

WELCOME TO ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS



MT EPHRAIM

Key

Parking

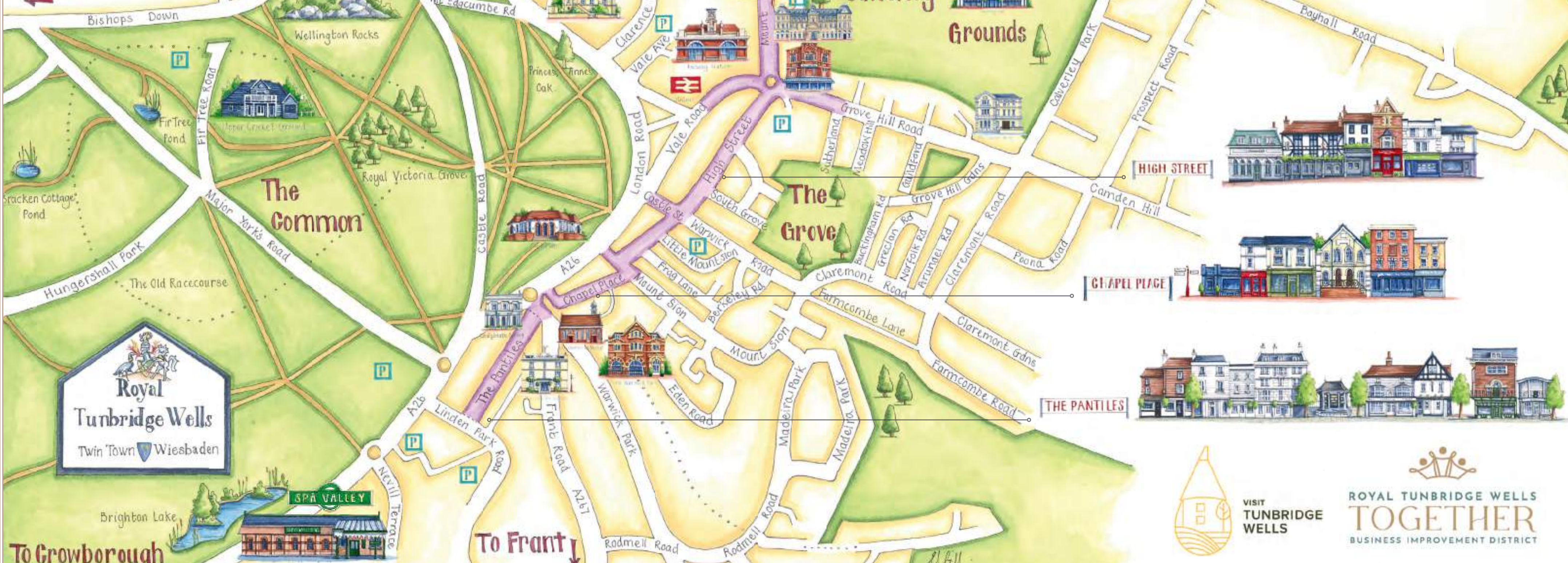
Information

“ Tunbridge Wells is Tunbridge Wells, and there is nothing really like it upon our planet. H.G Wells ”



The Spa Hotel

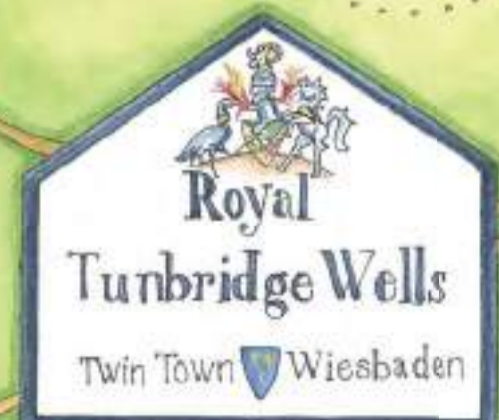
To Langton Green ~ Rusthall



Grosvenor and Hilbert Park

To Pembury

Dunorlan Park



VISIT TUNBRIDGE WELLS

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOGETHER BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Heritage

Visitors have been coming to Royal Tunbridge Wells since the discovery of the **Chalybeate Spring** in 1606. Over subsequent years, the town gained a reputation as a place to see and to be seen in. A leisure destination for fashionable society, it boasted places of entertainment such as coffee houses, gaming-rooms and assembly rooms for dances and balls.

In 1684, Margaret, widow of Viscount Purbeck, provided land on Mount Sion for the earliest lodging houses, and at the northern end of the **Pantiles**, the **Church of King Charles the Martyr** was built.

Princess Victoria was a regular visitor to Royal Tunbridge Wells, staying in what is the Hotel du Vin today. Decimus Burton, the renowned architect of the Wellington Gate at London's Hyde Park Corner and the Palm House at Kew, designed many of the town's outstanding buildings, including the former Trinity Church, now **Trinity Theatre** which will imminently open a new heritage attraction and **viewing platform** looking over the town and the nearby common in its clocktower.

Our new cultural centre, the **Amelia Scott**, attracts both visitors and residents. A space where you can learn more about the history of the town in a space where art and culture meet to bring people together. Explore the various permanent museum displays, as well as the exciting temporary exhibitions.

If you'd like to hear more about the history of Royal Tunbridge Wells, why not listen to the **'Tales of Tunbridge Wells'** audio trail? The narrative spans the time from the discovery of the Chalybeate Spring in 1606 to the present day thriving spa town that you can see today. The guided walk is a pleasant 90-minute journey through 30 locations in the heart of town.



Entertainment

Tunbridge Wells is an all-year round destination with great venues, attractions and festivals!

The annual festival programme begins with February's Winter Lantern Parade, May's Literary Festival and Unfest running across a range of venues before the TW Fringe and Mela Festivals bring further music, dance, comedy and art throughout June and July.

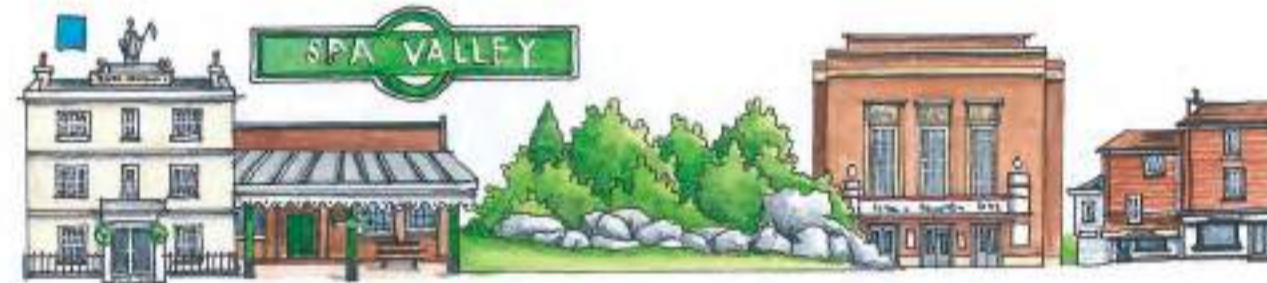
The RTW Music calendar also includes the large Local & Live festival in Calverley Grounds in August, wonderful weekly open-air Jazz on the Pantiles and Saturday Soul Train nights across the Summer as well as the internationally renowned Black Deer Festival in Eridge Park.

For year-round performances you can look to:-

- **The Forum**, an iconic, award-winning grassroots music venue hosting a range of eclectic live music every week of the year located on the edge of the common.
- **Trinity Theatre** on Church Road, a former church that has been converted into a leading (and much-loved) theatre and arts venue.
- **Assembly Hall Theatre**, built in 1939 as a dancehall to raise money for the war effort, it plays host to a wide range of theatre, comedy, music and celebrity appearances.

Why not hop on board a steam train at the **Spa Valley Railway** and visit the High Rocks, a huge sandstone outcrop popular with walkers, or journey on to Groombridge, set in an idyllic, tranquil woodland setting? The SVR also hosts children's events, cream teas, murder mysteries, formal dinners and The Polar Express at Christmas.

The town is also home to numerous creative arts businesses and galleries, including the newly built Amelia, as well as sports clubs and events. From cricket at The TW Cricket Club to Junior, Mens and Ladies rugby by TWRFC, from Boules festivals on the Pantiles to half marathons.



Parks and open spaces

Based in the Garden of England, Royal Tunbridge Wells is blessed with a wealth of parks and common land to make any town envious, alongside beautiful open gardens and lovely countryside on its doorstep for walking tours.

Minutes from the town centre, **the Grove is the oldest park in the town**. In 1703 it was given to the townspeople to provide 'a shady place for walking.' It continues to provide a haven of tranquility to all visitors, and a play park to entertain little ones.

In the heart of the town centre, you will find **Calverley Grounds**, dating from the 1830s, a beautifully landscaped park, favoured by Princess Victoria and with views of the High Weald. The park is popular among families for its creatively-designed **adventure playground**, the brainchild of the designer behind the Diana, Princess of Wales memorial Playground in London.

Seasonal events are held in the park including live music in the summer and the popular ice rink at Christmas. It is also home to a memorial stone commemorating Air Chief Marshal Hugh Caswell Tremenheere Dowding, Air Officer Commanding RAF Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain.

Be sure to visit **Tunbridge Wells Common**, once the site of horse racing and point to point events and still home to a cricket club. The Common is an oasis of green, only moments from the town with woodland areas and striking sandstone outcrops such as **Wellington and Mount Edgcombe Rocks**.

Dunorlan Park, a short walk from the centre, is not only a lovely destination for walking tours but gives the opportunity of a relaxing boating or fun canoeing experience on its **boating lake**.



For further information go to www.visittunbridgewells.com or visit one of our Tourist Information Points located at:

The Amelia Scott

Customer Services at the Royal Victoria Place Shopping Centre

The Corn Exchange on The Pantiles*

The BID Offices on The High Street*

Tunbridge Wells Railway Station*

The RTW Together BID produces a free print and digital quarterly Guide, featuring what's on alongside a directory of retailers, hospitality and professional services. Pick it up at a Tourist information point, one of our many leaflet dispensers across the town or one of the businesses who stock them. Alternatively scan this QR code to view it digitally.



Keep up to date and follow us: @visit_tunbridgewells and @rtwtogether

Illustration © Elaine Gill
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* Only flyers available in these locations

Shopping

Take time to soak up the Victorian feel of the **Old High Street** and the famous **Georgian open-air promenade of the Pantiles**, visit the impressive **Royal Victoria Place shopping centre** and the burgeoning independent vibe of **Mount Pleasant Road, Monson Road** and the **Camden Quarter**. Delight in strolling round the eclectic mix of high quality boutiques, unique independent and specialist shops, famous high street names and traditional street markets in a charming and historic setting.

Royal Tunbridge Wells is proud of its reputation of being home to its huge range of unique independents with bespoke products, many produced on the premises; from vintage jewellery, high-end homewares and pieces of art to antiques, vinyl's and even accessories for your pampered pooch!

You'll find familiar high street names in and around Royal Victoria Place shopping centre, alongside our flagship department stores; Fenwick and Marks & Spencer (located in the shopping centre), and Hoopers (located opposite the train station on Mount Pleasant Road), ensuring you can get your fashion fix, beauty buys and everyday essentials all in one place.

To find a comprehensive Town Shopping Directory please scan the RTW Together QR code or please visit or scan:-



royalvictoriaplace.co.uk



thepantiles.com



Hospitality

From Michelin rated fine dining to rustic cafes serving mouth-watering cakes, intimate and historic pubs, including a converted opera house, to open-air colonnade seating for a range of restaurants, there is something to satisfy everyone's appetite. Tunbridge wells offers over 250 places to eat year round, a wide range of global cuisine, as well as plenty of great locations for traditional afternoon teas and locally brewed ales.

How about you take a break from your shopping and pause for tea and cake, book a table for a gastronomic night out, grab a drink pre or post a concert or pick up locally sourced ingredients for your own culinary creations? Or why not attend one of the many food-themed events taking place in the town? There is a **regular weekend artisan market** in the Pantiles, annual events such as the **Pantiles Gin Festival**, **The Harvest Food and Drink Festival** and the **CAMRA Beer Festival at the Spa Valley**.

Or why not make a weekend of it and stay in one of Royal Tunbridge Wells' collection of **unique hotels and bed & breakfasts**? Many are located in historically beautiful properties and staying for a little longer gives you the opportunity to discover more and create memories in Royal Tunbridge Wells.

Why not take a look at our RTW guide that lists upcoming events for the town as well as a handy guide to all the places to eat, drink, shop and stay?



Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Map

