

## Press release

15 August 2013

### Wiltshire's country Christmas spectacular



*N.B. Please refer to image credits in notes to editors*

From historic houses and carol singers to great shopping and festive breaks, [VisitWiltshire](#) has assembled its top picks for visitors to enjoy a very country Christmas in Wiltshire this year.

[Salisbury Christmas Market](#) returns this year, featuring 71 delightful little wooden chalets beautifully decorated and prettily arranged. Visitors will find an array of tasteful, inspiring, high quality gifts and festive goods including arts and crafts, with a strong emphasis on products coming from the UK and Europe. There will also be a programme of local choirs and groups performing festive music. The market runs from 28 November to 21 December.

Visitors to Salisbury should also be sure to check out the stunning [Salisbury Cathedral](#), which will play host to a range of festivities throughout December including Christmas Carols and Christmas services; not to mention the new 'Twilight Tour and Tea' package for groups to discover the Cathedral's secret roof spaces and see spectacular views of medieval Salisbury City's Christmas illuminations at twilight. Indicative price £132.00 for a group of 12.

The [Devizes Christmas Festival](#) will feature all-day markets in the Market Place and Corn Exchange, live music and street theatre shows, and a parade of lanterns which will circle the town and return to the Market Place in time for Father Christmas to switch on the town's Christmas Lights and start a firework display.

Marlborough's [Christmas Light Night](#) on 28 November will see the town opening up with a Santas Grotto and Art Fair taking place in the Town Hall, a Night Market featuring local food and drink and a Letters to Santa workshop – a perfect way to explore one of Wiltshire's

gems and keep the kids entertained. [Christmas at Longleat](#), meanwhile, will be yet another fantastic event for the family. Running from 15 November to 8 December, it will include outdoor ice-skating, a Santa Special Train and giant Christmas tree plus festive food and Christmas shopping; adults from £12.50 and children from £9

From 29 November to 22 December, '[The Enchanted Christmas](#)' returns to The National Arboretum at Westonbirt featuring a one mile illuminated trail, highlighting the striking structures of Westonbirt's trees as they are lit up and set against the winter night sky. The trail is open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings from 5 – 8.30pm.

STEAM, the Museum of the Great Western Railway, will be transformed into a [Christmas Wonderland](#) on the weekend of 30 November / 1 December , with 50 luxury market stalls selling fine gifts, confectionery and fayre, plus live musical entertainment, the legendary STEAM Santa's Grotto and other children's activities.

Anyone looking for some seasonal retail therapy can take advantage of the [Milford Hall Hotel's](#) special Christmas shopping breaks, starting from £225 per room. Or, on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, join them for an evening of Christmas Carols courtesy of the Salisbury Plain Military Wives Choir – prices from £59 per person include a concert ticket, overnight stay with breakfast, and a three-course dinner in the [Salisbury Seafood and Steak House Restaurant](#).

[Bowood Hotel, Spa and Golf Resort](#) will be offering special 'Twixmas' rates between the 27 and 30 December – a great way to recover after a hectic Christmas and refresh during the lull between Christmas and New Year. From £99 per person per night, the package includes accommodation in a luxury double room, a three course meal and a full Wiltshire Breakfast.

For more information on what's happening in Wiltshire this Christmas, go to [www.visitwiltshire.co.uk](http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk) or explore the new VisitWiltshire [mobile app](#).

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Notes to editors

**VisitWiltshire**

VisitWiltshire was established in August 2011 and is the official Tourist Board for Wiltshire. It is a private sector membership organisation representing over 500 members. VisitWiltshire's

priority is to grow the county's Visitor Economy by raising awareness of the destination and generating additional tourism visits and spend. Wiltshire's Visitor Economy currently generates an estimated £1billion and supports over 21,000 jobs.

For more information about Wiltshire please go to: [www.visitwiltshire.co.uk](http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk)

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