

Visit Woodstock



about Woodstock

Woodstock - 'the clearing in the woods' has a long and proud history and was the site of a major royal hunting lodge in the Wychwood Forest. By 1704 the estate, which was damaged during the civil war, was gifted to the Duke of Marlborough as a reward for his victory at the Battle of Blenheim and Blenheim Palace was built. In the 18th century, the town was altered with Georgian facades enhancing the buildings which accommodated vast numbers of visitors. The Market town of Woodstock was also a noted centre for its steel jewellery, bell casting and the manufacture of handmade deer hide gloves.



walks around the town

There are a variety of walks including the Woodstock Town Walk, a Children's History Trail and an Historic Wall Plaques trail highlighting the buildings that have a fascinating story to tell.

5 things to see & do

- 1 The Stocks in Park Street were designed for legs only, either one or two legs depending on the severity of the crime! These stocks are quite unusual as they have five holes instead of an even number.
- 2 The Triumphal Arch - The text is in Latin on one side and in English on the reverse.
- 3 The church clock is no ordinary clock but a musical clock or carillon: four times a day (at 9am, 1pm, 5pm and 9pm) it plays a tune - a different tune for each day of the week.
- 4 Look for the sundial on the side of the Town Hall with the Latin words 'Tempus Fugit' meaning 'Time Flies'.
- 5 The Pest House in Rectory Lane was the old isolation hospital for infectious diseases, particularly smallpox.

events & festivals

Woodstock has a vibrant calendar of annual events including its literary and poetry festivals, autumn fair, Night of 1,000 Candles and the quirky 'Old Woodstock Mock Mayor' - a centuries old fun-filled tradition of electing a new Mock Mayor who is then dunked in the river Glyme! The town also plays host to 'Woodstock Live' an eclectic mix of live music in the town centre each year. Blenheim Palace also hosts many stunning events from cars to antiques, concerts to horse trials.



historic and royal connections

Henry I had a seven mile wall built enclosing the royal park to protect his menagerie of animals including lions, camels and porcupines, effectively creating England's first zoo. His grandson Henry II also spent a good deal of time in the manor with his beloved mistress Rosamund Clifford, known as 'Fair Rosamund'.

Queen Elizabeth I was imprisoned in Woodstock Manor by her sister Mary Tudor and Sir Winston Churchill was born in 1874 at Blenheim Palace and is buried at nearby Bladon Churchyard.



green spaces

The recreation ground in New Road is the location of the football and youth club, there is also a fine bowls and tennis club in Cadogan Park with an adjacent children's play area. Take a stroll in the tranquil water meadows, a unique feature in the heart of the town or ramble through the community woodland and orchard created by Sustainable Woodstock to the north of the town and the captivating OWL nature reserve to the south.



shopping and eating



Woodstock is a fine Georgian town with an eclectic mix of art & antique shops and specialist independent businesses where you can find that truly unique gift. When you've finished shopping then pop into one of the excellent pubs, restaurants and coffee shops to taste locally sourced produce.

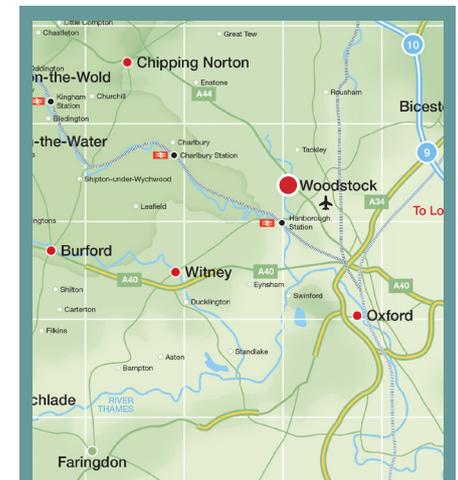
attractions

The Oxfordshire Museum contains wonderful exhibits which tell the story of Woodstock and Oxfordshire history whilst the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum offers insights into the county's military history- both of which are great for families.

Blenheim Palace is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is a wonderful example of baroque architecture enclosed by parkland of supreme beauty. Blenheim Palace was designed by Sir John Vanbrugh and the surrounding parkland was transformed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.

Other attractions nearby include the Oxford Bus Museum, Rousham Hall and Gardens, Combe Mill and North Leigh Roman Villa remains, all of which allow visitors to get a feel for the past.

other areas to explore



Woodstock is situated on the Eastern edge of the Cotswolds and close to historic towns and fascinating places to visit. Nearby is Combe Mill, once the saw mill of Blenheim Estate and just down the road is The Oxford Bus Museum in Long Hanborough. The wonderful William Kent designed gardens of Rousham House are just a few miles away and well worth a visit.

Market towns which are a short drive away include Witney- famous for its wool and blankets, Charlbury- a great base for walking, Chipping Norton and of course the 'dreaming spires' of Oxford are just down the road.

Villages to see include Bladon where Churchill is buried and Bampton which doubled as the fictional village of Downton in the hit drama series 'Downton Abbey'.

Visitor map of Woodstock



make sure you visit

St Mary Magdalene Church with its fine Norman doorway in the south side of the church.

The Water Meadow where you will find a valuable habitat for birds, small mammals, and plants from small aquatic species to mature trees and Dexter Cattle.

The lovely open air swimming pool during the summer months.

did you know

The variety of apple called the "Blenheim Orange" was raised in a garden in Old Woodstock; it was awarded a medal in 1822.

The ground floor of the Town Hall was originally an open market hall and in the Victorian era the town's fire engines were parked here until it was enclosed in 1898.

Local man Simon Hatley was a sailor who shot an albatross, whilst drunk on a ship, apparently inspiring Samuel Taylor Coleridge to write his poem The Rime of the Ancient Mariner.

visitor information

For full information please visit:
www.wufw.co.uk

textile treasures of Woodstock

The Stonesfield embroidery at The Oxfordshire Museum is a rare surviving example of an 18th century piece of needlework.

The wall hangings in the Town Hall are a set of embroidered textile pictures telling the town's history. Open by appointment Tel: 01993 811216 Email: info@woodstock-tc.gov.uk

The 200 beautiful kneelers in St Mary Magdalene Church are stitched to show various designs including religious symbolism and emblems of the armed forces.

Visit the tapestries in Blenheim Palace showing the 1st Duke's famous victories including the battle of Blenheim. (Entry costs to the Palace apply).

points of interest

- 1 Blenheim Palace
- 2 Woodstock Gate, The Triumphal Arch
- 3 The Oxfordshire Museum + The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum
- 4 St Mary Magdalene Church
- 5 Town Hall and Square
- 6 Woodstock Open Air Pool



Key to symbols

- Car Parks
- Public Toilets
- Shopping
- Major Buildings
- Place of Worship
- One Way Street
- Coach Parking
- Footpath