



# Explore Marlow

## Welcome to Marlow

Marlow is without doubt one of the loveliest locations on the River Thames. Situated on a broad sweep of the river between Henley and Windsor and within the Chiltern Hills which is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

It has a lively town centre made up of historic streets with small listed buildings and offers an array of shops, restaurants, wine bars and pubs which all add to Marlow's charm.

The town's main landmark is the graceful suspension bridge which spans the Thames joining Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. It was completed in 1832 to designs by William Tierney Clark who also designed the bridge across the Danube in Budapest. Marlow's earlier bridges all crossed the river from St Peter Street, one of the oldest and most picturesque parts of the town. The Thames made Marlow what it is today,

putting it on the map first as a river crossing and then as an inland port.

In the late 18th and 19th centuries Marlow became a fashionable riverside resort and a variety of famous people were attracted to live in the town. Past residents have included Thomas Love Peacock, Jerome K. Jerome, T.S. Eliot and the poet Shelley and his wife who completed her gothic masterpiece Frankenstein whilst living in Marlow.

The 18th century also saw the arrival of Dr Battie, a specialist in nervous diseases from whose name the term 'batty' is said to have sprung. He designed and built Court Garden House in Higginson Park, but absent-mindedly forgot to include a staircase!

*To find out more about Marlow's historical highlights visit Marlow Visitor Information Service to purchase a copy of the town walk.*



The 800/850 bus service travels between High Wycombe and Reading up to every 30 minutes, stopping at Marlow and Henley. High Wycombe bus station which is a 20 minute journey from Marlow is well served with regular bus links to surrounding towns and villages and National Express coach services to Oxford and Luton and Stansted airports.

Travelling from Marlow to London Paddington takes just over 1 hour.

Marlow station sits on the First Great Western branch line. Services run every hour between Marlow and Maidenhead before joining the London Paddington to Reading mainline.

Marlow is easily reached from London, Oxford and the Midlands via the M40 and from London Heathrow and the South West via the M4.

## Travel and Transport

### By Road

[www.gwr.com](http://www.gwr.com)

### By Bus

[www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport)

## Marlow Visitor Information Service

Whether you are visiting for the day, enjoying a short break, or already a resident looking for some inspiration then contact Marlow Visitor Information Service. The friendly team are on hand to help you explore Marlow and discover all it has to offer.

- Attractions and places to visit
- Local travel timetables
- Local event information and box office
- Accommodation enquiries
- Walking and cycling leaflets, books and maps
- Postcards, greeting cards
- Local gifts and souvenirs

Marlow Library, Institute Road

Marlow, Bucks, SL7 1BL

**Phone**  
+44(0)1296 382415

**Email**

[lib-mar@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:lib-mar@buckscc.gov.uk)

**Opening hours**

Tuesday 10am to 6pm  
Wednesday and Friday 10am to 5pm  
Thursday and Saturday 10am to 4pm  
Sunday and Monday CLOSED

**Visit**

[www.wycombe.gov.uk/tourism](http://www.wycombe.gov.uk/tourism)



## Events

### May

**Pub in the Park:** Tom Kerridge brings to Marlow his glorious food festival. You can expect a vast array of food and drink delights combined with great live music, chef demonstrations, top quality shopping and other festival fun.  
[www.pubintheparkuk.com](http://www.pubintheparkuk.com)

### June

**Marlow Regatta and Festival:** Marlow's premier sporting and social occasion features a traditional rowing regatta followed by festival day with dragon boat racing and heaps of family entertainment.  
[www.marlowtownregatta.org](http://www.marlowtownregatta.org)

**Rock Bottom:** An open air family concert featuring fantastic live music and lots of entertainment.  
[www.marlowrockbottom.com](http://www.marlowrockbottom.com)

### July

**Swan Upping:** This traditional 12th century swan census ceremony is led by the Queen's Swan Marker which sees the mute Swans on the River Thames caught, marked and then released. [www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk)

### September

**Marlow Carnival:** A popular annual carnival held at Higginson Park in support of Marlow Community Association charity. [www.marlowcarnival.co.uk](http://www.marlowcarnival.co.uk)

### November

**Marlow Half Marathon:** An established and popular event with a challenging course starting at Higginson Park. [www.marlowhalf.marlowstriders.co.uk](http://www.marlowhalf.marlowstriders.co.uk)

**Switch on and Shop:** The switch on of Marlow's beautiful Christmas lights and late night shopping in the town. [www.marlowtowncouncil.org.uk](http://www.marlowtowncouncil.org.uk)

### December

**Traditional Late Night Shopping:** The High Street is filled with an array of stalls, lots of festive entertainment and shops remain open late.  
[www.marlowchamber.com](http://www.marlowchamber.com)

**Santa Fun Run:** Watch or take part in this fundraising event which sees hundreds of Santas running and walking 5k. [www.santasfunrun.org](http://www.santasfunrun.org)

*For more details on events in and around Marlow visit or contact Marlow Visitor Information Service.*

## Nearby Towns and Villages

### High Wycombe

A thriving market town ideal for those who enjoy a bustling atmosphere and great retail experience. The Eden Centre includes an exciting mix of shops and restaurants plus a cinema and bowling alley. The town however still retains its historic and cultural charms and traditions.

### Princes Risborough

The historic market town of Princes Risborough to the north of High Wycombe lies at the centre of an extensive network of footpaths providing excellent access to explore the Chiltern Hills. The town centre is well served with a variety of cafes, pubs, restaurants and shops.

### The Hambleden Valley

The picturesque villages of The Hambleden Valley are located in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty situated just 6 miles from Marlow. The stunning villages are home to historic churches, cosy pubs, a winery and brewery, quirky places to stay and are the ideal location for walks and rides in the Chilterns. It's no wonder they are have been filmed on numerous occasions for shows including Midsomer Murders and the Vicar of Dibley.



## Why not stay a while?

Marlow and the surrounding area is an ideal year-round visitor destination. If it's an active break exploring the outdoors, a tranquil and relaxing time away, or a place to stay whilst visiting friends or family there is accommodation here to suit all tastes and budgets. Choose from hotels or bed and breakfasts, guest houses, self-catering or camp sites.

## Want to Explore More?

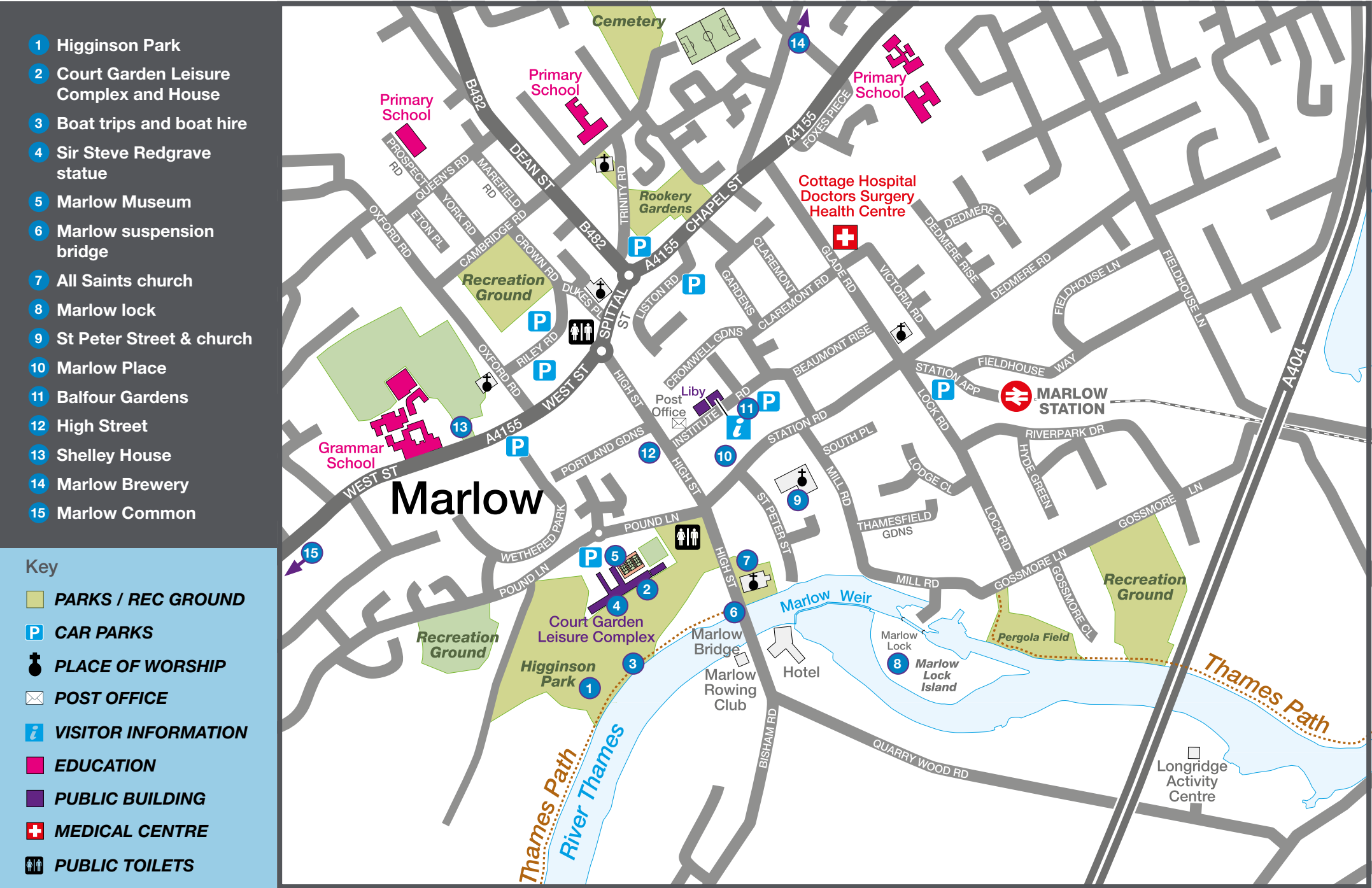
If you'd like to discover more about our diverse district there are guides available to help you plan and make the most of your time here.

Visit [www.wycombe.gov.uk/tourism](http://www.wycombe.gov.uk/tourism) to download a copy of the Wycombe District Accommodation Guide and the mini guides for High Wycombe and Princes Risborough or contact the visitor information service for your copies.





Exploring the Town



Points of Interest

- 1

Higginson Park – 23 acres of lawns and stunning flowerbeds set beside the River Thames featuring a large play area, skate park and café.
- 2

Court Garden Leisure Complex and House – facilities include swimming pool, gym, sports hall, squash court, outdoor tennis courts, cafe and wedding and conference rooms in Court Garden House.
- 3

Boat trips and boat hire – in season rowing and motor boats are available for hire and Salter’s Steamers operate passenger cruises to Henley, Windsor and Temple Lock.
- 4

Sir Steve Redgrave statue – A statue of Marlow’s five time Olympic rowing hero unveiled by Her Majesty the Queen in 2002.
- 5

Marlow Museum - a small local history museum open all year. Summer: Saturday and Sunday 1-5pm, Wednesday 2 – 5pm. Winter: Sunday 2-4pm. Bank holidays: 1-5pm.
- 6

Marlow suspension bridge – completed in 1832 to designs by William Tierney Clarke who also designed the bridge across the Danube in Budapest.
- 7

All Saints church – erected in 1835 on the site of an 11th century church with a spire that soars 170 foot above the town.
- 8

Marlow lock – provides a stunning view point over the town and river, it is busy in season with passing pleasure boats.
- 9

St Peter Street – Home to a number of historical buildings including The Old Parsonage and St Peters Church which is said to house the mummified hand of St James the Apostle.
- 10

Marlow Place – the finest Georgian house in Marlow built for the Earl of Portsmouth circa 1720 and now a grade 1 listed building.
- 11

Balfour Gardens – situated on Institute Road, a tranquil ornamental walled garden which houses the Akeler Sundial by acclaimed sculptor Edwin Russell.
- 12

Shopping and dining – the town centre has an array of shops including popular designer brand stores, boutiques and other independent retailers. There are an excellent choice of dining venues including a Michelin star restaurant, gastropubs, traditional English pubs and a host of other cuisines.
- 13

Shelley House – a plaque on number 104 West Street marks the home of poet Percy Bysshe Shelley and his wife Mary Shelley who wrote Frankenstein whilst living there.
- 14

Rebellion Brewery – Marlow’s brewing tradition dates back centuries and this popular brewery and shop is open year round for tours and tasting.
- 15

Marlow Common – great fun to explore and discover the First World War training trenches.

Leisure Time

You will find it really easy to fill your leisure time in Marlow.

Shopping

Marlow has an array of shops including popular designer brand stores as well as boutiques and independent retailers. Within the charming shopping areas of Liston Court and Anglers Court you will find gift shops, jewellers, interior design shops and a florist. Marlow Market is held on the first Saturday of every month on the Causeway bringing you the finest artisan food and local produce. You can also head to nearby High Wycombe for the Eden Shopping Centre with its great range of national brand stores.

Food and Drink

Marlow boasts an excellent choice of dining venues both in and around the town centre including two Michelin star restaurants, gastropubs, traditional English Pubs and a whole host of international cuisine. The town has a vibrant centre with an array of independent cafes and coffee shops and a choice of pubs and wine bars to suit all tastes. Marlow is home to Rebellion Beer microbrewery producing a range of quality fresh and bottled beers as well as Harrow and Hope, award-winning producer of English sparkling wines. Visit the well-stocked shop at Rebellion or enjoy tours and tastings at both venues.

Sport

Located in Marlow overlooking Higginson Park you will find **Court Garden Leisure Complex**. Facilities include a 15m swimming pool, 70 station gym, sports hall, squash courts and outdoor tennis courts. Even more activities are on offer at **Wycombe Leisure Centre** including a 150 station gym, climbing wall, dance and spin studios and a steam room and sauna. [www.placesforpeopleleisure.org](http://www.placesforpeopleleisure.org).

**Harleyford Golf Course** is nestled beside the River Thames just outside Marlow and as one of the top ten golf courses in Buckinghamshire is delighted to welcome visitors to play the course. [www.harleyfordgolf.co.uk](http://www.harleyfordgolf.co.uk)

River walks

Strolling by the river is one of Marlow’s greatest pleasures. You can follow its banks in either direction for easy, level walks with some wonderful scenery.

Upstream

**Temple Lock** (3 miles return) with a lovely view of Bisham Church on the opposite bank.

**Hurley** (4.5 miles return) a small village home to one of the oldest inns in the world ‘The Olde Bell’ and the perfect spot for riverside picnics.

**Hambleton** (11.5 miles return) with the picturesque lock, a series of weirs and Hambleton Mill you can cross the river here to catch a bus back to Marlow.

**Henley** (16 miles return) a delightful town famous for its Royal Regatta. You can catch a bus back to Marlow from Henley.

Downstream

**Bourne End** (6 miles return) pass the wooded slopes of Winter Hill rising on the opposite bank as you leave the town and follow the path through meadows to Bourne End.

**Cookham** (8 miles return) from Bourne End cross the river at the railway bridge and continue for a further mile onto Cookham which is home to the Stanley Spencer Gallery.

**Maidenhead** (15 miles return) a bustling town with its 18th-century road bridge and Brunel’s famous ‘Sounding Arch’.

**Windsor** (29 miles return) beyond Maidenhead the river becomes busier and in places there are views of grand homes finishing with the grandest of them all, Windsor Castle, towering above the water.

For more information on walking and cycling in Marlow and the surrounding area visit Marlow Visitor Information Service where you will find a variety of leaflets, maps and books.

Visitor Attractions

There’s lots of great attractions and places to visit right on the doorstep:

**Chiltern Valley Winery and Brewery** - Set in an area of outstanding natural beauty, Old Luxters is home to ‘Chiltern Valley Wines’, its Vineyard, Winery, Old Luxters Brewery, Liquer making facilities and cellar shop. Visit the shop which is open daily to taste and make purchases from an extensive range of wines, ales and liquers or why not join a tour and tasting. The 2 hour behind the scenes tour and tasting experience explores the Winery, Brewery and Liquer production facilities and is completed with a tutored tasting. [www.chilternvalley.co.uk](http://www.chilternvalley.co.uk)

**Cliveden** – Set high above the River Thames with far reaching views, Cliveden’s impressive gardens and majestic woodlands capture the grandeur of a bygone age. Challenge yourself to find the centre of Cliveden’s maze, relax on a skippered boat trip or row yourself along the Thames, let children’s imagination’s run wild in the Story Book Play Den or take a break at the Conservatory Café. The house is now a luxury hotel but you can take a peek inside by joining a short guided tour on selected days. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cliveden](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cliveden)

**Odds Farm Park** – Meet plenty of furry friends in the large undercover animal barns and outside in the paddocks. Hand feed the goats and sheep, meet the farmers or explore on a tractor and trailer ride. With a large undercover play barn, outdoor adventure playground and a 500 metre square water play area there is something to entertain you whatever the weather. [www.oddsfarm.co.uk](http://www.oddsfarm.co.uk)

**Salter’s Steamers** – Enjoy a boat trip from Marlow along the River Thames with Salters Steamers and soak up the atmosphere and beautiful scenery. Boats depart from the landing stage at Higginson Park and cruise to both Windsor and Henley. Or you can hop on board for a short forty minute round trip to Temple Lock and back. Find all the details at: [www.salterssteamers.co.uk](http://www.salterssteamers.co.uk)

