

# Enjoy St Albans

MINI VISITOR GUIDE



## Major Events in and around St Albans

For exact dates, please contact the Tourist Information Centre on 01727 864511

### FEBRUARY

- Pancake race

### MAY

- Herts County Show, Redbourn  
*A traditional county agricultural show*
- Harpenden Carnival

### JUNE

- St Albans Half Marathon *St Albans' major sporting event, raising funds for local charities. Also there are fun runs and a walking half marathon.*
- Albantide Weekend
- St Albans Festival *(Annual event)*

### JULY

- Harpenden Highland Gathering
- Classics on the Common, Harpenden
- International Organ Festival at St Albans *(Biennial event ie. 2011 & 2013)*

### SEPTEMBER

- Heritage Open Days
- CAMRA Beer Festival  
*This festival offers real ale lovers the chance to sample many ales from around the country*

- St Albans Food & Drink Festival
- Hertfordshire Open Studios *Artists around Hertfordshire open their homes to the public*

### NOVEMBER

- Fireworks Display, Verulamium Park.  
*A spectacular display set by the lakeside in this beautiful park*
- Christmas lights 'switch-on' show.  
*Our traditional start to the season's festivities, when the city centre comes alive with children's entertainments and a celebrity switch-on show*

### DECEMBER

- Christmas Markets
- Christmas Panto

# Welcome to St Albans

The city of St Albans has been attracting visitors from far afield for over 2000 years. First built as Verulamium by the Romans, the city was renamed St Albans after the first British Christian martyr.

Today, the city of St Albans is compact and easy to explore on foot. The magnificent Cathedral dominates the skyline of the city and is best known for the shrine of St Alban. Beyond the Cathedral you can relax in the green oasis of Verulamium Park, 100 acres of tranquil parkland close to the heart of the city, leading to the best preserved Roman theatre in Britain.

The city boasts a wide range of attractions to visit. Verulamium Museum displays beautiful objects from the old Roman city, the Museum of St Albans tells the story of the city from the departure of the Romans up to the present day, while the St Albans Organ Museum houses the Charles Hart Collection of mainly mechanical musical instruments.

Shopping in the city is a real pleasure, with its historic ambience providing the setting in which to explore a range of well-known high street names alongside many specialist shops offering antiques, books, designer clothes, furniture, giftware, jewellery, interior design and much, much more!

Also, a bustling street market fills the city centre streets every Wednesday and Saturday, offering an enormous variety of goods. The city is well provided with over 100 restaurants and a great number of historic pubs and inns for that well-deserved refreshment break. You can find details of these and many more places of interest within this guide.

*We look forward to welcoming you to St Albans, where the best of the old meets the best of the new.*

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# What to see and do



## Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban

**Sumpter Yard, Holywell Hill, St Albans. AL1 1BY**

The Cathedral is best known for the shrine of St Alban - Britain's first Christian martyr - which continues to attract pilgrims from far and wide.

**Opening hours:** 0830 - 1745 hrs daily (No entry fee but donations are welcomed)

**Tel:** 01727 860780

**E.mail:** mail@stalbanscathedral.org.uk

**Web:** www.stalbanscathedral.org.uk



## Clock Tower

**High Street, St Albans. AL3 4EL**

Built between 1403 and 1412, the Clock Tower is the only medieval town belfry in England. Today you can climb the 93 steps to the top of the Tower and enjoy magnificent views of the Cathedral, Roman Verulamium and the historic city of St Albans. Visitors are warned that the stairs are narrow and may be difficult to climb and descend.

**Opening hours:** 10:30 - 17:00 Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays from Easter to September

**Tel:** 01727 751810 **Web:** www.stalban museums.org.uk

## The De Havilland Aircraft Heritage Centre

**Salisbury Hall, London Colney, St Albans. AL2 1BU**

Incorporating the Mosquito Museum, there is a variety of de Havilland aircraft, aero-engines, propellers, missiles, rockets and memorabilia on display.

**Opening hours:** March to October, 1400 - 1730 hrs Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday, 1030 - 1730 hrs Sundays & Bank Holidays

**Tel:** 01727 822051 (infoline) or 01727 826400

**E.mail:** w4050.dhamt@fsmail.net

**Web:** www.dehavillandmuseum.co.uk

## Butterfly World

**Miriam Lane, off Noke Lane, Chiswell Green. AL2 3DS**

Butterfly World's Future Gardens event will be open for four months from June to early October, offering visitors the chance to see 12 designer gardens alongside a huge cornfield meadow. There is also a retail area selling specialist plants. Car parking is free, and there is a refreshment centre.

**Tel:** 01727 869203

**E.mail:** visitors@futuregardens.org

**Web:** www.futuregardens.org



## Gardens of the Rose

**Chiswell Green Lane, Chiswell Green, St Albans. AL2 3NR**

Situated in Chiswell Green, to the south of the City, are the world - renowned Gardens of the Rose (headquarters of the Royal National Rose Society). Re-opened after a major refurbishment, highlights include 3 new ponds and displays of the best modern roses together with many varieties of old garden roses. Please call to check opening times.

**For parking use Butterfly World Car Park.**

**Tel:** 0845 833 4344 **E.mail:** mail@mrs.org.uk **Web:** www.mrs.org



## Gorhambury House

**Off Bluehouse Hill, St Albans. AL3 6AD**

The seat of the Earl of Verulam, Gorhambury was built in the late 18th century and replaced old Gorhambury House, the home of Francis Bacon, the philosopher and writer. The old Gorhambury House ruins stand nearby. The present house contains a fine collection of family portraits.

**Opening hours:** 1400 - 1700 hrs Thursdays only May to September (groups at other times by special appointment)

**Tel:** 01727 854051



## Kingsbury Watermill

**Off Bluehouse Hill, St Albans. AL3 6AD**

Close to Verulamium Park, the present building was constructed in the 16th century. The water of the River Ver turns its beautifully restored wheel and visitors can see the milling machine and a collection of farming implements.

**Opening hours:** Monday - Saturday 1000 - 1800 hrs daily (1700 hrs November to Easter) 1100 - 1800 Sunday

**Tel:** 01727 853502



*Kingsbury Watermill*

## Museum of St Albans

**9a Hatfield Road, St Albans. AL1 3RR**

Here you can discover the fascinating story of our historic cathedral city. The rise of St Albans from a market town and coaching centre to a modern commuter city is told through lively displays using the museum's collections.

**Opening hours:** Open all year, 1000 - 1700 hrs Monday to Saturday, 1400 - 1700 hrs Sunday. Free admission.

**Tel:** 01727 819340 **Web:** www.stalban museums.org.uk

## UH Galleries at the Museum of St Albans

**UH Galleries presents international contemporary art in traditional and sometimes challenging ways. Admission Free.**

**Website:** www.go.herts.ac.uk/uhgalleries

**Telephone:** 01707 284290

**Email:** uhgalleries@herts.ac.uk



*Museum of St Albans*

## Redbournbury Watermill

Redbournbury Lane, Redbourn Road,  
St Albans. AL3 6RS

Redbournbury Mill is a fully restored 18th century working watermill on the River Ver just north of St Albans. The watermill produces and sells stoneground organic flour and bread, available from the shop. The river and surrounding countryside are a haven for wildlife and the mill is an ideal refreshment stop for walkers and cyclists.



**Opening hours:** Sunday afternoons throughout the year from 1430 - 1700 hrs (Winter 1430 - 1630hrs). Bakery open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. Saturday mornings 0900 - 1500. Other special open days, contact for details.  
**Tel:** 01582 792874 **E.mail:** redbrymill@aol.com **Web:** www.redbournmill.co.uk



## Redbourn Village Museum

Silk Mill House, The Common, Redbourn. AL3 7NB

The Silk Mill House in Redbourn houses this Village Museum, with galleries for exhibitions as well as displays of the early history of the village.

**Opening hours:** Open weekends all year, 1400 - 1700 hrs Saturday and Sunday **Tel:** 01582 793397 **E.mail:** redbournmuseum@aol.com  
**Web:** www.redbourn.org.uk

## The Roman Mosaic (Hypocaust)

Verulamium Park, St Albans. AL3 4SW

In Verulamium Park lies the Roman Mosaic – part of a suite of rooms in a large town house built around AD200. Beneath a fine mosaic, a precursor of modern central heating can be seen.

**Opening hours:**  
Summer, Monday to Saturday 1000 - 1630  
Sunday 1400 - 1630  
Winter, Monday to Saturday 1000 - 1545  
Sunday: 1400 - 1545 Free admission  
**Tel:** 01727 751810  
**Web:** www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk



The Roman Mosaic



Roman Theatre

## Roman Theatre

Bluehouse Hill, St Albans. AL3 6AD

Just a short walk from Verulamium Museum is the Roman Theatre, the best-preserved example in Britain. Close by are the foundations of a Roman town house, a sacred shrine and Roman shops.

**Opening hours:** 1000 - 1700 hrs daily (1000 - 1600 hrs in winter)  
**Tel:** 01727 835035  
**Web:** www.romantheatre.co.uk

## St Albans South Signal Box

Ridgmont Road, near St Albans City Station

St Albans South Signal box was built in 1892. This award winning midland railway signal box is the largest preserved box in the country.

**Opening hours:**  
April - September, 1000 - 1600 hrs 2nd and 4th Sunday each month. October - March 2nd Sunday each month. (check website for dates)  
**Tel:** 01727 836131 **E.mail:** info@sigbox.co.uk  
**Web:** www.sigbox.co.uk



Signal Box

## Sopwell Nunnery

Cottonmill Lane, St Albans. AL1 2BY

Visit the ruins of Sir Richard Lee's Tudor country house, built on the site of a 12th Century nunnery.



Sopwell Nunnery

## St Albans Organ Theatre

320 Camp Road, St Albans. AL1 5PE

A permanent playing collection of rare mechanical musical instruments, café/dance organs, player pianos and theatre pipe organs. Live performances are given together with a commentary.

**Opening hours:** 1415 - 1630 hrs Sunday. Monthly Saturday Concerts.  
**Tel:** Concert Info : 01727 869693 General Info: 01727 873896  
**Web:** www.stalbansorgantheatre.org.uk



## Verulamium Museum

St Michael's Street, St Albans. AL3 4SW

This award-winning museum displays beautiful objects from the Roman City of Verulamium, featuring superb mosaics and recreated Roman rooms, giving the visitor an opportunity to discover the life and times of a major Roman city.

**Opening hours:** : All year, 1000 - 1730 hrs Monday to Saturday, 1400 - 1730 hrs Sunday (last admission 1700 hrs). Admission charges apply  
**Tel:** 01727 751810 **Web:** www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk



Verulamium Museum and Roman Bronze of Venus

## Willows Farm Village

Coursers Road, London Colney, St Albans. AL4 0PF

Willows Farm Village at London Colney is a 500 acre leisure attraction, which features a wide variety of animals, adventure play and a daily programme of entertainment.

**Farm Village opening hours:** Open daily 1000 - 1730  
**Farm Shop opening hours:** Open daily 1000 - 1730  
**Tel:** 0870 129 9718 **E.mail:** info@willowsfarmvillage.com  
**Web:** www.willowsfarmvillage.com



## The City of St Albans Tour Guides

The City of St Albans Tour Guides have a programme of walks throughout the year around the city and district. Walks include 'Pubs & Chapels', 'The Ghost Walk', 'The Wars of the Roses', 'Monks, Mysteries & Mischief', 'Crime and Punishment' and 'The Roman Theatre'. There is a nominal charge of £3 per adult and 1.50 per child (under 5s free) and group bookings can also be accommodated at other times by prior arrangement.

**Tel:** 01727 864511 **Web:** www.stalbans.gov.uk

\*Tours of the Roman Theatre are free but there is an entrance fee.



# The St Albans City Trail

The trail covers a circular distance of around 3 miles and allows you to discover some of the best known areas of St Albans at your own speed. The walk will take about 1½ to 2 hours, plus any time spent in the cathedral and museums, and there are plenty of places for refreshments and shopping en route! (NOTE: The route is plotted on the map on page 12 & 13. The numbers in brackets also relate to the map.)



Fleur de Lys

Leave the Tourist Information Centre housed in the **Georgian Town Hall** through the main entrance and turn left into Market Place. At the Jack Wills shop bear right into **French Row**, noting some fine old buildings including the 14th century "**Fleur de Lys**" inn where King John of France was imprisoned after the Battle of Poitiers in 1356.



Clock Tower

At the end of French Row is the **Clock Tower (8)**, (open weekends from Easter to September) one of only two remaining medieval curfew towers in the country. At the junction with High Street, cross on the pedestrian crossing, turn right and continue on down into **George Street** with its mixture of boutiques, antique shops and restaurants. At the end of this short street turn left into **Romeland** and left again towards the west front entrance of the **Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban (4)**. For further information please pick up a leaflet from the Cathedral.



Cathedral &amp; Abbey Church



George Street



Abbey Gateway



Verulamium Park



The Fighting Cocks

After visiting the Cathedral leave by the Chapter House door and turning right, cross to the **Abbey Gateway (1)** dating from the 14th century and now part of St Albans School. The Gateway has had several uses including a printing press and town gaol. Continue left down Abbey Mill Lane to **Ye Olde Fighting Cocks (20)**, reputedly the oldest licensed inhabited inn in England. The name derives from the practice of cock fighting for which it was a renowned centre.



Hypocaust

Across the bridge lies **Verulamium Park (18)**, which covers the site of the Roman city of Verulamium and is now a popular recreation area with lakes, tennis courts and a mini-golf course. Straight ahead is the Causeway, a wooded path leading to a section of the original Roman town wall.

In the centre of the park is a building erected over the **Hypocaust (10)**, a preserved example of Roman underfloor heating. From here a short walk takes you to **Verulamium Museum (17)** - a must on every itinerary as some of the finest treasures of Roman Britain are housed here including several spectacular mosaics.



Verulamium Museum

Next to the Museum is **St Michael's Church**, founded in 948 AD by Abbot Ulsinus and containing a monument to Sir Francis Bacon, the philosopher and first Earl of Verulam, who was also a local resident.

From the church, cross Bluehouse Hill – the main Hemel Hempstead road - and go through the gateway past the lodge house of **Gorhambury**, home of the Earls of Verulam. The entrance to the **Roman Theatre (16)**, the only theatre of the period open to visitors in Britain, is situated just inside the gateway. Cross back over Bluehouse Hill to St Michael's Street and return towards the city centre by way of pretty **St Michael's Village** with its cottages, inns and fine houses.

By the bridge, crossing the River Ver, is **Kingsbury Watermill (9)**, offering a fascinating glimpse of the past with its exhibition of milling and its great waterwheel still turning. Alongside the Mill can be seen an example of Hertfordshire "pudding stone", a natural concrete composed mainly of flint pebbles unique to this area.

Bear right from St Michael's Street into **Fishpool Street** – a name probably deriving from a monastic fishpool. Here can be seen reminders of the city's coaching past in the high pavements which enabled passengers to alight with ease. The mix of cottages and houses includes the 17th century "St Michael's Manor", now a hotel. Note also the unusual street war memorial, one of ten in the Abbey area, recording the names of street residents killed in the First World War. At the top of Fishpool Street is **Romeland** again and a small garden marking the site of the burning of George Tankerfield, a Protestant martyr in the reign of Mary Tudor.

By Romeland turn right and re-enter the Cathedral grounds. Walk up the path by the north side of the Cathedral which passes through the graveyard. As you approach the north transept you pass on the right the tall modern gravestone of the late Robert Runcie, a former Bishop of St Albans and



Roman Theatre



St Michael's Village



Kingsbury Watermill



Vintry Gardens

Archbishop of Canterbury. Continue round the corner for the distinctive grave of Lord Grimsthorpe. He was famed as the designer of Big Ben's clock mechanism in Westminster but he also saved the Abbey from dereliction with his own money in the late 1800's. The path leads into Sumpter Yard passing the **Vintry Gardens (19)** behind the walls on your left. This peaceful area was once home to the Abbey vineyards and you can pop in through the gate at the end of the wall for a look.

When you have passed through Sumpter Yard to Holywell Hill, notice the Comfort Hotel opposite. This building was originally built by Samuel Ryder as his office for his seed company & Café Rouge, next door, was originally his greenhouse. Ryder went on later in life to found one of the most famous competitions in the world of golf, the Ryder Cup. Walk up Holywell Hill, straight across the crossroads and up Chequer Street. On your right is the Maltings Shopping Centre and on your left is the **Old Town Hall** which was completed in 1831. The Town Hall contains the old St Albans court which was in use until the mid 1960's, the Council Chamber used until the early 1980's (now a café) and the Assembly rooms which are still used today

Walk up St Peter's Street, the main thoroughfare with a number of handsome Georgian façades. There is a variety of shops and on Wednesdays and Saturdays, a bustling street market. At the roundabout, cross straight over and continue up St Peter's Street to the **Pemberton Almshouses** on the left. A plaque over the door relates the sad story of their benefactor. Cross the road to St Peter's Church opposite, then back to the roundabout, turning left into Hatfield Road.

On the right you can see the **Marlborough Almshouses**, a gift from Sarah, 1st Duchess of Marlborough, a friend of Queen Anne and a local resident. On the left is the **Museum of St Albans (14)**, a delightful little museum displaying the history of the city from the time of the departure of the Romans. The museum also features regular exhibitions. Cross back over the road and walk down the alley to the right of the Marlborough Almshouses. This brings you to the tranquil **Municipal Gardens** with lovely plant displays, a pleasant place to rest for a while. Carry on around the Civic Centre, which houses the **District Council Offices (6)** and the **Alban Arena (3)**, the city's main entertainment venue.

Walk through to St Peter's Street, but look back up at the mosaic on **Forrester House** which was named after the 5th Earl of Verulam, Lord Forrester. The mural in mosaic was designed in the 1960s and represents the history of St Albans. Cross the road and you will arrive back at the Town Hall. Here the trail ends, but St Albans offers much more to explore including London Road & Catherine Street with their specialist shops and **Clarence Park (7)**, a classic Victorian town park.



Robert Runcie's grave



Museum of St Albans



Municipal Gardens



**St Albans City Centre Map and Key**

- |                     |                                  |                               |                                 |  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 Abbey Gateway     | 8 Clock Tower                    | 15 Police Station             | P Car Parks                     | I Town Hall/Tourist Information Centre |
| 2 Abbey Theatre     | 9 Kingsbury Watermill            | 16 Roman Theatre              | C Coach Parks                   | † Churches, Places of Worship          |
| 3 Alban Arena       | 10 Hypocaust                     | 17 Verulamium Museum          | ⋯ Footpaths                     | CD Coach Drop Off Point                |
| 4 Cathedral         | 11 Maltings Arts Theatre/Library | 18 Verulamium Park            | ⋯ City Trail (see pages 8 - 11) | ■ Main Shopping Centre                 |
| 5 Christopher Place | 12 Maltings Shopping Centre      | 19 Vintry Gardens             | WC Public Toilets               |  |
| 6 Civic Centre      | 13 Margaret Harvey Gallery       | 20 Ye Olde Fighting Cocks Inn |                                 |  |
| 7 Clarence Park     | 14 Museum of St Albans           | 21 Forester House             |                                 |  |

# Shopping Outdoors



St Albans is rich in heritage and tradition, evidence of which can be found down every street and alley where traders have plied their wares for many a century. Stop a while and look up at medieval craftsmanship evident in windows, doorways and timber-framed buildings. Blending into the historic streets are shopping precincts Christopher Place and The Maltings, both served by their own car parks and offering a wide range of retail goods.

## A quick guide to the main shopping areas in St Albans

<b>Catherine Street</b>	Antique, craft & specialist shops
<b>Christopher Place</b>	Modern shopping centre - chain stores & specialist shops
<b>George Street</b>	Antique, craft & specialist shops
<b>Heritage Close</b>	Craft & specialist shops
<b>Village Arcade</b>	Craft & specialist shops
<b>High Street</b>	Specialist shops
<b>Holywell Hill</b>	Antique, craft & specialist shops
<b>Maltings</b>	Modern shopping centre - chain Stores & specialist shops
<b>Market Place</b>	Chain stores and specialist shops
<b>Chequer Street</b>	Chain stores and specialist shops
<b>St Peter's Street</b>	Larger stores e.g. Bhs, Boots, M&S

**Trading Days:**  
Monday to Sunday opening\*

**Market Days:**  
Wednesday & Saturday

**Farmers' Market:**  
Every second Sunday of the month

\*The majority of shops are open on Sunday



Christopher Place



Market Day

## St Albans Markets

The bustling city centre market on Wednesdays and Saturdays is one of the largest in the South East. Established over 1000 years ago, the colourful street market extends through the heart of St Albans, offering an enormous variety of wares from foodstuffs, flowers, gifts and clothes, to crafts and more unusual items. On the second Sunday morning of each month, The Farmers Market is located outside the Town Hall. Periodically St Albans also hosts a continental market. Check for details at the Tourist & Information Centre.

## St Albans Shopmobility

### Drover's Way, Car Park, St Albans

Visitors with walking difficulties can take advantage of the free Shopmobility scheme, which provides electric and manual wheelchairs and battery-powered scooters.

**Opening hours:** 0930 - 1600 hrs from Monday to Saturday each week  
**Tel:** 01727 819339

## Useful Websites

Visit one of the following websites for useful up-to-date information regarding shopping, restaurants, entertainment and events around St Albans and District.

**shopstalbands.co.uk**

[www.shopstalbands.co.uk](http://www.shopstalbands.co.uk)

**www.allaboutstalbands.com**

[www.allaboutstalbands.com](http://www.allaboutstalbands.com)

**thebestofstalbands**

[www.thebestof.co.uk/stalbands](http://www.thebestof.co.uk/stalbands)

**whatsonstalbands.co.uk**

[www.whatsonstalbands.co.uk](http://www.whatsonstalbands.co.uk)



Continental Market

# Dining & Nights Out

St Albans offers an excellent range of places to eat and drink. With over 100 restaurants, bistros, coffee shops and a huge selection of pubs and inns within the city centre, daytime shoppers and night-time revellers will be spoilt for choice.

Whether it's a special meal to remember, or somewhere to grab a quick bite to eat, St Albans has something for everyone. For evening entertainment the pub and club scene offers a wide variety of live music. The vibrant, lively atmosphere of St Albans has made it the premier nightspot for Hertfordshire and North London. For further information pick up a copy of the Eat, Drink & Enjoy guide from the Tourist and Information Centre. You can also find details of places to eat and drink on [www.stalbans.gov.uk](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk)



## Music Venues

### Batchwood Hall

Batchwood Drive, St Albans AL3 5XA

Batchwood Hall Nightclub is set in 33 acres of lavish woodland making it 'the only club in the country'! There are two rooms with their own individual style, atmosphere and music, plus a relaxing cocktail lounge, an outside terrace bar and sumptuous VIP lounge.

**Tel:** 01727 856596 **Web:** [www.batchwoodhall.com](http://www.batchwoodhall.com)

### The Horn

Victoria Street, St Albans AL1 3TE

Hertfordshire's premier, award winning, live popular music venue situated close to St Albans First Capital Connect station. The venue is dedicated to live music of all genres, playing seven nights a week. For full listings check out the website

**Tel:** 01727 853143 / 844627 **Web:** [www.thehorn.co.uk](http://www.thehorn.co.uk)



Carluccios



# Arts & Entertainment

St Albans offers a vibrant and varied range of arts and entertainment whatever the weather, whatever the season, day and night. In addition to the venues listed here, there are many other locations within St Albans that host events.

The Cathedral & Abbey Church of St Alban offers a packed programme of musical events throughout the year. You will also find a variety of entertainment on the streets and in the parks and gardens of the city. Though a bustling city centre during the day, at night St Albans comes alive in a different way.

Take in some entertainment at one of the theatres, enjoy the atmosphere in one of the many restaurants and make a night of your stay with the pub and club scene which offers a wide variety of live music from both local and nationally known bands.



### Abbey Theatre

Westminster Lodge, Holywell Hill, St Albans, Herts AL1 2DL

**Box Office Tel:** 01727 857861

**Theatre Manager:** 01727 847472

**Fax:** 01727 812742

**E.mail:** [manager@abbeytheatre.org.uk](mailto:manager@abbeytheatre.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.abbeytheatre.org.uk](http://www.abbeytheatre.org.uk)

### Trestle Arts Base

Russet Drive, St. Albans, Herts AL4 0JQ

**Tel:** 01727 850950

**E.mail:** [admin@trestle.org.uk](mailto:admin@trestle.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.trestle.org.uk](http://www.trestle.org.uk)

### Alban Arena

Civic Centre, St Albans, Herts AL1 3LD

**Box Office Tel:** 01727 844488

**E.mail:** [alban.arena@leisureconnection.co.uk](mailto:alban.arena@leisureconnection.co.uk)

**Web:** [www.alban-arena.co.uk](http://www.alban-arena.co.uk)



The Alban Arena

### Maltings Arts Theatre

The Maltings, St Albans, Herts AL1 3HL

**Box Office Tel:** 01727 844222

**Fax:** 01727 836616

**E.mail:** [maltings.arts@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:maltings.arts@stalbans.gov.uk)

**Web:** [www.alban-arena.co.uk](http://www.alban-arena.co.uk)

### The SandPit Theatre

Sandringham School, The Ridgeway, St Albans AL4 9NX

**Tel:** 01727 370067

**E.mail:** [admin@sandpittheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@sandpittheatre.co.uk)

**Web:** [www.sandpittheatre.co.uk](http://www.sandpittheatre.co.uk)



St Albans Cathedral & Abbey

# Sport & Recreation

St Albans and District is home to a vast range of excellent leisure facilities designed to suit all ages and interests. For those who enjoy fitness and sports activities, there are six major sports centres to choose from.

If you prefer more relaxed pursuits, there are opportunities such as walking, cycling, golf, horse riding and fishing.



## Sports Centres



**Abbey View Golf Course** 01727 868227

**Adventure World London Colney** 01727 822447

**Batchwood Golf and Tennis Centre** 01727 844250

**Bricket Wood Sports Centre** 01923 662224

**Harpenden Leisure Centre** 01582 767722

**Harpenden Swimming Pool** 01582 460683

**Redbourn Recreation Centre** 01582 626202

**Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre** 01727 846031



## Verulamium Park

Set in over 100 acres of beautiful parkland, and named after the Roman City of Verulamium on which it stands, Verulamium Park is St Albans' largest and most visited park. A short walk from the city centre, this park has something for everyone.



Verulamium Park

## Clarence Park

A classic Victorian park, Clarence Park was given to the people of St. Albans by a local benefactor, Sir John Maple, in 1894. Recently the park has been given a facelift thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the park's original features have been restored to their former glory.



Clarence Park

## Rothamsted Park, Harpenden

Awarded Green Flag Status in 2008, Rothamsted Park was formerly part of the Rothamsted estate owned by Sir John Lawes, whose ancestors bought the Manor of Rothamsted in 1623. This important open space provides football and cricket pitches, tennis and netball courts, a children's play area and a skateboard park.



# Around St Albans

Beyond the city of St Albans there is plenty to explore, extending from the pretty commuter town of Harpenden in the north to the surprisingly green Bricket Wood in the south.



## Harpenden

Harpenden is five miles north of St. Albans. It has a fine High Street, interesting shops and a variety of pubs and restaurants. Harpenden enjoys large open spaces: Rothamsted Park hosts a variety of sporting activities and the Common features ponds, picnic areas and a nature trail. Harpenden also has a Tourist Information Point based at the Town Hall. Tel: 01582 768278 Web: [www.harpenden.gov.uk](http://www.harpenden.gov.uk).

## London Colney

London Colney, to the south of the city, lies on the old coaching route from London. The historic centre of the village is along the River Colne. The church and village green provide a peaceful setting in contrast to the nearby hypermarket, one of the largest in the U.K.

## Redbourn

Redbourn retains its country village atmosphere with shops and ancient pubs. Just behind the High Street lies the Common, site of Hertfordshire's first recorded cricket match in 1666!

## Sandridge

Sandridge lies between St Albans and Wheathampstead with St. Leonard's church providing its focal point. Around one mile to the north is Nomansland Common.

## Wheathampstead

Wheathampstead, one of the District's most attractive villages, has a history dating back to pre-Roman times. The Devil's Dyke, in places 32 feet deep and 100 feet across, lies to the south-east of the village. The High Street features the Bull Inn which dates back to the 13th century.



Redbourn Common

## Countryside Trails

St Albans is perfectly placed as a base from which to explore the surrounding countryside and villages. Walks include the Ver Valley Walk, the Alban Way and (from Harpenden) the Nickey Line.

## Cycling Trails

St Albans and the surrounding countryside offer many opportunities for cycling. The disused railway lines of the Alban Way and the Nickey Line offer cycle routes that form part of the proposed National Cycle Network. There is also a wide range of circular rides across Hertfordshire available if you would like to explore the wider countryside.

For further information on walking and cycling, contact the Tourist and Information Centre on 01727 864511.



## Further Afield

**Ashridge Estate** Tel: 01442 851227

**Hatfield House, Park & Gardens** Tel: 01707 287010

**Hertford Castle** Tel: 01992 552885

**Knebworth House** Tel: 01438 812661

**Paradise Wildlife Park, Broxbourne** Tel: 01992 470490

**Shaw's Corner** Tel: 01438 820307

**Whipsnade Wild Animal Park** Tel: 01582 872171

**Woburn Abbey** Tel: 01525 290333

**Woburn Safari Park** Tel: 01525 290407



# Travelling to St Albans



## By Car

Close to the M1, A1(M) and M25 (Junctions 21a & 22), St Albans is easily accessible from all parts of the UK.

## Car Parking

There are many car parks in the City and District. The map on page 12 shows the location of the St Albans car parks. Prices range from 60p for 30 mins to £8.50 all day. Street parking is also available in marked bays on a pay and display basis in several key locations around the City and District. Blue Badge holders can park for 3hrs free (Please display permit and time clock). For any enquires please contact the Parking Shop on 0845 601 7803.

## By Rail

London's St Pancras International Station is only 20 minutes away from St Albans on the First Capital Connect line and there are frequent services throughout the day and night. The rail service also connects St Albans to Luton, London Luton airport and Bedford in the north, and Gatwick airport and Brighton heading south. You can now travel to St Albans from over 100 destinations across France, Belgium and the Netherlands via the new St. Pancras International station on the Eurostar. St Albans is also connected to Watford via the Abbey Line. This extra link to London Euston also connects St Albans to the North London Line and the West Coast mainline.

## By Bus and Coach

St Albans is well connected on the local bus network with services from North London, Welwyn Garden City, Hatfield, Luton and Watford. The Green Line 724 service links St Albans with Heathrow airport and West London, Harlow and Essex, while the UNO bus company service links St Albans directly with Brent Cross, Baker Street and Victoria. National Express coaches provide services that link the neighbouring towns of Hatfield and Hemel Hempstead with Stansted, Heathrow, Luton, Gatwick, Oxford and Cambridge.

## By Air

Both London Luton and Gatwick airports are directly linked to St Albans by rail. Stansted and Heathrow airports are also easily accessible.

**If you need help or advice with planning your visit to St Albans, please contact the Tourist & Information Centre and our dedicated staff will be happy to help.**

**Tel:** 01727 864511

**E.mail:** [tic@stalbens.gov.uk](mailto:tic@stalbens.gov.uk)

**Web:** [www.stalbens.gov.uk](http://www.stalbens.gov.uk)

## Accommodation

For extended stays, St Albans has a wide variety of accommodation available. Please contact the Tourist & Information Centre on 01727 864511 for a list of hotels, bed and breakfasts, or self catering accommodation. The Tourist & Information Centre also provide help, advice and a booking service. Information can also be found on [www.stalbens.gov.uk](http://www.stalbens.gov.uk)

# Languages and Disabilities

**St Albans City and District Council is committed to making all literature available to those who speak other languages or have disabilities.**

## Facilities for the Disabled

Although St Albans is a historic city on a hill this need not deter the disabled visitor. Its major tourist attractions, the Cathedral and the Verulamium Museum, are accessible by wheelchair and adapted for those with restricted mobility. Many restaurants and shops have disabled access and there is a Shopmobility scheme based at the Drovers Way section of the City Centre Car Park.



The District Council Office telephone number is **01727 819570**. This service is for customers with a hearing impairment.

For fuller details about disability access, including car parking, we suggest you consult the DisabledGo website [www.disabledgo.com](http://www.disabledgo.com) or telephone the St Albans District Council's Tourist Information Service **01727 864511** when planning your visit. Please also contact St Albans District council about parking arrangements in advance if you are planning a group visit by minibus.

For Shopmobility information please see page 15.

**If you require this information in large print, on tape or in another language please contact The Equalities Officer on 01727 814602**

# Useful Contacts

## Shopping

Boots the Chemist	01727 867173
Christopher Place	01727 894791 / 832889
Maltings Shopping Centre	01727 844226
Markets	01727 819452
Marks and Spencer	01727 840935

## Transport & Shopmobility

Bus Information (Traveline)	0871 2002233
Green Line	0844 8017261
Car Park Passes (senior citizens)	0845 050 7080
National Express	0871 7818181
National Rail Enquiries	0845 7484950
Parking Shop	0845 6017803
Shopmobility	01727 819339

## Attractions, Leisure & Sports

Abbey Theatre	01727 857861
Alban Arena	01727 844488
Batchwood Golf and Tennis Centre	01727 844250
Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban	01727 860780
Harpenden Leisure Centre	01582 767722
Museum of St Albans	01727 819340
Verulamium Museum	01727 751810
Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre	01727 846031

## Other Useful Numbers

City Hospital	01727 866122
Harpenden Town Council/Information Point	01582 768278
Police Station	01727 796000
St Albans City & District Council	01727 866100
Tourist & Information Centre	01727 864511

**Website** - [www.stalbans.gov.uk](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk)





# St Albans Tourist Information Centre

For further information on the City, visit the Tourist & Information Centre located within the Town Hall in Market Place. There is a wide range of services on offer including accommodation reservations, local information, National Express bookings and local coach excursions, UK-wide rail tickets, UK holiday information, guided walks, information on London attractions and other UK destinations. The Centre stocks a wide range of souvenirs, maps and books. The Town Hall also houses a restored Georgian Courtroom and an Assembly Room, both available for hire.

## Opening hours:

Monday to Saturday: 1000 - 1630 hrs

**Tel:** 01727 864511

**Fax:** 01727 863533

**E.mail:** [tic@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:tic@stalbans.gov.uk)

**Web:** [www.stalbans.gov.uk](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk)

## Harpenden Information Point

Located at Harpenden Town Hall off Leyton Road, the centre has a large selection of information regarding hotels and attractions in the local area.

**Opening hours:** Monday to Friday 1000 - 1600 hrs.

**Tel:** 01582 768278

**E.mail:** [harpenden.town.council@harpenden.gov.uk](mailto:harpenden.town.council@harpenden.gov.uk)

**Web:** [www.harpenden.gov.uk](http://www.harpenden.gov.uk)



*The Town Hall in background, home to the Tourist Information Centre*

**Disclaimer:** Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, St Albans City & District Council can not accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.