



## Historical Houses and Gardens

### Coughton Court

Coughton, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 5JA. Tel no. 01789 400777

<http://www.coughtoncourt.co.uk>

Celebrate 600 years of the Throckmorton family at Coughton Court. Explore the historic house that witnessed Gunpowder plotters, priest holes and Catholic intrigues. Discover the family's struggle to maintain its faith against all odds through times of religious persecution until Catholic Emancipation in the nineteenth century. Meander through the award-winning gardens designed by Mrs Clare Maclaren Throckmorton, taking in the walled Garden, Rose Labyrinth and herbaceous borders.



### Charlecote Park

Charlecote, Warwickshire CV37 9ER. Tel no. 01789 470277

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-charlecotepark>

Charlecote Park has been the home of the Lucy family since the 15th century. The current house was extensively remodeled in the Victorian times by Mary Elizabeth Lucy and it is presented today as it was when she was the mistress of the house. The Lucy family history is brought vividly to life by the portraits of each generation; from Sir Thomas Lucy, the local magistrate who allegedly flogged the young William Shakespeare for poaching the Lucy family heard of fallow deer, to the family living in the house in the early 20th century.

From the creativity of the sensory garden, to the formality of the parterre, to the woodland walk, the gardens are a riot of colour all year round and include many traditional plants, shrubs and herbs.

Now open all year round, the parkland was inspired by "Capability" Brown. The parkland has miles of paths and a number of marked walks for visitors to enjoy. There has always been a heard of Fallow Deer here since Tudor times and they continue to roam the park as they did then.

The River Avon meanders through the parkland creating a haven for many different species of wildlife.

There is plenty to explore at Charlecote Park. In the gardens younger visitors can enjoy the croquet and quizzes and family trails around the house, garden and parkland.

During the summer holidays there are activity days ideal for escaping for the day.



### Ragley Hall

Alcester, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire B49 5NJ Tel no. 01789 762090

<http://www.ragleyhall.com>

Ragley Hall, the Warwickshire home of the Marquess and Marchioness of Hertford, is set in 27 acres of beautiful formal gardens. The home contains Baroque plasterwork, the stunning 20th century mural 'The Temptation' and a fascinating collection of paintings, china and furniture. In addition to the beautiful house, there are the formal gardens, parkland, and lakeside picnic area, children's adventure playground, and maze, gift-shop and terrace tearooms providing a day out for all the family.

Ragley is also home to the Jerwood sculptures, an impressive and diverse collection of 20th & 21st Century pieces which are displayed throughout the grounds, and the Jerwood Stable Studio which offers interpretation and information on the Sculptures.



## **Upton House**

Upton, Banbury, Warwickshire OX15 6HT Tel No. 01295 670266

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse>

Come and discover the life and passions of a 1930s millionaire, when Upton House was the weekend home of Lord & Lady Bearsted. Period newspapers, games and overheard conversations are just some of the new features throughout the house which bring to life the spirit of a 1930s house party, Visitors are invited to touch, delve, read and discover for themselves.

Get close to Lord Bearsted's incredible art collection, with works by Holgarth, Stubbs, Canaletto and El Grecco; it is regarded as one of the nation's most important private collections.

The garden was the vision of Lady Bearsted and provides stunning colour all year round, with terraced borders, ornamental ponds, bog garden, a working kitchen garden and the National Collection of Asters which flower in early autumn.

## **Compton Verney**

Nr Wellesbourne, Warwickshire CV35 9HZ Tel no 01926 645500

<http://www.comptonverney.org.uk>

Visitors of all ages are warmly welcomed to this award-winning art gallery.

The gallery is housed in a Grade I listed Georgian mansion remodeled by Robert Adam, surrounded by 120 acres of 'Capability' Brown landscaped parkland.

Explore over 2000 works of art from around the world including: paintings from the 'Golden Age' of Italian art (1600-1800), Germanic art from 1450-1650; British portraits featuring work by Sir Joshua Reynolds and a collection of Tudor portraits; one of Europe's finest collections of Chinese bronzes; the UK's largest collection of British Folk Art and the Marx-Lambert collection, featuring work by textile designer Enid Marx.

Be enthralled by an exciting changing programme of exhibitions which in the past have included Van Gogh, Constable, Stanley Spencer, Peter Greenaway, Luc Tuymans and Francis Bacon.

Enjoy a refreshing break in the licensed waitress service cafe or enjoy a picnic and a stroll in our parkland.

There's also a programme of free daily tours, talks, adult workshops and family activities.