

CASTLE CARY & ANSFORD

Visit us by Train

Castle Cary

One of the most attractive of Somerset's market towns

Tucked away in a secluded spot a few miles off the A303, the golden stone of Castle Cary and Ansford exudes a warm glow, complemented by its glorious setting in the South Somerset countryside and its friendly inhabitants.

Castle Cary and Ansford are two parishes, but local people refer to them together simply as 'Cary'.

At the heart is the recently refurbished **Market House**, built in 1855, its cobbled frontage, arched **Undercroft** and glass roofed **Shambles** (converted from the old, open-air meat market, but now warm and comfortable) provide a venue for weddings and community activities, including exhibitions, children's activities, workshops, Saturday coffee mornings and much more. Inside the main entrance are the **Local Information Desk** and **Town Council Office**, upstairs is the **Museum of Domestic and Country Life**, and on the top floor, there is a **Dance Studio**.



On Tuesday mornings the weekly general market sets up around the Market House.



Opposite is the thatched George Hotel one of the oldest buildings in the town dating at least from the 17th century. Close by are the High

Street and Fore Street both crammed with small interesting shops selling food and drink, antiques and art, clothes and accessories, books and all the basics for holidaymaker and resident alike.

You will not find large supermarkets or chain store shops here.

Behind the Market House is a rare 18th century Round House lock-up constructed in 1779; it is one of only a few such buildings remaining in the country.



Nearby places of interest:

→ National Trust Houses and Gardens (www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

Lyles Cary Manor (house and garden) TA11 7HU
Montacute (house and garden) TA15 6XP
Tintinhull (garden and house) BA22 8PZ
Stourhead (garden and house) BA12 6QD

→ Heritage Sites

Glastonbury Abbey (www.glastonburyabbey.com)
Glastonbury Tor (www.nationaltrust.org.uk)
Muchelney Abbey (www.english-heritage.org.uk)
Muchelney Priest's House (www.nationaltrust.org.uk)
Wells Cathedral (www.wellscathedral.org.uk)
Cadbury Castle (Iron age hill fort at South Cadbury)

→ Other nearby attractions

Clarks Village - retail outlet (www.clarksvillage.co.uk)
East Somerset Railway (www.eastsomersetrailway.com)
Fleet Air Arm Museum (www.fleetairarm.com)
Haynes Motor Museum (www.haynesmotormuseum.com)
Royal Bath & West (showground) (www.bathandwest.com)
Wincanton Racecourse (www.wincantonracecourse.co.uk)
Cheddar Gorge (www.cheddargorge.co.uk)
Wookey Hole (www.wookey.co.uk)
Longleat (house and safari park) (www.longleat.co.uk)
Mill on the Brue (children's activities) (www.millonthebrue.co.uk)
Hauser and Winth (gallery) (www.hausenwirthsomerset.com)

→ Walks

The Macmillan Way (www.macmillanway.org)
The Leland Trail (www.walkingpages.co.uk/trails_paths)
The Monarch's Way (www.monarchsway.50megs.com)

→ Cycle Rides

Information available at the Local Information Office in the town or from www.visitsouthsomerset.com

Getting here...

... by Rail:

Castle Cary is two hours from London on the Great Western Railway service (www.gwr.com) main line from Paddington to Exeter and Panzance. Trains from Bristol, Bath and Weymouth also stop at Castle Cary station. See also details of the Heart of Wessex rail service.

... by Coach:

Berry's Coaches (www.berryscoaches.co.uk) offers a daily Superfast 2 Service between nearby Wincanton and Hammersmith Bus Station, London.

... by Car:

from the A303, take the exit for Wincanton then follow the A371 to Castle Cary (around 15-20 minutes). Descending the hill into Castle Cary, turn left at the crossroads by the Waggon & Horses public house sign (on your right) then proceed downhill into the town centre.

... on Sat Nav:

entering post code BA7 7AH will guide you to Cary, wherever you're starting from...

More information

Castle Cary's historic past ensures that it is mentioned widely in literature and on the Internet. You can start with the town's own website www.castle-cary.co.uk

Castle Cary's Living History Group has a large archive of photos and other materials currently held in the Museum. The group has also produced the following books that can be purchased in the town:
More Memories of Castle Cary & Ansford (2012)
Castle Cary & Ansford: Time to Reflect (2002)
Dead Drunk for Two pence (2016)
For further information and to see forthcoming publications visit www.castlecaryansfordlivinghistory.org.uk

Also:

The Diary of a Country Parson: James Woodforde (1758 -1802) (various editions)

Tourist Information Centres

Castle Cary (at the Market House) Tel: 01983 351763
email: tourism@castle-cary.co.uk
Carigate (on the A303) Tel: 01935 829333
Yeovil. Tel: 01935 462781

Local Churches

All Saints, Castle Cary (www.castlecaryallsaints.org.uk)
St Andrew's, Ansford (www.ansfordchurch.co.uk)
Methodist Church, Castle Cary (www.somersetmethodists.org)

Useful websites

www.castle-cary.co.uk
www.discoverouthsomerset.com

A Jewel in Somerset's Crown

