

Making the most of Cambridge

Arts and culture

University talks, exhibitions etc www.admin.cam.ac.uk/whatson/

Music

www.cambridgeconcerts.com/ Classical and jazz concerts by student and professional musicians in college chapels and city churches. There are lunchtime and evening concerts and many are free.

www.westroad.org/ West Road concert hall on the university Sidgwick site has a full programme of concerts.

From 26 October there are also free concerts on Tuesdays from 13.10-13.50 given by CUMS, the university music society – perfect timing after our NVS meeting!

www.staplefordgranary.org.uk/ Concerts and art exhibitions in a beautiful building in Stapleford, within easy cycling distance of Cambridge.

University museums

www.museums.cam.ac.uk/ has details of all 8 free museums.

www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/ The Fitzwilliam museum is the biggest and has exhibitions, talks and family activities at weekends and in school holidays (booking essential) The smaller museums are wonderful too and are all family-friendly.

Theatre

Arts Theatre www.cambridgeartstheatre.com (They offer a varied programme and also performances for families with children aged 3+ and a traditional pantomime “Aladdin”).

ADC Theatre www.adctheatre.com (Student productions, much cheaper seats).

Cinema

Arts Picturehouse www.picturehouses.com/cinema/arts-picturehouse-cambridge

Vue (in Grafton Centre) www.myvue.com/cinema/cambridge/whats-on

The Light (Clifton Way, near station) <https://cambridge.lightcinemas.co.uk/>

Cinemas also show children’s films on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Libraries

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries

Register for a library card and borrow books free. Public libraries offer fiction and non-fiction, books in different languages, travel guides, maps etc. For children there are rhyme time and storytelling activities and a great range of books to borrow.

Cambridge Central Library is in the Grand Arcade shopping mall and there are many small local libraries.

Local news and events

The Cambridge Independent, the local newspaper, has a good free website

www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/

Getting outdoors Go for a walk and enjoy the autumn colours!

Cambridge University Botanic Garden

www.botanic.cam.ac.uk You have free entry with a University card

College gardens Most are still closed to visitors, but we hope they will reopen soon.

You have free entry to all colleges with a University card

Walk along the river to Grantchester (about 45 minutes)

www.gps-routes.co.uk/routes/home.nsf/RoutesLinksWalks/cambridge-to-grantchester-walking-route

Gog Magog hills and Wandlebury Country Park

www.magogtrust.org.uk/home/

www.cambridgeppf.org/things-to-see-do-at-wandlebury

Great, easy walking for those who miss hills! Free entry. Wandlebury often organises family activities.

Cycle there, get the 13 bus or park your car (£3 a day)

Walking around the city

You might like one of these books: "Walking Cambridge" by Andrew Kershman

"111 Places in Cambridge that you shouldn't miss" by Ros Horton and Sally Simmons

Parks and children's playgrounds

www.cambridge.gov.uk/parks-and-playgrounds Find a park near your home

Art and architecture

King's College Chapel www.kings.cam.ac.uk/visit/your-visit

Book in advance. Free entry with a University card

Cambridge Central mosque (in Mill Road) <https://cambridgecentralmosque.org/tours>

Opened in 2019 and shortlisted for the 2021 RIBA Stirling Prize. Visit at any time or book a free tour (Saturday and Sunday mornings at 10.00 and 11.00) to find out more about the architecture and ecological features.

Kettle's Yard www.kettlesyard.co.uk/ An art collector's house with a collection of contemporary art and changing exhibitions. Free, but you must book in advance.

Heong Gallery www.dow.cam.ac.uk/cultural-life/heong-gallery Small, changing exhibitions of paintings and sculptures in Downing College.

New Hall Art Collection <https://art.newhall.cam.ac.uk/>

A permanent collection of contemporary works by women artists at Murray Edwards College (Huntingdon Road). Free, but you must book in advance.

People's Portraits Exhibition

www.girton.cam.ac.uk/about-girton/art-artefacts/peoples-portraits

The National Society of Portrait Painters' collection of paintings of ordinary people from all walks of life displayed at Girton College (Huntingdon Road). Free, but limited opening hours and you must book in advance.

Churchill College Sculpture Trail

www.chu.cam.ac.uk/media/uploads/files/CH_SculptureGuide_2015.pdf

Modern sculptures in the extensive grounds of Churchill College (Storey's Way, off Huntingdon Road).

Sculpture Trails around Cambridge www.cambridgesculpturetrails.co.uk/?page_id=103

Three sculpture trails around the city with details of all the works you see.

Getting around: Transport information

Cycling Maps of cycle routes in and around Cambridge:

<https://cambridge.cyclestreets.net/> or

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/cycling/cycle-routes-and-maps

Bus information and timetables www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/buses/bus-timetables/

Train information and timetables www.nationalrail.co.uk/

Trains to London: Use the National Rail Journey Planner (www.nationalrail.co.uk/) to check times and fares and buy tickets.

Trains are operated by 2 different companies: Great Northern trains go to King's Cross (more expensive but faster), Greater Anglia trains go to Liverpool Street (cheaper but slower).

From Monday-Friday it's always much cheaper to travel outside the rush hour. An off-peak day return to King's Cross (leave Cambridge after 9.00, return at any time the same day) costs £26.80, the same to Liverpool Street costs £19.50.

Railcards www.nationalrail.co.uk/times_fares/National-Railcards.aspx

If you are planning to travel a lot by train, consider buying a railcard. There are different ones based on age (16-25 or 26-30) or groups (Two together, Family and friends). They are valid for a year and give you 1/3 off most train tickets.

2for1: www.daysoutguide.co.uk/

If 2 people travel by train to London (or some other cities), they can both visit many of the top attractions for the normal price for one person eg the Shard, the London Eye, St Paul's Cathedral. You must book in advance and show your ticket and your train tickets when you arrive.

Long distance bus and coach travel www.nationalexpress.com/

Cheaper than trains but usually much slower.

Days out from Cambridge

Ely www.visitely.org.uk/ and www.elycathedral.org/

A lovely small town with a beautiful cathedral, just 15 minutes away by train

Anglesey Abbey www.nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey-gardens-and-lode-mill

Wimpole Hall www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wimpole-estate

If you are interested in English country houses and gardens, think about joining the National Trust. You can join for a month or a year and have free entry to hundreds of beautiful places all over England.

Zoos

www.lintonzoo.com/ Get the 13 bus from Cambridge to Linton (get off at Linton police station)

sheprethwildlifepark.co.uk/ By Shepreth station, just 12 minutes by train from Cambridge

Mountfitchet Castle

<https://mountfitchetcastle.com/>

Reconstruction of a medieval castle and village aimed at families with children aged 6-12.

By Stansted Mountfitchet station, 35 minutes by train from Cambridge

Enjoy your time in Cambridge!