

Things to do in Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes is a fantastic city, quite unlike any other cities in the UK. You will notice that it is a new city – in fact it's just 50 years old this year and is well known for its many roundabouts, its road grid system and concrete cows! Tourist information for Milton Keynes can be found online:

<http://www.destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk/>

If you are staying for longer than the conference days or have family joining you and are wondering what you can do, here is a few ideas we have put together for you.

Shopping Centre

Milton Keynes has a large shopping centre with all the top brands. The centre:mk and intu shopping centres are located in the city centre just a short 15 minutes journey from The Open University. Visitor information can be found here: <http://www.thecentremk.com/visitor-information/getting-here>

Milton Keynes Theatre

Milton Keynes has a fantastic theatre, details for forthcoming shows are listed here:

<http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/milton-keynes-theatre/>

Xscape

The Xscape building is in central Milton Keynes (next to the shopping centre and theatre) and is made up of shops, a cinema, restaurants, bowling alley, indoor ski slope and indoor sky diving. Further information can be found here: <http://www.xscape.co.uk/milton-keynes/>

MK1 – Retail park and home of the MK Dons Football Club

MK1 is a fairly new development that consists of shops, restaurants, cinema and an impressive football stadium which is home to the local League One, Milton Keynes Dons Football Club. Information on MK1 can be found here: <http://www.mk1shoppingpark.co.uk>. Information about the football club can be found here: <http://www.mkdons.com/>

Walks – parks and lakes

There are numerous park walks around the University campus and local area and Milton Keynes, details of which can be found on the Parks Trust website here: <http://www.theparkstrust.com>. If the weather is nice, a popular place to visit is Willen Lake, there are various walks and activities available. For information, please visit their website: <http://www.willenlake.org.uk/>

Historic places of interest

Bletchley Park

Once Britain's best kept secret, Bletchley Park, home of the WW2 Codebreakers is now a vibrant heritage attraction and is open daily. Further information can be found here: www.bletchleypark.org.uk

Bradwell Abbey

Bradwell Abbey is the site and remains of a medieval Benedictine Priory and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (no.19062). Further information can be found here:

<http://www.mkcdc.org.uk/bradwell-abbey/index.html>

Woburn Abbey and gardens

The Abbey has been the home of the Earls and Dukes of Bedford since the 1620s. It is currently the home of the 15th Duke and Duchess of Bedford and their children. There are 22 rooms that you can experience,

which house one of the most significant private art collections in the world. Further information can be found here: <http://www.woburnabbey.co.uk/>

Museums

Canal Museum, Stoke Bruerne

Further information can be found here:

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/museums-and-attractions/the-canal-museum>

Milton Keynes Museum

Further information can be found here:

<http://www.miltonkeynesmuseum.org.uk/>

Tourist information

Tourist information can be found at Destination Milton Keynes: www.destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk. They also have an office in Milton Keynes Shopping Centre. They can provide you with information about Milton Keynes and the local areas including family days out, places to eat, pubs, cultural places to visit, where to stay and what's on.

Trains

Milton Keynes is on the main line train route to London and Birmingham with easy access to various UK cities. For further information and train schedules, please visit: <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>

Car hire

There are many places in Milton Keynes to hire a car from including Thrifty, Europcar, Hertz and Enterprise to name a few.

Places to eat

There are many places to eat in and around Milton Keynes. These areas include:

Kingston: <http://www.kingstoncentre.co.uk/>

The Hub: <http://www.thehub-miltonkeynes.com/>

Theatre district: <http://www.theatre-district.co.uk/>

Shopping Centre: <http://www.thecentremk.com/destination-dining>

MK1: <http://www.mk1shoppingpark.co.uk/stores/>

If you would rather try a local pub, we suggest visiting one of the smaller towns mentioned below.

Towns within / near Milton Keynes

There are a number of small towns around Milton Keynes which are a little more in keeping with traditional English towns, some recommended towns include: Woburn, Woburn Sands and Stony Stratford.

Interesting aspects of past and present industry and business in and around Milton Keynes

Brick industry

Stewartby brickworks, once the largest in the world, closed in 2008. It is now derelict with chimneys under threat of demolition. Further information can be found here:

<http://clutch.open.ac.uk/schools/marston-brickies00/website/brickworks/parentbrick.html>

Boot and shoe industry

Northamptonshire's shoemakers have almost 900 years' experience in making boots and shoes.

<http://www.northamptonshirebootandshoe.org.uk/>

Northampton museum is closed till end 2018 for refurbishment but there is a small museum at Rushden
<https://www.rushdenmuseum.co.uk/>

Car industry

Millbrook Proving Ground, Bedford once the Vauxhall testing ground, provides vehicle test and validation services to customers in the automotive, transport, tyre, petrochemical, defence and security industries..

<http://www.millbrook.co.uk/history/>

Mining

The mining of Fullers Earth was an integral part of Woburn Sands trade, commerce and employment for over 700 years. Details of its history on <http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/wsc/docs/Fullers%20Earth.html>

Warehousing

Amazon distribution centre at Brogborough and John Lewis distribution centre at Magna Park (both close to Junction 13 of M1) highlight MK's use of its location to attract business.