

READING WALKS FESTIVAL

11 -19 May 2024

A celebration of Reading's heritage and landscapes. Learn something new, get out and about or meet new friends on a guided walk in and around Reading.



Official Travel Partner for Reading Walks Festival

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Name of Walk	Date	Length (Km)	Type of Walk	Wheelchair Accessible	Family Friendly	Price	Page No.
1 Abbey Quarter Walking Tours (2 walks)	17 May, 11:00 & 14:00	1km				£10	6
2 Abbot Cook's Last Journey	16 May	4km				£3	6
3 Dawn Chorus	11 May	2.5km				£3	7
4 Discovering Wilfred Owen	15 May	10km				£16	7
5 Explore Langley Mead	11 May	4km				£3	8
6 Exploring Coley and its History (2 walks)	12 & 19 May	7.8km				£3	8
7 Historic Mapledurham	17 May	8.5km				£10	9
8 Historic Reading Walking Tour	16 May	1km				£10	9
9 Katesgrove Walkabout	11 May	3.2km				£3	10
10 Kennet Meadows Trees and Birdsong	19 May	2.5km				£3	10
11 Mindful Mouse's Magical Meander	18 May	1km				£3	11
12 Old Lanes and Lower Earley Woods	19 May	4.5km				Free	11
13 Palmer, Brunel, Suttons & Two Rivers (2 walks)	13 & 15 May	7.5km				£3	12
14 Pangbourne Village and Countryside Circular	18 May	9.3km				Free	12
15 Reading at War	19 May	0.8km				£7	13
16 Reading in the Time of Jane Austen (2 walks)	14 & 19 May	2.6km				£3	13
17 Reading Miscellany (2 walks)	11 & 15 May	1.5km				£7	14
18 Reading to Lower Shiplake Social Walk	14 May	10.4km				£3	14
19 Reading Town Centre Architecture of the 1920s and 1930s	13 May	2km				Free	15
20 Reading Town Centre's Brewing Heritage	11 May	2.5km				Free	15
21 Reading – The Home of Photography	13 May	1.6km				£7	16
22 River Kennet and Green Park	11 May	7.4km				£3	16
23 Sensory Walk and Talk: Forests, Farms and Forest Bathing (2 walks)	17 & 18 May	Under 2km				£3	17
24 Step Free 3 Bridge Stroll (2 walks)	13 & 19 May	4km				£3	17
25 St James' Way Camino Pilgrimage – 1 day walk (2 walks)	11 & 14 May	18.5km				£3	18
26 St James' Way Camino Pilgrimage – 2 day walk	17 to 18 May	18.5km +22.5km				£3	19
27 Tall Trees and Village Gems – Old Tilehurst Guided Tree Trail	15 May	2.5km				£3	20
28 The Gentlemen Danes	18 May	700mtrs				£3	20
29 The Reading Walk	12 May	6.5km				£10	21
30 Town Centre and Thames Parks Trees	12 May	5km				£3	21
31 University Heritage Trails – Central Whiteknights Campus	19 May	2.5km				£3	22
32 University Heritage Trails – Earley Gate	12 May	2km				£3	22
33 University Heritage Trails – London Road	18 May	1.5km				£3	23
34 University Heritage Trails – Northern Whiteknights Campus	11 May	2.5km				£3	23
35 Victoria Park Walkabout	14 May	2.5km				£3	24
36 Well, Well, Well!	16 May	10km				£15	24
37 Wellbeing Walking Bingo (2 walks)	13 & 17 May	4.5km				Free	25
38 West of Reading Green and Blue Walk	16 May	20km				£3	25
39 Wild Workout Wander	18 May	1km				£3	26
40 Wonder of Waterhouse	15 May	5.5km				£3	26



Wheelchair Accessible



Family Friendly

TYPE OF WALK:



Guided Tour (less walking/ more talking)



A Sociable Walk



A Healthy Walk (more walking/ less talking)

PLEASE NOTE:

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

Welcome to the Reading Walks Festival 2024

Our festival is a walks festival rather than a walking festival with the emphasis on sharing the stories of Reading as we walk over the nine days of the festival. Thanks to our volunteer guides, we hope you learn something new, enjoy the Reading outdoors and make new friends.

Reading has 1,000 years of history to share and many of these stories live on in our townscape. And with the Thames and Kennet flowing through the town and the Chilterns, North Hampshire and West Berkshire on our doorstep, Reading is also a surprisingly green and natural place to visit.

All our walks are different. Some will be more talking than walking to help you learn more about a subject; some will be social occasions – just walking and chatting and others will be more about just enjoying the walk for its own sake. Please read the descriptions carefully to make sure you sign up for a walk that suits your interests.

 A healthy walk with stopping points of interest – more walking/less talking

 Learn something new on a guided tour – less walking/more talking

 A sociable walk – make new friends while you are walking



In each walk description you will find the approximate length in kilometres and hours. We hope there is something 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 whether their walk is wheelchair accessible, by which 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 with us if you have any accessibility queries about a specific walk because access requirements differ from person to person.

 Wheelchair accessible

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

Last year, over 70% of festival walkers reached the walks starting points without the need for a car. All our walks link into Reading's excellent public transport network so please do try and help us make the festival as sustainable as we can by avoiding car use if possible. Each walk description will include public transport information. Full details on the website.

This year, we have put a minimum £3 charge on most walks. This is to try and avoid the issue of people booking lots of walks because they are free and then not turning up! However, a few walks remain free while some walks led by professional guides or organisations have a higher cost. £3 from every walk will be reinvested in the Festival, which is a not-for-profit enterprise.



We look forward to walking with you.

Book your walk – readingwalksfestival.org



1 ABBEY QUARTER WALKING TOURS

17 MAY, 11:00 & 17 MAY, 14:00

1km | 1.5 hours | | | | £10



Enjoy a relaxed walking tour exploring the heart of medieval Reading led by Reading Museum's experienced volunteer guides. This tour takes you to the highlights of the Abbey Quarter including St Laurence and the Hospitium, the beautiful Forbury Gardens, the impressive, conserved Reading Abbey ruins and the Abbey Gateway. Morning and afternoon tours to choose from.

START Reading Museum

GETTING THERE Short walk Reading Station / multiple Reading Buses routes stop nearby

[BOOK HERE](#)

2 ABBOT COOK'S LAST JOURNEY

16 MAY, 11:00

4km | 1.5 hours | | | | £3

Following the route of the last Abbot of Reading to his execution on 14 November 1539. Abbot Hugh Cook Farringdon was first dragged round the town of Reading and this walk traces the boundaries of 16th century Reading and offers an understanding of what Tudor Reading may have looked like. The walk is led by John Painter, Secretary of the Friends of Reading Abbey.

START Town Hall Square

GETTING THERE Many Reading Buses routes have stops nearby. Short walk Reading Station

[BOOK HERE](#)



3 DAWN CHORUS

11 MAY, 04:30

2.5km | 2 hours | | | | £3 | Children go free



The dawn chorus is one of nature's wonders and the meadows in the Kennet Valley are an exceptional location to enjoy it. There is a great variety of birds in the varied habitats and we'll walk in a loop around the meadows and along the canal to enjoy all the different birdsong. The walk is led by Adrian Lawson who has been enjoying the dawn chorus since he was a child and who will identify all the birds.

START & FINISH Southern end of Circuit Lane

GETTING THERE Reading Buses 26 / cycle parking at the start point

[BOOK HERE](#)

4 DISCOVERING WILFRED OWEN

15 MAY, 13:30

10km | 4 hours | | | | £16

Join us for a journey of discovery with literary companion, Wilfred Owen, and learn how life in a small village influenced many of his greatest poems. The circular walk follows historic paths and tracks to explore the small village of Dunsden Green and surrounding area where, aged 18, Owen had come to live and work. Your guide will be Philippa Saunders of Pipsticks Walks, an experienced, qualified outdoor leader.

START & FINISH Clayfield Copse (car park), Caversham

GETTING THERE Reading Buses 23 or 24

[BOOK HERE](#)



5 EXPLORE LANGLEY MEAD

11 MAY, 14:00

4km | 2.5 hours |  |  |  £3



Get lost in nature and explore Langley Mead in Shinfield! Learn more about its incredible biodiversity and its role in providing vital habitat for local wildlife. Langley Mead is over 18 hectares of countryside along the banks of the River Loddon, made accessible to the public for recreation and enjoyment by the University of Reading. The walk leader is Nigel Frankland of the University of Reading who loves sharing his passion for the area.

START Fullbrook Avenue, Spencer's Wood

GETTING THERE Mere oak Park & Ride 600

[BOOK HERE](#)

6 EXPLORING COLEY AND ITS HISTORY

12 MAY, 14:00 & 19 MAY, 14:00

7.8km | 2.5 hours |  |  |  |  £3 |  Children go free

This circular route is designed to show the history of one of the oldest and most interesting parts of Reading, including buildings no longer there and others that still stand. From the old Simonds/Courage brewery site to the Vachel almshouses through Coley and across Fobney Meadows to the old pumping station. The walk is led by Steve Vale, experienced walk leader with Loddon Valley Ramblers.



[BOOK HERE](#)

START/FINISH Outside Three Guineas pub, Reading Station

GETTING THERE GWR train / most Reading Buses routes stop at the Station

7 HISTORIC MAPLEDURHAM

17 MAY, 10:00

8.5km | 2.5 hours |  |  |  |  |  Adults £10 |  Children go free



A looped guided walk around the magnificent Mapledurham estate through fields and farmlands down to the Thames and back up to Chazey Heath. The circular route will really get your blood pumping and will include a pause by the river and mill to soak in the surroundings before the final ascent. This is a Walk Works walk, led by 2 experienced guides, Liz Bradbury and Caroline Gratrix.

START The Packsaddle Pub, Woodcote Road

GETTING THERE Reading Buses X40 bus from Reading to Oxford

[BOOK HERE](#)

8 HISTORIC READING WALKING TOUR

16 MAY, 11:00 | 1km | 2 hours |  |  |  |  £10

A linear walking tour between Reading Museum and The Museum of English Rural Life via the streets, buildings and monuments that have shaped the town's story over the last 900 years. Join Reading Museum's Brendan Carr and Matthew Williams to see the sites and discover more as they share their historical knowledge.



START/FINISH Reading Museum

GETTING THERE Short walk Reading Railway Station / multiple Reading Buses routes stop nearby

[BOOK HERE](#)

9 KATESGROVE WALKABOUT

11 MAY, 09:45

3.2km | 2.5 hours |



A wander through the lesser-known back streets of Victorian Reading: Katesgrove's Pell Street, Elgar Road with its staggered terraced properties, the lost Co-Op printing works and the history of Reading's bricks. Then Waterloo Meadows alongside the Kennet, past the Hindu Temple and the Whitley Pump. This is a walk developed with Terry's Reading Walkabouts (donations to his charities welcome). The walk leader is Richard Bennett, Chair of Reading Civic Society.

START Corner of Pell St and Elgar Rd
GETTING THERE Reading Buses 5, 6 or 13

[BOOK HERE](#)

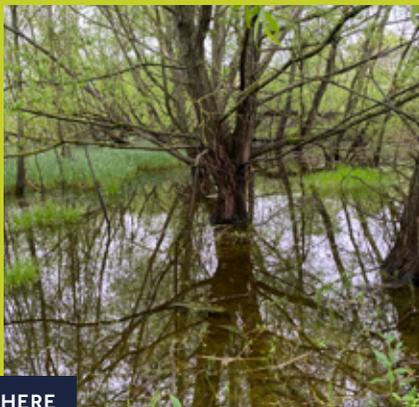
10 KENNET MEADOWS TREES AND BIRDSONG

19 MAY, 11:00

5km | 2.5 hours |

A ramble around the Coley meadows to look at the wonderful trees and enjoy the rich birdsong. The meadows have a rich biodiversity and a long history. This walk explores the area and links the Holy Brook and the Kennet and Avon canal, the Fobney Island nature reserve and the Fobney water meadow. The walk leader is Adrian Lawson who has been exploring these meadows and writing about them for almost 40 years.

START/FINISH The Brookmill
GETTING THERE Reading Buses 11 / secure cycle parking



[BOOK HERE](#)

11 MINDFUL MOUSE'S MAGICAL MEANDER

18 MAY, 15:30

1km | 1 hour |



Join the Nature Nurture team for a relaxing and mindful stroll in nature. Set in Caversham Court Gardens, enjoy our Mindful Mouse activities, a totally stress-free experience that will leave you relaxed and resilient. This walk is aimed at children aged 4-10 but parents and carers are encouraged to join in. Please note all children must be accompanied by an adult. The walk is led by Natalie Ganpatsingh of Nature Nurture.

START Caversham Court Gardens
GETTING THERE Reading Buses 22, 24, X40

[BOOK HERE](#)

12 OLD LANES AND LOWER EARLEY WOODS

19 MAY, 15:00

4.5km | 2.5 hours |

This walk will take you on a circular route to discover some of the old lanes in Earley which formed its main routes in previous centuries, including Cutbush Lane, the woods between Lower Earley and the motorway and Paddock Drive. The walk leader is Grahame Hawker, Head Ranger at Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve.

START/FINISH Chalfont Park carpark, Chalfont Way
GETTING THERE Reading Buses 19B

[BOOK HERE](#)



13 PALMER, BRUNEL, SUTTONS & TWO RIVERS

13 MAY 13:30 & 15 MAY 10:30

7.5km | 3 hours |  |  |  £3



A circular town and country walk in East Reading and North Earley showing contrasting architectural styles and a surprisingly rich history. Starting in historic Palmer Park this largely flat walk includes Victorian Newtown, mid-20th century Earley and 21st century business parks as well as the tranquillity of Thames Valley Park Nature Reserve. The walk is led by Keith Brill, experienced walk leader and member of the Loddon Valley Ramblers.

START Palmer Park Sports Stadium

GETTING THERE Reading Buses 17 & 4/X4

[BOOK HERE](#)

14 PANGBOURNE VILLAGE AND COUNTRYSIDE CIRCULAR

18 MAY, 10:00

9.3km | up to 4 hours |  |  | 

Come and join us on this journey in the picturesque Pangbourne countryside. Explore diverse landscapes and discover captivating landmarks on this enchanting stile-free circular walk. Along the way, you will learn more about Berkshire's historic villages and countryside as well as hiking tips. The walk is led by Lily and Delphine, both Lowland Leader trainees who collaborate through the Visorando walkers community.

START/FINISH Pangbourne Railway Station

GETTING THERE GWR train services from Reading



[BOOK HERE](#)

15 READING AT WAR

19 MAY, 14:00

0.8km | 1 hour |  |  |  |  |  Adult £7 |  Children go free



War has been a major influence on the town of Reading since its first recorded mention when invading Danes camped close by in c.870. Find out about Reading's role in the English Civil War, the Glorious Revolution, Napoleonic Wars, Afghan Wars and WWI & II. Walk leader is David West who runs local tour company Walk Reading.

START Reading Minster Church

GETTING THERE Short walk from Reading station and multiple city centre bus stops

[BOOK HERE](#)

16 READING IN THE TIME OF JANE AUSTEN

14 MAY, 10:00 & 19 MAY, 10:00

2.6km | 1.5 hours |  |  |  |  £3

Jane Austen spent 18 months at school in Reading's Abbey Gateway in the 18th century. Join a walk to see the town as she might have seen it, reflecting on the infrastructure, industries and entertainments and contemporary accounts of Reading in the long 18th century. Please note: we will not be going into the Abbey Gateway. Walk leader is Joy Pibworth, an active member of the Jane Austen Society.

START/FINISH St Laurence's Church, Town Hall Square

GETTING THERE Short walk from the station and close to main bus routes



[BOOK HERE](#)

17 READING MISCELLANY

11 MAY 11:00 & 15 MAY 11:00

1.5km | 1 hour | | | | | Adults £7 | Children go free



BOOK HERE

A short ramble around Reading with a general introduction to the town's history and points of interest that shows some of the 'Ding's' qualities. When was Reading founded? Who by? What are the origins of Reading street names? Where was the site of the world's largest biscuit factory? Where were Reading's botanical gardens? And much more. Walk leader is David West who runs local tour company Walk Reading.

START Banksy Mural, Old Reading Gaol

GETTING THERE Short walk from Reading station and multiple city centre bus stops

18 READING TO LOWER SHIPLAKE SOCIAL WALK

14 MAY, 10:00

10.4km | 3 hours + lunch | | | | £3

A social linear 10km walk along the beautiful Thames Path from Reading to Shiplake ending with a pub lunch. From Reading, the walk heads downstream passing Horseshoe Bridge through Sonning and on to Shiplake on a section of the Thames Path that takes us through some lush woodlands and beautiful rural countryside. The walk is led by Clare Jarratt, Engagement Officer with the Thames Path National Trails Team.



START/FINISH Thameside Promenade Car Park

GETTING THERE Reading Buses 22, 24, 800, RA1, X40

BOOK HERE

19 READING TOWN CENTRE ARCHITECTURE OF THE 1920s AND 1930s

13 MAY, 13:00

2km | 2.5 hour | | |



BOOK HERE

The brief period between the First and Second World Wars was a boom time for Art Deco and 'Moderne' architectural styles. Join the walk to find very good examples of architecture from this period in Reading town centre. We will seek out the details and features that make them special and decide if we really like it or not. The walk is led by Evelyn Williams, chair of Reading Conservation Area Advisory Committee.

START Reading Station

GETTING THERE All trains and buses that stop at Reading Station

20 READING TOWN CENTRE'S BREWING HERITAGE

11 MAY, 13:00

2.5km | 2 hours | | |

A circular walk of the locations, remaining buildings and other reminders of Reading's town centre breweries and their brewers. Find out where the great historic brewers such as H&G Simonds, Castle and Garrards were located in Reading and why Reading's maltsters became very rich. The walk is led by Evelyn Williams, local historian and co-author of 'Abbot Cook to Zero Degrees, an A to Z of Reading's Pubs and Breweries'



START/FINISH Reading Station

GETTING THERE GWR services and many Reading Buses routes

BOOK HERE

21 READING – THE HOME OF PHOTOGRAPHY

13 MAY, 11:00

1.6km | 1 hour



£ Adults
£7

FREE Children
go free



When asked about the origins of photography, few people have heard of the pioneering work of William Henry Fox Talbot and the Reading Establishment. Come and discover the ancient origins of photography and how Fox Talbot built on this knowledge in Reading. Walk leader is David West, who runs local tour company Walk Reading.

START Abbey Medical Centre, Russell Street

GETTING THERE Reading Buses 15,16 and 17

[BOOK HERE](#)

22 RIVER KENNET AND GREEN PARK

11 MAY, 14:00

7.4km | 2.5 hours + rail journey back to Reading



£ Adults
£3

FREE Children
go free

A linear walk exploring Reading's transport systems, ancient and modern, along the canal to Green Park. The walk follows the green corridor of the River Kennet to the old Fobney water works and then carries on to explore the footpath network within the Green Park development. The walk will be led by Steve Vale, an experienced walk leader with Loddon Valley Ramblers. Return by train.

START/FINISH Reading Station

GETTING THERE GWR train / most Reading Buses routes stop at the Station



[BOOK HERE](#)

23 SENSORY WALK AND TALK: FORESTS, FARMS AND FOREST BATHING

17 MAY, 15:00 & 18 MAY, 10:30

Under 2km | 1.5 hour



£ Adults
£3

FREE Children
go free



A slow walk through The MERL's grounds to hear fascinating stories from the museum's archives and the rich histories and exciting futures of Britain's treescapes. The walk and talk will focus on 'agroforestry' as well as including some 'forest bathing', a Japanese inspired practice, with sensory exercises for all the family. A perfect family-friendly outing. The walk leader is Dr. Jen Clarke, an anthropologist, artist and educator, currently Lecturer at Gray's School of Art, Scotland.

START The Museum of English Rural Life

GETTING THERE Reading Buses 21

[BOOK HERE](#)

24 STEP FREE 3 BRIDGE STROLL

13 MAY, 10:30 & 19 MAY, 10:30

4km | 2 hours



£ Adults
£3

FREE Children
go free

A circular walk on paved, mostly flat and step free walking from Reading Station to the River Thames. We will take in three of Reading's bridges as well as Christchurch Meadows where we can stop for a break and take in the views. During our walk we will learn about Reading as well as meet new like-minded people. Walk leader is Clare Jarratt, Engagement Officer for the Thames Path National Trail.

START/FINISH Reading Station

GETTING THERE GWR services and many Reading Buses routes

[BOOK HERE](#)



25 ST JAMES' WAY CAMINO PILGRIMAGE

1 DAY WALK 11 MAY, 08:30 & 14 MAY, 08:30

18.5km | 11 hours |  |  |  £3



Become a modern-day pilgrim on Day 1 of the St James' Way, an English Way to Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Walk Reading to Mortimer (and return by bus). Suitable for modern-day pilgrims who want to find out more about the pilgrim experience or intend to complete the St James' Way or continue to Santiago in Spain on the Camino Ingles at a later date. The walk leader is David Sinclair, a Confraternity of St James member and volunteer who has led the development of the St James' Way as a Camino in the South of England.

START St James Church, Forbury Road, Reading RG1 3FD

GETTING THERE Short walk from Reading Station / many Reading Bus routes stop close by

[BOOK HERE](#)

26 ST JAMES' WAY CAMINO PILGRIMAGE

2 DAY WALK 17 - 18 MAY, 08:30

Day 1 - 18.5km | 11 hour + Day 2 - 22.5km | 8.5 hours

 |  |  £3

First two days walk from Reading on the St James' Way, part of the Camino de Santiago. Suitable for modern-day pilgrims who are interested in caminos or intending to continue to Southampton on the St James' Way or Santiago on the Camino Ingles.

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

Day 2 – Mortimer to Worting (bus from Reading to Mortimer/ return train journey Basingstoke to Reading).

[BOOK HERE](#)



The walk leader is David Sinclair, a Confraternity of St James member and volunteer who has led the development of the St James' Way as a Camino in the South of England.

START St James Church

GETTING THERE Short walk from Reading Station / many Reading Bus routes stop close by



Book your walk – readingwalksfestival.org

FIVE GO ON A RIP ROARING RAMBLE

From the Pewsey Circular Way to the rolling Malvern Hills and beyond, there's so much to discover on foot from our stations. Where will your adventure take you?

To find out more visit GWR.com/Destinations



Great Western Railway

ADVENTURES START HERE

27 TALL TREES AND VILLAGE GEMS – OLD TILEHURST GUIDED TREE TRAIL

15 MAY, 14:00

2.5km | 1.5 hours | | | £3



BOOK HERE

A circular walk through the historic streets of Tilehurst and Arthur Newbery Park, featuring magnificent Victorian trees and a peek into the grounds of Kentwood House. We will stop to identify a wide range of beautiful (and some unusual) tree species. The walk is led by Anna Iwaschkin, founding member of Reading Tree Wardens who specialises in designing urban tree walks for Reading.

START Tilehurst Railway Station
GETTING THERE GWR services from Reading Station / Reading Buses 16 bus

28 THE GENTLEMEN DANES

18 MAY, 11:30

700 metres | 1.25 hour | | | | | £3 | Children go free

This walk takes you back to the early 19th century when nearly 600 Danish prisoners of war were embedded in the Reading community. A linear walk which traces places in the town connected with this fascinating, yet virtually unknown, period of the town's history. The walk is led by author John Nixon who has researched this story and published the results in 'The Gentlemen Danes'.



START/FINISH Reading Minster
GETTING THERE Short walk from Reading Station, many Reading Bus routes stop nearby

BOOK HERE

29 THE READING WALK

12 MAY, 11:00

6.5km | 2 hours | | | £10



BOOK HERE

Get to know some of the gems of Reading on this circular walk and talk around the town. We'll pass some of Reading's best independent venues and take in the delights of new and old Reading, from beautiful Jesse Terrace to the new canal path by Huntley Wharf. Join us for a couple of hours to see Reading a little differently. This is a Walk Works walk run by two experienced walking guides, Liz Bradbury and Caroline Gratrix.

START Blue Collar Corner
GETTING THERE Reading Buses route that stop at St Mary Butts

30 TOWN CENTRE AND THAMES PARKS TREES

12 MAY, 11:00

5km | 2.5 hours | | | | | Adults £3 | Children go free

A meandering route with amazing trees linking the town centre and the River Thames. This walk starts and finishes near Reading Station. On the way we'll discover some fascinating trees, parks and hidden spaces. The walk is led by Adrian Lawson who has been involved with Reading's trees and parks in one way or another for almost 40 years and has written about them extensively.

START/FINISH Vastern Road roundabout by Bagnall Way, next to Reading Station
GETTING THERE Short walk from the railway station and bus interchange on the Caversham/river side of the station



BOOK HERE

31 UNIVERSITY HERITAGE TRAIL – CENTRAL WHITEKNIGHTS CAMPUS

19 MAY, 11:00

2km | 1.5 hour |  |  |  £3



A journey through the heart of the campus with a history dating from the early 1800s to its acquisition by the University in 1947. The walk leader is Chris Rayner, a former University of Reading employee and now a trustee of the Friends of the University.

START/FINISH Whiteknights campus car park 1A

GETTING THERE Reading Buses 21

[BOOK HERE](#)

32 UNIVERSITY HERITAGE TRAIL – EARLEY GATE

12 MAY, 11:00

2.5km | 2 hours |  /  |  |  £3

A walk around the Earley Gate area of the University of Reading Whiteknights campus. Starting at the campus entrance, the walk will include the Friends Bridge, the Wilderness, the Harris Garden, the site of Wilderness House and The Citadel, the purpose built war room built in the 1950s. The walk leader is Chris Rayner, a trustee of the Friends of the University.



START/FINISH Whiteknights campus Earley Gate

GETTING THERE Reading Buses 19 or 19A

[BOOK HERE](#)

33 UNIVERSITY HERITAGE TRAIL – LONDON ROAD

18 MAY, 11:00

1.5km | 1.5 hours |  |  |  |  £3



Explore the University of Reading's original London Road campus and over 100 years of history. The walk takes us round what was the University's new home in the early 1900s. The specially constructed newer buildings form a quadrangle reminiscent of many Oxford colleges. Tour is partly accessible for wheelchairs. The walk leader is Chris Rayner, a trustee of the Friends of the University.

START Redlands Road, next to The MERL

GETTING THERE Reading Buses 21

[BOOK HERE](#)

34 UNIVERSITY HERITAGE TRAIL – NORTHERN WHITEKNIGHTS CAMPUS

11 MAY, 11:00

2.5km | 1.5 hours |  /  |  |  £3

A tour of the University of Reading's northern campus, featuring some newer buildings, some old and some not even there anymore! We will be walking around the northern perimeter of the campus, seeing where the original student halls of residence were constructed and some of the older buildings on campus, including Foxhill House. The walk leader is Chris Rayner, a trustee of the Friends of the University.



START Park House, Whiteknights campus

GETTING THERE Reading Buses 21 or 21A

[BOOK HERE](#)

35 VICTORIA PARK WALKABOUT

14 MAY, 9:45

2.5km | 2.5 hour | | | | | Adults £3 | Children go free



BOOK HERE

Discover some of the less well trodden parts of Reading from a historic school to a large picture of cows, former historic pubs, the site of the old abattoir and the work of the High Street Action Zone, as well as modern Reading. This is a walk developed with Terry's Reading Walkabouts (donations to Terry's charities welcome). The walk leader is Richard Bennett, Chair of Reading Civic Society.

START Oxford Road Community School, Oxford Road

GETTING THERE Reading Buses 17

36 WELL, WELL, WELL!

16 MAY, 10:15

10km | 3.5 hours | | | £15

This circular walk starts from near the end of the 25 bus route at Peppard, north of Reading. We follow historic paths through Rotherfield Peppard, Gallowstree Common and Kingwood Common. Along the way, we discover a Stoney Bottom, ornate public wells, an elephant in the woods and a Unicorn! Your guide on this walk will be Philippa Saunders of Pipsticks Walks, an experienced, qualified outdoor leader.



BOOK HERE

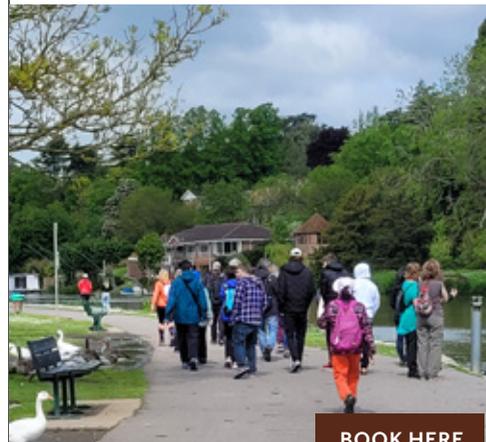
START/FINISH Opposite Peppard Stores, Stoke Row Road, Peppard Common

GETTING THERE Reading Buses 25

37 WELLBEING WALKING BINGO

13 MAY, 18:00 & 17 MAY, 11:00

4.5km | 1.5 hours | | | |



BOOK HERE

Join us for a sociable circular wellbeing walk along the Thames. From the new Rivermead Leisure Centre, we head along Thameside Promenade and follow the river as far as View Island and back again. Engage your noticing skills, pair up with one of your new walking buddies and take part in our Walking Bingo as we walk! Walk leader is Mark Lyford, Sustrans Active Travel Officer for Reading.

START Rivermead Leisure Centre

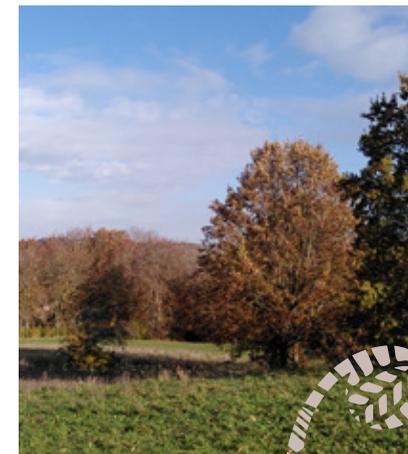
GETTING THERE Reading Buses 42 or 15-minute walk from Reading train station

38 WEST OF READING GREEN AND BLUE WALK

16 MAY, 10:30

20km | 5 hours | | | £3

A journey to the west of Reading linking river, parks, woods and canal paths. The walk, which starts and ends in Reading town centre, links the River Thames towpath, Arthur Newbery Park, Mclroy Park, Lousehill Copse, Prospect Park and the Kennet and Avon Canal towpath. The route illustrates Reading's many green spaces and blue routes by water. Walk leader is Kathy Tytler, a long-distance walker and trail runner.



BOOK HERE

START The Three Guineas, Reading Railway Station

GETTING THERE GWR train services and most Reading Buses routes

39 WILD WORKOUT WANDER

18 MAY, 14:00

1km | 1 hour | | | | | Adults £3 | Children go free



Join the Nature Nurture team for a fun fitness walk. Set in the beautiful grounds of Caversham Court Gardens, this is an action packed walk aimed at children 2-10 and their parents/carers that will incorporate 12 Wild Workout stations along the way. Please note all children must be accompanied by an adult. The walk is led by Natalie Ganpatsingh of Nature Nurture.

START Caversham Court Gardens
GETTING THERE Reading Buses 22, 24, X40

[BOOK HERE](#)

40 WONDER OF WATERHOUSE

15 MAY, 17:00

5.5km | 2.5 hours | | | | £3

An early evening stroll taking in the full house of Reading's incredible buildings designed by Waterhouse, including Foxhill House on the University's Whiteknights campus, a tour of Reading School, St Andrew's Hall on Redlands Road, Rising Sun Arts Centre and the magnificent Reading Town Hall. Walk leader is Mark Lyford, Sustrans Active Travel Officer for Reading with extensive experience in leading walks and bike rides.



START Whiteknights House, University Whiteknights campus
GETTING THERE Reading Buses 21

[BOOK HERE](#)

Chilterns Walking Festival
A huge selection of guided walks including nature spotting, foraging, dawn chorus and hillfort discovery!

18 MAY – 2 JUNE 2024

BOOK ONLINE
www.chilternsaonb.org/walkingfest
follow us on Facebook
[@ChilternsWalkingFestival](https://www.facebook.com/ChilternsWalkingFestival)

CHILTERN'S WALKING Festival

Reading Walks Festival is organised by REDA, Reading's Economy and Destination Agency with the support of an amazing group of volunteer walk leaders, who are passionate about what Reading has to offer.

Thanks to – Steve Vale, Clare Jarratt, Keith Brill, John Painter, Anna Iwaschkin, John Nixon, Reading Abbey Quarter volunteer guides, Matthew Williams, Brendan Carr, Lily Tocqueville, Delphine Gimat, Chris Rayner, Philippa Saunders, David Sinclair, Grahame Hawker, Bob Collis, Charlotte Allchin, Richard Bennett, Terry Dixon, Joy Pibworth, Mark Lyford, David West, Kathy Tytler, Liz Bradbury, Caroline Gratrix, Adrian Lawson, Evelyn Williams, Natalie Ganpatsingh, Danielle Eade, Jen Clarke, Nigel Frankland, Molli Cleaver.

Thames Path National Trail, Friends of Reading Abbey, Reading Tree Wardens, Reading Museum, Visorando walking app, Friends of the University of Reading, Pipstick Walks, Confraternity of St James, Earley Environmental Group, Terry's Reading Walkabouts, Sustrans, Walk Reading, Walk Works, Nature Nurture, Museum of English Rural Life, University of Reading, Reading Buses, GWR, Chiltern Walking Festival, Mono Creative Design, WhatsonReading.com



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