

Adventures on The Thames Valley Path; May Bank Holiday weekend

Ruby the VW campervan is parked up on the banks of the River Thames. We can just about see boats going past through the trees from our pitch at Hurley Riverside Park, and the campsite is filling up, as you would expect for May Day Bank Holiday. We were drawn to Hurley Riverside Park due to its close proximity to the river, and our desire to clock up some more miles on the Thames Path.

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The river is just behind us

After a hectic week at work, and a morning gig on Friday, it was lunchtime by the time we had thrown some food, clothes and ourselves into Ruby and escaped. I was frazzled – I'd managed to clock up 42 hours of teaching in 4 hours, 20 hours of admin and a gig. Our mission for the weekend was to eat, sleep and walk!



Hurley is a really pretty little Thames-side village which is home to the campsite and two pubs – one of which is the oldest coaching inn in England. We managed a quick drink outside Ruby before the heavens opened, so

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we opted for an early dinner – a new recipe for us, Tandoori Sea Bass which was delicious.



By the time we'd eaten it had stopped raining briefly, so we grabbed a brolly and went for a wander along the Thames to the village – just under a mile – and had a drink at The Olde Bell, England's oldest coaching inn, which is dog friendly in the bar and had a great fireplace.



By the time back we got back to Ruby, the fish and chip van that visits the campsite on Friday evenings was just closing, and so we took advantage of the leftovers at a bargain

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price as we'd got cold and wet on our walk
back from the pub.



Piggies! But they were delicious ☐

SATURDAY

We enjoyed a fairly lazy morning, and a nice
omelette for breakfast before setting off to-
wards Marlow on the Thames Path.



There was a section which was
closed off due to a bridge needed repaired,
but this diversion on quiet roads took us right
past Town Farm butchers. Whoops. We can-
not resist local butchers, specially those on a

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farm!

We stocked up on sausages, lamb kebabs and burgers with the intention of trying for a bbq tomorrow if the weather behaved, before carrying on towards Marlow.



At Marlow there was a great little farmers market where we got to have some local sausage rolls and also some local gin, which was so good I brought a bottle. Thank goodness we bought our large rucksack on the walk! DuPaddlebodrining our walk we'd encountered blue skies, rain and even hail so we wore our raincoats allowing for more space in the rucksacks.

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We decided to walk back on ourselves along the river up to the bridge that we couldn't cross, and passed some huge houses right on the edge of the river. It was a truly gorgeous stretch of the Thames. We realised at this point we'd walked 7 miles and the thought of going 7 miles back was exhausting - plus the weather had turned again, so as there was not any bus routes from Marlow to Hurley riverside park we opted for an Uber which picked us up right on the footpath and delivered us all the way back to Hurley - to the pub, the Rising Sun - a pint had definitely been earned, and we enjoyed the local Marlow brewery Rising sun ale.



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Saturday night we enjoyed pulled pork which had been cooking in the slow cooker whilst we had been walking, along with some local gin, before crashing out for an early night.



SUNDAY

There had been quite a lot of rain in the night but thankfully it dawned quite sunny. The forecast today was brighter earlier so we opted for a lunchtime bbq. Before that, we inflated the Stand Up Paddleboard- one feature of Hurley Riverside Park is it's on site slipway into the Thames. We had an hour or so larking around on that before showering and sparking up the bbq.

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The bbq was one of the best I can remember
– those sausages from Town Farm were so
good that even our neighbour came to ask
where they were from!



After lunch we were absolutely stuffed so de-
cided on a walk the other way down the
Thames- towards Henley on Thames. Last
year you may remember we walked as far as
Hambleton Lock, and so this afternoon we de-
cided to walk back to The Flowerpot Hotel –
this means that we've now covered from Hen-
ley on Thames to Marlow of the Thames
Path.



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We enjoyed a couple of drinks before making our way back to Ruby to fall into a Food coma! Actually, we made homemade pizzas in the Remoska but we were tiddly and we made a right mess of them – we did managed a slice each, before falling asleep!



MONDAY

Time to pack up, but before we headed east home, we dropped into National Trust Cliveden – along with the world and his wife! It was so busy and chaotic there that we managed a lap around the gardens before calling it a day and heading home. The gardens

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were stunning, there were just so many people.



We'll have to return!

We had a brilliant weekend, and actually came home a bit grumpy as we'd really "come down". We enjoyed the location of Hurley Riverside Park, although we personally thought the facilities could have done with a bit of investment. The showers were in a portacabin and although it was warm it wasn't hugely clean - though I suspect that was more our fellow campers not cleaning up for themselves. The park was full to bursting and in our opinion there probably could have been a few more showers - 2 male and 2 fe-

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male for such a huge site seemed slightly under catered for – we actually had to queue a couple of times! However, a great location for the River Thames.

Until next time

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