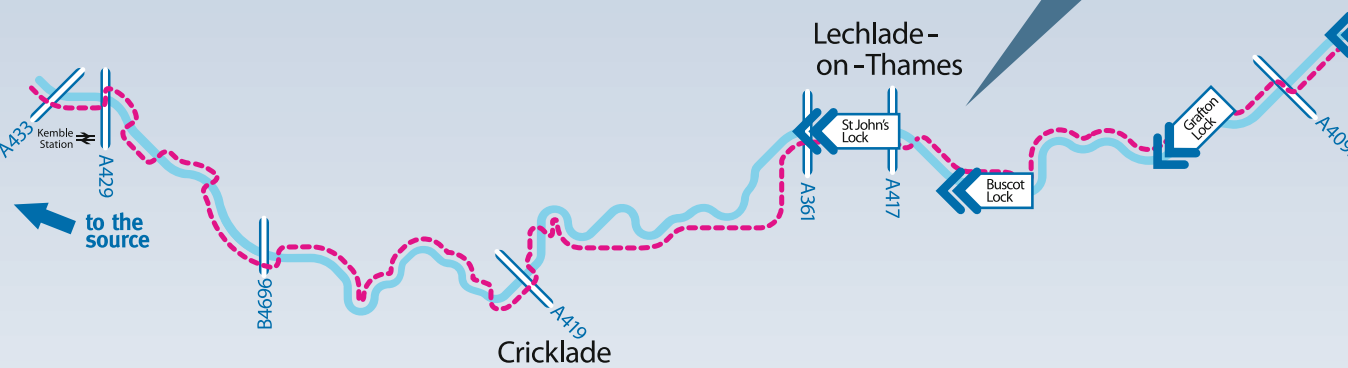


Discover your River Thames

From its source in the Cotswolds, through the heart of some of England's most beautiful and relaxing towns, right into the centre of London, the River Thames has something for everyone. Whether you're hoping to discover more about Britain's history and wildlife, or simply after a great place for boating, walking or cycling, you'll certainly find what you're looking for on the River Thames. Pubs by the River Thames, historic university towns, canoeing adventures, epic castles... the only problem is knowing where to start...



Lechlade-on-Thames
A small market town, and once a hub of the area's wool trade, Lechlade was also a popular destination for Victorians to go fishing and boating. It now has a variety of local shops and attractions, and even an annual flag festival, while also lying within easy reach of other great destinations, such as Oxford, Bath, Cheltenham and Cirencester. Lechlade's 15th century Church of St. Lawrence is particularly picturesque.
www.visitthames.co.uk/lechlade



Family fun

The River Thames has so much variety, it's hardly surprising it's such a great place to take the family. Beale Park, with its exotic animals, deer park, miniature steam railway and great value family tickets, is an excellent starting point, and you can even get a boat there from Reading. If getting on the water's what you're after, head to Longridge activity centre. From kayaking to giant water orbs, bell-boating to tailored birthday parties, the whole family can enjoy action-packed fun.



The National Trust
Why not visit one of our stunning houses and gardens positioned along the River Thames? The paldian splendour of Basildon Park, the grade one listed gardens of Cliveden or the 400 year old treasure of Ham House.
Tel: 01494 755500
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Kids with a wild imagination will love watching the 'Wind in the Willows' characters come to life at the River and Rowing Museum in Henley. And you can't go wrong at Runnymede Pleasure Grounds – with its park, paddle steamer pool, play area and café. Why not jump on board a passenger boat and take a trip down the River Thames to explore its beauty. And if you're keen to keep the family on their feet, don't forget the Thames Path has lots of walks suitable for all ages.
www.nationaltrail.co.uk/thamespath



The Passenger Boat Association
Relax and enjoy the historic River Thames on board one of the vast variety of vessels that make up the Passenger Boat Association.
Tel: 01252 560027
Email: enquiries@passengerboats.co.uk
www.passengerboats.co.uk



BMF Thames Valley
BMF Thames Valley represents over 200 marine companies, many based on the River Thames. The businesses provide the boats, equipment, moorings and facilities to enable you to enjoy boating on the River Thames.
Tel: 01784 223634
Email: thamesvalley@britishmarine.co.uk
To find a company go to www.visitthames.co.uk/boating

Discover more at:
www.visitthames.co.uk

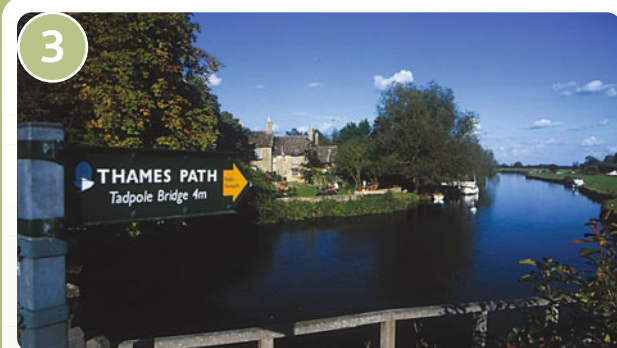
The Thames Path
The Thames Path, one of only 13 National Trails in England, follows the River Thames for 184 miles (294 km) from its source in the Cotswolds through some of Britain's finest countryside to the Thames Barrier in London.
www.nationaltrail.co.uk/thamespath



Pick some locks
Each lock along the River Thames has its own story to tell, and there are 45 in total! Whichever you visit, you can relax and watch the boats go by, and perhaps even chat to the lockkeepers about the river's secret history.
www.visitthames.co.uk/locks



Spot wildlife
The River Thames has an abundance of wildlife all year round. From voles, kingfishers, red kites and swans to the rare otter, there's a world of nature to be discovered. Don't forget to take your camera!



Get active
If getting active is your way of relaxing, you can explore the entire river by walking the length of the Thames Path National Trail. If you are looking for a faster pace there are some areas of the River Thames that you can cycle, including particularly beautiful stretches between Reading and Sonning, through Oxford and Hampton Court to Kingston. Cycling is also a great way to discover the Jubilee River, a manmade flood channel, buzzing with wildlife that runs between Maidenhead and Windsor.
www.visitthames.co.uk/walking
www.visitthames.co.uk/cycling
www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ThamesPath

5 free things to do



Make a date
The River Thames is there to enjoy any day of the year but don't forget to look out for special events too. Sporting spectacles include the Henley Royal Regatta and the Royal Windsor Triathlon, while Reading's Children's Festival and Henley's Food Festival are also worth putting in your diary.
www.visitthames.co.uk/events



Catch a whopper
Don't just walk beside the river – get stuck in! With around 30 species of fish, the River Thames has some of the best coarse fishing in the country. Buy a rod licence (available from the post office or online at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/rodlicence) and find out about day tickets, free fishing sites and special permits for lock and weir fishing at www.visitthames.co.uk/fishing before you set off.



Oxford
You might think Oxford needs no introduction – its beautiful university and rich cultural history are famous the world over. But the city is a vibrant and ever-changing place. Oxford Castle has recently been developed into a buzzing urban public space, while the city's old prison has now become a hip hotel! And as the birthplace of Lewis Carroll's famous Alice in Wonderland and Looking Glass stories, it's a magical experience for kids as well.
www.visitthames.co.uk/oxford



Wallingford
If Wallingford looks familiar, it might be because it featured regularly in the popular TV drama 'Midsomer Murders'! Once a heavily fortified Saxon town, then the royal residence of William the Conqueror and later ransacked by Oliver Cromwell, Wallingford has an incredible history – and you can find out all about it in the recently refurbished museum. There are bustling boutique shops and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty too – all just a stone's throw from the M4 and M40.
www.visitthames.co.uk/wallingford



The Swan at Streatley
An intimate 4 star property located on the banks of the River Thames in the picturesque village of Streatley. The Hotel offers individually styled bedrooms and suites; an award winning restaurant; a relaxed riverside bar and terrace and a luxurious Spa.
Streatley on Thames, Berkshire, RG8 9HR.
Tel: 01491 878800
Email: sales@swan-at-streatley.co.uk
www.swanatstreatley.co.uk



Reading
Reading may be a bustling commercial and shopping centre, but as the county town of Royal Berkshire, it's also got some great history up its sleeve. Alongside Reading's famous redbrick Victorian buildings are striking medieval churches and fascinating Abbey ruins. The town is also a hub of musical activity, and boasts the legendary Reading rock festival every summer.
www.visitthames.co.uk/reading

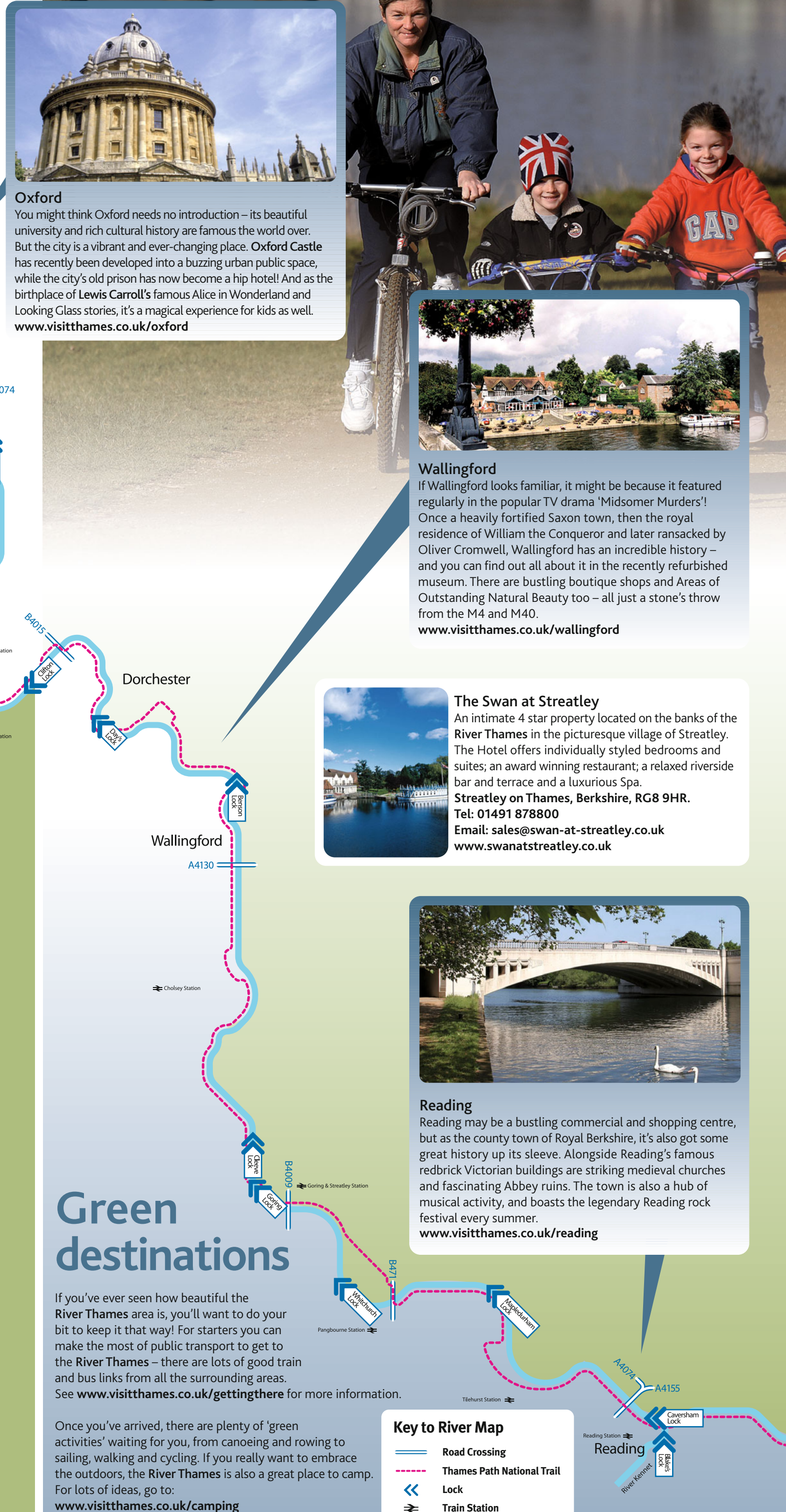
Green destinations

If you've ever seen how beautiful the River Thames area is, you'll want to do your bit to keep it that way! For starters you can make the most of public transport to get to the River Thames – there are lots of good train and bus links from all the surrounding areas. See www.visitthames.co.uk/gettingthere for more information.

Once you've arrived, there are plenty of 'green activities' waiting for you, from canoeing and rowing to sailing, walking and cycling. If you really want to embrace the outdoors, the River Thames is also a great place to camp. For lots of ideas, go to: www.visitthames.co.uk/camping

Key to River Map

- Road Crossing
- Thames Path National Trail
- Lock
- Train Station





Just the two of you

Looking for a romantic getaway? Or perhaps just a breath of fresh air and an escape from city life? Either way, the River Thames is just the place to unwind. The riverbank itself is perfect for leisurely evening strolls, and the area has a great variety of towns and villages where you'll find more than enough to keep you both entertained.

Marlow

Flanked by the beautiful Chiltern Hills, Marlow is famous for its elegant 19th century suspension bridge over the River Thames, designed by William Tierney Clarke.

In St Peter's Street you'll find more architectural interest with many original old houses and cottages dating back to the 14th century. Marlow's attractive High Street is lined with prosperous shops, restaurants and pubs to suit every taste. Sitting on the riverbank is The Compleat Angler Hotel, named after Isaak Walton's famous book of fishing. www.visitthames.co.uk/marlow

London

For information on things to do further down the River Thames, see www.visitlondon.com

For further inspiration, why not take a look at www.visitthames.co.uk/timetogether




Boulters Restaurant & Bar
Offering a choice of modern British cuisine and rustic pub food, Boulters Restaurant & Bar is located on an island in the midst of outstanding natural beauty. Perfect for lazy lunches or romantic dinners, experience superb food and service with glorious views.
Boulters Island, Maidenhead, SL6 8PE
Tel: 01628 621291
www.boultersrestaurant.co.uk

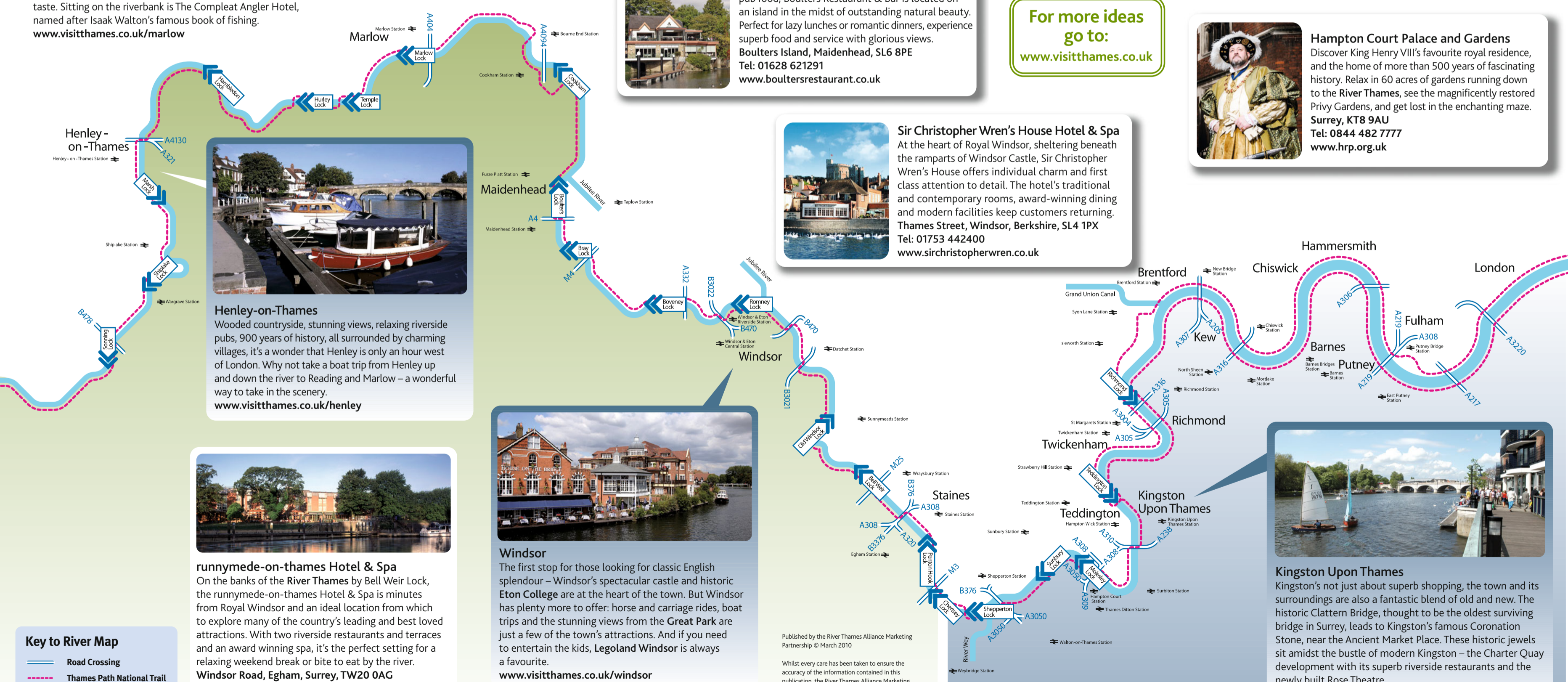
For more ideas go to:
www.visitthames.co.uk



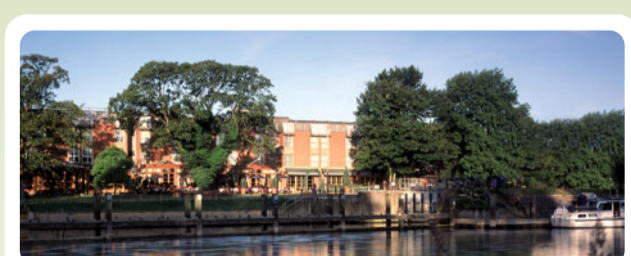
Sir Christopher Wren's House Hotel & Spa
At the heart of Royal Windsor, sheltering beneath the ramparts of Windsor Castle, Sir Christopher Wren's House offers individual charm and first class attention to detail. The hotel's traditional and contemporary rooms, award-winning dining and modern facilities keep customers returning.
Thames Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1PX
Tel: 01753 442400
www.sirchristopherwren.co.uk



Hampton Court Palace and Gardens
Discover King Henry VIII's favourite royal residence, and the home of more than 500 years of fascinating history. Relax in 60 acres of gardens running down to the River Thames, see the magnificently restored Privy Gardens, and get lost in the enchanting maze.
Surrey, KT8 9AU
Tel: 0844 482 7777
www.hrp.org.uk



Henley-on-Thames
Wooded countryside, stunning views, relaxing riverside pubs, 900 years of history, all surrounded by charming villages, it's a wonder that Henley is only an hour west of London. Why not take a boat trip from Henley up and down the river to Reading and Marlow – a wonderful way to take in the scenery.
www.visitthames.co.uk/henley



runnymede-on-thames Hotel & Spa
On the banks of the River Thames by Bell Weir Lock, the runnymede-on-thames Hotel & Spa is minutes from Royal Windsor and an ideal location from which to explore many of the country's leading and best loved attractions. With two riverside restaurants and terraces and an award winning spa, it's the perfect setting for a relaxing weekend break or bite to eat by the river.
Windsor Road, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0AG
Tel: 01784 436171
Email: info@runnymedehotel.com
www.runnymedehotel.com



Windsor
The first stop for those looking for classic English splendour – Windsor's spectacular castle and historic Eton College are at the heart of the town. But Windsor has plenty more to offer: horse and carriage rides, boat trips and the stunning views from the Great Park are just a few of the town's attractions. And if you need to entertain the kids, Legoland Windsor is always a favourite.
www.visitthames.co.uk/windsor

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Magna Carta monument, Runnymede, National Trust

Heritage

Did you know that the River Thames has been described as 'liquid history'? To explore the River Thames is to delve into our Iron Age, Saxon, Roman and Medieval past. You can see where King John signed the Magna Carta at Runnymede and visit the world's oldest inhabited castle at Windsor. But perhaps the most popular historical visit on the River Thames is the stunning Hampton Court – Henry VIII's favourite palace. Known for its beauty, ghosts and mind-boggling maze, Hampton Court really is a treasure of English heritage.

One of the best ways to discover English history is through its literature, and the River Thames has been the source of many wonderful books. You could take a day trip to Pangbourne, where Jerome K Jerome finished writing his classic Three Men in a Boat. The River Thames also fed the imagination of Lewis Carroll, who first told the story of Alice in Wonderland while rowing at Godstow. And if you like your stories a bit more gruesome, there's always Albion House in Marlow, where Mary Shelley wrote Frankenstein.



Revealing the River Thames
New inside - with a weekend break!

Enter our competition to win a family break at runnymede-on-thames!



For your chance to win a family weekend break at runnymede-on-thames, all you have to do is answer a simple question at www.visitthames.co.uk/runnymede. Please quote the code 'RRT2010'.

runnymede-on-thames is a 4 star hotel overlooking the most famous river in England. Close to major attractions, including Legoland and Windsor Castle, the newly refurbished hotel is the ideal location for a family break.