

40

**THINGS YOU
PROBABLY DIDN'T
KNOW ABOUT
READING**



40 THINGS YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT READING

READING IS AN AMAZING PLACE FULL OF SURPRISES AND DELIGHTS

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**A place of rich
history & heritage**

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**Home to
global businesses**

READING



REDDING



A RICH
HISTORY & HERITAGE

- The Priorye
- Gutter lane
- The Free Schole
- S^t. Lawrence
- Forbery
- Queens stables
- The Abbey
- Schomakers Row
- Fysho strete
- Buchers Rowe
- Brode stret
- Pangburne lane
- Hosier lane
- Castell Strete
- S. Marves

HISTORY & HERITAGE

NUMBER

01



A medieval history

In late 870, an army of Danes invaded the Kingdom of Wessex and set up camp at Reading, which is the first documented record of the existence of the town.

NUMBER

02



Reading Abbey

In the heart of the town sits one of the wealthiest monasteries of medieval England. Founded by Henry I in 1121, Reading Abbey is a site of huge archaeological and historic importance.

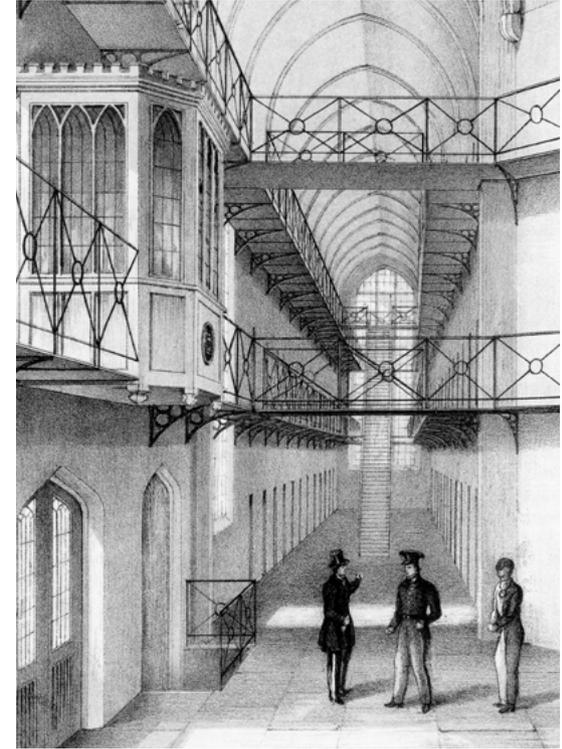
NUMBER
03



Reading Museum & Town Hall

Just a 2-minute walk from the train station, this free museum has over 500,000 objects of archaeology, art, natural history, social history and world culture and boasts a full-size copy of the Bayeux Tapestry.

NUMBER
04



Reading Gaol

In 1895 Oscar Wilde was sentenced to two years' hard labour in Reading Gaol and was inspired to write the poem *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*.



THE BEST
PLACES TO EAT

NUMBER
05

READING



L'Ortolan

In the picturesque village of Shinfield, around 20 minutes away, is the Michelin starred restaurant – L'Ortolan. The place to go for exquisite fine dining from Head Chef Tom Clarke.

NUMBER
06

PLACES TO EAT



The Coppa Club

Found in the riverside village of Sonning, around 4 miles outside Reading, Coppa Club is an exquisite venue for sophisticated eating, drinking, meeting and unwinding in a serene setting.

NUMBER

07

READING



Sonning Mill

There has been a mill at Sonning since the time of William the Conqueror. Recently renovated, enjoy the theatre after dining in the restaurant or listen to live music at the Waterwheel Bar; all just a short drive from Reading.

NUMBER

08

PLACES TO EAT



The French Horn

Sitting next to the bridge in beautiful Sonning village, the French Horn is renowned for its exemplary duck dishes, and has a fabulous following with a glowing reputation.

NUMBER

09

READING



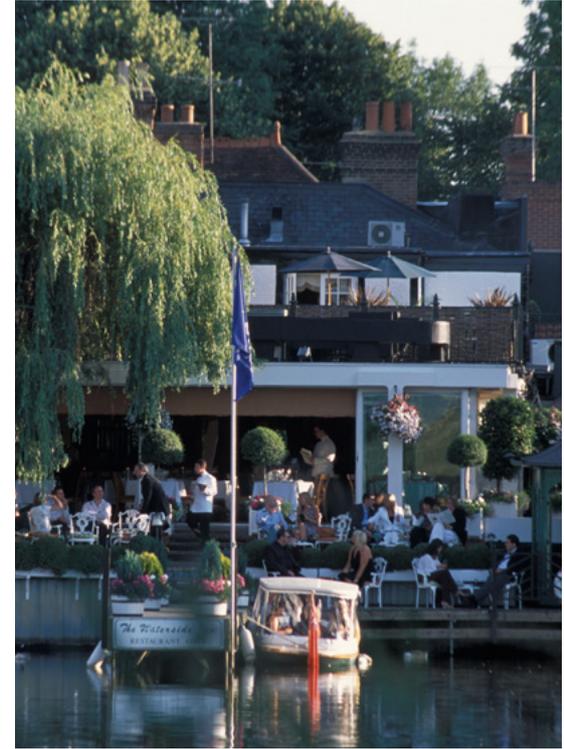
The Fat Duck

Run by celebrity chef proprietor Heston Blumenthal, The Fat Duck is just half an hour from Reading in the quaint village of Bray. You are promised a nostalgic experience 'sparking playful memories, filled with curiosity, discovery and adventure'.

NUMBER

10

PLACES TO EAT



The Waterside Inn

Also in Bray, this delightful restaurant has been serving 'unashamedly French' cuisine since 1972. Owned by the celebrated Roux père et fils, the Waterside offers a world-class culinary experience.

WORLD-CLASS
**ENTERTAINMENT
& SPORTS**



NUMBER

11



READING

Reading Festival

Reading Festival is the original music event, an annual music extravaganza. It all happens just 3 miles outside town transforming a sprawling farm for a long summer weekend every August.

NUMBER

12



ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS

Henley Festival

Synonymous with rowing, Henley-on-Thames, around 9 miles away, has more to offer including The Henley Festival. An unmissable summer event, this is a truly unique and exclusive boutique black tie event merging great music, gastronomy and the arts.

NUMBER

13



The Madejski Stadium

On the outskirts of the town, sporting enthusiasts reach the home of Championship football club, Reading FC. The Madejski Stadium also hosts premier ship rugby club, London Irish.

NUMBER

14



Royal Ascot

Ascot Racecourse is only 15 miles away, a place to rub shoulders with the horse-racing elite from across the globe and enjoy the famous annual Royal Ascot meeting held each June.

NUMBER

15



Binfield Heath Polo Club

Only 6.5 miles from Reading is the wonderful Binfield Heath Polo Club. Established by Lord Phillimore, the Club is perfectly situated in the quaint village of the same name.

NUMBER

16



Henley Regatta

The world-famous Henley Regatta on the River Thames is enjoyed every summer by oarsmen and spectators alike and it's only 9 miles from Reading.

NUMBER

17

READING



Wellington Riding Stables

One of the UK's biggest and best-known equestrian centres, and only 20 minutes away from Reading, Wellington Riding Stables is set in 300 acres of the Duke of Wellington's Hampshire estate.

NUMBER

18

ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS



Shooting at Pangbourne

Shooting enthusiasts will find one of the most expansive and beautiful shooting grounds in the country just 8 miles away.

NUMBER

19



Palmer Park Stadium

Just a mile away and set in acres of parkland, Palmer Park athletics stadium is the focal point for many outdoor leisure activities. Its velodrome hosts British Cycling events.

NUMBER

20



The Reading Half Marathon

Nearly 20,000 runners participate in Reading's own Half Marathon which takes place every March, finishing in the splendid Madejski Stadium on the perimeter of Reading town.

NUMBER

21



Stanlake Park Wine Estate

The UK's largest vineyard is in Reading. This stunning 25-acre country estate is just a 20-minute drive from the town centre. Stanlake Park produces award-winning wines and hosts visitor tours.

NUMBER

22



The Hexagon Theatre

In the heart of the town, the Hexagon hosts World Snooker events, as well as doubling up as a venue for leading theatrical performances that often end up in the West End of London.

NUMBER

23

READING



The Comedy Loft

Central Reading's Comedy Loft attracts the UK's leading stand-up comedians including well-known names and those trying to make their name in the humour business.

NUMBER

24

ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS



The Oracle

Reading's prime shopping centre houses leading retailers such as Hugo Boss, Reiss, Superdry, Disney Store, House of Fraser and Debenhams. It also has a multi-screen cinema and numerous eateries overlooking the River Kennet. An array of shops can also be found on the High Street, including John Lewis.



EXCEPTIONAL
EDUCATION



NUMBER
25



The University of Reading

Central Reading's University has a history of academic excellence dating back to 1892, with a world-class reputation for teaching, research and enterprise.

NUMBER
26



The Henley Business School

Part of the University, globally-renowned Henley is one of the oldest business schools in the UK – a powerhouse of entrepreneurship and business excellence.

NUMBER

27



Wellington College

A half hour drive finds one of the finest co-educational independent schools, Wellington College. Founded as a living memorial to the Duke of Wellington in 1859.

NUMBER

28



Shiplake College

Just over 5 miles from central Reading and situated in 45 acres of beautiful countryside is Shiplake College, one of the UK's leading independent boarding and day schools for boys and girls.

A GREAT PLACE TO
GET CONNECTED

NUMBER
29



London

26 minutes by train from Reading is Paddington Station, the gateway to England's Capital city. Offering the world's best dining, sporting and theatrical events, home to famous museums and stunning architecture, London is the most vibrant city in the world.

NUMBER
30



Windsor

Just over half an hour away is Windsor, famous for the 11th Century, Windsor Castle, the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world – home to Her Majesty The Queen.

NUMBER

31

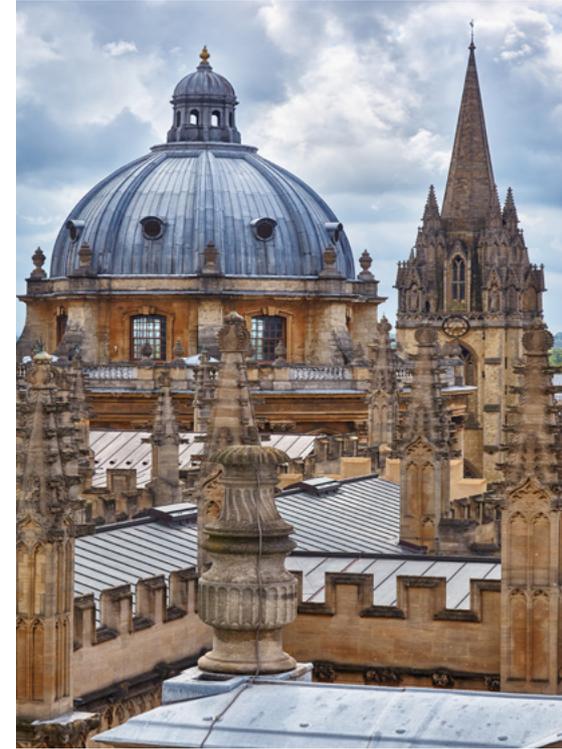


The Cotswolds

The rolling hills of the Cotswolds make this the most beautiful of English regions. To the north-west of Reading, the area is scattered with picturesque villages of thatched cottages and quaint churches.

NUMBER

32



Oxford

Just over 26 miles away is Oxford, steeped in history since Saxon times and home to the globally-renowned University and Ashmolean Museum.

NUMBER
33



Bath

Take the M4 directly to Bath, the elegant Georgian spa town with neoclassical Palladian architecture famed for its Roman Baths and hot springs. It is an important destination for literature and art lovers from across the Globe.

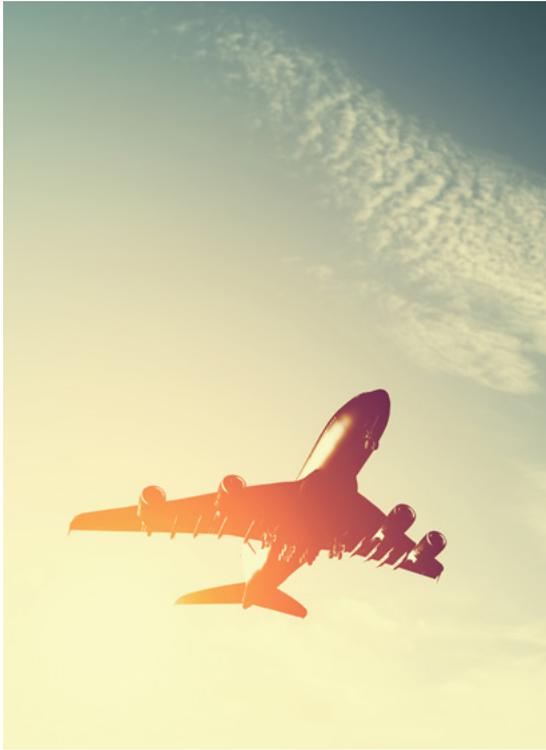
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34



Bristol

77 miles directly along the M4 is beautiful Bristol. With a rich naval history, the City was the 2017 UNESCO City of Film and its attractive riverside location makes it one of the UK's top tourist destinations.

NUMBER
35



Heathrow

The UK's largest and busiest international airport is local, only 27 miles east of Reading with direct access via rail or road.

NUMBER
36



Bicester

Gucci, Burberry, Dunhill, Mulberry. Just a few of the designer brands that can be bought at a fraction of the high street price at the UK's leading designer outlet location, little over an hour's drive away.

HOME TO
GLOBAL BUSINESS

NUMBER

37



Reading Business

Considered the principal regional and commercial centre in the Thames Valley, Reading is the superbly well-connected home for major corporations and is also ranked the UK's top area for economic success and wellbeing.

NUMBER

38



Green Park Business Park

On the outskirts of Reading, this is an exceptional 195-acre business community with first-class amenities catering for every business need, including on-site leisure facilities and hospitality set in an inspiring landscape.

NUMBER

39

READING



Winnersh Triangle

With its own train station 20 minutes from Reading Central, this cutting-edge business centre is an innovation hub for businesses large and small.

NUMBER

40

BUSINESS



Crossrail

Crossrail in Reading, planned for 2020, will dramatically enhance the already great transport links; with direct access to Bond Street and onwards to Canary Wharf.

TAKE NOTE

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