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Listening Learning Leading

INSPECTOR BARNABY SOUTHERN TRAIL

Henley / Nettlebed / Wallingford / Moulsford / Goring-on-Thames / Mapledurham / Rotherfield Peppard / Rotherfield Greys / Henley (total drive time approximately 3 hours)

1 + 2 From Henley, head out through Nettlebed, where the hotel and the village hall have appeared in the series. If you want to start the day with a walk, detour to the Warburg Nature Reserve or visit Stonor, one of England's oldest manor houses.

3 Arriving in Wallingford, you enter The Corn Exchange, the much-filmed market place, appears in a number of episodes as Causton Playhouse. Period architecture typifies this market town, set on the banks of the River Thames. Bathed in history, take one of the town trails, starting at Wallingford Museum and finishing with the ruins of the 13th century castle and castle gardens.

The famous crime writer, Dame Agatha Christie, was President of the theatre in Wallingford and is buried at St Mary's Church in **Cholsey**. For a step-back-in-time visit nearby Cholsey and Wallingford Railway, a GWR branch line still running steam trains on event days.

4 + 5 Journey on through the pretty rural villages of Moulsford which featured in 'Dead in the Water' (an alternative lunch stop or boat hire is available at the Beetle and Wedge) and Goring-on-Thames; then on to Mapledurham House and Watermill.

An alternative route from Wallingford to Mapledurham would take you through the villages of North Stoke with its pretty 13th century church and Ipsden, both of which are Midsomer Murder locations. North Stoke is a must for a stop at The Springs Hotel and Golf Club. Ipsden offers picture perfect scenes of village pub, village shop and post office, a cricket green and a great place to watch the red kites hovering overhead.

6 Mapledurham House has a history of filming, with 'The Eagle has Landed', Inspector Morse, Miss Marple and the new series of Midsomer Murders. Enjoy a cream tea made with flour from the last working watermill on the River Thames. Still privately owned, the family have lovingly restored this magnificent 17th century home, the watermill and its extensive grounds. (seasonal opening)

Heading back towards Henley, you have two detours to choose from: Rotherfield Peppard or Rotherfield Greys.

At Rotherfield Peppard, both church and primary school featured in the series. The school is 'Badgers Drift Primary School'. A good stop is the delightfully restored 18th century barn called the Herb Farm. Amongst its surprises are a beech hedge maze, pretty gardens, tea room and shop which demonstrates the versatility of herbs – be that food, drink, therapeutic or decorative.

Rotherfield Greys also featured and is home to Greys Court, a 16th century, wisteria clad, mansion managed by The National Trust and only recently reopened after a much-acclaimed two year conservation programme. (seasonal opening)

1 Back into Henley, choose from the many restaurants, bistros and pubs in this vibrant market town. The Kenton Theatre is thought to be the 4th oldest working theatre in the UK. Chill out at the cinema or enjoy a cruise to view this picturesque town in style from the River Thames. Why not walk along the river and visit the Henley River and Rowing Museum where the Wind in the Willow's Ratty and Mole make a special appearance. Henley's festival season runs for four months of the year, taking in literature, film, music and, of course, the world famous Royal Regatta where Barnaby and Joyce attended the rowing in 'Dead in the Water'.

Find out more about this lovely area at www.southernoxfordshire.com

