



## Boutique break

Varsity Hotel and Spa in Cambridge offers a luxury option for a romantic weekend away

Barely an hour from Liverpool Street, Cambridge offers all the quaint charm required for a romantic weekend break but the majority of accommodation on offer is little more than a selection of bed and breakfasts.

One exception is Varsity Hotel & Spa on Thompson's Lane, the only boutique hotel in the city, boasting a great central location for exploring Cambridge's ancient cobbled streets.

Varsity's 48 rooms offer a wealth of choices, from standard doubles to vast penthouse suites with four poster beds and floor-to-ceiling windows providing panoramic views over the leafy city. If those views aren't enough for you Varsity Hotel & Spa have a large roof terrace with a bar, perfect in the warmer months while a relaxing guest lounge on the first floor offers a cosy, stylish environment for late night drinks.

Rooms are generously appointed with wooden floors, climate control, flatscreen televisions, DVD players, free Wi-Fi and plenty of space while bathrooms offer monsoon showers, baths and Elemis products.

The hotel's restaurant and Glassworks Spa facilities are accessed through separate entrances and hotel guests receive

passes to the day spa area during their stay which includes sauna, steam room and a large jacuzzi located behind a vast one-way window allowing you to see the river outside but preventing the outside world from seeing in. It's the perfect way to spend a relaxing afternoon unwinding from the stresses of the working week. There is also a full gym and beauty treatment rooms available to book making the hotel an ideal base for pre-wedding celebrations.

The hotel's restaurant, The River Bar Steakhouse & Grill, is located on the quayside and specialises in 28-day aged steaks. The restaurant and bar are open to the public and so it gets busy, especially at weekends, making booking a must.

Outside Cambridge offers a wealth of stylish restaurants, cosy pubs, coffee houses and bars meaning you'll be spoiled for choice on a night out whatever your tastes. Be sure to try The Eagle, the 14th Century inn on Bene't Street, where Watson and Crick first announced that they had discovered the secrets of DNA.

During the day the city's breathtaking architecture offers a stunning backdrop for leisurely strolls, perhaps exploring the arts and crafts market in the town square or taking in



the stunning collection of art and antiquities housed in the Fitzwilliam Museum. Weekend guests at Varsity Hotel & Spa should take advantage of complimentary walking tours of the city held every Saturday afternoon.

Tourists gather and stand in awe of Dr John Taylor's Corpus Chronophage clock on public display at Corpus Christi College on Trumpington Street. The huge clock, plated in 24 carat gold, features an insect seeming to move the dial with its legs as it eats up the seconds. Only accurate once every five minutes, the clock hangs back and then races

ahead in between, to mark the relative nature of how we perceive the flow of time.

And of course a trip to Cambridge, like a miniature version of Bruges, wouldn't be complete without a Punting boat trip along the River Cam, past the city's famous greens and colleges. There are plenty of options along the riverbank with deals to be had. Cambridge offers all of the hustle and bustle of a modern city centre while still possessing the ancient, mysterious air of one of the world's finest centres of academia.

