



*The*  
**BARNSDALE**  
RUTLAND



*Local*  
**ADVENTURES**

This booklet provides an overview of things to do in the local area, and our reception team will be happy to provide you with more detailed information.

## Country Pursuits

### **Rutland Fly Fishing with Rob Waddington**

New to fly fishing? This is an exciting active and fascinating branch of the sport. Rob and his team teach you the skills and knowledge needed to learn to fly fish and help you catch a trout or two.

[www.rutlandflyfishing.co.uk](http://www.rutlandflyfishing.co.uk) | 01572 722 422

### **Rutland Outdoor Pursuits - Shooting**

Shooting is a great way to test your marksmanship against your family or friends. If you have never tried it before, don't worry - your instructor will be with you throughout, to show you all you need to know to hit the target.

[www.rutlandoutdoorpursuits.co.uk](http://www.rutlandoutdoorpursuits.co.uk) | 07714 766 024

### **Rutland Belle - Rutland Water Cruises**

Rutland Water Cruises is a family-run business, operating boat trips around the reservoir during daylight hours, from April to October.

Rutland Belle sales from Whitwell or the North Shore and calls in at Normanton on the South Shore. Visitors can enjoy the scenery from the water, amidst the sailors, anglers and waterbirds.

[www.rutlandwatercruises.com](http://www.rutlandwatercruises.com) | 01572 787 630

### **Rutland Water - Water Sports**

Sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, canoeing or stand-up paddle boarding from beginner to expert, you can find the perfect activity, course or day out for everyone. Canoes, kayaks, SUPs, katanus and rowing boats are all hired on a first-come, first-served basis. To hire boats and windsurfing equipment, pre-booking is required with 24hours notice where possible. Please call the centre direct.

[www.anglianwaterparks.co.uk](http://www.anglianwaterparks.co.uk) | 01780 460 154

## Walks

Rutland is the perfect place for walking and has long attracted ramblers who enjoy finding their way around tiny villages, little known tracks and country lanes. Rutland Water, has a 22.1 mile circuit or 15.1 miles without the peninsula, so you can decide how far you want to venture.

[www.discover-rutland.co.uk](http://www.discover-rutland.co.uk)

## **Stately Homes & Historic Houses**

### **Burghley House**

Burghley is one of the largest and grandest surviving houses of the sixteenth century and a magnificent example of the great Elizabethan 'prodigy' houses.

[www.Burghley.co.uk](http://www.Burghley.co.uk) | 01780 752 451

### **Rockingham Castle**

The castle overlooks the villages of Rockingham and Caldecott and has views over the Wellend Valley. Privately owned, it is open to the public for events and certain days. The place was visited by writer Charles Dickens. The castle is arguably the inspiration for Chesney Wold in Dickens' novel Bleak House.

[www.rockinghamcastle.com](http://www.rockinghamcastle.com) | 01536 770 240

### **Deene Park**

Deene Park is a wonderful eclectic mix of architectural styles, having evolved through the centuries. Before the Norman Conquest and for 150 years afterwards the Manor Of Deene belonged to the Abbey Of Westminster and was used occasionally by the Abbot.

[www.deenepark.com](http://www.deenepark.com) | 01780 450 278

### **Boughton House**

Discover one of Britain's grandest and best-preserved stately homes. Enjoy the world-renowned collection of fine art, furniture, tapestries, porcelain and carpets. Boughton also has some of the best-preserved baroque state rooms in the British Isles

[www.boughtonhouse.co.uk](http://www.boughtonhouse.co.uk) | 01536 515 731

### **Grimsthorpe Castle**

In 1516 Grimsthorpe and its lands were presented by Henry VIII as a wedding gift to William, 11<sup>th</sup> Lord Willoughby de Eresby and his Spanish bride Maria de Salinas, lady-in-waiting and confidante of Henry's Queen, Catherine Of Aragon.

[www.grimsthorpe.co.uk](http://www.grimsthorpe.co.uk) | 01778 591 205

### **Woolsthorpe Manor**

In 1665 the plague sent Issac Newton back to Woolsthorpe, where he laid the foundations for the science of today. The flower of Kent apple tree associated with Issac Newton and his discovery of gravity is still growing in the Woolsthorpe Orchard.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk) | 01476 860 338

## Local History

### **Rutland County Museum**

The history of the smallest county in England is represented by Rutland County Museum in Oakham, which draws from rural life and archaeology to explore the history of Rutland. It exhibits include an Ice Age bison horn and extinct oysters from the Triassic & Jurassic periods.

[www.rutlandcountymuseum.org.uk](http://www.rutlandcountymuseum.org.uk) | 01572 758 440

### **Oakham Castle**

The place currently known as Oakham Castle was originally the Great Hall of a much larger fortified manor. Originally built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century by Oakham's Lord Of The Manor. The castle is one of the longest running seats of justice in England.

[www.oakhamcastle.org](http://www.oakhamcastle.org) | 01572 757 578

### **Normanton Church**

Normanton Church is Rutland's most famous landmark and a lasting reminder of the landscape prior to its flooding in the 1970's to create Rutland Water. The first church was built here in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and a later iteration was constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

[www.discover-rutland.co.uk](http://www.discover-rutland.co.uk) | 01780 686 800

### **Exton Church**

St Peter and St Paul's church in Exton, Rutland, is a large medieval church which contains a wide set of monuments. Located several miles east of Oakham, the church was first recorded in 1225 though most of the structure dates to the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Oakham Market Cross and Stocks**

Oakham has historically been a market town, a place where people come from surrounding villages to engage in trade. The "Buttercross" standing in Oakham dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, with 8 timber posts supporting a slate roof. Under this structure are the wooden stocks, which would have restrained criminals for the purpose of public humiliation.

### **Ashwell Prison Ghost Hunt**

Ghost hunting at Ashwell Prison in Rutland is not for the faint-hearted! Ashwell Prison, formerly known as HM Prison Ashwell was a Category C men's prison and is known for many spooky sightings!

[www.hauntedhappenings.co.uk](http://www.hauntedhappenings.co.uk) | 0115 972 0570

# A breath of fresh air

## **Gorse Field, Harris Grove & Ball's Meadow**

A lovely mixture of woodland and open grassland is on the outskirts of the traditional market town of Oakham. The site offers stunning views over the surrounding countryside and Rutland Water.

## **Fineshade Wood**

Whether you want to have a leisurely wander through the trees, get the kids to run off some steam at one of the exciting plays areas or even go on a bike ride. Fineshade is bursting with opportunities to explore the great outdoors.

## **Clipsham Yew Tree Avenue**

The fascinating yet tranquil Yew Tree Avenue at Clipsham is over 200 years old, consisting of over 150 clipped Yew Trees in all manner of unusual shapes. Costs nothing to visit and a pleasant place to sit and enjoy a picnic.

## **Grafton Park Wood**

An interesting yet also slightly freaky woodland. The woodland is an ex-air force base from WWII, the American Airforce used the woodland as camouflage for their buildings, many of which still remain, although slightly derelict.

## **Fermyn Woods**

A stunning ancient woodland set just south of Corby. With walking trials, orienteering routes, several play areas and a café.

## **Foxton Locks**

Is a Grade II\* listed site, and home to the longest, steepest staircase flight of locks in Britain and sits in 34 acres of natural green spaces with a wide variety of wildlife.

# Theatre

## **Tolethorpe Hall**

Enjoy a picnic in the beautiful grounds, then take your seat protected from summer showers, and see an open-air stage like no other, with amateur productions from the extremely talented Stamford Shakespeare Company.

[www.tolethorpe.co.uk](http://www.tolethorpe.co.uk) | 01780 754381

## **Stamford Corn Exchange**

Smartly refurbished venue run by volunteers with live music, drama and comedies.

[www.stamfordcornexchange.co.uk](http://www.stamfordcornexchange.co.uk) | 01780 766455

# Something for the Gardeners

## **Barnsdale Gardens**

Famed as the home of the BBC Gardeners' World TV programme it has been dubbed 'a theme park for gardeners' because of its uniquely designed collation of 38 individual, yet realistic small gardens.

[www.barnsdalegardens.co.uk](http://www.barnsdalegardens.co.uk) | 01572 813 200

## **Rutland Nursery**

Situated in rolling countryside on the south side of Rutland Water, the nursery offers the best in quality shrubs and plants.

[www.rutlandnursery.co.uk](http://www.rutlandnursery.co.uk) | 01572 498720

## **Gates Garden Centre**

Is one of the largest garden centres in the country and offers over 12,000m<sup>2</sup> of inspiration for your home and garden.

[www.gatesgardencentre.co.uk](http://www.gatesgardencentre.co.uk) | 01664 454309

# Adventures For The Whole Family

## **Rutland Farm Park**

At Rutland Farm Park, visitors can get up-close with the animal inhabitants such as sheep, goats, pigs and chickens, and also meet some exotic llamas and alpacas. Feed the friendly animals, enjoy the outdoor play area and ride on tractors.

[www.rutlandfarmpark.co.uk](http://www.rutlandfarmpark.co.uk) | 01572 722 122

## **Twinlakes Park**

Located in Melton Mowbray, Twinlakes Park is the ideal outdoor attraction for families with kids. It offers endless adventures of family fun because it's a theme park, water park and farm attraction. There is also a soft play and animal barns.

[www.twinlakes.co.uk](http://www.twinlakes.co.uk) | 01664 567 777

## **Rutland Falconry & Owl Centre**

The centre is a superb international collection of Birds Of Prey – owls, hawks, buzzards, falcons, eagles and vultures who live next to a fascinating array of flora and fauna.

[www.rutland-falconry.com](http://www.rutland-falconry.com) | 07778 152 814

## **Aqua Park Rutland**

The UK's most exciting Aqua Park featuring the largest collection of bespoke big impact water obstacles. Come and take on the UK's tallest obstacle - The Rutland Mammoth -plummet from the giant slides or experience free fall with its staggering 5-metre drop!

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

## **Gravity UK**

At Open Jump you can jump, bounce, hop and dance through the air on extreme trampolines. You can use the trampoline area, dodgeball court, airbags and slam dunk zones. Check and book online for the time you want to jump.

[www.gravity-uk.com](http://www.gravity-uk.com) | 0330 159 5815

## **Tallington Lakes**

A unique experience with 205 acres of clean spring fed water, you can water ski, wakeboard, tube-ride, jet ski, windsurf, dinghy sail, stand up paddle board or canoe. There is a 15-metre climbing tower to climb or abseil down. With dry ski slopes you can ski or snowboard.

[www.tallington.com](http://www.tallington.com) | 01778 347 000

# Shopping

## **Oakham Town Centre**

The county town of Rutland: with medieval history, scrumptious food and stylish shopping.

## **Stamford Town Centre**

Stamford has a unique blend of history, niche shopping and Georgian architecture. There is a thriving high street with coffee shops, restaurants and a vast range of retailers to tempt you.

## **High Cross Leicester**

In the glamorous heart of Leicester and home to one of the country's most popular shopping destinations. Discover over 80 of the most imaginative and desirable shops.

[www.highcrossleicester.com](http://www.highcrossleicester.com)

Barnsdale Lodge Hotel, The Avenue, Exon, LE15 8AH  
01572 724 678 | [www.barnsdalelodge.co.uk](http://www.barnsdalelodge.co.uk)