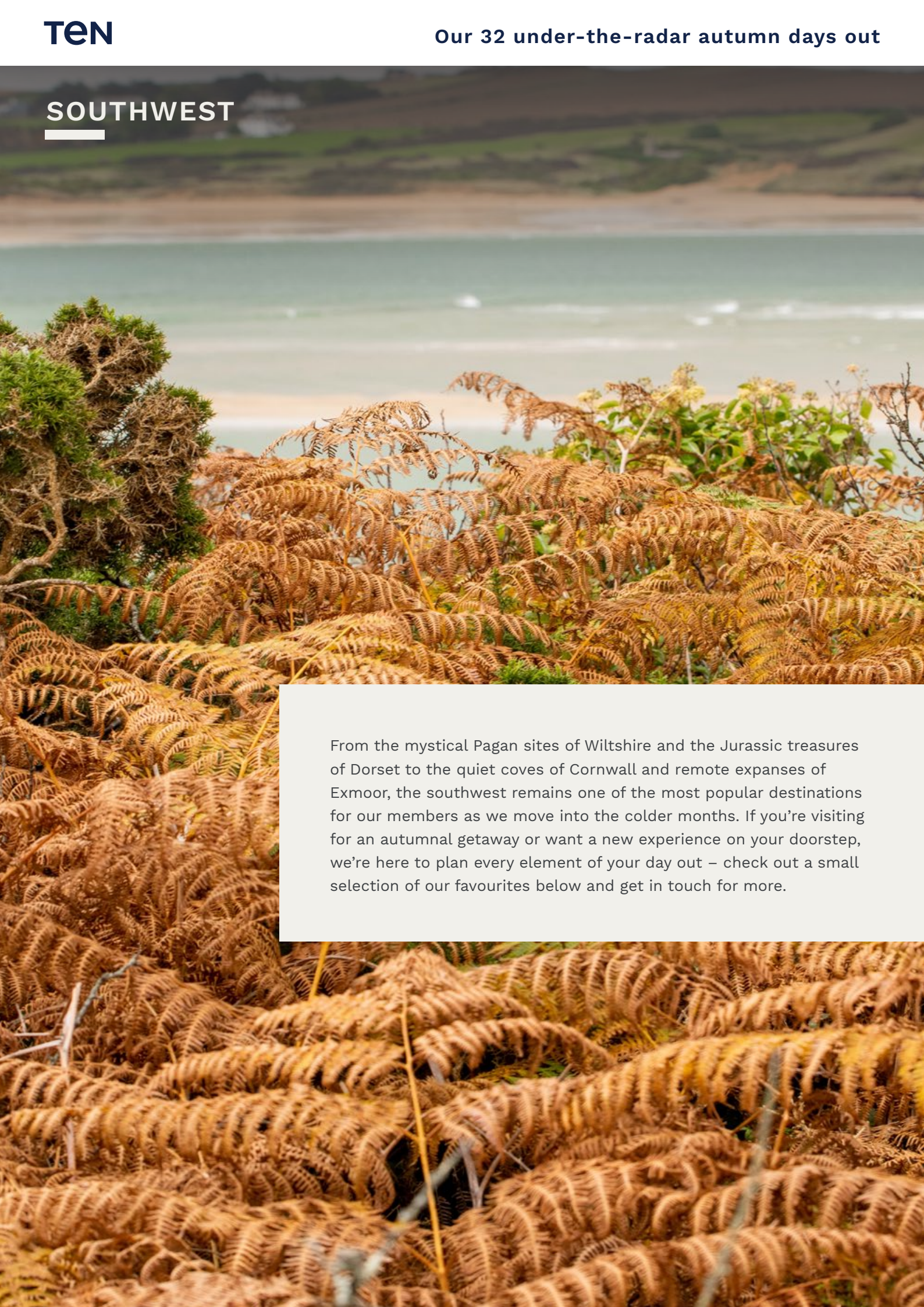
You could spend hours wandering around the pristine gardens of Audley End with its climbing roses, cascading streams, sculptured hedges and kitchen garden ripe with plump, seasonal fruit and vegetables. Autumn produces a carpet of golden leaves, rustling red trees and bright orange pumpkins used in hearty soups (and for spooky events). There's also a stately home to admire, horses to meet, a play area to roam around in and a café in which to devour home-made cakes.

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/)

**Concierge tip: Extend your stay with a night in the higgledy-piggledy market town of Saffron Walden, just over a mile away by car.**

## SOUTHWEST

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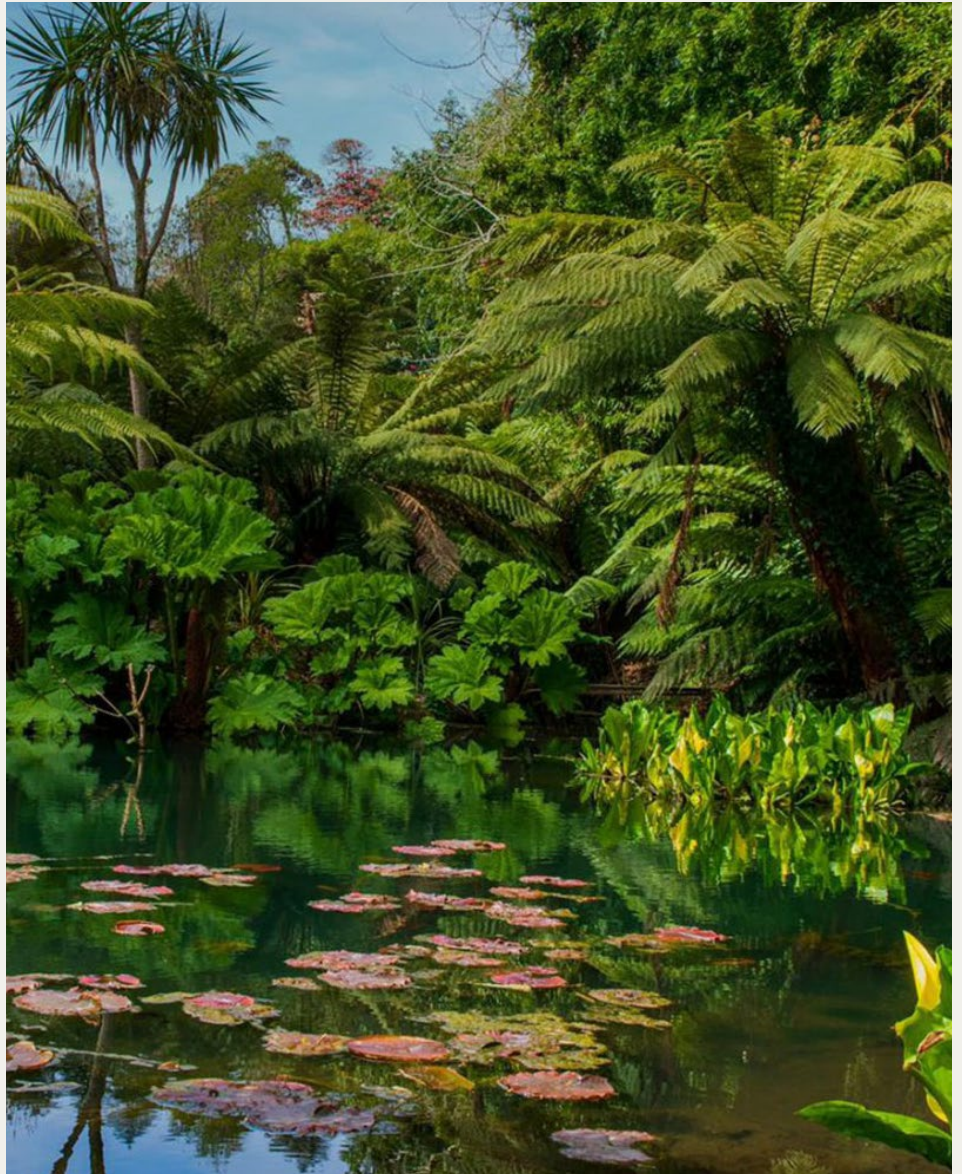
From the mystical Pagan sites of Wiltshire and the Jurassic treasures of Dorset to the quiet coves of Cornwall and remote expanses of Exmoor, the southwest remains one of the most popular destinations for our members as we move into the colder months. If you're visiting for an autumnal getaway or want a new experience on your doorstep, we're here to plan every element of your day out – check out a small selection of our favourites below and get in touch for more.

## SOUTHWEST

**Explore The Lost Gardens of Heligan**

This incredible garden lay neglected since the First World War, before it was brought back to its lush, colourful glory in the 1990s. Today, it's one of the most beguiling outdoor spaces in the region and the plant life is incredible: you'll pass under historic rhododendron boughs from Sikkim and Maori-carved tree ferns from New Zealand, and can explore ornate Italian gardens and an Alpine-inspired ravine. Autumn casts the hidden gardens into a kaleidoscope of burnt oranges, reds and browns, and if you book the first visiting slot midweek, you'll have the place to yourself. [www.heligan.com](http://www.heligan.com)

**Concierge tip: If you're touring the area, be sure to visit the world-famous Eden Project for more botanical wonders. It's a great option when the weather isn't playing ball.**

**Take the Dartmouth Steam Railway**

Live out your Enid Blyton fantasies by exploring seven miles of the South Devon coastline from Paignton to Kingswear on board a lovingly restored steam train. You can then cross the River Dart by foot-passenger ferry to the historic, scenic town of Dartmouth, before boarding a one-hour circular river cruise, taking in the local wildlife, including seals, herons, egrets, kingfishers and even dolphins along the way. [www.dartmouthrailriver.co.uk](http://www.dartmouthrailriver.co.uk)

**Concierge tip: Many of our members who have children choose to combine their day out on the railway with a trip to Paignton Zoo Environmental Park. [www.paigntonzoo.org.uk](http://www.paigntonzoo.org.uk)**

## SOUTHWEST

**Watch the starling spectacular on the Avalon Marshes**

Before dusk throughout autumn, the skies above the reedbeds, fields and woodland of Natural England's Shapwick Heath National Nature Reserve near Glastonbury swirl with clouds of starlings. With tens of thousands of birds roosting in the reserve each season, the murmurations are some of the most impressive in the UK, and often a lot less crowded than other well-known sites near Bath and Bristol. Wrap up warm, bring a

torch and make sure you're there at least an hour before sunset.

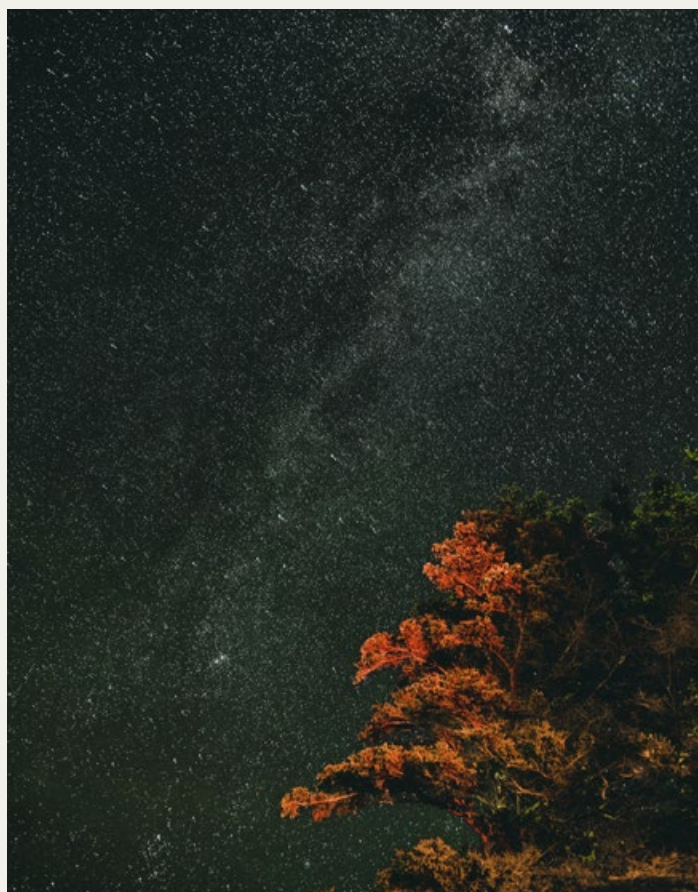
**Concierge tip: To pinpoint exactly where to watch the evening murmuration, call the Starling Hotline on 07866 554142 for up-to-date information.**

**Visit the Cerne Abbas Giant**

If you've already ticked off Stonehenge (even if it was just driving past on the A303), it's worth a pilgrimage to arguably the most famous of England's ancient chalk carvings. The origins of the 180ft figure of a giant etched into the hillside above Cerne Abbas is shrouded in mystery, but it's believed to date back to the 18th century. The Giant is best viewed from the Giant viewing point parking on the A352, which is also the starting point of a well-signposted two-mile circular walk.

**Concierge tip: There are two pubs in the small village at the foot of the hill and the historic New Inn is the best of the pair, with good food and local ale (go for a pint of Palmer's Dorset Gold). [www.thenewinncerneabbas.co.uk](http://www.thenewinncerneabbas.co.uk)**

## SOUTHWEST

**Look to the stars on Exmoor**


The incredibly low levels of light pollution in Exmoor has meant that the national park is Europe's first International Dark Sky Reserve. On a clear night in autumn and winter, many astronomical sights can be seen with the naked eye, but a pair of binoculars or a telescope will help you pinpoint planets, satellites and shooting stars with even more clarity. Now in its fourth year, the family-friendly Exmoor Dark Skies Festival will be taking place from 16-31 October 2020 with a packed programme of expert talks and guided night walks.

**[www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/enjoying/stargazing/dark-skies-festival](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/enjoying/stargazing/dark-skies-festival)**

**Concierge tip: For an introduction to stargazing, check out Exmoor National Park's useful guide [here](#).**

## THE MIDLANDS AND THE WELSH BORDERS

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Autumn is a magical season in the Welsh Borders, where acorns and conkers scatter the ground and blackberries in the hedgerows attract little tits and finches. The nights are lengthening, the forests are darkening and country pubs from the Cotswolds to the Peak District are lighting welcoming fires. Watching the mist wisping across Rutland Water or the Derwent Valley reservoirs puts one in mind of Mole and Ratty preparing for winter hibernation in *The Wind in the Willows*. But this is a time to explore, enjoy central England without the crowds, catch the odd Indian summer day, see the birds as they migrate south, and savour this bracing time of year. From Buxton breaks to Shropshire getaways, we can book the best local hotels and restaurants for you.

**Please note, there are local restrictions in place in areas of the Midlands – ask us for updates.**

## THE MIDLANDS AND THE WELSH BORDERS

**Romantic strolls in Ludlow,  
Shropshire**

The poet John Betjeman called this medieval market town, with its hilly streets of grand Georgian townhouses, “the loveliest town in England”. You will soon agree as you wander the streets and lanes radiating from the market square, stopping at boutiques such as The Silver Pear, Cicchetti Bar for the best espresso this side of Milan, and watering holes from cosy inns to micropubs. All around are listed half-timbered buildings, overlooked by the bell tower of magnificent St. Laurence’s Church, which dates to the 11th-century Norman conquest of England. Cross the River Teme and climb to Whitcliffe Common for sweeping views of the Normans’ other famous architectural contribution, Ludlow Castle.

[www.ludlow.org.uk](http://www.ludlow.org.uk)

**Concierge tip: Trains run regularly from London Paddington, with a change in Newport.**





## THE MIDLANDS AND THE WELSH BORDERS

**Join our exclusive gastronomy and gardening experience at Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons**

We're excited to offer you a behind-the-scenes gastronomy and garden experience at Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons. As a concierge member, you'll have premium access to its two-Michelin-starred restaurant and gardens. Enjoy this world-first experience by starting the day with a delicious breakfast at the restaurant, then join its experienced gardening team in the botanical glasshouse for a one-on-one tutorial on growing your own produce. End your day with a full afternoon tea on the sunny terrace or in one of the lounges overlooking the lush English countryside.

**Concierge tip: We've teamed up with them to bring you this one-of-a-kind experience, priced at £495 per person for bookings of two or four people. Please note, this is not available to the general public and is offered on a first-come, first-served basis with limited availability until 31 October. [Contact us to book.](#)**

## THE MIDLANDS AND THE WELSH BORDERS

### Blustery walks in the Peak District

The UK's oldest national park is starkly divided into the windblown moors of Dark Peak and the gentler White Peak, where farms and villages nestle amid the dales. However, a unifying factor in this 555-square-mile swathe of the southern Pennines between Derby and Stockport, the Midlands and the north, is the pastoral integration of man and nature. In this green land named after the Anglo-Saxon Pecsætan tribe, the Ashopton Viaduct linking Manchester and Sheffield blends elegantly with the Upper Derwent Valley, nicknamed Derbyshire's Lake District, and the hills enfold the Victorian spa town of Buxton. As well as the lofty peaks climbed by the Pennine Way footpath, the Peak District's enduring symbol is stately Chatsworth House, which doubled as Mr Darcy's residence in *Pride & Prejudice* (2005).

[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk)

**Concierge tip: A four-mile circular walk climbs the landmark Mam Tor (517m) from the village of Edale.**

### Lazy weekends in the Cotswolds

This classic English area of rolling green hills, sprinkled with chocolate-box villages such as Blockley, Bibury and Bredon, is a popular getaway for politicians, models and pop stars. The UK's largest Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it carpets Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and beyond with rare grassland, produced by the same limestone that gives the villages their golden hue. The Cotswold Way runs 100 miles southwest from the market town of Chipping Campden, allowing you to walk short sections between sleepy villages, beech woodland and ancient sites. That said, the good life is so palpable here that it's tempting to just wander the high street, window-shopping and dreaming.

[www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en\\_GB/trails/cotswold-way](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/cotswold-way)

**Concierge tip: Base yourself in a honey-coloured village and take leisurely trips into the surrounding countryside.**



## THE MIDLANDS AND THE WELSH BORDERS

### Contemplate nature in Rutland Water Nature Reserve

This four-square-mile reservoir, created by flooding the Gwash Valley in 1976, attracts around 20,000 birds, from ospreys to egrets. It's also the centrepiece of England's smallest county, Rutland, which was subsumed by Leicestershire in 1974, but wrestled its 150 square miles free in 1997. As the county motto proclaims, there is multum in parvo (much in little) in this rural area, with just two small towns and one of England's largest reservoirs, where the Lyndon or Anglian Water visitor centre is a good

first stop to learn about Rutland's osprey-breeding project. If the 31 bird hides and guided walks sound too specialist, hire a bike from Rutland Cycling ([www.rutlandcycling.com](http://www.rutlandcycling.com)) and cycle the shore.

[www.lrwt.org.uk/rutland-water](http://www.lrwt.org.uk/rutland-water)

**Concierge tip: Autumn is a good time to spot swans, geese, glossy ibis and thousands of ducks on the lagoons.**

### Historical discoveries in Hereford

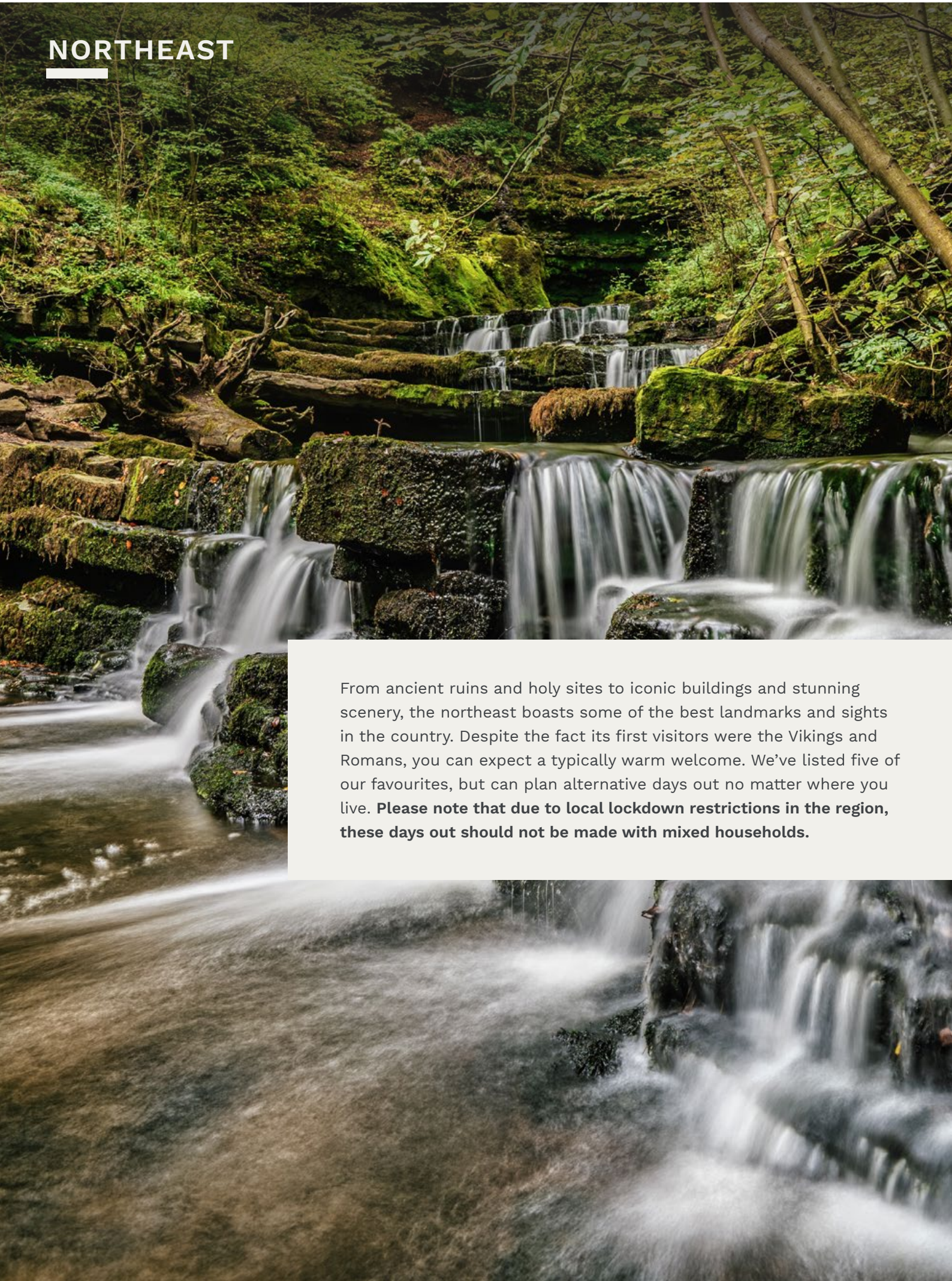
The medieval heart of this county town in cider-making apple country is Hereford Cathedral, built by the Normans in Romanesque style and destroyed, beautified, plundered and restored over the centuries. Inside is an incredible collection of literary relics, most importantly the Mappa Mundi, a UNESCO-protected calfskin map of the known world circa 1300 that resembles a Hieronymus Bosch painting. Also, here you'll find the world's largest surviving chained library, where chains, locks and rods guard over 200 weighty medieval manuscripts, and one of four remaining copies of the 1217 Magna Carta. The surrounding High Town is a pleasantly unaffected place to explore, with half-timbered houses and little cafés on the shady lanes and pedestrianised shopping streets.

[www.visitherefordshire.co.uk](http://www.visitherefordshire.co.uk)

**Concierge tip: Choral evensong takes place in the cathedral at 5.30pm most days; visit [www.herefordcathedral.org/music-lists](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/music-lists).**



## NORTHEAST



From ancient ruins and holy sites to iconic buildings and stunning scenery, the northeast boasts some of the best landmarks and sights in the country. Despite the fact its first visitors were the Vikings and Romans, you can expect a typically warm welcome. We've listed five of our favourites, but can plan alternative days out no matter where you live. **Please note that due to local lockdown restrictions in the region, these days out should not be made with mixed households.**

## NORTHEAST

**Follow in Hadrian's footsteps in Northumberland National Park**

Boasting the darkest night skies, purest air and cleanest rivers in England, Northumberland National Park is the ideal spot for those in search of the peace and solitude of nature. Explore the beautiful Cheviot Hills, walk (some of) the route of Hadrian's Wall or the Pennine Way, discover Roman hill forts and Chillingham Castle.

[www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk](http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk)

**Concierge tip: Visit after dark for some of the best stargazing in the north.**

**Explore the historic city of Durham**

Thought to have been the site of a major settlement since 2,000 BC, the current city of Durham can trace its history to AD 995, when monks from Lindisfarne founded a church there in which to lay the body of St Cuthbert. Now a UNESCO World Heritage site, the charismatic city boasts an imposing Anglo-Norman Romanesque cathedral, and a university that is claimed to be England's third oldest after Oxford and Cambridge (founded in 1832).

**Concierge tip: The city is a main stop on both the East Coast Main Line and CrossCountry line, making it easy to reach by train from London, Birmingham, Edinburgh and beyond.**

## NORTHEAST

**Take the world's most popular steam train through North York Moors National Park**

One of the largest expanses of heather moorland in the UK, the North York Moors National Park also incorporates areas of forest and coastline across its 500 square miles. Most commonly explored by foot or on horseback, the region also boasts the world's most popular heritage railway, the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. It provides the opportunity to journey through the stunning landscape by steam train, stopping off at Goathland station, which doubled as Hogsmeade in the Harry Potter movies.

**Concierge tip:** For something more active, we can arrange horse riding across the moors – get in touch for more information and to book.

**Relive your Brideshead fantasies at Castle Howard**

Despite evidence that the inspiration for the grand home in Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited* was in fact Madresfield Court in Worcestershire (home to the Lygon family), both the famous 1981 TV adaptation and 2008 movie were filmed at the 300-year-old Castle Howard in North Yorkshire. House tickets aren't available for the winter season (after 31 October), but the magnificent gardens and grounds remain open.

[www.castlehoward.co.uk](http://www.castlehoward.co.uk)

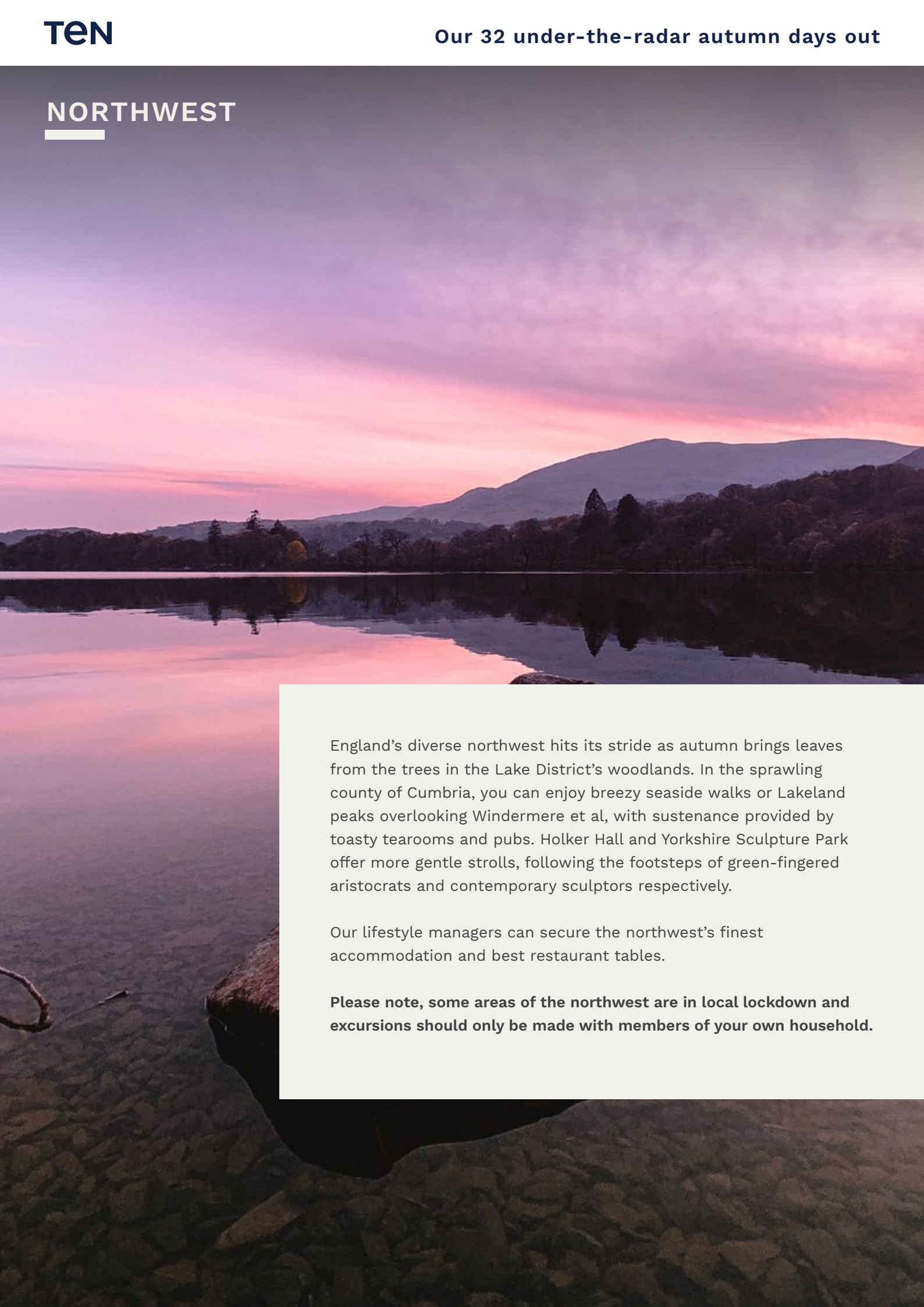
**Concierge tip:** Don't leave without paying a visit to the farm shop, which stocks excellent local cheeses, meats and home-made cupboard staples.

**Visit the Holy Island of Lindisfarne (between tides)**

Situated just a few miles off the Northumberland Coast, the sands and causeway connecting Lindisfarne to the mainline is cut off twice daily by the tide. The site of a 12th-century priory, Lindisfarne's history as a centre of Christianity in the northeast dates back even further – it was ransacked by Viking raiders in the 8th century. It remains a place of pilgrimage to this day – both as the original home of the Lindisfarne Gospels, as well as for its rare nature reserve.

**Concierge tip:** To keep up to date with the daily tides, visit [www.holyislandcrossingtimes.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.holyislandcrossingtimes.northumberland.gov.uk)

## NORTHWEST



England's diverse northwest hits its stride as autumn brings leaves from the trees in the Lake District's woodlands. In the sprawling county of Cumbria, you can enjoy breezy seaside walks or Lakeland peaks overlooking Windermere et al, with sustenance provided by toasty tearooms and pubs. Holker Hall and Yorkshire Sculpture Park offer more gentle strolls, following the footsteps of green-fingered aristocrats and contemporary sculptors respectively.

Our lifestyle managers can secure the northwest's finest accommodation and best restaurant tables.

**Please note, some areas of the northwest are in local lockdown and excursions should only be made with members of your own household.**

## NORTHWEST

**Step into the past at Holker Hall & Gardens, Cumbria**

This red-sandstone beauty, described by architecture critic Nikolaus Pevsner as the best Elizabethan Gothic in the north of England, has been the Cavendish family seat for generations. Located between Morecambe Bay and the southern Lake District, its 23 acres of formal gardens, parkland and meadows hold many rare and unusual plants, including the fluted trunk of the 17th-century Great Holker lime, and a labyrinth. The house was closed to visitors at the time of writing; until it reopens, there are three garden walks, the Autumn Splendour tour (21 October), which includes tea with the head gardener, and Holker Winter Market (6–8 November). [www.holker.co.uk](http://www.holker.co.uk)

**Concierge tip: Try Cumbrian and Holker products such as salt-marsh lamb in the estate's Courtyard Café, Food Hall or Ilex Bar and Brasserie.**

**Autumn colours in the Lake District**

Inspiration for William Wordsworth, John Ruskin, Beatrix Potter, and Alfred, Lord Tennyson, the Lake District is at its best during autumn, when the fells turn to gold, the waterfalls thunder and cosy tearooms beckon. It's a perfect time to walk the famous trails, with a fresh nip in the Cumbrian air, frost in the morning shadows and leaves crunching underfoot. We suggest the seven-and-a-half-mile Hallin Fell walk from Howtown to Glenridding, which climbs the fell and follows the Ullswater lake via

Silver Point headland and the Devil's Chimney rock formation. It's also possible to ride up and down the nine-mile-long lake on the Victorian-era Ullswater steamers. [www.ullswater-steamers.co.uk](http://www.ullswater-steamers.co.uk)

**Concierge tip: The National Trust suggests autumn activities throughout the Lakes at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/autumn-in-the-lake-district](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/autumn-in-the-lake-district).**





## NORTHWEST

**Blast the cobwebs in Cumbria's St. Bees Head Nature Reserve**

This windblown promontory is best known for hosting the northwest's only cliff-nesting seabird colony, including England's only nesting black guillemots. The birds have mostly flown to warmer climes by now, but the clifftop path and North Head viewpoints are well worth a visit for their vistas across the Irish Sea. Follow the cobweb-blasting footpath north from St. Bees Beach to the secluded pebble cove of Fleswick Bay to see the Isle of Man on a clear day. The towering cliffs of this dramatic

headland, composed of the red sandstone used in many Cumbrian buildings, is both the county's westernmost point and the start of the Coast to Coast Walk to Robin Hood's Bay, Yorkshire.

[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

**Concierge tip: St. Bees village and the Georgian maritime town of Whitehaven are both pleasant for a meal or overnight stay.**

**Cultural walks in Yorkshire Sculpture Park**

Even without the sculptures by modern and contemporary masters such as Henry Moore and Ai Weiwei, West Yorkshire's 18th-century Bretton Estate would be a lovely place to wander. The 500 acres of landscaped fields, hills, woodland and formal gardens, and the lakes where the eccentric Sir Thomas Wentworth once entertained guests with firework displays and mock naval battles, now provide a leafy outdoor gallery for 80-plus sculptures. Footpaths discover site-specific works by the likes of Andy Goldsworthy, while the Damien Hirst exhibition brings surreal and grotesque elements to the parkland. <https://yosp.org.uk>

**Concierge tip: Contemplate the changing light of the Yorkshire sky in artist James Turrell's Skyspace, occupying an 18th-century deer shelter.**





What do you think about  
our guides?

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