visit

TAUNTON



GUIDE MAP THINGS TO DO SHOPPING FOOD AND DRINK



WELCOME TO TAUNTON

We extend you a warm welcome to Taunton, county town of Somerset in the heart of the West Country.

Taunton is a bustling, forward-looking town with excellent amenities and good road and rail links to the rest of the country, making it a great place to visit as well as to live. A varied and eclectic cultural offer and range of events provide something for everyone to look forward to throughout the year.

Taunton gained importance in Saxon times when a fort was established on the banks of the River Tone giving rise to the town's name, Tone Tun – settlement on the Tone. It has witnessed turbulent times during the Civil War and been at the forefront of development as the first town in the country to have permanent electric street lighting.

There is a wealth of history to discover, one of the jewels in the town centre is the Somerset County Museum, housed within the impressive Taunton Castle, it is ever-popular with locals and a must for visitors.

Nestled in the Vale of Taunton Deane, Taunton is surrounded by picturesque countryside. The glorious Quantock Hills rise to the west with their atmospheric combes and windswept heathland and to the south, the striking Blackdown Hills are draped in ancient woodlands. These designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and proximity to the Somerset Levels, make Taunton an ideal location to enjoy fabulous walks and scenery and get close to nature.

A good selection of independent shops as well as familiar high street names, distinctive restaurants and cafes and great attractions, as well as pretty riverside walks and parks, all combine to make Taunton a wonderful destination.

For further information go to www.visitsomerset.co.uk/Taunton or enquire at Taunton Visitor Centre



THINGS TO DO & SEE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Brewhouse Theatre & Arts Centre
www.thebrewhouse.net

CICCIC Arts & Culture Centre
www.creativeinnovationcentre.co.uk

Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre
www.tacchi-morris.com

Odeon Cinema
www.odeon.co.uk/cinemas/taunton/

MUSEUMS & ATTRACTIONS

The Museum of Somerset
www.swheritage.org.uk/museum-of-somerset/

Somerset Cricket Museum
(limited opening)
www.somersetcricketmuseum.co.uk

Hestercombe Gardens
Beautiful gardens, gallery, café and shop www.hestercombe.com

West Somerset Railway
Steam trains to the coast
www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk

Coates English Willow
Museum, nature trails, café and shops: www.coatesenglishwillow.co.uk

Sheppy's Cider
Tours and tasting, nature walk, café and shop: www.sheppyscider.com

SPORT & LEISURE

Somerset County Cricket Club
www.somersetcountycc.co.uk

Taunton Town Football Club
www.tauntontown.com

Taunton Titans Rugby Club
www.tauntonrfc.co.uk

Taunton Racecourse
www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk

Vivary Park High Ropes Centre, Mini Golf and Golf Course
www.everyoneactive.com

Swimming Pools, Gyms, Tennis and Climbing Wall etc.
www.everyoneactive.com

Hollywood Bowl
www.hollywoodbowl.co.uk/taunton

PARKS, OPEN SPACES & WALKS

Vivary Park
A beautiful park in the centre of Taunton with play areas and café

French Weir Park
By the river with café and play area

Longrun Meadow
Country park minutes from the town centre

The River Tone
Riverside walks from the town centre

Bridgwater & Taunton Canal
14 miles of towpath to Bridgwater

Fyne Court (N. Trust)
History and walks in the Quantock Hills www.nationaltrust.org.uk/fyne-court

Quantock Hills
Walks and views for miles www.quantockhills.com

Blackdown Hills
Woods, hill forts and walking trails www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk



FOR MORE IDEAS AND ADVICE:
WWW.VISITSOMERSET.CO.UK/TAUNTON
OR CONTACT THE TAUNTON VISITOR CENTRE

SHOPPING

There are ample opportunities for retail therapy in Taunton and the town is proud to offer a wide range of independent stores, many of which have been established in the town for decades with a loyal following and reputation for excellent customer service and quality.

Bath Place with its rich history, and the Taunton Independent Quarter by the river, present a diverse mix of shops, from chic boutiques and quirky games and gift shops to specialist wine and food retailers.

Well-known high street brands can be found in the Orchard Centre and main shopping streets and, with many areas pedestrianised and plenty of delightful eateries, shopping in Taunton is a relaxed affair.

As befits a traditional market town, Taunton holds a Farmers' Market every Thursday providing an outlet for exceptional producers to sell their wares. From orchards and farms, butchers, bakers and cheese makers bring a bustle to the High Street and the opportunity to savour some of the best local produce.

Taunton Independent Market (www.tauntonmarket.co.uk) takes place once a month on Castle Green. It is a showcase for some of the best food producers and artisans in the region. With an emphasis on shopping local, it is a very popular event that brings a vibrancy to the town.

For antique hunters and collectors, the Taunton Antiques Market, held on Mondays on Silver Street, hosts over 100 dealers selling all manner of treasures.

On the outskirts of the town, the Riverside, Hankridge and Priory Fields retail parks are where you will find well-known carpet and furniture retailers, builders' merchants, DIY stores and home furnishing retailers.

You don't have to travel far from the town to find farm shops selling great local produce as well as traditional, award-winning cider makers and breweries. A number of excellent garden centres and plant nurseries are also within easy reach.













FOOD AND DRINK

Being in the heart of Somerset, a county well known for its agricultural tradition, Taunton has a strong connection with the outstanding produce for which the area is recognised. Many of the eating establishments in the town serve food grown, reared or made in the area keeping food miles low and quality of produce high.

Whether you're looking for a pretty, traditional tearoom or a spot of fine dining, Taunton has many excellent options for you to consider. If continental cuisine is what you're after then you'll be spoilt for choice with restaurants and takeaways serving foods from around the globe. The excellent independent restaurants, as well as the familiar high street chains, offer something to suit every taste.

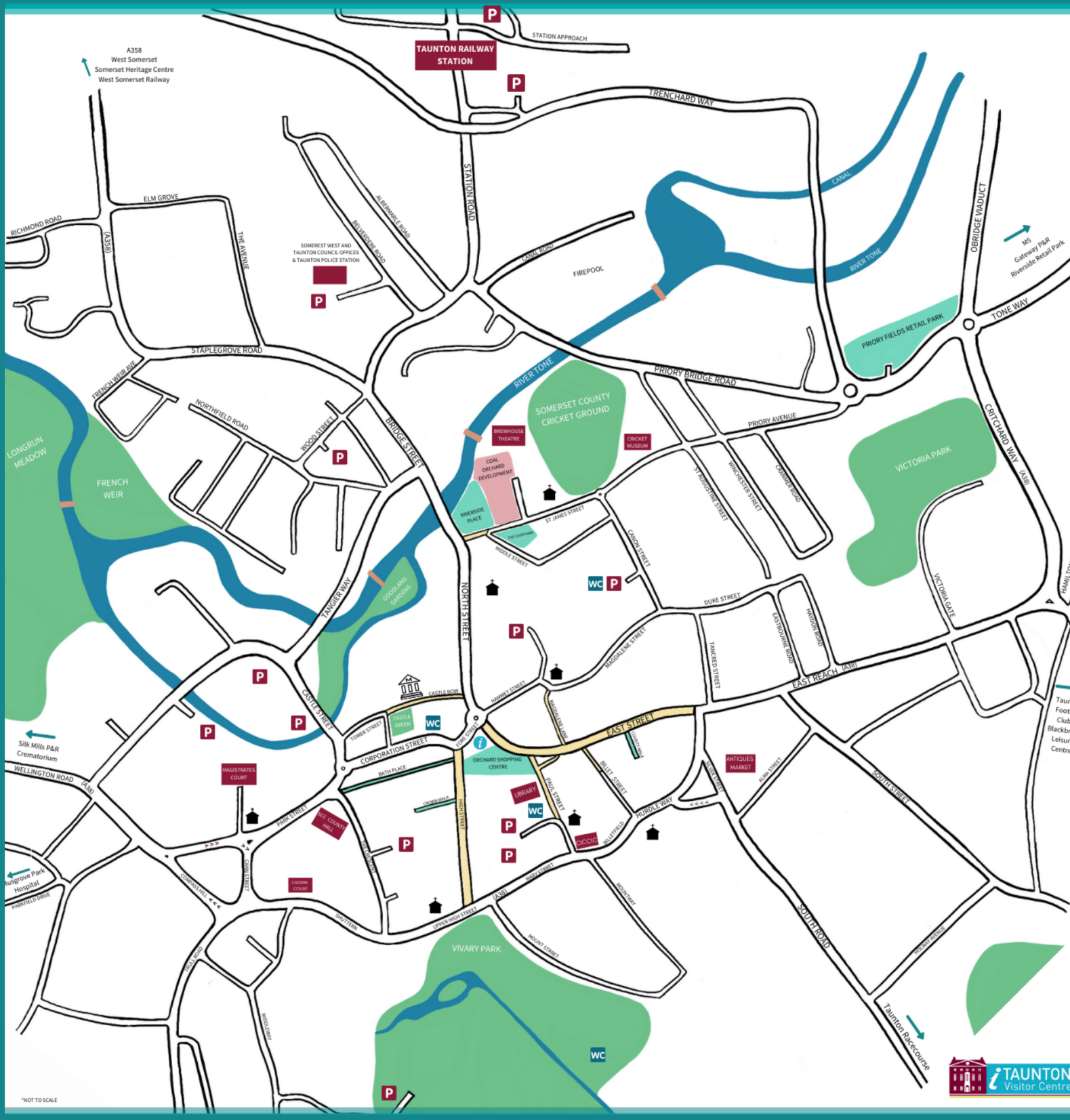
When it comes to nightlife, traditional pubs and a range of lively venues serving cocktails and fine wines make for great places to enjoy an evening out, meet friends or perhaps enjoy an after dinner or post-theatre drink.

If you're looking for a bite to eat on the go, Taunton's popular and highly rated street traders bring their own unique flavour to the town centre, as well as the many establishments that offer a takeaway option – fish and chips, vegetarian salads or Middle Eastern wraps, the choice is yours. The markets held in the town and popular local events present the opportunity to sample some of the very best the area has to offer with many producers holding the "Taste of the West" award for excellence.

A visit to the local breweries and cider makers will allow you to sample and buy award-winning ales and ciders.

For further information go to www.visitsomerset.co.uk/Taunton
or enquire at Taunton Visitor Centre

TAUNTON TOWN CENTRE MAP



KEY

- Road
- One Way Traffic
- Pedestrianised
- Pedestrianised Shopping Area
- Taunton Visitor Centre
- Car Park
- Toilets
- Church
- Museum of Somerset

CAR PARKS

Park & Ride: There are two sites on the outskirts of Taunton.
Buses run every 15 minutes Monday-Friday and every 20 minutes on Saturdays:
Gateway, TA3 5LU Silk Mills, TA1 5AA
For information on timings and ticket prices go to:
www.firstgroup.com/somerset/routes-and-maps/tauntons-park-ride

Long Stay
Canon Street, TA1 1SN
Orchard Multi Storey, Paul Street, TA1 3PF
Tangier, Castle Street, TA1 4AY
Wood Street, TA1 1UR
High Street, TA1 3PB
Belvedere Road, TA1 1HE
Kilkenny, TA2 7QL

Short Stay
The Crescent, TA1 4ED
Fons George, TA1 3JT

N.B. This is not an exhaustive list. For information on the car parks in Taunton and surrounding area go to: www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/parking/car-parks

USEFUL CONTACTS

Taunton Visitor Centre
Tel: 01823 340470

Somerset West and Taunton Council
(Mon-Fri, 08:00-18:00)
www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk
Tel: 0300 304 8000

National Rail Enquiries
www.nationalrail.co.uk
Tel: 03457 484950

Traveline Bus Enquiries
www.traveline.info

Shopmobility
www.shopmobilitytaunton.org.uk
Tel: 01823 327900

*Information correct at time of publication 2021.



TAUNTON Visitor Centre

Situated in Market House, in the heart of the town centre, Taunton Visitor Centre welcomes locals and visitors alike.

The friendly and knowledgeable staff can offer advice on travel and bus times as well as on things to see and do in Taunton and the surrounding area.

Ticket agents for National Express, Berry's Coaches, Bakers Dolphin Coach Travel, Megabus and Falcon services.

Box office for the Brewhouse Theatre, Tacchi-Morris Art Centre and other local events.
As well as souvenirs for sale, you can also find a range of locally made cards and crafts, delicious local preserves and honey.

Keep up to date with local information and events via our website and social media platforms:
www.visitsomerset.co.uk/Taunton

Drop us a line at: Taunton Visitor Centre, Market House, Fore St, TAUNTON TA1 1JD
Phone us on: 01823 340470
Email us at: tauntonvisitorcentre@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

*Information correct at time of publication.
This leaflet has been produced by the Taunton Visitor Centre and Somerset West and Taunton