

experience Woking

Woking is a vibrant and modern town in the heart of green and leafy Surrey.

Woking's development began with the arrival of the railway from London to Southampton in **1838**, and today the town is well connected by road, rail, sea and air to the rest of the UK and continental Europe.

Woking benefits from a fast, regular train service to **London Waterloo** in under 25 minutes, and close proximity to Junctions 10 and 11 of the M25.

There is a direct coach service between Woking and **London Heathrow** twice an hour; **Gatwick Airport** is an hour away by train, via Guildford or Clapham Junction; and **Southampton Airport** is just a 40 minute rail journey.



experience culture

The new Market Walk connecting Commercial Way and the Peacocks Centre provides space for a number of fruit and vegetable stalls and outlets offering a variety of continental and international foods for both residents and visitors to enjoy.

Woking boasts an ever-expanding range of **pubs and restaurants**, both in the town centre and the surrounding villages, catering for all purses and tastes. Why not combine a meal out with a night at the theatre or cinema?

Woking is fortunate to have one of the **largest entertainment complexes** in the region – The Ambassadors – whose New Victoria Theatre hosts some of the biggest and best shows from London's West End, and Rhoda McGaw Theatre offers a high-quality performance space for the community. There are also six cinema screens showing the latest film releases.



experience history

Local places of historic interest include **Brookwood Cemetery**, which opened in 1854 and, at 450 acres, is the largest in Britain. Since its original use by the London parishes, it has become a working cemetery for denominations and nationalities from all over the world.

In Old Woking, the original settlement of Woking, the ruins of one of Henry VIII's country retreats, **Woking Palace**, are alongside the River Wey and can be visited on special open days. Nearby, parts of Grade I listed **St. Peter's Church** survive from Norman times, and the building features the oldest door in Surrey, dated between 1106 and 1138.

The **Shah Jahan Mosque** in Maybury was the first purpose-built mosque in Britain. Completed in 1889 by Dr Gottlieb Wilhelm Leitner, and designed by Victorian architect W.L. Chambers, its green and white dome is one of Woking's landmarks.



experience innovation

Woking is perhaps best known as the home of **McLaren**, the Formula One motor racing team. The group's HQ – including the McLaren Technology and Production Centres – is a state-of-the-art facility on the outskirts of the town.

Innovative design also features alongside the picturesque Basingstoke Canal, where both the award-winning **The Lightbox** gallery and museum, and **WWF-UK's Living Planet Centre** are located.

In the town centre, public art includes the **Town Gate**, and the striking **Martian sculpture**, a tribute to 'The War of the Worlds' author, H. G. Wells, who lived in Woking in 1895/6 and set his novel here.

Visitors find Woking's modern, accessible town centre easy to get around. The majority of the shops are under cover, and the revitalised town centre has attracted plenty of well-known stores as well as more boutique outlets.



This guide has been updated to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment in 1984 of Woking Town Twinning Club which became the Woking Town Twinning Association in 1992.

The Association provides contacts within the twin towns for individuals, clubs, schools and other organisations, and is an active facilitator of exchange visits. Membership and participation is open to anyone living or working in and around Woking, who is interested in finding out about everyday life and the special occasions in our twin towns:



Le Plessis-Robinson in France, charter 1993



Rastatt in Germany, charter 2001



Woking

To find out more about Woking Town Twinning Association's activities and register membership, contact the Treasurer and Secretary, Chris Sansom on 01483 726974 or chris.sansom@phonecoop.coop

experience

Woking



Sports and leisure

There are well-marked paths for cyclists and pedestrians throughout the Borough, such as the **Basingstoke Canal towpath**. There are also extensive sport, leisure and golf facilities available, including **Woking Football Club stadium**.

Local villages

Most of Woking's villages can easily be reached on foot or by bicycle from the town centre, and many are home to **fascinating buildings** that are Grade I or II listed, such as St. Peter's Church in Old Woking, St. Mary's in Horsell and St. Nicholas' in Pyrford.

Motorsport and aviation

Nearby attractions include the birthplace of UK motorsport and aviation – **Brooklands Museum** – and **Mercedes-Benz World**, both near Byfleet.

- Waterway
- Railway
- Saturn Cycle Trail
- Train station
- Golf course



- 1** Basingstoke Canal
basingstoke-canal.org.uk
- 2** Brooklands Museum
brooklandsmuseum.com
- 3** Brookwood Cemetery
brookwoodcemetery.com
- 4** McLaren Technology Centre
mclarenautomotive.com
- 5** Mercedes-Benz World
mercedes-benzworld.co.uk
- 6** National Rifle Association
nra.org.uk
- 7** RHS Garden Wisley
rhs.org.uk/wisley
- 8** Shah Jahan Mosque
wokingmosque.org.uk
- 9** The Ambassadors
atgtickets.co.uk
- 10** The Lightbox
thelightbox.org.uk
- 11** Woking Palace
woking-palace.org
- 12** Woking Leisure Centre
woking.gov.uk/leisurecentre

Outdoor attractions

RHS Garden Wisley is just a few miles south east of Woking. On the other side of the Borough are the **Bisley Ranges**, home of the National Rifle Association and its national and international shooting competitions.

Heritage Open Days

Why not visit Woking during the annual **Heritage Open Days** weekend in September, when over a dozen properties of historic interest open their doors for free?



RHS/Carol Sheppard

