



Thames Rivercruise, Reading

THAMES PATH: Trail 4 Reading to Shiplake

Reading Grid Ref SU22740 Kings Meadow
 Lower Shiplake Grid Ref SU776797
TOTAL DISTANCE 7 miles/11kms



GWR Thames Branches Day Ranger

This ticket allows you to travel between London Paddington and Tilehurst, just past Reading as well as the Thames Valley branch lines to Greenford, Windsor & Eton Central, Bourne End/Marlow and Henley on Thames. GWR.com/Discover

For further information:

Visit Thames: www.visitthames.co.uk/ThamesValley-GWR
 Thames Path National Trail: www.nationaltrail.co.uk/thames-path
 Great Western Railway: www.gwr.com/destinations-and-events/top-destinations/thames-valley



VISIT THAMES

Thames Path Rail Trail 4



Check out the local offers, available on production of your ticket when you travel by train:

- **Thames Rivercruise** – Complimentary glass of prosecco with Afternoon Tea Cruise (book online) or tea and coffee on the Scheduled trips (book online or pay on the day).

Directions

By Rail/Bus : Arrive by rail with Great Western Railway (GWR) at Reading
By Car : M4, Jct 11
Return: GWR Shiplake to Reading, change at Twyford (25mins) or Arriva 800 bus takes 28 mins to Reading. Train station next to the trail at Lower Shiplake.

OPTIONS: Stop off at Sonning (3miles) or divert from the Thames to Loddon Brewery (2 miles). After a tour and tasting at the Brewery, walk 5 mins for the 800 bus back to Reading (16 mins).

www.visitthames.co.uk/ThamesValley-GWR

THE WALK

The route of the Thames Path is surprisingly quiet once Reading is left behind, you'll enjoy a landscape of gentle wooded hills and fine houses. From Sonning, with its lovely 18th century hump-backed bridge, the Trail narrows. East of Reading the River Kennet enters the River Thames, providing access to the Kennet and Avon Canal.

- Start at Kings Meadow behind Thames Lido (8 mins walk from station). Cross the Kennet via the old Horseshoe Bridge, once past the office developments, the path leads to an open meadow. Cross a footbridge and through a wetlands nature reserve.
- Carry on past Sonning Lock, by the access road to Sonning Bridge (just before the bridge you can turn right past the church into Sonning Village and the 16th century Bull Inn.
- Turn left across Sonning Bridge, then take the bridge on the right over the weir stream and through a gate to the towpath and along the backwaters of the Thames to a gated footbridge. The path continues by the river, above in the trees is Shiplake College.
- Go through a kissing-gate, along a meadow, another kissing-gate to a hard track away from the lock. Once in the lane turn right for 25 yards then left along a field path. Follow the signs across the fields to another kissing-gate and steps to a lane.
- Turn left over a bridge, then right to walk via Lashbrook to Lower Shiplake, the road comes to a crossroads with the Baskerville Arms on one corner and Shiplake station to the right.

Things to Do

- **Thames Rivercruise** – Sightseeing boat trips from 30 mins or longer.
- **Reading Abbey Quarter*** – Witness to almost 900 years of history – visit the spectacular Abbey Ruins, burial place of King Henry I. Check out the Talks & Tours around the quarter (from £10 booking essential)
- **Reading Museum*** - Explore ten galleries of historic and artistic objects in Reading's Victorian Town Hall.
- **Museum of English Rural Life*** - Dedicated to farming, food, craft, rural life and countryside issues in 9 new, innovative galleries.
- **Thames Lido** - Recently restored Grade II swimming pool, first opened in 1902, offering Spa packages or a great dining experience.
- **Loddon Brewery** - Set in a beautiful 300-year-old barn with appearances in Midsomer Murders. Taproom, Brewery Shop and Tours.
- **Evening entertainment** – The Comedy Loft (Saturdays), The Hexagon, The Concert Hall

**Free entrance or may be some free events.*

Events

- **Reading on Thames Festival*** – An exciting 4-day programme to celebrate Reading's stunning waterways; walks, performances, waterway light displays, food & drink stalls, river writing, talks, exhibitions on Reading's waterway history and much more 26-29/9
- **Afternoon Tea on the Thames** - Two hours cruising through Wind in the Willows country with afternoon tea 22/9, 27/10, 17/11
- **Reading Between the Lines – Macbeth** - Brand new production of Shakespeare's Macbeth directed by Hal Chambers (RBL's Henry I, Matilda the Empress, Henry II, Christmas Carol and more) and staged inside Reading Minster 24/10-9/11

Places to Stay - The Roseate Reading, Crowne Plaza, Ibis Reading Centre, Malmaison, Novotel Reading Centre

Reading www.visitthames.co.uk/Reading | Shiplake www.visitthames.co.uk/Shiplake

Rail Trails and information on places to stay, thing to do and places to eat & drink:

www.visitthames.co.uk/ThamesValley-GWR



Reading on Thames Festival



Thames Lido, Reading



Afternoon Tea Cruise, Thames Rivercruise



Loddon Brewery, Dunsden



Reading Abbey Ruins