

MEET READING 2025

Your guide to
great meetings
and conference
venues under
half an hour
from London

[MeetReading.co.uk](https://www.meetreading.co.uk)

Contact: Alex Brannen – alex.brannen@reading.gov.uk / 07860 779166



WELCOME TO READING a very modern town at the cutting edge of business with 1,000 years of history and a great lifestyle offer. Here are our top 6 reasons to think Reading for your next event.



Location, location, location – we are 23 minutes from London on mainline trains plus there are direct trains into the West End, City and Docklands on the Elizabeth Line from Reading. Welcome to probably the best-connected location outside the Capital.



We're good at business – the world of business is already here – you'll be amazed how many global brands have offices in Reading, from big pharma to defence, financial services to retail, FMCG to energy.



All the cache of a University town – Reading is a centre of innovation and creativity with the University at its heart. And they have great conference facilities!



The perfect venue – Reading can provide the perfect venue for your event, with excellent quality venues at major hotels groups and conference centres. We can host your event from 2 to 700 and have the hotel beds to make sure your residential stay is seamless.



Enjoy yourselves – Reading is a youthful and vibrant place with a lifestyle that attracts millennials and families. Build a fun social programme around your event to make sure your delegates have a great time.



Great value – Reading is an excellent value alternative to London, with many of the benefits of the big city without the drawbacks and much cheaper!





LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Reading is one of the best-connected meeting locations in the UK. We are 40 minutes west of London (even less by train), close to Heathrow Airport and at the heart of the Thames Valley, the most vibrant economy in the UK.

From London by train, Reading is just 23 minutes on the Great Western Mainline from Paddington and Reading is also served by direct trains from London Waterloo as well as the new Elizabeth Line, which means you can travel direct to Reading from Canary Wharf, the City or West End without changing trains. Reading is a national rail hub and is reachable directly from over 250 stations across the UK.

By car, Reading is just two miles north of the M4 Junction 11 and we are also close to the M3 and A34. For delegates arriving by air, Reading is 40 minutes from London Heathrow Airport by RailAir or the Elizabeth Line and is served by direct trains to Gatwick Airport, Southampton Airport and Birmingham Airport.

A BUSINESS POWERHOUSE

Reading consistently features as one of Europe's powerhouse economies. With major clusters of IT, pharma, finance, energy, business services and now film businesses, you'll find many of the world's big business names here as well as many of the next generation. From Bayer to PepsiCo, Virgin Media to SSE, Thames Water to Ericsson, Microsoft to PwC and now Shinfield Studios, Reading is a thriving business hub.



A UNIVERSITY TOWN

Reading University is among the world's top 200 universities with world-leading research in many areas including climate change research, agriculture and business. As well as providing a highly skilled workforce for Reading, the University's Thames Valley Science Park is a hot bed of innovation and creativity. The University is also ranked the UK's Number One Sustainable University.

KEY BUSINESS SECTORS IN READING

Technology and communications

Reading's strong mix of tech businesses and a highly-skilled workforce sits at the heart of Europe's largest tech cluster in the Thames Valley. From global giants to high growth SMEs and tech start ups, Reading's tech sector specialises in software, telecoms, cyber security, cloud computing, big data and the Internet of Things. Reading has the highest digital density in the UK. Communications giants Virgin, Ericsson and Nokia have large offices in Reading.

Creatives and film

Reading has the second highest growth in employment in the creative sector after London. We are fast becoming a major film production location with the UK's largest film studios, Shinfield Studios, open just south of the town, and the University of Reading's Cine Valley, as well as other industry-leading facilities recently opened.

Energy and renewables

Reading's competitive business advantage is aided in the energy sector by the University of Reading's world leading research in climate change and meteorology, energy grids and urban sustainability. Based in Reading are SSE, Thames Water, Wood, European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts and the Royal Meteorological Society.

Business and financial services

Reading has grown into a regional and national hub for financial and business services. All the top business consultancies have their Thames Valley offices in Reading, Prudential have had a long association with Reading while finance houses Barclays, VISA, HSBC and Macquarie are all here.



There is also a strong legal representation in central Reading from firms such as Olswang, Shoosmiths, Clarks Legal, Boyes Turner, Blandy & Blandy and Field Seymour Parkes.

Biopharma and biotech

Located within the wider 'golden triangle' of UK life sciences activity, Reading is increasingly seen as a major player in attracting life sciences businesses. The opening of the Thames Valley Science Park and the development of pharma clusters on a number of Reading business parks is adding to that offer. Menarini Pharma, Proton Partners, Bayer, PRA Health Sciences, Pierre Fabre, Britannia Pharmaceuticals and Sanofi are among the pharma businesses located here.

Defence

With world-renowned research at the University of Reading and the Atomic Weapons Establishment offices relocating to Reading's Green Park, a strong cluster of defence related businesses has grown up in and around Reading. Blue-chip aerospace and defence organisation Collins Aerospace are based at Winnersh Triangle, while French technology business Thales, operates across aerospace, defence, digital security, transport and space at Green Park.

Retail and logistics

Reading town centre has always been among the top performing retail spaces in the South East, anchored by The Oracle and Broad Street Mall. Reading also boasts offices for Hammerson, who operate many shopping centres, the UK Primark HQ, a Tesco distribution centre and capacity to grow the logistics infrastructure further around the edges of Reading.

A CREATIVE HUB

While Reading is still known as the Silicon Valley of the Thames Valley, it is the investment in the creative industries that are making many of the waves of late. **Shinfield Studios**, a state of the art, purpose-built studio facility located close to Reading, is already making Netflix and Disney productions on its 18 new stages, rivalling Pinewood for major productions. Alongside the new film studios, three of the world's best known academic organisations are setting up research and collection storage facilities. The British Museum will be the first to open in Reading, followed by the Natural History Museum and Kew Gardens.



Alongside these household names, Reading has gaming companies, design consultancies, a vibrant homegrown cultural community, resident professional theatre companies, independent cinemas, orchestras and much more, as befits a town linked to Oscar Wilde, Jane Austen and Fox Talbot.



A WIDE RANGE OF VENUES UP TO 700 CAPACITY

Reading has a wide range of business hotels, dedicated conference centres and more unusual venues to choose from. The many town centre venues are all a short walk from Reading's impressive railway station while venues to the south of the town centre are easily accessible by road from the M4 or rail from the new Green Park Station.

Capacities range from 2 to 700 with small to medium size meetings a particular strength. But if you are looking for a venue for a few hundred up to 700, Reading can host you in comfort. And with over 2500 hotel bedrooms, we can also ensure delegates are accommodated on site.

Conference venues south of the town centre include De Vere Wokefield Estate, Hilton Reading, Holiday Inn Reading-South and Crowne Plaza Reading East, all close to Green Park business park and the University of Reading. While the University boasts its own conference facilities at Venue Reading.

In the town centre, Reading Town Hall has the largest capacity in Reading (700), while town centre hotels the Penta, Malmaison, Novotel and the boutique Roseate Reading can cater for events for a few hundred or a board room meeting and cinema screening for 12.

Looking for somewhere a bit different? Cruise while you do business on a Thames Rivercruise boat, complete with lunch and an idyllic Thames backdrop.

As well as great choice, Reading's venues offer excellent day rates, room rates and venue fees, which compare very favourably with those in nearby London, making Reading a good value alternative to the capital.

1. CROWNE PLAZA READING EAST



Exceptional, fully refurbished 4 Silver Star Crowne Plaza Reading East offering 174 spacious luxurious bedrooms with king-size beds, 50" TV, and complimentary parking for guests. New 2 AA Rosette Restaurant & Terrace and Bar/Lounge serving modern British and authentic Asian cuisine. Esprit Wellness & Spa with sauna, steam room, extensive gym with Life Fitness equipment, 19m heated indoor pool, gym, spa treatments. 8 state of art meeting rooms with wireless technology, breakout areas and natural light. Minutes from M4, walking distance to adjacent train station, ideally located for Reading, Bracknell, Wokingham and London Heathrow.



HIGHLIGHTS ★

- Caprice restaurant
- Monty's bar
- Esprit spa
- Secure parking
- EV charging

- Bedrooms: 174
- Theatre capacity: 260
- Boardroom capacity: 78

☎ 0118 944 0444

✉ events@cpreading.co.uk

📍 Wharfedale Road, Winnersh Triangle, Reading, RG41 5TS

🖱 www.cpreading.co.uk

2. DE VERE WOKEFIELD ESTATE



Set in 250 acres of Berkshire countryside, De Vere Wokefield Estate has been completely transformed following a £20 million refurbishment. Wokefield Place is a modern, purpose-built building, home to 222 bedrooms and 31 meeting spaces including our largest meeting room, the Wokefield Suite. Wokefield Estate has a total of 2 bars and 2 restaurants. Outside, you'll find an 18-hole championship golf course, all-weather driving range and putting green. Conveniently located, Wokefield Estate is just 10 minutes from Junction 11 of the M4 and 40 minutes from Heathrow Airport.



HIGHLIGHTS ★

- 87 luxury rooms in the Mansion House
- 39 flexible meeting rooms with a maximum capacity of 500
- Onsite teambuilding activities
- 10 mins from J11 of the M4
- 40 minutes from Heathrow Airport

- Bedrooms: 222
- Theatre capacity: 400
- Boardroom capacity: 100

☎ 0118 933 4030

✉ camilla.bailey@devere.com

📍 Goodboys Lane, Mortimer, Reading, RG7 3AE

🖱 <https://www.devere.co.uk/wokefield-estate/meetings-events>

3. HILTON READING



Hilton Reading, located off the M4 and A33 with on-site parking, offers easy access to public transport and nearby business parks. With ten versatile event spaces accommodating up to 500 guests, our dedicated events team ensures every meeting or event is a success. Enjoy tailored catering menus designed to delight and energize delegates. The hotel boasts 210 stylish rooms with free WiFi, mini-refrigerators, and 50-inch HDTVs. Dine at OXBO Restaurant, featuring British-inspired cuisine in a vibrant setting. Additional amenities include the LivingWell Health Club, complete with an indoor pool, sauna, and fitness facilities.



HIGHLIGHTS ★

- Event specialists
- Flexible catering
- Convenient location
- On-site parking
- Free WiFi

- Bedrooms: 210
- Theatre capacity: 500
- Boardroom capacity: 120

☎ 0118 916 9000

✉ reading.events@hilton.com

📍 Drake Way, Reading, RG2 0GQ

🖱 www.hilton.com/reading

4. HOLIDAY INN READING – SOUTH



Located just 2 minutes from M4 J11 and 10 minutes from Reading town centre, we are ideally placed for hosting your next event. The hotel facilities include 202 bedrooms with A/C, restaurant, lounge bar, 24hr room service, fitness suite and 220 parking spaces onsite for all vehicles including cars and coaches. 11 function suites all with natural daylight and A/C are great for hosting a meeting, party or private dining. Our self-contained Grenadier Suite holds up to 180 delegates with its own entrance and toilets located on the ground floor. Room hire, day delegate packages and 24hr rates are available.



HIGHLIGHTS ★

- Air conditioning
- Natural daylight
- Private dining
- Onsite parking
- Self-contained

- Bedrooms: 202
- Theatre capacity: 180
- Boardroom capacity: 60

☎ 0118 987 0465/6

✉ events@hireadingsouth.com

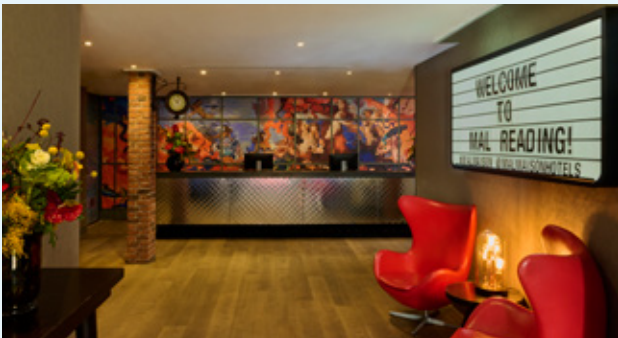
📍 Basingstoke Road,
Reading, RG2 0SL

🖱 www.holidayinn.com/Reading-South

5. MALMAISON READING



Next stop Malmaison Reading. Located directly opposite the station and only 30 minutes from the hustle and bustle of London, the former home to Great Western Rail is now a first-class business venue. When it comes to event space and meeting rooms in Reading, Malmaison is dressed to impress. As well as style, our meeting rooms offer plenty of substance. Our expert team will ensure that your meeting or event is as slick as it is stylish, with creative catering, free Wi-Fi and perfect service.



HIGHLIGHTS ★

- Opposite the train station
- Historic
- Natural light
- Delicious catering
- Conference café

- Bedrooms: 76
- Theatre capacity: 80
- Boardroom capacity: 50

☎ 0118 334 1331

✉ events.reading@malmaison.com

📍 18-20 Station Road, Reading, RG1 1JX

👉 <https://www.malmaison.com/locations/reading>

6. NOVOTEL READING CENTRE



Perfectly suited to family or business stays, Novotel Reading Centre sits in the heart of the town. Many of Reading's best restaurants, bars and shops are just a stone's throw from the hotel. The guests can choose from executive and superior rooms, all contemporary designs and warmth. Our ten versatile meeting rooms can accommodate up to 110 guests. Whatever type of meeting you are organizing, you can optimize the chances of its success by benefiting from the Novotel network. Our years of experience have let us build a great expertise in meetings organization. Leisure facilities include a gym, sauna, steam room and indoor heated pool.



HIGHLIGHTS ★

- Great location
- Easy access
- Historic surroundings
- Friendly staff
- Natural light

- Bedrooms: 179
- Theatre capacity: 110
- Boardroom capacity: 40

☎ 0118 952 2600

✉ H5432@accor.com

📍 25b Friar Street,
Reading, RG1 1DP

👉 <https://all.accor.com/hotel/5432/index.en.shtml>

7. PENTA READING



If you're in the market for meeting rooms in Reading then we're here to help. We have 11 event spaces, kitted out with all the tech you need and a helpful team of advisors to make the day run smoothly. Each room is accessible via the ground floor, naturally lit and we can hold up to 250 people. The Pentalounge is always available for breaktime, dinnertime, or playtime - with pool tables and PlayStations. We also have 40 Penta Plus rooms and a Penta Suite if you need more space. Our WiFi and 24-hour gym is free.



HIGHLIGHTS ★

- Bedrooms: 206
- Theatre capacity: 250
- Boardroom capacity: 50

- Central location
- 206 bedrooms
- Games area
- Meetings facilities
- Free wifi

☎ 0118 903 5930

✉ uk.sales@pentahotels.com

📍 Oxford Road, Reading, RG1 7RH

🖱 <https://www.pentahotels.com/hotels/united-kingdom/reading/meetings>

8. READING TOWN HALL



Welcome to Reading's historic Town Hall. Right in the heart of Reading, this beautiful Grade II* listed building boasts a stunning Victorian Gothic facade by celebrated architect Alfred Waterhouse and state-of-the-art facilities within to accommodate your event. From our beautiful Concert Hall, seating up to 700, to meeting rooms for 5, we have a space and a package tailored just to you.

Explore the spaces we have on offer or take a look at how we can help you to plan your concert, conference or special event. We're situated right in Reading's bustling town centre, less than a 2- minute walk from Reading's train station, with excellent bus links and an easy distance from the M4.



HIGHLIGHTS ★

- Theatre capacity: 700
- Boardroom capacity: 50

- Historical links
- Unique spaces
- Bespoke catering
- Town centre location
- Personal service

☎ 0118 937 3400

✉ conferencing@reading.gov.uk

📍 Blagrove Street, Reading, RG1 1QH

🖱 www.readingtownhall.co.uk/venue-hire

9. ROSEATE READING



The Roseate Reading stands as a beacon of refined elegance, combining its rich heritage with contemporary sophistication. Renowned for its artistic design and meticulous service, the hotel has earned accolades from The Beautiful South Awards 2025, recognised for its exceptional accommodation and dining experiences. Housed in a beautifully restored Grade II listed building, The Roseate Reading is defined by its vaulted ceilings, cornice mouldings, and the original lift shaft, all preserved to reflect its historic grandeur. The hotel offers 55 luxurious rooms and suites, complemented by four versatile meeting and event spaces, three spa treatment rooms, and a state-of-the-art gym.



HIGHLIGHTS ★

- Exceptional food
- Impeccable service
- Central location
- Private meetings
- Onsite parking

☎ 0118 952 7770

✉ events.tflr@roseatehotels.co.uk

📍 26 The Forbury, Reading, RG1 3EJ

🖱 www.roseatehotels.com/reading/theroseate

10. THAMES RIVER CRUISE



Thames River Cruise operate on the beautiful reaches of the upper Thames, located in Caversham, Reading. We have the ideal venue for smaller conferences from 10-50 attendees offering classroom, boardroom and theatre style seating. We are also able to offer a pre or after conference cruise for delegates where they can enjoy themselves in a relaxed atmosphere away from the business hub. Each charter is personal, and we create an itinerary and experience on the river just for you. Casual, cool or formal – the Thames is an amazing and flexible venue.



HIGHLIGHTS ★

- Central Reading location
- Full catering offer
- Lovely river views
- Bespoke cruises and events
- Conferences up to 50

☎ 0118 948 1088

✉ bookings@thamesrivercruise.co.uk

📍 Caversham Pier, Reading, RG1 8BD

🖱 www.thamesrivercruise.co.uk

11. VENUE READING, UNIVERSITY OF READING



Just outside the town centre, you will find the green award-winning, 321-acre campus of the University of Reading. The Venue Reading events team host lots of functions, meetings and conferences throughout the year. The campus features a mix of traditional heritage buildings and modern, state-of-the-art meeting rooms, offering year-round conferencing facilities. Venue Reading organise anything from a small meeting to large residential conference with over 2,000 premium en-suite bedrooms for use in the summer months. The campus has great transport links, complimentary parking and various lecture theatres for up to 400 delegates and all events are managed by a professional events team.



HIGHLIGHTS ★

- Free parking
 - Outside space
 - Nonprofit organisation
 - Summer accommodation
 - Sustainable university
- Bedrooms: 2,000
 - Theatre capacity: 400
 - Boardroom capacity: 50
- ☎ 0118 378 5657
- ✉ info@venuereading.com
- 📍 University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 6UR
- 🖱 venuereading.com

INCENTIVE IDEAS

- **Corporate team building at Wokefield Park Estate**
Onsite team building from low ropes to archery
<https://www.devere.co.uk/wokefield-estate>
- **Stanlake Park Wine Estate**
Vineyard tours and cheese and wine tasting
<https://stanlakepark.com>
- **Alpaca Walking at Bozdown Farm**
Group tours leading friendly alpacas
<https://www.walkanalpaca.co.uk>
- **Walk Reading**
Choose from a range of guided walking tours
<https://www.walk-reading.co.uk>



- **Terry's Reading Walkabouts**
A wide range of guided themed walks around Reading
<https://readingwalkingtours.co.uk>
- **Tours 2 Order**
Blue Badge Guide Graham Horn offers a range of guided walks in the area
<https://tours2order.com>
- **Rabble Theatre Corporate Activities**
A whole corporate training programme from Reading's professional theatre company
<https://rabbletheatre.com/corporate>
- **Double Barrelled Brewery**
Brewery tour and tastings
<https://doublebarrelled.co.uk/>
- **Thames River Cruise**
Private sailings with drinks, food and entertainment
<https://www.thamesrivercruise.co.uk/private-charter>



**“INCREASINGLY
VIBRANT AND
YOUTHFUL.”**

THE TIMES

The Times has heralded Reading as one of the best places to live in the UK. Tap into that vibrancy when you hold your event here.

Contact us

07860 779166

alex.brannen@reading.gov.uk

[MeetReading.co.uk](https://www.meetreading.co.uk)



MEET READING – part of REDA

Reading's Economy and Destination Agency

