



# READING WALKS FESTIVAL

9 - 17 May 2026

Sharing the stories of  
Reading as we walk



VISIT  
READING

[readingwalksfestival.org](http://readingwalksfestival.org)

# READING WALKS FESTIVAL 2026

DATE	NAME OF WALK	LENGTH OF WALK (KM)	TYPE OF WALK	WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE	FAMILY FRIENDLY	PRICE OF WALK	PAGE NO.
SATURDAY 9 <sup>TH</sup> MAY	1 Dawn Chorus on Fobney Marsh	3				£3	6
	2 A Celebration of University RAG Parade Routes	4				£3	6
	3 Reading to Henley – the Fields and Woods Way	16				£3	7
	4 University of Reading Heritage Trail – Central Whiteknights	2				£3	7
	5 River Kennet and Green Park	8				£3	8
	6 Thames and Kennet Walk	5				£3	8
	7 Round the Herbs and Redhatch Copse	3.5				£3	9
SUNDAY 10 <sup>TH</sup> MAY	8 Henley to Reading via Thames Path	20				£3	10
	9 Nature Notes – Stories in the Plants	6				£13	10
	10 University Heritage Trail – London Road	1.5				£3	11
	11 Parole Town Reading	1				£3	11
	12 Tudor to Civil War Reading	3				£3	12
	13 Walk the Historic Holybrook	11				£3	12
WEDNESDAY 13 <sup>TH</sup> MAY	14 Caversham – River, Bottoms and Heights	9.5				£3	14
	15 Caversham Pilgrimage Walk	5				£3	14
	16 Memory Lane: Voices of Whitley	2				£3	15
	17 The Sights and SANGs of Spencers Wood and Shinfield	11				£3	15
	18 Tudor to Civil War Reading	3				£3	17
	19 Lock to Lock!	13				£3	17
THURSDAY 14 <sup>TH</sup> MAY	20 Abbey Quarter Walking Tour	1				£10	18
	21 Earth Story Walk	7				£3	18
	22 Walk the historic Holybrook	11				£3	19
	23 Literary Reading	1				£7	19
	24 Sundown Saunter	8				£12	20
	25 Public Art on the Whiteknights Campus	3				£3	20
	26 Leafy Victorian Splendour: Redlands Trees	3				£3	21
	27 Lock 'n' Roll to View Island	4				£3	21
FRIDAY 15 <sup>TH</sup> MAY	28 871 and All That	2.5				£3	22
	29 Sonning: an anchoress, a Princess and a bit of Bloomsbury	5				£3	22
	30 Ghosts of Reading Past	1.5				£10	23
	31 Kennet and Southcote Walk	9				£3	23
	32 St James' Way Camino Pilgrimage (two days)	18 & 13				£3	24
	33 Tech Town	2				£10	25
SATURDAY 16 <sup>TH</sup> MAY	34 Discovering Calleva Atrebatum: A Guided Walk Through Roman Britain	3.5				£7	26
	35 Gallowstree Common and The Unicorn	14				£3	26
	36 Goring Circular – Thames Path and Chiltern Woods	15				£3	27
	37 Reading Town Centre Heritage Walk	2.5				£3	28
	38 The Architecture of Alfred Waterhouse & Victorian Reading	6				£3	28
SUNDAY 17 <sup>TH</sup> MAY	39 From Nook to Marsh: Sunset Walk	4				£3	29
	40 Reading's Spiritual Heritage	2				£7	29
	41 A Celebration of University RAG Parade Routes	4				£3	30
	42 A Tranquil Thameside Walk West from Reading	14				£3	30
	43 Exploring the Architecture of Georgian Reading	4				£3	31



READING  
WALKS FESTIVAL

## TYPE OF WALK:



A healthy walk



A sociable walk



A guided tour

## BOOK YOUR WALK:

You **MUST** book in advance. We are not able to accept people who turn up on the day.

[readingwalks  
festival.org](http://readingwalks festival.org)

# WELCOME TO THE READING WALKS FESTIVAL

Now in our 4<sup>th</sup> year, this festival is all about enjoying what Reading and its surrounding area has to offer while we walk.

Every walk is led by a local guide, many of whom are volunteers with organisations like The Ramblers or just passionate local people with a story to tell. The emphasis is on walking and learning something as we go rather than endurance! So there will be stops along the way, things to share and a chance to meet new people.

Our theme for this year is Reading's waterways. While the Thames and the Kennet do not feature in Reading's name, those rivers, as well as the Kennet & Avon Canal and indeed the Holybrook are important parts of what makes Reading the place it is. We hope you find a waterways walk that takes your fancy. Most of our walks are NEW for this year, although a few perennial favourites are back again. Although our guides will be sharing their knowledge along the way in all the walks, we have categorised them into three groups so you can choose the right walk for you.



**A healthy walk** (more walking and less talking from the guide)



**Guided tour** (a shorter walk with lots of stops to learn something interesting)



**A sociable walk** (a walk designed to make new friends while walking)

The walks are listed in date order. Please read the descriptions carefully to make sure you sign up for a walk that suits your interests and abilities. All the walks are bookable online at [readingwalksfestival.org](http://readingwalksfestival.org) and you will find lots more detail about each walk on the online walk listing.

In each walk description you will find the **approximate length in km, miles and hours**. We hope there is a walk for every ability. The difficulty icon will give you an idea of what to expect (**Easy/Medium/Hard**). Where we think the length, terrain or subject matter would make it a suitable **family walk**, we have indicated.

Difficulty:



Easy



Medium



Hard



Child friendly

All our walk leaders have assessed their walk for **wheelchair accessibility**. By this we mean, the walk features smooth-ish pathways with ramps (if there are steps) and wide entrances for individuals with mobility challenges. However, we do recommend that you get in touch if you have any accessibility queries about a specific walk as access requirements differ from person to person.



Wheelchair accessible



Contact us for accessibility advice

Dogs are not permitted to join any of our walks unless a guide dog or assistance dog.

We are proud that over 70% of last year's walkers used public transport to reach the walk starting point. **All our walks are linked into Reading's excellent public transport network** so please do try and help us make the festival as sustainable as possible by avoiding car use if you can. Each walk description includes public transport information.

The majority of our walks cost £3, the same cost as the last 2 years. This money is re-invested in the festival. Some of our walk leaders are professional guides or work for organisations where they need to charge a higher ticket price. In these cases, £3 from every booking will also be reinvested in the Festival. Reading Walks Festival is a not-for-profit undertaking, organised by REDA, Reading's Economy and Destination Agency.

## WE LOOK FORWARD TO WALKING WITH YOU

Book your walks at [readingwalksfestival.org](http://readingwalksfestival.org) or scan the QR code for each walk.



## 1. DAWN CHORUS ON FOBNEY MARSH

9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 04:00 3km 1-2 miles 2 hours      £3



Join Adrian Lawson and the Marshians to enjoy the wonders of the Dawn Chorus at Fobney Marsh on a circular, leisurely walk. The chorus is spectacular and many birds at the Marsh are found nowhere else in Reading. Boots/wellies recommended.

**START:** Entrance to Fobney Marsh on Rose Kiln Lane

**GETTING THERE:** Limited parking on Rose Kiln Lane / no buses at that time of the morning!



## 2. A CELEBRATION OF UNIVERSITY RAG PARADE ROUTES

9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:00  
(& 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 10:30)

4km 2 miles 2 hours      £3

A nostalgic jaunt along 1984 University RAG Float route led by Terry's Reading Walkabouts as part of the University Centenary celebrations. Revisit the energy and excitement of past RAG (Raising and Giving) parades through photographs, jokes and stories from the era. Charity donations are welcome on the day.

**START:** Museum of English Rural Life

**GETTING THERE:** Bus – Claret 21/21a/22, Leopard 3, 10, Silver 9



## 3. READING TO HENLEY – THE FIELDS AND WOODS WAY

9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:30 16km 10 miles 6 hours     £3



A linear walk through parks, woods, fields and lanes from Reading to Henley. Walkers make their own way home from Henley by train or bus. Mary Bather is an experienced walk leader with the Loddon Valley Ramblers. Walking boots recommended. Bring packed lunch. (NB: this walk does not follow the Thames Path).

**START:** North (Caversham) entrance to Reading Station

**GETTING THERE:** Train and most Reading Buses routes



## 4. UNIVERSITY OF READING HERITAGE TRAIL – CENTRAL WHITEKNIGHTS

9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 11:00 2km 1.5 miles 1.5 hours    £3

A journey through the heart of the University campus, from the site of its oldest building to some of the newest. We explore the history of the park from the early 1800s to its acquisition by the University in 1947. The walk is part of the University's Centenary Heritage Walks programme. Chris Rayner is a former University employee and now a trustee of the Friends of the University.

**START:** Park House, Whiteknights campus

**GETTING THERE:** Bus 21 or 21A from the town centre



## 5. RIVER KENNET AND GREEN PARK

9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:00

8km

5 miles

2.5 hours



£3



An interesting linear walk through Reading to see old sights and new modern developments along the Kennet towpath via the disused Fobney pumping station and Kennet Island café to Green Park, where participants can return by train or bus. Led by Joyce Keegan, an experienced walk leader with Windsor & District Ramblers.

**START:** Reading Station

**GETTING THERE:** Train and most Reading Buses routes



## 7. ROUND THE HERBS AND REDHATCH COPSE

9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:30

3.5km

2 miles

1.5 hours



£3



A pleasant stroll around the footpaths of the 'Herbs and Spices' housing development going into Redhatch Copse to look at tree and plant species, including hairy wood-sedge, yellow pimpernel and wood sorrel. Led by Earley Environmental Group.

**START:** Chalfont Park car park

**GETTING THERE:** 19B bus to Chalfont Way



## 6. THAMES AND KENNET WALK

9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:00

5km

3 miles

2 hours



£3

Explore riverside paths, open spaces and local landmarks on a peaceful adventure, walking the rivers Thames and Kennet. This easy-going linear trail is based on a Reading Council self-guided walk and is led by David West, who has been leading tours in Reading since 2018 and is passionate about local history.

**START:** Rivermead Leisure Centre

**GETTING THERE:** Buzz 18 bus stop close to Rivermead



## 8. HENLEY TO READING VIA THAMES PATH

10<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:00

20km

12 miles

6 hours



£3



A sociable walk along the Thames Path starting in Henley with titbits of information along the way. Please note, there is a short diversion in place before Shiplake Lock. Led by Phil Horsley, keen walker and member of multiple walking groups. Bring stout footwear and packed lunch. The walk ends in central Reading.

**START:** Henley Station

**GETTING THERE:** Train and buses to Henley

## 10. UNIVERSITY HERITAGE TRAIL – LONDON ROAD

10<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 11:00

1.5km

1 mile

1.5 hours



£3



The walk explores the University's London Road campus and its history, taking us around the campus which became the University's new home in the early 1900s. It includes several buildings generously donated by the Palmer family and takes the form of a quadrangle reminiscent of many Oxford colleges. The walk is part of the University's Centenary Heritage Walks programme. Chris Rayner is a former University employee and now a trustee of the Friends of the University.

**START:** University of Reading London Road campus

**GETTING THERE:** Bus 21 from the town centre then a short walk

## 9. NATURE NOTES – STORIES IN THE PLANTS

10<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:15

6km

4 miles

3 hours



£13

A fascinating walk taking you into nature to discover some curious plant-lore facts about trees and wildflowers just a short bus ride away from Reading. Discover a world that values and celebrates our relationship with plants. Led by Philippa Sanders of Pipsticks Walks, an experienced outdoor guide who is passionate about the Chilterns.

**START:** Peppard Common (opposite Peppard Stores)

**GETTING THERE:** Reading Bus Pink 25



## 11. PAROLE TOWN READING

10<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:00

1km

0.5 miles

1.5 hours



£3

A linear walk through central Reading exploring how Reading welcomed 1,000 Prisoners of War during the latter part of the Napoleonic Wars (1805-1814). The POWs included men, women and children from France, Spain, Denmark, Norway and The Netherlands. Led by local amateur historian and author John Nixon.

**START:** Reading Minster, St Mary's Butts

**GETTING THERE:** Short walk from Reading Station and all town centre bus routes



## 12. TUDOR TO CIVIL WAR READING

10<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:15  
(& 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 16:00)

3km

2 miles

2 hours



£3



A linear costumed walkabout to discover how the lives of seven kings and queens and the English Civil War impacted Reading between 1485 to 1660. From alms houses to Royal palaces, rich merchant's townhouses to the Oracle workhouse. The walk is led by Terry's Reading Walkabouts and charitable donations are welcome on the day.

**START:** Forbury Gardens

**GETTING THERE:** Train and most Reading Buses routes

## 13. WALK THE HISTORIC HOLYBROOK

10<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 14:00  
(& 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 10:30)

11km

7 miles

3 hours



£3

This linear walk follows the Holybrook from its source in Theale to its confluence with the Thames at Reading Abbey following the banks of the brook as closely as possible. This unique and secretive waterway is of historic importance to Reading as a mill stream. Led by Steve Vale, Reading born and bred, and an experienced walk leader with Loddon Valley Ramblers.

**START:** Theale Station

**GETTING THERE:** Train to Theale or Reading Buses 1 to the Crown PH in Theale



“  
FASCINATING TOUR.  
I LEARNED A LOT  
ABOUT A SUBJECT  
I KNEW NOTHING  
ABOUT.”

## 14. CAVERSHAM – RIVER, BOTTOMS AND HEIGHTS

13<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 17:45

9.5km

6 miles

2.5 hours



A circular walk and talk to discover the river, heights and bottoms of Caversham. Discover an amazing view over the town from Balmore Park and explore Bugs Bottom and Mapledurham Park. Led by Philippa Sanders of Pipsticks Walks, an experienced outdoor guide. The walk is based on a Reading Council self-guided walk.

**START & FINISH:** Reading Station (North side)

**GETTING THERE:** Train and most Reading Buses routes



## 16. MEMORY LANE: VOICES OF WHITLEY

13<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 11:00

2km

1.5 miles

1.5 hours



Join the Nature Nurture team for a relaxed and welcoming walk around the new Memory Lane Trail at The Cowsey. This special trail brings Whitley's past into the present with beautifully designed plaques and audio recordings linking to the memories of local residents. Experience The Cowsey not just as green space, but as a living archive of local voices.

**START:** Rabsons Recreation Ground, Northumberland Avenue

**GETTING THERE:** Reading Buses Emerald 5, Stockton Road stop



## 15. CAVERSHAM PILGRIMAGE WALK

13<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 11:00

5km

3 miles

3 hours



Exploring our impressive pilgrim history, the pilgrimage walk starts in the Abbey Precinct in central Reading before crossing the Thames to Caversham to visit the site of a medieval shrine and the current shrine at St Anne's, St Anne's Well and the site of St Anne's chapel. Led by John Painter, Secretary of the Friends of Reading Abbey.

**START:** Town Hall Square, Reading

**GETTING THERE:** Train to Reading and most Reading Buses routes



## 17. THE SIGHTS AND SANGS OF SPENCERS WOOD AND SHINFIELD

13<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 14:30

11km

7 miles

3 hours



Discover historic routes through the villages of Three Mile Cross, Spencers Wood and Shinfield and the area's newly established SANGs (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces) which have created enjoyable and interesting walks in an area of housing development. Led by Richard Hatton, long-time Spencers Wood resident and Loddon Valley Ramblers walk leader.

**START:** MereOak Park and Ride

**GETTING THERE:** MereOak Park and Ride service 600



“ I WAS DELIGHTED TO HAVE FOUND THE FESTIVAL AND WHAT IT HAS ON OFFER. ”



18. TUDOR TO CIVIL WAR READING

13<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 16:00  
(& 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 10:15)

3km

2 miles

2 hours



£ £3



A linear costumed walkabout to discover how the lives of seven kings and queens and the English Civil War impacted Reading between 1485 to 1660. From alms houses to Royal palaces, rich merchant's townhouses to the Oracle workhouse. The walk is led by Terry's Reading Walkabouts and charitable donations are welcome on the day.

**START & FINISH:** Forbury Gardens

**GETTING THERE:** Train and most Reading Buses routes

19. LOCK TO LOCK!

13<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:00

13km

8 miles

4 hours



£ £3

A walk from Caversham Lock to Sonning Lock (and back) along one of the loveliest sections of the Thames, led by Clare, Engagement Officer for the Thames Path National Trail as part of their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary programme. A refreshing and scenic escape perfect for a relaxed stroll.

**START:** Reading Station

**GETTING THERE:** Trains and most Reading Buses routes



## 20. ABBEY QUARTER WALKING TOUR

14<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 11:00

1km

0.5 miles

1.5 hours



£10



The walk will explore the heart of medieval Reading under the guidance of Reading Museum's trained volunteer guides, focusing on the highlights of the Abbey Quarter, including the Hospitium, conserved Reading Abbey ruins and the Abbey Gateway.

**START:** Reading Museum

**GETTING THERE:** Trains and all Reading Buses routes

## 21. EARTH STORY WALK

14<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:00

7km

4 miles

2.5 hours



£3

A circular walk of the story of the Earth from its formation 4.6 billion years ago. Learn about the many transformations on the planet, how Reading chalk was made, how the trees along the route sustain us and how important water, such as the Thames, is for the Earth's evolutionary journey. Ian Mowll has led Earth Story Walks for over 20 years around the UK.

**START:** Thames Lido

**GETTING THERE:** Trains to Reading Station or short walk from central Reading bus stops



## 22. WALK THE HISTORIC HOLYBROOK

14<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:30

11km

7 miles

3 hours



£3

(& 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 14:00)



This linear walk follows the Holybrook from its source in Theale to its confluence with the Thames at Reading Abbey, following the banks of the brook as closely as possible. This unique and secretive waterway is of historic importance as a mill stream. Led by Steve Vale, Reading born and bred, and an experienced walk leader with Loddon Valley Ramblers.

**START:** Theale Station

**GETTING THERE:** Train to Theale or Reading Buses 1 to the Crown PH in Theale

## 23. LITERARY READING

14<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:00

1km

0.5 miles

1 hour



£7

Explore Reading's rich creative heritage on a linear guided walk uncovering literary landmarks and the stories of writers who shaped the town. From Mary Russell Mitford to Oscar Wilde, Jane Austen and Michael Bond, Reading's influence on literature is far-reaching. Led by David West, who has been leading tours in Reading since 2018 and is passionate about local history.

**START:** Outside Kendrick View Dental Practice, 39 London Road

**GETTING THERE:** Walk from town centre or 21 bus to Kendrick Road



## 24. SUNDOWN SAUNTER

14<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 17:45

8km

5 miles

2.5 hours



£12



Join us for an even-tide circular walk through the undulating countryside of the Chilterns just to the north of Reading. Tune into the sights and sounds of the evening and listen out for owls, deer and more. Led by Philippa Sanders of Pipsticks Walks, an experienced outdoor guide who is passionate about the Chilterns.

**START:** Clayfield Copse, Caversham Park Road, Emmer Green

**GETTING THERE:** Reading Buses 23/24 (Berry Route)

## 25. PUBLIC ART ON THE WHITEKNIGHTS CAMPUS

14<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 17:00

3km

1.5 miles

1 hour



£3

This walk highlights the public art set amongst the beautiful landscape of the University of Reading's Whiteknights Campus. From contemporary sculptures to a new mural, the walk reveals how creativity and nature intertwine, offering a fresh way to experience the campus. Led by Hannah Lyons, Curator of the University of Reading Art Collection. Hannah is responsible for the University's Public Art programme.

**START:** SportsPark, University of Reading

**GETTING THERE:** 3, 9, 20 or 21 buses from Reading Station to Christchurch Green



## 26. LEAFY VICTORIAN SPLENDOUR: REDLANDS TREES

14<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 14:00

3km

2 miles

2 hours



£3



An informative walk through the elegant leafy Victorian and Edwardian streets of Redlands. The walk features large Victorian and Edwardian houses with dramatic mature species of trees, the Cedar trees in the Old Cemetery and the landscaped gardens and cloisters of the original University. Anna is an enthusiastic walker and Reading Tree Warden. She has created numerous guided tree walks for Reading.

**START:** The Lodge, Palmer Park

**GETTING THERE:** 17 bus, direction Wokingham Road

## 27. LOCK 'N' ROLL TO VIEW ISLAND

14<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 11:30

4km

2.5 miles

1 hour



£3

This lovely loop takes us from Caversham Bridge along the Thames Path to Caversham Lock, before we cross the river to View Island for an explore and then mosey back to our starting point via the impressive Christchurch Bridge. Led by Clare, Engagement Officer for the Thames Path National Trail, as part of their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary programme.

**START:** Thames Promenade Car Park

**GETTING THERE:** 6 minute walk from Reading Station



28. 871 AND ALL THAT

15<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:30

2.5km

1.5 miles

2 hours



Reading's story starts in January 871 and proceeds through more than 1,000 years of history as we stroll through the, sometimes, ancient thoroughfares of central Reading. Led by Joy Pibworth, who is passionate about the long and varied history of Reading and loves to share her knowledge with other people.

**START:** Reading Minster, St Mary's Butts

**GETTING THERE:** Reading Buses bus stops and station within 10 mins walk



29. SONNING: AN ANCHORESS, A PRINCESS AND A BIT OF BLOOMSBURY

15<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 11:00

5km

3 miles

2.5 hours



Pretty Sonning village has an ancient history featuring many well-known historical figures. This walk will highlight both artistic and historical stories connected with the village, with a focus on the colourful figures that lived there. The walk is led by David Woodward, graphic designer, Sonning resident for over 50 years and an experienced guide.

**START:** Mill at Sonning car park

**GETTING THERE:** 128 bus Reading to Sonning



30. GHOSTS OF READING PAST

15<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 16:00

1.5km

1 mile

1 hour



This short spooky walk, led by fabulous drag performers, brings the dead back to life. Join them and special guests to discover Reading's unsolved murders, serial killers, pirates, slave traders and royalty. Sceptics and believers of adult age all welcome. This walk is co-led by Big Jay and Philli Mi Up, Reading drag locals, plus friends.

**START:** Outside Thames Lido

**GETTING THERE:** Short walk from train station and central Reading bus routes



31. KENNET AND SOUTHCOTE WALK

15<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 14:15

9km

6 miles

2.5 hour



A circular walk south-west of the town centre along the canal through meadows, parkland, urban streets and back again. We'll see Fobney wetland reserve, Southcote Meadows and walk across historic Prospect Park, before heading back into town. This easy-going route is based on a Reading Council self-guided walk and is led by Steve Vale, Reading born and bred, and an experienced walk leader with Loddon Valley Ramblers.

**START:** Outside Three Guineas Public House, Reading Station

**GETTING THERE:** Train and almost all Reading Buses routes operate to and from Reading Station



32. ST JAMES' WAY CAMINO PILGRIMAGE (TWO DAYS)

15<sup>TH</sup> & 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 08:30

18 & 13km

11 & 8 miles

9 & 8.5 hours



This two-day walk offers a taster of the St James Way, part of the world-famous pilgrimage route, the Camino de Santiago. The Camino is rooted in Christianity but is open to walkers of every belief or no faith, ethnicity, age and gender. The walk will stop at the places of Christian worship along the way which would have been on the pilgrimage route in medieval times. It is led by David Sinclair, the development lead of the St James' Way Camino for the Confraternity of St James UK. He has walked several Caminos and is a person of Christian faith. Detailed information on the two-day walk will be provided on booking.

**START:**

**Day 1** – St James Church in Reading to Mortimer (return by bus to Reading)

**Day 2** – Mortimer to Pamber End (bus to Mortimer and then bus/train back to Reading)

**GETTING THERE:** Short walk from Reading Station and all Reading buses routes



33. TECH TOWN

15<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 11:00

2km

1 mile

2 hours



Discover the story of Reading's transformation into a tech hub of international prominence, visiting the key sites that shaped Reading's post-war ICT industry and laid the foundations for today's Thames Silicon Valley. This linear walk is led by Brendan Carr, Community Engagement Curator at Reading Museum.

**START:** Reading Town Hall

**GETTING THERE:** 2-minute walk from Reading Railway Station and all bus stops



## 34. DISCOVERING CALLEVA ATREBATUM: A GUIDED WALK THROUGH ROMAN BRITAIN

16<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 11:00

3.5km

2 miles

2 hours



Embark on a captivating journey through history with a guided walk around Calleva Atrebatum, the remarkable ruins of a Roman town in Silchester, just south of Reading. Nestled in tranquil countryside, this ancient settlement offers an extraordinary glimpse into life during Roman Britain. Led by David West, David has been leading tours in Reading since 2018 and is passionate about local history.

**START:** Car Park, Calleva Atrebatum, Silchester

**GETTING THERE:** 30 minutes walk from Mortimer station or Mortimer Glenapp Grange stop on Lime 2a

## 35. GALLOWSTREE COMMON AND THE UNICORN

16<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:00

14km

9 miles

4 hours + return journey



A cross-country linear walk using the green spaces of Caversham to reach the lanes, paths and woods of South Oxfordshire – Chalkhouse Green, Gallowstree Common, Rotherfield Peppard and Peppard, finishing at The Unicorn Pub before taking the bus back to Reading. Led by George Saffrey, a retired engineer with an interest in local history who has enjoyed walking in the Chilterns for more than forty years. Bring packed lunch.

**START:** Three Guineas pub at Reading main railway station

**GETTING THERE:** Train and most Reading Buses routes



## 36. GORING CIRCULAR – THAMES PATH AND CHILTERN WOODS

16<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:15

15km

10 miles

5 hours



Join us for a train-friendly, early-summer amble from Goring-on-Thames on the Thames Path National Trail to Whitchurch, return through Chiltern woodland and end with fine Thames views. Led by Paul Lawrence, an experienced walk leader for Loddon Valley Ramblers. Bring packed lunch.

**START:** Goring railway station

**GETTING THERE:** GWR train from Reading 09:53 (arrives 10:06)



## 37. READING TOWN CENTRE HERITAGE WALK

16<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 14:30

2.5km

1.5 miles

1.5 hours



Following the route of Reading Council's Town Centre Heritage self-guided walk, this live circular walk takes in many of the key historic sites in central Reading before joining the Kennet & Avon Canal towpath and then returning to the Saxon heart of Reading. John Painter is the Secretary of the Friends of Reading Abbey and offers group walks around the Abbey Precinct.

**START:** Reading Town Hall

**GETTING THERE:** Train and all Reading Buses routes



## 38. THE ARCHITECTURE OF ALFRED WATERHOUSE & VICTORIAN READING

16<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:00

6km

3.75 miles

3 hours



An architectural walk to view the work of one of the most notable architects of the Victorian period, Alfred Waterhouse, who lived in Reading and designed several of its most prominent buildings including Reading Town Hall and Reading School. Along the way we will also discuss other key landmarks of Victorian Reading. This circular guided tour is led by Dr Stephen Gage, architectural historian from the University of Reading.

**START:** Queen Victoria Statue, Reading Town Hall Square

**GETTING THERE:** Close to Reading Station and town centre bus routes



## 39. FROM NOOK TO MARSH: SUNSET WALK

17<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 19:00

4km

2.5 miles

2 hours



Join Adrian Lawson and Nature Nurture for a twilight walk from the hidden oasis of Holy Brook Nook to the wide-open beauty of Fobney Marsh. Along the way we will pause to notice wildlife, listen to the sounds around us and share stories about the history and ecology of these connected green spaces. Adrian advises Nature Nurture on woodland management, leads walks and gives talks on Reading's natural world.

**START:** Holy Brook Nook, Brook Street West, RG1 6HF

**GETTING THERE:** Holy Brook Nook is a 20 min walk from the town centre, or on bus route Bronze 11 Katesgrove Lane stop



## 40. READING'S SPIRITUAL HERITAGE

17<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:00

2km

1.5 miles

2 hours



Discover nearly 900 years of Reading's spiritual heritage on this guided historic walk which traces the town's evolving landscape of faith from the founding of Reading Abbey in 1121 to the diverse worship spaces of today. Includes visits to Greyfriars Church and the Goldsmid Road synagogue as well as highlighting modern religious architecture to reveal how new communities and contemporary design continue to shape Reading's living tapestry of belief. Led by David West who has been leading tours in Reading since 2018 and is passionate about local history.

**START:** Forbury Gardens

**GETTING THERE:** Train and all Reading Buses routes



## 41. A CELEBRATION OF UNIVERSITY RAG PARADE ROUTES

17<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:30

4km

2 miles

2.25 hours



(& 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:00)



A nostalgic jaunt along 1984 University RAG Float route led by Terry's Reading Walkabouts as part of the University Centenary celebrations. Revisit the energy and excitement of past RAG (Raising and Giving) parades through photographs, jokes and stories/memories from the era. Charity donation are welcome on the day.

**START:** The Museum of English Rural Life

**GETTING THERE:** Bus – Claret 21/21a/22, Leopard 3, 10, Silver 9

## 42. A TRANQUIL THAMESIDE WALK WEST FROM READING

17<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:00

14km

9 miles

4 hours



Walk a scenic stretch of the Thames, explore Elizabethan Mapledurham and cross the Victorian toll bridge at Whitchurch in the land of Kenneth Grahame. Led by Diana Lincoln, an experienced walk leader for Pang Valley Ramblers. Return to Reading by train from Pangbourne station or by bus from the village. Bring packed lunch.

**START:** North exit Reading Station

**GETTING THERE:** Train and most Reading Buses routes connect to the start point



## 43. EXPLORING THE ARCHITECTURE OF GEORGIAN READING

17<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 10:00

4km

2.5 miles

2.5 hours



Reading has a rich and often overlooked legacy of Georgian architecture, from early 18th century houses on Castle Street to the Town Hall Assembly Rooms of 1785 and Eldon Square in the 1830s. This linear guided tour of Reading's Georgian legacy is led by Dr Stephen Gage, architectural historian from the University of Reading.

**START:** Queen Victoria Statue, Reading Town Hall Square

**GETTING THERE:** Trains from Reading Station 2 minute walk from main town centre bus stops



Reading Walks Festival is organised by REDA,  
Reading's Economy & Destination Agency,  
with the support of an amazing group of  
walk leaders.

## THANKS TO

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READING  
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