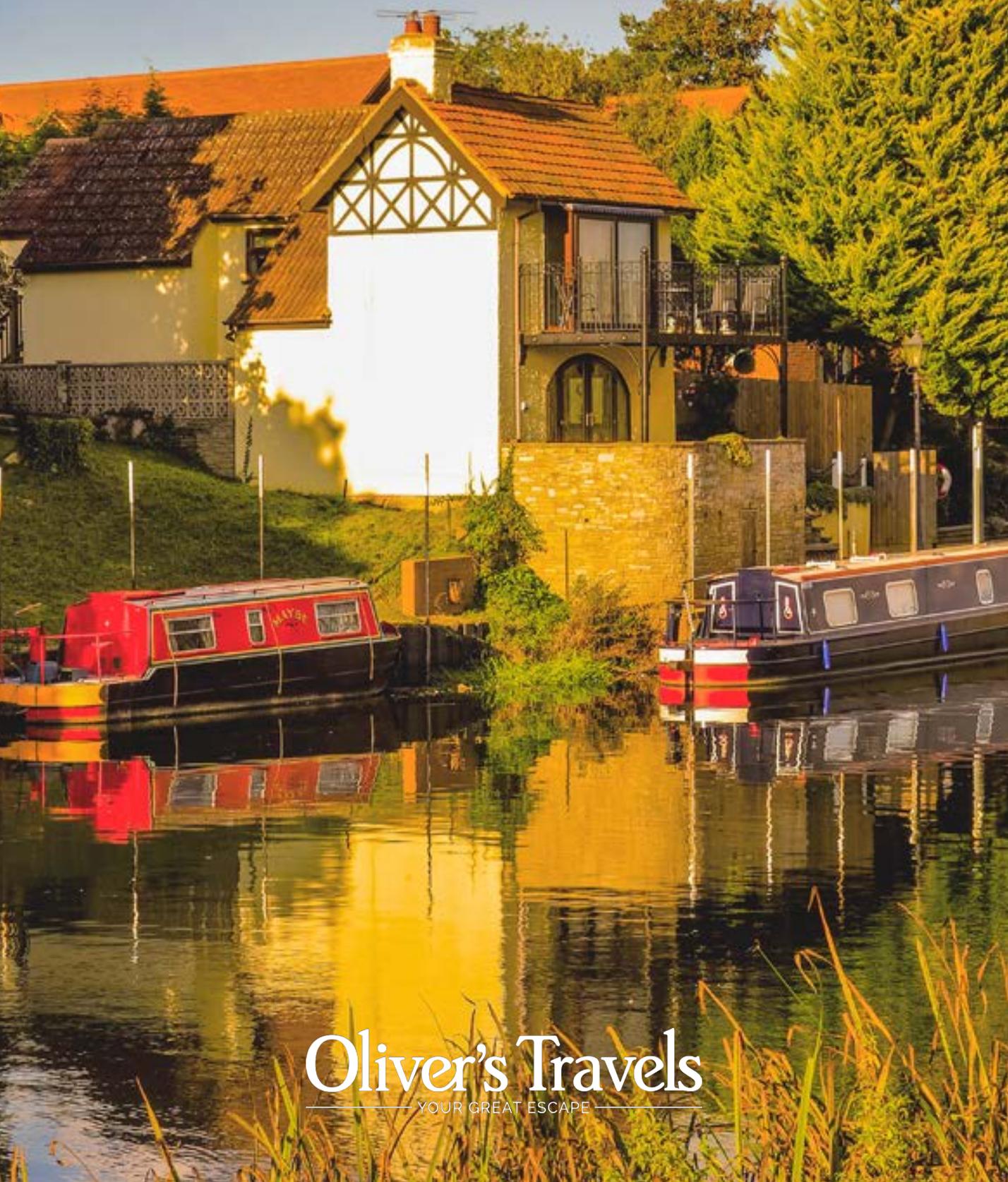


The Midlands

TRAVEL GUIDE

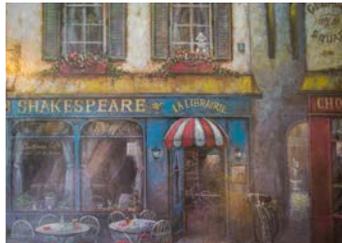


Oliver's Travels
YOUR GREAT ESCAPE

There's a whole stretch of the country to discover in the Midlands. It's here you'll find Shakespeare's birthplace, the rich cultural heritage of the Industrial Revolution and beautiful countryside that's as wonderful to look at as it is to explore. To make sure you don't miss out on any of the great stuff to do in the region, we've put together this handy Midlands travel guide.

THE MIDLANDS 101

CURRENCY	POUND	TIME ZONE	GMT
ELECTRICAL	THREE PIN	HIGHEST TEMP.	22° C
LANGUAGE	ENGLISH	LOWEST TEMP.	2° C
EMERGENCY	999	PEAK SEASON	MAY-AUG





TRANSPORT TALK



BY WHEELS

Cars are the most flexible option for travelling in the Midlands. Most major car rental services operate out of cities like Birmingham, Leicester and Lincoln.



BY BIKE

There are some fantastic bikeable journeys through rural and urban landscapes in the Midlands. Cycling offers the opportunity to take your time and discover what makes the region tick.



BY TAXI

Booking a taxi can be done in advance or on the day. You can book any size vehicle to ensure your passengers can comfortably fit. Taxis are also widely available to flag down in towns and cities.



BY WATER

The central location makes it easy to travel to and from any of the major ferry ports, and is an ideal location for you to spend time exploring the Midlands. Ferries from Ireland and Europe arrive in England regularly.



BY AIR

[East Midlands Airport](#) is the gateway to Europe for the Midlands. It connects Nottingham, Derby and Leicester to a wide variety of European cities and holiday destinations.



BY BUS OR TRAIN

England's train network serves most of the towns and cities of the Midlands. Bus travel in the Midlands is more flexible than trains, and takes you to smaller villages. Visit [Traveline Midlands](#) for more detail.

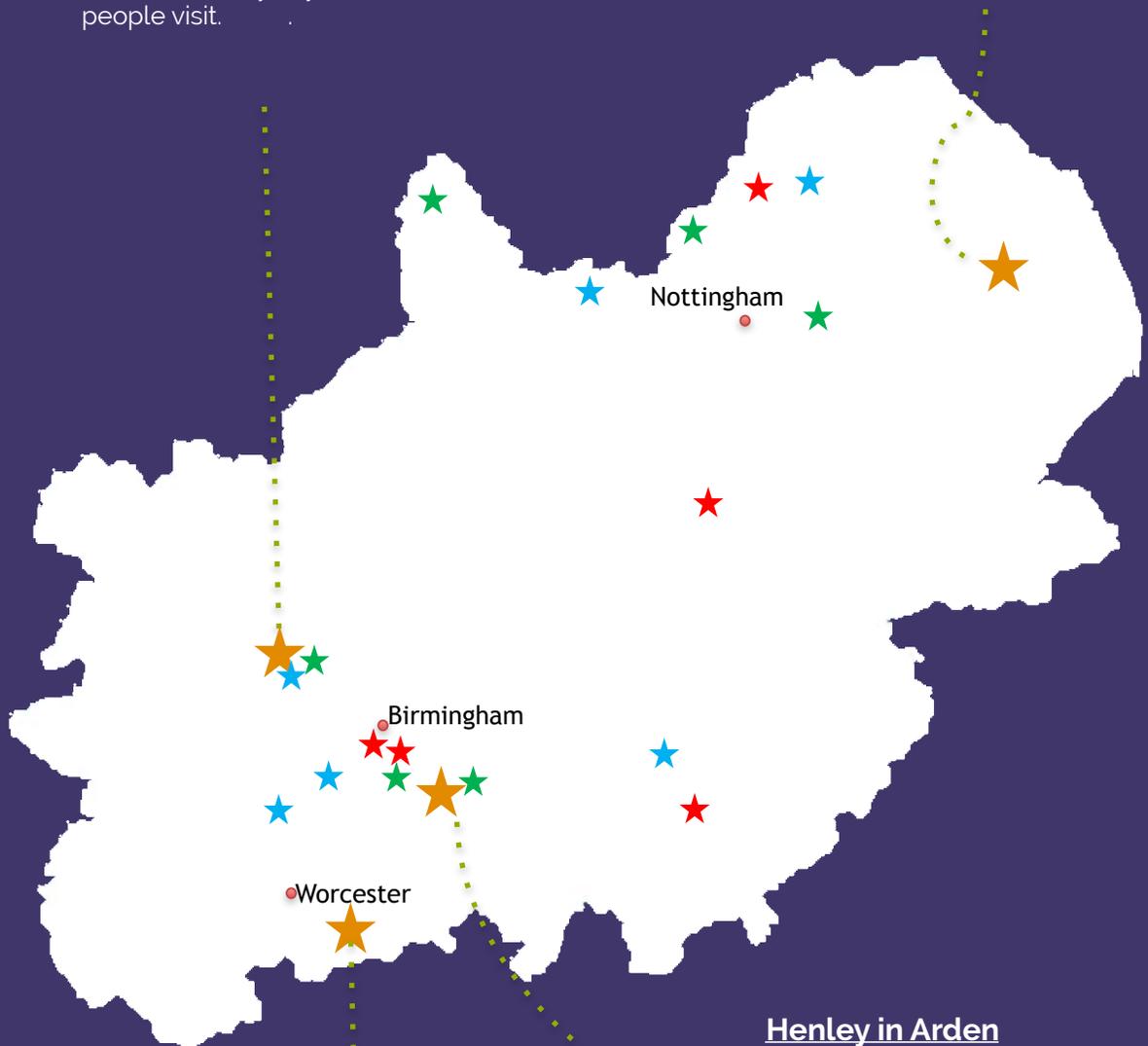
HIDDEN GEMS

Wolverhampton Ring

A 47-kilometre walking route that takes you up hills, through villages and along canals, with some spectacular views along the way. It's the best way to discover a lively city that few people visit.

Lincolnshire Wolds

The rolling hills of the **Lincolnshire Wolds** have been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A day on the walking trails, watching wildlife can often be spent without so much as seeing another soul.



Herefordshire's Wye River Valley

Running up the border of Wales is another little-known scenic hideout in the Midlands. Its highlights, such as the charming town of Ross on Wye and the walking trails along the rivers are not to be missed.

Henley in Arden

Discover the well-preserved town centres and narrow cobbled streets of some of the Midlands most delightful market towns starting with **Henley-in-Arden**.

- ★ Hidden Gems
- ★ Picks for Kids
- ★ Best Activities
- ★ Foodie Delights

TOP PICKS FOR KIDS

Go Chocolate Crazy



Ask a child their favourite food and the chances of them saying 'chocolate' are rather high. At [Cadbury World](#), you can watch the chocolate-making process and taste the results,



Fight Alien Invaders



If your kids are big into video games then they'll probably love the [National Videogame Arcade](#). With lots to see and play, kids also get an education into the history of gaming.



Dangle from On High ropes



Children will discover their wild side and prove their bravery in [Closer to the Edge](#). A high thrills adventure centre where kids can have a go at becoming high-flying adventurers.



Jump Aboard



Ride the [Shakespeare Express](#) as it puffs through some of Warwickshire's prettiest scenery, leading from Birmingham to Stratford. Make it a family day out and book a meal on board.



Descend Underground



The [Poole's Cavern](#) allows children to traverse walkways cut into the limestone core of England. If your kids still have energy to spare, the surrounding countryside is awash with woodland paths.



Ride a Cable Car



The best way to see the spectacular scenery of the Peak District National Park is from above, and the cable car at [the Heights of Abraham](#) takes you right through the heart of the woods.



MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR KIDS





CROWD-PLEASERS: BEST ACTIVITIES

Visit a Museum



If you think that coffins wouldn't make for a fun day out, then prepare to stand corrected. [The Coffin Works](#) started making coffins at the end of the 19th century, take a tour to learn more about this fascinating business.



Drift through Tunnels



Cutting through the landscape of Dudley is a network of canal tunnels that can only be accessed on the water. The [Dudley Canal Trust](#) seeks to preserve the special history with barge expeditions.



Pamper Yourself



[Aqua Sana Spa](#) is hidden in the heart of Sherwood, and a trip here is a true escape from it all. After a busy day of exploring, your friends will be particularly thankful for an evening spa session.



Craft Wool



[Toft Alpaca Farm](#) is a beautiful location for you to learn or develop your craft. At the end of the day you can leave with a kit created by TOFT for further knitting adventures.



Handle Hawks



Witness the majesty of a distant eagle in flight and then inspect them up-close at [The Falconry Centre](#). After seeing the professional in action, it will be time for you to give it a go.



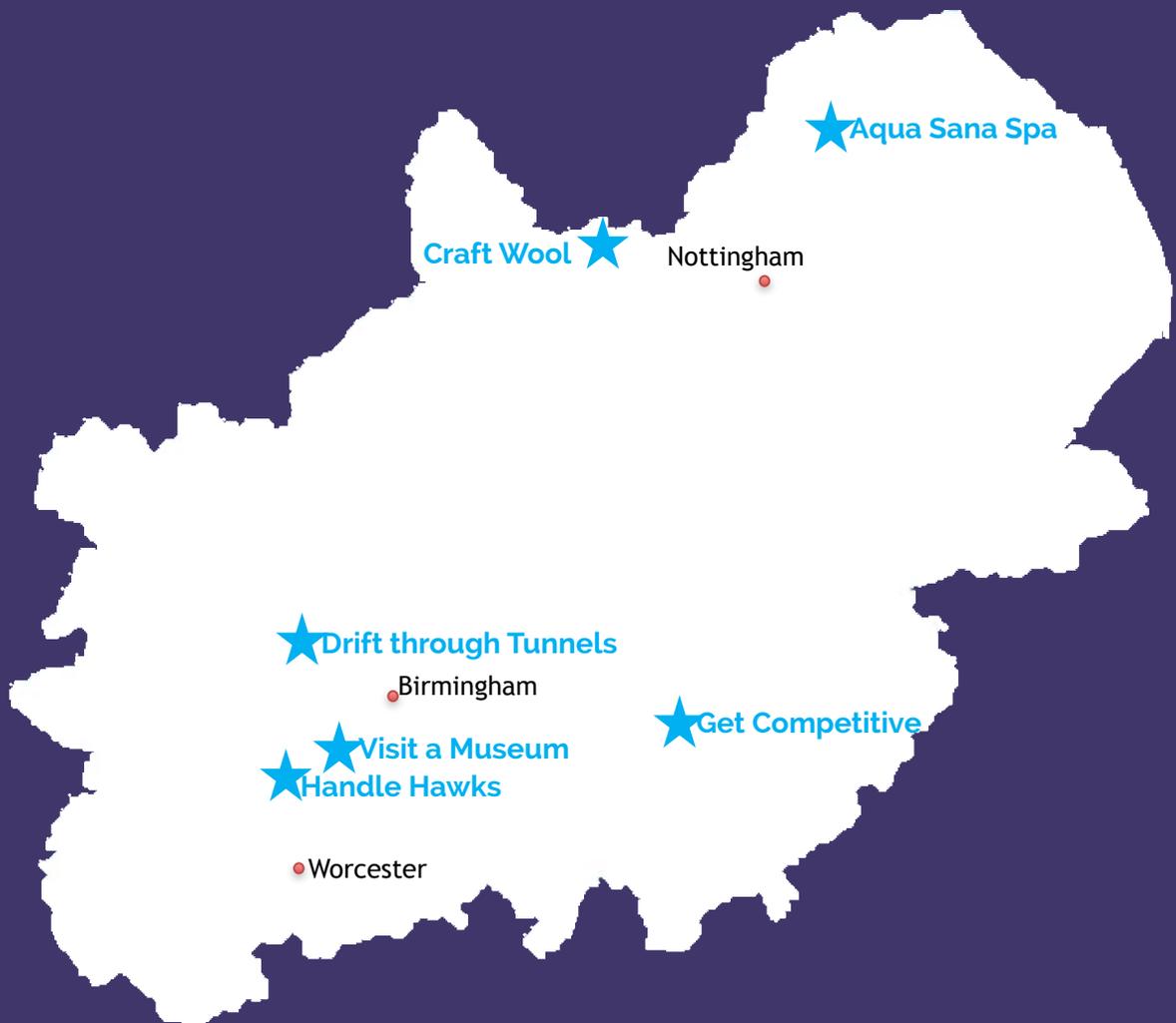
Get Competitive



[Avalanche Adventure](#) offers different ways to have an exhilarating day outdoors. If you have a big group, team up against each other for paintballing or around a dirt track in racing buggies.



MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR GROUPS



BEST FOODIE DELIGHTS



The Cross

Kenilworth's Michelin-starred restaurant has all the charm and atmosphere you'd expect from a classic English pub. [The Cross](#) have created tasting menus bursting with delectable local flavours.



School of Artisan Food



[The School of Artisan Food](#) is so committed to passing on their cooking skills that they run short courses suited for every schedule. All the ingredients are provided, you just need to turn up and get stuck in.



Lasan

[Lasan's](#) exquisite Indian food is so delicious that it has earned the praise of none other than Gordon Ramsay, who dubbed it the Best Local Restaurant in the UK. One evening tasting the delightful menu and you'll realise why.



Simpsons Restaurant



[Simpsons Restaurant](#) is something of an institution in the Midlands; it has held a prestigious Michelin star since 2000. With their exquisite list of dishes, it's easy to see why they have remained popular.



Dishes to try

For a hearty and traditional Midlands breakfast, keep your eye out for **Staffordshire Oatcakes**. And, if you're looking for something to go with your pint, **pork scratchings** originated in the West Midlands.

Chocolate Alchemy



[Chocolate Alchemy](#) offers a classy chocolate experience in the Midlands. The dainty truffles and sweet treats are bursting with flavours and you can take them home in a selection of your choosing.



MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR FOODIES





We'd like to think we know travel pretty well. Since we first hatched [Oliver's Travels](#) in 2003 it's been essentially all we've talked about. You could call us obsessed.

Our extensive [blog](#), Oliver's Journal has got tons of information and inspiration on locations across Europe and the Caribbean. It's a one-stop shop for family-friendly holiday fun, the best group activities, foodie finds and a good dose of adventure. If you found this travel guide useful, (we hope you did!), you can find a whole host more on the blog, too!

At Oliver's Travels we don't do ordinary. From [family villas in France](#) and [luxury holiday homes](#) in the Midlands, to Mediterranean [villas with pools](#) and [Caribbean beach villas](#), we have something for everyone, everywhere.



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