

# REBECCA RECOMMENDS

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*Finding Neverland* was filmed in Hyde Park, Brompton Cemetery and Kensington Gardens and starred Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet and Dustin Hoffman.

## Set-Jetting With Our Rebecca Recommends Partners

For movie enthusiasts and wanderlust seekers alike, the set-jetting trend offers a unique way to experience the magic of cinema in real life. Travelers can follow in the footsteps of their most beloved characters and see with their own eyes the staggeringly beautiful landscapes and city scenes that have inspired movie makers for decades. Our hotel and DMC partners around the world are no stranger to cinema, either located near film locations, or offering exclusive access to these destinations. From James Bond fans to champions of Harry Potter to *Bridgerton* devotees, these show-stealing beauties are Oscar-worthy.

Starring in their own special moment this fall, The Newt in Somerset was awarded the Best Boutique Hotel Award 2023 and ranked No. 37 globally in The World's 50 Best Hotels 2023. The list includes hotels from 35 locations across six continents. Please join us in congratulating the team at The Newt, honored to be represented alongside inspiring industry friends old and new in the celebration of the very best in hospitality.

Read on for inspiration for weaving in movie magic on your clients' next vacation (and come away with a few new movies and TV shows to add to your binge-watching list).

Fondly,

*Rebecca*



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*Explore wild and mysterious beauty in your own movie-making experiences.*

## [Dream Escape](#) - Adding Cinematic Sparkle to UK and Ireland Travel Experiences

The UK and Ireland play a starring role in many big hit movies and Dream Escape brings on the lights, cameras, and action with exciting itineraries to the destinations that have inspired and featured as film locations. Whether your clients are the biggest *Bridgerton* fans or lovers of romantic comedies, England is the perfect destination. From refined cities to the stateliest homes and glorious gardens, Dream Escape's England itineraries cover a range of locations seen on the big screen.

From nail-biting James Bond scenes to incredible historical dramas, Scotland has all the wild and mysterious beauty that has inspired film directors for decades. Dream Escape's exclusive experiences never disappoint, offering everything from private guided hikes to spectacular boat charters, allowing guests to get up close and personal with some of cinema and TV's most iconic locations including *Outlander* and *Harry Potter*.

And don't forget Ireland, which has played host to cinema's most famous battle scenes, unforgettable love stories, and seemingly everything in between. There are wide stretches of golden sandy beaches and dramatic clifftops to explore, and it's easy to get a taste of the action with Dream Escape's once-in-a-lifetime *Star Wars* and *Game of Thrones* experiences.

For your most fashion-forward clients, be sure to share the [feature article in Dream Escape Magazine](#) about *Vogue* model and photographer Lee Miller. Portrayed in a new film by Kate Winslet, the natural beauty from the Roaring Twenties was also one of the first female photographers on the front lines of World War II. Dream Escape guests can enjoy a private visit to the Lee Miller Archives on Farley Farm in Sussex. Dream Escape's Autumn/Winter issue can be enjoyed [HERE](#).

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*Follow in movie star Kevin McAllister's footsteps as he marvels at the magnificence of New York City.*

## [Beyond Times Square](#) - Lost in Luxury in New York City

Experience the seasonal wonder of NYC, expertly curated by Beyond Times Square. Picture this: Upon arrival, your clients may skip the taxi line and head to the luxury vehicle that awaits to transport them to their stunning five-star hotel. Once settled in, it's time to begin their immersion into the holiday magic!

First up - an exclusive set-jetting private tour where they'll unleash their inner Kevin McAllister by stepping into the world of the iconic holiday film *Home Alone 2: Lost In New York*. This experience has guests following in Kevin's footsteps - minus the bumbling burglars, of course. They'll marvel at the grand Plaza Hotel, visit enchanting Central Park, enjoy awe-inspiring views of Lady Liberty from Battery Park, soak up Times Square's excitement, and much more. Plus, after they've "scene" these well-known filming spots, they'll head to an observation deck of their choice for breathtaking views of the city from above. From there the sky's the limit (pun intended)!

Add premium tickets to the world-famous Christmas Spectacular, ice skate at an iconic rink, take in the spectacular holiday lights, sail on a caroling and cocoa cruise, or wander through vibrant holiday markets - just to name a few experiences. Whichever your clients choose, you can trust Beyond Times Square with the NYC holiday adventure they've been dreaming of, with no detail overlooked.

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*Step into the rugged beauty of Highlander, filmed in the valleys of Glen Torridon.*

## [The Torridon](#) - Explore Captivating Natural Film Sets

Nestled amidst breathtaking landscapes, The Torridon and its surrounding area has played host to a range of A-list locations over the years.

Visit the resort and escape to the rugged beauty of *Highlander*, filmed in the valleys of Glen Torridon at Coire Mhic Fhearchair near the magnificent Beinn Eighe. Explore the mystique of *Loch Ness*, actually filmed on Loch Torridon at Diabaig or enjoy the enchantment of *Stardust* and *The Eagle*, both filmed around the landscapes of The Torridon.

Each stay here is an invitation to traverse the worlds that have captivated audiences through the decades while enjoying a great escape. On request, a private tour can be arranged that takes guests around the locations familiar from the silver screen.

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Enjoy your own experiences in Udaipur, just like James Bond. Photo credit - Flickr

## [Ventours International](#) - Uncovering India's Most Captivating Cities

Cinema buffs are in luck throughout India, where Ventours International can take travelers behind the curtain, per se, to the film-friendly cities of Udaipur, Jaipur, and Mumbai. Udaipur remains a top holiday destination within the country for its fabulous, award-winning hotels. This is also where one can live out their James Bond daydreams in the same city where *Octopussy* was filmed, with Roger Moore as James Bond.

Jaipur, the capital city of Rajasthan, offers exhilarating experiences, wonderful sites, and textile, jewelry and gem shopping. *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* was filmed here - but not to worry, the hotels are a huge improvement on what was featured in the film! The award-winning Taj Rambagh Palace is the most in demand, as are the Oberoi Rajvilas and other charming hotels.

Mumbai is a city as scintillating as the movie *Slumdog Millionaire*. Mumbai's experiences are unlike the rest of India with its great energy, financial emphasis and professionals committed to their work. All this is complemented by some distinctive features - Dhobi Ghat, the open-air laundry, Banganga, a holy tank reminiscent of the holy city of Varanasi, and architecture that includes the finest in Doric, Gothic, and Art Deco.

The movie *Darjeeling Limited* traversed through the city of Jodhpur, popularly known as The Blue City. The majestic fort complex towers over the city. Ventours can arrange for an enthralling tuk tuk ride through the narrow streets and suggest bustling antiques shops with exquisite collectibles.

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*A scene from Marie Antoinette.*

## [Decouvertes](#) - Walk in the Footsteps of Your Favorite Characters

Decouvertes' exclusive set-jetting experiences transport movie buffs into the glamorous worlds of their favorite films, allowing the chance to indulge in luxury, adventures, and romance. Explore iconic film locations, dine at exquisite Parisian bistros, and live the cinematic dream. Here are a few of the experiences and discoveries they have in their set list:

- *Emily in Paris*: Walk the streets of Emily's fashionable adventures.
- *Midnight in Paris*: Time-travel to the romantic Jazz Age, where the streets of Paris hold secrets and intrigue.
- *Inglourious Basterds*: Step into the clandestine world of WWII resistance in the hidden taverns of France.
- *Marie Antoinette*: Revel in the opulent extravagance of Versailles.
- *Moulin Rouge*: Dance the can-can and experience the allure of the world-famous cabaret, set in the heart of Montmartre.
- *Ratatouille*: Savor gourmet delights in the heart of Paris.
- *Love, Actually*: Relive romantic moments set against charming French locales.
- *An American in Paris*: Step into Gene Kelly's iconic dance routines.
- *Mission Impossible*: Embark on thrilling espionage missions in exotic locales.

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*The movie Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason starring Renée Zellweger, Colin Firth, and Hugh Grant. Photo credit - IMDb*

## [The Hari](#) - Set-Jetting in the Quintessentially British Neighborhood of Belgravia

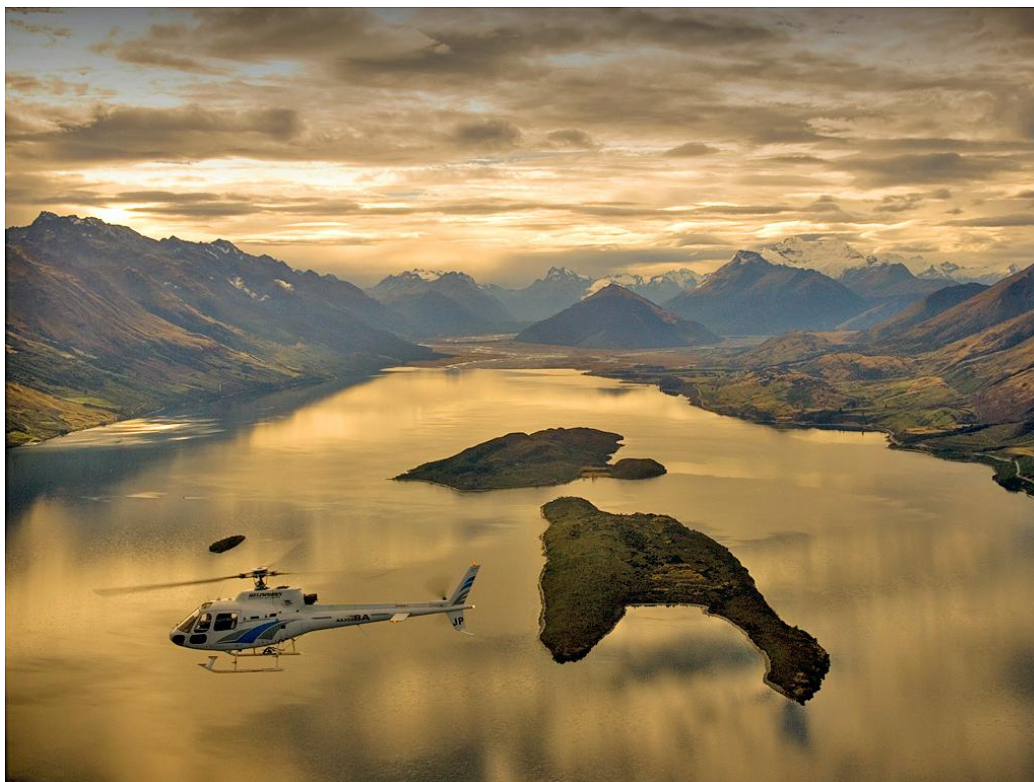
At The Hari, guests are never far away from the breathtaking action of the silver screen. Over the years, countless feature films have been shot across London, many of which have taken place close to the hotel's beautiful neighborhood. For cinephiles seeking the perfect excuse to follow in the footsteps of cult classics, look no further than this Belgravia residence.

Situated only 10 minutes away, Hyde Park offers a trip down memory lane to the memorable quarreling scene at the Italian fountains between Mark Darcy and Daniel Cleaver in *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*. Its neighboring park, Kensington Gardens, also hosts the location of another popular film - *Finding Neverland*. Here, you can also find a statue of Peter Pan, which was gifted by the creator *Sir James Barrie*.

If taking shelter from the English autumn weather is more appealing, Harrods can provide film fanatics with an iconic piece of cinematic history. For the first time ever, the department store opened its doors to a bustling camera crew for the filming of a scene from an English classic, *Peter Rabbit*. Set in the fantastical Toy Kingdom, the film pays homage to the wonders of the world's leading luxury department store - a delight for guests at The Hari to explore free-heartedly.

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*An awe-inspiring helicopter journey through scenic vistas await you in favorite film location Glenorchy.*

## [Blanket Bay](#) - Overnight Where Gandalf Once Stayed

For those hoping to visit one of the world's most captivating film locations, few places can compare to Blanket Bay near Glenorchy in New Zealand's South Island. Home to the picturesque lakeside village of Glenorchy (population 680) and surrounded by mountain vistas that truly wow visitors, this might actually be one of the most-filmed regions on the planet. Even the 45-minute drive to get there, along the lake from nearby Queenstown (a favorite location for filming TV car commercials), will simply take one's breath away with scenic vistas that almost overwhelm the senses. J.R.R. Tolkien's world was one of deep hidden valleys, remote mystical mountains, and lush low valleys, which made Glenorchy the perfect backdrop for Sir Peter Jackson's epic *The Lord of the Rings* film trilogy.

From the comfort of [Blanket Bay](#), one of New Zealand's leading luxury lodges, guests can take in the dramatic splendor of the area and best of all, have it completely to themselves. From Blanket Bay's private dock, Dart River Jet operates tours into the Dart Valley by jet boat (a uniquely New Zealand invention) and funyak canoe, providing an ideal opportunity to explore Isengard, Lothlórien, and Amon Hen, or better still, experience it by helicopter from Blanket Bay's front lawn.

While *The Lord of the Rings* holds pride of place with so many New Zealanders, Glenorchy is equally famous for so many other films like *Vertical Limits*, *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, *The Water Horse*, and more.

Visit Glenorchy and soak up the luxury of Blanket Bay (where Gandalf, Sir Ian McKellen himself, stayed in 2000 during the filming of *The Lord of the Rings*). Just be warned; photos really can't do this place justice!

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*Experience your own Lord of the Rings moment at Tongariro National Park. Photo credit - Destination Lake Taupo*

## [Southern Crossings](#) - Live Out Your Favorite On-Screen Moments

### [NEW ZEALAND](#)

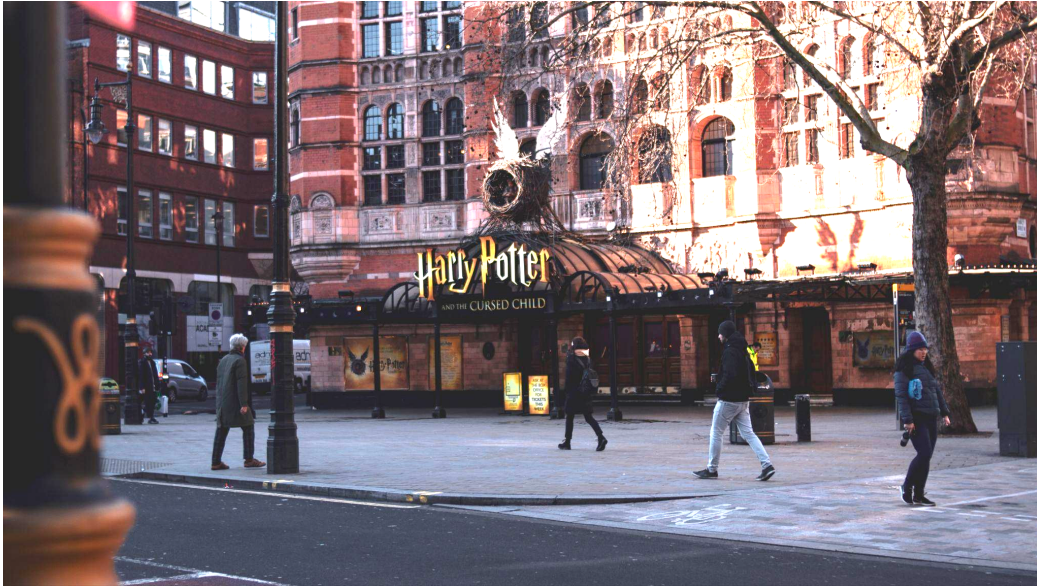
From *Mulan* to *Whale Rider*, *King Kong*, *The Last Samurai*, and many more, New Zealand's jaw-dropping landscapes have inspired and featured in many blockbuster films - most famously, *The Lord of the Rings*. While "Hobbiton" provides a raft of Middle Earth movie-set experiences, there are also many other locations across New Zealand to enjoy a spectacular Lord of the Rings moment: from Earnslaw Burn (Rivendell) to the stunning Tongariro Crossings (Mt. Doom), Southern Crossings guests can experience some of the trilogy's most dramatic settings - and some of New Zealand's most spectacular landscapes - with heli-touring options and breath-taking hikes.

Elsewhere across the country, visitors can immerse in Coromandel's Cathedral Cove (Cair Paravel ruins) from *The Chronicles of Narnia*, the dramatic scenery of Glenorchy and Milford Sound, featured alongside Tom Cruise in *Mission Impossible - Fallout* and Disney's *Pete's Dragon* - touring by helicopter, jetboat, a scenic drive, or on foot.

True film buffs can go behind the scenes of Wellington's WETA workshop, where the Avatar series' special effects, props, and costumes were created. While there, they can see visual effects and props from movies such as *King Kong*, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, *Prometheus*, *District 9*, and *The Avengers*.

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*Tour numerous London filming locations used in the movie Harry Potter.*

## [The Red Carnation Hotel Collection](#) - Blurring the Lines Between Real and Reel

Experience the magic of cinema in real life in Ireland and London, which stand as veritable treasure troves for such adventures. Their breathtaking landscapes have played host to some of the most beloved films and TV shows, letting reel and reality intertwine seamlessly. Journeying through these iconic locations is like stepping into the scenes that have captured our imagination.

London's streets have long shared the limelight with beloved characters, none more so than the magical world of Harry Potter. Stay at [The Rubens at the Palace](#) and delve into Potter's London. Embark on a tour of filming locations that will transport you to Platform 9¾ and beyond before extending the enchantment with a visit to the Harry Potter Studio Tour, perfectly arranged through our sister company Evan Evans. For a truly spellbinding night, catch *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* in the heart of the West End, with The Rubens ensuring every moment is perfectly staged.

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*A scene reminiscent of Bridgerton.*

If the regal allure of *Bridgerton* beckons, [The Egerton House Hotel](#) is your answer. During the summer months, the hotel's facade adorned with floral bouquets and wisteria sets a scene reminiscent of the show's opulent charm. Afternoon Tea in the Drawing Room completes the experience. Once evening sets in, your clients can channel their inner James Bond and sample an exquisite martini, arguably London's best, made table-side.



*Enjoy a silver screen moment with lively traditional Irish music and dance.*

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Venturing into the Irish countryside, the majestic [Ashford Castle](#) stands as a testament to cinematic history. From the medieval drama of *Reign* to *The Quiet Man*, Ashford Castle's grandeur has graced the silver screen. Following in the footsteps of legends John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara, a stay at Ashford Castle offers more than just luxury; it presents a chance to relive the past. The meticulously restored Quiet Man Cottage, "Squire Danagher's," reminiscent of a bygone era, invites guests to fully immerse themselves in Ireland's rich cultural heritage.

Ireland's rugged beauty takes center stage as one follows in the footsteps of many *Game of Thrones* characters through Northern Ireland's Westeros. A visit to the Skellig Islands off the coast of County Kerry allows fans to stand where Luke Skywalker once sought solitude.

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*A picnic in the movie Out Of Africa. Photo Credit - Angama Mara*

## [Exeter Safari](#) - Out of Africa, in Real Life

For many travelers to Africa, the spark that inspired a visit to the continent was the iconic film *Out of Africa*. Made famous by Robert Redford and Meryl Streep, much of this award-winning film was shot on the slopes surrounding Angama Mara, one of Kenya's most luxurious safari lodges. Guests staying at this incredible lodge can enjoy a romantic Out of Africa-themed picnic, including checked blankets, comfy cushions, canvas safari chairs, a wicker picnic basket, sparkling wine on ice, coffee in a Stanley flask, elegant picnic food, and of course, that view. Our friends at Exeter Safari have the magic touch to make it all possible.

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*Nepal's rich cultural heritage has served as the backdrop in many highly-acclaimed movies.*

## [The Dwarika's Hotel](#) - Relive the Hollywood Magic

Nepal has long been a hidden gem for filmmakers seeking a perfect backdrop for their cinematic masterpieces. The country's breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and historic charm have served as a captivating canvas for a wide range of Hollywood productions. Among the most celebrated movies shot against Nepal's awe-inspiring scenery is *Doctor Strange*, where Kathmandu's ancient streets and mystical aura served as the setting for the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The epic *Everest* brought the world's highest peak to life, portraying the journey of climbers while facing the challenges of Mount Everest. In an action-comedy film featuring Eddie Murphy, *The Golden Child*, Nepal played a prominent role in several scenes, showcasing its mystical elements and breathtaking landscapes. Brad Pitt's *Seven Years in Tibet* is another cinematic gem that captured the allure of Nepal, showcasing the Himalayan landscapes and Tibetan culture in a poignant story of self-discovery.

As your clients embark on a cinematic journey to relive these iconic movie scenes, The Dwarika's Hotel serves as an ideal abode in Nepal. Nestled in the heart of Kathmandu, The Dwarika's is a symphony of Newari architecture and luxury where the essence of Nepal's captivating heritage is seamlessly woven into every aspect of the ambiance.

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*A scene from Netflix's Bridgerton.*

## [Great Fosters](#) - See the Palaces that Inspired Bridgerton and Downtown Abbey

The area surrounding Great Fosters is a director's dream and offers unique opportunities to explore locations that have played significant roles in recent productions.

Explore the magnificent Hampton Court Palace, Henry VIII's Tudor residence, which provided the backdrop for numerous scenes in Netflix's *Bridgerton* (seasons 1 and 2 and *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story*), including the wedding reception for Anthony and Edwina, the corridor in Benedict's art academy, the printer's studio, and Queen Charlotte's court.

Harry Potter fans can visit nearby Windsor Great Park, which featured in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Parts One and Two* and of, course, take the Warner Bros. Studios Studio Tour where guests can explore the magic of the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, explore iconic sets, and discover what it took to bring the Harry Potter films to life - the perfect multi-generational experience.

And who can resist a visit to beautiful Highclere Castle, aka Downton Abbey? Great Fosters can organize a private tour of the castle, including the beautiful state rooms and castle bedrooms and a tour of Cogges Manor (used as Yew Tree Farm in the series) and Bampton, which avid watchers will recognize as Downton village.

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*Visit heritage film locations along the North York Moors Railway.*

## [The Hall at Bolton Abbey](#), Step Back in Time to Beloved Period Productions

The historic Hall at Bolton Abbey dates to the 1350s, and as such is the perfect base to visit heritage film locations across Yorkshire. *Downton Abbey* and *Bridgerton* were filmed across multiple locations in the county, including Harewood House, Castle Howard, and the North York Moors Railway.

The North York Moors Railway was also used as the original Hogsmeade Station in the Harry Potter franchise, and visitors will be treated to sights of heritage steam trains even today. The franchise also features the spectacular limestone pavements at Malham Cove, and The Shambles in York is the inspiration behind Diagon Alley.

Bolton Abbey is classic James Herriot country, and locations around the estate feature in the new *All Creatures Great and Small*. For those looking for the grit and glamour of the compelling 1920s gangster drama *Peaky Blinders*, find it in the urban centers of West Yorkshire and the handsome country estates that lie farther north.

The second series of *The Witcher*, with Henry Cavill, features a number of popular Yorkshire filming locations. Look out for the dramatic limestone cliffs and waterfalls at Gordale Scar, the lake and gardens at Plumpton Rocks, and the historic Fountains Abbey.

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*UK Master Chef Monica Galetti enjoy a moment in between shooting for Amazing Hotels.*

## [Resplendent Ceylon](#) - Sri Lanka as Screen Star

### [Ceylon Tea Trails](#)

Ceylon Tea Trails was featured on the globally renowned BBC series *Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby* on September 3, 2023. The celebrity presenters, barrister Rob Rinder and UK MasterChef Monica Galetti, got hands-on and joined the hotel teams as temporary members of staff to experience firsthand how things really work backstage. By immersing themselves in both the guest experience and the staff's experience, they truly grasped how the magic comes to life at Ceylon Tea Trails. From learning about everything from tea and the flavors of Sri Lankan cuisine to tracking leopards, Ron and Monica experienced all that Tea Trails has to offer. Situated right on the edges of Sri Lanka's revered Central Highlands World Heritage site, this haven boasts five bungalows and a secluded one-bedroom cottage, all ensconced within a sprawling 2,000-acre expanse of verdant tea plantations. From Summerville's tranquil lakeside charm to Tientsin's elegance, the bungalows are named after their past occupants, preserving the stories of their yesteryears.

### [Cape Weligama](#)

Resplendent Ceylon was proud to play location host to *The Night Manager*, a critically acclaimed TV drama where not only were scenes for the series shot, but where renowned stars Aditya Roy Kapoor and Sobhita Dhulipala stayed during their time filming the hit show. Cape Weligama is a Relais and Châteaux luxury beach resort located on a headland in the southern coast of Sri Lanka, offering stunning panoramic views of the Indian Ocean. Part of the Resplendent Ceylon brand, the resort boasts 39 private villas and suites, each designed with elegant interiors, private pools, and spacious terraces. Guests can enjoy a range of activities such as surfing, yoga, and whale watching, and indulge in authentic Sri Lankan cuisine at the resort's restaurants.

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*Imagine yourself as James Bond in Skyfall on a motorcycle chase through the Grand Bazaar of Istanbul.*

## [Sea Song](#) - Put Yourself in James Bond's Shoes

Sea Song boasts exclusive entree into some of Istanbul's most desired destinations, including the rooftop of the Grand Bazaar, where the motorcycle chase in *James Bond: Sky Fall* was filmed. From up here, visitors feel like they're on top of the city, mesmerized by the far-reaching views. Walk about the maze-like rooftop and imagine what the filming must have been like before stepping back down to ground level to peel back the layers of the colorful and labyrinthine Grand Bazaar, shopping for everything the heart might desire.

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*Enjoy a terrace view of Conwy Castle.*

## [Bodysgallen Hall & Spa](#) - Epic Film Locations in North Wales

Mountains, lakes, ancient quarries, craggy coastline, wide sandy beaches, castle ruins, and stately homes - all this can be found in North Wales, posing as ideal film locations. Historic Bodysgallen Hall is within easy reach of it all, known for its comfort and cuisine, in a dominating position on Pydew Mountain with far-reaching views to Conwy Castle and the mountains of Snowdonia (Eryri), and surrounded by award-winning gardens and wooded parkland.

Now the property of the National Trust, Bodysgallen is located just a 15-minute drive from another National Trust property, Bodnant Garden, which was the location for the filming of *The Secret Garden*, released in 2020.

A little farther away, situated on a private peninsula overlooking stunning coastal scenery, the Italian Riviera meets rural Wales with a riot of color and architectural styles at Portmeirion Village. Portmeirion Village is well known as the location for the 1960s cult TV series *The Prisoner*, starring Patrick McGoohan. Its cult status was established in the 1970s with the Prisoner Appreciation Society, and each year fans hold The Prisoner Convention with public events, including the Election Parade, Tally-Ho Theatre, and Human Chess.

In 2020, while Australia was still in lockdown from the Covid pandemic, the production team of the ITV series *I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here* decided to find a location in the UK for that year. They discovered the ruined Gwrych Castle, a Grade 1 listed 19<sup>th</sup>-century country house near Abergele, Conwy, nestling in woods on the side of a hill within a 236-acre estate. Just a 10-minute drive from Bodysgallen Hall, you can explore the castle or take a guided "I'm a Celebrity Tour" to see some of the props that were left behind after filming.

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*The Shambles, a historic street in York, England, features preserved medieval buildings, some built in the 14th century.*

## [Middlethorpe Hall & Spa](#) - In the Midst of Movie Action

The vast county of Yorkshire is steeped in history and offers perfect locations for filming. Centrally located in the capital York, Middlethorpe Hall is the perfect base to visit film set locations and return to the comfort of this historic house.

The streets of York, such as Micklegate and St William's College, have often been used as a backdrop to historic films, and York Minster was used as a location in the Netflix series *The Crown*. The magnificent Castle Howard is a short drive away, used in both *Bridgerton* and *Brideshead Revisited*.

The rugged open North York Moors lends itself to adventure, so visitors can soak up the views in comfort and add a journey to their itinerary on the North York Moors Railway, used in the latest *Indiana Jones* film.

For fans of *Downton Abbey*, Yorkshire is the home to many of the film sets used in this popular period drama. Harewood House plays the home of Lord Lascelles, while Bradford's Little Germany is used as the streets of York. The Beamish open-air museum featured as the early-20<sup>th</sup>-century equivalent of Colonial Williamsburg, and Alnwick Castle in Northumberland to which Lady Edith moved from Downton. Wentworth Woodhouse served as the set of a ball held in the magnificent Marble Saloon in honor of the King and Queen's visit in 1912 as guests of the Earl and Countess Fitzwilliam.

Last but not least, scenes from the *Harry Potter* blockbuster series were filmed in The Shambles in York and at Alnwick Castle.

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*Skellig Michael, an island monastery towering over the sea, one of two UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the Republic of Ireland.*

## [Lismore Castle](#), Scenes from Your Favorite Films

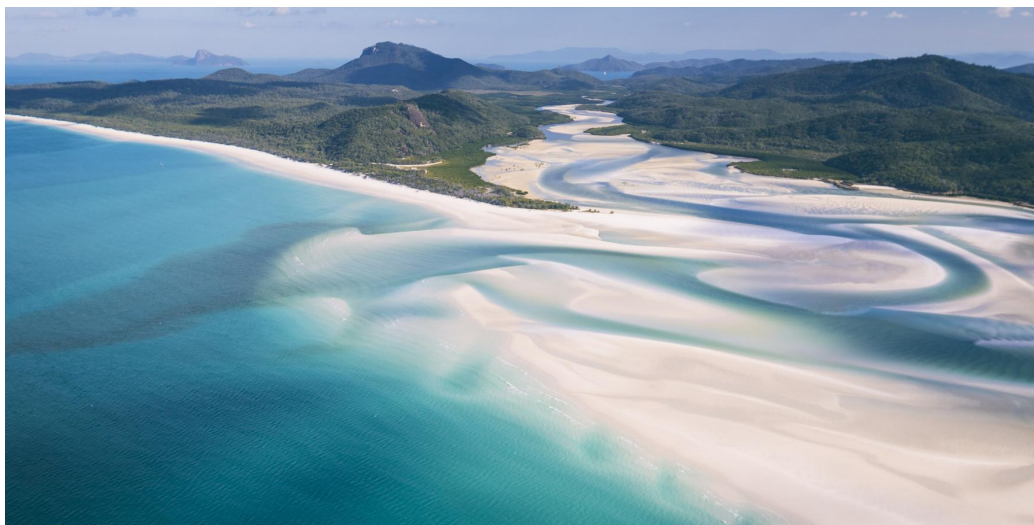
Andrew Davies chose ancient and cavernous Lismore Castle for the setting of *Northanger Abbey* because “... the physical place, has to be very important in the film because it’s called Northanger Abbey, yet we spend the first half of the film just having lots of references to it. So, it can’t be a disappointment. Lismore Castle delivers ... all the things you expect with a romantic castle.”

Skellig Michael was already iconic. When the Millennium Falcon swooped in over the Atlantic on its way to Ahch-To in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, however, it became even more so. *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* ramped it up another level, with long scenes filmed not just on the Skelligs, but Malin Head in County Donegal and on the Dingle Peninsula. Fans taking lightsabers and Jedi cloaks to Skellig Michael was just the start of it ... a “May the Fourth Be With You” festival has become an annual event.

The sixth movie of the Harry Potter series features a section filmed in both Kerry and Clare. In the scene, Dumbledore and Harry stand on an isolated rock - Lemon Rock in Kerry. The camera then swoops out over sea cliffs - the world-famous Cliffs of Moher.

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*Whitehaven Beach on Whitsunday Island, Queensland, Australia is accessible by boat, seaplane, and helicopter. Photo credit - Tourism Whitsundays*

## Southern Crossings - Reel Life Down Under

### AUSTRALIA

From Australian “classics” like *Crocodile Dundee*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *The Man from Snowy River*, and the *Dish*, to newer (and perhaps less obviously Australian) box-office hits such as *Thor: Ragnarok*, and *Pacific Rim: Uprising*, the landscapes in the lands Down Under have starred in a plethora of films.

Walking through the streets of Sydney, keen-eyed movie buffs will recognize scenes from Keanu Reeves’ *Matrix*, Tom Cruise’s *Mission Impossible II*, and Angelina Jolie’s *Unbroken*. Those who ride the ferry to Manly may also recognize scenes from Leonardo di Caprio’s *Great Gatsby*.

In almost every corner of the continent, there are familiar (and less so) film locations to enjoy: from Hobart and the beautiful beaches of Bruny Island in Tasmania that featured in Dev Patel and Nicole Kidman’s *Lion*, to the *Broken Hill Outback*, which has appeared in movies such as *Mad Max*, *Strangerland*, and more.

The stunning white sands of the Whitsundays on Australia’s Great Barrier Reef have featured as *Muriel’s Wedding’s* “Hibiscus Island,” as the backdrop for Jonny Depp’s swashbuckling in *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and more recently, the region’s qualia (a fabulous Whitsunday stay) has even doubled as a luxury resort in Bali for Julia Roberts and George Clooney in *Ticket to Paradise*.

# REBECCA RECOMMENDS

*Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence*



*Stowe House, an easy visit from Hartwell House.*

## [Hartwell House & Spa](#) - Lights, Camera, Escape!

Step into the grandeur of Hartwell House and discover local film and TV filming locations surrounding this historic estate, while soaking up quintessential English country-house allure.

The Netflix period series *Bridgerton* was filmed in several grand houses and estates throughout England. Hartwell House serves as the ideal base to visit some of these nearby locations, including Dorney Court, Halton House, and the Temple of Venus at Stowe House Landscape Gardens, which was also featured in James Bond's *Tomorrow Never Dies*.

Blenheim Palace, the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, is a world-class visitor attraction with cultural and sporting events. It was used in the filming of *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* in 1989 and is reached by road in just under an hour from Hartwell House. Just 40 minutes away, Harry Potter fans can indulge in the studio tour and walk-through exhibition that boasts original film sets, animatronic creatures, and special effects, plus a treasure-trove of film artifacts.