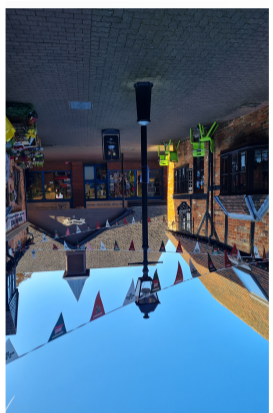




The Cornwall's Meadrow Shopping precinct is home to a variety of shops which are conveniently located next to the 300 space car park running alongside the river Great Ouse with its picnic opportunities. A market town since the time of Mary I, Buckingham has street market on Tuesdays and Saturdays, plus a flea market on Saturdays.

Buckingham offers a fascinating variety of shops with numerous independent small traders. This is a cheerful, friendly alternative to the normal chain stores that populate most towns, and the scramble that usually accompanies town centre shopping. Craft and antique shops sit side by side with florists, jewellers and gift-shops, all nestled neatly in the attractive Market Hill, Hidden Quarter, Cornwall Place and quaintly narrow adjoining streets.



## Shopping



Buckingham became the county town of Buckinghamshire during the 10th century. According to the Saxon Chronicle, Edward the Elder was with his army at Buckingham in 918 AD when he fortified the town during his advance on Danish invaders. Edward's stronghold probably stood on Castle Hill, later the site of Peter and St Paul. The manor of Buckingham is recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 as being held by Walter Gifford, who was created Duke of Buckinghamshire by William the Conqueror. This same family continued to hold it until the reign of Henry VIII. Buckingham prospered as a medieval market town. Charters from Mary I in 1554, and Charles II in 1684, established market days and two annual fairs which still take place today. Catherine of Aragon, first queen of Henry VIII, stayed at Castle House in 1514. Edward VI founded the Latin School in the town, and Elizabeth I dined at the Manor House while on a journey to Bicester. During the Civil War, Buckingham's local gentry took opposing sides. Both Oliver Cromwell and Charles I spent time in the town, the latter holding a Council of War at Castle House. In the early 18th Century Buckingham was in decline and after a disastrous fire much of its centre had to be rebuilt. In spite of the construction of the canal and then the railway, Buckingham was little altered until well into the 20th Century. Today, it retains much of its traditional market town charm.

## Buckingham's History

**BUCKINGHAM**  
REMAINS A VIBRANT  
MARKET TOWN,  
CHARACTERISED BY A FINE  
ARRAY OF GEORGIAN  
BUILDINGS.



It is located in the Green Heart of England and is easily accessible from many parts of the country by road. Home to Britain's first modern independent University, the town also enjoys close links to the internationally famous Silverstone Motor Racing Circuit and the magnificent Stowe Landscape Gardens. Enjoy unique shopping and good food. With car parking in the town centre, Buckingham is an ideal stop-off point on your tour of the area, or for a day visit. Hotel accommodation is available in the town centre and on the edge of the town, and there are several guest houses in the locality.

# Buckingham - Historic Market Town in England

## Entertainment & Events

Regular listings of forthcoming events in Buckingham can be obtained from the Tourist Information Centre in The Old Gaol Museum (01280 823 020) or from the Town Council Offices (01280 816 426). These include the following:

**Summer Festival**  
A week of superb classical and modern music, featuring concerts and recitals by local and nationally renowned artistes at various venues throughout the town.

**Buckingham Fringe Week**  
An eclectic mix of comedy, music and other entertainments taking place at various town venues.

**Music in the Market & Band Jam**  
Performances from a large number of local bands display their talents and provide free entertainment for all.

**Charter Fairs**  
Held on two consecutive Saturdays in October, a traditional fairground in the town centre commemorates the charters given by Mary I in 1554 and Charles II in 1684.

**The Film Place**  
Buckingham's own cinema, organised and run by local volunteers, which shows the latest films on various evenings during the week.

**University of Buckingham Concerts & Lectures**  
A series of regular lunchtime classical music concerts and evening lectures are hosted at various University venues.

**Other traditional events**  
In addition, there are occasional Art and Craft exhibitions, the Pancake Race (February), May Day celebrations, Market Entertainments, Bonfire and Fireworks (November) and the Christmas Parade (December).

## How to get to Buckingham

Buckingham is located in the heart of England within an hour of Birmingham and less than 90 minutes from the centre of London. The town is well served by road, being conveniently located between the M1 to the east and the M40 to the west. Our nearest train link is Milton Keynes (25 minutes) which is on the main west coast line between London Euston, Birmingham, Manchester and Scotland. Buckingham's central location makes it the ideal base for a touring holiday with major attractions such as Oxford, Stratford and the Cotswold's all easily accessible.



**Buckingham Tourist Information Centre**  
Located in The Old Gaol in the centre of town, our friendly team can provide local information, accommodation listings, National Express tickets, an extensive range of visitor guides and leaflets, bus timetables and local concert tickets. Maps and theatre tokens may also be purchased, alongside locally-sourced souvenirs. Open Mon – Sat, 10.00am to 4.00pm and Sun, 10.00am - 4.00pm during August. Tel: 01280 823020 or email: tic@buckingham-tc.gov.uk.

Supported by

For more information, please also visit:  
[www.discoverbuckingham.uk](http://www.discoverbuckingham.uk)

# The BUCKINGHAM VISITOR GUIDE

**Buckingham Town Council**  
[www.discoverbuckingham.uk](http://www.discoverbuckingham.uk)

# Buckingham - Historic Market Town in England

## Attractions

**The Old Gaol Museum** Restored extensively by the Buckingham Old Gaol Trust, this is the landmark building in Buckingham town centre. It was built in the mid-18th century in an attempt to win back the assizes and houses a fascinating museum reflecting the building's history, aspects of Buckingham's past, and Buckingham's military history. Now also home to the local author Flora Thompson (Lark Rise to Candleford) collection, it has attracted visitors from all over the world. The gift shop offers souvenirs and mementos. The venue also incorporates the Tourist Information Centre: **01280 823 020**.

**The Chantry Chapel (National Trust)** A former school, the Chantry Chapel is Buckingham's oldest building and dates back in parts to the 12th century.

**The Old Town Hall** The town hall building which is topped with an impressive gilded swan, was rebuilt in the late 18th century as the original 100 year old building had become dilapidated. Its ground floor was made originally open and housed the market. The assizes were held on the upper floor.

**The Church of St Peter & St Paul** Occupying the site of a former Saxon Castle, the parish church was completed in 1781 but was partly rebuilt by Sir George Gilbert Scott in the 19th century. Inside are a number of carved Tudor bench ends and a Latin manuscript bible from 1471.

## An abundance of green spaces

**Chandos Park** Within easy walking distance of the town centre, Chandos Park's unique attraction is the River Great Ouse which runs through it. The park houses one of the town's bowls clubs, the tennis courts and an excellent accessible children's play area, and provides the ideal setting for a family picnic.

**Heartlands** The green lung of Buckingham, which links its two major parks and contains a skate-board park and children's playground.

**Bourton Park** A fine riverside recreational area with bridleways, playgrounds, picnic sites and a designated dog paddock.

**Circular Walk** A walk around the town perimeter which 'joins up' several pre-existing walks. Taking in Bourton Park, the University, Chandos Park and the River Great Ouse the walk is clearly waymarked and includes alternative routes, making it easier for pushchairs etc. Passing through the heart of Buckingham it meanders through parkland and along the old railway embankment, where it offers great views of the town.

**Buckingham's Hidden Treasures** A short walk that passes most of the significant buildings and historical landmarks within the town centre which starts and finishes at the Old Gaol.

**Buxplore** A heritage exploration app produced by Buckingham Town Council and supported by a grant from National Lottery Heritage Fund. There are lots of interactive routes around Buckingham featuring challenges, quizzes, historic photographs and audio tours, catered for all ages and abilities.

## Eating & Drinking

The town centre offers a large number of restaurants offering food for all tastes, as well as cafes, tea shops, sandwich bars and takeaways. Buckingham is also well served with public houses, many offering traditional pub grub.

## Accommodation

The town's main hotels are Villiers Hotel and The White Hart Hotel in the town centre, the Best Western and Travelodge on the bypass and the Premier Inn on Lace Hill.



## Sport & Leisure

Buckingham is home to various sports and leisure facilities suitable for all ages and abilities. There are football, rugby and cricket pitches, bowls greens, a golf club, a swimming pool, gymnastics and fitness centres as well as multiple gyms located throughout the town.

## Shopmobility

Buckingham Shopmobility is a free scheme that allows anyone with a mobility problem, whether temporary or permanent, not just Blue Badge Holders, to get out and about in Buckingham town centre. There are allocated free parking spaces for Shopmobility users, next to the Shopmobility building. There are electric mobility scooters and manual wheelchairs available to hire. Open Tuesday 10:00am to 4:00pm and Saturday 9:00am to 1:00pm. Closed Bank Holidays. Tel: **07738 314 027**.

## Further Afield

The following are just a selection of the many major international attractions which can be easily reached from Buckingham by road (drive time approximate). Further details on specific attractions can be obtained from the Tourist Information Centre.

### Within a five minute drive ...

**Entertainment at Stowe** the birthplace of English landscape gardening also holds outdoor summer events. The Roxborough Theatre at Stowe plays host to a series of performances by the renowned Stowe Opera every August.

### Within a fifteen minute drive ...

**Silverstone Raceway & Museum** Motor racing at Silverstone, and a full range of driving courses including rough terrain and skidpan training; track open days; indoor and outdoor karting are available throughout the year.

**Brackley Antique Cellar** The largest purpose-built antique centre in the Midlands containing over 80 antique dealers specialising in ceramics, porcelain, clocks, glass, jewellery, rugs, militaria, Victoriana, kitchenalia and furniture.

**Bletchley Park** Home of the Enigma code breakers, who played such a significant part in winning World War II.

**Milton Keynes Museum** Located at Wolverton and set among farm buildings, the museum has collections ranging from farm carts to a fire engine and from tractors to a tram.

### Within a half-hour drive...

**Bicester Village** is the global shopping destination for luxury outlet shopping, offering world-leading brands and exceptional savings.

**Claydon House (NT)** A fine historical 18th century house whose regular visitors included Florence Nightingale. Its great rooms have some of the most exquisite Rococo decoration in England, as well as flamboyant carvings in Chinese and Gothic styles.

**Stoke Bruerne Museum** Britain's waterways heritage housed in a restored corn mill on a living canal in the picturesque village of Stoke Bruerne.

**Oxford** The city of dreaming spires and ancient colleges. Home of the Ashmolean and Pitt-Rivers Museums.

**Waddesdon Manor (NT)** The Rothschild mansion with an exquisite collection of priceless works of art and furniture.

**Sulgrave Manor** The Northamptonshire home of George Washington's ancestors is a splendid example of a modest manor house at the time of Shakespeare.

### Within an hour's drive ...

**Blenheim Palace** Home to the Dukes of Marlborough and birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill.

**The Cotswolds** Charming villages and countryside, considered by many to be the essence of traditional England.

**Stratford-upon-Avon** Birthplace of Shakespeare and home of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

**Warwick Castle** The finest medieval castle in Britain.

FOR EVEN MORE IDEAS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[www.discoverbuckingham.uk](http://www.discoverbuckingham.uk)