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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**
The largest college in Cambridge, Trinity houses the Wren Library as well as a descendant of the 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 sceptre was replaced by a table leg in a famous student prank. In 2023, the notorious leg was replaced by a gilded sceptre for 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. This isn't true: nuts and bolts can clearly be seen holding it together. It's 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 reinstalled in 2023 after a vandalism attempt. Located at Corpus Christi College, the clock shows a steampunk-style insect – called the Chronophage – eating time.

Calendar Highlights

- CAMBRIDGE OPEN STUDIOS, VARIOUS DATES**
Over the first four weekends of July, you can explore Cambridge's thriving artistic scene with this free city-wide initiative, now in its 50th year. Visit the studios of hundreds of artists and buy directly from the makers themselves.
- SOUNDS GREEN, 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 JULY**
On Wednesday evenings in July, enjoy a programme of open-air live music performed in the scenic grounds of the University Botanic Garden. Enjoy Indo-jazz with the Arun Ghosh quartet, or the uplifting Brazilian vibes of singer Cores Do Samba. Shows start at 6.15pm.
- CAMBRIDGE FOLK FESTIVAL, 25-28 JULY**
One of Europe's longest-running celebrations of folk music, this year's headlines include Robert Plant presents Saving Grace featuring Suzi Dian, songstress Katherine Priddy and Scottish band Capercaillie.
- MAGIC OF THAILAND FESTIVAL, 3-4 AUGUST**
This two-day celebration showcases the splendour of the country with a vibrant display on Parker's Piece. You will be transported by the wonders of Thai culture, from the world-class food to traditional Muay Thai boxing.
- NEWMARKET NIGHTS, VARIOUS DATES**
Don't miss some major names headlining the July Course, offering you the chance to enjoy great concerts in a unique setting. Act fast to snap up tickets for Busted (19 July), James Arthur (2 August), Becky Hill (9 August) and Deacon Blue (16 August).
- CAMBRIDGE COUNTRY SHOW, 10-11 AUGUST**
In the grounds of Stow Park, Stow cum Quy, enjoy a fun-filled weekend festival with horses, motorbikes, a stunt ring, dog and duck shows and a whole lot more!

Summer Dining

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 and watch the punters go by on the Mill Pond at The 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, Vanderlyle on Mill Road is renowned for quality dining made with seasonal produce. 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 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 sells a wealth of artisanal delicacies and fresh goods. Another out-of-town favourite is located around 20 minutes south of the city in Whittlesford. With flame-cooked feasts, an outdoor bar (in a vintage Airstream van) and a traditional stretch tent for shade while you dine, Provenance Kitchen has it all. The kids can let off steam in the meadow, while the grown-ups enjoy amazing food and a glass of something cold.

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Cambridge EDITION

FREE CITY MAP

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. Visitors should also 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, entertainment and creativity.

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 to explore the UK's cycling capital. As Britain's premier bike city, you can hire a bicycle from several locations such as City Cycle Hire near Lammas Land, or hop 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 Fun

WONDERING WHERE TO TAKE the kids this summer in Cambridge? There are many green spaces to explore, some of which – including Cherry Hinton Hall and Jesus Green – have fantastic play areas. At Lammas Land, you'll find a paddling pool abuzz with families all summer long. Also popular with locals is Jesus Green Lido – a large, open-air pool with a snack bar and plenty of sunbathing room. Further afield, the beautiful meadows en route to Grantchester are perfect for riverside exploration, or relaxing with tea and cake at the Orchard Tea Rooms.

Visit Cambridge University Botanic Garden to enjoy kids' trails and explore over 8,000 plant species. Also, make it your mission to follow the Dinky Doors trail in the city centre – a series of tiny hidden sculptures.

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

Nature-loving kids will get a kick out of the Museum of Zoology, which is free to visit and showcases the diversity of animal life. Shepreth Wildlife Park is also one for the animal fans, a 25-minute drive from the city centre, as well as Home Farm at the Wimpole Estate.

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adc theatre

The Producers, June 2024 (Photo by Paul Ashley)

Photography by Paul Ashley

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The map cover was designed by Holly May

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