

# Thames Path



## MAIDENHEAD TO WINDSOR (see maps below)

**Water walk:** Along this stretch of the Thames Path you pass under Brunel's Maidenhead railway bridge just downstream of Maidenhead. The arch the Thames passes under is known as the Sounding Arch because of its spectacular echo - give it a try! At the time of building, the arches were the widest and flattest in the world; the flatness was necessary to avoid putting a 'hump' in the bridge which would have gone against Brunel's obsession with flat gradients. The bridge features in Turner's painting *Rail, Steam and Speed – the Great Western Railway*, displayed in the National Gallery in London. Once in Dorney you can take a short detour from the path to visit Dorney Court manor house, and soon after you'll pass the Eton College rowing lake which will be used for the Olympics in 2012. Just before Eton you'll go through the Brocas, riverside meadows with excellent views of Windsor Castle.

**Refreshments:** There are plenty of places in Maidenhead to eat and drink, and not far from Dorney Court is the Palmers Arms. In Eton and Windsor there are numerous refreshment opportunities.

**Distance:** 8¼ miles

**Duration:** 3½ hours

**Train stations:** Maidenhead and Windsor & Eton Central

**Boat Trips:** During the summer months you can walk in one direction and get a boat back. See <http://www.boat-trips.co.uk/pt/pt6.htm> for details.



