

# Welcome to Mocktree

Andrea and Nigel offer you a warm welcome for your stay at Mocktree. We hope this informative guide makes your stay enjoyable and if you require anything please do not hesitate to knock on our door or drop us an email.



## Mocktree

By charter in 1156, King Henry II licensed the monks of Bromfield Priory to assart [1] the forest granted to them and to have pannage [2] for their pigs. This was the forest of Mocktree, estimated at 800 acres at the time of Domesday, that subsequently became the medieval hunting chase in 1301 of Edmund de Mortimer, 3rd Earl of March; and a Royal Forest after Edward Plantagenet, 7th Earl of March, was crowned King Edward IV (after the defeat of the Lancastrian army at the 'war of the roses' battle at Mortimer's Cross in 1461). Mocktree remained in crown hands until it was sold during the reigns of James I and Charles I to fund war efforts.

It is believed that **Mocktree** is derived from the Welsh **moch tŷ** - 'place of the pigs'.

[1] **assart** (noun) a piece of land converted from forest to arable use

[2] **pannage** (noun) the right of feeding pigs or other animals in a wood



Please follow us **@mocktree**



## PLACES TO VISIT LOCALLY

### **Leintwardine**

A walk down through our historic village and river meadows - great for wild swimming, paddling, picnics and net fishing, followed by a drink in either the Sun or Lion Inn.

### **Ludlow (6 miles)**

Vibrant historic market town, independent shops and foodie destination; with medieval castle and historic houses. Tranquil riverside walks and wild swimming. Street market held every Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat.

### **Stokesay Castle (6 miles)**

One of the finest preserved medieval manor houses in England (English Heritage)

### **Secret Hills Discovery Centre (6miles)**

Located to the south edge of Craven Arms, the centre provides a great introduction to the Shropshire Hills with an exhibition, cafe and walks from the door.

### **Church Stretton, the Long Mynd and Cardingmill Valley (14 miles)**

The heart of the Shropshire Hills – abundant easily navigable hill and valley walks; or drive and park up at the National Trust’s Cardingmill Valley – great for kids to explore, dam building in the stream, or for a less strenuous walk. For the adventurous, a ‘hill drive’ up Burway Road onto the top of the Long Mynd and along to the glider station is a must.

### **Croft Castle (12 miles)**

National Trust property with extensive parkland walks, castle, café, fabulous walled garden, fish pool valley, ancient trees and Iron Age Ambrey hillfort.....it is possible to spend a day roaming the estate!

### **Mortimer Forest (6 miles to main car parks)**

Majestic forest with far reaching views from the 3 mile Vinnals Loop or attempt the more challenging 9 mile Climbing Jack Trail.....fantastic for letting the dogs loose.

### **Clun Valley and the Marches**

A driving tour of the AONB landscape with stop off visits to the quaint eclectic villages of Presteigne, Knighton, Clun, Bishops Castle and Montgomery. From Clun, walks to Bury Ditches Hill Fort are rewarding. The Judges Lodgings at Presteigne is worth a visit along with the art galleries and summer arts trail.

### **Stiperstones**

Unique, wild and remote; dotted with the legacy of the lead mining past particularly at Snailbeach and The Bog with a stunning ridge walk to the ‘Devil’s Chair’ between. The Stiperstones Inn is a welcome stop.



## SLIGHTLY FURTHER AFIELD

### **Welshpool and Powis Castle (30 miles)**

Welsh border town with one of the foremost National Trust properties in the UK - a stunning sandstone castle sitting above dramatic cascading terraced gardens and deer park. For shopping the Coed-y-Dinas store on the town outskirts is worth a visit.....or a ride on the steam railway.

### **Shrewsbury (25 miles)**

County town with a lively shopping scene, riverside park walks, the 'Dingle' garden, and excellent indoor artisan market. Combine a visit to Shrewsbury with:

**Attingham Park** – Extensive National Trust stately home and estate.

**Wroxeter** – England's third largest Roman City archaeological site (English Heritage).

### **Small Breeds Farm Park and Hergest Croft Gardens, Kington (25 miles)**

Excellent and immaculately kept owl and farm park, where children can pet and feed the animals, and Hergest arboretum gardens are well worth the drive out.

### **Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Bridgnorth and Dudmaston (25 miles)**

Reknown World Heritage Site, Colebrookdale and Blist Hill Open Air Museum (NT from March 2026); two level town with funicular cliff railway, main station of the Severn Valley Steam Railway; and the National Trust's Dudmaston..... plenty to do and see.

### **RAF Cosford (25miles)**

Fantastic large indoor aircraft museum - fantastic large indoor aircraft museum - great day out for all the family and free entry! Excellent on a rainy day.

### **Berrington Hall and Leominster (15 miles)**

National Trust Hall in Capability Brown landscape – a short afternoon or morning visit - combine with a visit to the antique shopping mecca of Leominster or the National Trust's Brockhampton.

### **Black and White Trail (Kington 8 miles)**

Driving trail around the picturesque villages of north Herefordshire including Pembridge and Weobley. Potential stops at local Cider making farms.

### **Hereford (25 miles)**

Historic Cathedral City on the River Wye. Visit the Mappa Mundi and oldest chained library in the world.

### **Other Great Destinations for Longer Day Trips**

Hay-on-Wye (35 miles south) .....bookshop mecca, castle and riverside walks.

Rhayader and the Elan Valley (35 miles west) .... scenic drives and walks.

Malvern and the Malvern hills, historic spa town with plenty of shops and lovely walks from the town centre. (40 miles southeast)



## EATING AND DRINKING

A mile drive, or via lovely walks, down to the local village of **Leintwardine** for:

### **The Lion**

Award winning country inn situated on the edge of the River Teme with local freshly cooked restaurant food. Great for relaxing on a sunny afternoon (dogs allowed in bar and garden).

### **The Sun Inn**

Listed unique historic parlour inn - well worth a visit. Serving excellent local ales – only light snacks, ..... ideal after a long days walk with the dog (very dog friendly).

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### **Within the Downton Estate:**

**Old Downton Lodge** - Michelin Starred Restaurant - one for the special occasion (booking req'd). They also do great 'afternoon teas'.

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### **Ludlow**

From historic pubs to top quality restaurants **Ludlow** has a wide choice:

**Rose and Crown** – Oldest and most atmospheric pub in Ludlow for a pint with 'pub grub'.

**The Queens / The Blue Boar/ Wheatsheaf** – Popular food inns at reasonable prices.

**Charlton Arms** – Perfect for the warm day with terraces overlooking the river.

**Golden Moments / Shapla** – Excellent Indian restaurants.

**The Old Bakehouse** – Trendy independent handmade burger joint.

**Mortimers** – Fine dining restaurant for a tasting menu of local produce.

**CSONS** – situated at Dinham Bridge

**The Nook** – A hidden gem cozy restaurant.

These are just a selection of the great eateries in Ludlow if you have any recommendations or find a hidden gem, please let us know.



**Other recommended local food pubs and restaurants (search online for menus):**

**Aymestrey** – The Riverside Inn – Good quality country pub restaurant using regional produce much of which sourced from their own garden and farmland.

**Wigmore** – The Oak – Family run Country Inn Restaurant

**Orleton** – The Boot – Historic community pub at the heart of the village.

**Church Stretton** – The Kings Arms – Joules pub with good sized portions and excellent range of pub meals and snacks.

**Little Stretton** – The Ragleth and The Green Dragon – both great home cooked food pubs.

**Lingen** – The Royal George – Small Country Pub

**Aston on Clun** – Kangaroo Inn - Traditional Country Pub

**Ratlinghope** - The Bridges Inn – ideal after a walk or drive over the Long Mynd

**Stiperstones Inn** – Lovely family low-cost menu – ideal paired with a walk over the Stiperstones.

**Kingsland** – The Angel – Village Inn with lovely outside seating overlooking the village green great for sunny evenings.

**Church Stretton** – Jaipur (Indian) – Extensive menu of quality dishes (our favourite) .....and you take your own alcoholic drinks. Wednesday banquet night is great value.

Note many of the above are very popular so we recommend pre-booking to avoid disappointment. Please advise if you are taking the dog as some have limited dog friendly tables.

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**Best Takeaways (not home delivery):**

**Fish and Chips**

**Leintwardine** – Fiddlers Elbow – award winning traditional fish and chips

**Craven Arms** – Fryer Freeman – traditional fish and chips plus full menu.

**Ludlow** – Fish bar and Restaurant – best eaten by the river overlooking the castle.

**Indian**

**Ludlow** – Chutneys – specialising in mild to medium dishes.

**Italian**

**Hopton Heath** – Ashlea Pools Pizzeria, woodfired handmade pizzas to eat in or take away. Delicious and good value....and just 5mins away.

**Chinese**

**Ludlow** – Oriental City – full menu of classic Chinese dishes

**Ludlow** – Thai Box – good value and well-presented tasty dishes



## REAL ALE AND PARLOUR PUBS

(for the real ale lovers or those wanting something different):

### Ludlow:

**Rose and Crown** – the oldest and most historic pub in Ludlow - all Joules beers (from Market Drayton) are great pints - 'Slumbering Monk' (stout) and 'Monkey Shoulder (tap lager) are our personal favourites. Don't be afraid to ask to try-before-you-buy.

**Ludlow Brewery** – Well worth a visit to drink within the actual brewery with all the hoppy smells this brings! Always busy and you can also book a backstage tour with talk and beer sampling. Their cold filtered tap beers are especially good for a warm sunny day (Nebula, Jam Dunk, Idaho).....you can get a 3x1/3 paddle board to try them all! Note the Brewery closes at 5.30pm except for weekend event including live bands and beer festivals.

**Unicorn Inn** – Run by Black Country Brewery a proper pub with inglenook fireplace and usually 10 pump beers (usually 4 Black Country and 6 visiting beers) and 4 ciders! Wood fired pizzas on Thurs/Fri/Sat and free cheese table on Thursday nights.

**Blue Boar** – Traditional historic town Inn with good value inclusive lunch + beer menu. 'Summer Solstice' from the Three Tuns Brewery (Bishops Castle) is a great pale ale enthused with honey notes.

### Ludlow Smaller Places.....:

**The Blood Bay** – A historic Victorian themed inn.....a truly authentic drinking experience.....don't be shocked - mobile phones are banned, one traditional bitter and stout on pump (everything else bottled), expect to be engaged into conversation! Open from 5pm and afternoon on Fri/Sat/Sun.

**The Dog Hangs Well** – Similar to above but this is a unique 'parlour bar' (i.e. in someone's house!). Look online for opening times (typically 5-9 thurs/Fri/Sat) and only when the light above the door is lit!

**Old Street Tavern** – A proper two-room real ale tavern with well kept rotating guest ales (no house beer) - regular live music at weekends.

### The Strettons and the Long Mynd:

If you're walking in the Stretton Hills good places for a well deserved post-pint are:

**Kings Arms** (Church Stretton High Street) - Traditional well kept Joules pub and excellent pub food (sister pub to Ludlow's Rose and Crown)

**Ragleth Inn** (Little Stretton) - At the bottom of the best valley walk of Ashes Hollow this cosy historic pub is great for the summer evening drink.

**Yew Tree Inn** (All Stretton) - Great local pub if walking the north end of the Long Mynd.

**The Bridges** (Ratlinghope) - Busy traditional coach inn (now walkers) on the west side of the Long Mynd which is an idyllic halfway stop on a long summers day walk from Church Stretton over the Long Mynd (via the summit Pole Bank) and back



## USEFUL INFORMATION FOR YOUR STAY AT MOCKTREE

**Name of Owners:** Andrea and Nigel

**Address:** Mocktree Barns, Leintwardine, nr Ludlow, Shropshire, SY7 0LY

**Telephone:** 07985 612 250

**Email:** mocktreebarns@hotmail.com

**Website:** www.mocktreeholidays.co.uk

**Booking:** Please note that by booking directly with us we offer preferential tariffs for return guests (10% discount), off season 4-for-3 offers, and we will offer you the best price we possibly can (without all the booking platform fees and to fill any availability gaps). Simply contact us by either email or phone for prices / availability. Additionally, if you wish to extend your stay our 'additional night' rates are modest.

**Wifi:** For connection the network and password are both **MOCKTREE** (in capitals). Please note we are not on fibre in this remote location so please try and limit 'live streaming' to prevent drain on the system! (i.e. for movies try and download overnight).

**Mobile Phones:** Due to the valley location of Mocktree mobile signals can be intermittent dependant on provider. Stronger signals can always be achieved by strolling up the private roads off the Mocktree entrance.

**Parking** – For the comfort and safety of all guests please park in our car park during your stay. Access is available to the courtyard for arrival/departure packing etc.

**Car EV Charger** – for use of the car charger (type 2) please let us know to arrange.

**The HUT** – Our shepherd's hut has guides, books, games and large selection of DVD films/series – please feel free to take a look and borrow during your stay. You can also store your bikes, pushchairs etc in the hut – there are bike locks and a padlock for the door (code 1461). The cleaning cupboard contains some spare cleaning products loo roll, bin bags etc.

**Pets:** Please be responsible for your Dogs in the grounds and respect our other guests. Care should be taken by owners walking dogs within the surrounding farmland and shooting estate - there are lots of things to chase so please keep wildlife and your dog safe.

- Scoop-the-poop in our grounds and any field where farm animals are kept. Doggy bags can be placed in the dog bin in the car park.
- when using local footpaths and tracks please 'stick and flick'.
- please refrain from allowing dogs onto the beds.
- Dog throws and towels are in the hut - please help yourself

There are good short walks for dog exercise from Mocktree, the easy general routes start by taking either of the private roads up from our entrance junction or the track leading down to Leintwardine spurring off the junction 10meters from our junction. There are some large fenced fields up the road/track across the main road that can be used for runs when sheep free. Please ask any we will happily advise the best routes for you / sheep vacant fields.

**Eggs:** During the summer we have a produce stall in the courtyard with our eggs and available veg/fruit from our garden – any proceeds go to feed the chickens! Let us know if you would like some fresh eggs or to meet the chickens.



**Environment & Sustainability:** At Mocktree we are committed to sustainable green tourism:

**Electrics:** To help with our sustainability goals and to help us maintain our low prices, we kindly ask that you respect electric usage by turning-off lights and devices when not in use / in. Please turn the heating down if unrequired (radiator thermostats / electric heater output). Our solar panels help with our electricity usage and two of the cottages now have smart quantum heating systems which is clean and green as well as improving our energy consumption and EPC.

**Waste:** The bin area is in the car park next to the hut. The green wheelie bin is for mixed recycling plastic/metal/paper/cans/glass. The black bins are for general waste. The metal bin is for dog waste. Compostables can be placed in the compost bin within the courtyard. Recycling and composting helps keep costs down so please do your bit.

**Food Waste:** There is a food waste caddy provided for fruit and vegetables, tea bags, coffee grounds etc. If you have any uneaten food, please leave it in the fridge and we will compost as much as possible or let the chickens have a little treat! If you have any unopened food items, you do not wish to take home, please leave it on the kitchen bench and we will donate them to the local food bank.

**Drainage and Water Treatment:** At Mocktree we have our own water treatment and drainage system. Please only use the cleaning products provided and do not flush products/items down the toilet (unblocking the foul drain is not a nice job and removing a blockage from the tank is expensive. Please don't make me do it). Chemicals and dairy products should not be poured down the sinks. Our diamond flow system takes all of our waste water and uses good bacteria to treat the water before discharging it back into the earth. For this reason, we cannot use anti-bacterial or nasty chemical products as they kill our good bacteria and could potentially cause pollution. If you would like to know more, just ask its fascinating.

**Cleaning:** We only use natural cleaning products and methods and hope you agree that they work very well. Please do not use any nasties, if you require any cleaning or laundry products please just ask and we will happily provide them for you.

**Composting:** Our composting system is now in full swing. Food and garden waste is all composed as much as possible. We use a variety of systems for garden waste, leaf mulch, food waste tumblers and coming soon hot composting. The liquid from the composters is used as fertiliser so nothing is wasted. Well done worms you're doing a great job!

**Gardens:** We are committed to organic gardening so pesticide free. Yes, its hard work but the benefits of this far outweigh a few plants being in the wrong place. Our gardens are home to numerous birds, small mammals, amphibians, lizards, and insects. We are also visited by deer, snakes, hedgehogs and polecats all are welcome. Our vegetable patch is a work in progress, and we are learning the hard way (slugs)please feel free to take a look. A garden is never finished its always evolving so if you have any hints or tips they will be gratefully received.

**All of our initiatives go into making Mocktree a clean, green, affordable, sustainable place. Please help us achieve and exceed our goals!**



**Washing/Drying:** If you require fresh towels, linen, liquid (etc) please let us know. If you require urgent clothes washing / drying we should be able to do if our machines are available.

**Cooking Equipment:** If you require any further cooking equipment, pots, pans, dishes, utensils, tuppaware etc please let us know.

**Local Information:** We have a vast range of information and guides available. Please let us know if you require anything on a specific location, interest, activity etc.

### **Food Shopping:**

- In **Leintwardine** Griffith's Garage has a decent sized village store open 6am to 8pm for general supplies, drink, newspapers and the cheapest fuel around. Griffith's Butchers provides excellent meat, award winning sausages, pies and fresh bread.
- **Ludlow Food Centre**, at the Bromfield A49 junction, has a range of excellent local / artisan produce, garden centre and local artist gallery and Gin distillery.
- **Ludlow** has many fabulous local independent shops in the maze of streets. Please shop local to help our small businesses survive. Aldi and Tesco are located on the main drive into the Town Centre next to the train station plus Sainsburys is on the southside of Ludlow off the A49.
- **Ludlow Market** is held on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturdays.
- **Craven Arms** has the independent 'Harry Tuffins' supermarket with a vast eclectic range from the cheap/basic to extensive high-quality ready meals, alcohol and puds!

**Walking and Cycling:** We can provide you maps/guides and advice to assist your adventures from Mocktree. Our recommended walking targets for your stay would be:

- **Downton Estate / Leintwardine:** Numerous loops through the estate and to Leintwardine can be made from Mocktree with spectacular far-reaching views. You will need a map to keep you on the right track and navigate the many paths that you can chop-and-change during your stay from a morning/evening dog stroll to a longer distance day venture with a visit to our village pubs.
- **Mortimer Forest** Numerous waymarked walking and bike trails. (see map)
- **Hopton Woods** for waymarked Forestry England Mountain Biking trails. Great fun.
- **Church Stretton:** This walking and biking mecca allows you to walk up one valley traverse the Long Mynd summit and walk down an alternative valley tuning to the distance you wish to go! Or walks up Caer Caradoc, Lawley or Ragleth are rewarding.
- **Stiperstones:** Fantastic rocky ridge walk to the infamous 'Devil's Chair' with stunning views. Pair with a meal/drink at the Stiperstones Inn or Bridges Inn.
- **Clun Forest:** The walk from Clun through the ancient deciduous forest to Bury Ditches (iron age hill fort) summit is a must.

**Running:** Mortimer Forest 5k 'Park Run' is held at 9am Saturdays from Vinnal's car park.



**Swimming:** Ludlow leisure centre has a 25m lane pool and shallow kiddies splash pools. Wild river swimming at Leintwardine or next to Dinham Bridge in Ludlow (only in slow water).

**Breakfast:** The Ludlow farm shop café does, and excellent breakfast as does Ashlea Pools at Hopton Heath. Ludlow's independent cafes are all good but CSONS at Dinham Bridge is a favourite.

**Doctor:** Leintwardine Health Centre. 01547 540 355 / **Dentist:** Orchards, Knighton. 01547 520 396

**Taxi:** Annette's Ludlow 01584878787. Pets and bikes accepted on request.

**Minor Injuries:** Ludlow Community Hospital. 01584 872 201 / **A&E:** Hereford. 01432 355 444

**First Aid:** We have a first aid kit for use in emergencies at Mocktree. Please knock on our door or telephone above numbers.

**Vets:** Marches Veterinary Group, Ludlow. 01584 877 877 / 01568 612 266 (emergencies)

**Departure:** We do hope you enjoy your stay with us. On departure, please switch off all lights and appliances. If you have any breakages, or you cannot get something clean / to work, please let us know or leave on the kitchen bench to let us know so we can ensure everything is ready for the next guest. The key can be left in the outside of the door or you're welcome to return it to us / through our letter box.

Our aim at Mocktree is to offer the best value holiday accommodation we possibly can. We value your comments and suggestions. It's important for us to know what you feel we are getting right as well as how we can improve or if you have any suggestions for the future.

Reviews are very important to all small businesses. If there is anything that you are dissatisfied with, please bring this to our attention as soon as possible because issues can usually be resolved. Note on Airbnb anything below a five star is bad, so if you had minor issue please let us know on your private feedback but still consider giving us an overall five star for all of the things we got right!

Safe journey and we hope to see you again one day!