

kate & tom's

Extraordinary holidays, celebrations & adventures



Enjoying your stay at Alcester Farmhouse

Everything you need to get the most out of your stay

Contents

Arrival	3
<i>Where we are</i>	3
<i>Check in and check out</i>	3
Getting to us	4
Cooking & dining	5
<i>Chef services</i>	5
<i>Great places to eat & drink</i>	6
<i>Shopping for food</i>	8
Things to do	10
<i>Things to do with the children</i>	13
Useful information	16
<i>Hot tub information</i>	18
Guest reviews	19

Getting to us

The best postcode to use for satnavs:

B49 5JJ

Nearest station:

Redditch (for London Midland)
Stratford-upon-Avon (for London Midland & Chiltern
Railways)

Nearest airport:

Birmingham

Taxis:

Sapphire Taxis 01926 881313
24x7 Taxis 01789 332126

Cooking & Dining

Chef services

Four Leaf Clover

An excellent, long-established catering service that can prepare superb food. They will work with you to tailor the menu to suit your desires and dietary requirements.

01789 773000 | www.four-leaf.co.uk | info@four-leaf.co.uk

Pig on the Hill

Specializes in more laid-back affairs like BBQs, hog roasts and parties. All their delicious meat is sourced in Bredon Hill.

07789 965 373 | www.pigonthehill.net | lee@pigonthehill.net

Bensons Catering

Highly recommended by guests, James Benson is a former Claridge's and Lygon Arms chef who uses fresh, Cotswolds produce. To add an extra special touch to your event, James can be your Chef for a night cooking a three-course meal, or provide you with superb, ready-to-go meals or barbecue dishes dropped off for your convenience. If you require James, please book as soon as possible. He is always happy to discuss your catering needs with you.

01452306187 / 07807453308 | www.bensonscateringltd.co.uk

Cooking & Dining - great places to eat & drink

Alcester Lodge Farmhouse has some excellent dining places and pubs nearby so we have listed a small selection below that we think you'll enjoy. Booking in advance is strongly recommended.

Nearest pub

The Moathouse Inn

The Moat House Inn will be serving a superb selection of grills, steaks from a wood-fired oven and authentic Italian pizzas. Also offering plenty of other delicious food and drink.

Birmingham Road, Kings Coughton, Alcester, B49 5QF (3 minute drive / 15 minute drive)

01789 762984 | www.lovelypubs.co.uk/moat-house-inn

Pubs

Turks Head

Timber frames, flagstone floors and three snug fireplaces give the place its olde-worlde, home from home vibes with a vast array of premium drinks to tickle the fancies of the lively local crowd and Alcester's many visitors. The Turks boasts a wide selection of continental lagers, real ales and fine wines; the icing on The Turks' cake being good, honest food.

4 High Street, Alcester, B49 5AD (5 minute drive / 30 minute walk)

01789 765 948 | www.theturkshead.net | carl@theturkshead.net

The Lord Nelson

A fully refurbished free house with a new lease of life, The Lord Nelson is the kind of pub everyone would like to have at the end of their street. Its homely, open-plan interior boasts an open fire and log burner to get cosy by in the winter, and there's a lovely beer garden and patio for al fresco dining in the summer. The bar stocks up to five cask ales and a selection of craft beers, plus nine wines available by the glass. Make sure to check out the live music nights.

69 Priory Road, Alcester, B49 5EA (4 minute drive / 30 minute walk)

01789 509148 | www.lordnelson.biz

The Roebuck Alcester

Exquisite dining, relaxing bar scene and warm, welcoming rooms are all an integral part of making The Roebuck Alcester one of the best freehold establishments in the Warwickshire area. After a total refurbishment just over a year ago, the family run inn opened its doors to wide acclaim and approval and has now firmly established its reputation as a fantastic pub restaurant.

Birmingham Road, Kings Coughton, Alcester, B49 5QA (3 minute drive / 20 minute walk)

01789 762410 | www.theroebuckalcester.com | info@theroebuckalcester.com

Cooking & Dining - great places to eat & drink

Restaurants

Please note that most the establishments listed above in the Pubs section also provide great food and are considered some of the best places to eat in the area.

The Broom Tavern

Situated in one of Shakespeare's drinking haunts in the beautiful small village of Broom, lies this historical 16th Century public house. The Broom has a traditional bar serving real ales and fine wines in front of roaring log fires by winter and a sunny, spacious beer garden during summer. A number of daily specials. The Broom is always happy to cater for special requests, allergies and vegetarians - just let them know and they can work with you from there to create some suitable options.

32 High Street, Broom, Alcester, B50 4HL (10 minute drive)

01789 778199 | www.thebroomtavern.co.uk | enquiries@thebroomtavern.co.uk

The Throckmorton

There's a great range of quality food on offer here, including roasts and pub classics. Serving fresh, locally sourced, homemade breakfast, lunches and dinner every day from 9am to 9pm.

Coughton Hill, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 5HX (5 minute drive / 30 minute walk)

01789 766 366 | www.thethrockmorton.com | info@thethrockmorton.com

The Garden Restaurant at Hillers

Sink into soft leather sofas with a coffee and the newspapers, or lunch alfresco on the garden terrace and enjoy a glass of wine with friends. Serving delicious home-made meals cooked from fresh local produce ensures that lunchtimes are always a hubbub of activity, so table bookings are strongly recommended at these busy times. Serving breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and light refreshments throughout the day. Everything is freshly prepared by the chef and his team, using produce from the Farm Shop and Fish Shop.

A H Hiller & Son Ltd, Dunnington Heath Farm, Alcester, B49 5PD (8 minute drive)

01789 772771 | www.hillers.co.uk | info@hillers.co.uk

Cardamom

Head Chef & owner of Cardamom, Mr Miah, has an obsession for cooking and serving exciting and delicious food. In order for customers to taste the distinct flavours and fragrances of the meal, he takes great care in creating each individual dish which means that the food will not be served as "fast food" but food that is created in the traditional Bangladeshi and South Indian style. Taking great care to use his culinary expertise, he combines carefully selected, freshly ground herbs and spices with different methods of cooking for mouthwatering taste.

2 Swan St, Alcester, B49 5DP (4 minute drive / 30 minute walk)

01789 765 859 | www.cardamomindiancuisine.com | info@cardamomindiancuisine.com

Cooking & Dining - shopping for food

Takeaway

Please find below details for a number of great local takeaways.

Romna

If you prefer to stay in, all of the great dishes served in this restaurant are available to order in the comfort of your home, making them your first and best choice if you feel like an Indian takeaway in Alcester.

Unit 1 Moorfield Road, Alcester, B49 5DA (5 minute drive / 30 minute walk)

01789 765 430 | <http://www.romnaofalcester.com/contact.php> | info@romnaofalcester.co.uk

Mr Balti

Burgers, kebabs, donner kebabs or freshly prepared biryani. Also providing a small choice of the country's most favoured dishes: the renowned chicken tikka masala and the ever popular balti.

www.mrbalti1.simplesite.com/414407870 | MrBalti@hotmail.com

Supermarkets

All supermarkets listed below can also deliver.

Waitrose

Moorfield Rd, Alcester, B49 5DA (5 minute drive)

01789 766740 | www.waitrose.com

Warner's Budgens

Salford Rd, Bidford-on-Avon, Alcester, B50 4AW (10 minute drive)

01789 773352 | www.warnersbudgens.co.uk

Morrisons

Alcester Rd, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9DA (15 minute drive)

01789 267675 | www.morrisons.com

Convenience stores

One Stop

76 High St, Bidford-on-Avon, Alcester B50 4AD (10 minute drive)

01789 773324

Spar

Bridge End Service Station, Oversley Green, Alcester B49 6PQ (6 minute drive)

01789 762684

Cooking & Dining - shopping for food

Butchers

A P Meats Ltd

Unit 3 Precision Way, Tything Road West, Alcester B49 6EP (3 minute drive)
01789 400115

Freemans of Alcester

Hopkins Precinct, Kinwarton Rd, Alcester B49 6AA (7 minute drive)
01789 762607

Ragley Estate Meats

Dunnington Heath Farm, Dunnington, Alcester B49 5PD (8 minute drive)
01789 778228

Greengrocers

Five a Day

14 High St, Alcester B49 5AD (5 minute drive)

The Evesham Greengrocer

36 Bridge St, Evesham WR11 4RR (20 minute drive)
07786 362008

Bakers

Fatherson Bakery

As you walk around the bakery you will notice that traditional bakery methods are still used to produce each and every one of the handmade products supplied.

Unit 16 Arden Forest Industrial Estate, Alcester, B49 6EP (4 minute drive / 30 minute walk)
01789 766779 | www.fathersonbakery.com | orders@fathersonbakery.com

Farmers' markets

Alcester

Visit the Alcester Farmers' Market on the 4th Friday of Every Month from April 2005 to December 2005 at the Alcester Town Hall.

Golden Square, Petworth, GU28 0AH (5 minute drive)
07921 358 022 | www.alcestertownhall.org.uk

Things to Do

Wine merchants

Vin Neuf

Union Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6QT (20 minute drive)
01789 261 747 | www.vinneuf.co.uk | info@vinneuf.co.uk

C A Rookes

Western Road Industrial Estate, Western Rd, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 0AH (20 minute drive)
01789 297777 | www.carookes.co.uk

Malvern bicycling

The Malvern Bike Hire Company

Suitable for ages 6 and over. Great outfit of professionals who will guide you through 350 acres of pasture and woodland. There's also a picnic area and cafeteria on site.

54 Guarlford Road, Malvern WR14 3QP (40 minute drive)
01684 572445 | www.malvernbikehire.co.uk | info@southdowngunclub.co.uk

Clay pigeon shooting

Warwick

How about a fantastic clay shooting experience at the largest and best attended shooting ground in the midlands. This Warwick site guarantees an action-packed event for the novice or the expert, whether you're shooting alone or as part of a group.

0800 078 9508 | www.thebigshoot.co.uk

Horse riding

Equine Learning

Offering regular weekly sessions, clinics, horsemanship training, riding lessons, teambuilding and leadership days. Learning opportunities for everyone, no matter your experience or age.

Wootton Park, Wootton Waven, Warwickshire, B95 6HJ (15 minute drive)
01564 642101 | www.equinelearning.org.uk | info@equinelearning.org.uk

Malvern Riding School

Teach adults as well as children in private lessons. They are happy for friends to share to make up a small group lesson also.

Northend Farmhouse, North End Lane, Madresfield, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 5AD (40 minute drive)
07766 853668 | www.malvernridingschool.co

The Warwickshire Golf & Country Club

Golf

Green fees are available to golfers who wish to experience the 18 hole or 9 hole courses at The Warwickshire. Make full use of the practice facilities before you play. Their 26 bay driving range and practice putting green are available to all visitors. The best green fee deals are available direct on the website.

Aura Spa

A treatment at Aura Spa offers the perfect opportunity to relax, totally unwind and regain energy. Aura has four treatment rooms within the peaceful surroundings of The Warwickshire Golf and Country Club. A world away from the hustle and bustle of any city, you will relax and be revitalised with every visit.

Leek Wootton, Warwick, Warwickshire, CV35 7QT (25 minute drive)
01926 409 409 | www.thewarwickshire.com | lfc@leconfield.net

Ragley Hall

The Estate

The magnificent Ragley Hall, at the heart of the Ragley Estate, dates back to 1680 and is open to the public seasonally throughout the year for guided tours of the impressive state rooms, which can also be hired exclusively for your private celebrations. Memorable, versatile and located in one of the Midlands' most beautiful counties, Ragley Hall is also the perfect venue for corporate and outdoor events. Today, the Ragley Estate covers an area of 6,500 acres.

Gardens

Ragley Gardens occupy 10 hectares and surround the magnificent Ragley Hall. Although the 170 hectares of parkland were designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716– 1783) during the 18th century, little is known about the gardens prior to 1873. However, it is thought that the Capability landscape came right up to the Hall itself until garden designer and outstanding horticulturist Robert Marnock (1800-1889) enclosed the present 10 hectares as pleasure grounds, planting them up with trees and shrubs around meandering pathways and created a formal Victorian flower garden on the west side of the hall.

Fun for Children

With acres of outdoor space, an adventure playground, 3D maze, boating lake and indoor and outdoor picnic area, Ragley provides the perfect venue for your children's birthday party.

07802 582826 | www.ragley.co.uk | events@ragley.co.uk

Things to Do

Brewery tours

Purity Brewing

Interested in how Purity brew their beer? Interested in how they maintain Pure quality and consistency? Or want to find out how they have created a successful, eco-friendly and energy-efficient brewery? Well, why don't you join them on one of their popular brewery tours. On the evening tours they'll take you through the Purity story over a pint of their award-winning ales in the visitor centre. They will talk to you about Paul and Jim's founding principles for Purity, offer a brief discussion of brewing history and provide a background against which you can then enjoy the tour of the state of the art brewhouse and wetland system to see just how far they've come. The brewery shop will be stocked with Purity beers and speciality ales for you to take home at the end.

The Brewery, Upper Spenall Farm, Off Spenall Lane, Great Alne, Warwickshire, B49 6JF (10 minute drive)
01789 488007 | www.puritybrewing.com | sales@puritybrewing.com

Photography

My Only Sunshine

From Pregnancy and Newborns to Babies and Toddlers, Teens, Grown-Ups, Pets and Family Groups. Andrea de Gabriel's style is natural and contemporary and she likes to capture her subject's personality as much as possible. The dynamics of a family is something she finds particularly beautiful!

0247 6736271 | www.myonlysunshine.co.uk

Pampering & fitness

My Personal Sanctuary

For pampering in the comfort of your property, there is a range of treatments available from a local therapist including massage, pedicure, manicure, etc. Please book well in advance.

01625 540557 | enquiries@mypersonalsanctuary.co.uk | www.mypersonalsanctuary.co.uk

Things to Do with the Children

Treetop Adventure

Go Ape!

Situated in 6000 acres of ancient woodland, the Wyre Forest is one of largest remaining ancient woodlands in the UK, and so provides the perfect setting for an adrenaline-fuelled day out. Full of hire-wires, wobbly crossings and heart-stopping zip-lines, Go Ape! is an ideal day out for families. We advise to book sooner rather than later in the busy spring and summer months to avoid disappointment.

Callow Hill, Kidderminster DY14 9XQ (50 minute drive)

0333 331 7812 | www.goape.co.uk

West Midlands Safari Park

Go on Safari and come face to face with some of the fastest, tallest and cutest animals around on the Safari Drive-through.

African Plains

Home to a herd of southern white rhino and one of the Park's most popular sights and experiences – the elegant giraffe. Not to mention the well-known stripes of a zebra, prized Ankole cattle, ellipsen waterbuck, Congo buffalo, swamp loving Red Lechwe, Ostrich and the Eland, largest of all antelope species.

Wild Asia

An area of contrasts, from the enormous Asian water buffalo to the dainty blackbuck, and the great sambar deer. Not forgetting of course the world's rarest deer, the Philippine spotted deer, the endangered barasingha and the amazing armoured greater one horned rhino!

Carnivores

An area of the Safari drive-through that is home to some of the world's greatest hunters. From magnificent and powerful Tigers, to the world's fastest land mammal – the Cheetah. As well as a pack of rare African Wild Dogs, and the King of the beasts – the African Lion.

Elephant Valley

See the fantastic and extremely clever African elephants as they explore their surroundings in Elephant Valley. Also see Sutton! He may be seen most days charging around Elephant Valley under the watchful gaze of Mum Five and Aunt Latabe.

Spring Grove Farmhouse, Spring Grove, Bewdley DY12 1LF (45 minute drive)

01299 402114 | www.wmsp.co.uk

Things to Do with the Children

All Things Wild Nature Centre

Even more amazing animals of all varieties to see. Meerkats, Lemurs, Reptiles, Rabbits, Monkeys and lots more. Explore all about when the dinosaurs existed and get up close to the ever popular Tyrannosaurus Rex, Stegosaurus & Triceratops that remain 'Frozen in time' in the Step Through Time Dinosaur Experience. Book ahead.

Station Road, Honeybourne, Nr Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 7QZ (20 minute drive)
01386 833083 | www.allthingswild.co.uk | info@allthingswild.co.uk

Stratford Butterfly Farm

Five minutes walk from the town centre, just over the river Avon foot bridge and opposite the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Enjoy the unique pleasure of watching hundreds of the world's most spectacular and colourful butterflies flying all around. You can see them feeding and flying in a wonderful tropical environment.

Swan's Nest Lane, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 7LS, (25 minute drive)
01789 299 288 | www.butterflyfarm.co.uk | enquiries@butterflyfarm.co.uk

Umberslade

Umberslade Farm Park

At Umberslade youngsters of all ages can enjoy a once in a lifetime opportunity to bottle feed newborn lambs and calves, hold the cutest little chicks, rabbits, and guinea pigs and even have the chance to ride one of the beautiful ponies.

Umberslade Farm Park, Butts Lane, Tanworth In Arden, Warwickshire, B94 5AE, (25 minute drive)
01789 299 288 | www.umberslade.com | info@umberslade.com

Umberslade Adventure

Umberslade Adventure is open to the general public to provide a large outdoor facility for educational, leisure and physical purposes for all ages, encouraging the participation of outdoor activities for families to have some fun and learn new skills at the same time. There's lots to get involved in, such as low ropes, commando courses and zip-lines, as well as fishing, archery nature trails and camping.

Chalcot Wood, Cut Throat Lane, Hockley Heath, West Midlands, B94 6SE (25 minute drive)
07515 378 969 | www.umbersladeadventure.com | contact@umbersladeadventure.com

Things to Do with the Children

The MAD Museum

The MAD Museum does what it says on the tin! Based in the centre of Stratford-upon-Avon, this quirky attraction displays interactive pieces of mechanical art, in particular kinetic art and automata. In a nut shell mechanical art is usually beautifully crafted, moving sculptures either made to have an exaggerated purpose or made simply for the fun of it.

Henley Street, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6PT (20 minute drive)

01789 269356 | www.themadmuseum.co.uk | info@themadmuseum.co.uk

Royal Shakespeare Company Tour

Get closer to the world of theatre on a tour and enjoy spectacular views from the Tower. Tours last one hour and depart from the cloakroom. We recommend arriving before the start time and booking in advance.

Kids go free. Visit the Tower with children this summer and you can get two free kids (under 16) tickets with every full price adult ticket purchased. The offer applies Monday to Friday from 25 July to 2 September. See website for full details about the range of tours.

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6BB (20 minute drive)

01789 403493 | www.rsc.org.uk

Evesham Vale

Evesham Vale Light Railway

The EVLR is normally steam-hauled and passes some of the old apple orchards to Evesham Vale Station, stopping briefly. You can break your journey here to enjoy some activities and the area, including a children's play fort and some lovely country walks. You can then return to the train a little later.

Evesham Vale Station Picnic Area

There are picnic benches and a large grass area, where you can enjoy a picnic overlooking some of the best scenery the Vale of Evesham has to offer.

The Valley, (Former, Evesham Country Park), Twyford, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 4TP (15 minute drive)

01386 422282 | www.evlr.co.uk

Picnic at Abbey Park

Evesham's Abbey Park has been named as one of the best picnic spots in the Cotswolds area. *Cotswold Life* magazine have chosen the beauty spot as one of their top picks to enjoy food and time out with family and friends.

Waterside, Evesham WR11 4SL (20 minute drive)

Useful Information

Alcester Farmhouse at a glance

Bedrooms and Bathrooms

- Sleeps 16
- 7 bedrooms | 4 bathrooms (1 shared family, 3 en-suite with showers)
- All beds are zip-and-link so can be made up as Super Kings or Twins
- 2 Z-beds available

Bedrooms	Sleeps	Beds	Features
Bedroom 1	2	Super King	En-suite
Bedroom 2	2	Super King	En-suite
Bedroom 3	2	Super King	En-suite
Bedroom 4	2	Super King	
Bedroom 5	2	Super King	
Bedroom 6	2	Super King	
Bedroom 7	2	Super King	

Cooking & Dining

- AGA and Range
- Gas BBQ
- Table and chairs in the garden

Where We Are

- A short drive from Shakespeare country
- The nearest station is Wilmcote
- The nearest airport is Birmingham
- Taxis available
- Alcester | Warwickshire | B49 5JJ

Where We Are

- Outside children's adventure play area

Internal Features

- 2 large TVs (48" and 32") with Sky and Freesat
- Wi-Fi, pool table and table football
- Open fire
- Books

External Features

- Hot tub
- 2.5 acres of gardens including a meadow
- Gas BBQ
- Washing line

Useful Information

Activities

- Treat yourself to private treatments and pampering at the house
- Explore the beautiful surrounding countryside
- Visit Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon
- Take part in all manner of local country sports and leisure activities, such as clay pigeon shooting, 4x4 driving and archery
- Hike and hack in the Malvern Hills

Top Things to Do for Children

- Visit the adventure playground at Ragley Hall
- Have fun learning at the Roman Heritage Centre and MAD Museum
- Take the tour at the Royal Shakespeare Company
- Go Ape! in Wyre Forest
- Explore West Midlands Safari Park
- Ride the Evesham Vale Light Railway
- Have a picnic at Abbey Park

Payment Process

- We take a one-third deposit at the time of booking
- The balance is due three months before the date booked

Cautionary Deposit

- £750 refundable deposit

House Restrictions

- No fireworks
- Noise policy in place
- Hen parties welcome
- Up to two well-behaved dogs are welcome

Arrival and Departure

- Check in is from 4pm
- Check out is at 10am

What's Included

- 2 travel cots (and linen)
- 2 high chairs
- Linen, towels and essentials
- Fire logs

Hot Tub Information

We hope you'll enjoy using the hot tub. We want to make sure it is as safe as possible for everyone, so we ask all guests to ensure that the following guidelines are respected. These guidelines are designed to meet basic health and safety regulations, so ensure that all members of your party have read the rules regarding the use of the hot tub.

1. Swimming costumes are obligatory and you will need to bring your own towels
2. You must shower before entering the hot tub to remove any skin oils, make-up, hair products etc. This is vital to ensure a clean and healthy hot tub. If this rule is abused the hot tub may need to be closed for several days so that the water can be thoroughly refreshed.
3. Outdoor shoes and coats must be taken off around the hot tub area.
4. No alcohol or smoking is allowed in the hot tub.
5. Do not bring any form of glass into the hot tub area.
6. Do not bring in any electrical equipment into the hot tub area where you could be in contact with water.
7. Do not over-occupy the hot tub as this will lead to water spillage and will cause the hot tub to stop working. This is because the filter needs to be covered with water to work.
8. Children must be supervised in and around the hot tub and must not use it without an adult present. Some children can overheat; please seek medical advice if this occurs.
9. Please keep noise levels to an acceptable level. The hot tub is a place of peace and relaxation – be mindful that there are neighbouring properties in close proximity.
10. It is safer and more enjoyable to use the hot tub with another person. We advise against using the hot tub alone without a member of your group knowing of your whereabouts.
11. On leaving the hot tub please switch off all jets and lights and make sure that the hot tub is sealed with the cover provided.
12. Please note you must not use the hot tub if you are suffering from an infectious disease or you have an open wound or sore that cannot be covered by a waterproof plaster.
13. You must not use the hot tub within 48 hours of suffering any stomach illness.
14. Certain medical conditions can be affected by the hot tub, particularly those involving extremes of temperature. You are advised to consult your doctor if you are pregnant, or suffer from any of the following: heart disease; circulatory problems; high or low blood pressure; diabetes; or any other condition that affects your body's ability to react to heat.
15. Prevent taking any medication which may affect your circulation or your ability to react to heat.

Guest Reviews

"We absolutely loved our stay at Alcester Farmhouse. The attention to detail was remarkable and with so much to do in the area for the kids – and for us – every hour of the holiday was great!"

– **Molly**

"What a perfect family house. Everything went smoothly on arrival and we had a truly special time. The kids couldn't get enough of the games indoors and then the Roman Heritage Centre on our first day out. I feel so energised now after all those lovely long country walks!"

– **Amanda**

"Miss this place already! We felt like we'd stepped back in time. The beams, the fire place and all the other features made it all so authentically English and there was so much to do in this lovely part of the country. Can't wait to be back! Thank you to everybody who made it possible!"

– **Rebecca**