

WHAT TO DO NEARBY WITH A CAR

31 Go back to the time of the Industrial Revolution and learn how to stoke a coal fired boiler and operate the oldest fully working beam engine in the world at Crofton Beam Engines

32 Picnic high on a chalky ridge near Wilton Windmill, the only working one in Wessex. You may even come away with a bag of your own stone-ground flour

33 Take in the White Horse Trail – a 100 odd mile circular walk, from Westbury to Devizes, passing through Marlborough to admire our very own special horse

34 Brush up on your heritage with a walk from Avebury stone circle, down the ceremonial approach to the burial chamber at West Kennet and on to Silbury Hill's prehistoric mound

35 Check out Wiltshire's wonderful wildlife from the water by hiring a canal boat on the Kennet and Avon. Day trips from Hungerford and Honeystreet

36 Follow in the footsteps of ancient drovers by trekking the ancient Ridgeway's downlands and secluded valleys. Starting from Avebury, follow the 40 miles to Goring in Berkshire



37 Learn all about the science and mystery of crop circles at the Crop Circle Exhibition Centre in Honeystreet and get all the latest up to date crop circle reports

38 Imagine you are a trader or an invader as you walk the Wansdyke – a massive, enigmatic linear bank and ditch running from the Savernake Forest to Morgans Hill near Devizes

39 Taste the local artisan ales, craft lagers and Single Estate spirits at the Ramsbury Brewery. Tours last an hour. Wear sensible footwear

40 Be guided round the Alder Ridge vineyard on the south facing slopes of the North Wessex Downs and try their award-winning sparkling wine. (From June to September)



WHAT TO DO WITH A DOG

41 Let your dog cool off at Coopers Meadow. By the river and the car park, it is conveniently placed a hop, skip and a jump away from the High Street for busy shoppers

42 Shop in the market with your dog on a Wednesday or a Saturday and maybe buy them a bone or a toy from the stall selling canine treats

43 Sightsee with dogs in need of more exercise along Treacle Bolly, following the Kennet out of town and on up Granham Hill – a good climb, with great views back over Marlborough

44 Hike even further afield to the mighty Marlborough Downs with its skylarks and big skies, curves, ridges and valleys and ancient silence. Dog walking paradise but respect the livestock

45 Pick up the old railway line in Marlborough, cross the Kennet and head out towards Ogbourne St Andrew

46 Follow the river through the water meadows from Coopers Meadow up to Kennet Place, stopping to feed the ducks, before having a poke about the Ropeworks antiques centre

47 Check out Marlborough Pets (London Road) and Pets Corner (George Lane) for all your dog needs – even a popular grooming parlour

48 Keep everyone happy at Jubilee Field in Manton – a quiet riverside park with a great play area, that should get both the tails wagging and the children smiling

49 Yomp out to Fyfield Down to see the wildflowers in spring and picnic, sitting on one of the many sarsen stones lying about. Please remember the countryside code and bring your dog's lead

50 Go wild in the acres and acres of woodland in the Savernake Forest. Few better places left for kids who like building shelters. Beware: easy to get lost



MARLBOROUGH



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WHAT TO DO ON A SUNNY DAY

1 Climb to the top of the tower at St Peter's Church, passing through the ringing chamber, the clock room and the belfry on the way to fabulous views at the top. Guided tours, seasonally

2 Inhale the smell of the freshly cut fairways at Marlborough Golf Club or book in for "pay & play" at Marlborough Tennis Club. Visitors welcome at both

3 Chill out in Priory Gardens. No dogs, balls or bikes (in theory) make this the ideal picnic spot, away from the bustling High Street, with the quiet babble of the River Kennet behind

4 Pick up a leaflet and discover Marlborough's 10 blue plaques by following a self-guided 2km circular stroll through the town. Takes about 45 minutes



5 Wander up to the Victorian cemetery to reflect in this peaceful space, admiring the many mature trees and wildflowers, in amongst headstones belonging to a glorious past

6 Admire lofty views over the Savernake Forest from St Mary's redundant churchyard – Marlborough's favourite place for newly marrieds to take a wedding snap

7 Read a book and feel soothed in Wye House Gardens. A hidden gem off Barn Street, with manicured lawns, a natural pond and a toddler's play area

8 Grab a copy of former Marlborough mayor and historian David Chandler's Place Names of Marlborough from the White Horse Bookshop. Follow one of his 8 town walks

9 Join in sunset watch up on Granham Hill – next best place to be at dusk after Hackpen Hill if you haven't got a car to get over there

10 Sit and eat your sandwich on the steps outside the Town Hall – where better to take in the wonderful view of the High Street (second widest in the UK and certainly one of the prettiest)



WHAT TO DO ON A RAINY DAY

11 Pub crawl round Marlborough's many taverns along the High Street, the Parade, London Road and in Manton. Log fires, cask ales, dog friendly, walker friendly – we have it all



12 Enjoy the great British tradition of Afternoon Tea at one of many cafes and tea rooms in town offering the full blowout experience



13 Book a slot on our History Discovery Tour. Wiltshire History Man Nick Baxter will regale you with tales of the town's fascinating past. (April – October)

14 Meet the local artists working with ceramics and water colours at Wagon Yard. Regular Open Studios throughout July and exhibitions at Christmas

15 Check out our events page and start planning ahead (www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/visitors) for Marlborough Lit Fest, Summer School, Mop Fairs and plenty more

16 Step back in time at the lavishly restored Merchant's House, with its rare wall paintings and recreated 17th century garden. Tours April – October. Shop open year-round

17 Wake up to your favourite morning coffee – espressos, macchiatos, cappuccinos, lattes – there is a barista for every palate in Marlborough

18 Go beyond the High Street – Hughenden Yard, Hilliers Yard, Kingsbury Street, The Parade, London Road and Kennet Place are home to all sorts of independents and vintage shops

19 Find literary heaven at the White Horse Bookshop, where you can also sign up for an art course. Workshops from 10 – 4, working with pastels, watercolours, acrylics and lino

20 Sit back and be amazed by the big screen at Marlborough's Parade Cinema. Lights, camera, action and tasty snacks and real drinks too



WHAT TO DO WITH A CHILD

21 Book into Faux Arts pottery painting café, hidden away in the Parade. Parents can have coffee and cake while the tinies splurge painted hand and footprints onto pots and plates

22 Chase dragonflies, hunt out water voles, bats, snails and toads and go pond dipping at Stonebridge Meadow (known as Stoney Bridges). There is even a beach there

23 Cycle 10 miles out from the town centre, over rolling hills along the old railway line to the Coate Water Country Park. Once there, hop on the mini railway

24 Pitch a tent at the Postern Hill campsite, where you can shelter under the lush green canopy of ancient oaks in the Savernake Forest, sleeping with hawfinches, redstarts and nightjars

25 Kick a football on one of the two pitches up at the Recreation Ground, off Salisbury Road, or have a go on the zipwire. Skateboarders can ride the skate park there too

26 Test your child's imagination and stamina as they tackle the obstacles up on the Common's Trim Trail. There are also swings up there and plenty of space to run around or fly a kite

27 Visit the children's section at the Library and if you are lucky Rhyme Time (traditionally Wednesdays at 11) or Story Time (Fridays at 11) may be happening

28 Go for a swim in Marlborough's four-lane, 25-metre pool at the Leisure Centre. Don't forget the well-stocked, vending machines for the compulsory post-swim junk food fix

29 Pick up a leaflet for a 7-mile circular oak trail through the Savernake Forest starting at the Postern Hill car park, taking in veteran oaks. Shorter version available for moaning minis

30 Buy something at Ducklings Toy Shop, a guaranteed crowd pleaser: jigsaws, craft kits, Lego and Playmobil for the young; Airfix, board games and Hornby trainsets for the in-betweenies

