



READING VISITOR GUIDE 2025

Sponsored by



Great
Western
Railway



VISIT
READING

100 Kings Road Reading Aparthotel
Studio, one, two & three bedroom
serviced apartments

Rated 4.5  on Tripadvisor

City Wall House Reading Aparthotel
Studio, one & two bedroom
serviced apartments

Rated 4.0  on Tripadvisor



Benefits of booking directly:

- ✓ Guaranteed best price available
- ✓ Exclusive special offers and promotions
- ✓ Full security of personal data
- ✓ Ease and flexibility to your bookings



Car parking bookable



Weekly cleaning



Reading Station



WiFi available



Lift available



Air con



55" Smart TV

Visit www.houseoffisher.com or call 01189 51 41 51

* only available at 100 Kings Road
T&C's apply. Full details on website



Check Us Out
YOU'LL WANT TO CHECK IN

ENJOY THE PERFECT BREAK AT HILTON READING

Treat yourself to a relaxing break at the contemporary Hilton Reading hotel with an unrivalled location, complimentary on-site car park and exceptional amenities.

Located just 2 miles from The Oracle, Select Car Leasing Stadium and the University of Reading just a short train ride into London, 30 minutes from Windsor, Henley on Thames and Legoland, and less than an hour to Oxford, we're the perfect base for your adventures.

Our 210 guest rooms, designed with comfort in mind, include access to the LivingWell Health Club. Relax in one of our spacious, air-conditioned guest rooms featuring high-speed internet access, a 50-inch LCD TV, and comfortable Hilton Serenity® beds.

HILTON READING
Drake Way, Reading, RG2 0GQ
+44 (0) 118 916 9000
hilton.com/reading



@hilton_reading





facebook.com/hiltonreadinguk




@hiltonreading

 Connecting rooms, perfect for family stays

 Plenty of free car parking available

 Free WiFi in guest rooms, lobby & OXBO

 Pets allowed with non-refundable fee



OXBO

Grounded by a promise of carefully sourced ingredients and lovingly crafted menus for social get-togethers.

 @oxbo_reading

 facebook.com/oxboReading

 @oxboReading



Start your day with a hearty, healthy and delicious breakfast at OXBO Kitchen.

Enjoy our signature cocktails and small plates in OXBO Bar, the perfect spot for catching up with friends and family.

Unwind in our LivingWell Health Club with an indoor pool, sauna and steam room.



WELCOME TO READING

CONTENTS

WELCOME TO READING	3
SURPRISING READING	4
KEY FACTS	5
JANE AUSTEN 250	6-7
MUSEUMS AND HERITAGE	8
FAMILY DAY OUT	9
ON FOOT AND BY BIKE	10-11
ON THE WATER	12-13
GREEN READING	14
BREWERIES AND VINEYARDS	14
SPORT	15
TOWN CENTRE	16-17
MAP	18-19
CAVERSHAM	20
STUDENT LIFE	21
EATING OUT	22-23
SHOP TIL YOU DROP	24-25
WHAT'S ON IN READING	26-27
PLACES TO STAY	28-29
BEYOND READING	30
GATEWAY TO LONDON	31
GETTING AROUND	33-34

Welcome to the Reading Visitor Guide 2025!

We hope it helps you plan your visit to our friendly town. Reading has a fascinating history and a wide array of things to do for all ages and interests as well as stellar shopping, a diverse culinary offer, lots of bars and clubs and the region's largest choice of hotels. Reading is also brilliantly connected to London and the rest of the region, making it a great base to explore more widely.

You'll find lots more information on everything in this Guide at **visit-reading.com**. We look forward to welcoming you to Reading very soon.



SURPRISING READING

Reading is located in the heart of the Royal County of Berkshire on the banks of the River Thames and Kennet, just 23 minutes (by train) west of London.

Reading surprises people. It mixes heritage and modernity and challenges perceptions. It's a place that combines a thousand years of history with modern-day living, founded alongside the graceful River Thames but with a buzzy nightlife, home to inspiring museums, the region's best shopping and the whole world on a plate.



It's a place that combines a thousand years of history with modern-day living.

Did you know that Oscar Wilde, King Henry I and Jane Austen all have strong links to the town. In fact, 2025 will see lots of special Jane Austen events in Reading to celebrate 250 years since her birth (see pages 6/7).

Reading is one of the best-connected destinations in the UK so we'll be easy to reach, wherever you are coming from. We are an easy day trip out of London, but best suited to a weekend break or as a base to explore the eastern section of the Great West Way. You'll find a great array of accommodation on offer, much of it walking distance from the station in the town centre or just off the M4.





Reading Abbey Ruins are the burial place of one of England's medieval kings, King Henry I.



The University of Reading is one of the world's top research universities. It has a beautiful 130 hectare parkland campus to explore as well as three museums.



Oscar Wilde was imprisoned in Reading, immortalised in The Ballad of Reading Gaol.



Jane Austen went to school in Reading Abbey Gateway.



Reading is an accredited part of the world-famous Camino de Santiago, see the St James' Way page 11.



Reading was once the world's largest producer of biscuits. Visit Reading Museum's Huntley & Palmer Gallery to find out more.



An idyllic stretch of the River Thames flows through the heart of Reading.



The British Bayeux Tapestry, a full-scale Victorian replica of the original, can be seen in Reading Museum.



The Reading Festival attracts 100,000 festival-goers every August for one of the UK's oldest contemporary music festivals.



Reading is the final stop on the new Elizabeth Line and is part of the London Transport network. Free if you have a Freedom Pass.



With a 24,000 seater stadium, Reading Football Club is one of the oldest football clubs in the world! The Royals have graced the Premier League in recent times, although they currently play in League One.

JANE AUSTEN 250

Jane Austen went to school in Reading, along with her sister Cassandra and cousin. In 2025, as part of the celebrations to mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of the great British writer, there will be a programme of special events and visits in Reading to celebrate her local links.



Jane Austen's school room

Visit Jane's former school room in Reading's Abbey Quarter. Often cited as the inspiration for the school in Jane Austen's *Emma*, Reading Ladies Boarding School was located in the medieval Abbey Gateway and, between 1785 and 1786, Jane was a pupil. The historic Reading Abbey Gateway will open for a series of special events and guided visits every Saturday from April to October 2025 as part of Reading Museum's Abbey Quarter tours.



Pride & Prejudice film location

The National Trust's Basildon Park became Netherfield, the grand home of Mr Bingley, in the 2005 film of *Pride & Prejudice* starring Keira Knightley and Matthew Macfadyen. The 18th century mansion house and estate is located just outside Reading and has a special exhibition, *Visions Unreel*, showcasing the many films and TV series Basildon Park has played a role in, including numerous period dramas.



SPECIAL EVENTS

May & June

Jane Austen Wednesdays

Throughout May & June 2025, Reading Museum / Reading Abbey Gateway will be hosting a series of talks, tours and workshops celebrating Jane Austen and her time in Reading.

Death Comes to Pemberley

The world premiere of a Jane Austen themed show based on a PD James novel at the Mill at Sonning Theatre. Pemberley was of course home to Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy in Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

1 May – 28 June 2025
Dinner and Show package



Jane Austen Afternoon Tea

The 5-star Roseate Reading Hotel, located next door to Jane Austen's schoolroom, will be putting on a special Jane Austen Afternoon Tea taking inspiration from Georgian recipes throughout May and June 2025.



A base for a Jane Austen itinerary

Reading is a great base to explore lots of other Jane Austen locations.

- **Jane Austen House** in Hampshire is just 25 miles from Reading
- **Georgian Bath** is just 50 minutes by train from Reading
- **Jane Austen's birthplace** in Steventon is 24 miles from Reading

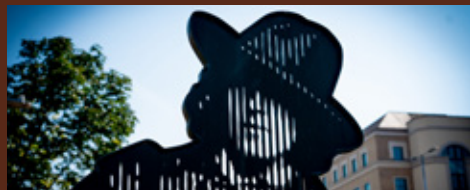
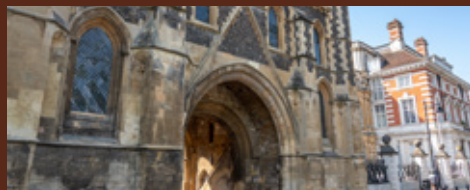
visit-reading.com/janeausten

HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS



Reading was founded over a thousand years ago and has a fascinating medieval history to explore as well as great Victorian and Georgian architecture and a host of museums, which are mostly free to visit.

Reading Abbey Quarter is just a two-minute walk from the station but it transports you back nine hundred years. The ruins of **Reading Abbey**, built in the 12th century, are open every day and are free to visit. Find the **burial place of King Henry I**, see where the monks lived in the 12th century or visit the **Abbey Gateway**. You can also peer over the wall at Oscar Wilde's cell in next door's former **Reading Gaol**, itself a building of huge architectural and historical value. You can still see the impact of the English Civil War on Reading as you wander the ruins and the Victorian pleasure gardens that exist today on the footprint of part of the Abbey and its grounds.



FREE **Reading Museum** is one of six museums in Reading and is your starting point for understanding Reading's history. The Story of Reading Galleries show the Abbey as it was once, while medieval Britain is also celebrated in the British Bayeux Tapestry, the only full-scale replica of the Norman original. And don't miss the Huntley & Palmer biscuit tins!

FREE **The Museum of English Rural Life** celebrates all things food, farming and the countryside. It has a unique collection of farming implements and vehicles as well as the Ladybird Books Archive and a great family garden and café.

FREE **The Cole Museum of Zoology and Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology** are both on the University of Reading's Whiteknights campus. The Cole Museum has just moved into a brand-new home and has new displays of all things animal.

The Museum of Berkshire Aviation in Woodley celebrates local aviation history with lots to explore including a plane open to visitors.

FREE **The Berkshire Medical Museum** opens two Sundays a month and has a collection of many hundreds of artefacts and photographs relating to medicine, surgery, nursing, pharmacy and dentistry.

A FAMILY DAY OUT

Be active in Reading! You can get in and on the water at **Lagoona Park's** aqua park and Reading's two new swimming pools at **Rivermead** and **Palmer Park** (plus indoor play centres). Young children can paddle at **Christchurch Meadows' pool**. Or climb at **Parthian Climbing** and **Reading Climbing Hanger** or bounce at **Oxygen Reading**.

Looking for wildlife? **Beale Wildlife Park** is just west of Reading or you can walk with alpaca at **Bozedown Farm** or explore the estate (plus café) at the **National Trust's Basildon Park**. **Wellington Park** has an animal farm as well as miles of forest.

Good options for rainy days are town centre **Spinners** crazy golf and bowling while next door is the new **Urban Fun** family entertainment centre. Or try outdoors crazy golf at **Prospect Park** where there are also monthly mini steam train rides.



Reading's museums (see left) have lots of family-friendly activities. Dress up as a Victorian schoolchild at **Reading Museum**, become a farmer at the **Museum of English Rural Life (MERL)** or climb aboard a plane at the **Berkshire Museum of Aviation**.



Look out for the fun trails around Reading town centre at Easter, summer holidays and October half term and don't miss the new **Paddington statue** in Broad Street. You can follow the **Paddington Trail** to learn more about Michael Bond, his creator.

ON FOOT AND BY BIKE

Reading town centre is compact and easy to walk. It has grown up between the Thames and the Kennet / Kennet & Avon Canal so there are lots of great towpath and riverbank walks along the **Thames Path National Trail** or **Kennet & Avon Canal** towards Bath. The Thames Path is easily accessible from the station and town centre.



Take a tour

A walking tour is the best way to find your feet and learn more about Reading's fascinating history. There are lots of options from **Reading Museum's tours of the Abbey Quarter** to **Terry's Reading Walkabouts** themed walks or **Walk Reading's** exploration of Reading's hidden gems (see opposite page). You can hire your own guided tour with **Tours2Order** who can introduce you to Reading's famous 3Bs (biscuits, bulbs and beer). You can also join a **Walk Works** free Wednesday lunchtime walk.



If you are visiting in May, make sure to join the **Reading Walks Festival**, to find out more about the amazing town and its surrounding area.

By bike

Reading is on the **King Alfred Way**, a 350km circular off-road adventure route through 10,000 years of history, connecting some of England's most iconic sites. Reading is a good overnight stopping point or jumping on/off point via Reading Station. Several Sustrans national cycle routes also pass through Reading.



Walk Reading

Discover the hidden gems of Reading on an unforgettable walking tour

See our walk programme



5 StarTripadvisor reviews

“Fun, informative and enjoyable”

“A genuine joy to walk and talk”

“Very enjoyable and informative walk”

www.walk-reading.co.uk

St James' Way – part of the camino

Pilgrims have been walking to and from Reading since medieval times and the waymarked St James' Way retraces pilgrim footsteps along 68 miles of paths from Reading to Southampton and is an accredited part of the world-famous Camino de Santiago. Start at Reading Museum in the Abbey Quarter and get your pilgrim passport stamped. Pick up a free Reading for Modern Pilgrims map guide to show you where all the places of historic or pilgrim interest can be found before you head off.



ON THE WATER

Reading is a waterside town on the Thames and the River Kennet, surrounded by a number of lakes to the north and south which are used for recreation.

The Thames flows just north of Reading Station and a great way to explore is to walk the Thames Path National Trail to Mapledurham or Goring or let the boat do the work on a **Thames River Cruise** circular cruise from Caversham Pier. There are also boat rides on the Kennet in central Reading aboard the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust's **Matilda Too** at weekends.

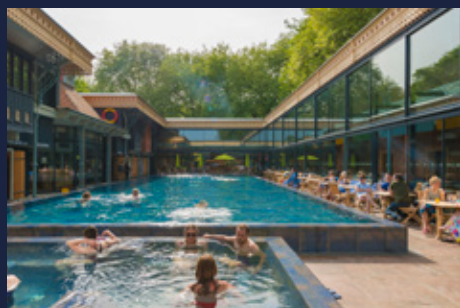


You could also start a boating holiday on the Thames here with **Caversham Boat Services** or be more active by hiring a kayak at **Wokingham Waterside Centre** or by challenging yourself on the aqua park at **Lagoon Park**. An indulgent floating experience of a different kind can be had at **Nirvana Spa!**

Walk the Thames Path National Trail or let the boat do the work on a **Thames River Cruise**.



All aboard a **Thames River Cruise** at Caversham Pier to explore the Thames upstream to Mapledurham in *Wind of The Willows* country. Great for spotting river birds and other wildlife as you sit up front watching the world go by or try their Afternoon Tea or Sundowner cruises for an opulent sightseeing trip. Services operate from April through to the autumn.



A sedate watery experience can be enjoyed at **Thames Lido** where in addition to swimming in the former Edwardian bathing pool, you can have a massage, sunbathe with a drink of your choice or take advantage of the fabulous poolside restaurant. Try one of their Swim and Lunch packages to make a day of it!

GREEN READING

Reading is a surprisingly green town. With two rivers flowing through its heart, there are great walks and spaces for watching the river flow by.

Forbury Gardens is the town centre park created by the Victorians on the footprint of the former Reading Abbey.



You don't have to travel far to explore the University of Reading's 130-hectare award-winning green campus and its picturesque **Harris Garden**, **Thames Valley Park** alongside the Thames towards Sonning, **Thames Promenade** by Caversham Bridge or historic **Caversham Court Gardens** on the opposite bank, one of Reading's many other parks. A walk along the Kennet & Avon Canal from the town centre to **Green Park** is a favourite. You could walk all the way to Bath!

BREWERIES AND VINEYARDS

One of Reading's famous 3Bs was beer and although the old breweries are long gone, a new wave of micro-breweries have sprung up to keep the tradition going. **Double Barrelled** and the **Phantom Brewing Company** have taprooms and regular events in Reading, while a nice walk from Caversham brings you to **Loddon Brewery**, also with their own shop and taproom. Local brewery **Siren Brewery** have also opened a new bar serving 25 different beers in the Station Hill development.

One stop east of Reading on the train, **Stanlake Vineyard** in Twyford has a lovely courtyard to sit and enjoy their wine, while the **Henley Gin Distillery** is just 3 miles east of Reading.





WATCH GREAT SPORT

Reading is a sporting town, with football, rugby, basketball and hockey all played to a high standard as well as a great rowing pedigree.

With the Thames at its heart, it is no wonder that Reading is a rowing town. You will always spot boats training on the Thames upriver from Caversham Bridge and downriver at Thames Valley Park. The **University of Reading** claims a good number of GB Olympians among their alumni and the GB Training Lake is based here. **Reading Canoe Club** and **Wokingham Waterside Centre** are good places to start. You can also hire kayaks at **Thames Canoe Hire** by the Thames in Tilehurst.

You can watch high quality rugby, basketball and hockey at **Rams**, **Reading Rockets** and **Reading Hockey Club** respectively.



Reading Football Club is one of the oldest football clubs in the world. Playing at the **Select Car Leasing Stadium**, The Royals are currently in League One. Tickets are fairly easy to obtain and prices are very reasonable compared to the expensive London clubs, especially for families.



FOCUS ON READING TOWN CENTRE

Reading town centre is a perfect scale to explore on foot. Just a few hundred metres from the train station, you'll find the main shopping area, **Abbey Quarter**, bars, restaurants and clubs as well as lots of other entertainment options.

Pedestrianised **Broad Street** is the spine of the town centre with lots of streets running north and south of it.



The Oracle Shopping Centre and **Broad Street Mall** shopping centres bookend **Broad Street** with a whole host of major brands from Apple to Zara and you'll be spoiled with places to eat and drink, including lots along the riverside.





10 suggestions for food, drinks, shopping and entertainment



The Biscuit Factory

An arts cinema, bar and community café.



Blue Collar Corner

Street food container village with local beer.



Sweeney & Todd

Reading's traditional pie shop and restaurant.



The Pantry

Café in Reading Town Hall. Great for relaxed lunches.



Bhel Puri House

Authentic Indian street food.



Dr Marten's

The classic British shoe shop.



The Ale House

Look no further for a traditional pub.



Escape Hunt

Choose from 6 escape rooms or try an outdoor city hunt.



Flamingo's Vintage

Vintage clothes by the kilo.



Market House

Bar and restaurant with rooms and a roof terrace.

Attractions

- 1 Abbey Ruins, E3
- 2 Caversham Boat Services, B1
- 3 The Biscuit Factory, A4
- 4 Grosvenor Casino Reading, D4
- 5 Medical Museum Royal Berkshire, F5
- 6 Reading Museum, C3
- 7 Riverside Museum, F3
- 8 Thames Lido, E1
- 9 Thames Rivercruise Reading, A1
- 10 The Museum of English Rural Life, F5
- 11 Vue Cinema, D4
- 12 Spinners, A4
- 13 Urban Fun, A4

Venues

- 1 Hexagon, A4
- 2 Milk, B3
- 3 Oakford Social Club, C2
- 4 Reading Town Hall Concert Hall, C3
- 5 RISC, D5
- 6 South Street Arts Centre, D5
- 7 Sub 89, B3
- 8 The Purple Turtle, C4
- 9 University of Reading Great Hall, E5

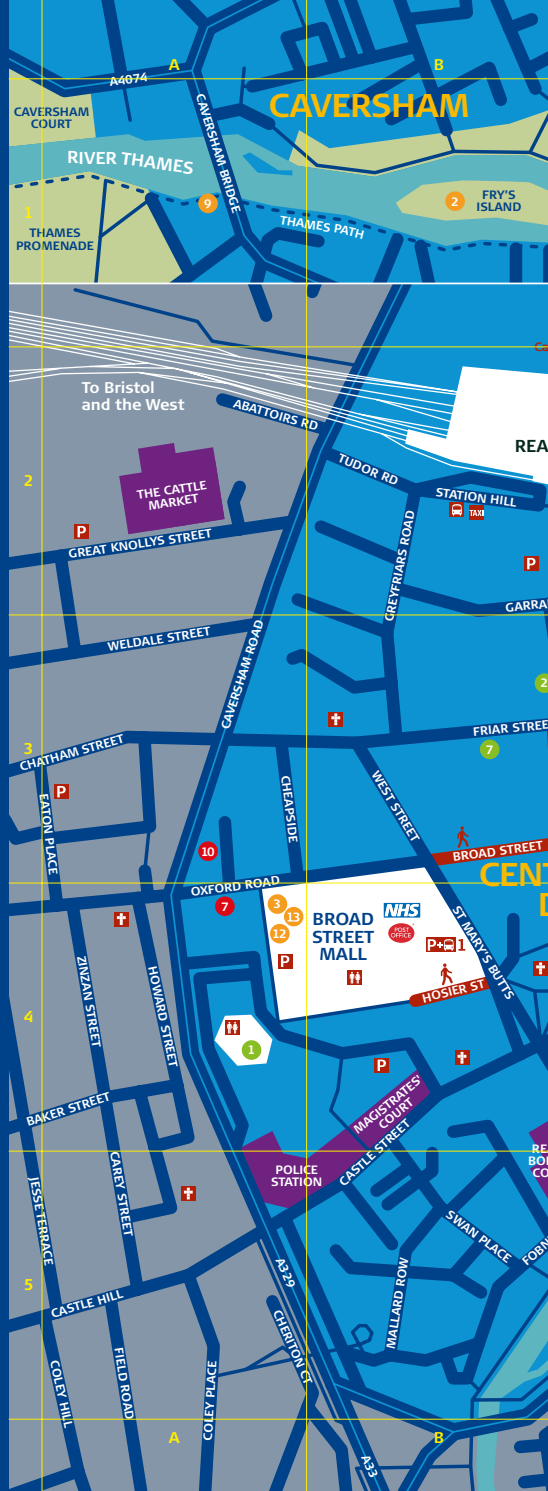
Hotels

- 1 Hotel 1843, D4
- 2 House of Fisher 100 Kings Road (serviced accom), E4
- 3 ibis Reading Centre, C3
- 4 Malmaison Reading, C2
- 5 Market House Reading, D3
- 6 Novotel Reading Centre, C3
- 7 Pentahotel, A4
- 8 Premier Inn Reading Central, C5
- 9 The Roseate Reading, D3
- 10 Travelodge Reading Central, A3

Key

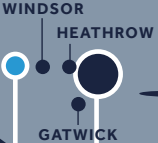
- Bus Stops
- Car Park with Disabled Spaces
- Coach Drop Off Point
- Public Toilet with Disabled Access
- Hospital
- Taxi Rank
- Park and Ride Pick Up and Drop Off
- Park and Ride Pick Up
- Park and Ride Drop Off
- Place of Worship
- Post Office
- NHS Reading Walk-In Health Centre

get the app Reading Buses





ENGLAND



READING LONDON

Reading is
23 minutes/40 miles
from London

GWR
READING STATION

To London Paddington →

CENTRAL RETAIL DISTRICT

ABBAY QUARTER

THE ORACLE

University of
Reading
LONDON ROAD
CAMPUS

M
THE UNIVERSITY
OF READING
HOSPITAL

**ROYAL
BERKSHIRE
HOSPITAL**

CAVERSHAM

Caversham is a ten minute walk from Reading town centre located across the pedestrian bridge to the north side of the Thames.

You'll find beautiful riverside walks, parks and picnic areas along with lively independent and artisan shops, bars and restaurants. Caversham's high street has a delightful array of shops, including bougie clothes and gift shops, bakeries, vegan restaurants, wine and cocktail bars and award-winning eateries and cafés.

Why not try:

Tingdene Marina – riverside moorings and a waterfront café.

Vegivores – creative plant-based cuisine for flavourful vegan dining.

Clays – critically-reviewed authentic South Indian flavours.

Nood Stores – sustainable shopping for eco-friendly household goods and gifts.

The Last Crumb – a lively gastropub offering craft beers, creative cocktails, and hearty pub fare.

The Collective – trendy café offering artisanal coffee, homemade cakes, and light meals.



Caversham Court Gardens – picturesque riverside park featuring historic landscaped gardens.

Caversham Artisan Farmers Market – Sunday market showcasing local producers.

Bugs Bottom – open meadows and woodland areas popular for dog walking and nature appreciation.

Mapledurham Golf Course – a challenging 18-hole parkland course nestled in the picturesque Chiltern countryside.

STUDENT LIFE

Reading's reputation for a lively and thriving nightlife has made it a very popular choice for students but it's not all 100 miles an hour.

From quiet cafés for studying to bars and nightclubs for letting your hair down, you'll find somewhere to relax and keep you entertained all day (and night) in Reading's town centre! Look out for the many places offering significant student deals and discounts!



Cocktail Club – a swanky cocktail bar offering hefty student discounts Sunday to Friday.

LolaLo – a classic nightclub – great for groups.



Purple Turtle – legendary music venue and bar – lively til late.

The Hope Tap – vibrant pub, perfect for a cheap evening drink or a bit of pub grub!

Be at One – hip bar for drinks with friends and generous student discounts on their countless cocktails.

Club Era – a brand-new nightclub famous for its regular student events.

Blaggrave Arms – friendly bar popular with the LGBTQ+ community.

Lincoln Coffee House – quiet coffee shop perfect for a peaceful study session.

Milk – Reading's rum bar at the heart of the fast- developing Station Hill area.

Oakford Social Club – live bands, DJs, quiz nights opposite the station.



EATING OUT



Reading knows a thing or two about food and drink, not least thanks to its own beer and biscuit heritage. We have an exciting foodie scene that spans quirky cafés and lively pubs and bars to fine dining and unique experiences. Reading is an amazingly diverse place and its food and drink reflects the rich culture found within its communities, with award-winning restaurants from around the world and street food from every continent.

For daytime visitors, Reading has established a thriving café culture stemming from its biscuit-making heritage and food markets run twice weekly, selling local produce and food from all over the globe. You'll find relaxed, fast-food eateries alongside fine dining restaurants, afternoon tea experiences and food events running year-round.

The abundant countryside surrounding Reading's town centre is home to many award-winning country pubs with beautiful scenery and there are also breweries and vineyards offering tastings, tours and local produce.



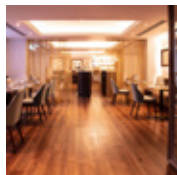
TOP 10 TIPS FOR EATING OUT IN READING



Yaylo
Reading's exclusively gluten-free coffee shop offering gorgeous cakes, sandwiches and quiches.



Thames Lido
Spanish/North African fine dining, tapas and bar alongside Reading's most glamorous water feature.



Reading Room
Fine dining in the Roseate Reading Hotel's restaurant, including a famous Afternoon Tea.



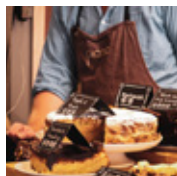
Gail's
Bakery and café in the heart of town specialising in sourdough.



Vino.Vita
Italian kitchen with fine wine.



London Street Brasserie
Fine dining overlooking the Kennet & Avon Canal.



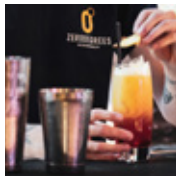
Picnic
Independent café in the Butter Market.



Soju
Authentic South Korean BBQ restaurant.



Allied Arms
A traditional real ale pub in a historic building with courtyard garden.



Zero Degrees
Micro brewery, bar and restaurant in one.





SHOP TIL YOU DROP

Shopping in Reading is vast and varied, from its brand-packed high-street, renowned department stores to award-winning town centre shopping centres and good mix of independents.



Areas to shop in Reading are split between town centre shopping, Caversham across the bridge and retail outlets just beyond the town centre.

The main shopping in Reading is found in the town centre, with a number of independent shops and three indoor shopping centres, offering a whole host

of fashion and lifestyle brands, as well as food, drink and leisure facilities to help you relax after a day of retail therapy!

The Oracle Shopping Centre, Broad Street Mall, John Lewis, M&S, Primark and Harris Arcade are all in the town centre within 500 metres of each other. Pedestrianised Broad Street and its spur streets is home to much of the retail sector with lots of cafés and eateries dotted in between.

Looking for independents? Check out Harris Arcade or the shops in 'Smelly Alley' or head over to Caversham. You'll find jewellers, bakeries, games, comics and even a hat shop.

AN A-Z OF SHOPPING IN READING

Apple – the tech brand has a large store in The Oracle.

Bread – try the amazing sourdough at *Rise*.

Comics – *Crunch Comics* is a specialist in *Harris Arcade*.

Deli – try *Mama's Way* or *Madoo* on Bridge Street for Italian specialities.

Electricals – *John Lewis* is in the middle of Broad Street with phones, music, TVs and much more.

Fair trade – the *RISC* world shop on London Street has fair trade and ethically sourced gifts and supplies.

Games – *Eclectic Games* is an independent games store for all your board games.

Hats – Reading's very own milliner, *Adrienne Henry*, is in *Harris Arcade*.

Independents – the town centre and Caversham are full of indies from *Sewmaster* to *Pop Classics*.

Jeweller – *Jacob's* independent jeweller has been in Reading for over 75 years.

Kiko Milano – cosmetics in The Oracle

Luggage – the *Bag Shop* has a wide range of travel bags.

Men's fashion – *Simon Dowling* is a made-to-measure men's town centre tailor.

Novels – Reading's *Waterstones* is in an old chapel building on Broad Street or try independent *Four Bears* in Caversham.

Oracle – the shopping mall is in the heart of Reading and has 80 stores.

Post Office – upstairs at *WH Smith*.

Quirky presents – *Flying Tiger*.

Records – they're back in fashion – check out *Sound Machine* in *Harris Arcade*.

Sofas – *Beadle & Chrome* are a high-end furnishings store.

Toys – *The Entertainer* and *Toy's R Us* are both on Broad Street.

Unusual presents – try *Reading Museum* or *The MERL* museum shops for Reading-themed presents.

Value – *Miniso* is a new arrival to Reading offering good value gifts.

WH Smith – all your staples plus the *Post Office* and *Toys R Us* in one building.

Xylophones – *Hickies Music Store* has a wide range of musical instruments and sheet music.

Yours – plus size clothing for sizes 16-36.

Zara – the Spanish fashion chain is over three floors in The Oracle.



WHAT'S ON IN READING





You'll not be short of things to do on a visit to Reading.


Check out Reading's very own **Whatsonreading.com** for listings of live music, comedy, dance, talks, festivals, walks, art events and classes, theatre and much more.




THE MAIN EVENTS

 **Are You Listening Festival** – A multi venue one day music festival.
10 May

 **Bastille Day** – A weekend of all things French in Forbury Gardens.
12 & 13 July

 **Carnival of the World** – A celebration of Caribbean music and culture in Broad Street.
2nd Saturday in August

 **Caversham Arts Trail** – Artists open studios.
Weekends in May

 **Cheese Feast** – Street food and live music in Forbury Gardens.
Late April


 **Christmas in Reading** – The lights go on in mid-November to herald in six weeks of Christmas events, food and shopping.


 **Dance Reading** – A month of dance.
November

 **Diwali parade** – Reading town centre celebration of light.
October


 **East Reading Festival** – A community festival in Palmer Park.
Late June

 **Heritage Open Days** – Free events to explore many of Reading's heritage buildings.
12-21 September


 **Jane Austen 250** – A series of events celebrating the writer's links with Reading.
May & June

 **Reading's Children's Festival** – 3 weeks of great children's activities across Reading.
Mid May – early June


 **Reading Festival** – The big one! 100,000 will descend on Reading.
20-24 August


 **Reading Indie Comedy Festival** – The indie circuit and big names come to Reading.
16-18 May


 **Reading Food Festival** – Street food stalls take over Reading's Broad Street for the weekend.
17 & 18 May


 **Reading Mela** – Berkshire's largest celebration of South Asian music and culture.
Early August

 **Reading Pride's Love Unites Festival** – Reading's big LGBTQ+ celebration and parade.
30 August

 **Reading Vegan Festival** – Food, products and all things vegan.
26 April

 **Reading Walks Festival** – Explore Reading and the surrounding area with guided walks.
10-18 May

 **Stagecraft Festival** – A new Craft Beer Festival.
25 & 26 April

 **Water Fest** – The festival of Reading's waterways alongside the River Kennet and Reading Abbey.
7 June

 **Whiteknights Studio Trail** – 30 artists open studios.
7 & 8 June

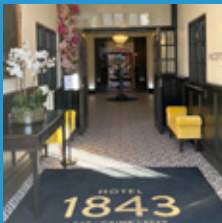
PLACES TO STAY



Reading has the largest selection of hotels and serviced apartments in the Thames Valley with over 2,500 bedrooms catering for all tastes and budgets. Many of our hotels are located in the heart of the town centre, a short walk from shopping, restaurants, attractions and Reading railway station. You could also choose to stay near to the University, Reading Football Club, The Thames or road links.

You'll find full details of all Reading accommodation at [visit-reading.com](https://www.visit-reading.com)

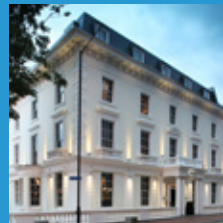
Suggested places to stay:



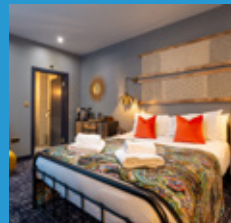
Hotel 1843
Reputed to have been visited by Charles Dickens



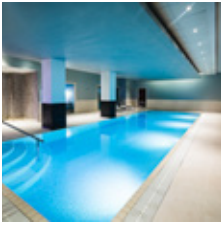
Ibis Reading Centre
In the heart of Reading's entertainment district



Malmaison Reading
The original Brunel railway hotel



Market House
Part bar, part hotel



Novotel Reading

A hop, skip and a jump from the station in the heart of Reading



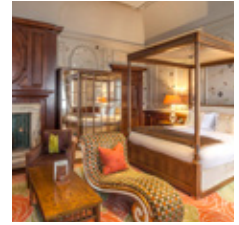
Penta Hotel

Lively atmosphere in the centre of town with great games in the bar area



Premier Inn

Take your pick of four across Reading



The Roseate Reading

Reading's 5 star luxury in the heart of the Abbey Quarter



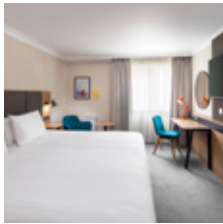
Crowne Plaza Reading East

A 4 Silver Star 2 AA Rosette hotel with great road access



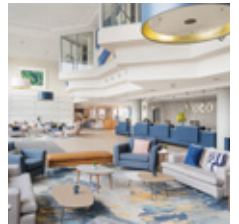
Hilton Reading

Handy for film studios, University and the Football Stadium with its own pool



Holiday Inn Reading South

2 minutes from M4 J11, 10 mins from town centre, onsite parking



Voco Reading

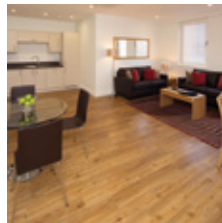
The Reading Football Stadium hotel, close to the M4

SERVICED APARTMENTS



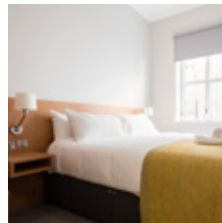
Wokefield Park Estate

A classic country manor house with lovely grounds and its own golf course



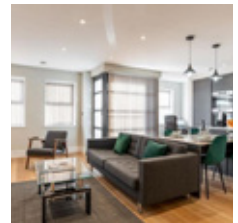
House of Fisher

Several locations in Reading town centre for short and long-term stays



Premier Suites

In the heart of the town close to great shopping and night-life



Celador Apartments

Contemporary serviced apartments in central Reading

BEYOND READING

Reading is surrounded by beautiful countryside and villages with plenty to interest the visitor.

The National Trust has three properties within striking distance at **Basildon Park**, **the Vyne** and **Greys Court**.

Head to Twyford to visit the **Stanlake Vineyard** or Henley way for the **Henley Gin Distillery** and the **River and Rowing Museum**.

Silchester Roman City Walls and Amphitheatre and **Wellington Country Park** are close by to the south of Reading, while **Didcot Railway Centre** is a great day out for young and old just a couple of stops west up the railway line.



Reading is part of the **Great West Way** national touring route which runs from west London to Bristol. Reading is a great stopping point for exploring the area and some of the quaint villages such as Goring and Streatley and Wargrave along the Way. They are all easily reached by train from Reading.



GATEWAY TO LONDON

Save money by staying in Reading and be in London in under half an hour.

London is only 23 minutes on the train from Reading with GWR services. And trains are very frequent, so you'll likely not have long to wait at all, but please check your journey at **GWR.com** before you travel. Also, don't forget that contactless payments are now accepted from Reading into Central London, so you can just tap on and off using a debit or credit card. You'll arrive at London Paddington Station, just a few Tube stations or a 10- minute bus ride from Oxford Street and the West End.



Or you could take the **Elizabeth Line** stopping service direct to Central London. This is London's newest tube line and Reading is the final station to the west. You can travel direct to London's Bond Street, Tottenham Court Road, Farringdon, Liverpool Street or Canary Wharf without changing trains.

Staying in Reading will save you lots of money too and there are lots of hotels near the station such as the Novotel, Malmaison, Penta, Roseate, Ibis and others. You can be in London in no time.



READING

whatsonreading.com

What's On Reading is the ultimate listings guide for all things arts, culture and heritage in Reading – over 150 venues and organisations listing events, classes and activities all over town.



- Art & Exhibitions
- Cabaret & Variety
- Children
- Classical
- Comedy
- Community & Networking
- Dance
- DJ & Clubbing
- Festivals & Special Events
- Film
- Food & Drink
- History & Heritage
- Interactive & Games
- Music
- Natural Heritage
- Spoken & Written Word
- Theatre
- Tours & Walks

GETTING AROUND / GETTING HERE



Reading is one of the best-connected towns in the UK, offering lots of travel options and excellent transport links, whether you're travelling by car, bus, train, coach, bike, on foot – or even on the water! Plus, once you're here, it is a very walkable town with the Thames, town centre and many attractions within 500 metres of the station.

GETTING HERE

By train

Reading is just 23 minutes from London on GWR Mainline Services and is often the first stop on many trains coming out of London. There are so many trains you can often just turn up and jump on the first train.

Reading is also on the Elizabeth Line (part of the London transport network), making it an ideal base to visit from the Capital. London residents over 60 with a TFL Freedom Pass can travel to Reading for free on the Elizabeth Line.

Reading is linked to Gatwick, Heathrow, Southampton and Birmingham Airports by train. A new station at Green Park also links Reading to Reading Football Club's stadium and Green Park business park by train.

By car

Reading is just two miles north of the M4 and not far from the M3 and A34 so we are very well linked into the road network. There is plenty of parking in and around Reading, with many multi-storeys right in the town centre. There are also a number of park and rides dotted around the edge of Reading.

By coach

The Rail Air Link from Heathrow is a 40-minute journey from all Heathrow terminals to Reading station. National Express serves Reading from all parts of the country.

GETTING AROUND

Reading is a very walkable town with the station in the centre. Many places in Reading are less than 500 metres from the station.

By Bus

Reading's award-winning Reading Buses serve every inch of the region, so travelling by bus is a great option for those looking to avoid parking costs and reduce their carbon footprint.

Reading Buses have introduced tap on / tap off so you will never be charged more than the maximum daily fare.

Reading Buses cover all destinations in Reading, including the University, Royal Berkshire Hospital and business parks, as well as all of Reading's residential areas. Bus stops can be found outside the station and in Friar Street and other town centre main arteries.

Cycle

Nowhere in Reading town centre is more than a 30-minute cycle and with plentiful cycle parking, travelling to and around Reading by bicycle makes an ideal sustainable travel option.

Walking

With a fully walkable town centre and miles of Thames Path to enjoy on its doorstep, Reading is a great place for walking, catering for everything from afternoon shopping strolls right through to riverside rambles.

Taxi

You can pick up black cab taxis at both sides of Reading Station at any time of the day or night.



here's an easier way to pay for bus travel

that always gives you the best price

reading-buses.co.uk/tap

tap on 
tap off 

Reading**buses**



AN AWARD-WINNING DINING EXPERIENCE AWAITS

BREAKFAST | SET LUNCH | À LA CARTE | AFTERNOON TEA | TASTING MENU | BAR MENU

The Reading Room is honoured to be in the top 10% of restaurants worldwide, recognised by the TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Awards 2024.



 @VisitRdg

 @VisitRdg

 @VisitRdg

 @VisitReading

visit-reading.com



**REDA – Reading's Destination
and Economy Agency**

The Library Building, Abbey Square,
Reading, RG1 3BQ



FIVE MESS ABOUT ON THE RIVER



THE FAMOUS FIVE © 2018, Hodder & Stoughton Limited. All rights reserved.

Book your Great Western adventure today and discover Reading, the Thames Valley and beyond.

Book now at GWR.com, or on the app.

GWR

Great
Western
Railway

ADVENTURES START HERE