THAME TRAIL INSIDE

MIDSOMER GUIDED TOURS AVAILABLE

THAME OXFORDSHIRE

MIDSOMER MURDERS TRAIL

Follow filming locations in and around the historic market town of Thame

www.visitmidsomer.com
www.thametowncouncil.gov.uk
THAME - A MIDSOMER MARKET TOWN

Thame is a fine example of a market town where you can experience history through the ages, giving it much of its individual character. The town was thought to be Anglo-Saxon in origin until 2015, when archaeologists made a major discovery of an early Neolithic enclosure, dating from nearly 6000 years ago. There is also evidence from the Iron Age and the Roman period. Ancient medieval buildings stand alongside Georgian and Victorian architecture on the iconic boat-shaped High Street, which stands as testimony to the market place for which it was originally designed. Thame still has a popular weekly market, which in 2015 celebrated 800 years of continuous trading. Thame also has an active calendar of events hosted by local organisations through the year, including Thame Food Festival, Thame Arts & Literature Festival, Music in the Park, and Thame Town Music Festival.

As a visitor, you can find Midsomer locations seen in the TV series by following Thame’s own Midsomer Walking Trail (open this leaflet). Many of the surrounding villages are also featured in Midsomer Murders and Thame is an ideal base for enjoyable trips to see these picturesque Midsomer places. You’ll find that Thame is perfectly situated to absorb the essence of Midsomer while at the same time you can enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and its many public footpaths, including the Chiltern Hills, Ridgeway Path and Oxfordshire Way.

MIDSOMER LOCATIONS NEAR THAME

Soak up the atmosphere of the English rural villages that make up ‘Midsomer County’, by taking a guided tour or following Midsomer driving trails. These are some of the delightful and historic villages that have featured in episodes of Midsomer Murders. For more information go to www.visitmidsomer.com, www.visitchilterns.co.uk, www.thametowncouncil.gov.uk, www.experienceoxfordshire.org

Adwell, Oxfordshire
St Mary’s Church - Midsomer Parva Church, The Sword of Guillaume, Death and the Divas

Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire
Village houses - The House in the Woods; A Sacred Trust (the Virtue Arms, a village store)

Beckley, Oxfordshire
The main street – Electric Vendarita, Brill, Buckinghamshire
All Saints Church - Four Funerals and a Wedding
The Pointer pub - the John Knox pub, Four Funerals and a Wedding
In village - incident room, Brill Windmill - A Tale of Two Hamlets

Chearsley, Buckinghamshire
The Bell Inn - the Woodman pub, Country Matters
Chearsley Past Office & Stores - Eterton village store, Country Matters

Chinnor, Oxfordshire
Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway Station - Holm Lane Junction, Death in a Chocolate Box
Village houses - Trevor Minchin’s house, Waddory & Woodley taverns, The Made to Measure Murders

Christmas Common, Buckinghamshire
Gated house - The Killings at Badgers Drift and Ring Out Your Dead

GUIDED TOURS OF MIDSOMER FILMING LOCATIONS IN THAME

Why not join a tour led by one of our knowledgeable Midsomer tour guides? Tours for groups of up to 15, lasting up to an hour, run on alternate Saturdays and Wednesdays between April and October. Tickets cost £7.50 each and may be purchased online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/thamemidsomer. You can also use computer terminals at the Town Hall Information Centre (see opening hours). Tickets may also be purchased at Thame Museum (see opening hours). Alternatively, you can simply turn up on the day and pay the guide.

The tours start from inside Thame Museum, 79 High Street, Thame, OX9 3AE. For more information visit www.thametowncouncil.gov.uk or www.visitmidsomer.com.

EATING & DRINKING

There are many places to eat and drink in Thame, including delightful cafés and tea rooms serving freshly baked cakes and cream teas. Ever heard of the Barnaby Bun? At Rumsey’s Chocolaterie, a filming location in both Midsomer Murders and Lewis, owners Nigel and Mary Rumsey have created delicious Barnaby Buns served with jam and butter, celebrating their link with Midsomer. Thame also has plenty of traditional English pubs selling real ale, as well as restaurants serving contemporary English, Italian, Indian and Chinese cuisines. Atalay’s Kebab Van (evenings, Upper High Street) was voted Best in Britain in 2017.

SHOPPING

The town centre boasts many award-winning and unique shops as well as well-known high street names. Goods on offer range from beautiful handmade jewellery to local produce such as artisan breads and oils. More information on shopping in Thame can be found at www.thametowncouncil.gov.uk.
The Plough pub - Barnaby and Troy play Aunt Sally, Dark Autumn; March Magna library, The Silent Land

Village houses - Picture of Innocence, The Silent Land, Days of Misrule, Hidden Depths, Midsomer Rhapsody

Great Milton, Oxfordshire
The Bull Pub - the Blacksmith Arms, The Old Stores, The Christmas Haunting

Haddenham, Buckinghamshire
St Mary’s Church and pond - Birds of Prey, Judgement Day, A Talent for Life
Village properties - Vixen’s Run, Orchis Fatalis, Midsomer Life

Henton, Oxfordshire
A village house - Ford’s house in A Rare Bird

Lewknor, Oxfordshire
Lewknor Primary School - A Tale of Two Hamlets, The House in the Woods

Little Haseley, Oxfordshire
Village properties - Dark Autumn, Hidden Depths, Midsomer Rhapsody
Little Haseley Manor House - Melvyn Stockard’s house, Who Killed Cock Robin?

Little Milton, Oxfordshire
Morgan & Associates Estate Agents - Hidden Depths

Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire
Long Crendon Manor - Garden of Death, Things That Go Bump in the Night, The Axeman Cometh
The road outside the Manor - A Tale of Two Hamlets, Second Sight
The High Street - Tainted Fruit, The House in the Woods, Blood Wedding, Blood on the Saddle
The Eight Bells pub - A Tale of Two Hamlets, Blood on the Saddle (as the Florey Arms), The Oblong Murders
The Library, St Mary’s Church - Blood Wedding, Dead Letters (church only)

Monks Risborough, Buckinghamshire
Local houses and the bells of the church – Ring Out Your Dead

Moreton, Thame, Oxfordshire
Chestnut Farm - the home of a victim, Death and Dreams

Nether Winchendon, Buckinghamshire
St Nicholas Church - Things That Go Bump in the Night
A nearby house - Death in Disguise
Nether Winchendon House - The Lodge of the Golden Windhorse, Death in Disguise; Lynton Pargetter’s home, Talking to the Dead

Shobbington, Buckinghamshire
The Old Fisherman pub - A Talent for Life

Stanton St John, Oxfordshire
Village store - Electric Vendetta, A Worm in the Bud
Local cottages - A Worm in the Bud

Stoke Talmage, Oxfordshire
St Mary Magdalen Church - funeral scenes in Orchis Fatalis (Joyce and Tom are seen walking in the churchyard)

Sydenham, Oxfordshire
St Bartholomew’s Church - Midsomer Abbas church
The Crown pub - the Stag Inn, The Night of the Stag

Thame Park, Thame, Oxfordshire
Thame Park House - Tye House in Death’s Shadow
Thame Park grounds - hunt scenes in Death of a Stranger
NB Private house, not open to the public

Towersey, Oxfordshire
Village houses - Adam Keyne’s house, Tainted Fruit; Connor Simpson’s house, Death in Chorus

Wainhill, Buckinghamshire
Wainhill Railway Crossing - Death in a Chocolate Box

Worminghall, Buckinghamshire
Worminghall Village Hall - Midsomer Mere School, Second Sight
Former Oakley Airfield - A Talent for Life
GETTING TO THAME

By Car
Thame is 14 miles east of Oxford, 10 miles south-west of Aylesbury and 47 miles from London. It is well connected to Birmingham and London by the M40 motorway and just an hour’s drive from Heathrow.

Thame has a number of convenient short and long-stay car parks, several of which are free. They include Upper High Street Car Park (3-hr limit except Tuesdays), High Street Car Park (1-hr limit), Cattle Market Car Park (1st hr free) and Southern Road Car Park (1st hr free).

By Train
Haddenham and Thame Parkway Station is 2 miles from the town centre on the Chiltern Line, which runs from Birmingham to London and Oxford. There is a frequent service, in under an hour, from Haddenham and Thame Parkway to London Marylebone Station.

The Arriva 280 bus runs from the station to Thame town centre. There is also a taxi rank at the station, call to pre-book on 01844 299444, or find them here www.cabcotaxis-haddenham.co.uk.

By Bus
The Arriva 280 bus runs a regular service from Thame to Oxford and Aylesbury (www.arrivabus.co.uk). Local timetables are available in Thame Town Hall Information Centre. For more information on bus services in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire visit South Oxfordshire District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council websites.

This leaflet has been produced with the grateful assistance of South Oxfordshire District Council, Thame Town Council, Thame Museum and 21st Century Thame. Further copies are available from Thame Town Hall Information Centre, Thame Museum, local pubs, hotels and shops, or download it from www.thametowncouncil.gov.uk or www.visitmidsomer.com.

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The authors would like to thank Bentley Productions, producers of Midsomer Murders, for featuring Thame and surrounding villages in the series. The content of this leaflet is the responsibility of the authors and not of Bentley Productions.

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MIDsomER WALKING TRAIL OF ThAME TOWN CENTRE

Midsomer Murders is based on the novels of Caroline Graham. The original pilot programme, The Killings at Badgers Drift, was aired on 23rd March 1997 and the four episodes of the first full series in 1998. Written in Blood, Death of a Hollow Man, Faithful Unloved, Dead on a Dugout, were based on her novels. Elizabeth Spry was a leading actor in the first episode and she is buried in St Mary’s Churchyard, Thame.

3. THAME MUSEUM
Thame Museum was used for the interior scenes of Causton Museum in Secrets and Spies. An object, an animal’s skull, is suspected as the murder weapon (not one of the museum’s exhibits). Causton Museum is broken into and is investigated by DCI Barnaby. Before he passes away, he had set her up in Brooke’s estate and later go into Causton Library (Market House) for information. They follow clues found in an edition of Rupert Brooke’s Collected Poems.

4. THE BLACK HORSE
Buttermarket is turned Buttermarket The Black Horse The Coffee House Market House. It was converted into a magistrate’s court in 1984 and finally became the town’s museum in 2005. Leave the Museum, turn left, cross Bell Lane and walk along the High Street.

5. WILLS & TRUSTS, 91-92 HIGH STREET
The offices of Wills & Trusts (next to the Book House) were used as a solicitor’s offices in the Cobbing Murders.

6. THAME TOWN HALL
As you walk along the High Street, you will see a large red brick building facing you - this is Thame Town Hall. In Days of Misrule it appears in the Christmas scene, with Joyce Barnaby singing carols round the Christmas tree outside Causton Town Hall. The Town Hall was once used as Causton Town Hall in shot of Down and became Causton Arts Centre in The Maid in Splendour. Across from the Town Hall, Connells Estate Agents appears as Causton Books, in a sub-plot of the same episode. There has been a building on the site of the Town Hall since 1309. The current building was built in 1887, using local brick, to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Looking to the left you will see...

7. THE COFFEE HOUSE
In Picture of Innocence, Barnaby is sitting in the Coffee House looking at the picture of him kissing a woman. He notices faintly in the background the sign on the health food shop called Now and Zen – actually the side entrance to what is now the White Stuff.

8. BUTTERMARKET
In the opening scenes of Vixen’s Run, the whole length of Buttermarket is dressed for the 1953 Coronation. A woman is seen riding a horse along the road. She is on her way to meet a lover. In Picture of Innocence Buttermarket is turned into a street market where Barnaby is kissed by a woman – a complete stranger – an incident which is photographed, in a picture which forms a plot line. In Midsomer Life, a tipsy barmaid from the Morecroft Hotel (the Spread Eagle) is seen staggering along Buttermarket. In Dead in the Slow Lane, Barnaby and Joyce are seen riding a horse along the road. She is on her way to meet a lover. In Picture of Innocence Buttermarket is turned into a street market where Barnaby is kissed by a woman – a complete stranger – an incident which is photographed, in a picture which forms a plot line. In Midsomer Life, a tipsy barmaid from the Morecroft Hotel (the Spread Eagle) is seen staggering along Buttermarket. In Dead in the Slow Lane, Barnaby and Joyce are seen riding a horse along the road. She is on her way to meet a lover.

9. THE SPANIEL HOTEL
In Picture of Innocence, Barnaby is sitting in the Coffee House looking at the picture of him kissing a woman. He notices faintly in the background the sign on the health food shop called Now and Zen – actually the side entrance to what is now the White Stuff.

10. BUTTERMARKET
In The House in the Woods Tim Russ & Company, Estate Agents, become Harriet Davis’ Estate Agency. Harriet Davis is involved in a plot to acquire a derelict building in the woods. However, it doesn’t end well for Harriet. The partly pedestrianised street to the left of the Town Hall is Buttermarket...

11. 15 UPPER HIGH STREET
This is Lionel Bell’s house in Picture of Innocence. Lionel is murdered and Barnaby is seen in conversation with the postman outside the front door of this house. Later, Lionel’s daughter, Phoebe, who now owns the house and which she has put up for sale, is seen leaving the house whilst in conversation with Barnaby and his wife Joyce. Walk to the end of the car park and look across the road into the courtyard of 34 Upper High Street on the opposite side of the road.

12. COURTYARD, 34 UPPER HIGH STREET
This courtyard (belonging to the offices of CarmichaelUK) has featured twice as an undertakers. In Things That Go Bump in the Night it was Pennyman’s. In Vixen’s Run it was Cook’s. Now walk back towards the Town Hall.

13. THE BLACK HOUSE
The pub and hotel featured in Death in the Slow Lane. It was Neil Dudgeon’s first episode as DCI Barnaby and he decides to visit a local Causton pub. He is seen approaching the pub and standing at the bar chatting with the barman and one of the locals.

14. CROSS THE ROAD INTO COMMARKET

15. OXFAM BOOKSHOP
This was the Cover to Cover Bookshop in Vixen’s Run. It was managed by Jenny, who was the love child of St Freddy Butler (dissolved). Before he passed away, he had set her up in Cover to Cover.

16. THE SWAN HOTEL

17. PRETTY LIKE PICTURES
At the top of Buttermarket. Pretty Like Pictures appears in Picture of Innocence as Quippix. The digital photography shop and major rival to Madrigal’s camera shop. Jones talks to the owner about photographs of a glamour model. Cross the road by the zebra crossing and go left along North Street to Kew Bookbinding.

18. KEW BOOKBINDING
Kew Bookbinding’s premises feature as a printing shop in Blood Wedding. Barnaby has forgotten to pick up the order of service cards for his daughter’s wedding. The shop is closed and Jones tries to force entry with a credit card.

19. MONTESSON SQUARE
Montesson Square features in a panoramic shot during the title sequence at the beginning of Picture of Innocence, ending outside Madrigal’s camera shop – now Rumsey’s Chocolatier.

20. MARKET HOUSE, MONTESSON SQUARE
Market House became the offices of the local newspaper. Midsomer Life, in the episode of the same name. When the murderer (a lady) was arrested, she was actually led from the building via the public toilets. Market House was also Causton Library in Vixen’s Run.

21. THAME AND ITS MIDSOMER MURDERS FILMING LOCATIONS
There have now been well over 100 episodes. John Nettles played Barnaby for the first 81 episodes, stepping down in 2011 at the end of series 13. Neil Dudgeon has played DCI Barnaby ever since. Thame has been featured in 1.5 episodes, in some only briefly but in others, such as Picture of Innocence and Vixen’s Run, it features heavily. A recent episode features Thame’s Prebendal House and nearby cricket ground.

The walking trail takes no more than an hour and features all the locations used around the town centre. The suggested starting point is Thame Museum, 79 High Street, Thame, OX9 9AE.