

TOUR GUIDE



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COLCHESTER

Britain's First City

Colchester has a colourful history dating back over two thousand years. It's a history you can share by visiting the town's award-winning museums where you can see collections of international importance.

As Britain's First City and the former capital of Roman Britain Colchester has many important and unique Roman sites and ruins, but a lengthy history means there is plenty to discover from other eras of English History including the Normans, Tudors and Victorians who all contributed to Colchester's story, as well as the English Civil War which made significant marks on the town.

For more information please visit the website online:

<https://www.visitcolchester.com/> or visit

Colchester Visitor Information Centre

Hollytrees Museum

Castle Park

Colchester CO1 1UG

Tel: 01206 282920

Email: vic@colchester.gov.uk

Things to do in Colchester

ARTS & CULTURE

With three theatres and several art galleries, including the internationally recognised Firstsite, Colchester is the cultural hub of Essex and the local region.

History & Heritage

With Roman Ruins, a Norman Castle, and Civil War scars - Colchester's history can be explored without even leaving the town centre, but head further afield and discover even more!

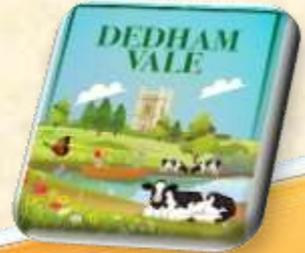
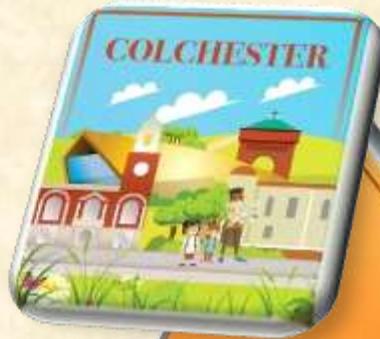
Family Days Out

With both a Zoo and a Castle Colchester is off to a great start for any adventurous children. There's more to see and do whatever the weather, and it doesn't have to break the bank.

Outdoor Adventure

Constable Country and Mersea Island are on Colchester's doorstep, as well as several award winning parks, gardens and nature reserves, there's plenty of opportunity to explore the outdoors.

Explore the Beautiful Borough



The Borough of Colchester stretches well beyond the town centre, in total covering 135 square miles of coast and countryside, so you'll find plenty to see and do no matter what your interests



On top of the local attractions, you'll find great links to other nearby towns and visitor attractions in both of Essex and Suffolk as well as easy access further afield to both London and Norwich amongst other destinations.

From island life on Mersea, jam-making in Tiptree, and the heart of Constable Country in the Dedham Vale, there's a wealth of small towns and villages just a short distance from Colchester's centre, all with their own unique character and stories to tell. Sometimes the smallest villages hold the most unlikely secrets!



From riverside towns and coastal communities to historic houses and gardens, Colchester's beautiful borough has a wealth of hidden treasures.

Stay a few days, explore the Beautiful Borough of Colchester, and share your experiences with us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook using the #BeautifulBorough hashtag.



Things to do in Colchester



Beautiful, Unusual & Rare Species Of The Animal Kingdom

Colchester Zoo is home to 200 species set in 60 acres of parkland and lakes!

As you navigate your way around Colchester Zoo you'll visit many different habitats and see animals from around the world, from the humid home of our Komodo Dragons to our very own Africa plain, home to white rhino, giraffes, ostrich, zebra and kudu!



TICKET TYPE	Standard admission	Midweek 15% Saver	Weekends 10% OFF	School Holidays/Bank Holidays 5% Discount
Adult (16 – 59yrs)	£24.99	£21.24	£22.49	£23.74

Colchester Football Club



Opening Details

Open from 9am to 5.30pm every day.

DETAILS

Colchester United FC – More than just a football club

It's not just the 90 minutes on the pitch every other Saturday that count, the Weston Homes Community Stadium is a hub of activity every day of the year.

Whether you're planning a celebration for a birthday, anniversary, wedding or special occasion a package can be tailor made offering you the night that you dream of.

Local charities can take advantage of the community event scheme and hold a charity event with large discounts to help increase fund raising for the chosen charity.

Prices

Tickets for games start from FREE for U14s, with adults able to watch from just £15 to see the first team in action.

For a full range of prices, click www.colchesterunited.net/page/TicketsHome/ for more details.

Parking: £6 for a matchday parking permit, available in advance

Please visit our website for event price details: www.colchesterunited.net

Mersea Island



World Famous Mersea Oysters

Mersea Island is the most easterly inhabited island in the UK, situated off the coast of Essex and 9 miles southeast of Colchester.

There are an abundance of things to do on Mersea Island and with the island covering approximately 7 square miles, you will never be bored by the beautiful scenery that awaits you.

Oysters have been cultivated in the creeks around Mersea Island since Roman times.

There are two varieties of oyster the Colchester Rock Oyster which is available all year round & live naturally on the seabed. The other is the Colchester Native Oyster which are harvested from September to May in the shallow creeks off Mersea Island.

You can try the oysters for yourself at The Company Shed or West Mersea Oyster Bar in West Mersea.

How To Get There?

By BUS - First Buss operates to Mersea: Bus numbers 67 or 67A from the High Street in Colchester to West Mersea.



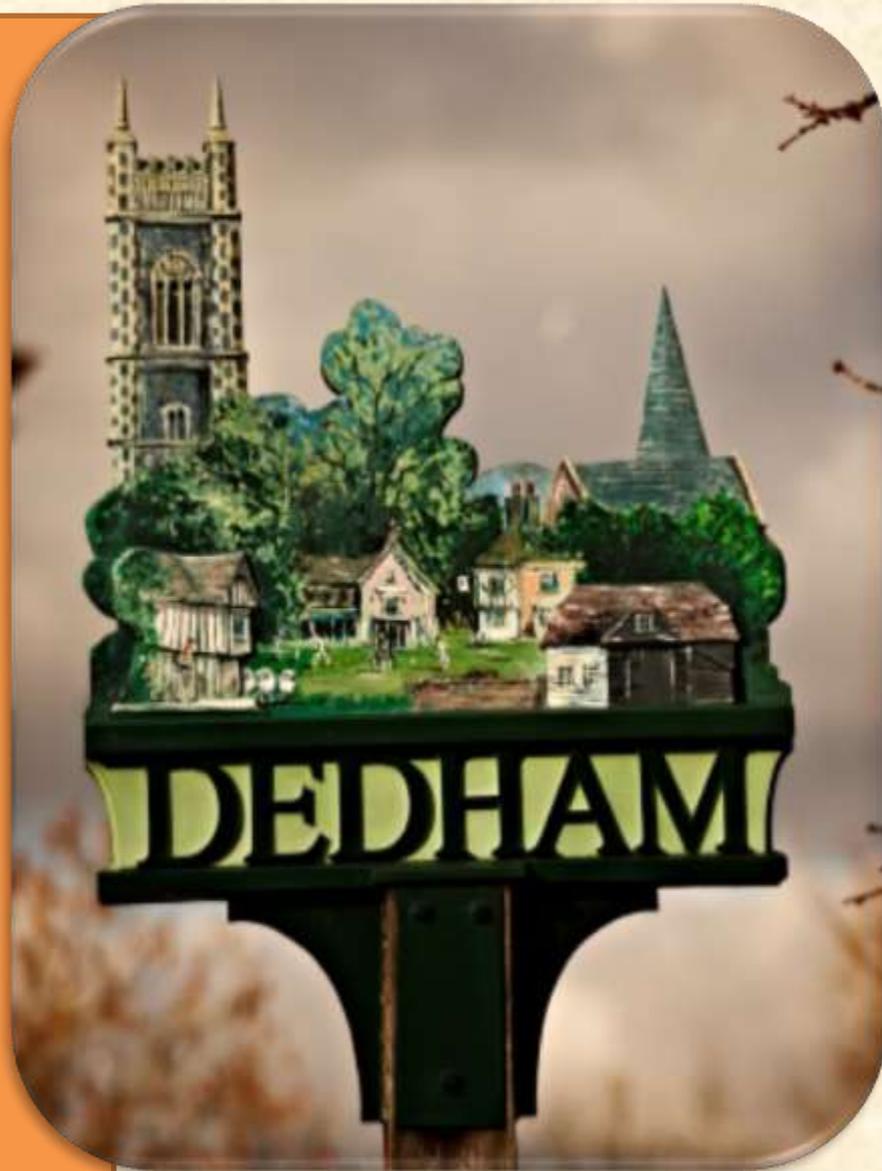
Things to do Near Colchester

To the North of Colchester you will discover the Dedham Vale, affectionately known as Constable Country; an area of natural beauty which has inspired great English painters through the ages.

The only designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Essex, the Dedham Vale contains numerous scenes which inspired famous English artists including 19th Century landscape painter John Constable, 18th century artist Thomas Gainsborough and 20th Century equestrian artist Sir Alfred Munnings.

Dedham is one of the most attractive villages in Essex, and the association with John Constable is particularly close. The historic church of St Mary the Virgin dominates the High Street and features in several of Constable's paintings.

Artists continue to be inspired by the area's landscape, and the work of equestrian artist Sir Alfred Munnings is celebrated in the Munnings Art Museum, the artist's former home in the village.



Dedham is a just a short drive from Colchester. The village roads are not meant for heavy traffic, so we recommend using public transport when possible, especially during the summer months.

-  *By Car: Dedham is just 20 minutes' drive from Colchester town centre. Information on Dedham car parks is available on the Colchester Borough Council website.*
-  *By Bus: The 80, 81, and 81A buses runs from Colchester to Dedham. The 93/94 bus also runs from Colchester to East Bergholt, which is a 30mn walk to Dedham.*
-  *By Train: Regular trains run from Colchester Station (North Station) to Manningtree (England's smallest town!). From here, Dedham is a 40mn walk away along a beautiful path following the River Stour. Alternatively taxis can take you the short 10mn drive to the centre of the village.*
-  *By Bike: Cycling in Dedham Vale is ideal to explore the area at your own pace. You can cycle from Colchester to Dedham via Ardleigh Reservoir, a route which takes about an hour. You can also hire bikes once in Dedham.*

IPSWICH



Ipswich is the oldest Anglo-Saxon town in England and has a rich heritage and a proud history. England's oldest continuously inhabited town, East Anglia's Waterfront Town and home to world class culture, food and drink - all surrounded by beautiful Suffolk countryside and coastline. Explore Ipswich and be amazed by over 1,000 years of history, be uplifted by internationally-acclaimed dance, theatre and comedy, be entertained by great festivals and events, be unique and shop a mix of the old and the new, the traditional and the global.

CRUISE THE RIVER ORWELL, ONE OF ENGLAND MOST BEAUTIFUL AND HISTORIC RIVERS.

Board the Orwell Lady and cruise through the Port of Ipswich, under the Orwell Bridge and out onto the open river through areas of outstanding natural beauty and wildlife.

Enjoy the sights and fresh Suffolk air from Orwell Lady's open top deck or cosy-up in the undercover saloon where there's a fully licensed bar serving snacks and hot and cold drinks including award-winning Adnams beers and spirits from Southwold.



<https://orwellrivercruises.com/>

Adult Prices: £28



IPSWICH CORN EXCHANGE

The Corn Exchange has been part of Ipswich life since the 19th Century and now hosts a varied programme of mid-scale comedy, music, sporting events, festivals and conferences.

Search shows and events



Things to do in Ipswich



A few miles from Ipswich is **Jimmy's Farm**, which first appeared on our TV screens over ten years ago. From humble beginnings, the farm has developed into a top attraction with an award-winning restaurant, a fabulous farm shop, nature trail, butterfly house and there are several festivals throughout the year, celebrating science, food, drink and music.

We are a working farm and wildlife park open for visitors 7 days a week and are home to over 80 different species & breeds!

The 200-year-old-barn has been lovingly restored, creating a wonderfully rustic yet contemporary timber framed restaurant.

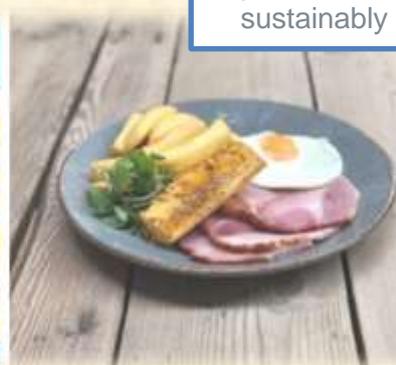
A family friendly restaurant, a popular choice for those visiting for the day, those wishing to grab lunch or having a coffee with friends.

Chosen from the best home grown and locally produced ingredients the team of chefs create daily changing menus full of seasonal produce, rare breed meat and sustainably sourced fish dishes.



🏠 Pannington Hall Lane
Ipswich
Suffolk. IP9 2AR

☎ 01473604206



ADULT TICKET: £12.50

<https://jimmysfarm.com/shop/>

OPENING TIMES

10am – 5pm (Last admittance 3pm)

Things to do in Ipswich



Ipswich Town FC

Ipswich Town Football Club is a professional association football club based in Ipswich, Suffolk, England. They play in League One, the third tier of the English football league system.

For full visitors guide [CLICK HERE](#)

Ipswich Town Football Club
Portman Road
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP1 2DA
United Kingdom

Club Telephone Number: 01473 400 500
Ticket Office Number: 03330 05 05 03

Surrounding Area

Visit Framlingham and take in its magnificent late 12th-century castle. It is surrounded by parkland and estates and was once at the centre of a vast network of power and influence. The castle is a great place for young and old to explore – a historic treat not to be missed. For more info: [Visit Framlingham Guide](#)



Framlingham Castle



EVERYBODY LOVES A
GREAT DAY BY THE
SEA, AND
FELIXSTOWE HAS
GREAT DAYS FOR
EVERYONE.

Take a stroll along the seafront, enjoy a family day out on the pier or visit the charming fishing and sailing hamlet of Felixstowe Ferry. Walk along the banks beside the river Deben, hop on the little foot ferry for a trip to Bawdsey and pick up some fresh fish for tea.

To find out what's on and where to go [Visit Felixtowe website](#)

Local bus and train services can be found [HERE](#)

LONDON

Big Bus London Hop-on Hop-off Tour

If you've got limited time to explore London, why not choose the Big Bus London Tour? With one ticket, you can hop-on and hop-off the big bus London for unlimited times. The routes of Big Bus London are designed for tourists, which cover all of the main London landmarks. You can enjoy the view in London while travelling instead of being bored in underground or getting confused by the normal buses' routes.



How to get my tickets?

- **Book online:** you can print your ticket and show it to the staff when you hop-on the bus. But for identification, you will be required to show your credit card which you used for ticket booking. Besides, you can save your ticket in your phone. You will get a message after booking succeeded, in which you will find a link. Click in the link then you will have a QR code. Show this QR code to the staff. Then you will get your paper ticket.
- **Buy ticket from the drivers** when you hop-on Big Bus London.

4 London Sightseeing

Routes

Red Tour

Discover the best of Central London on our Red Route bus tours. Red Route bus tours feature live, English-speaking guides on all buses – experts in sharing facts and stories about London's fascinating history, culture and architecture. The Red Route showcases the best of London, from exclusive Belgravia in the west, to Tower Bridge in the east. You're welcome to hop on and hop off the bus at over 20 different stops, each conveniently located close to landmarks like Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London, Trafalgar Square, and more.

Tour Duration:

2 hours, 20 Minutes

Frequency:

Every 15-20 Minutes

Blue Tour

Hop on our London Blue Route Tour to discover the best of West London, from elegant Kensington Palace and bustling Harrods, to stylish Notting Hill and famous Paddington station. Along the way, you'll enjoy an entertaining and informative digital commentary, available in 12 languages and broadcast via complimentary headphones.

Tour Duration: 1 hour, 15 Minutes

Frequency: Every 15-20 Minutes

Orange Route

Explore London's best attractions with ease on our Orange Route, operating between Madame Tussauds in Baker Street, to the London Eye, the London Dungeon, SEA LIFE London Aquarium, and Shrek's Adventure! in Westminster. You can hop on and hop off the tour at 9 different stops, and enjoy pre-recorded commentary along the way, available in 12 different languages.

Tour Duration:

1 hour, 30 minutes

Frequency:

Every 30 Minutes

Green Link

Tour Duration: 1 hour

Frequency: Every 20-30 Minutes

Hop on our London Green Link Route, connecting King's Cross and St. Pancras stations with the heart of London, where you'll be able to easily join our Red Route, Blue Route or Orange Route bus tours. The Green Link features pre-recorded commentary, available in 12 languages.

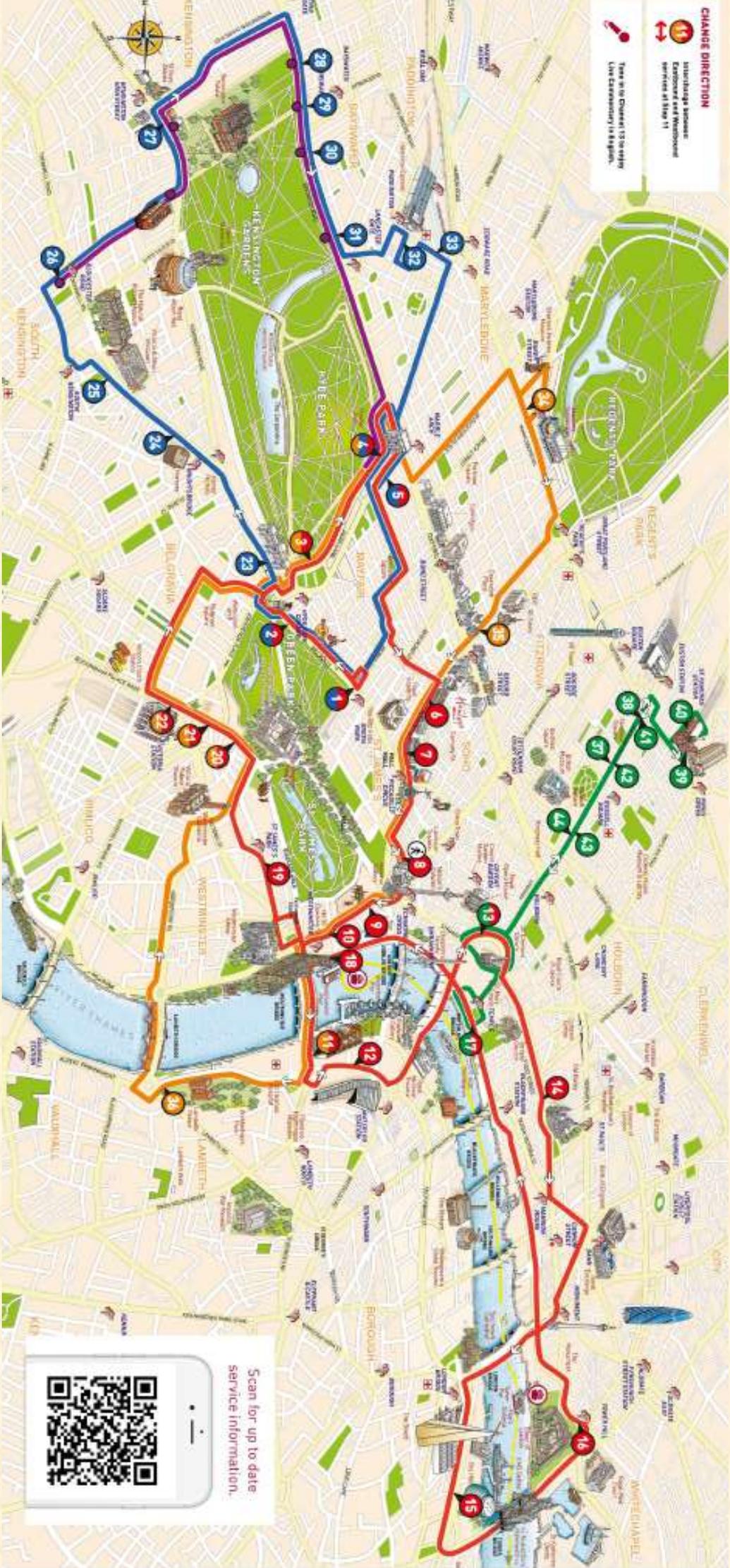
<p>Classic Ticket £35.10</p>	<p>Premium Ticket £40.50</p>	<p>Deluxe Ticket £45.00</p>	<p>Classic Ticket + Madame Tussauds Package £66.00</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-Day Hop-on, Hop-off • 4 different routes • Guided walking tours • River Cruise - one way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-Day Hop-on, Hop-off • 4 different routes • Guided walking tours • River Cruise - return 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-Day Hop-on, Hop-off • 4 different routes • Guided walking tours • River Cruise - return 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Day Hop-on, Hop-off • 4 different routes • Guided walking tours • River Cruise - one way • Madame Tussauds entry

River Cruise - One Way

One-way trip included with your Big Bus ticket

Take to the water with a one way river cruise in either direction between Westminster and Tower of London. The river cruise, operated by our partner City Cruises, offers a fantastic opportunity to see the city from a different angle and with fascinating live commentary. Enjoy a boat's eye view of top London sights including Tower Bridge, HMS Belfast, Shakespeare's Globe and Tate Modern.





Tower of London



About

One of London's most famous landmarks, the historic Tower houses the Crown Jewels, the prison cell of Sir Walter Raleigh, known as the Bloody Tower, and the Chapel of St. John and the Royal Armories.

Your Tower of London admission ticket gives you entry to:

- The Crown Jewels.
- All public areas of the Tower of London including the White Tower, Bloody Tower and battlements.
- The iconic Yeoman Warder tours.
- Children's activities and trails.

Buy tickets online to save 10%

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/#gs.ceikay>

Adult (age 18-64)	£29.90
Group Ticket	£26.60

How to get my tickets bought online?

- Receive tickets by email or print at home

1. Click the link in the email that we'll send you and **print out all your tickets or**
2. **Download your PDF ticket to your mobile** for scanning at the entrance.

- Collect from the group ticket office

1. We'll email you your booking reference number.
2. Bring this number and the credit/debit card you used to the group ticket office.

- By post

If you buy your tickets online **seven days in advance (UK) or 10 days in advance (overseas visitors)**, we can post your tickets to you.

How to get here?

- London Underground and trains

Tower Hill station (5 minute walk) – served by the District and Circle lines

Tower Hill station has step-free access to street level.

Nearby stations (10 – 15 minute walk) – Aldgate, Aldgate East, Tower Gateway, Monument, Bank, London Bridge, Fenchurch Street

- Bus

Routes 15, 42, 78, 100, and RV1 stop nearby the Tower of London.

All major sightseeing bus tours in London pass by the Tower of London.

Open Time:

Sun-Mon: 10:00 ~ 17:30

Sat-Tue: 09:00 ~ 17:30



See the Crown Jewel

Prepare to be dazzled by this breath-taking, world famous collection of 23,578 gemstones at the Tower of London.

Yeoman Warder Tour

Discover captivating stories of pain and passion, treachery and torture on the Yeoman Warder tours at the Tower of London.



The ravens

Meet the famous ravens at the Tower of London and discover why they are known as the guardians of the Tower.

White Tower

Marvel at the imposing White Tower, a magnificent example of Norman architecture at the heart of the Tower of London.



Line of Kings

Marvel at the historic armour of Henry VIII, Charles I and James II in the Line of Kings at the White Tower.

Guards at the Tower of London

Marvel at the guards protecting the Crown Jewels.





Imprisonment at the Tower Exhibition

Learn why people ended up as prisoners in the Tower of London, in the very rooms where some of them were held.

Armoury in Action

Shoot arrows, assemble firearms and brandish a sword in this exciting, hands-on experience in the White Tower.



Torture in Tower Exhibition

Prepare to be shocked by stories of the unfortunate prisoners who were tortured within the walls of the Tower of London.

Tower Green & Scaffold Site

Walk in the footsteps of those condemned to execution at the Tower of London on Tower Green and the Scaffold Site.



The Tower's Mint

Discover the people and stories behind the Royal Mint at the Tower of London through hands-on displays and installations.

Royal Beasts

Discover why exotic animals were kept at the Tower of London and see how they lived in the Royal Menagerie.



London Eye



The London Eye is a very popular attraction and we strongly advise booking in advance to avoid any disappointment.

The London Eye opening times vary throughout the year, typically the attraction opens at 10:00 and closes between 18:00-20:30. Please see above for full details and specific opening times.

Please Note: The London Eye 4D Experience closes 15 minutes prior to The London Eye closing times listed above.

How to get here?



UNDERGROUND

Tube: The Coca-Cola London Eye is located within easy walking distance from several London Underground stations: **Waterloo, Embankment, Charing Cross and Westminster.**

Waterloo is the closest tube station to the Coca-Cola London Eye. Waterloo is about five minutes walking distance. Exit the station following signs for the South Bank.

Embankment and Charing Cross stations are close together on the north side of the River Thames. Both tube stations are a ten-fifteen minute walk to reach the Coca-Cola London Eye. From the station, cross over Hungerford Bridge.

Westminster tube station is the closest station to Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament. From Westminster tube station, take exit one and follow signs for Westminster pier. Visit Journey Planner



Ticket	Online Price	On the Day
Standard Ticket	From £24.50	From £31.00
Fast Track Ticket	From £34.50	
London Eye + 1 Attraction	From £40.00	From £70.00



Standard ticket Includes:

- London Eye 4D cinema experience
- Eye Lounge Champagne Bar entry



Fast Track ticket includes:

- Access to a dedicated entrance to get priority entry
- FREE entry to the London Eye 4D cinema experience
- FREE entry to the Eye Lounge Champagne Bar



Save up to 43% when booked together

Ticket includes:

- ✓ Entry to London Eye + 1 more top London attraction
- ✓ Choose from Madame Tussauds, London Dungeon, SEA LIFE London Aquarium, Shrek's Adventure! and a hop-on-hop-off BIG BUS Tour (Fridays to Mondays only)
- ✓ Visit the other attraction within 90 days from the date you visit The London Eye at your leisure



Winter Wonderland



About Hyde Park Winter Wonderland

Located in the heart of London in Hyde Park, immerse yourself in all things festive for 6 weeks from November to January. Offering an array of attractions, activities and entertainment for visitors of all ages – there really is something for everyone!

Winter Wonderland is FREE to enter for you to wander around, browse the Christmas Markets and soak up the festive atmosphere.

With exciting attractions including UK's largest open-air ice rink, funky new apres ski vibes at Bar Ice and jaw dropping acts in the Circus MegaDome!



Things to do in London

Harrods

The World's Leading Luxury Department Store



Location:

87-135 Brompton Road

Knightsbridge

London, SW1X 7XL

Opening

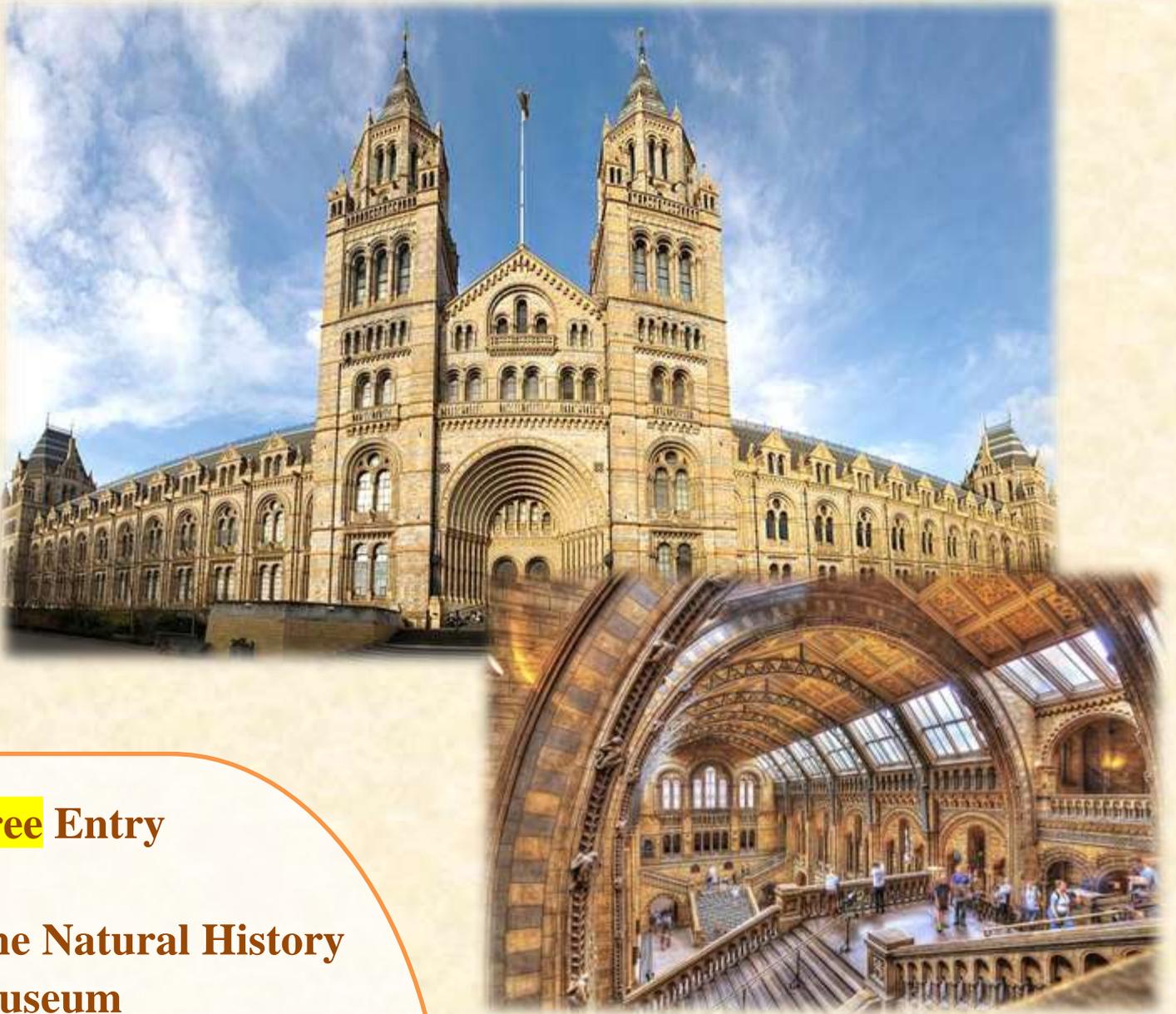
Monday	11am – 7pm	Friday	11am – 7pm
Tuesday	11am – 7pm	Saturday	11am – 7pm
Wednesday	11am – 7pm	Sunday	11.30am – 6pm
Thursday	11am – 7pm		

Tube

The nearest tube station to Harrods is **Knightsbridge** on the Piccadilly line. Use the Brompton Road exit for Harrods. **South Kensington station**, on the Piccadilly, District and Circle lines, and **Sloane Square**, on the District and Circle lines, are just a short walk from the store.



National History Museum



Free Entry

**The Natural History
Museum**

**Cromwell Road
London SW7 5BD**

Open every day

10.00-17.50

Last entry 17.30

About

The Natural History Museum in London is a natural history museum that exhibits a vast range of specimens from various segments of natural history. It is one of three major museums on Exhibition Road in South Kensington, the others being the Science Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum.



Transportation

By Tube

The nearest Tube station is **South Kensington** on the District, Piccadilly and Circle lines. The station is approximately five minutes' walk from the Museum's Exhibition Road entrance.

Gloucester Road station also services the above Tube lines and is approximately 5 minutes' walk from the Queen's Gate entrance.

By bus

Routes **14, 49, 70, 74, 345, 360, 414, 430 and C1** stop close to the Museum.



Find answers to your big nature questions. Delve into stories about the Museum's collections, scientists and research. Uncover the history of life on Earth, from the smallest insects to the largest mammals.



Oxford Street



ABOUT:

London's Oxford Street spells action where you can shop 'til you drop along England's most famous shopping street, drop into one of the many pubs for a tasty ale or catch the latest musical at the theatre.

OPENING HOURS

Mon 9:00am - 9:00pm

Tue 9:00am - 9:00pm

Wed 9:00am - 9:00pm

Thu 9:00am - 10:00pm

Fri 9:00am - 9:00pm

Sat 9:00am - 9:00pm

Sun 12:00pm - 6:00pm

*Some stores may vary, please check individual store times



NORWICH

ABOUT Norwich

Norwich is a place to explore and experience. Where the curious are rewarded. It's an old city, overflowing with new secrets. And welcoming people ready to tell them. Here, friends come to discover something for everyone. And leave knowing they won't find it anywhere else.

Founded in 1096 Norwich Cathedral is set in the 44 acre Cathedral Close, a peaceful city centre sanctuary. The Cathedral itself is one of the finest complete Romanesque buildings in Europe, with the highest Norman tower and largest monastic cloisters in England



From Apple to Zara, find your favourite stores and more at intu Chapelfield

intu Chapelfield is located in the city centre with several conveniently situated transport links

Frequent rail services to Norwich train station, which is only a 20 minute walk from the shopping centre.

Opening Times:
Mon - Wed: 9am - 6pm
Thu: 9am - 9pm
Fri - Sat: 9am - 7pm
Sun: 11am - 5pm

OXFORD



Oxford, a city in central southern England, revolves around its prestigious university, established in the 12th century. The architecture of its 38 colleges in the city's medieval centre led poet Matthew Arnold to nickname it the 'City of Dreaming Spires'. University College and Magdalen College are off the High Street, which runs from Carfax Tower (with city views) to the Botanic Garden on the River Cherwell.

ABOUT

Bicester Village



ABOUT

Visit Bicester Village and discover more than 1,300 boutiques from the World's most exciting brands, including Oscar de la Renta, Gina and Saint Laurent, with famous restaurants, true five star hospitality and remarkable savings of up to 60% on the recommended retail price.



The 6 best things to do in Oxford

1

University of Oxford tour

What is it? Behind-the-scenes tour of the city's architecturally splendid university, led by guides who know its colleges, quads and hidden corners best.

Why go? So, in case you were unaware, the city of Oxford is home to a university (two, actually). It's a world-leader in terms of research, but you don't need to wade heavily into Jstor to simply appreciate this: it looks very pretty. Indulge in 'Brideshead Revisited' dreams with an on-foot trip around the historic city centre.

2

Oxford Botanic Gardens & Arboretum

What is it? The UK's oldest botanic garden and a stunning 130 acres of woodland for you to escape the busy city and recharge in.

Why go? On their own, Oxford's botanic gardens would be enough to celebrate. The scientifically-important grounds and glasshouses contain more than 6,000 types of plant. However, the university also manages the Harcourt Arboretum, a short 10 minutes' drive from the centre. Bonus points if you plan your trip at the right time to see the bluebell wood in its full, blooming glory.

The 6 best things to do in Oxford

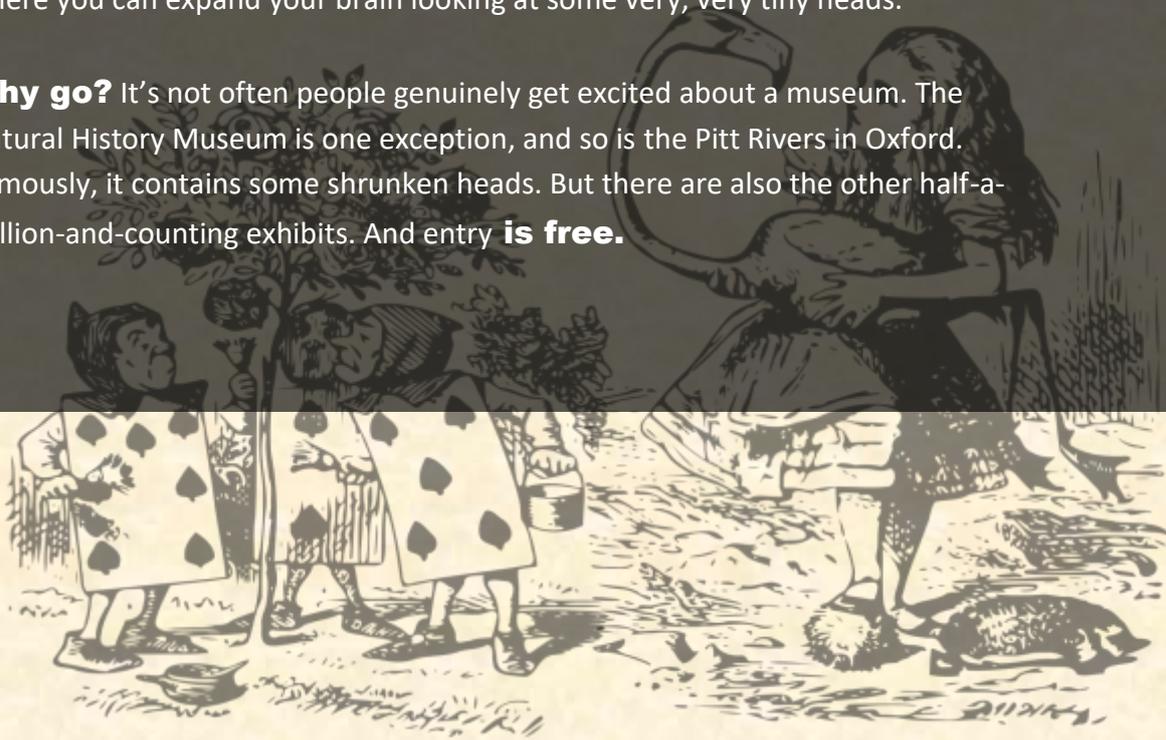
The 6 best things to do in Oxford

Pitt Rivers Museum

What is it? Oxford's world-famous museum of archaeology and ethnography where you can expand your brain looking at some very, very tiny heads.

Why go? It's not often people genuinely get excited about a museum. The Natural History Museum is one exception, and so is the Pitt Rivers in Oxford. Famously, it contains some shrunken heads. But there are also the other half-a-million-and-counting exhibits. And entry **is free.**

3



Eagle and Child Pub

What is it? A classic Oxford pub owned by St John's College, that used to be the preferred boozier (and literary hang-out) of Tolkien, CS Lewis and others.

Why go? If you like books as much as booze, then a trip to the Eagle and Child to pay homage to some of England's most famous writers is a necessity. Back in the '30s and '40s, The Inklings (a group of writerly pals including Tolkien, CS Lewis and others) met at the pub to mull over manuscripts, including the first drafts of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'.

The 6 best things to do in Oxford

Harry Potter Locations tour

What is it? Spell-binding (obvs) tour of locations used in the shooting of the Harry Potter films. Small groups get to explore the parts of Oxford Uni used as a stand-in for Hogwarts and then geek out with a quiz.

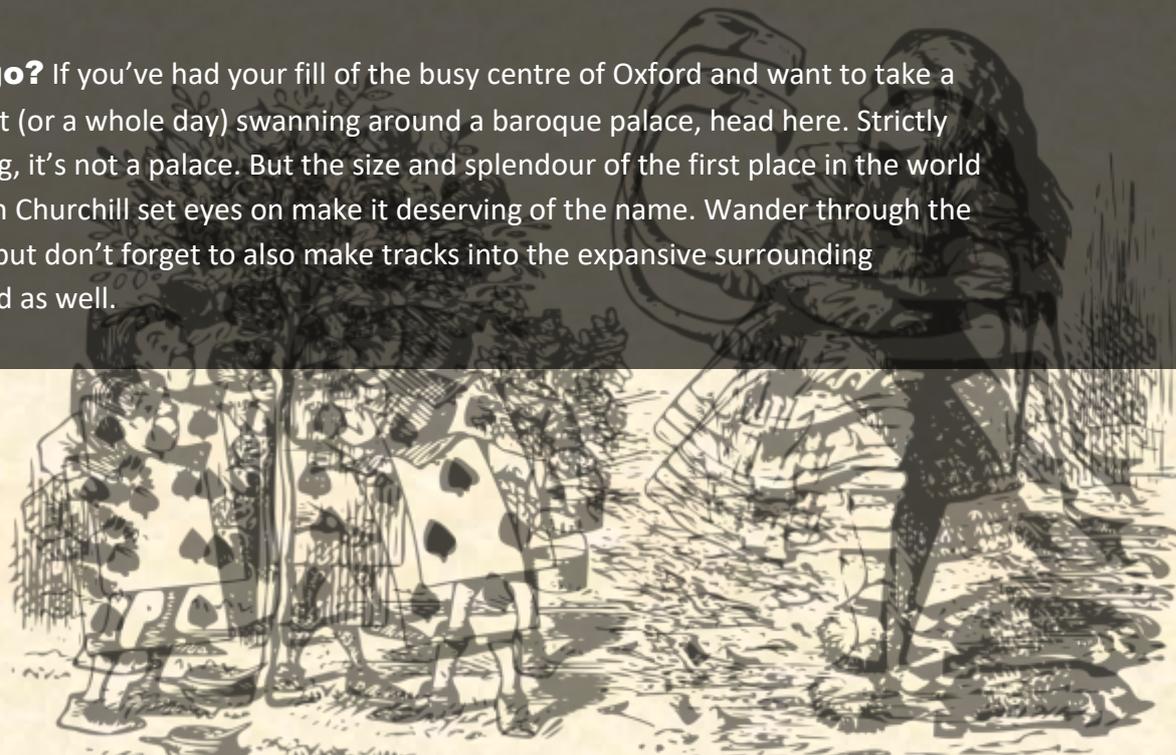
Why go? If your 'morning podcast' is actually a JK Rowling audiobook, you know where the sorting hat would put you and you've already tried running into a wall at King's Cross station, but crave more. Take a tour around New College or Christchurch, plus part of the Bodleian Library, aka the Divinity School.

The 6 best things to do in Oxford

Blenheim Palace

What is it? Huge country house with epic gardens and parkland that will take you around 20 minutes to drive to from Oxford. The estate is best known as the birthplace of Winston Churchill.

Why go? If you've had your fill of the busy centre of Oxford and want to take a moment (or a whole day) swanning around a baroque palace, head here. Strictly speaking, it's not a palace. But the size and splendour of the first place in the world Winston Churchill set eyes on make it deserving of the name. Wander through the house, but don't forget to also make tracks into the expansive surrounding parkland as well.



The 6 best things to do in Oxford

CAMBRIDGE



THINGS TO DO IN CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge has been called one of "most beautiful cities in the world" by Forbes and tourism generates over £30 million for the city's economy. So there's always plenty to see and do!

<https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/all-about/things-to-do-cambridge>



Things to do in Cambridge



EXPLORING THE AREA BEYOND CAMBRIDGE

THE LONDON TO CAMBRIDGE TRAIN JOURNEY IS ABOUT HOUR AND EVEN QUICKER IF YOU TAKE THE EXPRESS TRAIN. TRAINS DEPART FROM KINGS CROSS OR LIVERPOOL STREET STATIONS WITH AROUND 4 DEPARTURES PER HOUR.

If you have added Cambridge to your UK road trip itinerary, there is so much to do in the surrounding area.

Visit the Imperial War Museum at nearby Duxford – more for its collections of planes including a Concorde which you can walk inside, than for the tanks.

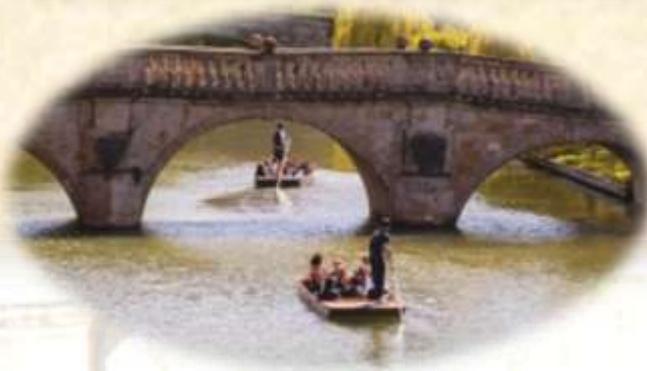
History buffs will enjoy a trip to Sutton Hoo where you can visit one of England's most important archaeological sites.

For a picture perfect English market town you can't beat Bury St Edmunds an hour east of Cambridge. You will also find one of the best preserved half timbered towns in England close by at Lavenham.



Cambridge Punting Tour

The river is navigable by punt, canoe and rowing boat from Cambridge up to Byron's Pool. Punting is a particularly lovely way to enjoy the river and the meadows and lets you quickly leave the cares of the town behind. Scudamore's Mill Lane Punting Station (CB2 1RS) is the easiest place from which to hire craft if you are heading out to Grantchester.



Cambridge Group Activities

Special options are created to make it easier for groups to go punting. We offer unique packages and welcome enquiries from groups ranging in size from less than 10 people to more than 300. No two groups are the same and so our dedicated bookings team are on hand on 07807 718592 to discuss your specific requirements.

info@cambridgepunters.com

Shared punt tours along the Backs can be taken daily from 09:00, departing every 15-30 minutes. Our punts can seat up to 12 people and are dressed with cushions and blankets. They come equipped with additional blankets and umbrellas in case the weather changes.

Online Tour Booking (High Season, April – September)

*£69 – Mornings, Save £111!
£100 – Weekdays, Save £80!
£140 – Weekends, Save £40!*

Online Tour Booking (Low Season – October – March)

*£69 – Mornings, Save £111!
£80 – Weekdays, Save £100!
£100 – Weekends, Save £80!*

SCOTLAND



Scotland

Country of the United Kingdom

Scotland, the U.K.'s northernmost country, is a land of mountain wildernesses such as the Cairngorms and Northwest Highlands, interspersed with glacial glens (valleys) and lochs (lakes). Its major cities are Edinburgh, the capital, with its iconic hilltop castle, and Glasgow, famed for its vibrant cultural scene. Scotland is also famous for golf, the game first played at the Old Course at St Andrews in the 1400s.



Things to do in Scotland

THE HISTORY OF SCOTCH WHISKY IN THE HIGHLANDS

So how did the Highlands of Scotland become such a hotspot for whisky distilleries?

The story begins as early as the 11th century. Like most things in Scotland, the success of whisky comes down to our weather. With the country not being known for its sunny weather, winemaking was not an option. Scottish monks started to use grain mash instead, using water from nearby rivers.

Whisky also needs a cool, moist environment to mature properly. This is something Scotland has no problem supplying! The tradition continued through the centuries, making Scotland one of the world's most successful producers of the drink.

The popularity of the drink grew throughout the centuries. In 1506, King James IV visited Inverness and drank "aqua vite". This was probably Highland scotch.

If a product is called Scotch Whisky then it must follow a legal definition. This includes that it must be produced in Scotland and matured in Oak Casks for at least 3 years. This way, you know that if you are buying highland single malt scotch whisky, then it's definitely from Scotland. However, the flavours in the finished bottle also depend on the rocks the rivers flow through. The result can be whiskies with flavours including smoky, honey or even heather tones. We also spell whisky without an "e"! Some believe the Irish and American spelling (whiskey) dates back to when Scottish and Irish distilleries wanted to highlight the difference between their products.



LOCH NESS



This beautiful loch located near Inverness is shrouded in mystery. Tales of a large monster living deep beneath the dark expanses of Loch Ness have circulated the world since the first photograph emerged in 1933. With over 1,000 eye-witness accounts, sightings and unexplained evidence, scientists continue to be baffled by the existence of Nessie. See for yourself on a boat trip and Nessie cruise from Inverness, Fort Augustus and Drumnadrochit.

Did you know that Loch Ness contains more water than all the lakes of England and Wales combined, making it the most voluminous lake in the UK? This corner of the Highlands is world-famous for its dramatic scenery, great adventure sports and nearby castles and solitary lighthouses dotting the landscape. So take a Loch Ness break and enjoy a monster holiday!

Things To See Along the Way

The trail starts north of Loch Ness in Inverness and passes around its banks, through Drumnadrochit and Invermoriston to Fort Augustus in the south, following the Great Glen Way. It then takes you back up from Fort Augustus, through Foyers and Dores, along the South Loch Ness Trail. Highlights include the magnificent Falls of Foyers, Suidhe Viewpoint, Caledonian Canal and Urquhart Castle. Experience the beauty of Scottish Highlands like never before!



GLASGOW



Glasgow is a port city on the River Clyde in Scotland's western Lowlands. It's famed for its Victorian and art nouveau architecture, a rich legacy of the city's 18th–20th-century prosperity due to trade and shipbuilding. Today it's a national cultural hub, home to institutions including the Scottish Opera, Scottish Ballet and National Theatre of Scotland, as well as acclaimed museums and a thriving music scene.

Glasgow's grand Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum fills a red-sandstone Victorian castle. The Burrell Collection, in Pollok Country Park, shows art and antiquities donated to the city by a local shipping magnate. Art nouveau buildings by local architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh include Sauchiehall Street's Willow Tearooms, Bellahouston Park's House for an Art Lover and the Glasgow School of Art. The Clyde Waterfront incorporates the futuristic Glasgow Science Centre with interactive displays. Pedestrianised Buchanan Street has upmarket boutiques, and the East End is home to the sprawling 'Barras' weekend flea market.

Things to do in Glasgow



1. Glasgow Necropolis
Victorian-era cemetery containing the graves & mausoleums of prominent Glaswegians of the day.



2. Glasgow Cathedral
Church of Scotland place of worship, consecrated in 1197, with post-war stained glass windows.



3. George Square
Civic square named for King George III and laid out in 1781 filled with statues of famous Scots.



4. Willow Tearooms
Quaint tea rooms in a 1915 department store with Charles Rennie Mackintosh style interior design.



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7. Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum
Impressive sights of diverse Scottish and international art with museum and interactive displays.



8. Riverside Museum
Hyper-modern museum with collections of historic vehicles and state-of-the-art interactive displays.



EDINBURGH

CAPITAL OF SCOTLAND



Edinburgh is Scotland's compact, hilly capital. It has a medieval Old Town and elegant Georgian New Town with gardens and neoclassical buildings. Looming over the city is Edinburgh Castle, home to Scotland's crown jewels and the Stone of Destiny, used in the coronation of Scottish rulers. Arthur's Seat is an imposing peak in Holyrood Park with sweeping views, and Calton Hill is topped with monuments and memorials.

The Royal Mile, lined with shops selling souvenirs, clan tartans and whisky, leads from the castle to 16th-century Holyrood Palace, an official royal residence. The Scottish National Galleries display Scottish and European art, including portraits of many famous Scots. Princes Street, the main shopping area, is home to 19th-century Jenners Department Store and its skylit grand hall. The summer arts festival season, a city institution, includes the internationally renowned Edinburgh International Festival and its quirkier sibling, Fringe. Restaurants in waterside Leith serve high-end local seafood to traditional fish and chips.

Things to do in Edinburgh

Day trip in Edinburgh



Make your way to the Scott Monument via a stroll up Edinburgh's famous Royal Mile

Let's get to the top of Edinburgh, for a completely different panoramic view of the city! Take a few deep breaths and let's get climbing to the top of Edinburgh's iconic Scott Monument. 287 steps later and you'll find yourself 200 feet above the City of Edinburgh, and what a view it is! There is no other view quite like this one in Edinburgh, and it's well worth the hike.

As well as being one of Edinburgh's most visited spots by tourists, Edinburgh Castle is one of the city's most iconic landmarks. And no wonder! It towers over the city, perched majestically on top of a volcanic outcrop. You can see it from miles around, making it the perfect spot for a castle, if you think about it!

People have been living and working on this spot since the Iron Age so it's fascinating to walk around the exhibitions and galleries and peek out of the windows imagining how the views have changed over the centuries.



While in this part of town, take a stroll through Princes Street Gardens. It rests in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle, on the south side of Princes Street. As you stroll, you'll discover some beautiful floral displays, like the stunning Floral Clock, which has a different theme every year. There's also time to discover the variety of statues scattered throughout the park.

The Scotch Whisky Experience is a five-star visitor attraction on Edinburgh's Royal Mile tells the tale of Scotland's national drink and is well worth a visit. With a stunning multi-sensory tour and tasting, The Scotch Whisky Experience fully immerses visitors in the water of life via a breath-taking 180° panoramic tour of Scotland's five whisky-making regions, and a carefully crafted recreation of an 1870s Blender's Room. Set up in 1987 to educate visitors to Edinburgh about the joys of Scotch whisky, it is now home to the world's largest private collection of Scotch whisky, held in a glittering vault.

<https://www.scotchwhiskyexperience.co.uk/>

