



**48 HOUR GUIDE**

# Chichester for Culture Seekers

For some 60 years, Chichester has presented world-class cultural offerings — from visual art to drama, film, music and performance - and with a history dating back to Roman times, Culture Seekers will be spoilt for choice on what to do and see first.

Our **short guide on Chichester for Culture Seekers** is followed by a handy itinerary to help you make the most of your visit to this vibrant city.



# Visual Arts & Culture

No visit to Chichester is complete without going to the iconic **Chichester Festival Theatre**. Opened in 1962, its first artistic director was the legendary Sir Lawrence Olivier. Today the theatre continues to put on a myriad of musicals, significant new plays and classic revivals which often go on to be performed at the West End or tour nationally and internationally.

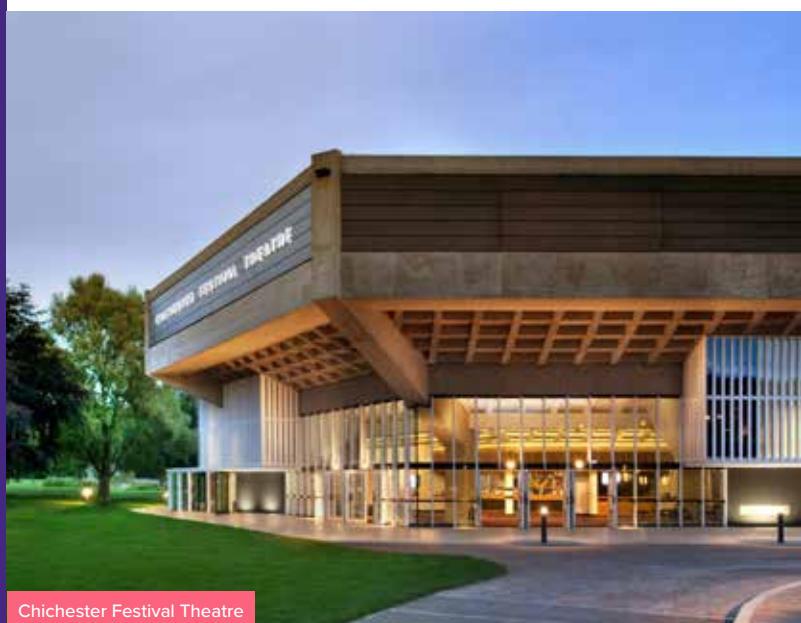
Your next must visit is **Pallant House Gallery**. Set in a beautiful Grade I listed 18th century townhouse, the world-class collection tells the story of modern British art from 1900 to now. Like the Festival Theatre, it has also secured its place among the greats, ranking second only to the Tate for modern British art, according to The Guardian.

For a more local vibe, visit the wonderful **Oxmarket Centre of Arts**, a hub for local artists to exhibit their works in the setting of a former medieval church. **Candida Stevens Gallery** is another independent gallery located in Northgate, at the edge of the city. And don't forget to look out for Chichester's incredible **Street Art** nestled around the town. The majority of the art was created in 2013 when street artists were flown in from all over the world to decorate many locations for The Chichester Street Festival.

For film fanatics, Chichester is also home to **New Park Cinema**. An independent cinema set in a beautiful building showing a wide range of film and performance events. They also run a Chichester International Film Festival each summer with open air screenings at Priory Park.



Oxmarket Gallery



Chichester Festival Theatre

## Shopping

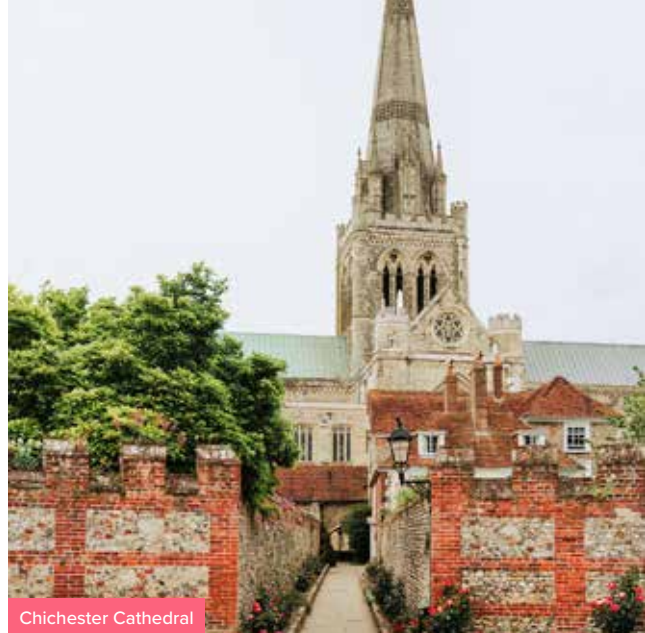
Chichester has a thriving array of indie retailers within the city walls giving culture seekers the opportunity to discover unique and exciting new brands as well as supporting local. **Draper's Yard** is home to a thriving community of talented entrepreneurs and **Almshouse Arcade** has an equally eclectic mix of retailers. **Zig Zag Shoes**, **Winter's Moon**, **Analogue Records**, **Refilled Chichester**, **Rosie Rose**, **Jaba**, **The Bazaar**, **Stephen Lawrence Menswear**, **Montezuma's**, **Sahara** and **Indigo** are just a few more in a long list of incredible independents. Our Chichester Buzz online directory proudly lists all of our city's independent businesses so more of us can shop, eat and support local.

Almshouse Arcade





Chichester City Walls



Chichester Cathedral



Novium Museum

## History & Heritage

Chichester was founded by the Romans and in third century AD they built the **city walls**. These were later augmented with sixty towers which were still standing in the ninth century AD when Alfred the Great converted the city into a fortified burh.

A walk around the **city walls**, taking in **Priory Park**, the Grade I listed **Guildhall** and **Norman Mote** along the way, is a fantastic way to get your bearings and gain a true insight into Chichester's rich culture and heritage.

If you want to delve deeper into Chichester's fascinating history and Roman heritage, visit the award-winning **Novium Museum** on Tower Street.

On West Street stands the magnificent **Chichester Cathedral**. After almost one thousand years situated in the city, it is a vital part of the local community as a place of worship, tourism and heritage and a place of music and arts. The best way to discover this glorious building is to go and join one of the guided tours.

The city centre also has a number of statues and blue plaques dedicated to significant people from the past who have a special connection with Chichester. Two statues of note, both by local sculptor Vincent Grey, are of the English Romantic Poet **John Keats (Market Square)** and Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson's best friend **Sir George Murray (North Street)**.

## Eating & Drinking

The choice of international cuisines in Chichester city centre is quite wonderful. There's Spanish Tapas at **Artie's Kitchen**, Greek cuisine at **Santorini**, Turkish meze at **Reina Kitchen**, Japanese at **South Street Sushi**, Thai at **Wagamama**, **Giggling Squid**, **Lime Squeezy** or **Lemon Grass**, French at **Brasserie Blanc** and **Cote Brasserie** and the list goes on. Indian, Chinese, Mexican, Italian, British as well as international fine dining experiences are all within the city walls for you to experience.



# Itinerary - Day One



Bishops Palace Gardens

## Morning

Start your morning with breakfast at **Luckes**, before heading to **The Cathedral** for a guided tour of this incredible institution. Having been rebuilt and added to several times over its near 1000 year history, the 20th century saw the Cathedral move into the world of modern art and you can expect to see many spectacular pieces by the likes of Graham Sutherland and John Pier on display. On completing your tour be sure to explore the beautiful **Bishops Palace Gardens**. Then stroll down Cannons Walk onto South Street for a tasty Tapas lunch at **Arties Kitchen**.

## Afternoon

After lunch wander back up South Street towards the historic **Market Cross** and down East Street. Along the way enjoy popping into the many independent stores while taking in the ancient architectural features that remain above some of the store fronts. If you turn left off East Street down St Martin's, you will not only be greeted by a further bubble of wonderfully eclectic indie businesses, but also start to discover more ancient Chichester architecture at St Martin's Square. As you weave your way through the picturesque back streets, you will find yourself looking out towards **Priory Park** which is home to three scheduled monuments. Exit the Park onto Priory Lane and pop into **Sit and Sip** for a well-deserved locally made gin and tonic whilst choosing where to go for dinner.

Market Cross



Priory Park





# Itinerary - Day Two

## Morning

Set yourself up for the day with breakfast at **Common Grounds**, which serves some of the best coffee and freshly made pastries in town, before heading to the **Oxmarket Centre of Arts** which is just a short walk away. Continue on your art trail by crossing East Street onto North Pallant (eyes peeled for some infamous Street Art) and continue until you reach the renowned **Pallant House Gallery** where you will no doubt spend the rest of your morning.



Common Grounds



Street Art



Pallant House Gallery

## Afternoon

For lunch why not head back to St Martin's for some homemade organic sustenance at **St Martin's Organic Coffee House**. With its 18th Century facade and medieval interior, it offers plenty of culture and character. Walk off lunch with a joyful mooch around **Retro and Vintage**, **Draper's Yard** and **Almshouse Arcade**. Then why not head up towards West Street and take in some of the charming Georgian architecture including the beautiful **Edes House**, before spending an hour or so drinking in more of Chichester's past at the **Novium Museum**.

If you are lucky enough to have tickets booked for a performance at **Chichester Festival Theatres**, grab a bite to eat at one of the many restaurants offering pre-theatre menus. If time is on your side, why not enjoy a pre-dinner stroll around Chichester to take in some of the statues, monuments and plaques dedicated to Chichester's historical figures of significance.



John Keats Statue at Eastgate Square