

Visit historic, vibrant market towns in southern Oxfordshire

Southern Oxfordshire has always been at the heart of England's rich history. There are pre-historic Bronze and Iron Age settlements, historic buildings, gardens, landmarks and even a Time Team excavation site which can all be explored. Lovers of the countryside will find areas of natural beauty and abundant wildlife. If you fancy a stroll along the River Thames or a more vigorous hike, there are many routes in rolling chalk hills or natural woodlands.

And the independent shops with personal service make the towns a joy to visit. **Wallingford** lies just 13 miles from Oxford; **Henley** is a further 11 miles away and only 35 miles from central London.

With its vibrant community life, and intriguing history, the market town of Wallingford has much to offer visitors. The first settlers were drawn here by the River Thames - and the river is still one of Wallingford's great attractions.

There's plenty more to enjoy - Wallingford boasts an appealing town centre with a great selection of independent shops, and a range of restaurants, cafes and hostelrys.

There are fascinating corners of Wallingford to explore from Royal castle ruins offering reminders of the Queens and Kings who lived in Wallingford to antique shops and ornate parks, gardens and Saxon earthworks - all easily accessible from the town centre. The Market Place with 17th century Town Hall still hosts many markets including the Charter Market every Friday - a tradition since 1155.

Did you know that Midsomer Murders is filmed in the area and that Causton is the original fictional location of Wallingford? Or that Agatha Christie lived in Wallingford and wrote her characters and stories around local landmarks? Set within a backdrop of beautiful Oxfordshire countryside, Wallingford's hidden gems are ripe for discovery.

Henley on Thames enjoys an international reputation as home of the world's greatest rowing regatta and has the joie de vivre of summer, yet is wonderful to visit in all seasons.

A 12th century market town, Henley's historic heart sits a few strides from one of

the most beautiful stretches of the river Thames. With its view of the iconic 18th century bridge and St Mary's church, the main street has many Georgian facades and over 300 buildings designated with special architectural or historical interest.

Henley's riverside location lends itself to relaxation, long lunches and shopping where independent retailers offer a personal touch.

The award-winning River & Rowing Museum has galleries dedicated to Rowing, Rivers and the history of Henley. It is also home to the magical Wind in the Willows exhibition and Terrace cafe.

This is a town dedicated to enjoying the water. Watch others messing about on the river, or hire a boat and join in the fun - the summer straw boater and stripy blazer combo is optional.

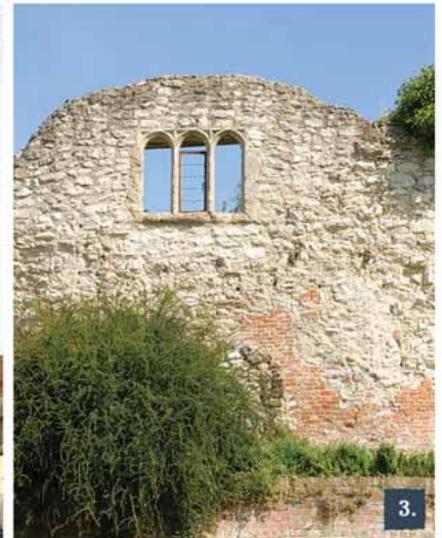
Numerous self-guided walks in and around both towns are available from both tourist offices ensuring visitors make the most of their trip.

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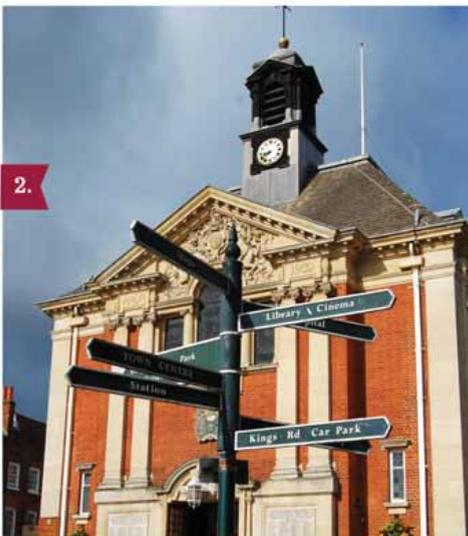
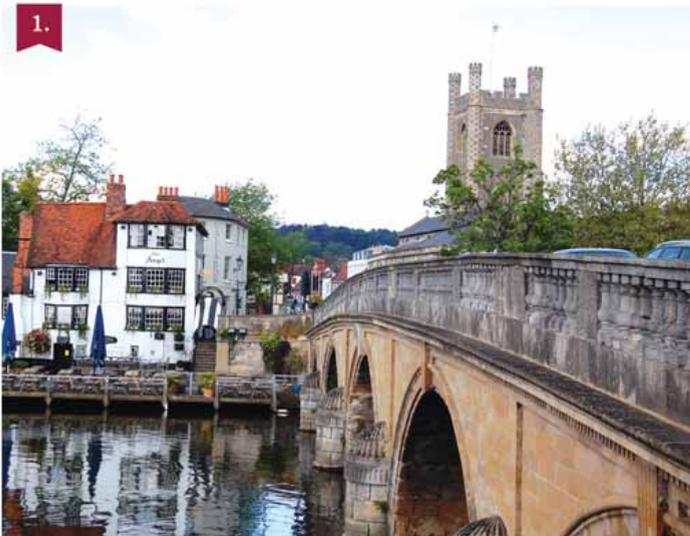
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WALLINGFORD

1. Thames at Wallingford
2. Wallingford Market Place and Church
3. Wallingford Castle Gardens

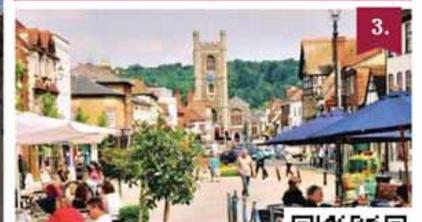


1.



HENLEY

1. Henley Bridge & Church
2. Henley Town Hall
3. Henley Market Place



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