



01 Brunel's Sounding Arch, Maidenhead
02 Stanley Spencer Gallery

HIDDEN GEMS: MAIDENHEAD AND COOKHAM

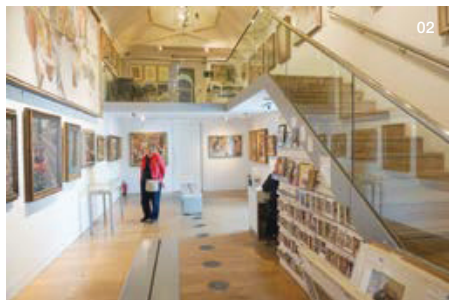


Even if you know the Windsor area well, there are some hidden gems you can easily find, just a little off the beaten track around the Royal Borough's other major town, Maidenhead and the nearby village of Cookham.

There's been a settlement beside the Thames at Maidenhead since the Romans and there are two well-known villas sites in the town. Maidenhead was really put on the map during the 18th century when it was the first stopping point for carriages on their way from London to Gloucester and Bath; some of the many coaching inns from that era still survive today. A short walk from the town centre takes you to the river Thames, with its 18th-century road bridge and Brunel's famous 'Sounding Arch' featured in Turner's painting of 'Rain, Steam and Speed'.

Maidenhead Heritage Centre

The history of Maidenhead from Roman times to the present, with a permanent exhibition on the Air Transport Auxiliary, which was stationed at nearby White Waltham. Book a Spitfire Simulator Experience! Windsor 6 miles.



Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham

A Gallery dedicated to the work of Stanley Spencer, one of the greatest 20th-century British artists. Group talks and tours of the Gallery and surrounding village are available, and special exhibitions change every six months. Maidenhead 3.5 miles, Windsor 9 miles.

Norden Farm

It is built on the site of an ancient dairy farm on the outskirts of Maidenhead. A thriving arts centre, open 5 days a week, it includes an art gallery, studio theatre, main auditorium for film and live performance, Café Bar, a Georgian farmhouse and 18th-century Long Barn, which can be booked for 40+ bespoke meal. Maidenhead 1.5 miles, Windsor 7.4 Miles.

THE RIVER THAMES AND THAMES PATH NATIONAL TRAIL

Thames Walk: Cookham to Maidenhead, 3.6 miles

Enjoy a walk south from the village on a particularly attractive stretch of the Thames Path, with the hanging beech woods of the Cliveden Estate on the other side of the river. On the outskirts of Maidenhead, you go past Boulter's Lock and on to Brunel's Sounding Arch.

Thames Boat Trip - Embark at Maidenhead's Riverside Gardens and enjoy an excursion on board the Georgian, including lunch or tea, courtesy of a Windsor & Maidenhead Boat Company's river cruise.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Road: Maidenhead is 2 miles from Junction 8/9 of M4. Limited coach parking at **Riverside Car Park**, Raymead Road, Maidenhead SL6 8NP. £15, book ahead on 01628 621721.

Rail: Maidenhead is served by trains travelling from London Paddington, operated by Great Western Railway. Journey time is between 20 -50mins. Change here for branch line services to Cookham.

Lunch Stop

Bel & The Dragon, Cookham – one of the oldest coaching inns in England. Max group 80.

Old Butcher's Wine Cellar, Cookham – sample wines and a locally sourced menu. Max 25.

Cliveden – light bites on the National Trust Forecourt or dine in style at the **Cliveden House Hotel**.

The Boathouse at Boulter's Lock – situated on its very own island is Maidenhead's finest al fresco dining and drinking spot. Max group 50.

STAY OVERNIGHT

Thames Riviera Hotel – 3* on the banks of the Thames in Maidenhead with 52 rooms.

