Useful information

Travel information

Buses
Buses run between Bishop’s Waltham and Southampton (X10), Eastleigh (X9), Winchester (69) and Fareham (69) Monday to Saturday, and to and from Petersfield (X17) Wednesday only. For timetables see www.myjourneyhampshire.com

Trains
The nearest train station is Botley from which you can take an X9 bus to Bishop’s Waltham.

Banks
- Barclays The Square, Bishop’s Waltham SO32 1GH
- Lloyds The Square, Bishop’s Waltham SO32 1GS

Doctor
Bishop’s Waltham Surgery
Lower Lane, Bishop’s Waltham
SO32 1GR Tel: 01489 892 288

Hospital
Royal Hampshire County Hospital
Romsey Road, Winchester SO22 5DG
Tel: 01962 863 535

Chemists
- Boots High Street, Bishop’s Waltham SO32 1AB
  Tel: 01489 892 603
- Lloyds Pharmacy High Street, Bishop’s Waltham SO32 1AB
  Tel: 01489 892 499

Further information
Scan the QR code to visit www.lovebishopswaltham.com

Winchester Tourist Information Centre, Guildhall, High St, Winchester SO23 9GH
Tel: 01962 840 500 | Fax: 01962 850 348 | Email: tourism@winchestergov.uk
www.visitwinchester.co.uk

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Written by Bishop’s Waltham Town Team with support from the Visit Winchester and Heart of Hampshire Destination Management Partnership team at Winchester City Council. Map illustration by Keith Proctor.
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Bishop’s Waltham is a vibrant and historic market town set in the glorious Hampshire countryside. With a foot in the South Downs National Park and located at the midpoint of a long-established route between Winchester and Portsmouth, the town has been appreciated as a place to stop and relax for hundreds of years.

From the impressive ruins of the medieval Bishop’s Waltham Palace to the numerous listed buildings of the town centre, history is everywhere. The medieval High Street is remarkably well preserved but don’t be deceived – there’s a broad range of shops, cafés, restaurants and salons to tempt the 21st century visitor.

Shopping and eating is complemented by miles of walking and cycling trails. Visitors can choose from wandering through nature reserves, meandering along riversides and discovering the former Botley railway line.

The friendliness of Bishop’s Waltham combined with its strong sense of community has resulted in a calendar bursting with events. From its vibrant summer carnival to vintage markets, music and arts festivals and the annual Christmas Fayre, there’s always a reason to come back to Bishop’s Waltham.

Did you know?

Manorial records show that there has been a High Street in Bishop’s Waltham since at least 1332.

© PAUL CARTER

1 The High Street

Independent shops abound, giving you the chance to find something that little bit different. When you’ve worked up an appetite, try one of the town’s restaurants, delicatessens, hostelries or coffee shops. You’ll find personal service and a warm Hampshire welcome at each stop along the way.

© PAUL CARTER

2 St. George’s Square

Today all that survives of the original market place is St George’s Square at the south end of the High Street. Its focal point is the Jubilee Clock, funded by donations from the people of Bishop’s Waltham. The stone under the clock is the last remaining part of the original market house that once stood in the square, but no market was ever held in the building. In the early 18th century, it was used instead as a lock-up for petty criminals.
3 The Ponds

Cross over Winchester Road to find the lovely southern part of the vast fish pond that was created for the early Bishops of Winchester, resident at the medieval palace. Today the pond is used by the town’s fishing club and attracts a variety of wildfowl and wildlife — otter footprints have recently been found. The northern part of the pond floods in winter but dries out in the summer months and there is a boardwalk allowing you to walk right over the top of it.

4 Bishop’s Waltham Palace (free entrance)

Bishop’s Waltham’s most impressive cultural asset is without doubt the grand medieval Bishop’s Palace, located near the heart of the town. Explore the extensive remains, including the ruins of the Great Hall, and imagine the powerful visitors who honoured the palace with a visit. They include Henry II, Richard the Lionheart, Henry III, Henry IV, Henry V, Henry VI, Edward IV, Henry VIII, Queen Mary I, and Queen Elizabeth I. In good weather, the grounds are ideal for a family picnic — just buy your lunch in the High Street and cross Winchester Road to relax and eat out in the open air. Open 1 April - 30 September daily, 10.00am to 6.00pm, and 1 October - 31 March at weekends, 10.00am to 4.00pm. For more details see www.english-heritage.org.uk

5 Bishop’s Waltham Museum (free entrance)

Delve into the archives of the town’s history and uncover local information and artefacts from days gone by at the Bishop’s Waltham Museum. Housed in The Farmhouse at Bishop’s Waltham Palace, the museum is free of charge (although small voluntary donations welcome) and is open from 2.00pm until 4.00pm at weekends from May to September and outside opening times. For further information see www.bishopswalthammuseum.org.uk or email bishopswalthammuseum@hotmail.com

6 St. Peter’s Church

From the town centre ascend the elegant Georgian St. Peter’s Street to discover the church. This site has been a place of worship for over 900 years and the church which stands today features artefacts from various eras. The core structure is of Norman origin, and later additions include the Saxon font (found in a garden in nearby Houchin Street in 1933), a Jacobean pulpit and the 14th century iron clock from the Bishop’s Palace — its pendulum, which weighs a third of a ton, is believed to be the third heaviest in the world. Until the end of the 19th century the church was the place where the Vestry, the forerunner to the Parish Council, convened. To arrange a visit call the Parish Office on 01489 892 197. See www.stpetersbishopswaltham.org.uk

7 The Countryside

Bishop’s Waltham is situated amidst some of Hampshire’s most beautiful rolling countryside. A landscape rich with oak and beech trees marking out hedge lines and pathways that criss-cross the land that has been farmed for millennia. The South Downs National Park runs right up to the northern edge of Bishop’s Waltham, making the town a great place to start or finish either walking or cycling trips. Details of three individual local walks are given on page 16, as well as details of how to get a free copy of Exploring Bishop’s Waltham that describes the routes in detail.
**What to see**

**8 The Moors Nature Reserve**

This is an area of semi-natural woodland, fen and grassland and open water designated as a Site of Scientific Interest and is a wetland of national importance for its wildflowers and unusual habitat. It is the main source of the Hamble River and a place where springs bubble up and streams feed a mill pond. The pond is a good spot to see kingfishers, Little Grebes and Emperor dragonflies.

The meadow to the west of the pond is managed in a traditional way, being cut for hay and grazed by Highland cattle. The main part of the Moors is managed by Hampshire County Council’s Countryside Service and is open to the public.

For more information about where to park and details of a 2-mile walk see www3.hants.gov.uk/countryside/moors

**9 Claylands Local Nature Reserve**

Immerse yourself in over eight hectares of the natural world just on the outskirts of Bishop’s Waltham. Formerly the site of an old clayworks, today’s nature lovers can stroll through the lush, grassy meadows and woodlands and relax by the ponds which are now home to one of the largest populations of great crested newts in the country.

Butterflies to be found here include Painted Lady, Clouded Yellow, Ringlets, Marbled White, Small and Essex Skippers and it’s always worth checking high in the oaks and ash trees for Purple Hairstreak butterflies dancing around the tree tops. In the summer the hay meadows and banks are a blaze of wildflowers and glow worms can be found after dark.

Tel: 02392 476 411. www.hants.gov.uk/claylands

**Where to shop**

**2 Best Wishes of Bishop’s Waltham**

Best Wishes of Bishop’s Waltham is an independent specialist card shop, located just off of the High Street, stocking a large variety of greeting cards, gift wrap, balloons, party items and gifts for all occasions. Open Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 5.00pm. A warm and friendly welcome guaranteed.

www.bestwishesofbw.co.uk

**42 Cassis Ladies Fashions**

At Cassis you will find a fabulous, fashionable selection of clothing and accessories for every taste, occasion and budget. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff are ready to assist you and help you find the perfect fit. Whether you’re looking for a complete makeover or for that elusive piece to complete your outfit, we can help! Open Monday to Saturday 9.30am - 5.00pm.

www.cassisladiesfashions.com

**25 Sweet Corner**

Take a trip down memory lane in our traditional sweet shop to discover a range of over 250 sweets served from jars, a delicious range of handmade chocolates and fudge. We offer unique gifts to delight any sweet lover. Come and see our speciality - a “sweet cake” made entirely from sweets!
Where to shop

23 Just in Case Wine Merchants

Symes Corner, Bank Street, Bishop’s Waltham
SO32 1AN Tel: 01489 892 969

Just in Case offers a unique atmosphere in which to shop for wines, and a personal, knowledgeable service. With many sought-after wines and spirits, it’s worth asking for that rare bottle that you had been hard-pushed to locate. Our wines are carefully chosen to represent the best from all over the world. To the rear of the premises sit the illustrious wine racks and you can make an event of wine browsing with a break for a light snack or even just a coffee in our tearooms.

visitbishopswaltham@gmail.com

50 Essential Beauty

Salon: Basingwell Street, Bishop’s Waltham
SO32 1PA Tel: 01489 895 100
Text appointments: 07798 922 308

- Beauty, nails & tanning
- Holistic health
- Body & detox therapies
- Male grooming
- Pregnancy, mother & baby care
- Packages, events & special offers
- Fragrances & scent events
- Gift vouchers

www.essentialbeauty.me.uk

70 Grover Butchers

High Street, Bishop’s Waltham SO32 1AA
Tel: 01489 891 937

Purveyors of meat served to the highest standard. Our range is endless... from our award-winning sausages to our unique ready meals! Try our South African or Exotic Meats – we have a delicious selection. Al-Fresco plans – we can supply and serve for all your catering needs.

www.groverbutchers.co.uk

44 Bishop’s Waltham Post Office & Shop

High Street, Bishop’s Waltham SO32 1AA
Tel: 01489 892 501


bwpo@outlook.com

48 Peter Atkinson Fishmonger, Deli, Smokehouse & Boat Charter

2 Merlin Mews, Houchin Street, Bishop’s Waltham
SO32 1AR Tel: 01489 896 111

Traditional fishmongers. Purveyor of the finest fresh fish and shellfish sustainably sourced from all over the UK and abroad. Naturally smoked fish, game, meat and poultry from our own local smokehouse. Cheeses, olives and many deli items. Boat charter – come and catch your own on guided fishing trips in the Solent and around the Isle of Wight. Smoking service available to fishermen. Restaurant and pub enquiries welcome.

www.anyfish.co.uk

7 Labels Dress Agency

The Old Forge, Brook Street, Bishop’s Waltham
SO32 1AX Tel: 01489 896 515

Your favourite designer brands at affordable prices. Our stock includes wedding outfits, evening, cruise & casual wear. Open Monday to Saturday 9:30am – 4:30pm.

www.labelsdressagency.co.uk
Where to eat

Giorgio’s
8 High Street, Bishop’s Waltham SO32 1AA
Tel: 01489 894 476

Dine in our restaurant or relax with a drink or Tapas in our separate bar area, late license Friday and Saturday. LUNCH Thursday to Saturday 12.00 to 2.30pm, BAR Tuesday to Saturday from 5pm, DINNER from 6pm. Happy Hour on Fridays to 7.30pm. Available for private functions and outside catering.

www.giorgiosmedrestaurant.co.uk

Anvil Tea Rooms & Coffee Shop
Symes Corner, Bank Street, Bishop’s Waltham
SO32 1AN Tel: 01489 892 969

True home cooking with traditional service in a friendly atmosphere. Open everyday 9.00am to 5.00pm. We have room inside and outside in our Tudor courtyard. Superb food, scrumptious cakes and a wide selection of teas and real coffees. A comprehensive gluten-free menu is available. Extensive wine list available. www.anviltearooms.co.uk

Piccola Roma
Houchin Street, Bishop’s Waltham SO32 1AR
Tel: 01489 892 502

Whether it is a romantic dinner or a friendly get together, you can be sure of a warm welcome in this independently owned Italian restaurant. We serve excellent food using local produce or specialist Italian suppliers. Families welcome. Takeaways, parties and great Italian food. Open Tuesday to Saturday 12.00pm - 2.00pm for lunch and dinner from 5.00pm. www.piccola-roma.co.uk

The Barleycorn Inn
Lower Basingwell Street, Bishop’s Waltham
SO32 1AJ Tel: 01489 892 712

A delightfully quirky traditional village pub in the very heart of Bishop’s Waltham where nothing matches but everything matters! You will always receive a warm welcome whatever the weather – with our beautiful summer garden or cosy winter fire you also find perfect pints, excellent wines and delicious pub grub that won’t break the bank! www.thebarleycorninn.com

For more great places to eat, see the map on pages 12-13 or just have a wander through the town centre.

Where to stay

Give yourself a bit more time to explore and stay the night in Bishop’s Waltham. The historical Crown Inn in St. George’s Square has rooms with plenty of character.

The Crown Inn
The Square, Bishop’s Waltham SO32 1AF
Tel: 01962 893 350

We are proud to present eight sumptuously appointed rooms all refurbished to a very high standard. Without doubt some of the finest accommodation near Winchester, our stylish rooms – each named after French ships or French Admirals in a gentle nod to our rich history – have been refurbished to standards seldom associated with traditional inns. www.crowninnbishopswaltham.co.uk

For more information on accommodation in the area, visit www.visitwinchester.co.uk or call Winchester Tourist Information Centre on 01962 840 500.
Parking information

There are two car parks in Bishop’s Waltham, please see the map below for their locations. Parking is free for the first hour in both car parks; simply press the green button on the machine and place your ticket on the dashboard. Parking is also free on Sundays and after 6pm Monday – Saturday.
Bishops Independent is a family run business located in the heart of Bishop’s Waltham. We are an honest, enthusiastic and professional organisation that covers the sales and lettings market extensively. With over 60 years of local knowledge and experience, contact us immediately to discuss any of your property requirements.

www.bishopsestate.co.uk

Butler & Co (Bishops Waltham) Limited

Avalon House, Waltham Business Park, Swanmore SO32 2SA
Tel: 01489 896 996

Established in 1986 and incorporated in 2005, we serve clients in many sectors dealing with annual accounts, audits, company formations, corporation tax, payroll, and VAT returns. We also prepare self assessment tax returns and advise on capital gains, inheritance and personal tax. Contact us for a free initial consultation.

www.butlerco-bw.co.uk

Hampshire Financial Planning Ltd

Grain Floor East, Chase Mill, Winchester Road, Bishop’s Waltham SO32 1AH
Tel: 01489 232 527

We specialise in providing high quality wealth management advice: Investment Planning, Retirement Planning and Inheritance Tax Planning. Additionally, we assist businesses in the increasingly complex area of corporate financial planning, providing guidance on pensions, protection for directors, key employees or shareholders, tax relief and aspects of exit strategy planning.

www.hampshirefinancialplanning.co.uk

Crest Dry Cleaning & Tailoring

4 Merlin Mews, Bishop’s Waltham SO32 1AR
Tel: 01489 894 421

With over 25 years experience, we’re the cleaning specialists who can help.
• Dry Cleaning, Laundry & Shirt Service
• Duvets & Bedding Cleaning
• Upholstery & Carpet Cleaning
• Tailoring, Alterations & Shoe Repairs
• Suede & Leather Cleaning
• Specialist Wedding Dress, Bridesmaid and Prom Dress Cleaning
• Loyalty Scheme Available

www.crestdrycleaning.co.uk

Saxby’s Eye Care

2 Houchin Street, Bishop’s Waltham SO32 1AR
Tel: 01489 896 330 Email: info@saxbys-eyecare.co.uk

Your friendly, local, independent specialist committed to providing quality service.
• Eye examinations using the latest equipment
• Large selection of spectacles
• Contact Lenses
• Sunglasses
• NHS and private examinations

www.saxbys-eyecare.co.uk
Bishop’s Waltham boasts a particularly beautiful rural setting with nearby countryside that is very accessible to visitors. Call Winchester Tourist Information Centre on 01962 840 500 to request your free copy of Exploring Bishop’s Waltham, a leaflet that describes each of the routes below in detail, with an accompanying map. Alternatively you can pick up a copy from the Bishop’s Waltham Post Office and other local shops, or download a copy from www3.hants.gov.uk/walking

**Bishop’s Waltham Nature Walk** – 3 miles; 1½ hours; no stiles

This popular nature walk traces an undulating route that includes some steep steps. Information boards along the way make this route as interesting as it is enjoyable. Setting out at Basingwell Street Car Park, the walk takes in the sand boils at the source of the Hamble, local nature reserves, plus meadows and woodland.

**Bishop’s Waltham Country Walk** – 5 miles; 2 hours; no stiles

A rolling countryside trail which allows you to explore the north east of Bishop’s Waltham. From Basingwell Street Car Park, head north up St. Peter’s Street and through the churchyard. The walk follows clear tracks for most of the way and takes you across Dundridge Meadow (pictured), through woodland and fields.

**The Bishop’s Waltham Heritage Walk** – 4 miles; 2 hours; 13 stiles

This circular walk takes in the history around Newtown to the west of Bishop’s Waltham. It is relatively level but can be muddy in winter. Beginning at Station Roundabout and following the railway h through the level crossing gates, the walk proceeds to follow in the footsteps of the pilgrims who travelled along the medieval route from Winchester to worship St. Michael in Normandy. Other highlights along the way include Tangier Lane, named after the port of Tangier, part of the dowry of Catherine of Braganza who passed this way from Portugal to marry King Charles II in 1662; Park Lug, a boundary of the medieval deer park; the short section of Roman Road that ran from Winchester to Portchester; and Claylands Local Nature Reserve with clay pits dating from Roman times and its brickworks that was established in 1802.
A brief history

Archaeological finds show that people have been living here since at least 5,000 BC. The natural springs that occur when chalk uplands meet clay lowland would have been the primary reason for such continuous settlement. The town’s Saxon name (‘wald’ meaning forest and ‘ham’ meaning settlement) is important. It is one of only 12 Saxon settlements with the name; all established right at the start of the post-Roman occupation of Britain. This suggests Bishop’s Waltham was settled by Anglo-Saxon migrants as early as 450 to 550 AD, not long after the last Roman legions left.

Our early history is shrouded in mist, but a Benedictine church existed here in 700 AD — just 60 years after Christianity came to Wessex. In 904, King Alfred's son, Edward the Elder, granted the royal estate of Waltham to Denewulf, Bishop of Winchester, in exchange for the strong Roman fortifications at Portchester.

Waltham must have been a significant settlement because an attack on it by the Vikings in 1001 is described in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles. Yet just 85 years later, the Domesday Book shows that Bishop's Waltham had recovered to be the 11th largest settlement in the whole of Hampshire, with a population of 6-700 with over 300 oxen needed to plough its land.

In 1136, Bishop Henri de Blois, grandson of William the Conqueror, built a palace at Waltham which quickly became a key residence for the powerful bishops of Winchester, hosting many royal visitors such as Richard the Lionheart, Edward III, Henry V, Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I.

During the English Civil War, royalist cavaliers were besieged there for three days before being forced to surrender. Oliver Cromwell then ordered the partial destruction of the palace, resulting in today’s picturesque ruins.

Beyond the palace grounds the town’s trading roots were developing. By the late 13th century a weekly market was held and by the 15th century the town boasted such a successful wool industry that it was sometimes referred to as ‘Waltham Woolpit’. Queen Elizabeth I granted the right to hold two annual fairs in Bishop's Waltham and in the 18th century a tanning industry thrived in the town.

By the time of Nelson’s victory at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805, the town was big enough for the defeated Admiral of the combined French-Spanish fleet, Pierre-Charles Villeneuve, and 200 other French Officers to be billeted at the Crown Inn and amongst the townsfolk, whilst on parole.

The Victorian period marked further prosperity for the town, in particular the establishment of the Bishop's Waltham Clay Company in the area now known as Claylands. Most of the enterprises were instigated by Sir Arthur Helps, Private Secretary to Queen Victoria. He built houses for his workers in the western outskirts of the town and was influential in a number of projects which benefited the town; the introduction of the railway, the opening of the gas works and the provision of street lighting at an early date.

Further information is available at Bishop’s Waltham Museum (see page 4).
Around Bishop’s Waltham

Marwell Zoo

Owslebury SO21 1JH  Tel: 01962 777 407
From meerkats to snow leopards, world-famous Marwell Wildlife is home to over 200 species of animals and birds. The new Café Graze overlooks the stunning African Valley, home to giraffe, ostrich, zebra and waterbuck. Look out for events throughout the year on the website at www.marwell.org.uk

Marwell Outdoor Activity Centre

Hurst Lane, Owslebury SO21 1EZ  Tel: 01962 777 547
One of the South’s leading outdoor and indoor activity centres with 25 years’ experience in outdoor pursuits. Offering a wide range of year round activities for children and adults, such as archery, clay pigeon shooting, quad bikes and a ropes course. Our experienced, qualified team deliver activities of your choice in a challenging but safe environment. We look forward to welcoming you. www.marwellactivitycentre.co.uk

Old Winchester Hill

OS grid reference: SU 643 205
2 miles from village of West Meon on A32
Reached via stunning walks with views across the Hampshire countryside, Old Winchester Hill has an Iron Age hill fort enclosing a Bronze Age cemetery at its summit. The fort is believed to have Celtic origins. In World War II the hillside was used as a testing range, meaning some areas remain out of bounds to walkers (free ranging sheep are testament to the fact that the risk of finding an unexploded bomb is reassuringly low). The hill plays host to a wide range of butterfly and bird species.

Forest of Bere

OS grid Reference: SU 597 122
Escape from any trace of modern life with a trip to this ancient woodland. At 350 hectares, West Walk is the largest remaining fragment of the former forest – ideal for a complete day out with plenty of walking and cycling trails, adventurous playgrounds for children and several quiet picnic areas. Pictured is Upperford Copse.
www.forestry.gov.uk/bere

Wickham

Located just 4 miles south of Bishop’s Waltham is the equally beautiful market town of Wickham. With its handsome square, beautiful historical architecture and quirky shops and eateries, you can easily while away an afternoon here. Water meadows, antique shops and shopping lanes all add to the charm, while Wickham’s restaurants will leave you spoilt for choice. Accessible by bus from Bishop’s Waltham. www.wickhamsquare.co.uk

South Downs National Park

Bishop’s Waltham is located just on the edge of the South Downs National Park (SDNP) and is therefore an ideal base from which to explore its beautiful landscapes and wildlife. This is the countryside which inspired novelist Jane Austen and naturalist Gilbert White, and the National Park is Britain’s newest. The wooded hills and hidden valleys are perfect for walking, cycling and horse riding, and it’s easier than you might think to get around by public transport so get yourself out there and explore.
www.southdowns.gov.uk
Bishop’s Waltham’s events calendar is simply bursting with markets, festivals, sports meets, cultural celebrations, shopping events and children’s activities. To find out what’s going on during your visit see www.lovebishopswaltham.com/whats-on.

The friendliness of Bishop’s Waltham’s traders is evident through their involvement in children’s activities during the year. Egg hunts at Easter, treasure hunts in the summer, Halloween activities in October and of course the Christmas Fayre; all of these events encourage children and their families to really enjoy the town centre.

On certain Sundays throughout the year, the High Street is closed to traffic and the hustle and bustle of a market comes to town. Dates for these markets can be found on www.lovebishopswaltham.com.

Gardening is another theme for events in Bishop’s Waltham, with the Open Gardens event held biannually, an annual floral and hanging basket competition and the Garden Fair held just outside Bishop’s Waltham in May.

The Rotary organized Carnival and Village Show occurs in June each year. A procession through the streets of Bishop’s Waltham of vintage and classic cars is accompanied by bands, entertainers and local groups before arriving at the local recreation ground where a full day of sights, sounds and tastes awaits to delight the whole family.

The year’s events culminate with the annual Christmas Fayre held on the first Thursday in December. The carol singing will surely get you in the mood to grab a glass of mulled wine (while the kids meet Father Christmas) and start your Christmas shopping. Shops are open until 8.00pm and the High Street is full of stalls selling all sorts of gifts and tasty food.

For local produce, home baking and crafts, head to the Country Market at the Jubilee Hall on any Friday from 9.15-11.00am. For more information see www.bwcountrymarket.co.uk.