



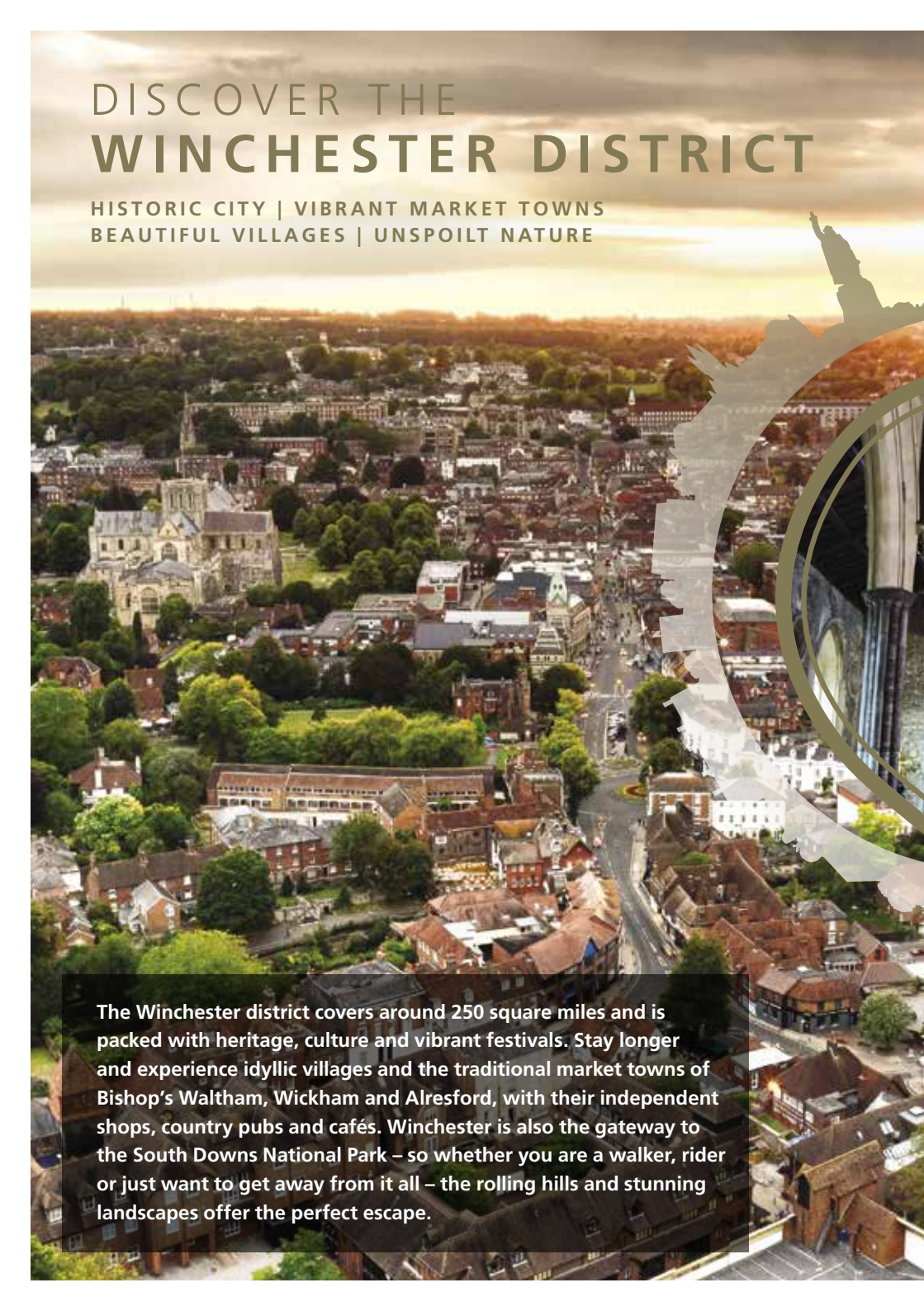
Destination guide **WINCHESTER**

Vibrant. Ancient. Cultured.

visitwinchester.co.uk

DISCOVER THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT

HISTORIC CITY | VIBRANT MARKET TOWNS
BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES | UNSPOILT NATURE

An aerial photograph of the Winchester district in Hampshire, England, taken during the golden hour of sunset. The image shows a dense urban landscape with a mix of historic stone buildings, including a large cathedral with a prominent spire, and more modern residential and commercial structures. The streets are lined with trees, and the overall atmosphere is warm and scenic. A circular inset on the right side of the image provides a closer look at a building's facade, showing architectural details like a window and a door.

The Winchester district covers around 250 square miles and is packed with heritage, culture and vibrant festivals. Stay longer and experience idyllic villages and the traditional market towns of Bishop's Waltham, Wickham and Alresford, with their independent shops, country pubs and cafés. Winchester is also the gateway to the South Downs National Park – so whether you are a walker, rider or just want to get away from it all – the rolling hills and stunning landscapes offer the perfect escape.



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What's new in Winchester?



BRICKOSAURS!

Evolution, a world-first collection of toy brick dinosaurs, is coming to Marwell Zoo. Come face to face with over 20 species made using more than two million toy bricks from 1 April – 4 September 2022.

Step back in time!

Visit the home of **Jane Austen**, the enchanting cottage where she lived and wrote her beloved novels. Step back in time to 1816 and follow in Jane's footsteps. Discover treasures including Jane's jewellery and her tiny writing table. View the rare and precious Austen letters recently saved at auction and get inspired by the exciting programme of onsite and online events.



Gin o'clock!

2021 saw the opening of the new Turbine Bar and Cinema Room at the **Bombay Sapphire Distillery**. Every Discovery Experience or Gin Cocktail Masterclass now includes a trip to the Turbine Bar to choose a Bombay gin to make your own gin & tonic before heading to the cinema room where you'll be immersed in all things Bombay Sapphire in preparation for your tour of Laverstoke Mill.



20 YEARS OF SCIENCE WOW!

In 2022 Winchester Science Centre is celebrating 20 years of science wow factor. They'll be bringing back some of the most popular science shows and themes, all with a retro 2002 twist. Enjoy a spectacular Planetarium show or get hands-on with interactive exhibits.



The Arc

The Arc (formerly known as Winchester Discovery Centre) has undergone a major £715,000 refurbishment and reopened in February 2022 as a cultural hub for the city. It's a place to experience arts, reading and community under one roof, in the heart of Winchester. Enjoy everything from live music, comedy and family theatre, to classes for all ages and art exhibitions featuring nationally and internationally significant artists. The Arc has a lively, ever-changing programme of events and is also home to Hampshire's busiest library, Winchester Library.



RETURN OF THE STAYCATION!

It looks like the staycation is here to stay and the Winchester district can be enjoyed whatever the season. Throughout this guide you'll find itineraries for outdoor junkies, shopaholics, foodies, heritage-lovers and families right here in the Winchester district. Take a look at pages 38–45 to pick accommodation to suit your style and budget.

Find special offers for your staycation at visitwinchester.co.uk.



Jacob King/PA Wire/
PA Images

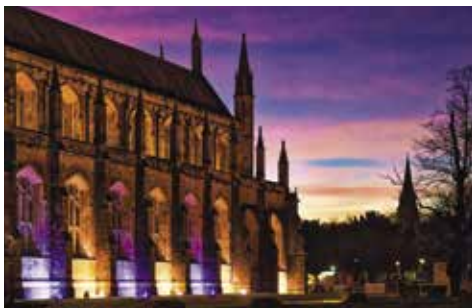
ROYAL HISTORY

The Queen is the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service. Winchester district is steeped in royal history and so has good reason to celebrate the Jubilee throughout 2022. Follow the district's royal connections as far back as the Early Middle Ages, when it was the capital of Wessex under Anglo-Saxon kings with our Royal Blood trail available to download from visitwinchester.co.uk.



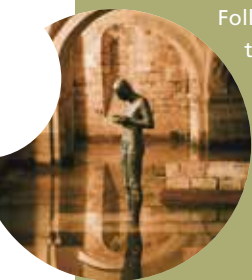
England's ancient capital

Winchester has a long and noble history. It became the ancient capital of the kingdom of Wessex when King Alfred the Great came to the throne in 871 at the tender age of 21. His statue has dominated The Broadway since 1901.



With awe-inspiring architecture and over 1000 years of history, no trip to the city would be complete without visiting **WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL**. When you visit, you'll discover one of the finest medieval cathedrals in Europe. Don't miss Kings and Scribes: The Birth of a Nation exhibition, which reveals some of the cathedral's greatest treasures.

Follow the steps down to the crypt for Anthony Gormley's Sound II, the same British sculptor that famously created the Angel of the North, Field for the British Isles and Quantum Cloud.



Top views!

- Take a walk up **ST GILES HILL** for a bird's eye view of the city. Trace the sweep of the medieval and Georgian buildings, laid out according to the original Saxon street plan.
- Climb spiralling steps up onto the cathedral roof to see the ringing chamber and the great cathedral bells. Walk the full length of the nave roof on an exhilarating tower tour of **WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL**.
- **WESTGATE MUSEUM** tells the story of Tudor and Stuart Winchester and offers unparalleled views of the city from its roof.

Hidden gems

Take a guided tour with one of Winchester's official tourist guides and find out more about the city's hidden gems. Look out for themed tours covering Hidden Winchester, Halloween and Civil War walks to name but a few.

Discover the nationally important story of England's ancient capital at **CITY MUSEUM** as well as the Winchester Model, a breath-taking scale model of the city in Victorian times.

Journey into Arthurian legend and see the legendary round table at the **GREAT HALL**, the last remaining part of Winchester Castle. Glimpse the secret underground passages created to surprise an enemy or return to the safety of the castle in times of battle and besiege.



Get a hands-on grip of history at the National Trust's **WINCHESTER CITY MILL**, the oldest working watermill in the UK. To this day you can still buy freshly milled flour and you might even spot an otter swimming along the River Itchen.



Explore **WINCHESTER COLLEGE**, which has the longest continuous history of any English school. It was founded by William of Wykeham in

1382 and has educated politicians, writers, artists, sportsmen, scientists and leaders of industry, all of whom are proud to call themselves Wykehamists.





WOLVESEY CASTLE

was an important residence of the wealthy and powerful Bishops of Winchester since Anglo-Saxon times. The surviving ruins date largely from the 12th century work of Bishop Henry of Blois.

Look out for ...

- the dark and gloomy passageways outside the **Great Hall**, both of which are all that remain of Winchester Castle. The original castle was founded in 1067 by William the Conqueror. In 1222 Henry III began the construction of one of the earliest Gothic styled medieval halls.
- **St John's House** opposite the Victorian Guildhall in the historic Broadway is one of the oldest charitable foundations in the country. When you walk past take a look up at the windows on the top floor – this whole bricked up row is now just painted on.



Stroll along the River Itchen and nestling in the water meadows in the shadow of St Catherine's Hill lies the ancient **HOSPITAL OF ST CROSS**. Renowned for the tranquillity of its setting and the beauty of its architecture, the Hospital is one of England's oldest continuing almshouses and is famous for the ancient tradition of providing the Wayfarer's Dole – a horn of beer and a morsel of bread given to any visitor who requests it.



Get to know the city!

Follow our self-guided **CITY WALK** to take in the city's highlights. Download it from visitwinchester.co.uk



MILITARY MIGHT

Travel up to **PENINSULA BARRACKS** for a unique glimpse at fantastic collections of medals, paintings and military objects at Winchester's Military Quarter, home to six military museums. Or journey out of the city to Fort Nelson at Portsdown Hill, a Victorian fortress and home to the Royal Armouries' national collection of artillery and historic cannon.



LITERARY GREATS

JANE AUSTEN – celebrated as one of England's greatest novelists – was buried in the cathedral in 1817 at the age of 41. She spent the last few weeks of her life in Winchester at a residence in College Street. Jane Austen's novels have touched generations of people and have been turned into many films including *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma*, to name but a few.

JOHN KEATS penned his ode 'To Autumn' after seeking inspiration from his route along the water meadows. You can follow in his footsteps with the **KEATS** self-guided trail available to download at visitwinchester.co.uk



EXPLORE AT YOUR OWN PACE...

Grab your walking boots and take a tour through history with one of many self-guided tours available to view digitally at visitwinchester.co.uk or from Winchester Visitor Information Centre. Tours include a Royal Blood trail, Medieval Jewish trail and a Cricket trail.



Find out more about all these places to visit and more across the district at visitwinchester.co.uk