Enter another world — not only one of beautiful Buckinghamshire countryside, but also the world of Roald Dahl’s imagination.

GREAT MISSENDEN was home to this world-renowned children’s writer from 1954 to 1990. His grave in ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL PARISH CHURCH overlooks the village he loved, and from which he drew inspiration for his books. The imposing church was built in the 1300s, mainly of flint, a local material found lying in the fields.

Enter the ROALD DAHL MUSEUM AND STORY CENTRE through the Workia Gates, donated by Warner Brothers, and learn about this amazing author. (Open all year, Tuesday-Sunday). Pick up the 1hr circular walk to follow in Dahl’s footsteps, taking in Angling Spring Wood, the inspiration for ‘Fantastic Mr Fox’.

Character accommodation, independent cafés, specialist boutiques, pubs and restaurants make this a good stop for the night.

In Old English, Misenden means ‘valley where the marsh plants grow’, harking back to the time the River Misbourne flowed untempered through the village.

This pretty village grew up around ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, a place of pilgrimage for over 1,000 years; its interior dates to 973, and it has a classic Norman stone clock tower. The website chronicles the restoration of the nationally-important medieval wall paintings, discovered in 1931 and dating from the 12th to the 16th centuries, including a magnificent St. Christopher with Jesus. Open daily, this integral part of the community offers services, lectures, concerts, cream teas (Sundays, May-Sept), and is the main venue for the LITTLE MISSENDEN FESTIVAL. Enjoy a short break, staying in character properties, sampling local food and drink and walking in stunning scenery. Check out walkingbritain.co.uk (select Buckinghamshire, South Bucks), chilternsaonb.org, Chiltern Society and MapMyWalk.com

Other Midsomer trails in Buckinghamshire include ‘Marlow & the Hambleden Valley’ and ‘Step into Midsomer’ walks leaflet - download on www.visitbuckinghamshire/midsomer

• Satnav: HP7 0RA • Taxi: kingshillsandco.uk
• Parking: Village Hall HP7 1RP
• Public Transport: Train (Amersham or Great Missenden)

The Misbourne Valley is less than 1hr from Heathrow and London with excellent road and rail links and outstanding walking and cycling.

The 18-mile long River Misbourne is one of the world’s rare chalk streams, providing a unique habitat for kingfishers, brown trout and water voles.

Follow the footsteps of DCI Barnaby
MIDSOMER MURDERS LOCATIONS TRAIL
In Buckinghamshire

www.visitbuckinghamshire.org/midsomer
The River Misbourne wends its way through quintessentially English, Buckinghamshire countryside like an episode of Midsomer Murders; flowing below ground in some places, it passes through rural landscapes and historic market towns and villages packed with pretty cottages, stone churches, traditional pubs and fictional murder!

STOP 1
Our Midsomer Murders location trail begins in GREAT MISSENDEN, where you are in the good company of former residents, Prime Ministers Clement Attlee and Harold Wilson, and authors Robert Louis Stevenson and Roald Dahl. An old market town on the London to Buckingham coaching route, it has a distinctive architecture of merchant houses, historical shop fronts and traditional pubs.

We start at the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre. Looking from the street, the left-hand side of the ‘fushbunkingly gloriumptious’ café appeared as Shires Bank in ‘Planting in Blood’. From here, turn into Church Street, and cross over the Misbourne, where the cottages on your left appeared in ‘Not in my Backyard’. In this episode, planning, politics and conservation collide, resulting in a swathe of deaths. It bears all the hallmarks of the series: illicit affairs, spying, burglary, revolution, blackmail, greed, and some very creative murders! Walk further along Church Street to St. Peter and St. Paul Churchyard which appeared in ‘Masterclass’, and is where Roald Dahl is buried.

STOP 2
Featuring in thirteen episodes of the show, LITTLE MISSENDEN masqueraded as the village of Badger’s Drift in the show’s very first episode. Barnaby and Troy walk around the white-fenced village green to visit Mrs Rainbird who spies on villagers from her attic. Earning from blackmail, she and her son are later found hacked to death by Tom (again!).

In one direction on Hilmorton Cottages is St. John the Baptist Church - both internal and external shots of this Saxon church appeared in ‘Echoes of the Dead’.

In the other direction on Hilmorton Cottages is The Red Lion Pub (1649) which you may recognise as The White Swan in ‘Who Killed Cock Robin’, The Monk’s Retreat in ‘Talking to the Dead’ and The Signalman in ‘Echoes of the Dead’. Next door, the pub’s meeting room was transformed into Bernard’s hardware shop, where peeping tom, Bernard Flash, looks very uneasy at Barnaby’s arrival. This pretty building also appeared as a shop in ‘The Village that Rose from the Dead’. Behind the pub, the Misbourne itself appears in ‘Who Killed Cock Robin’ where the duck house is visible in a scene of Joyce feeding the ducks after being abandoned by Tom (again!).

STOP 3
On to arguably one of the prettiest market towns in England. Stepping into OLD AMERSHAM feels like stepping back in time, whilst giving out an on-trend vibe of entrepreneurial eating, drinking and shopping establishments.

BEGIN WITH A COUPLE OF HOURS AT AMERSHAM MUSEUM TO GET A FEEL FOR THE TOWN’S RICH HISTORY. SEEN ON ‘THE KILLINGS AT BADGER’S DRIFT’ AND THE 100TH EPISODE ‘THE KILLINGS OF COPENHAGEN’, WHEN 6.5M UK VIEWERS SAT DOWN TO WATCH LEADING ACTORS FROM BORGEN AND THE KILLING APPEAR ALONGSIDE OJC JOHN BARNABY AND DS CHARLIE NELSON.

Before entering Chalfont St. Peter, check out Horn Hill Village Hall which becomes the Bronzezni Dance School in ‘The Point of Balance’ and The Chalfont Motor Company is Wells Motor Company in ‘Secrets and Spies’. Espionage and cricket collide, and Barnaby resists in a fit of pique when he’s told not to get involved after ex-spy Geoffrey Larkin’s body is found.

In ‘Death of a Hollow Man’, Tom Barnaby (John Nettles) is painting stage scenery in preparation for his wife’s (Jane Wymark) appearance in Causton Amateur Dramatics’ production of Amadeus. Finding the body of Agnes Grey, coupled with a live stage ‘self-murder’ of her cousin Esslyn Carmichael, leaves Troy and Daniel Casey (Jane Wymark) looking for the connection.

Follow their trail by starting at St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, Austenwood, where they talk to Peggy Marshall in the Chantry Chapel to find out if Agnes had anything on her mind before she died. Pass Gold Hill Common and Market Place to Church Lane where they interview Mr Green in his snack van. Typically, Barnaby sits reading a newspaper and enjoying a bacon sandwich from the snack van in the car, sending Troy off with the key found around Agnes neck, to see which garage it fits.

For more information on each village, pop into the village libraries or Old Amersham Museum.
OLD AMERSHAM

OLD AMERSHAM is a beautifully maintained pre-Victorian market town with stunning architecture and a vibrant shopping and dining culture. Stay in The KING’S ARMS, a traditional black and white 15th century coaching inn and a Midsomer Murders’ filming location. Also a location for Miss Marple, and Four Weddings and a Funeral (external shots). Internal shots were at The Crown nearby, home to Atul Kochhar’s, 2 AA rosette, Hawkyns Restaurant. Exceptional food also at The Arroche, M(ident) star restaurant, located in a Grade 2 listed property in Market Square.

AMERSHAM MUSEUM sit within a restored medieval hall house and herb garden - explore Tudor life in 1580, and who owned the town in 1772. Fully accessible and offering guided walks of the town (check opening times).

The MEMORIAL GARDENS are a place like no other. Discover the Peace Garden and why Amersham has won Britain in Bloom’s GOLD AWARD, five years running.

From Amersham-on-the-Hill is a stunning 20min woodland and field walk or short taxi ride.

CHALFONT ST. GILES

CHALFONT ST. GILES is a pretty village which has grown up around a village green and duck pond, fed by the Misbourne River.

Famous poet, John Milton moved here from London’s Plague in 1665, and sold the rights to ‘Paradise Lost’ for £3. MILTON’S COTTAGE Trust received £20 from Queen Victoria for its purchase in 1887 (check opening times). A 1.5hr circular walk takes you from Milton’s Cottage via OAKLAND PARK GOLF COURSE, to the QUAKER MEETING HOUSE in Jordans, and back via Dibden Hill. Take a short walk to COOK MONUMENT on the Yache Estate. Built by Sir Hugh Palliser, patron of Captain Cook who discovered and charted New Zealand and the Arctic.

Enjoy TRADITIONAL COUNTRY EVENTS in the village – including the Literary Festival, May Day dancing, the country show, fireworks in November and Remembrance Sunday.

CHALFONT ST. PETER

Appearing in the Domesday Book of 1086, CHALFONT ST PETER is a bustling village of timber-clad independent shops, surrounded by green and pleasant COMMUNES. In June the village is decked with flags on FEAST DAY (Feast of St. Peter since 1229), with costumed characters, classic cars, dancing and music, culminating in the EVENING CONCERT on Gold Hill Common. Immerse yourself in the fun of community spirit.

In the 1600s Judge Jeffreys (the ‘hanging judge’) presided over his court at The Greyhound pub. Sit beside the Misbourne stream, supping a pint, much as Sir Winston Churchill did during his lifetime.

Pick up a leaflet from the library and spend 2-3 hours being entertained by the stories shown through the plaques on the CELFUNDE INHERITANCE self-guided Heritage Walk. It will take you round historic streets, past independent shops and cafes, along riverside walks, and onto the ancient common land. A great place to stay, with coaching inns, historic houses and other unique accommodation.