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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 by undergraduate enrolment, 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 Tudor gateway, notice the statue of King Henry VIII whose sceptre was replaced by a table leg in a student prank. In 2023, the leg was replaced by a gilded sceptre for the birthday of another 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

- ALL THAT JAZZ, EVERY FRIDAY**
Sip on signature cocktails at Parker's Tavern in the University Arms to the sound of cool swing tunes by the Sam Miles Trio and the Andy Bowie Quartet, every Friday from 7.30pm to 10pm.
- CAMBRIDGE OKTOBERFEST, 27-28 SEPTEMBER**
Now in its eighth year, this annual beer festival on Jesus Green is a fun celebration of Bavarian brewing, live oompah music and food served by waiters in lederhosen and waitresses in dirndls.
- LIFE AT FITZBILLIES, ENDS 7 OCTOBER**
This informal exhibition of oil paintings reveals the inimitable character of Fitzbillies, its patrons, staff and bakers. Artist Naomi Tomkys has been painting the characters at this busy city venue for the last eight months, capturing a delicious slice of daily life.
- CAMBRIDGE FILM FESTIVAL, 24-31 OCTOBER**
Don't miss the wide-ranging programme of more than 100 films in this exciting eight-day line-up at the Arts Picturehouse. Choose from UK premieres of brand-new features, movie classics, documentaries, European titles, family favourites and international film festival victors such as the Palme d'Or-winning Anora and Jesse Eisenberg's comedy-drama A Real Pain, which has been wowing audiences and critics at the Sundance Film Festival. Around half of the films are directed by women, highlighted across the festival with an F rating.
- FIREWORKS NIGHT, 5 NOVEMBER**
The city's annual fireworks extravaganza takes place on Midsummer Common from 7pm. This free event, sponsored by Illumina, attracts tens of thousands of people every year and is designed by Pains Fireworks, the oldest fireworks display company in the UK.

Delicious Dining

THE FOODIE SCENE IN CAMBRIDGE is always abuzz with stylish new eateries opening every few months or so. Centring on the city's bustling market square, there's an unofficial restaurant quarter dotted with lively cafes, restaurants and food stalls where you can grab a snack to go or settle in for a more relaxed and leisurely dining experience.

On Trumpington Street, Fitzbillies is an iconic local establishment; no Cambridge visit would be complete without sampling one of its famous Chelsea buns. If the autumn sunshine is on your side, try a delicious ice cream from Jack's Gelato or head to one of the city's alfresco dining spots. For drinks with a rooftop view, Six at the Varsity Hotel is open until the start of November. Alternatively, try the rooftop terrace at Turing Locke Hotel, Eddington. Garden House on the banks of the Cam is a favourite for riverside dining, or watch the punters go by at The Granta on the Mill Pond.

Pint Shop on Peas Hill is a popular spot offering a wide selection of craft beers, snacks and gastropub dining, while The Maypole on Portugal Place is a friendly, family-run pub with an inviting local feel.

Food with an exciting ethnic twist can be found all over the city and surrounding villages – from the Spanish tapas and paella at La Raza in Rose Crescent to the Nepalese fare at The Old Crown in Girton. Kibou on Jesus Lane offers a diverse Japanese menu, from sharing platters of sushi and sashimi to steaming bowls of ramen and crispy tempura.

For fine dining, the city has two Michelin star restaurants: Midsummer House and Restaurant Twenty-Two, which is Cambridge-famous for its spellbinding tasting menus. Pescatarian Fin Boys is another destination restaurant, as is the vegetable-focused Vandylerly – both are found on Mill Road and renowned for using quality seasonal produce. Stem & Glory on Station Road is a sustainable, vegan option.

With its flame-cooked feasts and Kitchen Disco event this September, Provenance Kitchen is an out-of-town favourite about 20 minutes south of the city. The Three Horseshoes at Madingley and The Plough Cotton are options just a short taxi ride west. To the north, you'll find The Crown & Punchbowl at Horningsea, with its menu of French wines and variety of gluten and dairy-free options.

CAMBRIDGE EDITION

CAMBSSESSION.CO.UK

FREE CITY MAP

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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 fringes 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, a welcoming home for arts, entertainment and creativity.

Getting Around

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 autumn in Cambridge? There are many green spaces to explore, some of which – including Cherry Hinton Hall and Jesus Green – have fantastic play areas. For Halloween fun, there are ghost tours that explore the history of the city run by Terrible Tours – plus pumpkin picking at Pumpkin Jim's in Ickleton, with sandpits, pedal tractors and straw bale pyramids.

Visit Cambridge University Botanic Garden to enjoy kids' trails and explore more than 8,000 plant species; throughout October there's an Autumn Art Adventure to prompt creative young minds to observe, imagine, scribble and draw. Further afield, the beautiful meadows at Grantchester are perfect for riverside exploration or relaxing with tea and cake at The Orchard Tea Garden.

Also, make it your mission to follow the Dinky Doors trail in the city centre – there's a series of tiny hidden sculptures to find.

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

adc theatre

Oedipus Tyrannus, May 2024 (Photo by Paul Ashby)

Photography by Paul Ashby

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