



SET-JETTING

PRIDE AND PILGRIMAGE

The forthcoming Netflix adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* brings with it several new additions to Austen territory for us to discover

JANE CORNWELL

1 Fortify yourself
Rye, the fortified medieval town in East Sussex and one of the historic Cinque Ports, stands in for Meryton, the fictional Hertfordshire village where Elizabeth Bennet first encounters Mr Darcy. Its cobbled streets, timber-framed houses and crooked red tiled roofs capture the story's early 19th century setting nicely. Start on steeply pitched Mermaid St, hailed as one of the prettiest in Britain, then wander the narrow lanes of the old town to St Mary's Church and climb the tower for views across the countryside and coast. Nearby, within Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, is Camber Castle, a 16th century artillery fort built by Henry VIII. For a literary detour, visit Lamb House, once home to Henry James and later E.F Benson, whose satirical Mapp & Lucia novels were inspired by Rye.
ryesussex.uk



2 Steal away
Further east, in Kent, Deal's traditional promenade and gently sloping pebble beach doubled as Brighton, where Lydia Bennet elopes with George Wickham, scandalising her family and everyone else; a disused pub on Beach Street became a Regency-era inn. Along with its handsome Georgian seafront, Deal has a gritty maritime past, including a reputation as a smugglers' haunt. Its Tudor castle was one of Henry VIII's coastal fortifications and dominates the town, while the High Street is lined with independent shops and cafes and the odd gastropub. Just south of the town, the moat-ringed Walmer Castle – another Tudor fortification and the former home of the Duke of Wellington – sits in manicured gardens.
deal.gov.uk



Harewood House in West Yorkshire; left, The Kings Head in Deal, Kent; top, Chatsworth House in Derbyshire; top right, Rye in East Sussex

3 Darcy in London
Actor Jack Lowden was spotted in full Mr Darcy regalia filming around Spitalfields, one of the East End's best-preserved pockets of Georgian London. Start on Princelet Street, where 18th-century houses reveal the area's French Huguenot silk-weaving past. A blue plaque commemorates Anna Maria Garthwaite, the textile designer whose painterly patterns brought a new aesthetic to the loom. Turn in to terraced Fournier Street and hazard a guess at the home of iconic British art duo Gilbert & George, who have lived there since the 1960s. Then head for the lively, thoroughly modern Spitalfields Market before wandering along Brick Lane, with its bric-a-brac, street art and hipster hangouts.
spitalfields.co.uk

4 Shades of Pemberley
West Yorkshire's Harewood House has form as Darcy's ancestral home, Pemberley: its opulent interiors have featured in previous Austen adaptations and are being transformed once again for the new series. Designed by 18th century Yorkshire architect John Carr, with decoration by Robert Adam and furniture by Thomas Chippendale, Harewood is Georgian grandeur writ large. Inside are works by J.M.W. Turner and Thomas Gainsborough; outside, landscape designer Lancelot "Capability" Brown's vision unfolds across lakes, gardens and 400ha of open parkland.
harewood.org

5 Another angle
No Austen pilgrimage is complete without a stop at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire, the grand dame of English stately homes. Although it is not confirmed as a location for the new series, its resemblance to Pemberley has long been noted ("A large, handsome stone building ... backed by a ridge of high woody hills"), and its exteriors and interiors – including the Painted Hall and Sculpture Gallery – featured in Joe Wright's 2005 film adaptation. The estate is leaning into its Austen credentials with House of Stories running to October 4, featuring a first edition of *Pride and Prejudice* owned by Regency socialite Caroline Lamb.
chatsworth.org

6 Wild and windy
The Peak District National Park, mostly located in Derbyshire in central England, became Britain's first national park in 1951 and marks its 75th anniversary this year. Its 1424sq km takes in gritstone-edged peaks, purple-heather-clad moors and deep limestone dales. It's a landscape that filmmakers have found hard to resist. Keira Knightley's Elizabeth Bennet was wild and windswept here in the 2005 film, and the new Netflix adaptation returns to its rugged terrain. Hike Stanage Edge for the views, or go cycling, caving, rock climbing and canoeing. Come prepared for the weather.
peakdistrict.gov.uk