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Must-See Sights

- FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM**
With a neoclassical façade to rival the British Museum, the 'Fitz' was one of the country's first public art museums. Today, it houses an impressive and extensive collection ranging from Egyptian mummies to iconic artworks by the likes of Picasso and Rembrandt.
- KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL**
The iconic profile of King's College Chapel – seen either from the idyllic Backs or the hustle and bustle of King's Parade – is arguably the most recognisable building in Cambridge. King Henry VI himself laid the first stone for the chapel in 1441.
- TRINITY COLLEGE**
Trinity houses the Wren Library and the descendant of the original apple tree that prompted the scientific breakthrough of alumnus Sir Isaac Newton. Above the impressive Tudor gateway, notice the statue of King Henry VIII whose golden sceptre was swapped with a table leg in a famous student prank. In 2023, the leg was replaced by a gilded sceptre to celebrate the birthday of another significant alumnus – King Charles III.
- MATHEMATICAL BRIDGE**
Designed in 1748 by William Etheridge and built in 1749 by James Essex the Younger, myth states it was originally constructed without nails. But this isn't true – nuts and bolts can be seen holding it together. It is best enjoyed from the river on a punt, which will take you along the famous Backs.
- THE CORPUS CLOCK**
Snap a selfie in front of this extraordinary timepiece, which was unveiled by Professor Stephen Hawking in 2008 and only recently reinstalled after a vandalism attempt. Found at Corpus Christi College, the clock shows a steampunk-style insect – called the Chronophage – eating time.

Calendar Highlights

- CAMBRIDGE LITERARY FESTIVAL, 17-21 APRIL**
This beloved festival brings together leading authors, journalists, politicians, poets and other public figures. Catch Paul Lynch, Sathnam Sanghera, Clare Balding and George the Poet, plus many more.
- CAMBRIDGE BEER FESTIVAL, 20-25 MAY**
This ever-popular ale-quaffing event celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Make your way to Jesus Green this May and stuff yourself silly with over 180 real ales, 80+ ciders and perries, international beer, mead, wine and cheese.
- CAMBRIDGE FRINGE FESTIVAL, 25-26 MAY**
A comedy spectacular where various acts come from across the country to perform their shows as a warm-up for Edinburgh Fringe – this year's event will be bigger than ever. Taking place in various venues, primarily the pubs around Mitcham's Corner, the Fringe showcases comedy in all its forms.
- STRAWBERRY FAIR, 1 JUNE**
From small beginnings, this community jamboree has grown to be one of the most popular free music and arts events in Europe. Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2024, it offers stalls, performances from local musicians, a kids' area and more.
- THE CAMBRIDGE CLUB FESTIVAL, 7-9 JUNE**
A journey of 'disco and discovery' over at Childerley Orchard, this fun-filled weekend features A-list headliners including Jessie Ware, Chaka Khan and Earth, Wind and Fire Experience.
- NEWMARKET NIGHTS, 21 JUNE-16 AUGUST**
Head to the July Course for a series of evening performances from Busted, Becky Hill, James Arthur and Pete Tong bringing you Ibiza Classics.

Food & Drink

SAUNTERING AROUND CENTRAL CAMBRIDGE, you'll be spoilt for choice with a host of cafes, restaurants and food stalls in Market Square. For a sightseeing snack on the go, stop by beloved local institution Aromi, serving authentic Sicilian pizza or focaccia best enjoyed while watching the world go by on King's Parade.

On nearby Trumpington Street, Fitzbillies is an iconic local establishment; no Cambridge visit would be complete without sampling one of its famous Chelsea buns. Elsewhere, cult favourite Jack's Gelato promises delicious refreshment – but be prepared to queue whatever the weather!

If the sun is on your side, there are a host of alfresco dining spots where you can soak up the rays or take in the views over a great meal. For rooftop scenery, try Six at the Varsity Hotel, while for riverside dining, Garden House at the Graduate Hotel is a firm favourite. Just a stone's throw away, try and nab a spot at the riverside terrace at The Anchor, or enjoy some classic pub grub while watching the punters pass by on the Mill Pond at Newnham Road's Granta.

If you prefer fine dining to pub fare, choose from reputed restaurants including Trinity, Mercado Central and Michelin-starred Midsummer House. Or check out Restaurant Twenty-Two, which is Cambridge-famous for its spellbinding tasting menus. If you're looking for vegetarian fare, Vandylyle on Mill Road is renowned for quality dining made with seasonal produce.

Just up the road, you'll also find Fancett's – a classic neighbourhood bistro serving indulgent, French-inspired food, wine and cocktails. An eatery that has become synonymous with vegan eating in Cambridge is Stem & Glory, which is conveniently located for anyone arriving or leaving Cambridge via train on Station Road. For a more casual affair, neighbourhood cafe Thrive on Norfolk Street is known for its mouth-watering plant-based offerings.

For fine local produce, travel to the city's rural outskirts to visit Burwash Larder – a farm shop and deli in the grounds of Burwash Manor that offers a wealth of artisanal delicacies and fresh goods.

Arts & Culture

CAMBRIDGE IS RENOWNED FOR its varied cultural landscape, with a broad selection of galleries, museums and a thriving theatre scene.

Aside from the iconic Fitzwilliam Museum, Kettle's Yard also holds permanent and temporary exhibitions. Explore the house of H S Jim Ede – former curator of London's Tate Gallery – and his wife Helen, for an art-viewing experience in a beautifully aesthetic setting. Similarly, the Heong Gallery at Downing College hosts thought-provoking exhibitions of modern and contemporary art and has showcased renowned artists such as Ai Weiwei and David Hockney.

For theatre enthusiasts, the ADC Theatre is the oldest university playhouse in the country and the stomping ground of the iconic Footlights – the former home of acting greats such as Stephen Fry and Olivia Colman.

Elsewhere, Cambridge Arts Theatre plays host to some of the most exciting shows touring regionally, while the Town and Gown fuses fringe theatre with gastropub fare. Be sure to check out one of the country's most popular arts venues, Cambridge Corn Exchange, or take a look at the Cambridge Junction, the welcoming home for arts and entertainment.

Get Out & About

THANKS TO ITS COMPACT SIZE and famously flat terrain, the city can easily be covered on foot. However, you would be remiss to visit its scintillating sights and not experience two quintessentially Cambridge modes of transport.

Punting is a tradition that began as a means of ferrying cargo along the city's narrow waterways. Today, it is the ultimate leisure activity, best enjoyed on a guided tour – or with a self-hire boat for the more adventurous! Having operated punts on the River Cam for the past 100 years, Scudamore's Punting Company is a firm favourite, offering a range of tours and experiences. Explore the historic colleges from the Backs or venture further afield to Grantchester.

Alternatively, unleash some pedal power by exploring the cycling capital of the UK. As Britain's premier bike city, you can hire a bicycle from several locations such as City Cycle Hire near Lammas Land, or take the strain out of the experience by hopping on one of the many e-bikes and e-scooters available through Voi.

Finally, put your sightseeing in the hands of an expert by joining a walking tour – choose between alumni-led college tours, creepy ghost walks and historic routes revealing the city's best-kept secrets.

Family Frolics

WONDERING WHERE TO TAKE the kids this spring in Cambridge? There are many parks and green spaces to explore, some of which – including Cherry Hinton Hall, Lammas Land and Jesus Green – have fantastic play areas. There's also the Cambridge University Botanic Garden, where you can enjoy kids' trails and explore more than 8,000 plant species. Make it your mission to follow this street art initiative running throughout the city centre: the Dinky Doors trail is a series of miniature sculptures of doors hidden from plain sight throughout Cambridge.

If the weather isn't playing ball, good indoor activities include Clip 'n Climb and Cambridge Science Centre for lots of interactive fun. The Leisure Park area also boasts bowling, an arcade, eateries and a cinema.

Nature-loving kids will definitely get a kick out of the Museum of Zoology in the city centre, which is free to look around and showcases the diversity of animal life, from marsupials to monkeys, mammoths to manatees. Also one for the animal fans is Shepreth Wildlife Park, around 25 minutes' drive from the city centre, and Home Farm at the nearby Wimpole Estate. The farm comes alive at this time of year thanks to its popular lambing event.

For adventurous little ones, try Southlake Aqua Park, a huge water park with all sorts of inflatables, slides and platforms, plus a cafe serving snacks.

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The map cover was designed by Holly May

Vietnamese street food

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adc theatre

The Normal Heart, February 2024 (Photo by Paul Ashley)

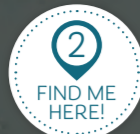
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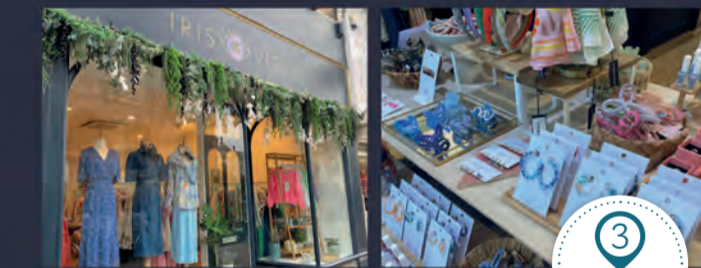
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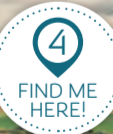


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