

# Historic Market Towns

## #3 Days in Bucks

The county of Buckinghamshire is home to many historic market towns all with their own unique past and fascinating points of interest to be discovered. Exploring these towns with a trail will ensure you get to see all the best bits and often some hidden gems too!

### Day 1

#### Buckingham and Winslow



Start your adventures in the north of the county in the small, vibrant market town of Buckingham. Once the county town of Buckinghamshire, as granted by Alfred the Great, it is now characterised by its fine Georgian buildings, the Old Gaol and the Town Hall.

There are several trail options to help you explore this fascinating town. The [Buxplore](#) web app gives you a choice of 6 themed routes and uses your phone to provide maps, photos and commentary to bring the trail to life. The history route is 3.5km and there are added questions and activities to test your knowledge! You may wish to enjoy more than one of the walks with other themes including a murder mystery and an Industrial trail where you will learn how the canal started an industrial boom in Buckingham!

If you prefer to follow a trail using a hardcopy leaflet the [Buckingham Circular Walk Map](#) is available to download or you can pick up a copy from the [Tourist Information Centre](#). This trail is 2.5 miles and much of the walk follows the route of the River Great Ouse.

[Buckingham Old Gaol Museum](#) is well worth a visit. Originally Buckingham's Castle Gaol it once housed thieves, poachers and murderers! See the cells and walk through thousands of years of local history in this unique museum setting.

Buckingham offers a variety of options for refreshments from light bites and takeaways to tea rooms and restaurants. There is something to cater for all tastes. The town also has an abundance of green spaces where you are sure to find an ideal picnic spot.

You may wish to spend the afternoon at leisure in Buckingham visiting the independent shops, relaxing in one of the local parks or exploring another of the trails. Alternatively you might like to venture to nearby Winslow where you can enjoy

an [historical walk](#) around the old market town. The walk starts in the Market Square and explains the origin and growth of the town using the buildings and landscape. There is also a [series 3 of circular walks](#) available from Winslow Town Council which take in the various points of interest.

## Day 2

### Chesham and Amersham



Head south through the county of Buckinghamshire this morning to the market town of [Chesham](#). The old town has a wonderful collection of buildings dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Take a step back in time with the [Chesham Heritage Trail](#). The 2 mile walk starts at the train station and weaves its way around the streets of the town taking in 1000 years of history. The route takes in major historic features such as The Bury, Lowndes Park and St Marys Church.

Chesham has a wide variety of establishments offering a range of food and drink to suit all tastes for lunchtime refreshments. There are cafes, teashops and sandwich bars as well as pubs and a selection of restaurants. You will find plenty of space to relax and enjoy a picnic at [Lowndes Park](#), a major historic feature of Chesham which was largely donated to the town in 1953.

If you would like to stay longer and explore more, or return in the future, a series of local walks are available to download from the [Chesham Town Council website](#) and a useful town guide is available [here](#).



In the afternoon take the short journey to neighbouring [Amersham](#). The pretty market town with its broad high street and half-timbered houses, Market House and Memorial Gardens can be explored with the help of [The Amersham Society](#). On their website you will find a [heritage map](#) which highlights the major historical features and is available to download. A popular society [town trail leaflet](#) is also available with the walk beginning from the old town car park (located off The Broadway). Finally, the most recent addition to their website is an [interactive map](#) with photos and text describing over 30 points of interest.

After wandering the historical streets discover more about the rich history with a visit to [Amersham Museum](#). The displays focus on 5 key dates in the town's history and you can find out about the people, buildings and daily life during those eras.

You might like to spend your evening unwinding with a meal at one of Amersham's fantastic restaurants or perhaps you might like to experience some live entertainment at Chesham's [Elgiva Theatre](#). The Theatre hosts a wide range of productions including top comedy, musicals, dance and an eclectic range of movies with their digital cinema.

## Day 3

### West Wycombe and Marlow

Begin today's adventures in the National Trust village of [West Wycombe](#). This one street, Medieval village was once an important coaching stop between Oxford and



London. The village is presided over by St Lawrence's Church which sits at the top of West Wycombe Hill. Tucked away under the church are the 17<sup>th</sup> century man-made [Hell Fire Caves](#) which wind their way 260 metres underground. It is also the setting for [West Wycombe Park](#), the elegant Palladian home of the Dashwood family.

A short, [1 mile trail](#) starting from St Lawrence's Church takes in historical points of interest and affords stunning views across the surrounding Chiltern landscape. There are a range of traditional shops, picnic spots galore and plenty of places for some refreshments like [The Apple Orchard](#) coffee shop. There is so much to discover in this unique, historical village you could easily spend the whole day exploring however not far away is the Georgian market town of Marlow which is a must for any visit to Buckinghamshire.

[Marlow](#) is set on a broad sweep of the River Thames with a lively town centre made up of historic streets and small listed buildings. A perfect way to find your way around and discover the secrets of this historic town is with the [Marlow Town Walk](#).

Details can be found on the Marlow Society website and hardcopy leaflets are available to purchase. The trail begins at the car park on Pound Lane and will take approximately one hour. It takes in all the major points of interest including the notable Marlow Suspension Bridge and All Saints Church, which sits proudly on the banks of the Thames.



With the town walk completed you could call into [Marlow Museum](#). The small local history museum has engaging displays and interesting artefacts providing a further insight into the history of the town. Please do check before visiting as opening times are limited.

Marlow boast a wide range of pubs, cafes and award-winning restaurants so if you are looking for a supper time treat after your days adventures you'll be spoilt for choice.

This beautiful town offers lots more to see and do so why not visit again and enjoy some of Marlow's other pleasures like a stroll along the Thames Path, [a passenger boat ride](#) or [self-drive cruise](#) along the Thames, shopping in the independent boutiques or for more historical adventures enjoy the [WW1 Town Walk](#)!

## **Where to Stay**

If you are looking for a historic venue for an overnight stay look no further than Villiers Hotel located centrally in Buckingham. Villiers started life over 400 years ago and is now a hotel with 49 spacious bedrooms, each with their own unique flair. There are a variety of packages available and with luxurious linen and the softest pillows you are sure to be able to relax and unwind here.

Another option for accommodation in an historic setting is Hartwell House Hotel and Spa. The National Trust-owned, Grade 1 listed, Jacob and Georgian house is set in 90 acres of parkland and provides all that is best in country house hospitality and service. With spa options and an award-winning restaurant, you are sure to be well rested after a stay here and ready to explore again the next day.

Further south in the county is [Danesfield House Hotel and Spa](#). A former country house requisitioned in WW2 by the intelligence section of the RAF. It stands in 65 acres of grounds and has 55 beautiful bedrooms some with breath taking views over the River Thames.

If self-catering accommodation or a B&B is more to your taste – head over to our [accommodation page](#) for more options to suit a variety of budgets.

This is just a snippet of what can be found in Buckinghamshire. There is plenty more to discover in and around this beautiful county.

Head to our website at [Homepage - Visit Buckinghamshire](#) for more ideas and inspiration on what to see and do in Buckinghamshire and The Chilterns.