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Welcome to Visit Reading, the official tourism site for Reading and the wider Reading region, where you can explore things to do in Reading, find out what's on, and find inspiration of areas to explore when you visit our wonderfully cultural and diverse town. Known for its beer, biscuits and bulbs in the industrial revolution, Reading has transformed
into a vibrant, metropolitan town located on the River Thames and Kennet & Avon Canal. Home to the UK's iconic Reading Festival, its growing arts and culture community boasts some of the best entertainment in the country. Reading Festival, its growing arts and culture community boasts some of the best entertainment in the country.
quirky independents serving everything from street food to fine dining. And, with three shopping centres and a pedestrianised highstreet jam-packed with household brands and independent retailers, you'll find a huge choice of
 hotels and accommodation to suit all budgets, many of which are in the town centre and walkable from activities and attractions. Take a look at our ideas and inspiration for day trip and weekend break suggestions, as well as ideas for things to do while you're here and visitor information to make your trip hassle-free. A1 Reading Tests A2 Reading
Tests B1 Reading Tests B1+ Reading Tests B1+ Reading Tests B2 Reading Tests B2 Reading Tests B2 Reading Tests B3 Reading Tests B1+ Reading Tests B1+ Reading Tests B1+ Reading Tests B2 Reading Tests B2 Reading Tests B1+ Reading Tests B1+ Reading Tests B1+ Reading Tests B2 Reading Tests B2 Reading Tests B1+ Reading Tests B2 Reading Tests B1+ Reading Tests B2 Reading Tests B3+ Reading Tests B1+ Reading Tests B2 Reading Tests B3+ Reading Tests 
like to read before I go to sleep? » Hello, EveryoneDIALOGUEPREMIUM? » It is a sunny DayPREMIUMEvery once in a while we make pizzas as a family? » My
colorful bedroomPREMIUM? » My favorite stuffed AnimalPREMIUMI like to play with my favorite stuffed animal? »? » One cat and two dogsPREMIUM? of the holidays were spectacular!? » At schoolOne day in elementary school for Lucas? »
Days of the weekWhy is Wednesday called hump day?? » DoctorDIALOGUEYou don't feel well, so you decide to see your doctor? » Going to the Supermarket? a restaurant to a FriendMy semester abroad in Spain? » My family at homeWe arrived
in our favorite city in Europe. ? » My morning routineI dream of opening my own café. ? » The pet storeGeorge wants them to give him a pet ? » A Friendly HelloDIALOGUEPREMIUM? » A Typical Day at SchoolPREMIUMAny given day at
school? » Amy and SchoolPREMIUMAmy doesn't want to go to school? » Asking a Neighbor for HelpPREMIUM? » BaseballPREMIUMMe're going to need a lot of wood for our house? »? » Buying Ice
CreamDIALOGUEPREMIUM? » Celebrating Christmas with my FamilyPREMIUMSomeone who knows a lot about horses? »? » Christmas is comingPREMIUMPeople love the Christmas atmosphere? » Climbing Trees with my FriendsPREMIUMWe have a lot of fun
climbing trees? » Description of Three FriendsPREMIUMHere are three good friends? » Dinner preparationPREMIUMI like to listen to music while I drive? » Eating an OrangePREMIUMWe eat an orange with my
mom? »? » Family Day at the BeachPREMIUMA nice family day at the BeachPREMIUMWe all like eating delicious things? » George Adopts a New DogPREMIUMGeorge is very happy with his new pet? » Giving
DirectionsDIALOGUEPREMIUMHi, I'm lost. Can you tell me where to go?? » Going to the LibraryPREMIUMThe boy enjoyed going to the bookstore? » Going to the StorePREMIUMMy mom makes me pancakes? » Grandfather's CapPREMIUMI will never forget my grandfather? »
Greetings and IntroductionsDIALOGUEPREMIUMDialogues: Greetings and Introductions in English? » Hannah Goes Grocery ShoppingPREMIUMHannah's Monday purchase? »? » Introductions in English? » Hannah Goes Grocery ShoppingPREMIUMHannah's Monday purchase? »? » Introductions in English? » Hannah Goes Grocery ShoppingPREMIUMHannah's Monday purchase? »? » Introductions in English? » Hannah Goes Grocery ShoppingPREMIUMHannah's Monday purchase? »? » Introductions in English? » Hannah Goes Grocery ShoppingPREMIUMHannah's Monday purchase? »? » Introductions in English? » Hannah Goes Grocery ShoppingPREMIUMHannah's Monday purchase? »? » Introductions in English? » Hannah Goes Grocery ShoppingPREMIUMHannah's Monday purchase? »? » Introductions in English? » Hannah Goes Grocery ShoppingPREMIUMHannah's Monday purchase? » Province of the province of th
a SandwichPREMIUMPreparing a delicious sandwich? » Making Tacos with my FamilyPREMIUMWe love to prepare and eat Tacos? » Moving to a new CityPREMIUMI'm happy I moved? » Music and Musical InstrumentsPREMIUMMusic can make you laugh, cry and remember? »? »? » My Friend Tom is sickPREMIUMTom feels so much better? »
My Happy MorningsPREMIUMI like to make breakfast and watch TV? » My house is my favorite placePREMIUMI'm busy all day at work? »? »? » Outdoors With My Dog Fido!PREMIUMMy dog Fido is a great companion? » Playing at the ParkPREMIUM? »
Playing Soccer with my FriendPREMIUMThey love playing soccer together? » Riding My BikePREMIUMMy friends and I ride bikes? » Running errandsPREMIUMMSarah likes bright colors? » Sarah's School SchedulePREMIUMHis first year in college? » Sharing with my
SisterPREMIUMWe need to be kind to one another? » Shopping for ClothesPREMIUMI love summer and sunny days? » The Big StorePREMIUMHis work gives him time to study? » The Fall SeasonPREMIUMI love the colors of the fall? » The Spring
 SeasonPREMIUMTemperature is perfect in the spring? » The Summer SeasonPREMIUMIt's too warm to go outside? » The Winter SeasonPREMIUMTrees don't blossom in the winter? »? »? » What I do at SchoolPREMIUMIt's too warm to go outside? » What I do at SchoolPREMIUMI like going to school and drawing? » What Is Your Favorite Color? PREMIUMThey're telling us what colors they like? » What I do at SchoolPREMIUMI like going to school and drawing? » The Winter SeasonPREMIUMThey're telling us what colors they like? » What I do at SchoolPREMIUMI like going to school and drawing? » The Summer SeasonPREMIUMThey're telling us what colors they like? » What I do at SchoolPREMIUMI like going to school and drawing? » What I do at SchoolPREMIUMI like going to school and drawing? » What I do at SchoolPREMIUMI like going to school and drawing? » What I do at SchoolPREMIUMI like going to school and drawing? » What I do at SchoolPREMIUMI like going to school and drawing? » What I do at SchoolPREMIUMI like going to school and drawing? » What I do at SchoolPREMIUMI like going to school and drawing? » What I do at SchoolPREMIUMI like going to school and drawing? » What I do at SchoolPREMIUMI like going to school and drawing? » What I do at SchoolPREMIUMI like going to school and drawing? » What I do at SchoolPREMIUMI like going to school and drawing the school and 
my Parents doPREMIUMI'm telling you what my parents work as? » Why Cats Are Better Pets Than DogsPREMIUMSome prefer cats, others prefer dogs? » ChristmasThe most-visited theme park? » FoodThe importance of taking care of your teeth? » Going to work in the morningThey're happy with their day
out shopping. ? » HalloweenHanna is excited about her birthday celebration. ? » Hotel ReservationDIALOGUEI'd like to make a reservation for this weekend? » Jobs and ProfessionsDo you have experience in customer service? ? » LondonA city with a lot of history and things to see? » Los AngelesThe Jansson family loves animals. ? » MiamiCustomers
asking questions at the grocery store? » San FranciscoNina, Peter, and Markus go to a café. ? » ThanksgivingIf I were famous for a day, I'd like to... ? » The Empire State BuildingThe BuildingThe 
world? » The Grand CanyonOne of the Natural World? » Valentine's DayConversation with the server at the restaurant? » Washington, D.C.Monika is friendly and always in a good mood.? » Yellowstone National ParkThe first national park in the United
States? » A Beautiful Day to RunPREMIUMA nice day to go for a run? » A Rainy Day at SchoolPREMIUMAs soon as I got to school? » A Visit to Amish CountryPREMIUMThe Amish preserve their old customs and traditions? » An exciting MorningPREMIUMGeorge is
happy because it's Christmas? » Animals at My HomePREMIUMMen has trouble waking up in the morning? » Blackberry HarvestPREMIUMMeny people like camping
in the forest? » Cleaning up the KitchenPREMIUMTwo friends meet and have a chat? » Early Morning at the StorePREMIUMT rather go shopping early? »? » Emptying the LibraryPREMIUMThese books take up too much space? »? » Fishing with DadPREMIUMA
great day of fishing with his father? » Football Try-outsPREMIUMTrying out my luck on the DayPREMIUMTrying out my luck on the DentistPREMIUMTrying out my luck on the DentistPREMIUMTrying out my luck on the dentist? »
Gordon's big DinnerPREMIUMPreparing dinner for her friends? » HikingPREMIUMAbout hiking and finding a new friend? » Hotel ProblemsDIALOGUEPREMIUMThey're very good friends even though they have different tastes? » Jack loves to
play BasketballPREMIUMTwo friends with very different interests? » John's Favorite HobbyPREMIUMJohn really enjoys playing...? » Journal entryPREMIUMTwo friends with very different interests? » John's Favorite HobbyPREMIUMMy grandmother taught me to knit? »
 Looking for my best FriendPREMIUMI can't find my dog Biscuit? »? » Making ComparisonsPREMIUMComparing the characteristics of players? » My cityPREMIUMI'm happy because today is cookie day!? » My HousePREMIUMI'll describe my house, let's see what
you think? »? » Our PetsPREMIUMI have two dogs and a few other pets? » Phone ConversationDIALOGUEPREMIUMYou just need to wait for the veggies to grow? » PlantsPREMIUMEmma describes her bedroom and what's in it.? » Playing Baseball with my
 FriendsPREMIUMPlaying sports after school? » Recess at my SchoolPREMIUMDuring recess, we like playing? »? Road TripPREMIUMWe're going on a trip to San Francisco, California? » Surprise PartyPREMIUMWe're throwing him
a surprise party for his birthday? "The Baby of the FamilyPREMIUM?" The BirdPREMIUMShe was happy to be able to help the birdie? "The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers?" The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers? "The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers?" The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers? "The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers?" The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers? "The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers?" The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers? "The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers?" The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers? "The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers?" The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers? "The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers?" The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers? "The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers?" The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers? "The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers?" The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers? "The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers?" The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers? "The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers?" The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers? "The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers?" The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers? "The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers?" The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers? "The Bunny and the BearPREMIUMD give my grandmother some flowers?" The Bunny and the Bunny
coffee? » The most expensive tacoPREMIUMOlof is very happy to have a friend like this.? » Tools in my Dad's ShopPREMIUMThe tools my dad uses? » Tour bus agenda (dialogue)DIALOGUEPREMIUMThe tools my dad uses? » What is your favorite Shape? PREMIUMThey're telling us what shapes they like? »
Where is Your Car Made?PREMIUMCars, brands and factories? » Who Shall Place the Star?PREMIUMDiscussion about the decoration of the Christmas Tree? » Human body parts and organsI hope to visit Peru again in the future.? » Las VegasAn ordinary day in the life of Charlotta? » American Professional Sports LeaguesPREMIUMAmericans
really like sports? » AnimalsPREMIUMAnimals and their various environments? » Apple HarvestPREMIUMThere are many recipes you can make with apples? » At the dentistPREMIUMThere's nothing worse than a toothache? » Baking BreadPREMIUMThere are many recipes you can make with apples? » At the dentistPREMIUMThere are many recipes you can make with apples? » At the dentistPREMIUMThere are many recipes you can make with apples? » At the dentistPREMIUMThere are many recipes you can make with apples? » At the dentistPREMIUMThere are many recipes you can make with apples? » At the dentistPREMIUMThere are many recipes you can make with apples? » At the dentistPREMIUMThere are many recipes you can make with apples? » At the dentistPREMIUMThere are many recipes you can make with apples? » At the dentistPREMIUMThere are many recipes you can make with apples? » At the dentistPREMIUMThere are many recipes you can make with apples? » At the dentistPREMIUMThere are many recipes you can make with apples? » At the dentistPREMIUMThere are many recipes you can make with apples? » At the dentistPREMIUMThere are many recipes you can make with apples? » At the dentistPREMIUMThere are many recipes you can make with apples? » At the dentistPREMIUMThere are many recipes you can make with apples are many recipes you can make with apples are many recipes you can make with apple and apple are many recipes you can make with a proper you can make with a pr
and his experiment with electricity? » BostonPREMIUMA family visit to Boston? » Countries and NationalitiesPREMIUMMy workday starts at seven.? » Cruise Ships: Floating Marvels of Marine LifePREMIUMThe grandeur of
cruise ships? » FootballPREMIUMFootball in Europe is different from Australia's? » Hot Air Balloons: A Fun HistoryPREMIUMIt's a difficult job, but they love it? » Learning to SwimPREMIUMHe couldn't swim, but he
learned pretty quickly? » LiechtensteinPREMIUMA very small but very beautiful country? » Lightning BugsPREMIUMFireflies are very interesting insects? » New YorkPREMIUMMefore boarding the plane? » PlansPREMIUMMefore boarding the plane? » Plans
PlutoPREMIUMA bit of astronomy: Pluto? » Potato FarmPREMIUMThey worked a lot on the farm? » Santa Claus in different parts of the world? » SchoolPREMIUMMy next-door neighbors? » The longest and most scenic Train RidePREMIUMTraveling across the United States by train? » The Perils of
WinterPREMIUMWinter and snow, a dangerous combination? » ? » Travel changes youPREMIUMTraveling opens up your mind? » Trip to New York ? » Two RoostersPREMIUMWhich do you
prefer, working from home or at the office?? » Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918The epidemic that killed millions of people? » The EnvironmentThe well-being of our planet is in danger? » America's Largest National ParkPREMIUMInteresting text about blue
 whales? » Daily routinePREMIUMHi, doctor. I haven't been feeling well for a few days.? » EconomicsPREMIUMYou're considering a degree in economics? » FeelingsPREMIUMIt's a sunny day, perfect for a picnic with friends.? » Landscape DesignerPREMIUMMaria loves her work as a
landscaper? » Modes of transportationPREMIUMWhat does Elin do on an ordinary day?? » NaturePREMIUMLizzie realized she's a sleepwalker? » SportsPREMIUMJonathan goes shopping, but he forgets something.
? » The Donner PartyPREMIUMA bit of history about California? » TravellingPREMIUMAmerica and its famous barbecue sauce? » WeatherPREMIUMI help my cousin move. ? »
Town and borough in Berkshire, England "Reading Borough of Reading Borough of Reading Town, borough and unitary authority at Reading SkylineReading Town HallOracle RiversideReading MinsterThe Maiwand LionReading Abbey and The
 BladeMap of Reading Coat of arms of Reading Coordinates: 51°27′15″N 0°58′23″W / 51.45417°N 0.97306°W / 51.45417°N 
countyBerkshireHistoric county Berkshire (south Thames) Oxfordshire (north Thames) Oxfordshire (north Thames) Oxfordshire (rown) (part)East ReadingEmmer
GreenFords FarmGreen ParkHolybrookKatesgroveLower CavershamLower Earley (part)NewtownNorcotPurley-on-Thames (Village) (part)Sounting (Village) (pa
Council • MPMatt Rodda (L)Olivia Bailey (L)Yuan Yang (L)Elevation 200 ft (61 m)Population (2022) • Borough 174,820 • Rank 120th (of 296) (borough) • Density 11,210/sq mi (4,327/km2) • Urban 355,596DemonymRedingensian Ethnicity (2021)[1] • Ethnic groups List 67.1% White 17.7% Asian 7.2% Black 5.1% Mixed 2.9% other Religion (2021)
[1] • Religion List 39.6% Christianity 36.3% no religion 15.2% other 8.9% Islam Time zoneUTC+0 (GMT) • Summer (DST)UTC+1 (BST)Postal codeRGArea code0118Grid Ref.SU713733ONS code 00MC (ONS) E06000038 (GSS) ISO 3166-2GB-RDGNUTS 3UKJ11Websitereading.gov.uk Reading (/ˈrɛdɪŋ/ RED-ing)[2] is a town and borough in Berkshire,
England, and the county town of Berkshire. It is the United Kingdom's largest town, with a combined population of 355,596.[citation needed] Most of its built-up area lies within the Borough of Reading, although some outer suburbs are parts of neighbouring local authority areas. It is located in the Thames Valley at the confluence of the rivers Thames
and Kennet. Reading is a major commercial centre, especially for information technology and insurance. [3] It is also a regional retail centre, serving a large area of the Thames Valley with its shopping centres, including the Oracle, the Broad Street Mall, and the pedestrianised area around Broad Street. It is home to the University of Reading. Every
year it hosts the Reading Festival, one of England's biggest music festivals. Reading has a professional association football team, Reading F.C., and participates in many other sports. Reading Abbey, one of the largest and richest monasteries of
 medieval England with royal connections, of which the 12th-century abbey gateway and significant ancient ruins remain. By 1525, Reading was the largest town in Berkshire, and tenth in England for taxable wealth. The town was seriously affected by the English Civil War, with a major siege and loss of trade, but played a pivotal role in the Glorious
 Revolution, whose only significant military action was fought on its streets. The 18th century saw the beginning of a major ironworks in the town and the growth of the brewing trade for which Reading was to become famous. The 19th century saw the beginning of the Great Western Railway and the development of the town so the brewing trade for which Reading was to become famous.
growing businesses, and the town grew rapidly as a manufacturing centre. The earliest known name for Readingas, from the Readingas, from the Readingas, from the Readingas, from the Readingas, an Anglo-Saxon tribe whose name means Reada's People in Old English (the Anglo-Saxons often had the same name for a place and its inhabitants).[4] The
demonym for a person from Reading is Redingensian, giving the name of the local rugby team Redingensians, based in Sonning, and of former members of Reading, Berkshire. The earliest map of Reading, published in 1611 by John Speed View
of Reading from Caversham by Joseph Farington in 1793 Occupation at the site of Reading may date back to the Roman period, possibly in the form of a trading port for Calleva Atrebatum.[7] However, the first clear evidence for Reading as a settlement dates from the 8th century, when the town came to be known as Readingas. In late 870, an army
of Danes invaded the kingdom of Wessex and set up camp at Reading. On 4 January 871, in the first Battle of Reading, King Ethelred and his brother Alfred the Great attempted unsuccessfully to breach the Danes' defences. The battle is described in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, and that account provides the earliest known written record of the
existence of Reading. The Danes remained in Reading until late in 871, when they retreated to their winter quarters in London.[8][9] After the Battle of Hastings and the Norman conquest of England, William the Conqueror gave land in and around Reading to his foundation of Battle Abbey. In its 1086 Domesday Book listing, the town was explicitly
described as a borough. The presence of six mills is recorded: four on land belonging to the king and two on the land given to Battle Abbey grounds. As part of his endowments, he gave the abbey his lands in Reading, along with land at Cholsey.[9][10] The town grew
around a crossing of the River Kennet, about 1 mile (1.6 km) upstream from its confluence with the River Thames. In 1312, King Edward II directed by the Black Death that swept through England in the 14th century, but it is known that the abbot, Henry
of Appleford, was one of its victims in 1361, and that nearby Henley lost 60% of its population.[12] The Abbey was largely destroyed in 1538 during Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries. The last abbot, Hugh Faringdon, was subsequently tried and convicted of high treason and hanged, drawn and quartered in front of the Abbey Church.[13][14]
Civil War. Despite its fortifications, it had a Royalist garrison imposed on it in 1642. The subsequent Siege of Reading by Parliamentary forces succeeded in April 1643.[16] The town's cloth trade was especially badly damaged, and the town's cloth trade was especially badly damaged.
Glorious Revolution: the second Battle of Reading was the only substantial military action of the campaign, [9][18] The 18th century saw the beginning of a major iron works in the town and the growth of the brewing trade for which Reading was to become famous, [19] Reading was the beginning of a major iron works in the town and the growth of the brewing trade for which Reading was to become famous, [19] Reading was to become famous, [19] Reading was the beginning of a major iron works in the town and the growth of the brewing trade for which Reading was to become famous, [19] Reading was the beginning of a major iron works in the town and the growth of the brewing trade for which Reading was to become famous, [19] Reading was the beginning of a major iron works in the town and the growth of the brewing trade for which Reading was the beginning of a major iron works in the town and the growth of the brewing trade for which Reading was the beginning of a major iron works in the town and the growth of the brewing trade for which Reading was the beginning of a major iron works in the town and the growth of the brewing trade for which Reading was the beginning of a major iron works in the town and the growth of the brewing trade for which Reading was the beginning of the brewing trade for which Reading was the beginning of the brewing trade for which Reading was the brewing trade for whic
 establish its location on the major coaching routes from London to Oxford and the West Country. In 1723, despite considerable local opposition, the Kennet that the new route benefited the town. After the opening of the Kennet and Avon
Canal in 1810, one could go by barge from Reading and Abingdon.[21][22] In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries it was one of the southern termini of the Hatfield and Reading Turnpike that allowed travellers from the
 north to continue their journey to the west without going through the congestion of London. During the 19th century, the town grew rapidly as a manufacturing centre. The Great Western Railway in 1849 and the London and South Western Railway in 1856. [24][25] After the Summer Assizes a manufacturing centre. The Great Western Railway in 1849 and the London and South Western Railway in 1856. [24][25] After the Summer Assizes a manufacturing centre.
 Simonds),[28][29] bulbs (1837-1974, Suttons Seeds),[28][30] and biscuits (1822-1976, Huntley and Palmers).[28][31][32] The town continued to expand in the 20th century, annexing Caversham across the River Thames in Oxfordshire in 1911, as well as most of Tilehurst to the west at the same time. Reading suffered much less physical damage than
 many other English towns and cities during the two world wars of the 20th century, although many citizens were killed or injuries. [33] The Lower Earley development, begun in 1977, was one of the
largest private housing developments in Europe, [34][35] extending the urban area of Reading as far as the M4 Motorway. Further housing developments have increased the number of modern houses and hypermarkets in the outskirts of Reading. A major town-centre shopping centre, The Oracle, opened in 1999, is named after the 17th-century
Oracle workhouse, which once occupied a small part of the site. It provides three storeys of shopping space and boosted the local economy by providing 4,000 jobs. [36][37] As one of the largest urban areas in the United Kingdom without city status, Reading has unsuccessfully bid for city status four times - in 2000 to celebrate the new millennium; in
2002 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II; in 2012 for the Diamond Jubilee; [38][39][40][41] and in 2022 to mark the Platinum Jubilee. [42][43] Local government functions since 1998. There are no civil parishes
 in the borough. Some of the built-up area's outer suburbs are outside the borough boundaries in West Berkshire and Wokingham. These outer suburbs belong to civil parishes, in some cases with their own town status.[44] Reading has elected at least one Member of Parliament to every Parliament since 1295.[45] Since the 2024 general election, the
borough of Reading has been divided between the parliamentary constituencies of Reading West and Mid Berkshire (which also covers part of the borough of Wokingham).[44] Reading is the site of venues for both the Crown Court,[46] administering criminal justice
and the County Court, [47] responsible for civil cases. Lesser matters are dealt with in a local magistrates' court. [48] The Abbey Gateway Reading was an ancient borough by the time of the Domesday Book in 1086. The borough was initially controlled by Reading Abbey as its manorial owner. The town gradually gained a
degree of independence from the abbey from the 13th century onwards, particularly after the town's merchant guild was granted a new charter in 1542.[9] The borough boundaries were then set out in a subsequent charter from Elizabeth I in 1560. The
 borough covered the whole of the parish of St Laurence and parts of the parishes of St Giles and St Mary. The part of St Giles and St Mary's parish outside the borough was known as the tithing of Southcote. [49] The borough was reformed in 1836 to become a municipal
 county councils were established in 1889 under the Local Government Act 1888, Reading was considered large enough for its existing borough, independent from Berkshire County Council. [50] The borough boundaries were enlarged again in 1911 to take in
Caversham on the north bank of the Thames from Oxfordshire (except the Caversham Park area, which was transferred to the parish of Eye and Dunsden), and most of the parish of the parish of Eye and Dunsden) to the west. [53] Local government was reformed in 1974.
under the Local Government Act 1972, which saw Reading redesignated as a non-metropolitan district, with Berkshire County Council providing county-level services in the borough for the first time. Ahead of those reforms, the borough county-level services in the borough for the first time. Ahead of those reforms, the borough county-level services in the borough county-level servi
residual Tilehurst parish (covering the parts of Tilehurst which had not been transferred into the borough in 1911), and the eastern part of the parish of Theale. [54] The government decided to make no change to Reading's boundaries, leaving them as they had been since last reviewed in 1911. [55] Shortly after the 1974 reforms came into effect, a
more limited review of the borough's boundaries north of the Eaversham transferred into the borough council became a unitary authority in 1998, when the county council was abolished
under the Banham Review, which saw the borough council take over county-level functions, effectively restoring the council to the powers it had held when Reading was a county borough prior to 1974.[57] As part of those reforms, the Local Government Commission had initially recommended expanding Reading's boundaries to include Earley,
Tilehurst parish, Purley on Thames and the parts of the parishes of Shinfield, Burghfield and Theale north of the M4 motorway, but it was ultimately decided to leave Reading's boundaries south of the Thames therefore have not changed since 1911, despite the urban area having now expanded well beyond the
borough boundaries. Cross-boundary working between the borough council and the neighbouring councils which cover the suburban and adjoining rural areas is sometimes criticised, particularly over matters such as transport and school catchment areas. [59][60][61] The former hospitium Reading Town Hall Prior to the 16th century, civic
 administration for the town of Reading was situated in the Yield Hall, a guild hall situated by the River Kennet near today's Yield Hall Lane.[62] After a brief stay in what later became Greyfriars Church, the town council created a new town hall by inserting an upper floor into the refectory of the Hospitium of St John, the former hospitium of Reading
 Abbey.[62] For some 400 years up to the 1970s, this was to remain the site of Reading's civic administration through the successive rebuilds that eventually created today's Town Hall.[63] In 1976, Reading Borough Council moved to the new Civic Centre.[64] In 2014, they moved again to civic offices in a refurbished existing office building on Bridge
 Street, in order to facilitate the demolition and redevelopment of the previous site.[65] Broad Street Reading is 42 miles (68 km) north of the English south coast. The centre of Reading is on a low ridge between the River Thames and River Kennet, close to their confluence, reflecting the town's history as a river port. Just above the confluence, the
 Kennet cuts through a narrow steep-sided gap in the hills forming the southern flank of the Thames flood plain. The Kennet and Avon Canal in the 18th century, allowing the development of wharves. The
 floodplains adjoining Reading's two rivers are subject to occasional flooding.[66][67] Town centreBeansheaf FarmCalcotCaversham Park VillageColeyColey ParkEast ReadingEmmer GreenFords FarmGreen ParkHolybrookHorncastleKatesgroveKennet IslandLittle HeathLower CavershamLower EarleyMaiden
ErleghNewtownNorcotPurleyShinfieldSouthcoteTilehurstWest ReadingWhitleyW
side of the River Kennet as far as Whitley Wood and Lower Earley and as far north of the Chiltern Hills as far as Caversham Heights, Emmer Green and Caversham Heights, Emmer Green and Caversham Park Village. Outside the central area, the floors of the valleys containing the two rivers remain largely unimproved floodplain. Apart from the M4 curving to the south
there is only one road across the Kennet flood plain. All other routes between the three built-up areas are in the central area. [68] Like the rest of the United Kingdom, Reading has a maritime climate, with limited seasonal temperature ranges and generally moderate rainfall throughout the year. The nearest official Met Office weather station is
 recorded in January 1982. Climate data for Reading University, elevation: 62 m (203 ft), 1991-2020 normals, extremes 1959-present Month Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Year Record high °C (°F) 15.5(59.9) 19.6(67.3) 22.8(73.0) 26.9(80.4) 28.5(83.3) 34.0(93.2) 37.6(99.7) 36.4(97.5) 29.6(85.3) 27.8(82.0) 18.1(64.6) 15.8(60.4)
37.6(99.7) Mean daily maximum °C (°F) 8.0(46.4) 8.5(47.3) 11.2(52.2) 14.2(57.6) 17.4(63.3) 20.4(68.7) 22.7(72.9) 22.3(72.1) 19.3(66.7) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4(45.3) 17.4
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Average ultraviolet index 2 2 3 3 4 4 5 4 4 3 2 2 3 Source 1: Met Office[70] WeatherAtlas[71] Source 2: Starlings Roost[72][73] Reading Climate chart (explanation) J F M A M J J A S O N D 61 8 2 41 8 2 45 11 3 48 14 5 46 22 13 50 19 10 72 15 8 66 11 4 63 8 2
totals in inches Population pyramid of Reading in 2021 Borough of Reading population growth rate from 1801 to 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population density of 4,327 per square kilometre (11,207/sq mi).[74] Meanwhile, the wider urban area had a population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area covered by the Borough of Reading population of 318,014 in the 2011 In mid-2018, the area co
census, ranking 23rd in the United Kingdom.[75] This grew to an estimated 337,108 by mid-2018.[76] According to the 2011 census, 74.8% of the borough's population were described as White (65.3% White British), 9.1% as South Asian, 6.7% as Black, 3.9% Mixed, 4.5% as Chinese and 0.9% as other ethnic group.[77] In 2010, it was reported that
Reading had 150 different spoken languages within its population.[78][79] Reading Chronicle printed 5,000 copies of a Polish edition called the Kronika Reading.[81][82][83] Ethnic Group Year 1971 estimations[84] 1981 estimations[85] 1991[86]
2001[87] 2011[88] 2021[89] Number % Numbe
4.1% 10,470 6.7% 12,532 7.2% Black or Black British: African - - - 764 0.6% 2,222 1.6% 6,087 3.9% 7,665 4.4% Black or Black British: Other Black - - - 1016 0.8% 528 0.4% 1,104 0.7% 1,574 0.9% Mixed or British Mixed: Total - - - - 3,399 2.4% 6,180 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80 4% 1,80
8,962.5.1\% Mixed: White and Black Caribbean - - - - - 671 0.5% 1,249 0.7% Mixed: White and Black African - - - - 671 0.5% 1,232 0.8% 2,041 1.2% Other: Total - - - - 1,109 0.9% 1,048 0.7% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,500 1% 1,
5,002 2.8% Other: Arab - - - - - 680 0.4\% 1,282 0.7\% Other: Any other ethnic group - - - 1,109 0.9\% 1,048 0.7\% 820 0.6\% 3,720 2.1% Ethnic minority: Total 6,586 5.1\% 9,980 7.7% 12,225 9.5\% 18,856 13.2% 39,311 25.3% 57,337 32.8% Total 130,286 100% 129,064 100% 128,877 100% 143,096 100% 155,698 100% 174,223 100% Religion
2001[90] 2011[91] 2021[92] Number % Num
 45,931 29.5 63,287 36.3 Religion not stated 12,443 8.7 11,372 7.3 12,062 6.9 Total population 143,096 100.0 155,698 100.0 174,226 100.00 Main article: Economy of Reading, Berkshire Reading International Business Park. This crescent of offices beside the A33 is home to Verizon, a telecommunications company, and was formerly the European
headquarters of WorldCom before its demise The front of the store on Broad Street The central lake makes a virtue of the necessity of flood alleviation measures Green Park wind turbine viewed from Lime Square Reading is a commercial centre in the Thames Valley and Southern England. The town hosts the headquarters of several British companies
and the United Kingdom offices of foreign multinationals, as well as being a major retail centre. [93] Whilst located close enough to London to be sometimes regarded as part of the London commuter belt, Reading is a net inward destination for commuters. During the morning peak period, there are some 30,000 inward arrivals in the town, compared
Park Business Park in 2016.[99] Reading has a significant historical involvement in the information technology industry, largely as a result of the early presence in the town of sites of International Computers Limited[100] and Digital Equipment Corporation.[101] Other technology companies with a significant presence in the town include Huawei
Technologies, Pegasystems, Access IS, CGI Inc., Agilent Technologies, [102] Cisco, [103] Ericsson, [104] Symantec, [103] Verizon Business, Park in nearby Earley, Green Park Business Park
and Arlington Business Park. Reading town centre is a major shopping centre. In 2007, an independent poll placed Reading 16th in a league table of best performing retail centres in the east and Broad Street Mall in the west and was
 pedestrianised in 1995.[109] The smaller Friars Walk in Friar Street is closed and will be demolished if the proposed Station Hill redevelopment project goes ahead.[110] There are three major department stores in Reading: John Lewis & Partners (known as Heelas until 2001),[111] Debenhams (now closed down), and House of Fraser.[112] The Broading: John Lewis & Partners (known as Heelas until 2001),[111] Debenhams (now closed down), and House of Fraser.[112] The Broading: John Lewis & Partners (known as Heelas until 2001),[111] Debenhams (now closed down), and House of Fraser.[112] The Broading: John Lewis & Partners (known as Heelas until 2001),[111] Debenhams (now closed down), and House of Fraser.[112] The Broading: John Lewis & Partners (known as Heelas until 2001),[111] Debenhams (now closed down), and House of Fraser.[112] The Broading: John Lewis & Partners (known as Heelas until 2001),[111] Debenhams (now closed down), and House of Fraser.[112] The Broading: John Lewis & Partners (known as Heelas until 2001),[111] Debenhams (now closed down), and House of Fraser.[112] The Broading: John Lewis & Partners (known as Heelas until 2001),[111] Debenhams (now closed down), and House of Fraser.[112] The Broading: John Lewis & Partners (known as Heelas until 2001),[111] Debenhams (now closed down), and House of Fraser.[112] The Broading: John Lewis & Partners (known as Heelas until 2001),[111] Debenhams (now closed down), and House of Fraser.[112] The Broading: John Lewis & Partners (known as Heelas until 2001),[111] Debenhams (now closed down), and House of Fraser.[112] The Broading: John Lewis & Partners (known as Heelas until 2001),[111] Debenhams (now closed down), and House of Fraser.[112] The Broading: John Lewis & Partners (known as Heelas until 2001),[111] Debenhams (now closed down), and House of Fraser.[112] The Broading: John Lewis & Partners (known as Heelas until 2001),[112] Debenhams (known as Heelas until 2001),[112] Debenhams (known as Heelas until 2001),[112] Debenhams (known as Heelas until 2001),
 Street branch of bookseller Waterstone's is a conversion of a nonconformist chapel dating from 1707.[113] Besides the two major shopping malls, Reading has three smaller specialist stores. An older form of retail facility is represented by Union
 Street, popularly known as Smelly Alley.[114][115] Reading has no indoor market, but there is a street market in Hosier Street.[116] A farmers' market operates on two Saturdays a month.[117] The old Victorian Corn Exchange now provides an alternative access to a shopping centre.[118] Aerial view of Reading Festival 2007 Every year Reading
hosts the Reading Festival, which has been running since 1971.[119][120] The festival takes place on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the August bank holiday weekend and is the largest of its kind in the United Kingdom aside from the Glastonbury Festival. Reading Festival takes place at Little Johns Farm in Reading, Richfield Avenue.[121] For
some twenty years until 2006, Reading was also known for its WOMAD Festival until it moved to Charlton Park in Malmesbury, Wiltshire.[122][123] The Reading Beer Festivals in the United Kingdom. It is held at King's Meadow for the five days immediately preceding
the May Day bank holiday every year. [125] Reading also holds Reading Pride, an annual LGBT festival in Kings Meadow. The Frank Matcham-designed Royal County Theatre, built in 1895, was located on the south side of Friar Street. It burned down in 1937. [126] Within the town hall is a 700-seat concert hall that houses a Father Willis organ. [127]
 Reading theatre venues include The Hexagon and South Street Arts Centre, [128] [129] Reading Repertory Theatre is based at Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal Patron is Prince Edward. [130] Amateur theatre venues in Reading College: its Royal
1947 that operates and maintains its own 97-seat theatre [132] Rabble Theatre [133] in Caversham and Reading Rep [134] on London Road offer classic and contemporary performances. Jelly [135] is an artist-led organisation that has been committed to improving access to the arts since 1993. [136] The Abbey Gateway, where Jane Austen went to
 school Jane Austen attended Reading Ladies Boarding School, based in the Abbey Gateway, in 1784-1786.[137] Mary Russell Mitford lived in Reading for a number of years and then spent the rest of her life just outside the town at Three Mile Cross and Swallowfield.[138] The fictional Belford Regis of her eponymous novel,[139] first published in
1835, is largely based on Reading. Described with topographical accuracy, it is still possible to follow the steps of the novel's characters in present-day Reading. Reading also appears in the works of Thomas Hardy where it is called 'Aldbrickham'.[140] It features most heavily in his final novel, Jude the Obscure, as the temporary home of Jude Fawley
and Sue Bridehead. Oscar Wilde was imprisoned in Reading Gaol from 1895 to 1897. While there, he wrote his letter De Profundis. After his release, he lived in exile in France and wrote The Ballad of Reading Gaol whilst he was imprisoned there. [141][142]
In March 2021, street artist Banksy claimed responsibility for a painting on the wall of the jail. It depicted an inmate escaping with bedsheets and a typewriter, said to resemble Oscar Wilde.[143] Reading was the location of the world's first commercial studio for photograph printing, which was set up by William Henry Fox Talbot in 1844.[144] Ricky
Gervais, who is from Reading, made the film Cemetery Junction, which, although filmed elsewhere in the United Kingdom, is set in 1970s Reading. The BBC Two
 sitcom Beautiful People, based on the memoirs of Simon Doonan, is set in Reading in the late 1990s. The Maiwand Lion in Forbury Gardens The Maiwand Lion in Forbury Gardens, an unofficial symbol of Reading, commemorates the 328 officers of the Royal Berkshire Regiment who died in the Battle of Maiwand in 1880.[52][148] There are a number
of other works of public art in Reading. The Blade, a fourteen-storey building completed in 2009, is 86 m (282 ft) tall and can be seen from the surrounding area.[149] Jacksons Corner with its prominent sign, former home of Jacksons department store, occupies the corner of Kings Road and High Street, just south of the Market Place.[150] Reading
has two scheduled monuments, six Grade II sted buildings, in a wide variety of architectural styles that range from the medieval to the 21st century. The scheduled monuments are Reading Abbey and High Bridge, whilst the Grade I listed buildings are Reading Abbey, the Abbey Gateway, Greyfriars Church, St
 Laurence's Church, Reading Minster, and the barn at Chazey Farmhouse on the Warren.[151][152] Reading Post, ceased publication on paper in December 2014, in order to transition to an online only format under the title
getreading. As of 2018, getreading joined the InYourArea local news network.[153] A local publishing company, the Two Rivers Press, has published over 70 book titles, many on the topic of local history and art.[154][155] Three local radio stations broadcast from Reading: BBC Radio Berkshire, Heart South and Greatest Hits Radio Berkshire and
 North Hampshire. Local news and television programmes are provided by BBC South and ITV Meridian, BBC London & ITV London can also be received. Reading area. The Royal Berkshire Hospital original frontage, built in 1839 with
bath stone[156] Reading has over 100 parks and playgrounds, including 5 miles (8 km) of riverside paths. In the town centre is Forbury Gardens, a public park built on the site of the outer court of Reading previously owned by Frances Kendrick but acquired by
Reading Corporation in 1901. This is complemented by Palmer Park, a purpose built public park in east Reading gifted to the town by the proprietors of Huntley & Palmers in 1889.[157][158][159] A string of open spaces stretch along one or other side of the River Thames throughout its passage through Reading. From west to east these are
Thameside Promenade, Caversham Court, Christchurch Meadows, Hills Meadow, View Island and King's Meadow, View Island and V
hospital in Reading is the Royal Berkshire Hospital, founded in 1839 and much enlarged and rebuilt since. [163] A second major NHS general hospital, which specialises in the provision of care for people with mental
 health and learning disabilities.[165] Reading has three private hospitals: the Berkshire Independent Hospital in Coley Park, the Dunedin Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospitals: the Berkshire Independent Hospital in Coley Park, the Dunedin Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospitals: the Berkshire Independent Hospital in Coley Park, the Dunedin Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospitals: the Berkshire Independent Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospitals: the Berkshire Independent Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospitals: the Berkshire Independent Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospitals: the Berkshire Independent Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospitals: the Berkshire Independent Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospital situated on the main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospital situated on the Main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospital situated on the Main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospital situated on the Main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospital situated on the Main A4 Bath Road, and the Circle Hospital situated on the Main A4 Bath Road, and the Main A
 supply company, whilst water abstraction and disposal is regulated by the Environment Agency. Reading's water supply is largely derived from underground aquifers, and as a consequence the water is hard.[169][170][171] The commercial energy supplier for electricity and gas is at the consumer's choice. SSEN runs the local electricity distribution
network, while SGN runs the gas distribution network. A notable part of the local energy infrastructure is the presence of a 2 megawatt (peak) Enercon wind turbine at Green Park Business Park, with the potential to produce 2.7 million kWh of electricity a year, enough to power over a thousand homes.[172] Additionally, Reading Hydro runs a micro
hydroelectric power station on the Thames. Reading Electric Supply Company Limited, then from 1933 by the Reading Corporation until the nationalisation of the British electricity supply industry in 1948.[173] The
 dialling code for fixed-line telephones in Reading is 0118. BT provides fixed-line telephone coverage throughout the town and ADSL broadband internet connections. Hyperoptic also has a presence in the town,
supplying Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) broadband internet connections at speeds of up to 1 Gbit/s.[174] See also: List of schools in Reading Part of the University of Reading's main Whiteknights Campus The Museum of English Rural Life's rear garden, with the original East Thorpe House in the centre Reading School (a state grammar school).
founded in 1125,[6] is the 16th oldest school in England,[175] There are six other state secondary schools and nurseries,[176] Alfred Sutton Boys' School closed in the mid-1980s,[177] Reading College has provided further education in Reading since 1955
with over 8,500 local learners on over 900 courses.[178] English language School. The University of Reading was established in 1892 as an affiliate of Oxford University.[179] It moved to its London Road Campus in 1904 and to
its new Whiteknights Campus in 1947. It took over the Bulmershe College, situated in Buckinghamshire and about 10 miles (16 km) from Reading, was taken over in 2008, becoming Greenlands Campus.[180] The University
of West London maintains a presence in the town for its higher education students, principally in nursing, but has now divested itself of its previous ownership of Reading College and its further education students, principally in nursing, but has now divested itself of its previous ownership of Reading Town Hall, the central branch of the
library was relocated to a new building on King's Road in 1985.[182] The Reading Museum[183] opened in 1883 in the town's municipal buildings.[52] It contains galleries relating to the history of Reading and to the excavations of Calleva Atrebatum,[184] together with a full-size bowdlerised replica of the Bayeux Tapestry, an art collection, and
galleries relating to Huntley and Palmers.[185] The Museum of English Rural Life, in East Reading, is a museum dedicated to recording the changing face of farming and the countryside in England. It houses designated collections of national importance. It is owned and run by the University of Reading, as are the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology,
the Cole Museum of Zoology and the Harris Botanic Gardens, all of which can be found on the university's Whiteknights Campus. [186] [187] [188] The small Riverside Museum at Blake's Lock tells the story of Reading's two rivers. The Museum of Berkshire Aviation has a collection of aircraft and other artefacts relating to the aircraft industry in the
town.[189][190] Main article: Transport in Reading, Berkshire The River Thames from Caversham Bridge looking eastwards Aerial view of Reading station in the Thames Valley to the west of London has made the town a significant element in the nation's
transport system. The town grew up as a river port at the confluence of the River Thames and the River Kennet. Both of these rivers are navigable, and Caversham Lock, Blake's Lock, County Lock, Fobney Lock and Southcote Lock are all within the borough. Today, navigation is predominantly for purposes of leisure: private and hire boats dominate
traffic, while scheduled boat services operate on the Thames from wharves on the Reading side of the river near Caversham Bridge. [191][192] Reading was a major staging point on the old Bath Road (A4) from London to Avonmouth near Bristol. This road still carries local traffic, but has now been replaced for long-distance traffic by the M4
motorway, which closely skirts the borough and serves it with three junctions, J10-J12. Other main roads serving Reading include the A33, A327, A329, A4074 and A4155. Within Reading there is the Inner Distribution Road (IDR), a ring road for local traffic. The IDR is linked with the M4 by the A33 relief road. The Thames is crossed by both Reading
and Caversham road bridges, while several road bridges, while several road bridges cross the Kennet, the oldest surviving one of which is High Bridge [193] Reading has two operational park and ride sites. Mereoak, a short distance south of Junction 11 of the M4, is also a stop for National Express Coaches between London and the West. [194] A site outside the Winnersh
Triangle railway station opened in 2015 and is easily accessed from the junction where the A329(M) becomes the A329(M) becomes the A3290.[195] Reading is a major junction point of the National Rail system, and hence Reading station is a transfer point and terminus. In a project that finished in 2015, Reading station was redeveloped at a cost of £850m, with grade
separation of some conflicting traffic flows, and extra platforms, to relieve severe congestion at this station. [196][197] Railway lines link Reading to both Paddington and Waterloo stations in the
which provides stopping services to London Paddington, and means Reading to Abbey Wood and Shenfield in the east.[198] There have been two airfields in or near Reading, one at Coley Park[199] and one at Woodley,[200] but they have both closed. The
nearest international airport is London Heathrow, 20 miles (32 km) away. An express bus service named RailAir links Reading with Heathrow, [201] or the airport can be accessed by rail by taking the Elizabeth line to Hayes & Harlington and changing for a connecting service to Heathrow. This journey takes around 45 minutes by rail. [202] London
City Airport can be reached via a direct train to Custom House on the Elizabeth line followed by a short bus connection. Gatwick Airport can be accessed with one change in Central London. Further afield, Southampton Airport can be accessed directly by
rail in around 50-70 minutes depending on the service, or reached by road in approximately the same timeframe. Today local public transport is largely by road, which is often affected by peak hour congestion in the borough. A frequent local bus network within the borough, and a less frequent network in the surrounding area, are provided by
Reading Buses - one of the few remaining municipal bus companies in the country - and its subsidiaries Newbury & District and Thames Valley Buses. Other bus operators serving Reading include Carousel Buses, Thames Travel and RedRose. [204]
In March 2011, Reading Borough Council approved a bike sharing scheme similar to London Cycle Hire Scheme, with 1,000 bicycles available at up to 150 docking stations across Reading. However this scheme came to an end in March 2019, with the operator unable to cover the operational costs or find a sponsor to do so.[205][206][207] St Mary's
Church tower, chequered with flint and ashlar[208] The interior of the ruined chapter house Reading Minster (the Minster Church of St Mary the Virgin) is Reading's oldest ecclesiastical foundation, known to have been founded by the 9th century and possibly earlier. [209] Although eclipsed in importance by the later abbey, Reading Minster has
regained its importance since the destruction of the abbey. Reading Abbey was founded by Henry I in 1121. He was buried there, as were parts of his daughter Empress Matilda, William of Poitiers, Constance of York, and Princess Isabella of Cornwall, among others.[9][10] The abbey was one of the pilgrimage centres of medieval England; it held over
230 relics including the hand of St. James. Today all that remains of the abbey are the inner rubble cores of the major buildings of the abbey, together with a much restored inner gateway and the intact hospitium. [210][211] The medieval borough of Reading was served by three parish churches: Reading Minster, St Giles' Church,
and St Laurence's Church. All are still in use by the Church of England [212] The Franciscan friars built a friary in the town in 1311. After the friars were expelled in 1538, the building was used as a hospital, a poorhouse, and a jail, before being restored as the Church of England parish church of Greyfriars Church in 1863.[213][214] The Bishop of
Reading is a suffragan bishop within the Church of England's Diocese of Oxford. The bishop is based in Reading, and is responsible for the archdeaconry of Berkshire. There are a total of 18 Church of England parish churches in Reading, and is responsible for the archdeaconry of Berkshire. There are a total of 18 Church of England parish churches in Reading, and is responsible for the archdeaconry of Berkshire.
the return of the Roman Catholic faith to Reading. Reading was also the site of the death of Blessed Dominic Barberi, the Catholic missionary to England in the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the Catholic missionary to England in the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the Catholic missionary to England in the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the Catholic missionary to England in the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the Catholic missionary to England in the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the Catholic missionary to England in the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the Catholic missionary to England in the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the Catholic missionary to England in the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the Catholic missionary to England in the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the Catholic missionary to England in the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the Catholic missionary to England in the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the Catholic missionary to England in the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the Catholic missionary to England in the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the 19th century who received John Henry Newman into the
founded in Reading in 1640 or 1641.[220] In addition to Catholicism and the Church of England, the Seventh-Day Adventist denomination is also represented in the town, particularly by Reading West SDA Church on Loverock Road, Reading Central SDA Church on Tilehurst Road, and various other churches around Reading [221][222] Reading has
had an organised Jewish community since 1886. At least one Jewish family living in the area has been traced back as far as 1842. The group grew to 13 families, who in 1886 declared themselves a community and commenced building a synagogue. On 31 October 1900, Reading Hebrew Congregation[223] officially opened in a solemn public
ceremony, packed to capacity with dignitaries, led by the Chief Rabbi Hermann Adler. Reading Hebrew Congregation, which still stands on its original site at the junction of Goldsmid Road and Clifton Street near the town centre, is a Grade II-listed building, built to a traditional design in the Moorish style. The community is affiliated with the
Orthodox United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth. [223] Reading also has a Liberal Jewish community which convenes in the Reading Quaker Meeting House, [224] a Modern Orthodox Judaism community which convenes in the Reading Quaker Meeting House, [224] a Modern Orthodox Judaism community which convenes in the Reading Quaker Meeting House, [224] a Modern Orthodox Judaism community which convenes in the Reading Quaker Meeting House, [224] a Modern Orthodox Judaism community which convenes in the Reading Quaker Meeting House, [224] a Modern Orthodox Judaism community which convenes in the Reading Quaker Meeting House, [224] a Modern Orthodox Judaism community which convenes in the Reading Quaker Meeting House, [225] a Modern Orthodox Judaism community which convenes in the Reading Quaker Meeting House, [226] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading Quaker Meeting House, [227] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading Quaker Meeting House, [228] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading Quaker Meeting House, [228] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading Quaker Meeting House, [228] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading Quaker Meeting House, [228] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading House, [228] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading House, [228] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading House, [228] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading House, [228] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading House, [228] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading House, [228] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading House, [228] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading House, [228] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading House, [228] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading House, [228] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading House, [228] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading House, [228] a Modern Orthodox Judaism Convenes in the Reading House, [228] a Modern Orth
nearby Maidenhead Synagogue. [225] There are presently three mosques in Reading, initially just having the Central Reading, was granted planning permission in 2002. The community-funded project began construction in 2007, [227] and opened its
doors in July 2013 - the holy month of Ramadan for this year. [228] A second Islamic centre in eastern Reading has also been granted planning permission. [230] Reading also has places of worship of other religions: the Shantideva Mahayana Buddhist centre, [231] a Hindu temple, [232] a Sikh
gurdwara,[233] a Salvation Army citadel,[234] a Quaker meeting house,[235] and a Christadelphian Hall.[236] Main article: Sport in Reading Football Club The Voco Reading Hotel, pictured when still known as the Millennium Madejski The Reading Half Marathon 2004 climbing Russell
 Street in West Reading Reading Reading is the home of Reading Football Club, an association football club nicknamed 'The Biscuitmen' [238] and based at Elm Park, the club plays at the 24,161 capacity [239] Select Car Leasing Stadium, first named after chairman Sir John Madejski which opened in 1998.
and later renamed "Select Car Leasing Stadium" [240] in 2021, after a sponsor. After winning the 2005-06 Football League Championship with a record of 106 points, Reading spent two seasons in the Premier League Championship with a record of 106 points, Reading spent two seasons, the club again competed in the Premier League, after
securing first place in the Championship in the 2011-2012 season, but were relegated back down to the Championship at season's end. [242] Reading Town Football Club, formed in 1966, [243] played at Scours Lane and were playing in the Hellenic League Premier Division but were dissolved in 2016, while fellow non-league football club Reading City
Football Club now play at Scours Lane after moving from Palmer Park Stadium in 2016. Reading RFC. The Reading RFC. The Reading RFC and Reading RFC. The Reading RFC and Reading RFC and Reading RFC and Reading RFC and Reading RFC.
basketball team. They compete in the second tier English Basketball League Division 1, though they have tried several times in recent years to move up to the top tier British Basketball League. They play home games at Loddon Valley Leisure Centre, and are coached by Samit Nuruzade. In 2016-17 the club embarked on an 18-game winning streak.
During the 24-25 Season, They were able to win 3 out of the 4 available Domestic Trophies. The town hosts Australian Rules football team Reading Kangaroos and American football team Reading Kangaroos a
[245] Reading Hockey Club enter teams in both the Reading University Boat Club, [246] both next to Caversham Bridge, whilst Reading Blue Coat School trains at Sonning adjacent to the Redgrave Pinsent Rowing Lake in Caversham, which provides
training facilities for the Great Britain National Squad. [247] However, almost all club rowing is done on the River Thames. The annual Reading Town Regatta takes place near Thames Valley Park, [248] with the Reading Amateur Regatta takes place near Thames.
speedway team, Reading Racers. Speedway came to Reading in 1968 at Tilehurst Stadium, until the team moved to Smallmead Stadium in Whitley, [249] which was once hoped to be completed in 2012. [250] The Reading Racers reformed in 2016 and
joined the new Southern Developmental League upon its formation in 2017 winning its inaugural season undefeated. The team started back up in Eastbourne and currently races in Swindon awaiting return to a track in Reading. The Reading Half Marathon is held on the streets of Reading in March of each year, with 16,000 competitors from elite to
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fun runners.[251] It was first run in 1983 and has taken place in every subsequent year except 2001, when it was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [252][253][254] The British Triathlon Association was formed at the town's former Mall health club on 11 December 1982.[255] Britain's first ever triathlon took place just outside Reading at Kirtons's Farm in Pingewood in 1983 and was revived 10 years' later by Banana Leisure with one of the original organisers as Event Director.[256] Thames Valley Triathletes, based in the town, is Britain's oldest triathlon club, having its origins in the 1984 event at nearby Heckfield, when a relay team raced under the name Reading Triathlon Club.[257] The Hexagon was home to snooker's Grand Prix tournament, one of the sport's "Big Four", from 1984 to 1994.[258][259] Main article: List of people from Reading, Berkshire See also: Category:People from Reading is twinned with:[260] Düsseldorf, Germany (since 1984) San Francisco Libre, Nicaragua (since 1994) Speightstown, Barbados (since 2003) Though not

twinned with Reading, two suburbs of the New Zealand city of Dunedin — Caversham and Forbury — were named after places in and around Reading portal England portal United Kingdom portal Politics portal Geography portal	I I ist of administrative counties and county
boroughs of England by population in 1971 List of college towns List of conservation areas in England List of towns in England List of unitary authorities of England 2020 Reading stabbings Murder of Emily Salvini Reading Reading Salvini R	
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