

Visit Newbury along the Great West Way

Newbury is bouncing back and summer ready!

The quintessentially British and historical market town of Newbury marries the West, East and South, making it a central hub along the Great West Way route. This means Newbury provides a perfect base to start your explorations along the Great West Way. With easy access from the train station, you are only a short walk away from the very heart of the Kennet and Avon Canal, nestled in the town centre. With this in mind, visitors are spoiled for choice for things to do only a stone's throw away from the waterside, before continuing their Great West Way journey.

Newbury is perhaps most famously known for its Racecourse, only a short walk away from the bustling activity along the canals within the town centre. As of 10th June, Newbury Racecourse welcome you to join them for their very first fixture of the year with spectators; The Betfair Summer Special. Additionally, the racecourse's often sold-out Gin Thursday's event provides the perfect opportunity for an extended staycation in Newbury. From the Chequers Hotel, The Dolphin Hotel and The Elephant at the Market, the choice of independent accommodation on offer in the town centre makes Newbury an easy destination of choice for a weekend break.

In the town centre you will find one of the Newbury's most success retail ventures, Parkway Shopping. This summer, they will be bringing the town centre back to life as they prepare for the return of their annual Summer Series event. Head to Newbury from late June onwards and you will catch the opening of this spectacular event. With greenery and planters used to dress the open space; live music, themed weekends and family-friendly activities are free for you to enjoy from the deckchair seating area or walking through the bustling streets (ice cream in hand optional!).

After enjoying the entertainment and live acts from the Summer Series, head onto Northbrook Street to see Newbury's iconic clock tower and let the historical buildings guide you on your way. Head towards the bridge to watch the swans floating on the canal below and take advantage of the unique finds on offer from over 200 independent retailers and hospitality venues on route to Bartholomew Street. Take a turn into the Market Square where your eyes will feed upon more street art and live performances; providing the perfect opportunity to pull up a chair, order a G&T and enjoy al fresco dining. From Japanese and Italian to French Creperies and traditionally British pub grub to name but a few, your dining experience in Newbury will only leave you coming back for more. Additionally, Newbury's nationally acclaimed theatre venue, the Corn Exchange, will offer a plentiful of activities and exhibitions with their yearly Summer of Events.

By this point you may well have noticed the particularly old and rather wonky looking building to the left of the square. This building is home to some of Berkshire's best-preserved artifacts and historical exhibitions and is well worth a visit while you let your food settle. Take a stroll to Newbury's Victoria Park, where the amount of open green space so close to the town centre is rather remarkable. If you happen to visit on the weekend of 11th July, you will catch Newbury Town Council's Great British Summer event, seeing families flock to the area to take advantage of yet more lively family-fun on offer.

Heading back toward the canal you will find the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust, resuming services from the end of May through operating public trips on the Jubilee; a 29-passenger narrow boat with a fully licensed bar onboard. These trips provide the perfect break for tired legs, and for those wishing to sit back with a

refreshment while taking in the wildlife along the scenic route of the waterway. The K&A Trust is nestled in The Wharf, by the Newbury bus station, and is open on weekends only from 12 noon. In this same spot, you will find Teashop by the Canal, a cosy little place with homemade treats and that hosts the canal information centre upstairs.

If the ambience of the town centre isn't enough to keep you there all weekend, take a short bus or taxi out of town to visit the grand country home of Downton Abbey- Highclere Castle. With over 300 rooms to explore and a history like no other, Visit Newbury recommend taking a guided tour and keeping up to date on their VisitNewbury.org.uk for any upcoming events and exhibitions.

Visit Newbury, the main tourism board for the town and part of the Newbury Business Improvement District (BID), remind us that this is only the beginning of all that's on offer in Newbury this summer. Updates and new events are rolling in weekly, and Visit Newbury are confident tourists will not be disappointed when they choose to visit Newbury along the Great West Way this summer.

Visit Newbury is the not-for-profit organisation behind Newbury Business Improvement District. Stay up to date via Visit Newbury's social media pages, @VisitNewbury, for any upcoming events in the name of supporting local, and visit visitnewbury.org.uk for more information on things to do in Newbury this summer and beyond.

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