

## Milton Keynes

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### Stay on after Rugby World Cup games in the pristine new town Milton Keynes for shopping parks, indoor ski slopes and those famous concrete cow statues.

It's easy to navigate around this Buckinghamshire town with its grid-pattern layout. After the rugby game stroll along the town's central artery, Midsummer Boulevard, from the Retail Quarter with shopping centres like thecentre:mk to The Hub with its al fresco cafés and restaurants. Milton Keynes <http://www.destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk/> also has a good supply of green spaces, like leafy Campbell Park and open Ouzel Valley Park. Easy day trips to other English gems include Oxford, 50 miles away, with its soaring university spires.

### Don't miss

Experience a slice of the African Savannah and mingle with big game such as rhino, giraffe and buffalo in the open at **Woburn Safari Park** <http://www.woburn.co.uk>, ten miles southeast of Milton Keynes. Budding spies crack World War II codes at **Bletchley Park** <http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk>, once home of the famous Enigma codebreakers also just south of the town centre. Towering 13-metre climbing walls and 170-metre piste with dumps of real snow keep all ages amused for hours at **Xscape** <http://www.xscape.co.uk/milton-keynes>, and petrol heads can get into pole position for the high-octane F1 and 'superbike' races at **Silverstone** <http://www.silverstone.co.uk/> grand prix circuit – nicknamed 'the home of British racing' – just half an hour away.

### Great for families

At **Gulliver's Land** <http://www.gulliversfun.co.uk/milton-keynes> theme park, families can drive around miniature Lilliput Land on moon buggies and play pirates on The Buccaneer ship ride. You can swing from trees at the **Aerial Extreme** <http://www.aerialextreme.co.uk> high ropes course, which puts you 16ft up in the air, or try your hand at wakeboarding at Willen Lake with **WakeMK** <http://www.wakemk.com>

### Go shopping

Bag international brands from Kurt Geiger to Swarovski in the huge, glass-fronted city centre mall, **thecentre:mk** <http://www.thecentremk.com/> while **Midsummer Place** <http://www.midsummerplace.co.uk/> next door is packed with high street fashion favourites such as Superdry, Hollister and Zara. Next to *stadiummk* is the MK1 Shopping Park so you can indulge in some retail therapy before or after the rugby match.

## Explore the area

Less than 30 miles north of Milton Keynes is **Althorp** <http://www.spencerofalthorp.com/> stately home, Princess Diana's former family residence. Follow her life in the five-gallery exhibition, which includes school reports and that famous wedding dress. Also in easy reach of Milton Keynes are the Capability Brown Gardens and Georgian monuments of **Stowe Gardens** <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe/>.

## Get active

Experience the thrill of sky diving without the long drop from an airplane in the indoor vertical wind tunnel at **Airkix** <http://www.airkix.com/>, and there's watersport a plenty – such as power boating and kayaking – surrounded by a peaceful nature reserve at 100-acre **Willen Lake** <http://www.whitecap.co.uk>.

## Did you know?

Milton Keynes has more bridges than Venice when you add up its grid road bridges.

## Where to stay

- Budget: YHA Milton Keynes <http://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/milton-keynes>
- Moderate: Jurys Inn Milton Keynes <http://miltonkeyneshotels.jurysinns.com/>
- Luxury: Whittlebury Hall <http://www.whittleburyhall.co.uk/>
- Accessible: Travelodge Milton Keynes Central <http://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/54/Milton-Keynes-Central-hotel>

## Where to eat

- Budget: Nandos <http://www.xscape.co.uk/milton-keynes/concessions/nandos>
- Moderate: Turtle Bay <http://www.turtlebay.co.uk/milton-keynes-restaurant/>
- Luxury: Paris House <http://www.parishouse.co.uk/>
- Accessible: Brasserie Blanc <http://www.brasserieblanc.com/french-restaurant/locations/milton-keynes.php>

## Events

Try to coincide your trip to Milton Keynes with one of these great events.

- TBC

## Getting there and around

- Air: The nearest major airport is London Luton Airport <http://www.london-luton.co.uk/en/>, a 35-minute drive away. Regular coaches take you to Milton Keynes Central railway station.
- Rail: Milton Keynes Central Station is 30 minutes from London Euston Station.
- Road: Milton Keynes is on junction 14 of the M1.

Find more inspiration for your trip to England at [www.visitengland.com](http://www.visitengland.com)