

Dorking

*Two self-guided
tours through
the historic
streets of Dorking*

*Self-guided
Tours*



Dorking

Dorking - A Town With Traditions

Those taking the trails today are following in the footsteps of generations of earlier visitors attracted to the qualities of Dorking.

Earlier writers referred to the town as a resort *'quite unmatched for the number and variety of pleasant rambles it offers by any other town within the same distance of London'*. They also referred to the quality and variety of all *'marketable commodities'*, *'air fresh and breezy'* and its fame as a centre for *'poultry and other good things'*.



Heritage

Dorking - A Market Town

A glance at the map of Dorking shows the principal streets of High Street, South Street and West Street forming the backbone of the town and the Heritage Trail. For generations these streets have been the centre of trade and commerce. As you walk along them it is possible to imagine street markets with cattle tied to the railings that still line the High Street today and traders clinching deals in the public houses. Imagine also the farm labourer riots that took place in High Street in 1830 and crowds fighting with police and cavalry, or the Fair Day when horses were raced up

and down the street. A tradition dating from the early 19th century until it was suppressed in 1902 was the Shrove Tuesday football matches. These games were played in the streets of the town disrupting it to such an extent that the shops had to be boarded up. Passing along South Street, picture in your mind the coaching days of the 18th century when travellers between the south coast and London broke their journey and dined in the Bulls Head. Tucked behind these main streets were the the breweries, a tanner's yard and a foundry.

ge Trail

The Town Today

Dorking today is still the focus for local business and commerce. As well as many High Street names the town has a large number of independent retailers offering an individual selection of goods and services. Hospitality is still as important to the town's economy as it was in times gone by. With over a dozen town centre public houses, numerous restaurants and cafés, both local people and visitors enjoy a wide range of food and drink. Although no longer in the High Street, the town holds a bustling Friday market. The sales cries of the modern traders hark back to the sounds heard over 700 years ago when the town's market was granted a Royal Charter. The Heritage Trail provides an opportunity to see how Dorking has evolved from a mediæval village to the busy and vibrant town it is today. For further information on the history of the town there is the Visitor Information Centre in the Dorking Halls and the Dorking and District Museum and its Library in West Street. The museum is open on Wednesday and Thursday between 2pm and 5pm and on Saturday between 10am and 5pm.





Dorking is a remarkable town. It is surrounded by the Surrey Hills, a nationally important landscape. To the north, visible down many of the town centre streets,

are the chalk hills of the North Downs. To the south, the Greensand Hills provided a prestigious location for the Victorian and Edwardian expansion of Dorking.



This picturesque setting and the varied architecture, streets and public spaces, reflecting the history of Dorking from Roman times to the present day, provide the raw material for the **Dorking Heritage Trail**.

A walk around Dorking is an

opportunity to step back in time and explore the rich and eventful past of this historic market town.





Open up a whole new world Internet Access Around Dorking

Internet access also available from Dorking Library



- 1 Intermission Café-Bar**
Dorking Halls Reigate Road Dorking RH4 1SG 01306 879320
- 2 Browns of Dorking**
182 High Street Dorking RH4 1QR 01306 881212
- 3 Hasketts Tea Room**
86B South Street Dorking RH4 2EW 01306 885833

Internet access charges apply to the above locations

Dorking is now fully e-enabled with three cyber stations based within commercial café's and public internet access available at Dorking library. Surf the web, collect your emails and print-out information on demand.

The café based stations charge £2.00 per hour for access, available from £1.00, 30 min sessions. Colour page printing is 20p per page. Please ask at the cash desk in each location for an access card.

The installation of these stations was undertaken by Dorking Town Management, in partnership with Shift F7 Ltd, with funding provided by a Mole Valley Local Committee Grant.