



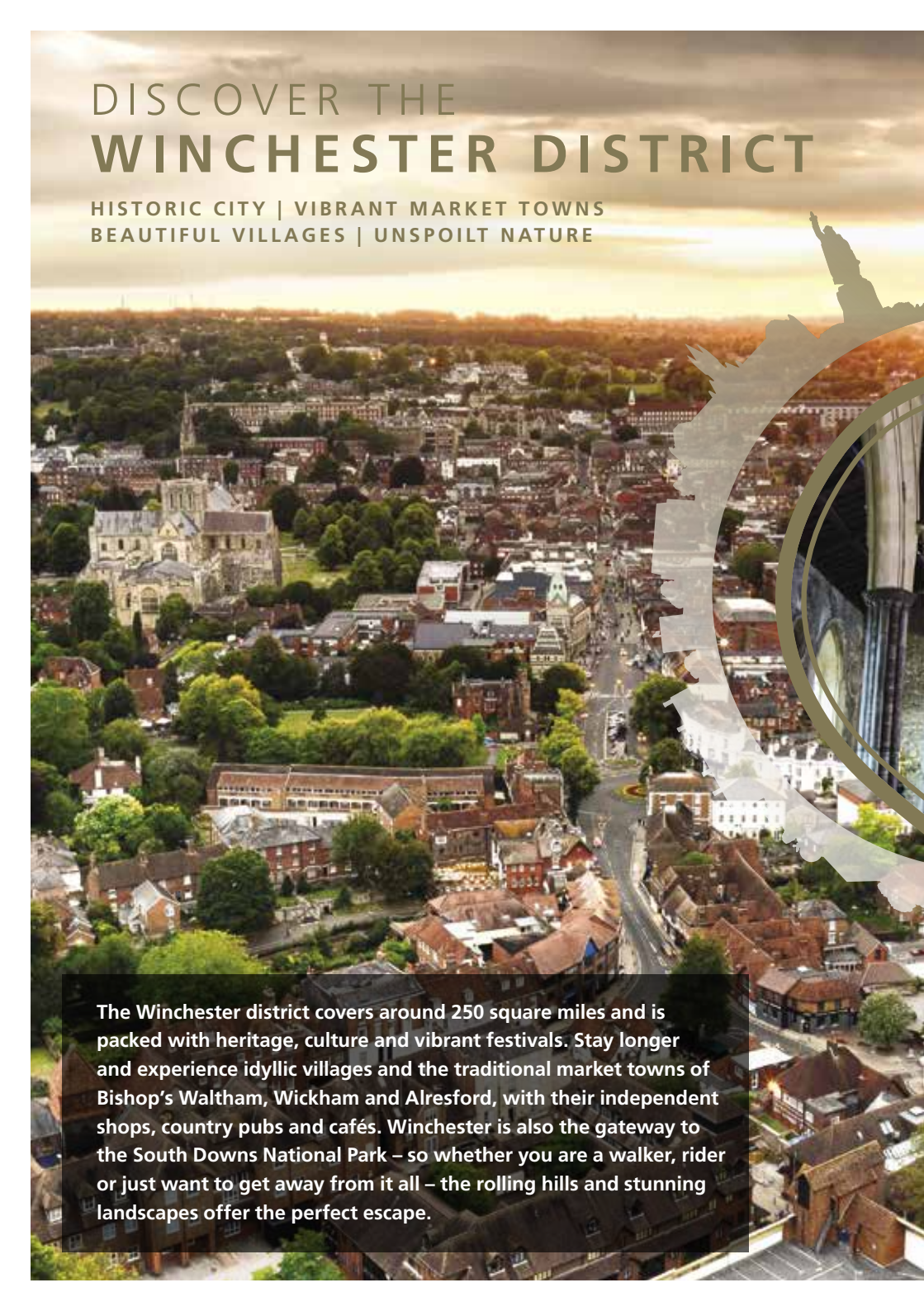
Destination guide **WINCHESTER**

Vibrant. Ancient. Cultured.

visitwinchester.co.uk

DISCOVER THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT

HISTORIC CITY | VIBRANT MARKET TOWNS
BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES | UNSPOILT NATURE

An aerial photograph of the Winchester district in Hampshire, England, taken during the golden hour of sunset. The image shows a dense urban landscape with a mix of historic stone buildings, including a large cathedral with a prominent spire, and more modern residential and commercial structures. The streets are lined with trees, and the overall atmosphere is warm and scenic. A circular inset on the right side of the image provides a closer look at a building's facade, showing architectural details like a window and a door.

The Winchester district covers around 250 square miles and is packed with heritage, culture and vibrant festivals. Stay longer and experience idyllic villages and the traditional market towns of Bishop's Waltham, Wickham and Alresford, with their independent shops, country pubs and cafés. Winchester is also the gateway to the South Downs National Park – so whether you are a walker, rider or just want to get away from it all – the rolling hills and stunning landscapes offer the perfect escape.



Contents

What's new in Winchester	4
England's ancient capital	6
Family itinerary	10
Make your break an eco-break	12
Creative Winchester	14
Festivals in Winchester	16
Winchester on screen	18
Food and drink	20
Shopping	22
Love local?	24
Bishop's Waltham	26
Alresford	28
Wickham	30
Walking trails	32
Cycling trails	34
Gateway to the South Downs National Park	36
The return of the sleepover!	38
Stay in the city	39
Stay for an experience	41
3G breaks	42
Rural retreats	44
Get close to nature with a sleep under the stars	45
Visitor information	46

What's new in Winchester?



BRICKOSAURS!

Evolution, a world-first collection of toy brick dinosaurs, is coming to Marwell Zoo. Come face to face with over 20 species made using more than two million toy bricks from 1 April – 4 September 2022.

Step back in time!

Visit the home of **Jane Austen**, the enchanting cottage where she lived and wrote her beloved novels. Step back in time to 1816 and follow in Jane's footsteps. Discover treasures including Jane's jewellery and her tiny writing table. View the rare and precious Austen letters recently saved at auction and get inspired by the exciting programme of onsite and online events.



Gin o'clock!

2021 saw the opening of the new Turbine Bar and Cinema Room at the **Bombay Sapphire Distillery**. Every Discovery Experience or Gin Cocktail Masterclass now includes a trip to the Turbine Bar to choose a Bombay gin to make your own gin & tonic before heading to the cinema room where you'll be immersed in all things Bombay Sapphire in preparation for your tour of Laverstoke Mill.



20 YEARS OF SCIENCE WOW!

In 2022 Winchester Science Centre is celebrating 20 years of science wow factor. They'll be bringing back some of the most popular science shows and themes, all with a retro 2002 twist. Enjoy a spectacular Planetarium show or get hands-on with interactive exhibits.



The Arc

The Arc (formerly known as Winchester Discovery Centre) has undergone a major £715,000 refurbishment and reopened in February 2022 as a cultural hub for the city. It's a place to experience arts, reading and community under one roof, in the heart of Winchester. Enjoy everything from live music, comedy and family theatre, to classes for all ages and art exhibitions featuring nationally and internationally significant artists. The Arc has a lively, ever-changing programme of events and is also home to Hampshire's busiest library, Winchester Library.



RETURN OF THE STAYCATION!

It looks like the staycation is here to stay and the Winchester district can be enjoyed whatever the season. Throughout this guide you'll find itineraries for outdoor junkies, shopaholics, foodies, heritage-lovers and families right here in the Winchester district. Take a look at pages 38–45 to pick accommodation to suit your style and budget.

Find special offers for your staycation at visitwinchester.co.uk.



Jacob King/PA Wire/
PA Images

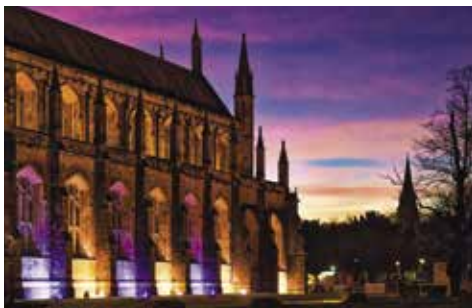
ROYAL HISTORY

The Queen is the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service. Winchester district is steeped in royal history and so has good reason to celebrate the Jubilee throughout 2022. Follow the district's royal connections as far back as the Early Middle Ages, when it was the capital of Wessex under Anglo-Saxon kings with our Royal Blood trail available to download from visitwinchester.co.uk.



England's ancient capital

Winchester has a long and noble history. It became the ancient capital of the kingdom of Wessex when King Alfred the Great came to the throne in 871 at the tender age of 21. His statue has dominated The Broadway since 1901.



With awe-inspiring architecture and over 1000 years of history, no trip to the city would be complete without visiting **WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL**.

When you visit, you'll discover one of the finest medieval cathedrals in Europe. Don't miss Kings and Scribes: The Birth of a Nation exhibition, which reveals some of the cathedral's greatest treasures.

Follow the steps down to the crypt for Anthony Gormley's Sound II, the same British sculptor that famously created the Angel of the North, Field for the British Isles and Quantum Cloud.



Top views!

- Take a walk up **ST GILES HILL** for a bird's eye view of the city. Trace the sweep of the medieval and Georgian buildings, laid out according to the original Saxon street plan.
- Climb spiralling steps up onto the cathedral roof to see the ringing chamber and the great cathedral bells. Walk the full length of the nave roof on an exhilarating tower tour of **WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL**.
- **WESTGATE MUSEUM** tells the story of Tudor and Stuart Winchester and offers unparalleled views of the city from its roof.

Hidden gems

Take a guided tour with one of Winchester's official tourist guides and find out more about the city's hidden gems. Look out for themed tours covering Hidden Winchester, Halloween and Civil War walks to name but a few.

Discover the nationally important story of England's ancient capital at **CITY MUSEUM** as well as the Winchester Model, a breath-taking scale model of the city in Victorian times.

Journey into Arthurian legend and see the legendary round table at the **GREAT HALL**, the last remaining part of Winchester Castle. Glimpse the secret underground passages created to surprise an enemy or return to the safety of the castle in times of battle and besiege.



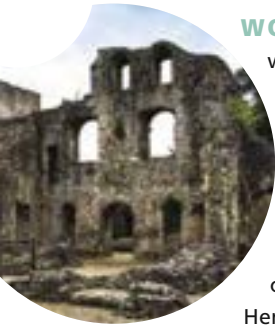
Get a hands-on grip of history at the National Trust's **WINCHESTER CITY MILL**, the oldest working watermill in the UK. To this day you can still buy freshly milled flour and you might even spot an otter swimming along the River Itchen.



Explore **WINCHESTER COLLEGE**, which has the longest continuous history of any English school. It was founded by William of Wykeham in

1382 and has educated politicians, writers, artists, sportsmen, scientists and leaders of industry, all of whom are proud to call themselves Wykehamists.





WOLVESEY CASTLE

was an important residence of the wealthy and powerful Bishops of Winchester since Anglo-Saxon times. The surviving ruins date largely from the 12th century work of Bishop Henry of Blois.

Look out for ...

- the dark and gloomy passageways outside the **Great Hall**, both of which are all that remain of Winchester Castle. The original castle was founded in 1067 by William the Conqueror. In 1222 Henry III began the construction of one of the earliest Gothic styled medieval halls.
- **St John's House** opposite the Victorian Guildhall in the historic Broadway is one of the oldest charitable foundations in the country. When you walk past take a look up at the windows on the top floor – this whole bricked up row is now just painted on.



Stroll along the River Itchen and nestling in the water meadows in the shadow of St Catherine's Hill lies the ancient **HOSPITAL OF ST CROSS**. Renowned for the tranquillity of its setting and the beauty of its architecture, the Hospital is one of England's oldest continuing almshouses and is famous for the ancient tradition of providing the Wayfarer's Dole – a horn of beer and a morsel of bread given to any visitor who requests it.



Get to know the city!

Follow our self-guided **CITY WALK** to take in the city's highlights. Download it from visitwinchester.co.uk



MILITARY MIGHT

Travel up to **PENINSULA BARRACKS** for a unique glimpse at fantastic collections of medals, paintings and military objects at Winchester's Military Quarter, home to six military museums. Or journey out of the city to Fort Nelson at Portsdown Hill, a Victorian fortress and home to the Royal Armouries' national collection of artillery and historic cannon.



LITERARY GREATS

JANE AUSTEN – celebrated as one of England's greatest novelists – was buried in the cathedral in 1817 at the age of 41. She spent the last few weeks of her life in Winchester at a residence in College Street. Jane Austen's novels have touched generations of people and have been turned into many films including *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma*, to name but a few.

JOHN KEATS penned his ode 'To Autumn' after seeking inspiration from his route along the water meadows. You can follow in his footsteps with the **KEATS** self-guided trail available to download at visitwinchester.co.uk



EXPLORE AT YOUR OWN PACE...

Grab your walking boots and take a tour through history with one of many self-guided tours available to view digitally at visitwinchester.co.uk or from Winchester Visitor Information Centre. Tours include a Royal Blood trail, Medieval Jewish trail and a Cricket trail.



Find out more about all these places to visit and more across the district at visitwinchester.co.uk

Family itinerary

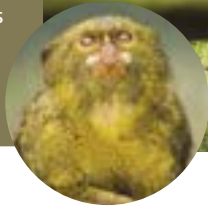
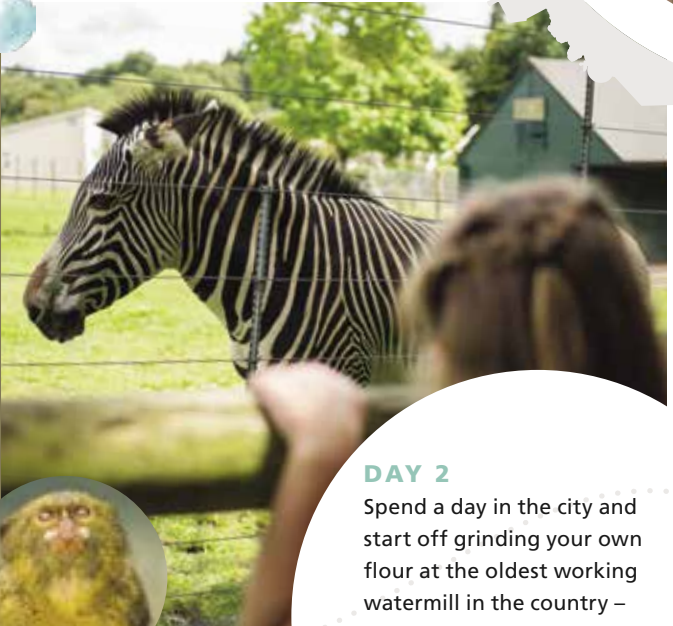
Fun for families

Whether you are away with just the family, or if you have the grandparents in tow too, Winchester has something to offer all ages. Let us do the planning for you, here's our favourite family-friendly itinerary...



DAY 1

Meet 100s of animals including giraffes, tigers, leopards and meerkats at **Marwell Zoo**. Dive into the underwater world of penguins before taking a prowl around big cat country. Take the train to explore the world of fur, feathers and scales before exploring the African Wilderness in Wild Explorers. Look out for special activities throughout the school holidays too.



DAY 2

Spend a day in the city and start off grinding your own flour at the oldest working watermill in the country – **Winchester City Mill**.

Take a break from exploring and get crafty at **BellaCrafts**, a local independent craft business located in the centre of the city in Kings Walk.

There are plenty of play parks across the city for the kids to run around, including **Abbey Gardens** which is right next to **Inn the Park** – the perfect place to grab a coffee while

Eat

In the city pizza is on the menu at **Three Joes in The Square**. Or why not try a family favourite of sausage and beans in a pie with a delicious serving of mash at **Piecaramba**? The restaurant itself is worth a visit with its dedication to comics and all things pop culture at every turn.

POP CULTURE





DAY 3

Venture out to the market town of Alresford and climb aboard a restored steam train at the **Watercress Line**. Walk in Harry Potter's footsteps over the railway footbridge where he received his Hogwarts Express ticket before taking in the sights, sounds, smells and magic of steam travel from a bygone age. Don't miss a Day Out With Thomas the Tank Engine during the May half-term and summer holidays, or ride the Wizard Express during October half term.

Rainy days?

NOT A PROBLEM WITH THESE GREAT DAYS OUT...

Travel from the past to the future with a trip to **Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium**. Explore fun and interactive exhibits including an enormous 10 metre long playable guitar and the out-of-this-world Explorer: Space zone. With live science shows and demos plus the chance to fly through the Solar System in the UK's largest standalone Planetarium – this is an action-packed day out for all weathers.

You'll find plenty of hands-on fun for kids at **Westgate Museum, City Museum and Winchester Cathedral** throughout the year, be sure to look out for additional special activities and events during the holidays.

Don't forget to check out what's on at **Theatre Royal Winchester** which hosts plenty of well-known stories and family-friendly entertainment. Make sure you book early for their very popular Christmas panto.



you watch the kids play and then enjoy waffles after as a family. Or head to **Winnall Moors Nature Reserve** for some wildlife-spotting.

If you're travelling over Easter, Halloween or Christmas then look out for one of the family-friendly trails across the city.

Pick up a bedtime read from **P&G Wells** in Kingsgate Village. This book shop has been selling books since 1729 and has the largest range of children's books in the area.



Sleep

Marwell Hotel is a firm favourite with families, and a wonderful, flexible venue for celebrations, parties and events. The whole family can enjoy a day out together at Marwell Zoo just a short walk away.

Make your break an eco-break

Despite being England's ancient capital, Winchester is making great strides in becoming an environmentally-friendly destination. Just one hour from London by train, the station is a short walk from the High Street and there is a comprehensive bus network throughout this city with a village feel. Much of the central area is easily accessed on foot and just off the High Street you will soon find yourself in the beautiful water meadows made famous by Keats' ode *To Autumn*.

ARE YOU ELECTRIC?

Winchester City Council has a network of Electric Vehicle charging points (EVCP)s across the district. Find the locations at winchester.gov.uk/parking/other-parking-facilities.

EARTH FRIENDLY SHOPPING

For sustainable shopping **Earthian Zero Waste Shop** specialises in plastic-free, organic and low waste products. Bring your own containers to the store in Parchment Street to stock up on staple foods, such as pasta, grains and cereals. As well as dried food, you'll find cleaning, bathing, cooking oil and vinegar as liquid refills, so bring your bottles too! They also stock a range of beauty, kitchen and home products in store, which are carefully selected to be sustainable, toxin-free and ethical.



Pedal power

Explore the district by bike and hire a set of wheels for you stay from **Bespoke Biking**. **The Cycle Company** offer electric bike rental from their shop, right next to Shawford Train Station (10 minutes from Winchester). Hiring an e-bike means you can ride further in a day and climb more hills without getting tired!



Eco eats

Winchester is a foodie hotspot and locally sourced produce appears on many menus. For cafés why not try **Rawberry**, a family owned and run juice bar and café and **Open House Deli**, an eco-friendly retail store serving breakfast, lunch, cakes and coffee.

If you fancy really good fish and chips, try **Shoal**. They make everything on the premises daily, from bread rolls to gelato and source from local Winchester producers and farmers. Their fish is responsibly sourced, MSC approved, and they pride themselves on helping small and Independent day boats and fish markets around the UK.

Another eco-friendly Winchester favourite is **Kyoto Kitchen**, they create authentic Japanese dishes from locally sourced meat, fish and vegetables. Their world-famous Winchester Roll is made with Chalkstream trout sourced from the River Test and River Itchen and locally grown wasabi.

Green news

Marwell Zoo has become the first of its kind to generate renewable energy using animal waste. Zoo poo from endangered species such as Grevy's zebra, Scimitar-horned oryx and African wild ass will heat their largest buildings using biomass technology. Marwell Wildlife has also been awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise for its commitment to sustainable development.

ZOO POO



SUSTAINABLE SLEEPING

The hotel with the biggest commitment to sustainability and carbon footprint reduction is the **Holiday Inn**. It holds a Green Tourism award and strives to ensure its business practices are sustainable and have minimal impact on the environment and local surroundings. It is

slightly out of town, but can be reached by bus or taxi, many of which in Winchester are electric or hybrid.

There are many more centrally located hotels which you could easily walk to from the station. Sleep easy at the new **Travelodge** – a company also committed to reducing its impact upon the environment.

Looking for great locally made products? See page 25 for what the Winchester district has to offer.

Creative Winchester

The Winchester district has a vibrant year-round festival and events programme and is home to many culture and arts venues. There is drama, dance, music, art, poetry, film and fashion to name a few of the many artistic genres celebrated here.

The city itself boasts two theatres (**THEATRE ROYAL** and **CHESIL THEATRE**) and several performance spaces, including **THE NUTSHELL** and **THE ARC**. There are also venues dedicated to live music like the legendary **RAILWAY INN** which has supported many big names early on in their careers.

Winchester is also home to the world-famous **HAT FAIR** – the UK's longest continually running festival of outdoor arts. This free festival takes place during the first weekend of July. It's a family-friendly event showcasing the very best local, national and international outdoor artists.





LICORICIA OF WINCHESTER

The most recent statue to be unveiled is Licoricia of Winchester which was erected in February 2022.

Licoricia is described as the most important Jewish woman in medieval England. She was a mother, a successful businesswoman and a prominent member of Winchester's medieval Jewish community.



Winchester has an important Jewish past. The earliest record of Jews in the city dates back to the mid-1100s, making it one of the first, largest and wealthiest Jewish settlements in England. Follow our Medieval Jewish Trail available from Winchester Visitor Information Centre or downloadable from visitwinchester.co.uk/brochures to find out more.

ART EVERYWHERE

Winchester is rightly famous for its rich heritage, but it's also home to some stunning public art, many of which can be seen free of charge. Pick up a copy of **EYEOPENERS** which is our guide to public art across the Winchester district from Winchester Visitor Information Centre or download it from visitwinchester.co.uk/brochures. There is so much to see including military memorials, benches dedicated to famous Winchester residents such as Jane Austen and more modern public figures – there's a statue of Greta Thunberg. You can't miss Winchester's most famous landmark, the towering bronze statue of King Alfred, erected in 1901 welcoming all to the city. In Winchester even the city centre bollards have been enhanced. They have been painted in the style of classical artists by local studio Colour Factory. Can you recognise all the artists?



WINCHESTER-BASED CREATIVE CURATOR, WENDY WYATT SHARES HER CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

Winchester is perhaps not an obvious place to think of creative excellence, compared to other parts of the UK. But there is more talent here than people realise. Winchester officially creates more jobs in the creative industries than anywhere else is Hampshire. There are more architects practicing in Winchester than anywhere else outside London (over 400 to be exact). And did you know that the voicemail and colour computing were invented in Winchester at IBM Hursley? Truly groundbreaking stuff.



And that's not all. There are over 15 museums and two amazing universities specialising in creativity. There is a club or society for pretty much every taste – from choral to breakdancing and digital to cocktail making. The community spirit here is palpable, scratch the surface and you will find a small city packed full of dreamers and gamechangers.



FESTIVALS IN WINCHESTER



Winchester has a year-round timetable of festivals that inspire and intrigue. From jazz to chamber music, fashion to poetry, all artistic genres are celebrated.



A highlight is the world-famous Hat Fair. A free family-friendly festival of street performance and outdoor arts, which takes place every year during the first weekend of July across the historic city of Winchester, and is jam-packed with arts and culture and some of the world's most spectacular street performers.

festivalsinwinchester.co.uk

Winchester on screen

The Winchester district is increasingly becoming a hot spot for producers and directors worldwide, both on the small and big screen. Why not see if you can spot Winchester in any of these films or shows, and then plan your trip to see the locations for yourself?

As well as smaller productions **Winchester College** has also hosted major films such as the musical **Les Misérables** featuring Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe and Anne Hathaway.

Winchester Cathedral famously doubled up as the Vatican in the adaptation of Dan Brown's mystery thriller **The Da Vinci Code**. The cathedral was also used in **Elizabeth: The Golden Age** (2007).

The Many Lovers of Miss Jane Austen and **The Ruth Rendell Mysteries** were also filmed in Winchester Cathedral and Winchester College.

Another popular location for film producers in the city is **The Great Hall** which has been the set for **Hollow Crown** with Benedict Cumberbatch, **Lady Jane** starring Helena Bonham Carter, **The Day of the Triffids** and **Heist**.



Hop aboard a restored steam train at the **Watercress Line** and alight at Ropley Station to walk in the footsteps of Harry Potter across The Kings Cross Footbridge that featured in the **Harry Potter** film series. The Watercress Line was also the set for **Children of Men** with Clive Owen, Julianne Moore and Sir Michael Caine, **Bullseye!** – an action comedy film starring Sir Michael Caine and Sir Roger Moore and **High Heels and Low Lives** starring Minnie Driver and Danny Dyer.



Did you know?

Winchester has hosted popular TV shows including **Location, Location, Location**, **Antiques Roadshow**, **Time Team**, **BBC Politics Show**, **Flog it** and **BBC Question Time**.

WOLF HALL

Winchester College, The Hospital of St Cross and the Great Hall provided the perfect setting for the television series based on Hilary Mantel's novel.





The Crown

Netflix historical drama *The Crown* is a regular visitor to Winchester. The funerals of Winston Churchill and Lord Mountbatten and the wedding of Charles and Diana were all filmed at Winchester Cathedral. Scenes were also filmed in Winchester College and the area around the Wykeham Arms.



Solved!

MYSTERY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES IN WINCHESTER

The Black Swan Hotel was famously visited by Sherlock Holmes and Watson in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Adventure of the Copper Beeches*. There is a black swan on the building which originates from the Black Swan Hotel which stood on the corner of Southgate Street since the early 19th century. Before that, the building was an inn known as the Old Swan.

Further afield, *Fierce Creatures* starring John Cleese, filmed scenes at **Marwell Zoo**.

Beaulieu Motor Museum is home to Mr Bean's Mini, the flying Ford from *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* and a whole host of vehicles used in films such as *Die Another Day*.

Becoming Jane, although it was not filmed at **Jane Austen's House** in Chawton, is one to watch to discover more about the life of this wonderful author.

WINCHESTER'S MOVIE STARS

There are many Kings, Queens, actors, presenters, authors and TV personalities who have descended from Winchester and the surrounding area or were schooled in Winchester. Recent celebrities include Colin Firth, Amanda Holden, James Martin, Jack Dee, Phillipa Forester, Alexa Chung, Jon Snow, Hugh Mitchell, Wayne Bridge and Russell Howard.



Food and drink

If the way to your happiness is through your stomach, then you'll relish the wide selection of restaurants, pubs and cafés in Winchester.

Whether you are looking for a cosy pub, a candlelit dinner for two or a bustling brunch venue, we have them all. Winchester has attracted some big names including **RICK STEIN**, **HOTEL DU VIN**, **BRASSERIE BLANC** and **THE IVY**. They serve alongside some award-winning and highly-regarded independent restaurants. These include the romantic **CHESIL RECTORY**, steeped in history and housed in the oldest building in the city, and **INN THE PARK**, a multi-layered space incorporating an open grill restaurant, stylish bar, all day café and a decadent wine room.

Families are well fed, alongside the popular chains are some great independents. Try **THREE JOES PIZZA**, **SHOAL** or **PIECARAMBA**, a pie and comic shop described by restaurant critic Jay Rayner as 'a bloody good pie shop'.



Cheers to English sparkling wine

Over the past 15 years Hampshire has seen extensive planting of vineyards on its chalky soil. It's the same band of chalk that the Champagne region sits on to produce excellent quality grapes for its sparkling wines. Nine like-minded neighbouring vineyards with a vision to produce world-class sparkling wines have come together to form '**VINEYARDS OF HAMPSHIRE**'. Many of these vineyards are in the Winchester district. They include the multi-award winning **HATTINGLEY VALLEY**, **RAIMES**, **THE GRANGE** and **HAMBLEDON VINEYARD** (the oldest commercial vineyard in the UK). All four welcome pre-booked visitors for tasting.

In July the Vineyards of Hampshire holds '**FIZZ FEST**'. For more information visit vineyardsofhampshire.co.uk.

Café culture

Winchester has a vibrant café culture with over 20 independent cafés in the city to choose from supplied by the increasing number of local roasteries. Pick up a copy of the Winchester BID Independents Map and discover your favourite pit stop. Don't forget to venture out to the market towns of

Bishop's Waltham, Wickham and Alresford to plan your next feast.



WE ASKED HAMPSHIRE-BASED FOOD BLOGGER TIM MCMINN (@CULINARYCHATTER) TO SHARE HIS FAVOURITE PLACES IN WINCHESTER



A visit to Winchester is not only historically interesting and surrounded by natural beauty, it is also a sanctuary for some incredible local producers and first-rate food. To sample the local fare try **FORTE KITCHEN** in the city centre – great for brunch.

If you're all shopped out and fancy getting off your feet with a cheeky cocktail in hand, then head to **CABINET ROOMS** on Jewry Street. If you fancy something a bit different visit **KYOTO KITCHEN** in Parchment Street for authentic Japanese cuisine, a true Winchester gem.

Discover more on Tim's blog culinarychatter.com

THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT IS HOME TO SOME FINE FOOD PRODUCERS TOO. TRACY NASH OF HAMPSHIRE FARE (@HAMPSHIRE_FARE), THE COUNTY'S FOOD AND DRINK GROUP, TELLS US MORE.

There is an abundance of produce available in the area, ranging from watercress to wine, ales and gin to non-alcoholic cocktails. There is pasture-fed beef and market garden organic salads and vegetables, free range eggs, trout pâtés, fishmongers and brilliant butchers, including past champions of The Great Hampshire Sausage & Pie Supreme Champion – **SOLE OF ALRESFORD** and **BUCKINGHAM'S ARTISAN BUTCHERY** in West Meon.

Hampshire Fare's award-winning **HAMPSHIRE FOOD FESTIVAL**, now in its 20th year, was initially launched in Winchester, but has now evolved into a countywide celebration of local produce, encompassing tours, tastings, fairs and pop-ups. Hampshire Fare was also originally responsible for establishing **HAMPSHIRE FARMERS' MARKETS**. First held in Winchester, they are still held twice a month in the city, giving visitors an opportunity to try and buy local produce.



Shopping

Spoilt for choice!

Nothing replaces the satisfaction of serving customers in person and our characterful high streets across the district can't wait to welcome you. You'll find everything from beautifully curated independent fashion boutiques, giftware and big brand labels to delicious local food and drink.



Winchester's Farmers' Market – showcasing the best of what Hampshire has to offer – takes place on the second and last Sunday of every month.

HIGH STREET SHOPPING

The historic high street in the city is home to brands including **The White Company** and **Fat Face**. You'll find luxury jewellers, an old fashioned sweetie shop and a traditional stationers.

For ladies who love vintage fashion, **Stardust Years** specialises in original clothing, accessories, shoes, jewellery and gifts from the 1890s to the 1990s.


DISCOVER PARCHMENT STREET

Venture down one of the lanes off the high street to find something special for loved ones or even yourself. **Toscanaccio**, located in Parchment Street, is the place to stock up on high quality wines and deli produce from Italy.



THE SQUARE AND MARKET LANE

This area is home to a selection of sophisticated shops, bars and eateries including **The Hambleton** selling homeware, clothing and accessories, **Eclectic Hound** offering new, upcycled, antiques and oddities, and an antique clocks and watches shop.



Head to Whiteley – a modern shopping centre with well-known chain retailers and casual dining. While you are there why not try out the popular Rock Up and see if you're up for the climbing challenge?



THE LOWER END OF THE HIGH STREET

Here you will find **Chococo** British chocolate shop and café and **Closs & Hamblin** with its huge range of home furnishings and haberdashery. Pop into **Winchester Visitor Information Centre** for local gifts and treats on the way to Bridge Street and Chesil Street – home to more independents including **Winchester Framing** and **Canvas Gallery**.



STEP BACK IN TIME AT KINGSGATE VILLAGE

Here you'll find **Cornflowers Gift Shop** with its stylish and extensive range of gifts, **Kingsgate Wines & Provisions**, **Kingsgate Books & Prints** and a traditional bookshop – **P&G Wells**.



THE BROOKS SHOPPING CENTRE

A modern shopping centre which boasts national and independent brands and the occasional pop-up shop too.

KINGS WALK

Peruse the mix of craft, record and gift shops along quirky Kings Walk, which is also home to creatives including the **Nutshell Theatre**.

The district's market towns including Alresford, Wickham and Bishop's Waltham all feature stylish boutiques, independent specialist shops and quirky cafés. Find out more on pages 26–31.



Love local?

Shop Appy!

Check out the new online shopping and ordering platform – ShopAppy.com. You can now buy products from independents across the Winchester district and either collect them in person or have them delivered to your door thanks to Zedify, a new zero emissions service.

shopappy.com/winchester

“I’m delighted to have the opportunity to join ShopAppy. Small businesses like mine have really suffered over recent times.”

OWNER OF TEXTILE BUSINESS ADALIZA, WHO TRADES AT FESTIVALS AND WINCHESTER’S MARKETS.



Made in Winchester district

You'll find many of these on the menu in local cafés, shops and delis across the district and also at Winchester Visitor Information Centre:



JUDE'S ICE CREAM – founded in the owner's barn and named after his wife. The first tub of Jude's was sold to the pub across the road in December 2002 and since then the owners' sons, Alex and Chow, have joined the family 'carbon negative' business.

MRS B'S BEES – run by a family of beekeepers with 200 hives. Great for jars of honey, honeycomb, beeswax candles, wraps (a natural alternative to cling film or foil) and furniture polish. The family picks unique locations for their hives and each jar is labelled with its hive's location.

WINCHESTER COCOA COMPANY – luxury chocolates made from local ingredients and hand filled with fresh fruit purées, natural flavourings, nuts, herbs and spices.

HILL FARM JUICE – a range of apple juices pressed at the farm in the South Downs National Park since the 1970's.

RED CAT BREWING – born in 2014 after local pub landlord and small time brewer Andy fancied a move toward larger-scale brewing with recipes that think outside the box like coffee cream stout or beer with a lemon infusion.

CHALICE MEAD – a business that gives the heritage drink (made with honey) a modern twist by adding ingredients such as nettle, chocolate, chilli, elderflower and caramel.

MEON VALLEY CIDER – made with locally sourced apples and set up in 2015 by Charlotte and Nigel Johnson.

WINCHESTER DISTILLERY – famous for Twisted Nose Dry Gin distilled with fresh watercress - a unique ingredient harvested from the distillery chalk streams.

ALFRED'S BREWERY – local brewer Steve's dream was to open a business in his hometown. Since 2012, it has produced a range of beers named after the city and its history. The brewery is also recognised for its eco efforts.



Bishop's Waltham

Just twelve miles south of Winchester and nestled in the Hampshire countryside is Bishop's Waltham. Located at the midpoint of a long-established route between Winchester and Portsmouth, the town has been appreciated as a place to stop, relax and refuel for hundreds of years.



The town has many beautiful listed buildings and a well-preserved medieval high street that is home to a vibrant selection of shops, run by enthusiasts and artisans. You are bound to find something special to treasure.

If it's food and drink you are craving then you will be spoilt for choice as there are a variety of delis, cafés and restaurants to choose from. Bishop's Waltham caters for all tastes from cosy pubs with roaring fires to fabulous cafés.

On Trend:

Buy the latest looks at **LUVVIT** or step out in style with an outfit from **BOUTIQUE ME**.



HAMPSHIRE-BASED FOOD BLOGGER TIM McMINN RECOMMENDS...

Based in the town centre is **ANYFISH**, run by Peter Atkinson, a fishmonger who has been part of the Bishop's Waltham community for a considerable number of years. Not only selling fresh and sustainable fish sourced from the waters around the UK and the Mediterranean, they also even have their own local smokehouse in a converted barn. They smoke salmon and kippers, and also ham and duck.

Tim McMinn @culinarychatter culinarychatter.com



Bishop's Waltham lies on the southern edge of the **SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK** and walkers in this area are blessed with a choice of landscapes to enjoy. Paths that climb out of the town and meet the South Downs Way up on the open chalk hills to the north are popular here, while on the southwest of the town, where the chalk gives way to clay and gravel, flatter oak and beech wooded walks make for a gentler excursion. This unique position ensures a wide variety of opportunities for leisure walks around this delightful medieval town.



Richard Eve, Chair of Winchester Ramblers Group ramblers.org.uk/winchester

There are plenty of ways to burn off any indulgences as the town is surrounded by miles of walking and cycling trails. For a gentler pace, why not take a wander through the nature reserves or meander along the riverside and discover the former Botley railway line? Hidden within the market town

discover the ruins of Bishop's Waltham palace, formerly a grand residency for the Bishops of Winchester. Much remains of the 12th and 14th century buildings, built by Bishop Henry of Blois – the grandson of William the Conqueror, and the surrounding grounds make for a beautiful place to explore. Why not find a bench next to these ancient walls or enjoy lying out on the grass and take a moment to enjoy the peaceful surroundings?

The friendliness of Bishop's Waltham combined with its strong sense of community has resulted in a calendar bursting with events. It holds a summer carnival as well as vintage markets, music and arts festivals and an annual Christmas Fayre.



Plan your visit to Bishop's Waltham with the help of a new map with details of all businesses or take a look at Discover Winchester District's Market Towns guide available from Winchester Visitor Information Centre or online at visitwinchester.co.uk.

For more inspiration check out lovebishopsaltham.com



Alresford

A beautiful market town with pastel painted Georgian houses and delightful riverside walks. You'll find all the traditional shops of a market town alongside its range of sophisticated and stylish independent shops which make Alresford stand out.



Famous for being the UK's **CAPITAL OF WATERCRESS**, its local leaf has grown wild in the chalk streams and ditches in and around the town for centuries. Approximately 1,500 tonnes of watercress are produced in Alresford every year, supplying supermarkets and greengrocers across the country as well as appearing on menus across the district. It even has an annual festival dedicated to it in May, the Alresford Watercress Festival hosts over 80 stalls showcasing the very best local food and drink. There is also plenty of entertainment for the whole family.

The watercress used to be transported from the town by steam train and the station has been wonderfully restored with a new museum. You can hop on board one of the powerful steam locomotives for the 10-mile trip to Alton along the **WATERCRESS LINE**. They also have a calendar of themed journeys throughout the year including a Thomas the Tank Engine special.



The Alresford sleepover!

Whether you are looking for a romantic cosy inn or an inexpensive family camping experience, Alresford has both and everything in between. **THE SWAN HOTEL** is a charming 18th century hotel in the centre of Alresford or escape to **AVINGTON PARK FARM'S** five star self-catering cottages.

For more places to shop, eat and explore in Alresford pick up Discover Winchester District's Market Towns guide available from **Winchester Visitor Information Centre** or head to visitwinchester.co.uk.





“

My Alresford

Alresford is a beautiful pastel-hued Georgian market town, perfect for strolling, sipping and shopping. There are many independent boutiques that I enjoy perusing here, from Hêtre’s accessories and Moda Rosa’s designer-wear, through to Alresford Linen’s lifestyle offerings and Long Barn’s immersive shop-come-café. I especially like to visit Alresford on a Thursday for the local market, which changes seasonally. Here you can pick up fresh flowers, vintage homeware finds and crisp cottons for your home and wardrobe.



Monica Welburn writes about lifestyle, fashion, beauty, travel and interior design on her very popular blog monicabeatrice.com. Find her on Instagram @MonicaBeatrice.



Eating out

Alresford has much to offer the visiting foodie with an abundance of tempting cafés, cosy pubs and inviting restaurants. Start off with breakfast at **NO. 32 BROAD STREET**, cooked using locally-sourced, ethical and organic ingredients. Or head to **CARACOLI**, a vibrant coffee shop and specialist food store, perfect for a quick break before exploring. Enjoy lunch on the terrace overlooking the banks of a small lake at **THE GLOBE**, a 15th century pub with a garden. If you’re a fan of Spanish food then don’t miss the Bib Gourmand awarded **PULPO NEGRO**.

The town’s beautiful riverside setting amidst rolling chalk downland makes it perfect walking and cycling territory. Find out more about Alresford’s history and inhabitants by following the self-guided ‘Millennium Trail’ that links together footpaths with illustrated boards around the town.



Collect maps and trail guides in outlets around the town or download them via visitwinchester.co.uk/brochures.

You can also check out the walking pages at alresford.org.



Wickham

The charming village of Wickham is sixteen miles from Winchester and just four miles from Bishop's Waltham. Nestled in the picturesque Meon Valley countryside, it's a town which combines ancient history, unique shopping, quality produce, delicious dining and miles of walks and cycle rides.

At the heart of this historic town lies the handsome **WICKHAM SQUARE** – the second largest medieval market square in England.

The nearby naturally formed **WATER MEADOWS** form a tranquil oasis in the middle of the village, offering a peaceful place to walk, picnic or simply spend some time by the water's edge. One of the village's most impressive buildings is **ST NICHOLAS CHURCH** which dates back to 1120 and sits perched on a very large sacred mound.

Find more independent shops and eateries, plus places to stay and ideas for days out, in our Discover Winchester District's Market Towns guide available from Winchester Visitor Information Centre, or check out visitwinchester.co.uk.



Eating out

Owners Frank and Carol Duckworth have been welcoming guests to **GREENS RESTAURANT & BAR** since 1985, serving fresh, simple, flavoursome food and locally sourced when possible. **THE KING'S HEAD** is a beautiful former coaching inn which has made a name for itself with great home-cooked food, excellent real ales and welcoming staff.

For home-made cakes, paninis and authentic Italian Fairtrade coffee, head to **WICKHAM COFFEE HOUSE**. Warm up by the roaring log fire or enjoy views across The Square at **THE OLD TEA HOUSE**.

Shopping Highlights

CHESAPEAKE MILL

Filled to the brim with exclusive collections of antiques, home furnishings, art and jewellery. Stop for a drink in the tearoom and soak up the surroundings of this extraordinary Grade II listed mill. Built in 1820, the mill incorporates timber from the US Frigate Chesapeake which was captured by the British HMS Shannon in 1813.

CONFISERIE VERDONK THE WICKHAM CHOCOLATE SHOP

Beautifully gift-wrapped boxes of over 100 flavours of Belgian chocolates, plus Dorset fudge, retro sweets and Italian nougat.

J'ADORE LA MAISON

Home to an eclectic mix of quirky and interesting gifts, haberdashery, hand painted furniture and stockists of Annie Sloan Chalk Paint™.

BAY TREE GIFTS

Promising something a bit different, browse a beautiful collection of jewellery, accessories, homeware, books, cards and eco-friendly gifts.



Walks around Wickham

THE CHAIR OF WINCHESTER RAMBLERS, RICHARD EVE, TELLS US ABOUT WALKING AROUND WICKHAM:



Wickham lies towards the south of the area on the River Meon, one of the most unspoilt chalk streams in the world and home to otters, voles and kingfishers. This ancient market town is close to many beautiful walks, including part of the Pilgrims' Trail which passes through the nearby Forest of Bere.

However, its greatest walking asset is the 11-mile long Meon Valley Trail which follows a disused railway line along the picturesque Meon Valley, past quaint village pubs and north into the heart of the Downs. Well used by locals, this is my favourite way to explore the local countryside and find somewhere handy to stop for a welcome lunch.

You can find a detailed guide to the Meon Valley Trail at visit-hampshire.co.uk.



Walking trails

Walking does wonders for your wellbeing. Winchester offers some beautiful places to stroll and hike. From the city centre you are just minutes from the beautiful water meadows which inspired Keats' poetry, among others. Walk a little further and you'll find yourself at St Catherine's Hill. Climb to the top, ringed by the ramparts of an Iron Age hill fort, for spectacular views.



Surrounded by countryside, Winchester has many long-distance walking paths. These include the **ST SWITHUN'S WAY** which starts at Winchester Cathedral. It follows in the footsteps of the many pilgrims who paid homage to St Swithun.

THE CLARENDON WAY joins the cities of Salisbury and Winchester crossing the Test Valley.

THE ITCHEN WAY will take you from the Solent in Southampton to the source of the River Itchen at Hinton Ampner. Another popular route is **THE WAYFARER'S WALK**. This follows old tracks used by shepherds driving their animals to sheep fairs in Farnham and New Alresford. This area was also the inspiration for Richard Adams' best-selling book *Watership Down*.



DOG WALKING

If you enjoy days out and holidays with your four-legged friends, you'll find the Winchester district a very dog-friendly place. Many shops, eateries and accommodation providers welcome dogs, with some even serving up teats especially for pooches. For a list of dog-friendly Winchester businesses see visitwinchester.co.uk/dog-friendly.

My favourite walk

RICHARD EVE, CHAIR OF WINCHESTER RAMBLERS, TELLS US ABOUT HIS FAVOURITE WINCHESTER WALK

As a native of Hampshire, I have a deep appreciation of the local countryside and especially the rolling South Downs.



The chalk downs combined with the river valleys and mature woodlands make Winchester and East Hampshire perfect walking country, just waiting to be explored. A favourite walk of mine is the first section of the South Downs Way which leaves Winchester via the ancient Domesday village of Cheriton. With fine views of Winchester to one side as you enter the South Downs National Park, the path quickly climbs 135 metres to the viewpoint of Cheesefoot Head where you can enjoy expansive views to the New Forest, Isle of Wight and east to Butser Hill. The natural amphitheatre to the north is where General Eisenhower addressed the D-Day troops and has featured some spectacular crop circles in the past. More recently, it is known as the home to Boomtown, a huge music festival.



Find more self-guided trails at visitwinchester.co.uk/brochures

Cycling trails

Winchester is the gateway to the South Downs. It's also a popular start/finish location for off-road cyclists attempting the 100 mile South Downs Way challenge. But you don't have to be clad head-to-toe in lycra to enjoy the district on two wheels.

Cycling is a great activity for all ages and helps you see more of the area than when just walking. **BESPOKE BIKING** exists to help everyone cycle more around the Winchester area and beyond. They hire bikes including e-bikes, repair bikes and offer training, cycle rides and routes.

Hire a bike from **BESPOKE BIKING** for half a day and discover historic Winchester and the beautiful water meadows for an easy ride along cycle paths and quiet streets. If you have more time, why not hire a mountain bike to explore the network of bridleways and trails in the surrounding woods and hills? The friendly **BESPOKE BIKING** team can provide route maps and suggestions and you can also enjoy some pre or post ride fuel from their on-site café. bespokebiking.com



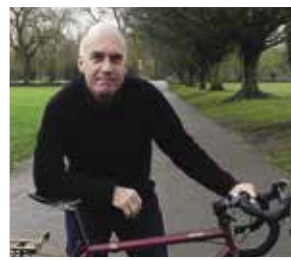
Are you ready to take on your next cycling adventure?

Launched in 2020 by Cycling UK, the 220 mile **KING ALFRED'S WAY** cycle route is a picturesque bike route. It will take you on a journey through the heart of Hampshire, Surrey, Wiltshire and Berkshire. Make your way along gravel tracks and off-road trails as you explore some of the most beautiful countryside in southern England. The route connects four of England's National Trails – North Downs Way, South Downs Way, Ridgeway and Thames Path, and creates a loop around Wessex. cyclinguk.org/king-alfreds-way

My favourite rides

ANDY KEY OF BICYCLE BEANO, TELLS US ABOUT HIS FAVOURITE RIDES AROUND WINCHESTER

Andy Key runs Bicycle Beano (bicycle-beano.co.uk) – a Winchester-based cycling holiday company. We asked him to tell us about his favourite rides around Winchester.



“Roadies will find miles of quiet country lanes on a rolling landscape with constantly changing views. Old Winchester Hill, in the east of the district, is a favourite challenge for local cyclists. There are plenty of off-road options too. Starting from the city centre, 20 minutes riding in almost any direction will get you onto the network of bridleways and byways threading through the Hampshire countryside. The chalk trails are at their best in spring and early summer, but there’s fun to be had all year round if you don’t mind getting a little muddy.

For a day ride, try taking the South Downs Way east over rolling hills to Old Winchester Hill. Find your way back to Winchester along the bridleways and lanes criss-crossing the downs.

Get an e-bike smile

If pedal power seems too much like hard work when you are on holiday, why not try out an e-bike. **THE CYCLE COMPANY** at Shawford Train Station (10 minutes from Winchester) offers electric bike rental. E-bikes have electric motors allowing you to ride further in a day and climb more hills without getting tired! thecyclecompany.co.uk



Pit stops

Looking to refuel on your ride? There are plenty of pit stops with the cyclist in mind. **THE HANDLEBAR CAFÉ** is a community café with a Fix-it Station. Fuel up on gorgeous cakes, teacakes, healthy snacks and hot and cold savouries. handlebar.cafe

Meanwhile in the centre of Winchester, you’ll find the **SOUTH DOWNS SOCIAL**. This café serves great coffee, tasty cakes, snacks and ride fuel. It also has a unique selection of cycling lifestyle goods and live cycling racing on the big screens. southdownsocial.com

Gateway to the South Downs National Park

Winchester City Mill, in the heart of the city, is the gateway to the South Downs National Park and features the official start point of the South Downs Way National Trail. A natural playground with open downlands, heather-filled heathlands and magical ancient woodlands, it's the perfect place for an outdoor adventure.



Find your inner balance and serenity

National Parks are not just incredible landscapes – they can fuel the soul. Escape the modern world and relax in the oasis of the elegant **HINTON AMPNER** country house and gardens. The garden at this National Trust property was the creation of former owner Ralph Dutton and is widely acknowledged as a masterpiece of 20th century garden design.

Inspired by the South Downs

The South Downs National Park is a living, working landscape that has inspired creatives, artists and literary greats such as **JANE AUSTEN, EDWARD THOMAS, FLORA THOMPSON** and **GILBERT WHITE**.

Stroll through the gardens once walked by naturalist Gilbert White at his house and museum in Selborne. Enjoy the beautiful parklands and Elizabethan manor house inherited by Jane Austen's brother at **CHAWTON HOUSE**, also home to a unique collection of women's writing. Take a short walk from Chawton House to **JANE AUSTEN'S HOUSE MUSEUM**, it was here that Jane's genius flourished and where she created all her novels.

Follow in the footsteps of Austen with our self-guided trail available to download from visitwinchester.co.uk/brochures





Step foot on the South Downs

There are more routes here than in any other national park in the UK. Give your car a rest and ride or walk the tranquil countryside.

Find trails at southdowns.gov.uk/get-active

Dark sky wonders

OLD WINCHESTER HILL NATURE RESERVE, an iron-age hill fort, and **WINCHESTER SCIENCE CENTRE** are both officially recognised as a Dark Sky Discovery Site and are open for stargazing all year round.

Top wildlife spots

ADONIS BLUE BUTTERFLY

– look for the stunning sky-blue males flitting across the south facing chalk grassland slopes of the Downs. Head to Magdalen Hill Down Butterfly Conservation Reserve near Winchester Science Centre – a great spot for butterfly watching.

WATER VOLES – these shy creatures are elusive! Listen out for a little ‘plop’ as they jump into the water.

OTTERS – thought to be extinct locally, otters have made a comeback. There’s even an otter cam at Winchester City Mill.

Love local

Discover farmer’s markets, country pubs, independent retailers and cafés in the vibrant market towns and countryside villages around the National Park.

Surrounded by fields in every direction, it’s no wonder that 85% of the landscape is farmland with sheep and cattle, orchards, vineyards and fields of wheat. Make sure you stop for a taste of the South Downs at one of the many pubs, restaurants and cafés

southdowns.gov.uk/food-drink

Why explore just one when you can visit two?


Winchester district is just 18 miles from the New Forest National Park. Why not stay a little longer and wake up on nature’s doorstep so you can explore both? Find accommodation at visitwinchester.co.uk/where-to-stay

For more itineraries and inspiration visit southdowns.gov.uk



The return of the sleepover!

Whatever your budget, whatever your style you're sure to find accommodation to suit you in the Winchester district or the surrounding countryside to make your stay more memorable...



Stay in the city

HOTELS



Room with a view ...

Stay at **MERCURE WESSEX HOTEL** and look out over stunning views of the cathedral.

For those looking for a place to unwind after a day exploring, then look no further than **WINCHESTER HOTEL & SPA**. Relax in the luxury spa before walking back into the city to enjoy Winchester at night.

The **WINCHESTER ROYAL HOTEL** is a 16th century hotel offering a perfect blend of modern and traditional. A unique building, originally a private house, it became a bishop's residence then a convent, and for the past 150 years, a hotel.



Stay at the original **HOTEL DU VIN**, in

all its Queen Anne-style architectural glory. Built in 1715, the hotel is a grand but informal place to work, rest and play. Big custom-made beds, handsprung mattresses

with Egyptian cotton bed linen, huge fluffy bath towels, drenching monsoon showers and roll top baths. Take morning coffee or afternoon tea in Bar 20, dine al fresco in the charming 18th century walled garden or enjoy hearty, classic dishes and local flavours in the cool ambience of the hotel's trademark bistro. Taste the finest fizz or discover a wealth of wines with expert guidance from our Sommelier.

visitwinchester.co.uk/where-to-stay

ROOM AT THE INN

THE OLD VINE is a beautifully restored Grade II listed 18th century inn in the heart of the city overlooking the cathedral.

Hidden in an historic corner of Winchester stands

THE KING ALFRED

pub – you'll find a warm welcome and top-quality accommodation.

Step back in time and surround yourself with quirky artefacts including old school desks in the bar at **THE**

WYKEHAM ARMS.

Choose your accommodation from a wonderful collection of luxurious guest rooms with the finest Egyptian cotton linen and the fluffiest towels and robes.

Conveniently located at the top of the high street, kick back and relax in one of the **THE WESTGATE PUB'S** individually decorated boutique rooms, all offering wonderful views of the city. Equipped with all the comforts of home, all rooms feature original period fireplaces, deluxe king-size beds and en-suite bathrooms.

For more accommodation across the Winchester district – including cosy guest houses and B&Bs – see visitwinchester.co.uk/where-to-stay.

Recommended for a good night's sleep ...

According to The Telegraph, Bridge Street House is a "popular city-centre restaurant and bar with six chic and elegant rooms above it. Come for the electric weekend atmosphere, fresh local produce cooked up in an innovative British tapas style and large comfortable beds with Egyptian cotton sheets."



Stay for an experience

Enjoy more than just a holiday when you visit the Winchester district – these accommodation providers not only offer you a place to stay but the chance to learn a new skill while you're here.

Cook and stay

SEASON cookery school is located in a beautiful converted well house within the grounds of **LAINSTON HOUSE** hotel, just a stone's throw from Winchester. With state-of-the-art kitchen facilities, a dedicated modern dining space and a kitchen garden complete with pizza oven and outdoor seating, you can learn from award-winning and Michelin starred chefs, as well as external experts. Choose from a range of different classes, for all levels – from foodies wanting to learn more or parents wanting to find a children's class.

After you've cooked up a storm enjoy the 5 star, 17th century luxury country house hotel, tucked away in 63 acres of rural Hampshire countryside.



South Downs Sourdough at The Brick House B&B

You'll receive a warm welcome at **THE BRICK HOUSE B&B** in the delightful village of Cheriton, nestled in the heart of the South Downs National Park. Hospitality is part of the fabric of this beautifully updated Victorian house that started life as a pub.

Owners Mark and Ruth Horner came up with the idea for their artisan baking school in 2018 to provide an experience for guests staying at the B&B and capitalise on the growing demand for baking sourdough.

"I have a passion for sourdough bread, my background is in training but I've made bread for more than 20 years. Many guests have found material available online quite complex and shrouded in mystery –

I attempt to simplify things. It's a lot of fun when groups of aspiring bakers all get stuck in together."

MARK'S FAVOURITE SOURDOUGH: RAISIN AND ROSEMARY USING WHEAT FLOUR

Find your perfect experience: visitwinchester.co.uk/where-to-stay

3G breaks

Be on trend

3G or '3 Generational' breaks are on the rise as we make up for time lost with extended family due to restrictions in place during the pandemic. It can be hard planning a trip for large groups of people, so we're here to help. Take a look at our top places to stay and create some meaningful memories.



Wallops Wood Cottages

With eight self-catering luxury and award-winning cottages, Wallops Wood can cater for families of all sizes – from families of four up to groups of 54.

Nestled within the stunning South Downs National Park, you'll be spoilt for choice when it comes to walking and cycling trails as well as places to visit and things to do. After a day of exploring, return to the luxury surroundings of your Wallops Wood cottage. Each self-catering cottage is kitted out with a hot tub and log burner, adding to the warm and homely decor. Seven cottages have ground floor access, three of them are M3A rated and have accessible kitchen facilities and accessible bathrooms. If you fancy a swim, you can take a dip within the centre's brand new heated swimming pool.

The team at Wallops Wood are all about creating the perfect stay for families. Step inside and you'll find a great selection of equipment available to hire for free – from travel cots, sterilisers and highchairs to baby monitors, toys and pushchairs. What's more, all babies and toddlers receive a welcome pack which consists of Pampers, a rubber duck and a little book to read for bedtime. There is also a bottle of natural apple juice from Hill Farm juice (no artificial sugar).

And for the adults? Enjoy a welcome pack that includes beer, wine, butter, a home-made cake, milk, bread, olive oil and condiments.

To find out more and to check booking availability, take a visit to the Wallops Wood website.



Marwell Resort is one of the south's leading outdoor and indoor activity centres offering a wide range of year-round activities for children and adults, such as archery, clay pigeon shooting, quad bikes and a rope course.



Watercress Lodges & Campsite

A fantastic self-catering holiday retreat with six bespoke self-catering lodges overlooking the South Downs, situated in the heart of Hampshire's countryside and only three miles from New Alresford and the River Itchen. Each fully equipped lodge is fitted to the highest standards and can accommodate up to six people with two upstairs bedrooms and a sofa bed in the living room, complete with a patio and garden area with picnic bench and gas barbecue for those hot summer evenings.

We recommend taking a ride by steam train through Hampshire's countryside on the Watercress Line –kids will love walking across the bridge where Harry Potter received his Hogwarts Express ticket and the older family members can see preservation in action.



Holiday Inn Winchester

offers parents the chance to relax at the ANA Spa while the grandparents take the kids across the road to Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium. Catch up again in the evening at the hotel's Odyssey Restaurant, Bar and Pizzeria.



Rural retreats

Escape to a luxury self-catering woodland cabin in **BLACKWOOD FOREST** near Micheldever. Enjoy your cabin comforts featuring cosy underfloor heating, soaring windows with dramatic woodland views and your own outdoor hot tub. Enjoy simple details for an effortless holiday including delicious meals delivered to your door, a soothing in-cabin spa and pre-bookable treats, from fruit boxes to flowers.



If you're looking for somewhere that is easy to get to, **INADOWN FARM HOLIDAY HOMES** is designed to offer a retreat for the busy city dweller within an hour from London in one of the most beautiful parts of the South Downs National Park.

For great rural views just three miles from the city centre stay in an award-winning, five-star Norwegian log cabin at **SOUTH WINCHESTER GOLF CLUB**. Some lodges offer the added luxury of a hot tub on the balcony.



Get close to nature with a sleep under the stars



With countryside as far as the eye can see, make the most of it by camping at **HOLDEN FARM CAMPSITE**. The Corbett family have been guardians of Holden Farm for over 100 years and are delighted to share their beautiful home with you. Sit around a roaring fire, stargaze in the Dark Skies National Reserve and listen for the barn owls or watch the bats flying overhead.

The campsite is within the South Downs National Park, nestled amongst acres of predominantly arable farm. The wildflower meadows and hedge boundaries have led to an abundance of wild native animals, birds and insects. You'll even find some very special free-range chickens, a few horses and plenty of sheep.



Glamping holidays ...

At Adhurst Yurts you'll find five stylish yurts and one canvas-roofed rustic cabin located within 100 acres of ancient woodland within a 450-acre Victorian estate inside the South Downs National Park.

Holidaying pets, foodies and nature enthusiasts love it here. Each space has its own campfire area and wood-burner and even its own safari kitchen.

For all the latest news on where to stay and holiday inspiration, sign up to our enews at visitwinchester.co.uk.



Visitor information

WINCHESTER VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE AND GIFT SHOP

Our team of knowledgeable staff will give you a warm welcome and help you plan your visit. Choose from a wide range of leaflets and brochures for some inspiration on things to do across the district. You'll also find details of events and guided tours as well as a great range of souvenirs and local gifts.

Guildhall Winchester,
The Broadway, SO23 9GH
01962 840 500
tourism@winchester.gov.uk
visitwinchester.co.uk

Planning your trip is just a click away,
check out **VISITWINCHESTER.CO.UK**



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-  youtube.com/VisitWinchester

Sign up to our e-newsletter at
visitwinchester.co.uk

DISCOVER THE DISTRICT WITH FREE SELF-GUIDED TRAILS

Follow our trails online at visitwinchester.co.uk/trails
or pick up hard copies from the visitor information centre.



GETTING HERE



CAR Located off Junctions 9, 10 and 11 of the M3. Also accessible via the A34 from Newbury and Oxford.



RAIL Just under an hour by direct train from London Waterloo. Regular trains from Basingstoke, Portsmouth and Southampton.



FERRY/CRUISE 40 minute drive from Portsmouth's ferry port. 20 minutes by road from Southampton's cruise terminals. See cruisesouthampton.com



AIR 15 minutes by road or rail from Southampton Airport. London Heathrow is 50 miles away and London Gatwick is 72 miles away.



COACH Regular services from London, Heathrow and Oxford.

STAGECOACH IN HAMPSHIRE

03451 210 190 | stagecoachbus.com

BLUESTAR BUSES

01202 338 421 | bluestarbus.co.uk

SOUTHAMPTON AIRPORT

03444 817 777 | southamptonairport.com

NATIONAL EXPRESS

08717 818 181 | nationalexpress.com

NATIONAL TRAVELINE

08712 002 233 | traveline.info

TAXIS

Wessex Cars: 01962 877 749 |

Wintax Cars: 01962 878 727

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If you would like this leaflet in a larger format please contact the visitor information centre.

PARKING

We recommend using our Park & Ride (P&R) service:

East P&R: Barfield, Barfield Phase II, SO23 9SQ and St. Catherine's, SO23 9NP

South P&R: M3 Junction 11, SO21 2FG and Pitt, SO22 5PR

There are plenty of car parks in and around Winchester, please take a look at Winchester City Council's car parking pages: winchester.gov.uk/parking/

Parking for larger vehicles: Spaces for motorhomes at St Catherine's P&R. Caravans, coaches and longer vehicles can be parked during the day at Worthy Lane car park.

Parking for visitors with disabilities:

Parking for visitors with disabilities: Special bays in all city car parks, parking charges apply in some. Disabled blue badge holders may also park in residents' parking bays.



Download the free Park Winchester app by Winchester BID.



Winchester City Council has a network of Electric Vehicle charging points (EVCPs) across the district. Find the locations at winchester.gov.uk/parking/other-parking-facilities.

This guide aims to support and promote a safe public environment for a local area's economy in response to the impact of Covid-19. It is funded through the Government's European regional Development Fund (EDRF) Welcome Back Fund.



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