

About Chipping Norton

Chipping Norton, affectionately known as 'Chippy' by locals, is the highest town in Oxfordshire. Situated on the slopes of a hillside that was once the site of a Norman castle this lively little town has a vibrancy about it, but remains unpretentious and apt for the everyday lives of those who live and work here.



Events and festivals

Chipping Norton is host to many events throughout the year; 'Mop Fairs', cycling events, literary, music and art festivals are just the start!

ChipLitFest, Chipping Norton's literary festival, has earned a reputation as one of the friendliest and most innovative festivals since it began in 2012 and hosts a wide array of writers, poets and public figures, drawing large and lively audiences.

One of the oldest festivals of its kind, the Chipping Norton Music Festival is held during March each year and has been promoting music-making since 1904. Each September the 'Mop Fair' comes to Chipping Norton. Once the venue for hiring labour but now a traditional fun fair starting on Thursday afternoon and running through until Sunday.

Wool heritage

Chippy was a major wool-trading town in the 15th century; the great 'wool' church of St Mary's, built in perpendicular style, testifies to its prosperity.

Just outside the town, Bliss Mill, designed by George Woodhouse and built in 1872 by William Bliss, was once a woollen mill specialising in the manufacture of high quality tweed. Its impressive architecture has made it a landmark ever since. The mill closed in 1980 and was skilfully converted into private apartments.



Shopping & eating

Chipping Norton has an enviable range of shops and places to eat, along with farmers' markets and the Wednesday chartered market for you to visit. There are plenty of opportunities to find unique gifts, browse the high-end boutiques or relax in one of the independent coffee shops or restaurants. From discount stores, independent florists and renowned antique shops, there is something for everyone.



6 things to see & do in Chipping Norton

- 1 Chipping Norton Museum showcases the history of Chippy, exhibits include Prehistoric and Roman artefacts, Chippy at War and a valuable collection of more than two thousand postcards of local places and events.
- 2 The Theatre provides an eclectic programme of live theatre, music, cinema, dance and comedy, culminating in the famous annual pantomime.
- 3 With its fully-heated 25m pool, café and large, tree-lined lawn, The Lido is a popular outdoor swimming pool on the edge of the town. It's great for a summer dip and picnic on the grass, looking out over the Cotswold hills.
- 4 The Town Hall was built in 1842 as a demonstration of civic pride. It was designed by George Repton in classical style and had open arches which were later filled in with windows to provide a lower hall. This fine building is still the focus for the civic life of the community.
- 5 Founded in the 1100s, the Grade I listed St Mary's Church has one of the finest interiors among the great Cotswold churches. The slender supporting pillars and the clerestory windows form an almost continuous band of glass above the nave to give the church a feeling of great height and lightness. The church is also noted for its unusual hexagonal porch with vaulted ceiling.
- 6 With comfortable sofas, stylish décor and a laid-back vibe The Living Room Cinema, on the High Street, is the ideal place to watch films ranging from the latest blockbusters to the much-loved classics.



Green spaces

The Common (off the Worcester Road) joins Pool Meadow, a unique area of natural beauty and tranquillity which was once an artificial pond. From here you can walk a circuit and see Bliss Mill set against the surrounding countryside.

Self-guided walks: www.cotswoldsao.org.uk/self-guided-walks

Chipping Norton's play area on New Street has a great selection of play equipment - there is something for everyone! Situated in a large grassed area there is plenty of space for sports and picnics.

Walks around the town

Self-guided walking trails to explore Chippy and its surrounding area are available from www.cotswolds.com/chippywalks, whilst an insightful town trail can be downloaded from www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk.

Do you love a good mystery? For a fee, you can take part in a self-guided murder mystery tour of the town, visit www.treasuretrails.co.uk for more information.



Other areas to explore

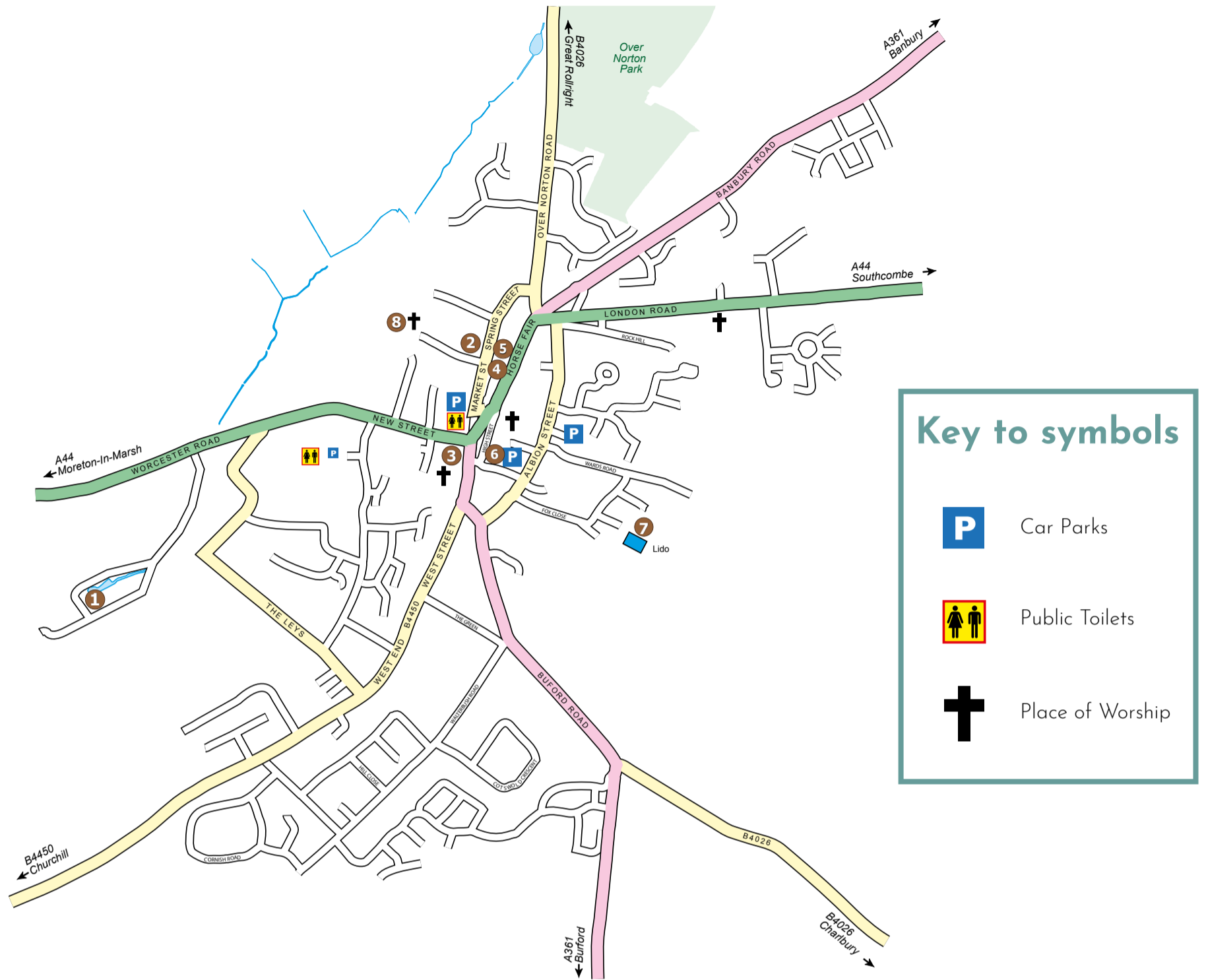


Chipping Norton makes an excellent base for exploring the Cotswolds. The famous Cotswold village, Bourton-on-the-Water with its many attractions such as Birdland, the Model Village, and the Cotswold Motor Museum is within easy reach. Moreton-in-Marsh lies to the north-west, and if you visit on a Tuesday you will find the largest retail market in the area. Stow-on-the-Wold, to the west, has an impressive market square and the oldest inn in England! The bustling market town of Witney lies to the south and is surrounded by towns and villages with their own fascinating histories: Woodstock, with the magnificent Blenheim Palace, Burford and Charlbury (great for walking).

Visit Chipping Norton



Visitor map of Chipping Norton



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Make sure you visit

Chipping Norton is in the north of West Oxfordshire surrounded by beautiful villages and places of historical interest. Just outside of the town you can find:

Chastleton House Largely unchanged for 400 years, the house is a fascinating time capsule to explore.

Cotswolds Distillery The first ever full-scale distillery in the beautiful Cotswolds, the distillery produces a range of truly Outstanding Natural Spirits - some of which are exclusive to their distillery shop.

Hook Norton Brewery Established in 1849 this independent family-owned brewery boasts a range of cask, keg and bottled ales. Visitor centre, tours, shire horses, steam engine, museum, café and coffee shop.

Churchill and Sarsden Heritage Centre The building may be only 15' x 30' but its ancient walls contain state-of-the-art technology, with touch screens telling the remarkable stories of two eminent sons of the village, Warren Hastings, first governor general of India, and William Smith, Father of English Geology.

Fairytale Farm Children will love Fairytale Farm. With an exciting adventure playground, an enchanted walk with a surprise around every corner and a chance to meet the amazing animals, there is so much to see & do.

The Rollright Stones A group of Prehistoric megalithic monuments built from large natural boulders found within about 500m of the site. The stones are naturally pitted, giving them extraordinary shapes.

Did you know?

The High Street is locally known as 'Top Side' due to its position overlooking the market place. You'll see that most of the shops here have Georgian-style fronts that were installed by their prosperous owners in the 18th century.

There used to be a castle in Chipping Norton. Only the earthworks remain of what was once a sizeable castle, erected by a supporter of William the Conqueror. Nearby is Pool Meadow, formerly an artificial pond for supplying the castle with fresh fish.

Points of interest

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Bliss Tweed Mill | 5 The Theatre |
| 2 The Almshouse | 6 The Museum |
| 3 The Town Hall | 7 The Lido |
| 4 The Guild Hall | 8 St Mary's Church |

For more information please visit:
www.cotswolds.com

