

le boat

Who's on board?

THE RIVER THAMES

*A complete guide to boating holidays
on the UK's most famous river*



Over 70 pages of inspiration

6 - 7 Benson or Chertsey?
Which base to choose

SO MUCH TO SEE AND DISCOVER

8 - 11 Oxford
12 - 15 Windsor & Eton
16 - 19 Houses & gardens
20 - 21 Cliveden
22 - 23 Hampton Court
24 - 27 Small towns and villages
28 - 29 The Runnymede memorials
30 - 33 London

SOMETHING FOR EVERY INTEREST

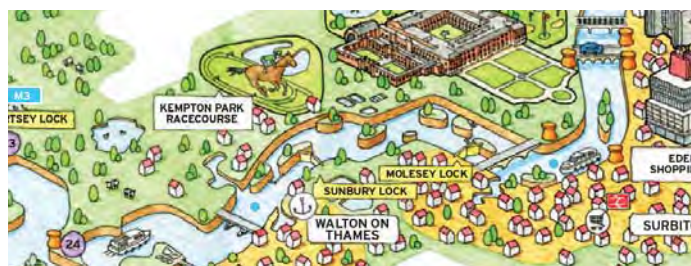
34 - 35 Did you know?
36 - 41 Family fun
42 - 43 Birdlife
44 - 45 Parks
46 - 47 Shopping
48 - 49 Horse racing & horse riding
50 - 51 Fishing
52 - 53 Golf
54 - 55 Something for him

WINING AND DINING

56 - 59 Eating out
60 Gastropubs
61 - 63 Fine dining

THE PRACTICALITIES OF BOATING

64 - 65 Our boats
66 - 67 Mooring and marinas
68 - 69 Locks
70 - 71 Our illustrated map - plan your trip
72 Fuel, water and waste
73 Rules and boating etiquette
74 River conditions



IT'S ALL MAPPED OUT...

At the back of this guide our fold-out map will put everything in perspective for you. We hope you enjoy our visual representation of everything there is to do along 'our stretch' of the river.

Disclaimer:

We have endeavoured to ensure that all the information in this guide is correct at time of going to print. However opening times and prices are subject to change. Attractions, restaurants, locks and even stretch of river can close without notice.

Le Boat are happy to recommend all of the attractions, restaurants and pubs featured within this guide. However, they are not owned or managed by Le Boat and as such, we cannot guarantee the quality of your experience at any particular time. If anything in this guide is not correct, we'd love to hear from you at thamesguide@leboat.co.uk so that we can revise future editions.

We have provided directions where possible, although they should be used in conjunction with a waterways map, provided on board.



Where memories are made...

With over 40 years of experience, Le Boat prides itself on the range and quality of our boats and the service we provide - it's what sets us apart from the rest and ensures you enjoy a comfortable and hassle free break. Undeniably though, it's the destination that makes a holiday truly memorable; it's about the sights you see, the places you find and the experiences you discover.

And the River Thames is certainly the jewel in our crown. If you are looking for somewhere packed full of things to do, amazing places to eat and breath-taking countryside - the Thames has it all.

We've put this guide together to help you visualise what your boating holiday can look like. There really is something for everyone, be it a fun-packed adventure for the kids, an exploration into the past for history buffs or a relaxing mosey down the river with a plentiful supply of charming pubs and fine restaurants.

Get ready to be inspired!

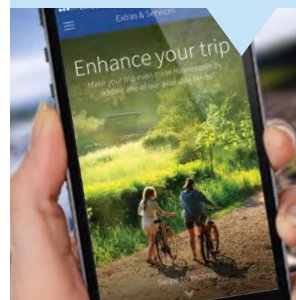
And there's even more!

There's so much to see and do on the Thames, we simply can't fit everything in to one guide. So, to discover even more and to find further details about the sights and attractions already featured here, visit us at leboat.co.uk/thames



The Thames at your fingertips

Download our app to explore the Thames from the convenience of your mobile. Not only can you use it to research and plan your holiday, you can use it while on board as well. GPS positioning will pinpoint your location on the river and show you what lies ahead.





Never been boating before?

No experience required

Our boats are easy to handle with no licenses required. Before setting off on your holiday, you will be taught how to safely drive the boat, moor and how to travel through locks, ensuring you are happy and confident controlling your cruiser.



Whatever destination you travel to, a boating holiday is simple... choose the boat that best suits your requirements; pick it up from one of our bases and return it (to the same base or to a different one), by a certain date and time. What you do in between is entirely up to you - you're free to stop when you want, for as long as you want; explore new places, see amazing sights and create lasting memories.

Our boats have all the necessary features to ensure you are completely self-sufficient throughout your holiday. You can travel from one exciting place to the next without the need to unpack and repack each time. The onboard kitchens come fully equipped if you would like to self-cater, beds come with linen, and bathrooms have showers, hot water and toilets. (See pages 64 - 65 for more details about boats.)

Now all you need is the waterway, which allows you to see the sights from a completely unique perspective. It slows you down, allowing you to appreciate your surroundings and drink in the scenery. It provides you with an ever-changing view, delivers nature and wildlife to your door and entices you to amazing towns and villages. More importantly it allows you to create your own holiday, be that a restful break or an active adventure.

Now... who's on board?



The Thames - not what you think!

If you've never been boating on the Thames before, whatever preconceptions you have are probably wrong! Everyone who travels with us is surprised by what they find. The hustle and bustle of city life may very well exist in the centre of London, but that's not our scene at all!

Le Boat operates on the stretch of Thames between Oxford and Kingston, spanning four counties and meandering through peaceful countryside, as well as several pretty towns and villages. And while it is the perfect scenic getaway, it also has an abundance of pubs, restaurants, shops and visitor attractions to keep even the most restless traveller entertained. In fact, there is so much to do that you could easily spend a fortnight here and still leave lots more to explore.

This section is non-tidal and is made navigable by a series of 32 locks which are all electronically controlled and manned by a lock keeper during the day. (See pages 68 - 69 for more information about locks.) It is very easy to navigate and an ideal destination for first time boaters.

Good times are guaranteed!

It's all mapped out...

At the back of this guide, our fold-out map will put everything in perspective for you. We hope you enjoy our visual representation of everything there is to do along 'our stretch' of the river.





Benson or Chertsey?

Le Boat has a choice of two bases along the River Thames, and return to the base you've selected, on the agreed date

As long as you collect your boat from the base you've booked - what you do in between is up to you. But which to choose...?



From Benson

Cruising from Benson takes in the best of the great British countryside. If you like tranquil, pretty stretches of water and acres of open pastures, hills and farmland - this is the right end of the Thames for you. It's SOOOoo beautiful!

- More countryside and beautiful scenery
- Occasional pubs but fewer restaurants and shops along the riverside
- Easier to find moorings in the middle of nowhere
- Locks are less frequent - about 30 minutes to one hour apart
- Easy access to Oxford, Reading and Henley

...or both?

If you cruise for five nights or more, there's time to do a one-way cruise between our two bases. You'll get to experience both ends of the Thames without the need to turnaround and cruise waters already travelled.

From Chertsey

This end of the Thames flows through many towns and more-populated areas. It's a good part of the river for gazing at expensive riverside houses and imagining which one you'd choose - there are mansions aplenty here.

- Riverside mansion spotting
- More towns, villages, supermarkets, restaurants and pubs
- More moorings in or near towns and villages to enjoy nights out
- Locks are more frequent - about 15 to 30 minutes apart
- Easy access to Hampton Court, Windsor, Eton and Thorpe Park





Oxford

Renowned for its history & heritage and home to England's oldest university, it's well worth spending a day in Oxford - its dreaming spires won't fail to enchant. Effortlessly combining old and new, there's lots to see within the small radius of the city centre.

Oxford Castle Unlocked



Carfax Tower

Climb the 99 steps to the top of Carfax Tower, the remains of what once was a 14th century church, and enjoy a panoramic view of the city's famous, spire-studded vista. *Open 10am until 5.30pm. £2.20 ad / £1.10 ch.*



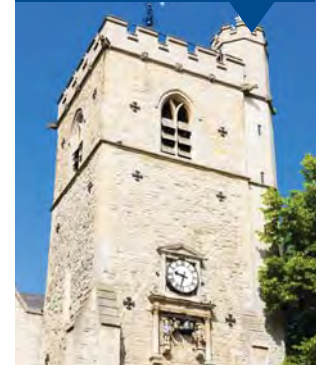
Oxford Castle Unlocked

This ancient medieval castle was used as a prison up until 1996! Part of this historic castle has been converted into a unique hotel (Malmaison Hotel Oxford) but the rest has been preserved for you to enjoy. *Open daily from 10am with the last tour departing at 4.20pm. £9.95 ad / £6.95 ch. 15% discount by booking online at oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk.*

Open-top bus tours

Take a tour of Oxford with 'City Sightseeing' and, not only will you get to see the city from the top deck of an open-top double-decker, you'll be able to hop on and off as much as you like - tickets are valid for 24 hours. With 20 stops to choose from, you can see the sights from your seat or get off to explore on foot. The on-board commentary is fascinating and you get to learn lots about the various colleges and University buildings. *Tickets are available from the bus driver at any of the 20 stops around the city including Oxford Castle, Christ Church and the Sheldonian Theatre. £13 ad / £7 ch / family tickets available.*

Carfax Tower



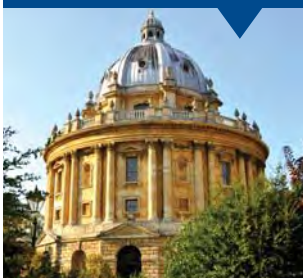
Open-top bus tours



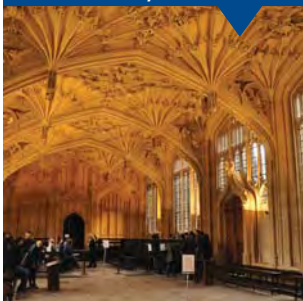


Christ Church College

Radcliffe Camera



Bodleian Library



OXFORD UNIVERSITY



The numerous colleges that make up Oxford's famous University are scattered throughout the city in countless grand and historic buildings. Many are right in the city centre and are in easy walking distance of each other. Most colleges allow visitors inside the quads, cloisters, dining halls and chapels.

• Radcliffe Camera

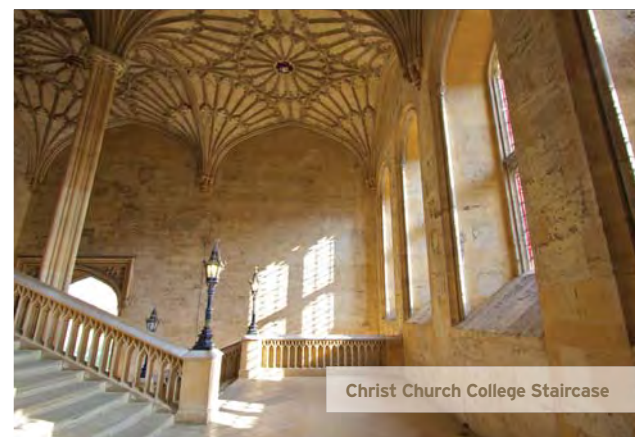
You can't go inside, but it is worth a visit for its unique neo-classical architecture and circular design - it was England's first round library!

• Bodleian Library

Here you'll find yourself in, not only the University's first exam hall, but also in the Hogwart's hospital wing of Harry Potter fame! *Tours start from £5. As it is a working building it is advised to call ahead on 01865 287400 to check tours are running and to book.*

• Christ Church College

One of the largest colleges in the University of Oxford and also the Cathedral Church for the Diocese of Oxford. It is also home to the Cathedral Choir as well as impressive collections of books and art. Some famous Harry Potter scenes were filmed here as well. *This is a working building so it is best to visit between 10am and 11.40am or 2.30pm and 4.45pm. £7 ad / £5.50 ch.*



Christ Church College Staircase



Something to eat

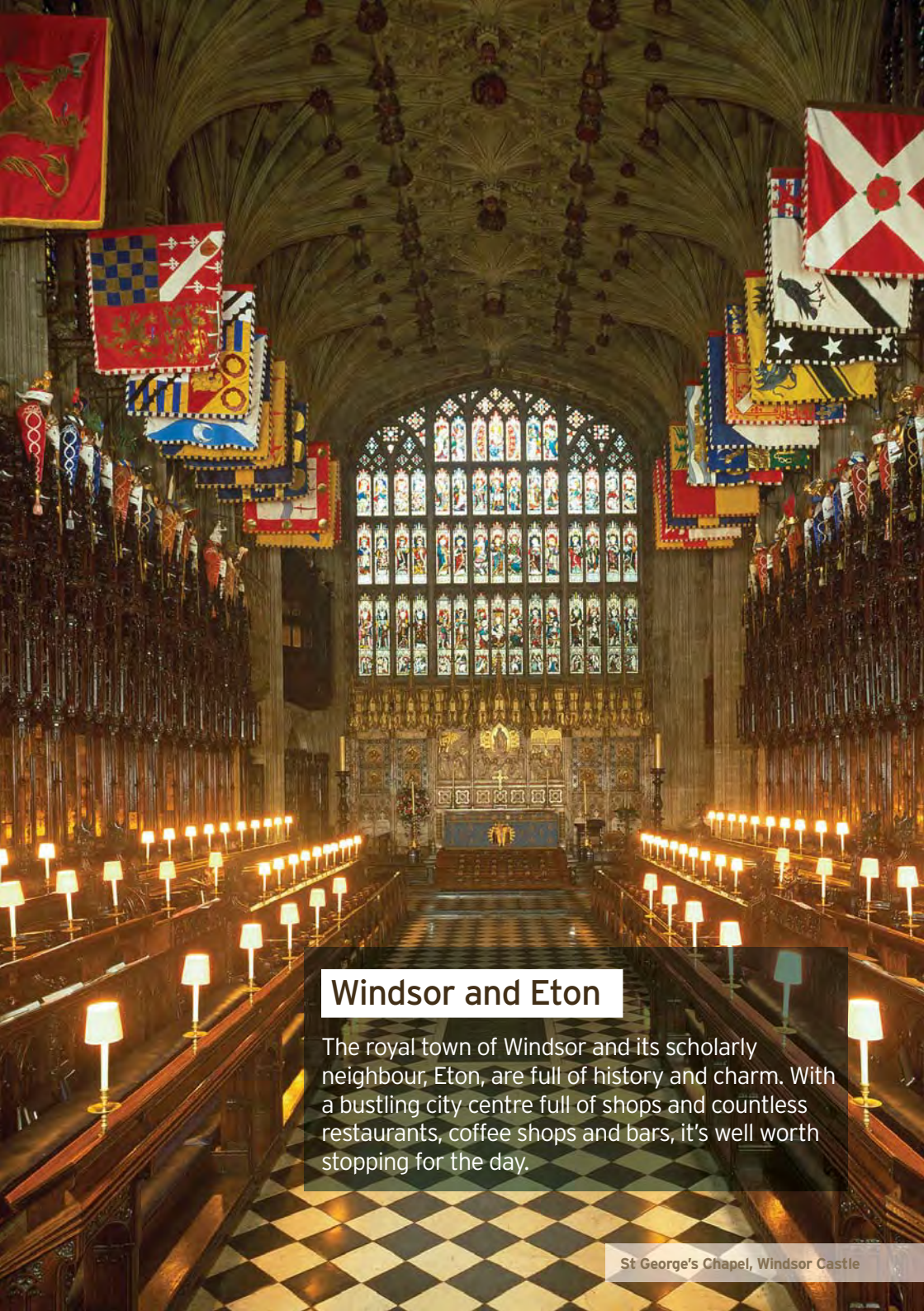
Oxford has a vast range of options for food and drink. With classic English pubs around every corner, there are lots of chances to try the region's real ales. Dine at the Ashmolean Dining Room for stunning views of the city or head to Cowley Road for international fare.

Theatres and museums

On Broad Street you'll find the exquisite Grade I listed Sheldonian Theatre, open to the public when not in use. Tickets for a concert or show are available at The Oxford Playhouse or visit oxfordplayhouse.com. This street is also home to the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology - Britain's first public museum. Countless other museums in Oxford include the Museum of Natural History... and why not pay a visit to Britain's oldest botanic garden? *Sheldonian Theatre open 10am until 1pm & 2pm until 4:30pm (Mon - Sat). £3.50 ad / £2.50 ch. Tours are available May to October. Both museums are open 10am until 5pm daily (Ashmolean closed Monday) and both are free. Botanic Gardens open 9am until at least 5pm. £4.50 ad / under 16s free.*

Sheldonian Theatre





Windsor and Eton

The royal town of Windsor and its scholarly neighbour, Eton, are full of history and charm. With a bustling city centre full of shops and countless restaurants, coffee shops and bars, it's well worth stopping for the day.

St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle



Windsor Bridge from Eton



Eton College

One of England's most eminent public schools with annual fees of around £35,000 - past pupils include 19 former British Prime Ministers. During term time you might see its pupils in traditional black tailcoats, still worn to lessons today. One-hour guided tours take in the School Yard, Cloisters Court, College Chapel and the Museum of Eton Life. *Moor in Windsor and stroll up Eton High Street opposite Windsor footbridge. Building works have recently prevented the tour from running, so please check etoncollege.com for updates, times and prices.*



Eton College

Old-fashioned carriage rides

See the sights in true style aboard a horse drawn hackney carriage. Orchard Polye Carriage Hire will take you down the Long Walk, the impressive and majestic straight road that stretches three miles from Windsor Castle to Windsor Great Park in the south. *Moor in Windsor and find them outside Windsor Castle entrance from 12pm every day. They'll usually be back every 30 minutes. £40 for 30mins (4-6 persons).*



Carriage rides on the Long Walk

Open-top bus tours

A 60 minute tour of Windsor with audio commentary is a great way to see and learn about the whole town with an amazing bird's eye view from the top deck. It is a hop-on / hop-off tour and tickets are valid for 24 hours, so you can use it as a great way to get around too. *Moor in Windsor and get your ticket from the driver at one of the many stops including outside Windsor Castle. Operates from 12th April, 10am - 4pm (5pm in peak). Departs every 30 minutes. £12.50 ad / £6 ch.*

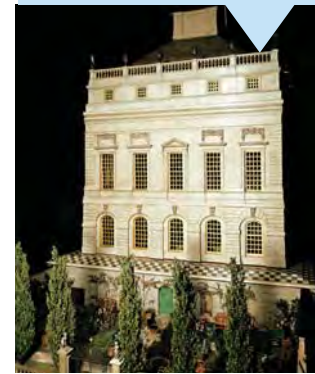


The Long Walk

SO MUCH TO SEE
AND DISCOVER

Queen Mary's Dolls' House

The largest and most beautiful dolls' house in the World, built between 1921 and 1924. It is filled with thousands of objects on the tiny scale of 1:12. The dolls' house has electricity and running water.



Shopping and eating

The grade II listed Victorian railway station has many original features including the Jubilee arch, the cobbled stones and Queen Victoria's Royal Waiting Room. It now houses over 40 shops and an array of restaurants.

Audio tour

Pick up a free audio tour at the start of your visit for a lively and fascinating guide to the castle's history and the role of the castle today. A family version aimed at 7 - 11 yr olds is also available.

WINDSOR CASTLE



Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the World, home of British kings and queens for almost 1,000 years. Look out for the Royal Standard, which flies from the Round Tower when the King's in residence. *Moor in any of Windsor's plentiful public moorings and walk 5 - 10 minutes to the castle entrance. Open 9:45am until 5:15pm every day. Allow 2-3 hours. £18.50 ad / £11 ch / under 5s free. To speed up your entry, tickets can be booked in advance by calling the Royal Collection on 020 7766 7304 or by visiting royalcollection.org.uk. In August and September, guided tours to the top of the Round Tower are also available*

• State Apartments

The State Apartments are lavishly decorated and the walls adorned with some of the finest works of art including Rembrandt and Rubens. Marvel at the sheer magnificence and royal finery of over 20 rooms.

• St George's Chapel

One of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in England and home to the tombs of ten sovereigns including Henry VIII and Charles I.

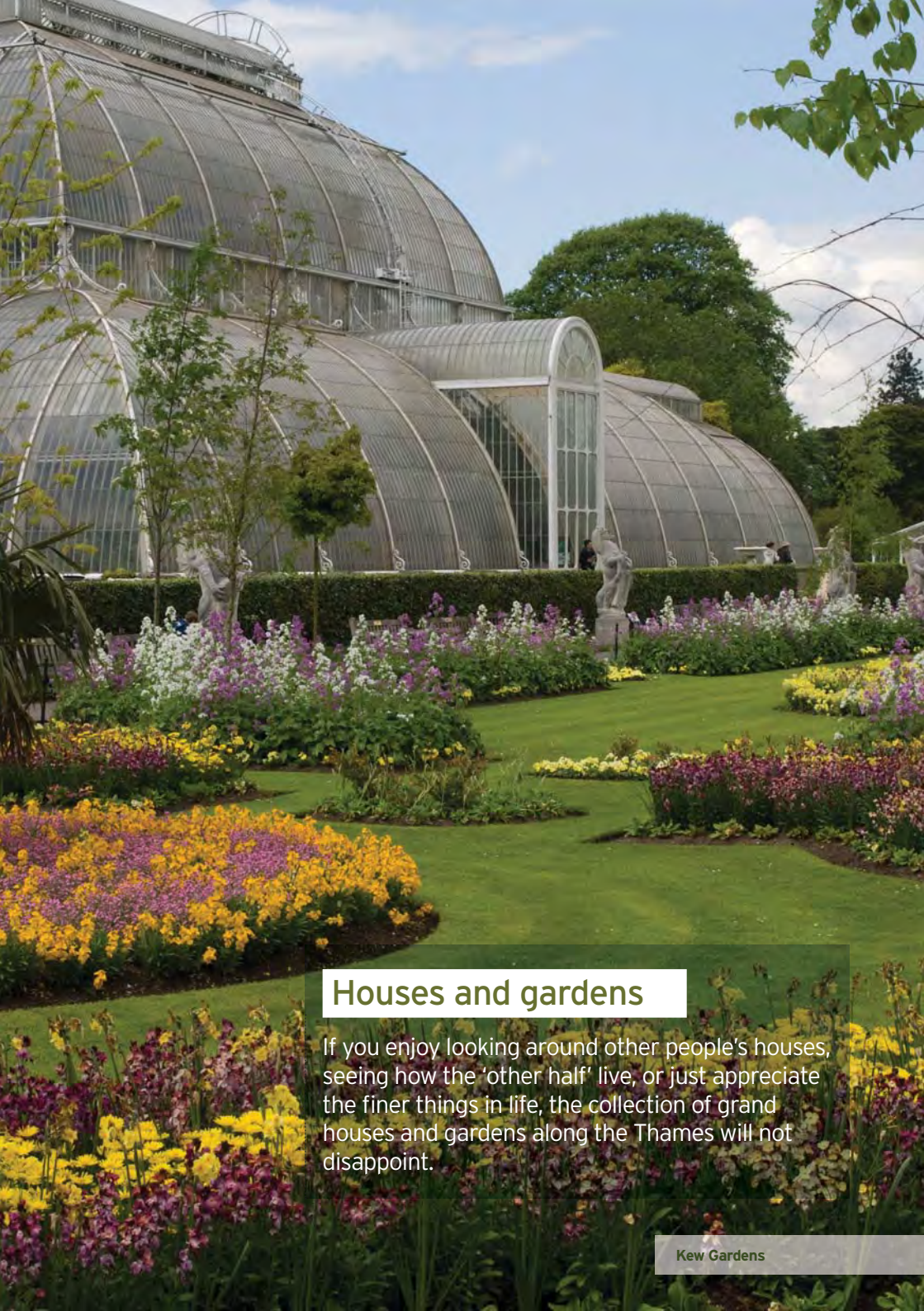


The King's State Bedchamber

Changing of the guard

A colourful and musical spectacle of British pageantry, the 45 minute ceremony takes place at 11am within the Castle grounds on Mondays to Saturdays from April to July and on alternate days for the rest of the year.





Houses and gardens

If you enjoy looking around other people's houses, seeing how the 'other half' live, or just appreciate the finer things in life, the collection of grand houses and gardens along the Thames will not disappoint.

Kew Gardens



Basildon House



Basildon Park

This Georgian mansion was lovingly rescued by Lord and Lady Iliffe in the mid-1950s and is now a re-creation and restoration of the 18th-century building. Treat yourself to a cream tea, experience the nostalgia of the 1950s kitchen or stretch your legs among the 400 acres of historic parkland. The house features in the popular period TV drama, *Downton Abbey*. The interiors are used as the Crawley family's London residence, Grantham House. Guided house tours, with details about the filming, run every day at 11.30am. *Moor outside Beale Park. Basildon House is located 0.8 miles from the river behind Beale Park. Walk through the Beale Park's car park, over a bridge that crosses a train line, continuing along the main road with care until you reach the entrance to Basildon Park on your left. Open throughout the year, although days and times can vary. £12 ad / £6 ch.*

Octagon Room, Basildon House



Kew Gardens

Explore a World Heritage Site at Kew Gardens - the World's most famous garden. Stroll a soaring walkway amid tree canopies and wander through extensive gardens under glass reaching up to 27°C. Be amazed by giant lily pads in the Waterlily House, delve into an exotic rainforest in the Palm House and travel through 10 climatic zones in the Princess of Wales Conservatory. Step inside Kew Palace to explore a beautiful royal retreat. *Moor in Kingston and catch a train to Kew Gardens (32 minutes - change at Richmond). Open 9:30am until at least 6pm every day. £15 ad / under 16s free.*

Kew's Waterlily House





Frogmore House



Mapledurham House



Dorney Court



The Savill Garden



Frogmore House

17th century Frogmore House has been a favourite royal retreat for more than 300 years - no longer occupied, but frequently used by the Royal Family for private entertaining. A guided tour will inform and delight, ending in the Britannia Room, which reflects the interior of the much-loved Royal Yacht Britannia decommissioned in 1997. Moor in Windsor and walk 1.2 miles across the Long Walk. Frogmore House, its gardens and lake are open 9:30am until 5pm (last admission 4pm) on selected days in August - check royalcollection.org.uk for details. £9.80 ad / £4 ch / under 5s free.



The Savill Garden

Britain's finest ornamental garden, The Savill Garden is a true wonder. Visitors can journey through 35 acres of interconnecting gardens and exotic woodland. Every garden has its own unique attraction, featuring a distinctive group of plants that introduce a fresh burst of vibrant colour throughout the seasons. Moor upstream of Runnymede and catch a taxi from the National Trust Tea Rooms - (2.5 miles). Open 10am - 6pm every day. £9.75 ad / £4.35 ch / under 5s free.



Dorney Court

Widely regarded as one of England's finest Tudor manor houses, Dorney Court stands in traditional English gardens surrounded by mature parkland and ancient yew hedges. The estate's walled garden offers cream teas and light refreshments. Moor upstream of Boveney Lock and walk or cycle 2.2 miles. The lock keeper can give directions. Hour-long guided tours run from 1:30pm until 5pm every day in August and on both May Bank Holiday Mondays (and preceding Sundays). See dorneycourt.co.uk for more information but booking is not required. £8 ad / £5 ch.



Mapledurham House and Mill

Supposedly the inspiration for Toad Hall from the classic children's book, The Wind in the Willows, Mapledurham is an oasis of peace, natural beauty and history; and is a filming location for many productions including Miss Marple and Midsomer Murders. The neighbouring mill is the only one on the Thames still working and has produced high-quality stone-ground flour since at least the 11th century. The house and mill are hidden behind trees and are hard to see from the river. Moor upstream of Mapledurham Lock and walk, or catch a taxi from Pangbourne (3 miles). Open weekends and bank holidays only, from 2pm until 5:30pm. £9 ad / £3.50 ch.

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Cliveden



Cliveden House and its surrounding estate has been home to an earl, three countesses, two dukes, a prince of Wales and, most recently, the Viscounts Astor. It is now owned by the National Trust, although the house is let as one of the UK's most luxurious hotels. The gardens and grounds are still open to the public to be enjoyed by all.

• The house

Although now a hotel, visitors are still able to explore part of the house's ground floor on a short guided tour which runs on Thursdays and Sundays between 3pm and 5pm. Buy tickets (£2) from the Information Centre, but get there early (or book in advance on 01628 605069) in peak summer. If you're visiting on other days, how about indulging in a sumptuous afternoon tea (£29.50 per person) in the hotel's very grand foyer?.



The Water Gardens



The Parterre

• Themed gardens

The grade I listed gardens and horticultural wonders include the fragrant rose garden, the fantastical topiary in the long garden and the tranquil escape of the water gardens. Not forgetting the impressive six-acre parterre, planted with colourful spring and summer displays in stunning symmetrical designs. It is best viewed from above, atop the very grand South Terrace.

• The maze

Find your way to the middle of Cliveden's deceptively difficult maze. Commissioned by Lord Astor in 1894 it has since been replanted with 1,100 six-foot tall yew trees and reopened in 2011.

• Have fun in the woods

A wealth of walks are on offer throughout Cliveden's extensive woodlands. If you are feeling particularly energetic, have a go on the fitness trail. Kids can take part in the play trail and try to find Clive's Den.



Stay for lunch

The Orangery Café serves a delicious range of locally sourced light bites and lunches or you can indulge in a slice of cake in the Dovecote Coffee shop. Or enjoy a brew in the Dolls House Café while the children play in the Storybook Play Den



Useful information

Either moor in Maidenhead or Bourne End and catch a taxi (2/3miles) or, for the more agile, moor along the riverbank, among the trees, just downstream of Spring Cottage - it is an unassuming building with magnificent stone steps leading to the water's edge on the right. Then follow the woodland path in an upstream direction. All paths will eventually lead you to the house and gardens. Proceed to the information centre to pay your entry fee. £10.50 ad / £5.25 ch (plus £9 a day for mooring). National Trust members are free. In peak summer a warden sometimes patrols the towpath to collect your fee. Open 10am - 5:30pm.



Hampton Court Palace



Hampton Court Palace, billed as ‘The Greatest Palace in Britain’, offers a magical journey through 500 years of royal history. Residents included King Henry VIII, William III and Queen Mary, who each expanded and modernised various parts. Queen Victoria opened Hampton Court Palace and its 600 acres of parkland to the public in 1838.



• Henry VIII Apartments

You begin at the Great Hall, the palace’s largest and most impressive room, with an ornate carved-wood ceiling and a collection of Flemish tapestries that date back to the 1540s. From here, tour through several other rooms for an insight into life in Henry VIII’s royal court.

• Tudor kitchens

The largest kitchens of Tudor England, built to feed the Court of Henry VIII, were designed to feed at least 600 people twice a day. And not forgetting the chocolate kitchen, recently opened for the first time in 300 years.

The River Thames

SO MUCH TO SEE
AND DISCOVER



• The gardens

Relax in over 60 acres of the beautiful Hampton Court Palace gardens, featuring sparkling fountains, glorious displays of over 200,000 flowering bulbs and 750 acres of tranquil royal parkland. Highlights include the symmetrical patterns of the Privy Garden and the newly restored Kitchen Garden.

• William III Apartments

Ascend the grand staircase to the magnificent state apartments, once used for audiences with the King. Remarkable painted ceilings, imposing portraits, ornate wood carvings and lavish décor abound. Downstairs, the King’s private apartments provide a fascinating glimpse into royal life behind closed doors.

• The Chapel Royal

Outstandingly rich, colourful and layered with history, the chapel’s ceiling is the grand culmination of the Tudor interiors at Hampton Court. An accurate replica of the crown worn by Henry VIII is on display in the Royal Pew of the Chapel Royal where Henry himself would have sat wearing it.

• The maze

Commissioned by William III in 1700, Hampton Court Maze is the UK’s oldest surviving hedge maze and covers a third of an acre. On average, it takes 20 minutes to reach the centre.



Something to eat

There are three food outlets serving hot and cold food - or you are welcome to bring a picnic and dine al fresco in the gardens.



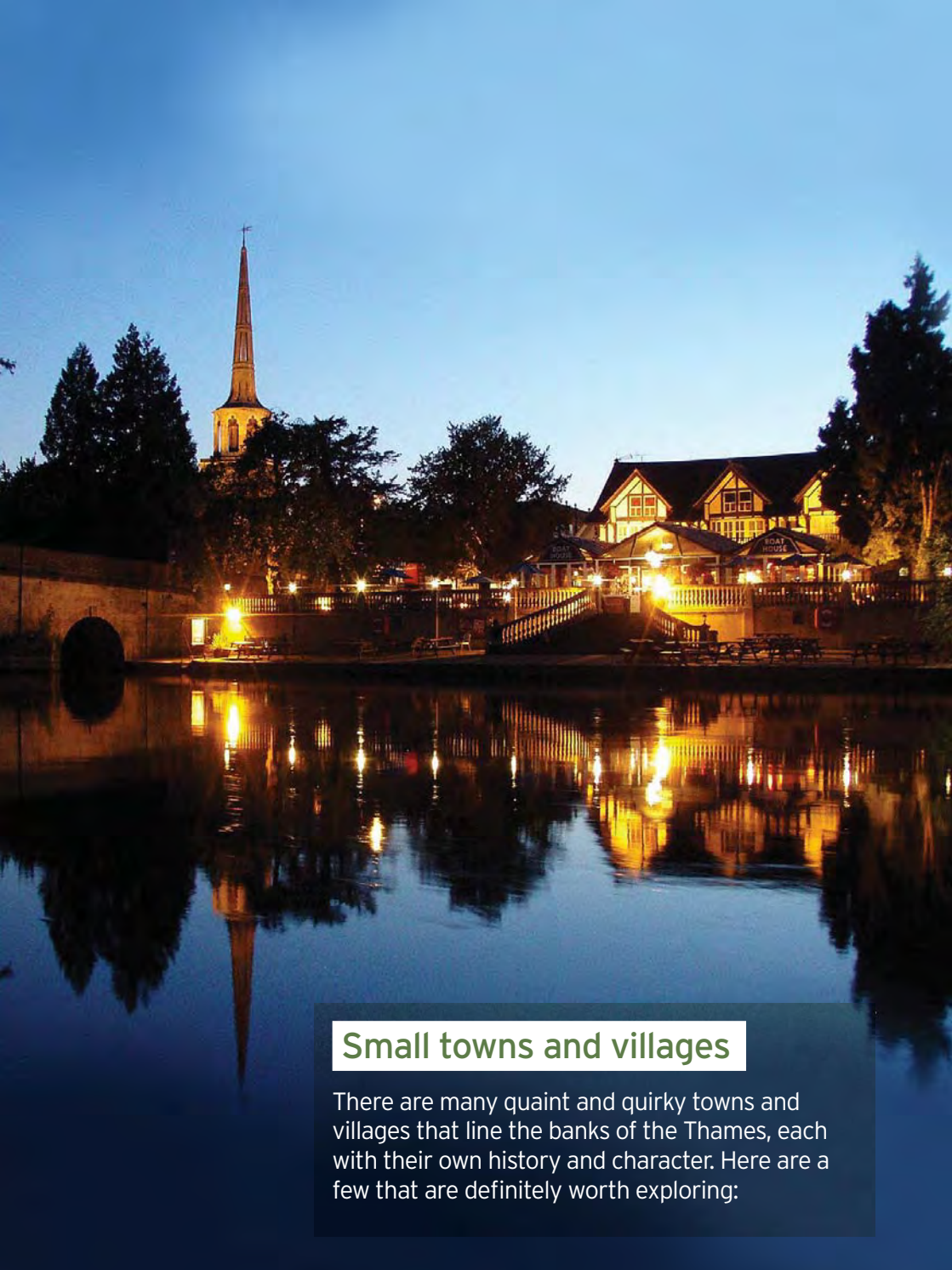
What a show

Hampton Court plays host to two highly acclaimed events every year. June sees Hampton Court Palace Festival where, for two weeks, the grounds become alive with music from a host of famous acts. Past guests include Dionne Warrick, Jason Donovan, Jamie Cullum and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Book tickets at hamptoncourtpalacefestival.com. In July, the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show is a spectacular week-long summer festival and the largest flower show in the world. Book tickets at rhs.org.uk.



Useful information

There are a few moorings just downstream of the palace, otherwise moor in Kingston and walk 1.5 miles through Home Park. Open 10am until 6pm. £19 ad / £10 ch. Family, maze-only and garden-only tickets are also available.



Small towns and villages

There are many quaint and quirky towns and villages that line the banks of the Thames, each with their own history and character. Here are a few that are definitely worth exploring:

Wallingford

The River Thames

SO MUCH TO SEE AND DISCOVER



Wallingford

The Royal Borough of Wallingford was once home to 14 churches! While most are long gone, there's still plenty to see, from independent shops and markets to cafes and restaurants. Markets are held every Friday with a farmers' market on the third Tuesday of each month. The castle ruins and gardens are a nice place for a picnic. Wallingford is perhaps most famous for being the home of Agatha Christie and the setting for many of her stories. It is also the filming location of TV crime drama, *Midsomer Murders*. Wallingford hosts two major festivals in June and September; the Blues and Beers Festival and the Bunkfest, respectively. The latter attracts over 20,000 visitors - look out for the Morris dancers.



Abingdon

Abingdon claims to be Britain's oldest continuously occupied town and its history is still here to be discovered, from the remaining parts of Abingdon Abbey, to an impressive looking 1920s folly in the very pleasant Abbey Gardens. The 17th century Abingdon County Hall Museum is also worth a visit for its interactive displays and a climb to its rooftop for panoramic views. As per tradition, buns are thrown from the roof of this building by the town's dignitaries to mark special occasions. Abingdon is known for its MG car manufacturing - the last MG manufactured here is on display at the museum.



Dorchester

Dorchester-on-Thames is close to where the River Thames meets the River Thames and is best known for its abbey. The story of the abbey is told at the award-winning Cloister Gallery, which displays a collection of carved and moulded medieval stonework, while the abbey museum focuses on the history of the village itself. Visit Lily's Tearoom in the summer for a cup of tea and a yummy slice of cake. *Moor just upstream of the mouth of the River Thames and follow the footpath through the fields to the village. The Abbey and Cloister Gallery is open every day from 8am until 6pm during the summer and entrance is free.*

Wallingford Castle Gardens



Abingdon County Hall Museum



Dorchester Abbey





Marlow



Cookham



Marlow

This pretty Georgian town is similar to Henley (opposite), yet retains its own personality with a wide variety of small shops and boutiques and several restaurants. Marlow has also produced many Olympic rowers: see Sir Steve Redgrave's statue in Higginson Park and find the town's gold post box which marks Naomi Riches' 2012 Paralympic gold in the mixed rowing.



Cookham

Pretty Cookham has lots of pubs and restaurants including The Bel and The Dragon. It was built in 1417 and claims to be one of the oldest pubs in England. Cookham is also the former home to both Kenneth Grahame, author of 'The Wind in the Willows' and Sir Stanley Spencer, an artist who depicted biblical scenes as if they were occurring in Cookham. The Stanley Spencer Gallery on the High Street houses more than 120 of his artworks. *Open 10:30am - 5:30pm every day between April and October. £5 ad / under 16s free.*



Henley

Famed for its annual Royal Regatta, Henley-on-Thames attracts the World's best rowers each year to compete in an ancient regatta tradition. A pretty Georgian town, Henley is a lovely place for a stroll and a bite to eat. Market day is Thursday and a farmers' market is held on the fourth Thursday of each month. Henley is also home to the annual Henley Festival, a black tie music and arts festival held in July on the regatta site, complete with a floating stage on the river! *Buy tickets in advance from henley-festival.co.uk.*

River and Rowing Museum

While in Henley, make sure to visit the River & Rowing Museum. The Rowing Gallery covers the history of rowing, from its roots in ancient warfare to its current recreational use, including exhibits from recent Olympic events. The River Gallery gives a fascinating insight into many aspects of the river including environmental issues, natural history, river & water management and even swan upping! A third gallery delves into the history of Henley, while the Wind in the Willows exhibition is a delight for the little ones. Plus, their café is the perfect spot for a delicious lunch - the brownie is to die for! *The museum has its own jetty and moorings. Open 10am until 5pm. £8.50 ad / £6.50 ch. Family tickets are available.*



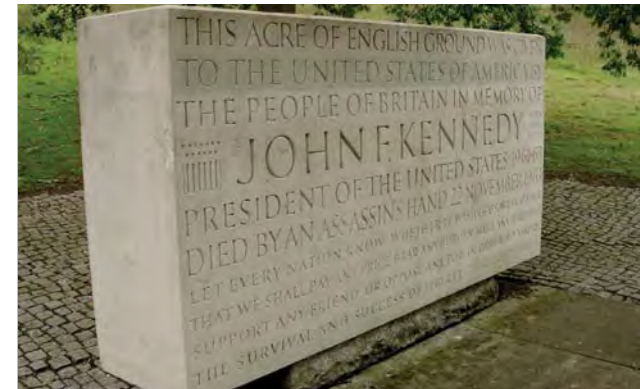


The Runnymede memorials



Nearly 800 years ago, King John met with a group of barons on Magna Carta Island in Runnymede. It was here he signed a historic document which is seen by many as the symbolic first step on the road to modern democracy. Today, in this spirit, Runnymede has several memorials to the ongoing struggle for liberty - a trio of thought-provoking places which are worth a stop at to reflect, ponder and remember.

Magna Carta Memorial



Magna Carta Memorial

This monument to the historic moment the Magna Carta was sealed, was erected in 1957 by the American Bar Association. Nestled in a quiet spot near the meadows and sat on a gentle slope looking out towards the Thames, today the memorial is the perfect place to pause and reflect on the ongoing struggle for liberty.

JFK Memorial

Set in a symbolic acre of land donated to the United States of America in 1965, this memorial commemorates the life of President John F Kennedy following his tragic assassination. There are three elements: a cobbled, stepped pathway that winds up through the woodland; the Portland Stone inscribed with words from Kennedy's inaugural address in 1961; and a paved path leading to the Seats of Contemplation from where there is a superb view of Runnymede.

Air Forces Memorial

Commemorating by name the 20,456 airmen of the allied forces who lost their lives during in WW2 and have no known grave, this memorial was unveiled by the Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 and features sculptures, engraved glass and painted ceilings. An MP3 audio guide is available to download from www.cwgc.org. Open 9am - 6pm (from 10am on weekends and Bank Holidays). Entry is free.



Useful information

Moor on the banks just upstream from Runnymede Pleasure Ground (small charge applies). You will see the Magna Carta Memorial in the distance from your boat. Take care when crossing the busy road and walk across the field towards it. After this, follow the line of trees for 150 yards (upstream direction), where an entrance will lead you back among the trees and up some steps towards the JFK Memorial. Allow 20-30 minutes to see both. The Air Forces Memorial requires a little more effort. It's about 1 mile further on from the JFK Memorial. Behind the JFK Portland Stone, follow the path through the trees until you reach Oak Lane. Follow this for 500 yards until the end and turn left. Take the next left and then right into Cooper's Hill Lane. Follow this for 700 metres. The Air Forces Memorial is on your left.



London



Welcome to the bright lights of London, home to over 13 million people and the most visited city in the World. It's brimming with heritage, culture and iconic sights and attractions. Although you can't take your boat into central London, it is easily accessible by train - so it would be a shame to miss it!



The West End

Just around the corner from buzzing Leicester Square is London's West End and theatre district. You can purchase last-minute theatre tickets here at discounted rates, but make sure you buy from an approved vendor - we recommend TKTS, the booth at the centre of the Square with a clock on top! *Nearest tube station: Leicester Square*

South Bank

Head to the south side of the Thames and stroll between Waterloo Bridge and Westminster Bridge. Take a half-hour 'flight' on the London Eye, the iconic Ferris wheel, and visit the London Aquarium. Down river you'll find the South Bank Centre where there's always something going on, from film and comedy to food festivals. *London Eye open daily, 10am until at least 8:30pm. £29.50 / under 4s free. Aquarium open daily, 10am until 7pm. £25.20 ad / £19.50 ch / under 3s free. Family tickets, combi-tickets and online discounts for both attractions are available at londoneye.com. Nearest tube station: Waterloo*

Tower Bridge

This iconic suspension bridge and symbol of London was built in 1886 and is still fully operational, with the bridge lifting periodically to allow large ships to enter and exit the city of London. A new 11-metre long glass-floored walkway allows visitors to view London life, 42 metres above the river.

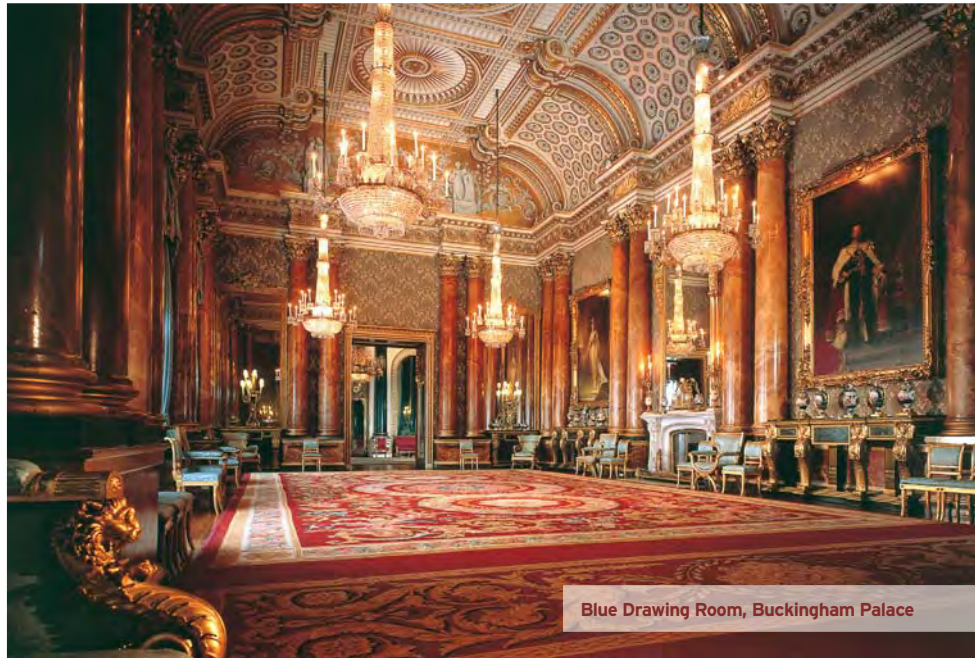
South Bank entertainment



The West End



Please note that you cannot navigate your boat into central London, but it is easily accessible by train.



Blue Drawing Room, Buckingham Palace



Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace

The principle home and workplace of the British Monarchy. Summer tours allow you to see rooms furnished with many of the greatest treasures from the Royal Collection. You can also tour the Royal Mews which houses vehicles and carriages used for state occasions. *The state rooms are open to the public during August and September, 9am until 7:30pm daily. Allow 2 - 2 1/2 hours. Tickets start at £20.50 ad / £11.80 ch / under 5s free. 45 minute Royal Mews tours run at regular intervals every day between April and October, 10am - 5pm. £8.75 ad / £5.40 ch / under 5s free. To speed up your entry, tickets can be booked in advance by calling the Royal Collection on 020 7766 7300 or by visiting royalcollection.org.uk. Nearest tube station: St James's Park.*



Trafalgar Square

Museums and galleries - Take the tube to South Kensington and you can visit the Science Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Natural History Museum all in one go. Or head to Trafalgar Square and you'll see Nelson's Column, the iconic stone lions and the famous Fourth Plinth topped by art that changes each year. The Square is also home to the National Gallery and near by is the National Portrait Gallery. *All these museums and galleries are free to enter. Open 10am until at least 5:45pm. Nearest tube stations: South Kensington (and Charing Cross for Trafalgar Square).*

Four UNESCO World Heritage sites in one city!



The Tower of London - Founded by William the Conqueror in 1066-7, is one of the world's most famous fortresses, and one of Britain's most visited historic sites. This grand palace and royal residence, turned prison and WW1 training ground, it is now home to the Crown Jewels - priceless treasures which are part of the Royal Collection. They include some of the most extraordinary diamonds in the world. *Open 9am until 5:30pm. £22 ad / £11 ch. Discounted tickets available online. Nearest tube station: Tower Hill*



Kew Gardens - The World's largest collection of living plants, complete with their own police force, Kew Gardens spans across 300 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens. Climb 18 metres high on the Xstrata Treetop Walkway for a spectacular view, take a guide tour through an array of glass houses, each unique in design, climate and species. Or simply relax with a picnic in tranquil surroundings. *Open 9:30am until at least 6pm every day. £15 ad / free under 16s. Nearest tube station: Kew Gardens*



The Palace of Westminster and Elizabeth Tower - More commonly known as the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, captivating tours take you through the House of Commons, House of Lords, the Queen's Robing Room, the Royal Gallery and more. *Open Saturdays throughout the year and all week in August and September. Tours start every 20 minutes between 9am and 4.15pm. Booking required - call 020 7219 4114. £25 ad / £10 ch / under 5s free. Nearest tube station: Westminster*



Maritime Greenwich - Home to the National Maritime Museum, the Cutty Sark (an impressive 19th century sailing ship), the Royal Observatory and the Prime Meridian Line where the eastern and western hemispheres meet - longitude 0°. *The Cutty Sark opens 10am until 5pm and costs £12:15 ad / £7.70 ch. The Royal Observatory and National Maritime Museum is open 10am until 5pm and is free. Nearest tube station: Cutty Sark*



Getting there

You can travel around London using the underground - buy a day ticket from the self-service machines at all train and underground stations. It is easy to get to London from many places along the Thames. The following stations are within easy reach of the river and most have direct services to London:

- Kingston: 20 minutes to London Waterloo.
- Reading: 35 minutes to London Paddington.
- Staines: 35 minutes to London Waterloo.
- Windsor & Eton Central: 30 - 40 minutes to London Paddington. Change in Slough.
- Maidenhead: 45 minutes to London Paddington.
- Pangbourne: 45 - 60 minutes to London Paddington. Change at Reading for the faster service)
- Windsor & Eton Riverside: 60 minutes to London Waterloo.
- Oxford: 60 minutes to London Paddington.

Visit www.nationalrail.co.uk

Note: Trains leave every 15 - 30 minutes. Services are less frequent on Sundays.



Marlow

Did you know?

Fancy a drop?

Two thirds of London's drinking water comes from the Thames. A drop of water falling into the Thames at its source in the Cotswolds will have been drunk by eight people before it reaches the sea.

Cleaner than you think

The River Thames is the cleanest metropolitan river in the World, home to 119 species of fish, many of which inhabit the Thames estuary in the east. 25 species are found in the non-tidal stretch of the river on which Le Boat operates.



The big clean up

The Thames wasn't always as clean as it is now. In year 1858, the stench from sewage in the river was so overpowering that Parliament had to be suspended, and as recent as 1957 the Thames was declared biologically dead. **Now the river is the cleanest it has been in 200 years.**

At the source

The source of the Thames is in a village called Kemble, near to the town of Cirencester in the Cotswolds, 215 miles from its mouth. **Le Boat operates on 42% of the river** - a 92 mile stretch between Oxford and Kingston.

Tides apart

The river, from the Thames Estuary to Teddington Lock (just north of Kingston), is tidal. **It can rise and fall by as much as 7 metres.**

Going down

The non-tidal section, from its source to Teddington Lock, is managed by the Environment Agency. **Teddington Lock is 110 metres lower than the river at its source.** That means the river falls the equivalent of 24 double-decker buses.

Let it flow

At Reading, as much as **3,594 million litres** of water flows every day. As more tributaries join the river, the flow gets faster. At Kingston, 5,696 litres flow - **that's the equivalent of 2,278 Olympic-sized swimming pools** of water - every day.

Brown is good

The River Thames looks brown and murky, partly because of all the natural dirt and silt from the riverbed, but mainly due to the diatoms, **a type of algae that thrive in the river.** They're actually a sign that it's in pretty good health.

A worthy runner-up

The Thames is the second longest river in the UK - the River Severn is five miles longer.



Dolphins and porpoises have been spotted as far up the river as Richmond!

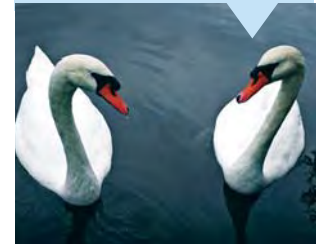
SOMETHING FOR EVERY INTEREST

Under the M4 motorway



Royal swans

All mute swans are owned by the crown and it is illegal to kill one. In 1482, Edward IV wanted to make sure only he could serve them at banquets. This law has most likely prevented swans becoming extinct in the UK. They are no longer eaten though!



Swimming

Swimming is allowed in the non-tidal section of the Thames on which Le Boat operates, although do not swim when the current is strong or in busy areas such as locks or marinas.





Fun for children

The Thames is our number one family destination. There are plenty of attractions along the river, or a short distance away, that will keep the kids delighted and make this their best holiday EVER!



55 million
LEGO® bricks of fun



LEGOLAND® Windsor

LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort is a theme park specially designed for children aged 2-12 years old. It has over 55 LEGO®-themed interactive rides, live shows, building workshops, driving schools and attractions, all set in 150 acres of beautiful parkland. LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort is a unique day out. *Moor in Windsor.* Shuttle buses depart every 30 minutes from outside the Theatre Royal (routes 191 & 200, 2.7 miles, £4 ad / £2 ch). Open 7 days a week throughout the summer from 10am until at least 5pm. Closed on selected Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Apr, May, Sep & Oct. Book online 2 days prior for the best entry prices, from £36 ad / £33 ch / under 3s free.



Beale Park



Beale Park

A wildlife park with meerkats, monkeys, lemurs, alpacas and more, plus over 120 species of birds from peacocks to macaws as well as one of the UK's largest owlreys. There's an indoor and outdoor play village, narrow gauge railway, model boats and the animal athletics challenge where your wits can be pitted against members of the animal kingdom in a series of ten challenges dotted around the park. *Moorings right outside - find the riverside entrance that leads 180 metres right up to the park.* Open 10am until at least 5pm. £9.50 ad / £7.50 ch (includes one ride on the train).

Beale Park





PLUS
Giant
Indoor
Playbarn

Bekonscot Model Village



Bekonscot Model Village



MAP REFERENCE
K

Odds Farm Park

Get up close and personal with all sorts of farm animals and have fun learning all about them. There's an ever-changing schedule of exciting, hands-on activities including: egg collecting, feeding the pigs, goats and lambs; sheep shearing, tractor rides and more. Plus, there's crazy golf, an adventure maze, sheep racing and a giant indoor play barn. Mum and Dad can relax with a delicious coffee from the fabulous espresso bar. *Moor at Bourne End or Cookham and catch a taxi (2.5 miles). Open 10am until 5:30pm every day. £12.50 weekend and school holidays / £9.95 weekdays (£1 less for children).*

MAP REFERENCE
K

Bekonscot Model Village & Railway

Bekonscot is the World's oldest model village, with a huge model railway snaking through finely detailed model buildings and 1.5 acres of garden. Wander around like giants through six little towns scattered around the park, each stuck in a 1930's time warp. Stride down the high streets and peek inside buildings, where hundreds of tiny details will delight. Tea rooms, a picnic area and playground also available. *Moor at Bourne End or Cookham and catch a taxi (4.5 miles) or visit traveline.info for bus times (approx 1hr). Open 10am until 5pm every day. £9.80 ad / £5.80 ch.*

The River Thames

200
buildings
3000
people
1000
animals
all in miniature



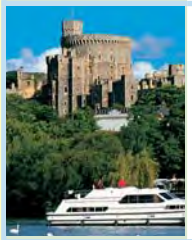
Unexpected fun



MAP REFERENCE
J

Wind in the Willows

The Wind in the Willows is brought to life with 3D models and music at the Henley River and Rowing Museum. Walk through the story with an audio guide, borrow a torch to light your way through the Dark Woods and make a cup of tea in Mr Toad's caravan. *See page 27*



MAP REFERENCE
M

Windsor Castle

A special family version of the castle's free audio guide has been designed to bring the castle and fascinating history to life for younger children. Plus, there's an information trail to follow. Children will also love gazing into the miniature dolls house built for Queen Mary in 1924. *See page 11 - 15*



MAP REFERENCE
L

Cliveden

As well as the maze at Cliveden, children can enjoy haring around the acres of woodland that neighbour the gardens. There's also an information trail and an activity play trail where children can test their climbing, balancing and den building skills. And don't forget to visit the Storybook Play Den. *See pages 20 - 21*

SOMETHING FOR EVERY INTEREST

i

Fun in the park

For the energetic little nippers - visit pages 44 - 45 for a selection of parks and open spaces, ideal for a kick-about, a game of cricket, a picnic or somewhere to run wild!

Getting involved in boating

As well as the many parks and attractions that line the Thames, children will love the very nature of boating. Remember to involve them in planning each day, let them consult the map and ask them where you are and what lies ahead. Ask them to hold ropes when you moor and when going through locks (under supervision and once the boat is stationary). Encourage them to mop down the decks and keep the boat ship-shape. Or maybe a spot of cooking in the galley? And don't forget about feeding the ducks and swans. The Thames is teeming with wildlife - check out our bird checklist on pages 42 -43. Please note: while not compulsory, Le Boat recommends that life-jackets are worn at all times when on deck.





Fun for bigger kids

Even harder to keep amused? Well don't worry, here are a few attractions for those teens who crave something a little more active or hair-raising!

18
hole
adventure
golf course

Zorbing at Extreme Motion



Extreme Motion

Jump an exhilarating 20 feet in the air and somersault within the safe confines of a bungee trampoline; climb inside a large plastic 'Zorb' ball and enjoy running, racing and bouncing around like a hamster; or take on 18 holes in the brand new adventure golf course. *Extreme Motion is located in Alexandra Gardens, right opposite the public moorings on the Windsor side of the river. Open daily from 10am - 6pm (bungee trampolining and zorbing only available on weekends and school holidays). £5 per person per activity (£5.50 ad / £4.50 ch for golf).*



The River Thames

SOMETHING FOR EVERY INTEREST



7
thrilling
roller
coasters



Thorpe Park

Experience a non-stop adrenaline rush at the nation's thrill capital, Thorpe Park, with some of Europe's most exhilarating rides, including the World's only backward winged rollercoaster (The Swarm), the steepest free-fall drop in the World (The Saw) and the tallest log-flume in the UK. If it's white-knuckle fun you crave - Thorpe Park won't disappoint. *Moor at the Le Boat base in Chertsey. Exit out of the marina, turn right and walk 230 metres to the roundabout... the entrance is right there. Open 7 days a week throughout the summer from 10am until at least 5pm. Book online 2 days prior for the best entry prices, from £26 per person. Fast track passes available to help beat the queues.*



High Ropes Oxford

An amazing tree-top forest adventure with over 40 obstacles including: zip slides, Tarzan swings, wobbly bridges, balance beams, cargo nets, mid-air leaps and much more. The course will take between 2 - 3 hours and you can finish the day with a 42ft drop simulating a parachute landing using the site's amazing powerfan - included in the price. *Adult supervision, either from the ground or up in the trees, is required. Children must be over 10yrs old and taller than 140cm to participate. Children slightly outside these restrictions may be allowed to participate if supervised 1:1 by an adult in the trees - check first. £27.50 ad / £22.50 ch. Advanced booking is recommended - visit highropesoxford.com or call 01865 822305. Moor in Abingdon and take a taxi.*



The Swarm, Thorpe Park



Nemesis Inferno, Thorpe Park

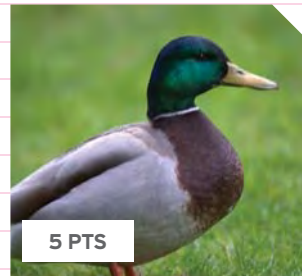


High Ropes Oxford



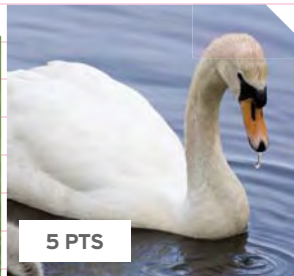
Birdlife

Look at the variety of birdlife you can spot along the River Thames! Come on kids - how many species can you spot by the end of your holiday? More than 100 points makes you a 'Star Spotter'. Good luck!



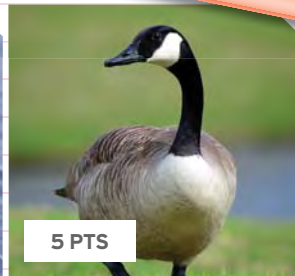
5 PTS

MALLARD DUCKS



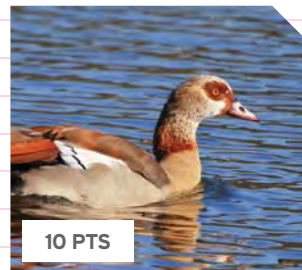
5 PTS

MUTE SWANS



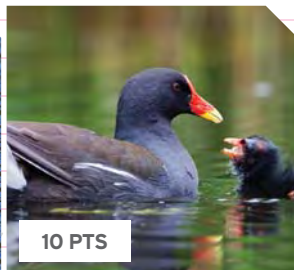
5 PTS

CANADA GEESE



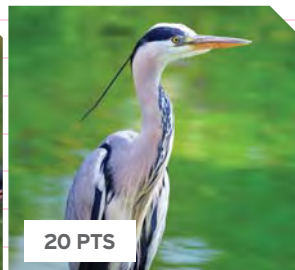
10 PTS

EGYPTIAN GEESE



10 PTS

MOORHENS & COOTS



20 PTS

GREY HERONS



20 PTS

RED KITES



15 PTS

GREAT CORMORANTS



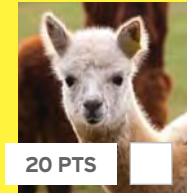
- MALLARD DUCKS**
This is the UK's most common duck and can be spotted all year round. The males are very distinct with bottle-green heads; the females are less colourful. Babies are yellow and fluffy.
- MUTE SWANS**
Large white birds, although their babies (cygnets) are grey. Look out for black swans - smaller with black feathers and red beaks.
- CANADA GEESE**
Imported by Charles II in 1665 as 'ornaments' for his garden, now widespread across the UK. They do not migrate back to Canada.
- EGYPTIAN GEESE**
Another goose introduced to the UK for ornamental purposes and now living wild in the countryside, they have red eye patches, red necks and peach coloured chests.
- MOORHENS & COOTS**
Moorhens: aka river chickens. Red & yellow beaks. A skittish & nervous bird. Coots: the bigger cousin, slightly larger with a white beak. Its call is similar to a squeaky toy.
- GREY HERONS**
Keep your eyes peeled on the river bank. Long legs, a long neck (which can be hidden if they are hunched up), yellow beaks and grey, white and black feathering.
- RED KITES**
The silhouette of their forked tail is unmistakable. When flying low, see their red-brown body and wings with white sections.
- GREAT CORMORANTS**
Looks eerily like a small vulture with its curved neck and hunched posture. Can dive really deep to catch eels. After diving they will stand with their wings spread out to dry off.

Grand total



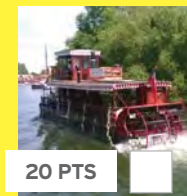
Other fun things to spot

There are bonus points available for the following sightings as well...



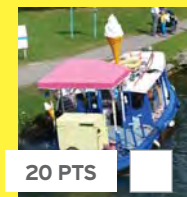
20 PTS

Alpacas - there are several alpaca farms along the river - keep your eyes peeled around Pangbourne way!



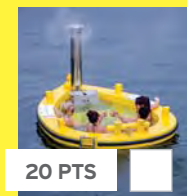
20 PTS

A paddle steamer - a replica of a Victorian paddle steamer operates around Runnymede.



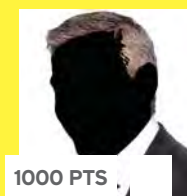
20 PTS

An icecream boat - a boat selling ice cream operates on the river around Marlow in the summer months. You can't miss it. Look out for the big plastic ice cream cone on the top!



20 PTS

A hot-tug - the Runnymede hotel has its very own floating hot tub, allowing guests to explore the Thames while enjoying a hot soak!



1000 PTS

George Clooney or his riverside mansion. The Hollywood A-listers has bought a new countryside pad in the pretty village of Sonning - but which is it?



Fun in the park

When the sun is shining and you fancy stretching your legs, lazing on the grass or having a picnic while the kids run wild, stop at one of the parks or open spaces along the Thames. There are plenty, but we've found the following are particularly pleasant and convenient:

Pangbourne Meadows



Marsh and Mill Meadows



G **Pangbourne Meadows - Pangbourne**

This Thames-side meadow offers a good open space for picnics and games. There's a big grassy meadow adjacent to the tow path, while further inland (behind the treeline) there is a large field and children's play area, including toilets. *Moorings available adjacent to the Meadows.*

J **Marsh and Mill Meadows - Henley**

Mill Meadows is a large riverside recreational area, to the upstream side of the River & Rowing Museum, which includes a couple of really good playgrounds for younger and older children, as well as acres of open space and a wildlife walk. There are public toilets here too. The neighbouring area, downstream of the museum, is Marsh Meadows which allows BBQs, so long as the hot tray is kept off the grass. A number of BBQ stumps are provided. *Moorings available adjacent to the Meadows.*

G **Christchurch Meadows - Caversham**

A large park between Caversham and Reading Bridge on the north bank. There is a play area, a paddling pool, tennis courts, football pitches and a picnic area. *Moorings are available adjacent to the park.*

Dorney Lake - Nr Windsor



Runnymede Pleasure Grounds



Bushy Park

C **Abbey Meadow Water Park - Abingdon**

A safe environment for youngsters to enjoy water fun on a hot day. Parents can relax at the side and watch the kids run around the spray fountains. There's an outdoor pool, crazy golf and a play area alongside as well. *Moorings available adjacent to the Meadows.*

Q **Bushy Park - Hampton Court**

The second largest of the Royal Parks of London, it spans 1,100 acres and can be found adjacent to Hampton Court. Red and fallow deer roam freely among the woods and grasslands... and you can too! Explore the gardens and take a look at the famous Diana Fountain, in homage to the Roman goddess of the same name. *Moor in Kingston and walk.*

L **Dorney Lake - Nr Windsor**

Dorney Lake, known as Eton Dorney during the 2012 Olympics, is a modern, world-class rowing and flat-water canoeing centre set in a spectacular 450-acre parkland near Windsor - perfect for a long walk by the edge of the lake. *Moor upstream of Boveney Lock.*

N **Runnymede Pleasure Grounds - Runnymede**

The Runnymede Pleasure Grounds is right on the banks of the River Thames and is a popular spot for picnics and days out. There is a modern play area, a paddling pool, children's amusements, a café and toilets. *Moor just upstream of the park.*

Go for a cycle ride

Bikes can be hired from either of Le Boat's bases. Add them to your booking in advance, or enquire about availability on arrival. A bike is an ideal way to reach those attractions that are located a mile or two away from the river's edge.





The best places to shop!

No holiday is complete without a day at the shops! Whether you wish to pick up local delicacies, unique gifts or something to wear at the weekend, there's plenty of shopping to be done along the Thames.



Eating in Reading
Something for everyone from big name restaurants to afternoon tea on Whittington's Tea Barge, moored near George Street Bridge on the north bank.



Reading

Head to Reading and shop 'til you drop, whether you browse the independent boutiques or head to one of the huge shopping centres, The Oracle or Broad St Mall. With both shopping centres located on the high street, Reading is a one-stop-shop for fashion, jewellery and home wares. And why not take some time out to visit Reading Museum to see the World's only full-scale copy of the Bayeux Tapestry - the Victorians who created it covered up all the nude male figures! When you're ready for a break, head to the peaceful oasis of Forbury Gardens and Abbey Ruins, a pleasant place to eat lunch or enjoy the sunshine.



Kingston High Street



Oxford

Oxford has all the big brands you'd expect, but also has plenty of boutiques, craft shops and delicatessens. Head to the covered market or the farmers' market for local produce, including organic meats and artisan cheeses. Find the antiques centre on the high street and browse the jewellery, books, prints and collectables, as well as the goods of the Oxford Craft Guild who sell their wares here too.



Staines

In Staines you can find the Two Rivers Shopping Centre located near to the pedestrianised high street, so everything you could want is in one place, from high street brands to a cinema and a Saturday farmers' market.



Kingston

Just a short walk from the Thames, Kingston is host to over 500 well-known high street stores. Although a great shopping destination, Kingston is rarely crowded and retains a small-town feel. From Monday to Saturday the ancient market takes place, selling farmers' produce and take-away food from pretzels to tagine and Japanese lunches. Make sure to visit Webster's Fishmongers, which has been trading here since 1866.



London

Oxford Street is London's number one shopping destination. Here you'll find over 300 shops and famous departments stores such as Selfridges, John Lewis and Debenhams - covering every high street and designer brand you can think of. No matter the time or day, expect crowds! More famous flagship stores can be found on nearby Regent Street, including Hamleys, Liberty and the Apple Store. *Closest tube station: Oxford Circus, Bond Street or Tottenham Court Road.*



Bentall Centre, Kingston



It's all mapped out...

At the back of this guide, our fold-out map will put everything in perspective for you. We hope you enjoy our visual representation of everything there is to do along 'our stretch' of the river.





A day at the races

Enjoy the thrill of the final furlong at one of the racecourses situated near the Thames, and have a 'flutter' on the horses while you're there. You never know, you may go home a little richer!



Kempton Park

Kempton Park Racecourse is one of Europe's busiest racecourses, holding flat and jumping races all year. Flat races take place year round and jump races are held between October and April. *Moor in Shepperton or book to stay in Walton Marina (see pages 66 - 67) and take a taxi (4.3 miles). Entry from £16 ad / under 18s free. Up to 25% off when booking online in advance. See kemptonpark.co.uk for fixtures.*



Royal Windsor

Royal Windsor Racecourse is located right on the banks of the river and is one of only two figure-of-eight racecourses in the UK. The area has links to horse racing as far back as the reign of Henry VIII - the first race running in 1866. The summer series sees races take place on a Monday night. With Pimm's and Champagne on offer and views of the castle, the Paddock Lawn feels more like a garden party than a race meet. If you attend, keep an eye out for celebrities. *Book to stay in the Racecourse Marina next door (see pages 66 - 67) or moor in Winsor and walk to the racecourse (1.3 miles). Entry from £12 ad / free under 18s, discount for booking online. See windsor-racecourse.co.uk for fixtures.*



Dress Code

All courses encourage race-goers to embrace racing tradition and dress smartly. However, grandstand enclosures do not have a dress code (although vests, sports shorts, ripped jeans and trainers are usually not allowed). Certain premier enclosures do require formal dress.



A canter in the park

If you're more at home in the saddle than the grandstand, you can enjoy one of London's great parks with the following riding centres.



Tally Ho Stables - Windsor

These friendly stables offer two-hour horse riding experiences through the woodland and meadows of Windsor Great Park. They offer routes suitable for complete beginners, to challenging routes for the more-experienced to test their skills. Why not enjoy the magic of an evening ride in the summer as the sun sets. *Moor in Windsor and catch a taxi (6 miles). Contact them in advance on 01344 893700 or visit tallyhostables.co.uk to enquire and book. Experiences start from the stables (5 miles from the centre of Windsor) or within the Great Park. One hour hacks start from £55 per person.*

Tally Ho Stables - Windsor



Kingston Riding Centre

The Centre offers daily hacks through Richmond Park, notified by English Nature as a site of special interest in 1992 and is a National Nature Reserve. *Moor in Kingston and catch a taxi (1.6 miles). No beginners allowed - riders MUST be able to walk, trot and canter in a controlled and balanced manner to join a hack. Contact them in advance on 0208 546 6361 to enquire and book. One hour hacks start from £44.*

Tally Ho Stables - Windsor





Go fishing

The Thames is a great location for fishing, from perch to pike and even carp, there are lots of chances for you to catch your own dinner.



Fishing licences

Before you head out with your rod and tackle at the ready, you need to get a rod licence. These are issued by the Environment Agency and can be bought easily from any Post Office in England or Wales, by calling 0844 800 5386 or visiting postoffice.co.uk/rod-fishing-licence. Prices start at £3.75 for one day's fishing. You can go fishing as soon as you have paid for your licence - just take your receipt or email confirmation with you.

FREE PLACES TO FISH

Once you've got your permit, head to one of the below places to fish for free with no additional day ticket required!

- **Osney Lock, Oxford**
First 150m downstream of Osney Lock on towpath side.
- **Iffley Lock, Oxford**
First 100m downstream of Iffley Lock on towpath side.
- **Thames Side Promenade, Reading**
All along the promenade except for the 200m upstream and downstream of Caversham Bridge, due to the swan sanctuary.
- **Christchurch Meadows, Caversham**
The entire length of the river bank downstream of Wolsey Road. Fishing upstream from Wolsey Road is prohibited as the site is a swan sanctuary.

The River Thames

SOMETHING FOR EVERY INTEREST



Boat fishing

Fishing from your boat is not allowed unless moored in one of the free places detailed here. Elsewhere, private fishing rights extend to the middle of the river, so permission must be sought. Fishing from a moving boat is forbidden.



Weir fishing

Weir fishing is permitted at 20 sites on the Thames in fast flowing water, but an additional licence is required - forms are available on gov.uk and cost £28.50 for adults and £18.50 for children under 16.

• Caversham Lock, Caversham

Fishing from the lock down to the junction of the Kennet and Avon Canal at Kennet mouth. No fishing from the mooring platform at Tesco or within the lock area.

• Sonning Lock, Sonning

Upstream of the lock (on the tow-path) to just beyond the island in the river. Downstream is winter fishing only.

• Staines Bridge to Teddington

You can fish for free anywhere along the 16 mile stretch of river downstream of Staines Bridge to Teddington Lock, so long as there's public access.

TRY ORCHID LAKES

Not far from Dorchester is Orchid Lakes. Set in peaceful surroundings, here you will find two mature and well stocked gravel pit lakes, perfectly maintained and home to some rather large carp! Day tickets from £10 and all fish must be returned. Visit orchid-lakes.co.uk



Please note

Fishing in or immediately either side of locks is forbidden.



Teeing off

For golf-lovers there are plenty of courses dotted along the Thames so, whether you want a cheeky escape from the family or a packed schedule of fairway indulgence every day, the following courses are close to the river and warmly welcome non-members.

Springs Golf Club



Springs Golf Club - near Wallingford

A par 72, championship 18-hole golf course, designed by former Ryder Cup Captain, Brian Huggett MB, situated over 133 acres of parkland in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Moor in Wallingford and catch a taxi (5 miles). Daytime green fees start from £26 for 18 holes and booking is recommended but not essential. Club hire available from the Pro-Shop.

Winterhill Golf Club



Winterhill Golf Club

Managed by the John Lewis Partnership, this 6,397 yard, 72 par course is arguably one of the most attractive courses in the Thames Valley and boasts exceptional views over the river and across to the famous Cliveden Estate.

Moor opposite Bourne End, cross the rail bridge into Bourne End and catch a taxi (2 miles). Bring your own golf clubs though as club hire is not available. Daytime green fees start from £42 for 18 holes and although there are no bookable tee times, visitors are advised to call ahead on 01628 527613. Only John Lewis Partners may play at weekends.



Caversham Heath Golf Club

This 18-hole golf course, designed by David Williams amid the historic Mapledurham Estate, is a truly challenging championship-length course of 7,151 yards in a breathtakingly beautiful heathland setting.

Moor in Caversham/Reading and catch a taxi (2 miles). Green fees start from £30 for 18 holes. Club hire available from the Pro-Shop. Booking is required on 0118 947 8600.



Harleyford Golf Club

Beautifully crafted in natural parkland, this 6,714 yard, par 72 course is set in an estate that dates back to the 12th century with a superb club house themed around Victorian farm buildings.

Moor in Marlow and catch a taxi (2.5 miles) or moor in Harleyford Marina next door (charge applies - see pages 66-67). Daytime green fees start from £30 for 18 holes. Reduced twilight fee available. Club hire available from the Pro-Shop. Booking is recommended, but not essential.



Datchet Golf Club

At 6,087 yards, Datchet Course has provided a tough challenge for players since 1890. It is a nine hole course with 15 tees, and has a fine club house and excellent bar.

Moor in Datchet and walk 365 metres to the course, or moor in Windsor and catch a taxi (2.3 miles). Daytime green fees start from £25 for 18 holes and booking is recommended but not essential. Visitors not allowed on weekends and bank holidays before 2pm.



Laleham Golf Club

This 6,300 yard, par 70, 18-hole course stands on 98 acres of meadowland with a number of challenging bunkers and water hazards - a fair but testing challenge to golfers of all standards.

Moor at the Le Boat base in Chertsey and catch a taxi (1.5 miles). Day time green fees start from £15 for 18 holes and booking is recommended but not essential. Visitors not allowed on weekends and bank holidays before 12pm.



Hampton Court Palace Golf Club

The only course in the country set within a royal park, this historic 6,514 yard, par 71 course offers a unique combination of parkland and links golf. Dominated by symmetrical lines of lime trees and oak copses, the 310 inquisitive roaming deer will make your round here truly memorable.

Moor in Kingston - the road entrance to the club is just off the roundabout as you cross Kingston Bridge, although the club house is at the bottom of a 1.1 mile driveway. Daytime green fees start from £38 for 18 holes and booking is recommended, but not essential. Club hire available from the Pro-Shop.

Harleyford Golf Club



Hampton Court Palace Golf Club



And there's even more!

There's so much to see and do on the Thames, we simply can't fit everything in to one guide. So to discover even more and to find further details about the sights and attractions already featured here, visit us at leboat.co.uk/thames





Something for him

A short distance from the river, a selection of days out can be found that are sure to keep the boys happy!



Twickenham Rugby Stadium



Mercedes Benz World



Twickenham Rugby Stadium Tours

Tour the fourth largest sports stadium in Europe and go behind the scenes to some of the most exclusive areas including the England dressing room, the royal box, hospitality suites, medical room, players' tunnel, pitch side and a breath-taking view of the arena from the top of the stand. Price includes entry in to the World Rugby Museum. *Moor in Kingston and catch a taxi (3.5 miles) or a train to Twickenham (13 minutes). You are advised to book in advance on 020 8892 8877. Tours run 11am, 1pm & 3pm (Tue - Fri), 10:30am, 12pm, 1:30pm & 3pm (Sat), 12pm & 2pm (Sun), Closed (Mon). £16 ad / £10 ch / £45 family.*



Mercedes Benz World

With an array of automotive icons past and present, this is the ultimate car showroom for fans of the three-pointed star. Try the innovative 3D simulator for a unique insight into how a Mercedes Benz is made and go behind the scenes on a guided tour - available every Saturday and Sunday at 11:30 and 2pm and every day during local school holidays. *Moor in Weybridge and catch a taxi (2.5 miles). Open 10am until 6pm every day. Admission is free.*

The River Thames



Brooklands Museum



Concorde Experience



Brooklands Museum (and the Concorde Experience)

Brooklands - the world's first purpose-built motor racing circuit, is the birthplace of British motorsport and aviation. The Museum displays a wide range of exhibits from giant racing cars and motorcycles to an unparalleled collection of aircraft, including the Second World War Wellington Bomber, Viking and more - as well as Concorde of course, on which you can climb aboard and take a look. *Moor in Weybridge and catch a taxi (2.5 miles). Open 10am until 5pm every day. £11 ad / £6 ch.*



Pendon Model Museum

Enjoy an informative and interactive 90 minute tour around some of the finest table-top model landscapes, buildings and trains ever constructed. *Travelling upstream, take the passage to the left of Clifton Lock and moor about half a mile further on the left, outside the Plough Inn. Ask permission to moor (and perhaps stop for a drink or meal - it is a lovely family owned pub). The museum is a five minute walk from here. Open from 11am every weekend and on selected Wednesdays during the summer months and school holidays. Call 01865 407365 to check. £7 ad / £6 ch / under 7s free.*

SOMETHING FOR EVERY INTEREST



Pendon Model Museum



Pendon Model Museum



Eating out

The Thames is packed full of great places to enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner. All the bigger towns such as Reading, Henley, Marlow and Windsor, as well as the London suburbs at the east end of the river, are chock-full of the big-branded eateries, famous-chain Italians and well-known coffee houses. And there's a wealth of cosy tearooms and independent restaurants - especially in the smaller villages along the way. There are too many great places to list them all, but we've chosen some of the best locations, right on the river, which we think are definitely worth stopping at:

Boulters Restaurant & Bar



Boulters Restaurant & Bar - Maidenhead

Nestled on an island right next-door to Boulters Lock, with their own private moorings, this unassuming venue offers superb elevated river views and top-notch grub. Serving lunch and dinner, the Terrace Bar has a small but tasty menu of rustic pub classics, with added pizzazz, while the Brasserie offers more-refined dining with partridge, venison and mussels featuring on the menu. The steaks are also amazing.

Moor on the private moorings on the downstream side of Boulters Lock. Open from 11:30am until late, (10am on weekends).



Waterfront Café - Benson

Serving full English breakfasts and a wide range of homemade favourites throughout the day including freshly made baguettes and paninis, gourmet burgers and British classics, the Waterfront Bar-Bistro is right next door to our base in Benson and is the perfect way to start or finish your boating holiday. They're also

renowned for an impressive selection of cakes and desserts and there's plenty of outdoor seating overlooking the river... and lots of ducks! *Moor in the Le Boat moorings right outside. Open from 8am every day.*



The Boat House Deli and Café - Streatley

Located within the old boat house of The Swan Hotel, this delightful deli sells a tempting range of locally-sourced jams, chutneys, cheeses, bread and more - perfect for picnics or lunches on board. Or, from their riverside balcony or in their pleasant courtyard at the rear, you can enjoy breakfast or lunch. Choose from an array of freshly made salads, quiches, hearty sandwiches and cooked pies. Plus, trained baristas will serve the best quality coffee using their Ferrari of all coffee machines! *Moor right outside the Swan Hotel and walk through the hotel restaurant to find the Deli. Open from 8:30am (9:30am on Sunday).*

The Boat House Deli and Café



The Boat House Deli and Café



Waterfront Café - Benson





Côte Brasserie



Côte Brasserie - Windsor / Eton

Right on the water's edge in Eton, looking across the Thames to Windsor and the majestic castle, the Côte Brasserie has the perfect location for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Dine alfresco on the terrace or balcony and enjoy the flavours of France. *There are plenty of moorings in Windsor. Just take a 5-10 minute stroll downstream along the bank to the Windsor/Eton footbridge. Côte is right there on the bridge - you can't miss it. Open from 8am (9am on weekends).*



The Mill at Sonning Theatre - Sonning

How about dinner with a difference? Celebrating more than 30 years, The Mill at Sonning is the only dinner theatre in the UK. Enjoy buffet-style home-cooked food before taking your seat in the intimate 215-seater auditorium to watch the show. A schedule of productions runs year-round including comedies, thrillers and musical tributes. *Moor downstream of the Mill on the south bank, then walk back along the tow path and cross the bridge. Call 0118 969 8000 to find out what's on and to book. Closed on Sunday evenings and all day Monday. Afternoon sittings start at 12:30pm, evening at 6:30pm.*



The Runnymede-on-Thames Hotel & Spa



THE RUNNYMEDE-ON-THAMES HOTEL & SPA

As you pass through Bell Weir Lock, the Runnymede-on-Thames immediately catches your eye with its riverside terraces and gardens. Non-residents are more than welcome to moor up (by arrangement) and stop in for a drink or a bite to eat in one of the hotel's restaurants. Or you could treat yourself to a pampering spa treatment in the hotel's award-winning spa. The hotel is also family friendly and offers children's menus and a playground to let the kids loose on! Le Boat customers may book the hotel's private moorings overnight by calling 01784 220600.

• **Leftbank Restaurant**

All served buffet-style so you can help yourself to as much as you want! Feast on high-quality seasonal food and freshly cooked dishes, mouth-watering desserts and vibrant wines. The food style is English with international influences and it's all prepared freshly for you by people who love food. The wood-fired oven, rotisserie and hobs are always in action - a theatre of cooking right before your eyes.

• **The Lock Bar and Kitchen**

Expect home style cooking with dishes that we all know and love; nothing fussy or complicated, just straightforward hearty dishes, prepared daily from the highest quality, fresh ingredients. The menu changes regularly to reflect the tastiest seasonal produce available with daily specials featured on our blackboard.

• **The Lounge**

Sink into a comfy chair or sofa and enjoy the buzzy atmosphere and wonderful views of the Thames... enjoy morning coffee, scrumptious fresh cakes and pastries, a light bite or indulge in an afternoon tea - a towering tray of delectable treats.



Leftbank Restaurant



The Lock Bar and Kitchen



The Lounge



Leftbank Restaurant: Open every day for breakfast (6:45am until 10am weekdays and 7am until 10:30am weekends), lunch (12:30pm until 2:15pm) and dinner, (6:30pm until 10pm, closed Sunday nights).

The Lock Bar and Kitchen: Open Tuesday to Friday and Sunday for lunch (12.30pm until 2:30pm, and every day for dinner (6pm until 9:30pm).

The Lounge: Open 7am until 11pm every day. Afternoon tea served from 3pm until 5pm.

Gastropubs

The Thames has no shortage of riverside inns, so be sure to stop occasionally for beverage or two and maybe a meal as well? The following selection of our favourites serve lunch and dinner and all welcome children. Open lunchtime until late 7 days a week.



The Hand & Flowers - Marlow

The only pub in the UK to be awarded two Michelin stars, their menu combines unpretentious modern British flavours as well as rustic French dishes. *Moor in Marlow, either side of the lock. Walk up the High Street to the very end and turn left. (0.6 miles).*



St George & Dragon - Wargrave, The Ferry - Cookham The Minnow - Weybridge

These characterful pubs are filled with cosy corners and comfy armchairs - plus there's loads of outdoor seating. All are owned by Mitchells & Butlers and serve identical, yet fabulous menus. *The St George & Dragon and The Ferry have their own private moorings. The Minnow is a short stroll away.*



The Swan - Pangbourne

This beautiful 17th century listed building has been lovingly decorated with a contemporary feel. Open for brunch, lunch and dinner with dishes ranging from traditional fish & chips with mushy peas to their sharing chateaubriand with béarnaise sauce. Plus, succulent roasts served until 6pm on Sundays. *Moor right outside. Open from 10am for breakfast.*



The Nag's Head - Abingdon

An award winning pub serving bar meals and local real ales. The downstairs restaurant offers modern British cuisine including 'Black Rock' steak, fresh fish and a choice of roasts on Sundays. And there's live music on selected evenings. *Moor directly outside the pub or on the river bank opposite and walk.*



Thames Court - Shepperton

Overlooking the Thames this rather grand pub is a former ambassador's residence which offers welcoming surroundings for lunch or dinner. They also have fantastic gardens facing the Thames. *Moor by the towpath right outside.*



The Swan - Staines

Known for the exceptional condition of their cask ales, The Swan Hotel was recently named Fuller's Master Cellarman of the Year. Plus, their eclectic menu, which strikes a delicious balance of traditional and modern flavours, offers a wealth of choice throughout the day. *Moor right outside.*

Fine dining

If you're looking for exquisite cuisine at some of the UK's most acclaimed restaurants, then the Thames will not disappoint. Award-winning culinary mastery comes as standard at the following selection of riverside gems. Enjoy!



The Miller of Mansfield - Goring

Former Chef at Heston Blumenthal's The Crown at Bray, Nick Galer and his wife, Mary, run a very special and cosy restaurant and hotel in an 18th century Coaching Inn. Eating is informal and the food is simple yet exquisite. The kitchen is the core of activity and they welcome people to have a look around or chat to their chefs. *Moor just downstream of Goring Lock and take a 10 minute stroll into town. Food served Mon - Sat: 12pm until 2:30pm & 6:30pm until 9:30pm, Sun: 12pm until 4pm & 6pm until 8pm.*

The Miller of Mansfield



The Folly - Oxford

Relaxed and unpretentious, The Folly Restaurant offers fresh food and drink in a charming atmosphere. Carefully composed lunch and à la Carte menus offer exquisitely crafted dishes that will send your taste-buds to heaven. Particularly scrummy is the blackberry & rhubarb crumble with mini toffee apple - so save room for dessert!

Moor downstream of Folly Bridge, just after the University College Boathouse. Food served every day during the summer - 12pm until 3pm & 6pm until 10pm.

The Folly





Macdonald Compleat Angler



Riverside Restaurant



Sindhu



MACDONALD COMPLEAT ANGLER - MARLOW



• **Riverside Restaurant**

At this award-winning restaurant, you can enjoy fine candle-lit dining, stunning British food and a relaxed, contemporary ambience. You can also dine on the outdoor terrace on warm summer evenings. Also serving afternoon cream teas. *Food served daily: 12pm - 2:30pm (3pm on Sundays) & 7pm until 10pm.*

• **Sindhu**

World-renown chef-patron, Atul Kochler, the first ever to win a Michelin star for Indian cuisine, heads this new Indian restaurant by the riverside and offers a sophisticated menu designed to celebrate the very best of India in a contemporary manner. *Lunch served Wed - Sun: 12pm - 2:45pm (until 4:30pm on Sundays). Dinner served Tue - Sat: 5:45pm until at least 10:30pm.*



Mooring here

There are short-stay moorings for diners right outside, although overnight guests should moor elsewhere in Marlow. Reservations recommended.



Beetle & Wedge Boat House - Moulsoford

A magical combination of fabulous food and idyllic river views has held the Beetle & Wedge Boat House in high acclaim for many years. See food prepared before your very eyes on the open charcoal grill and dine al fresco in summer on their terrace. *Moorings available just outside. Reservations recommended. Food served 12pm until 1:45pm & 7pm until 8:45pm every day.*



Sir Christopher Wren Hotel - Windsor

With an AA rosette, the Thames View at the Sir Christopher Wren Hotel offers a weekly menu that always includes a roast of the day and traditional British desserts like homemade bread and butter pudding and Eton mess. Sunday lunch is a lively occasion with free-flowing sparkling wine and jazz from a local trio. *There are plenty of moorings in Windsor. Just take a 5-10 stroll downstream along the bank to the Windsor/Eton footbridge. The restaurant is right by the bridge on the Windsor side. Food served Mon - Sun: 7am until 10am, 12:30pm until 2:30pm & 6:30pm until 9:45pm.*

FINE DINING IN BRAY



• **Fat Duck - Bray**

The Fat Duck is one of only four restaurants in Britain to have three Michelin stars and was voted Best Restaurant in the World in 2005. Its World renowned tasting menu (at £220 per person) is a sequence of dishes designed to capture a delicious and exciting range of flavours, textures and aromas and bring a sense of theatre to the dining experience. *Diners should allow four hours and advance bookings are essential. Food served Tue - Sat: 12pm until 2pm & 7pm until 9pm, Closed Sunday / Monday. Max 6 people. The Fat Duck moves to Melbourne from Feb to Aug 2015 before returning to Bray.*

• **The Hinds Head - Bray**

In 2004, the opportunity arose for Heston to take over this historic pub. He continues to pay homage to its 500 year history with a menu that is inspired by Britain's rich culinary legacy with interpretations of centuries old recipes. Signature dishes include Heston's famous triple-cooked chips, and the light, sweet and gently flavoured 'quaking pudding'. *Food served Mon - Sat: 12pm until 2:30pm & 6:15pm until 9:30pm, Sun: 12pm until 4pm.*

• **The Crown - Bray**

Brought into the Heston Blumenthal fold in 2010, The Crown at Bray is a traditional 16th century inn serving wonderful British food with outdoor dining. *Food served Mon - Sat: 12pm until 2:30pm & 6:15pm until 9:30pm, Sun: 12pm until 8pm There are no moorings at Bray, so you should moor in Maidenhead and take a 10 minute taxi ride.*



Beetle & Wedge Boat House

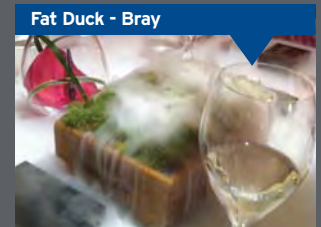


Sir Christopher Wren Hotel



Heston Blumenthal

Famous TV Chef, Heston Blumenthal, owns three dining establishments in the small village of Bray. Heston is best known for his scientific approach to cooking and holds a number of honorary degrees in recognition of this. Among his signature techniques are: the use of liquid nitrogen to 'cook' foods; dispersing particular aromas during service, and using ice filtration to produce crystal-clear stocks and consommés.













Fat Duck - Bray

Our boats

We have lots of boats to choose from on the Thames, whether you want a boat packed with features and modern comforts or something more basic and affordable; a boat for a couple or a spacious cruiser for up to 10 passengers.

KEY:

-  Air conditioning - thermostatically controlled
-  Bimini Sun Shade
-  Flat Screen TV DVD Player
-  Heating
-  Dual Steering Positions
-  Air cooling - chills the air with no temperature control
-  Bow Thrusters - move the front of your boat sideways to aid mooring.
-  Electric Toilets - otherwise the toilet is operated by a manual pump.
-  Shore Power - 220V when hooked up to a shore-side electricity point.
-  Satellite Television

i

What's on board...

All our boats come with everything you need for a great holiday, including a fully equipped kitchen with fridge, hob and oven; showers, toilets and hot water; and comfy beds with linen and bath towels provided. There will also be an information pack on board, which includes a waterways map.

Power

Car-style sockets in the saloon and two-pin shaver points in the bathroom provide 12v power to charge phones and tablets - so bring an adapter. There is also a three-pin socket in the saloon providing 220v power - on some boats this will only work when the engine is running and on other boats, only when your boat is hooked up to shore power.



Royal Mystique

Perfect for two couples who are looking for a luxurious cruise in an easy-to-handle boat, with a bit of privacy.

Sleeps: 6 (4+2) / 2 Cabins + Saloon
Size: 13.25m x 4.10m (46ft 7ins x 13ft 6ins)



Caprice

Ideal for a small family or even a couple. The best feature is the large sliding doors at the back, allowing you to dine inside while still enjoying the great river views.

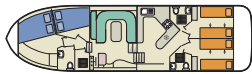
Sleeps: 6 (4+2) / 2 Cabins + Saloon
Size: 12.00m x 3.81m (39ft x 12ft 6ins)



Magnifique

A great boat for large groups or families. There's plenty of space for socialising in the large saloon or on the huge sundeck

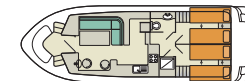
Sleeps: 10 (8+2) / 4 Cabins + Saloon
Size: 14.50m x 4.10m (47ft x 13ft 6ins)



Tango

A favourite option for a small family, It has a forward deck from which to enjoy peaceful and uninterrupted views as you cruise.

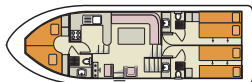
Sleeps: 6 (4+2) / 2 Cabins + Saloon
Size: 11.45m x 3.81m (37ft 7ins x 12ft 6ins)



Crusader

This large boat has several layout options, handy if you're cruising as a group of friends.

Sleeps: 6 / 3 Cabins
Size: 11.90m x 3.90m (39ft x 13ft)



... and there's more!

We've got many more boats to choose from. To see our full range, order a brochure or visit leboat.co.uk





Where can I moor?

The beauty of a boating holiday is the freedom to stop whenever the fancy takes, whether you see a nice looking pub or an interesting village to explore, or maybe just to top up your water tank or do some shopping. The Thames has plenty of places to moor, but availability can get tight in peak summer so be flexible and stick to the following advice:

Public moorings

There is a good choice of public moorings along the Thames. Unless signs state otherwise, you are allowed to moor for a maximum period of 24 hours and may have to pay a charge at some sites - normally between £6 and £10 a night. Where charges apply, you will usually get a visit from a warden early the next morning to collect payment.

Always respect private rights - there will usually be signs up if mooring isn't allowed, but if you aren't sure, either keep on looking, try to ask permission or be prepared to be moved on. Most public moorings will have mooring bollards or rings to tie your boat to, but it may be necessary to hammer stakes into the bank in some places - these are provided on board. Place mooring stakes well back from the bank edge and make sure they do not cause a hazard to passers-by. Gaps between boats are wasteful so please share rings or posts where possible.

Private marinas

If you would like to guarantee an overnight mooring, or you wish to hook up your boat to a 220v power supply (not available on all boats), then there is a wealth of private marinas where you can pay to moor for the night. They are also particularly handy if you need to pump out your waste tanks, fill up with water or dispose of your rubbish (see page 72 about lock-side facilities). It is advisable to call ahead and book a space. The following marinas will be happy to see you:



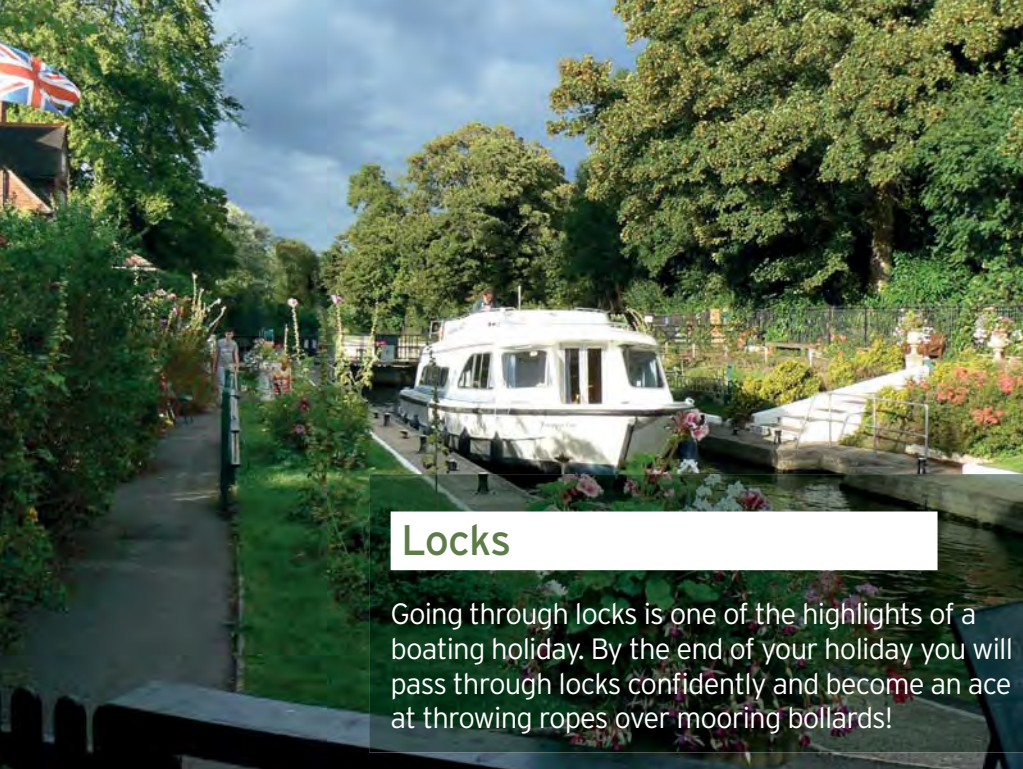
Useful information:

Moorings can get busy, especially in peak summer, so we recommend you start looking for moorings around 4pm/5pm, to allow plenty of daylight time to move on and find alternatives if necessary.

Moored outside Henley



MARINA	Kingcraft Quayside Services	Le Boat Benson	Thames & Kennett Marina (Ting Dene)	Bray Marina (MDL)	Windsor Marina (MDL)	Racecourse Marina (Ting Dene)	Harleyford Marina	Bourne End Marina	Le Boat Chertsey (Penton Hook - MDL)	Walton Marina (Ting Dene)
LOCATION	Abingdon	Benson	Reading	Bray	Windsor	Windsor	Near Marlow	Bourne End	Near Chertsey	Walton on Thames
CONTACT NUMBER	01235 521125	01491 824 067	01189 482 911	01628 623654	01753 853911	01753 851501	01628 471361	01628 522813	01491 824 067	01932 226305
WATER FILL AVAILABLE?	£2 (free with pump-out)	Free	Free	£1	£1	Free	no	£2	Free	Free
WASTE PUMP-OUT AVAILABLE?	£15 (Staff assisted)	Free (Staff assisted)	£15 (Self service - ask for assistance)	No	£10.50 (Self service - ask for assistance)	£10 (Self service)	£13 - £19 (Self service - ask for assistance)	£19 (Staff assisted)	Free (Staff assisted)	£12 (Self service - ask for assistance)
OVERNIGHT MOORINGS?	no	Free	£20 (£15 up to 10m)	£21 (£16 up to 10m)	£21 (£16 up to 10m)	£20	£26	£23	Free	£15
MOORINGS INC POWER	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
MOORINGS INC WATER	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
MOORINGS INC SHOWER & TOILETS	n/a	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
MOORINGS INC PUMP-OUT	n/a	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes
WIFI (AT EXTRA CHARGE)	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes (free)	yes	yes
USUAL OPENING HOURS	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5.30pm	9am - 5.30pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5:30pm	8am - 6pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm
WHERE TO MOOR?	n/a		inside marina	on river frontage only	on river frontage only	inside marina	inside marina	on river frontage only	Park at pump out and call base staff	on river frontage only
BOOK AHEAD?	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes (few spaces)	yes	no	yes



Locks

Going through locks is one of the highlights of a boating holiday. By the end of your holiday you will pass through locks confidently and become an ace at throwing ropes over mooring bollards!

Self service lock controls



Useful information:

All locks on the Thames are electronically operated and, most of the time, a lock keeper will be present to do most of the work. When they are not, the lock gates will display a blue 'self-service' sign - which means you are allowed to operate it yourself. But don't worry... it's easy!

USING A LOCK WITHOUT A LOCK KEEPER

Even if the gates are already open, set someone ashore before entering the lock so they can help receive ropes, as well as operating the gate controls.

Using the controls closest to your approach to the lock

1. **Open the gates:** press and hold 'open gates'.
2. **Once the boat is inside, close the gates:** press and hold 'close gates'.
3. **If they are open, close the sluice gates:** press 'close sluices'. The green light will go out and the sluices will close automatically until the red light comes on.

Walk to the controls at the other end of the lock

4. **Open the sluices:** press 'open sluices' once. The sluices will gradually open automatically and the green light will flash while the lock is draining or filling.
5. **Wait until the green light has stopped flashing and is on.**
6. **Open the gates:** press and hold 'open gates'.
7. **When you leave the lock, close the gates and sluices behind you:** press and hold 'close gates' and then press 'close sluices' once.
8. **Get back on board:** cross the over the locks gates if necessary and board your waiting boat outside of the lock.

If the lock is at the wrong level when you arrive - before proceeding, you must first ensure all gates and sluices are closed and then carry out instruction 4 & 5 using the controls closest to your approach. This will drain or fill the lock to the correct level. However, you should wait for any boats you see approaching the lock on the other side, to save water.

SAFETY AT LOCKS

When entering the lock

- When waiting for a lock, moor in an orderly queue in the lay-by. If the moorings are all taken then stay well back and 'hover'. Do not queue jump when the gates open.
- Always do what the lock keeper tells you to do. The lock keeper may call boats into the lock in a specific order, which may not be the order you arrived in.
- Always stop your boat using reverse gear, not with your ropes.
- Do not fend off with hands, feet or boat hooks.
- Don't jump to the lock side. Those helping with ropes should stay on board and throw ropes over the mooring bollards, while keeping hold of one end. The lock keeper will help if you have difficulty, but don't throw ropes directly at anyone - you should pass them.

While the lock is draining or filling

- Turn off your engine once you are stationary inside the lock, so you can hear the lock keeper's and each other's instructions.
- Use a rope at the front and the back of your boat to keep your boat from moving in the lock. Keep your lines fairly taught as the water rises or falls to ensure your boat doesn't swing around. Don't tie off though, as you could hang your boat as the water falls.
- When the water is falling, make sure your boat's bumper does not get caught on the lock wall.

When using self service

- Ensure lock gates are fully closed before operating the sluices.
- Leave all gates and sluices closed before departing.
- Stay close to the controls while the lock is draining or filling.
- In an emergency, close the sluices before dealing with the situation.

At all times

- As you approach and travel through a lock, turn off radios and other noise so you can hear the lock keeper's and each other's instructions.
- Keep children under close supervision.
- Keep dogs on your boat, or on a lead while passing through the lock.

Lock keeper on hand to help



A friendly lock keeper



Sonning Lock



Useful information:

Lock keepers' duty times

Apr:	9am - 5pm
May - Jun:	9am - 6pm
Jul - Aug:	9am - 6:30pm
Sep:	9am - 6pm
Oct:	9am - 5pm



Fuel, water and waste

Riverside services are easy to find on the Thames.

Fuel

You will have enough fuel on board to last you seven to ten days. The fuel you use is chargeable and payable at the end of your holiday. If you do need to fill up, you can get fuel at most marinas along the Thames for a charge.

Water

You may need to fill up your water tanks once or twice during the course of a week. Water points with hoses are available at some locks for free.

Waste pump out

You may need to pump out your waste tanks at least once during the course of a week, especially if your boat is filled to maximum occupancy. Although some locks have self-service pump-out stations, we do not recommend their use without the necessary experience or equipment (which isn't provided).

We advise you to use facilities in private marinas (see pages 66 - 67) where help is usually as hand - although a charge will apply.

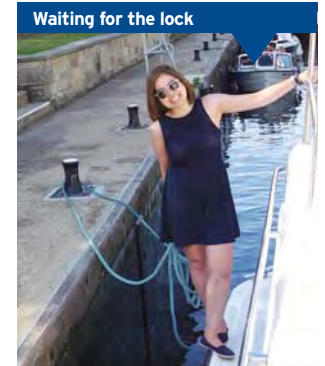
Lock	Water hose (to fill your on board tank)	Refuse disposal	Shower
Abingdon	✓	✓	
Days		✓	
Cleeve	✓		
Goring		✓	
Mapledurham		✓	
Shiplake	✓	✓	
Hambledon		✓	
Hurley	✓	✓	✓
Temple		✓	
Cookham	✓	✓	✓
Boveney	✓	✓	✓
Penton Hook		✓	
Molesey	✓	✓	✓



River etiquette and staying safe

In order to keep the River Thames a safe and enjoyable place to cruise, please observe the following rules and guidelines and keep your holiday incident-free.

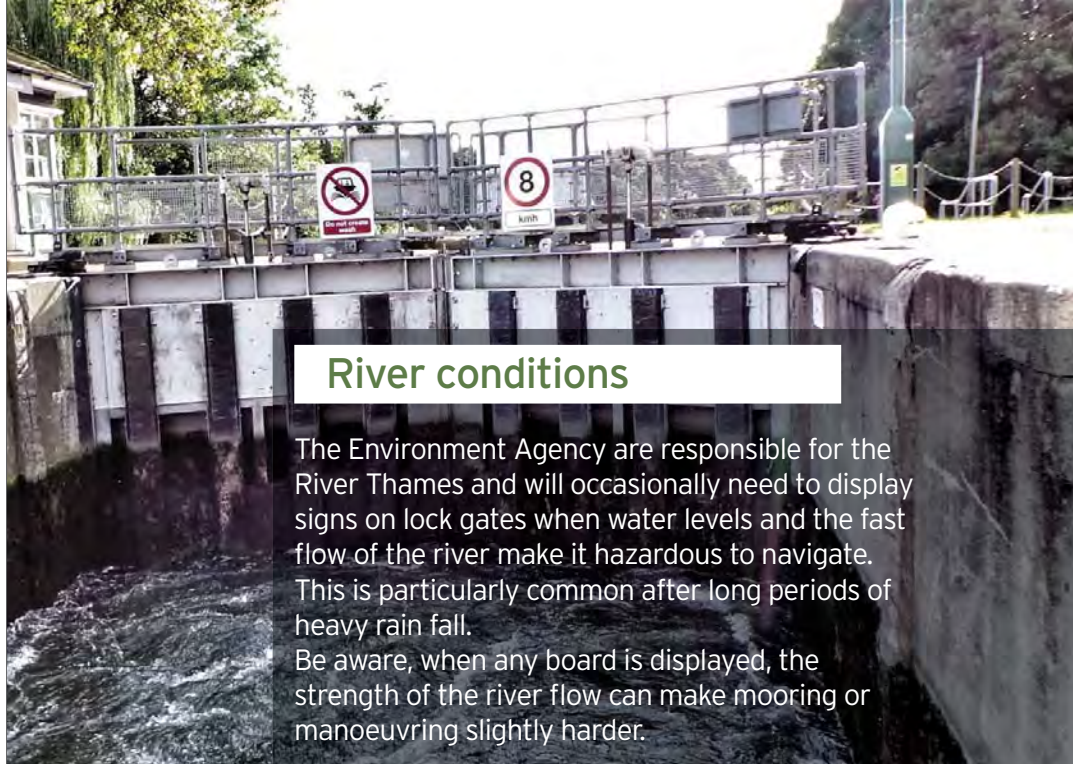
- ▶ Navigation after dark is forbidden.
- ▶ Obey all signs and follow any arrows marked 'channel'.
- ▶ Pass oncoming boats on the right-hand side of the river.
- ▶ Boats coming downstream have right of way at bridges and sharp bends.
- ▶ Avoid turning near bends, bridges or locks.
- ▶ The speed limit is 5 miles per hour/8 kilometres per hour (a fast walking pace) - don't create wash and slow down when passing anglers and moored boats.
- ▶ When mooring, don't leave unusable gaps and be careful not to damage the riverbank.
- ▶ Boating under the influence of drink or drugs is not tolerated - it impairs judgement, slows down reaction times and significantly increases the likelihood of accidents.
- ▶ We recommend life jackets (provided on board) are worn at all times, especially by children and non-swimmers.
- ▶ Wear appropriate non-slip footwear - no flip flops!



Waiting for the lock



Look for signs



River conditions

The Environment Agency are responsible for the River Thames and will occasionally need to display signs on lock gates when water levels and the fast flow of the river make it hazardous to navigate. This is particularly common after long periods of heavy rain fall. Be aware, when any board is displayed, the strength of the river flow can make mooring or manoeuvring slightly harder.



Red board displayed



Calm after the storm

A **yellow board** with an upwards arrow means 'caution stream increasing'. You can continue your journey, but navigate with caution - a red board may soon be displayed.

A **red board** means 'caution strong stream'. When this board is displayed you should find somewhere to moor until the board is no longer displayed. Perhaps find the local pub, head into town or catch a train into London for the day. Conditions can change fast so you may be on your way again later that day or the next morning.

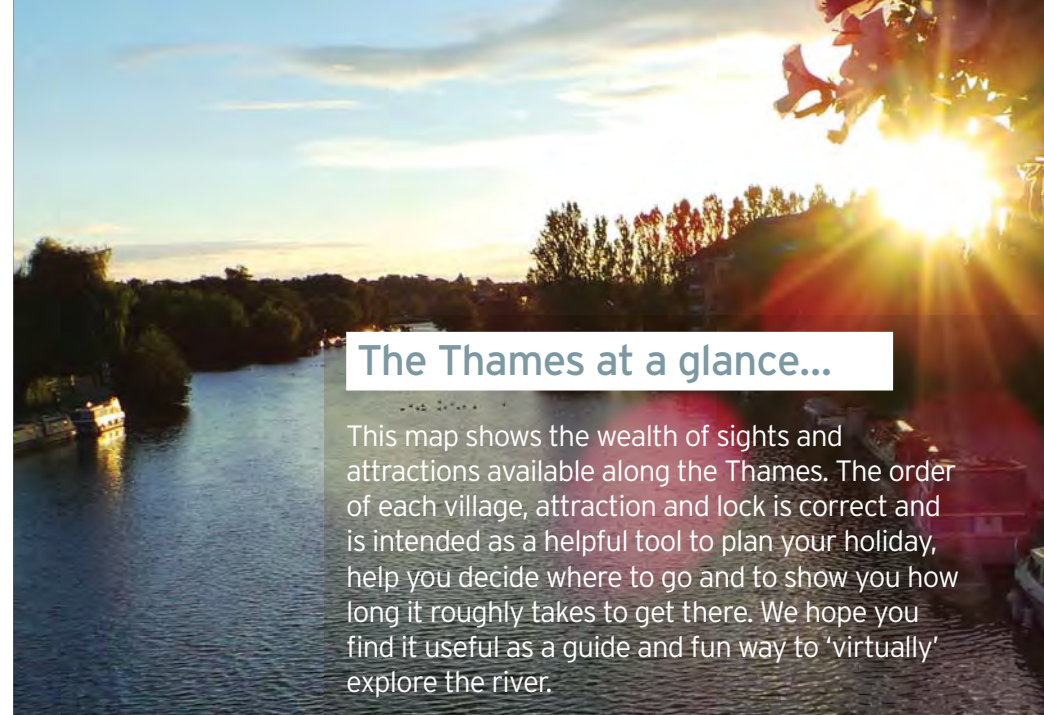
A **yellow board** with a downwards arrow means 'caution stream decreasing'. You can cruise when this board is displayed, but navigate with caution as the flow of the river may still be strong.

Up-to-date information

Visit riverconditions.environment-agency.gov.uk to see the current river conditions on the Thames or call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 and select option 1, followed by quick dial number 011131 to hear recorded information and advice.

Keep in touch

If boards are displayed by the lock keeper, call our base teams as soon as possible, who will then stay in touch to advise and ensure your safe return to base when required.









The Thames at a glance...

This map shows the wealth of sights and attractions available along the Thames. The order of each village, attraction and lock is correct and is intended as a helpful tool to plan your holiday, help you decide where to go and to show you how long it roughly takes to get there. We hope you find it useful as a guide and fun way to 'virtually' explore the river.

Please don't take it literally though - the distances along the river are shown approximately to scale, but the course the river flows is not represented here, nor are the exact position of moorings, islands and other navigational features and hazards. Your waterways map, provided on board, should ALWAYS be consulted when navigating along the Thames. The position of attractions, supermarkets and bridges within the villages and towns are also representational are not accurately placed.

KEY:

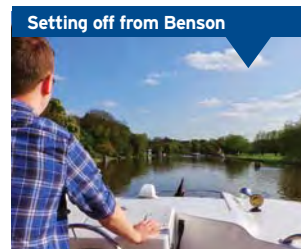
-  Locks
-  Hour markers (approximation only and based on cruising downstream at 5kmph. Your speed, the flow of the river and the time it takes to go through locks will all affect your progress)
-  Train Stations
-  Private marinas (charges apply - booking ahead is recommended)
-  Public moorings (charges apply for some, others are free)
-  Places to eat

ALSO LOOK OUT FOR:

Towns, villages, attractions, golf courses, race courses, stables and parks - all illustrated on our map!

FIND IT FASTER!

Next to each attraction, town and restaurant featured in this guide, we've provided a map reference. Please refer to the letters which run along the bottom of the map, and cast your eyes upwards, to easily find what you're looking for.



Setting off from Benson



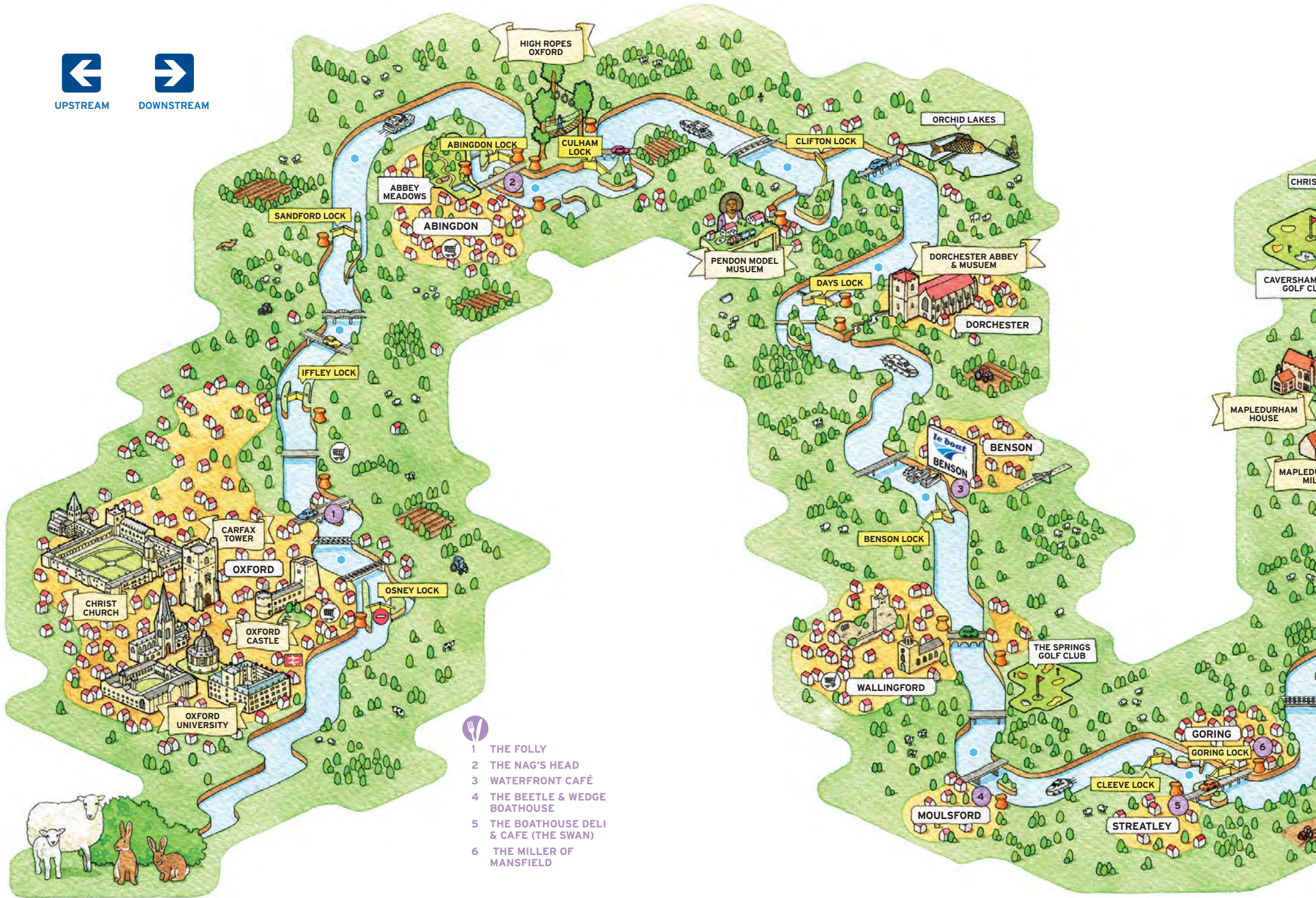
Lock keeper's cottage



UPSTREAM



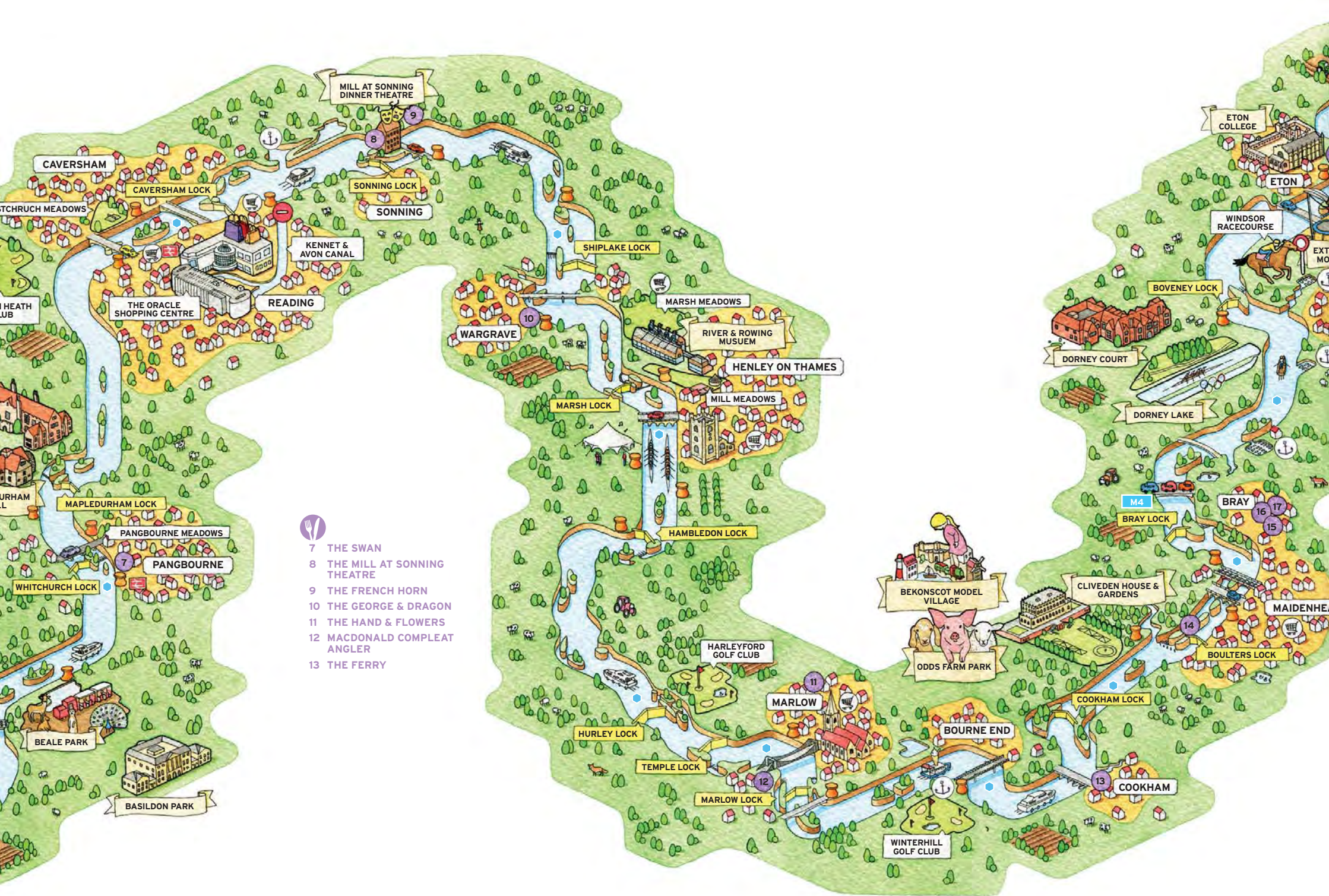
DOWNSTREAM



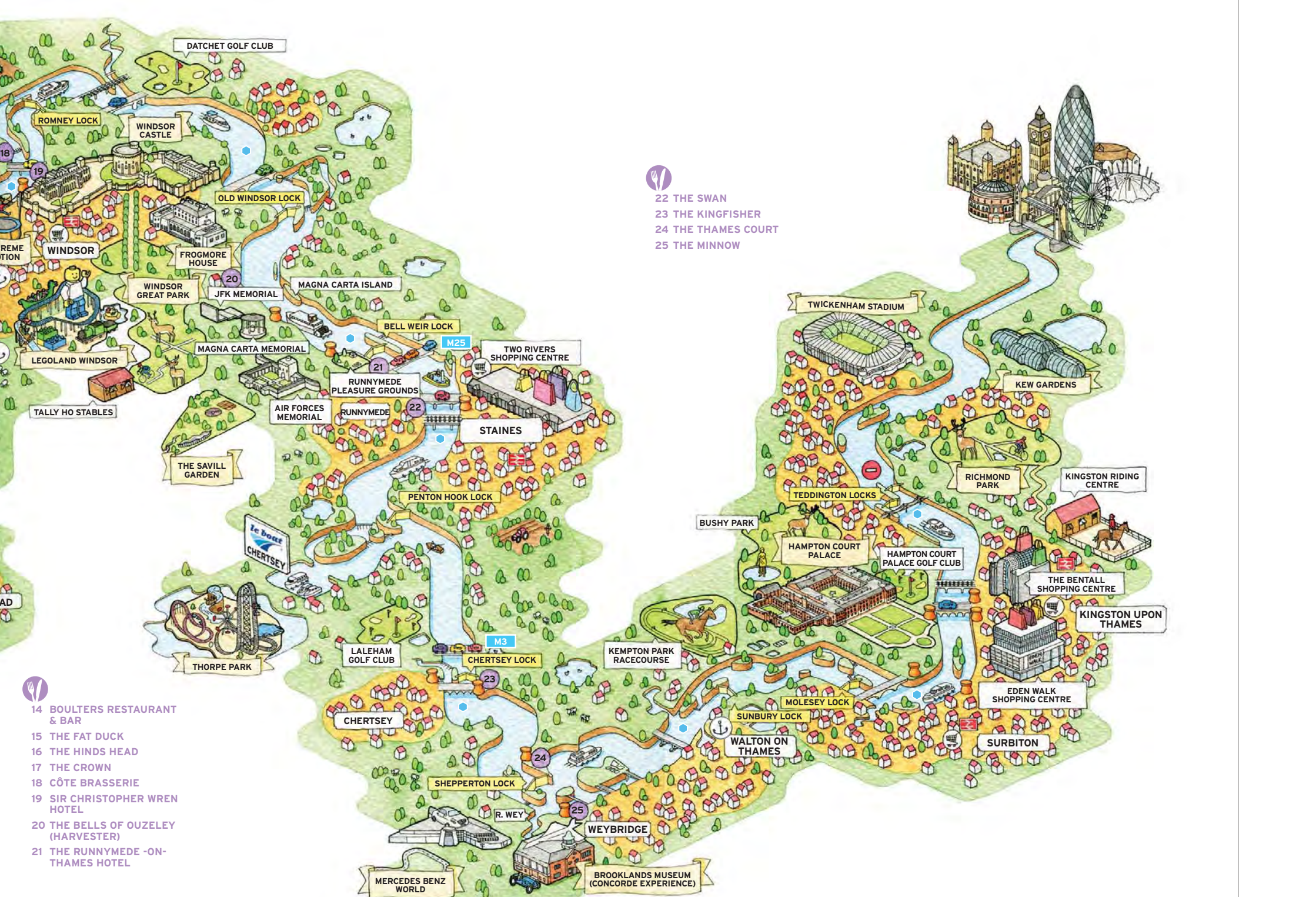
- 1 THE FOLLY
- 2 THE NAG'S HEAD
- 3 WATERFRONT CAFÉ
- 4 THE BEETLE & WEDGE BOATHOUSE
- 5 THE BOATHOUSE DELI & CAFE (THE SWAN)
- 6 THE MILLER OF MANSFIELD



A | B | C | D | E | F



- 7 THE SWAN
- 8 THE MILL AT SONNING THEATRE
- 9 THE FRENCH HORN
- 10 THE GEORGE & DRAGON
- 11 THE HAND & FLOWERS
- 12 MACDONALD COMPLEAT ANGLER
- 13 THE FERRY



- 22 THE SWAN
- 23 THE KINGFISHER
- 24 THE THAMES COURT
- 25 THE MINNOW



- 14 BOULTERS RESTAURANT & BAR
- 15 THE FAT DUCK
- 16 THE HINDS HEAD
- 17 THE CROWN
- 18 CÔTE BRASSERIE
- 19 SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN HOTEL
- 20 THE BELLS OF OUZELEY (HARVESTER)
- 21 THE RUNNYMEDE -ON-THAMES HOTEL