

7 Austen atmosphere
Surrounded by ridges on the northwestern edge of the Peak District, the Derbyshire town of Glossop grew from a medieval market settlement into a major textile centre. Its cotton mills and workers' cottages still hint at the Industrial Revolution that transformed it. Old Glossop has a different feel, with stone-built houses, independent shops, pubs gathered around the historic market cross and 12th century St James Church. Beyond the town rises the high gritstone plateau of Bleaklow Hill, the wild moorland that gives this corner of Derbyshire its drama. The Snake Pass road winds through the hills toward Sheffield.
glossopheritage.co.uk

8 Dripping history
Lyme Park will forever be associated with Colin Firth's wet shirt scene when his Darcy emerged from its lake in the BBC's 1995 *Pride and Prejudice* series. It turned this Cheshire estate into a pilgrimage site and the actor into a heart-throb. There's plenty beyond the famous scene. The 566-hectare estate is home to red and fallow deer, while the Ravine Garden has a stream that winds underneath stone bridges, through ferns, azaleas and rhododendrons. Inside the house, tour the Saloon, created in the 18th century by Venetian architect Giacomo Leoni, and the Library, with its gilt wood chandeliers and rare 1760 harpsichord. For the full Darcy moment, follow the path to the lake.
nationaltrust.org.uk

9 Where it began
North of London, Hertfordshire is the primary fictional home county of *Pride and Prejudice*. This rural shire is where Austen placed the Bennet family home of Longbourn, amid green lanes, hornbeam woodlands and sleepy chalk-stream hamlets. Market towns, flint-churches and country lanes evoke the quieter side of Austen's England – a world away from the grand houses and wind-tossed terrain elsewhere on this list. Austen is rumoured to have stayed at Epcombs, a Georgian house in the village of Hertingfordbury. Fittingly, the mystery remains. visitherts.co.uk



BEST BEDS

10 Room at the inn
A brisk 20-minute walk from Chatsworth House is the Cavendish Hotel in Derbyshire's Baslow. The former coaching inn was named Hotel of the Year by both *The Times* and the *Sunday Times* in 2025. Its 28 rooms, including two suites, have been refurbished by acclaimed British designer Nicola Harding. Some have four-poster beds and stone fireplaces, while throughout the hotel is a mix of antique furniture, vibrant fabrics, local ceramics, photographs and original art. Its Gallery Restaurant has three AA Rosettes and champions Peak District produce. The hotel's Jane Austen-inspired afternoon tea includes garden quiche and a sandwich spread, choux buns and homemade scones, accompanied by high-quality large leaf English Breakfast black tea of the sort brewed and poured from the early 1800s, at £45 (\$84) a person.
cavendishhotelbaslow.co.uk

From top: the Peak District near Glossop; the Deal Pier in Kent; a canal in rural Hertfordshire; room at the Cavendish Hotel, Baslow

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