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Pond Cottages 3



Thatch Cottage 2



Orchard Cottages 4



Rest Stop 5

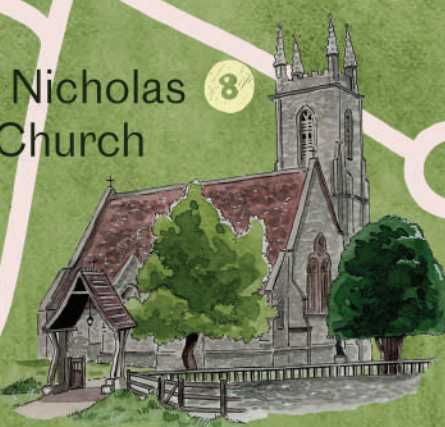


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A SHORT WALK AROUND CHAWTON: JANE AUSTEN'S VILLAGE





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CHAWTON VILLAGE WALK

A delightful literary ramble around Chawton, the charming country village where Jane Austen lived and wrote.

1 Jane Austen's House

This is where Jane Austen lived for the last eight years of her life. Here her genius flourished and she wrote or revised and had published all six of her beloved novels: *Sense & Sensibility*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*.

2 Thatch Cottage

This was once home to Jane's neighbour, Miss Benn. She would regularly visit the Austen ladies and was even there the night that Jane read the newly-published *Pride & Prejudice* aloud in January 1813. She is thought to have inspired the character of Miss Bates in *Emma*.

3 Pond Cottages

There used to be a pond opposite Jane Austen's House, for which these cottages were named. The Austen's manservant, William Littleworth lived in one of them. At some point after Jane's death in 1817, he was given her writing table. It eventually found its way back to the House in 1957 and has been on display ever since.

4 Orchard Cottages

Many of the residents of Chawton in the 1800s would have been farm workers. A young girl, Harriet, lived in this house with her family and used to visit Jane's sister Cassandra to practice her reading.

5 Rest Stop

Jane Austen was fond of walking and was not pleased when bad weather and muddy roads kept her indoors. In *Pride & Prejudice*, Elizabeth Bennet walks across muddy fields to Netherfield Park to visit her sister and her petticoat ends up 'six inches deep in mud'.

6 Malthouse Cottages

The local area is particularly well-known for its brewing heritage and malthouses such as these would have played a key role in the production of beer. It would be here that the barley was soaked and dried. Beer played another role for the Austens – stale beer was an ingredient in the recipe for ink, which Jane may have concocted for her writing.

7 Home Farm

While the Austen women were largely self-sufficient, they did rely on this local farm for their milk. A family story tells that their servant, William Littleworth, would walk to the farm with Cassandra's dog, 'Link', who would then carry the pail back home in his mouth.

8 Chawton House

This Elizabethan manor house belonged to Jane Austen's brother, Edward. He was made the legal heir to some wealthy relatives, the Knights, and later changed his name to Edward Knight in order to inherit their great estates. This lucky inheritance was the reason the Austen women were able to move to Chawton in 1809. Today the house, library and gardens are open to the public (admission charges apply); there is also a delightful café!

9 St Nicholas Church

Jane Austen knew this church well – she attended services regularly and her brother Henry even served as curate here in 1817. However the church that Jane knew was destroyed by fire in 1871 and little of the original building remains, although one pew survived and can be seen inside the church, secured to the back wall. The churchyard contains the graves of Jane's mother and her sister, as well as a bronze statue of Jane.

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JANE AUSTEN'S
HOUSE