

# Visit Hitchin



An LGBTQ+GUIDE

Katie Wilson

## Hitchin LGBTQ+

If you are looking for a short break and safe spaces, Hitchin offers everything that you want. A busy market town; with excellent rail links.

The town has an array of independent shops, pubs and cafes to cater for all individuals varied tastes. Diversity and Inclusion is welcome, with local businesses displaying their North Herts PRIDE stickers

Hitchin boasts a rich history dating back to the 7th century. You can explore its medieval layout, admire beautiful buildings, and soak in the lively atmosphere.

Hitchin market square, used for North Herts PRIDE day



## **Worship**

**Notable landmarks include St Mary's Church, (front cover) which is the largest parish church in Hertfordshire, the tower dates back to 1190. There are links to the 8th century king of Mercia King Offa and there is a suggestion that he founded a church on the same site.**

**As a trans woman of faith, I am a regular church goer and I have never had any issues with attending services at either St.Mary's in the centre of town, or Christchurch (methodist) brand street - you will receive a warm welcome at both.**



**Windmill hill (above), if you are feeling a bit more energetic, you can go and see the North Herts PRIDE , rainbow bench that proudly sits at the top. Installed in 2023. (It offers a great view), the hill is used for North Herts PRIDE picnics.**



## Places to Visit

British Schools Museum: Learn about the town's educational history at the British Schools Museum. It's a fascinating place that showcases the evolution of education in Hitchin.

North Herts Museum: (Below left) Discover more about the town's past at the North Herts museum. It's a great spot to delve into local history and culture. There's a coffee shop as well.

The museum is a member of the safe space alliance.



Hitchin Priory in Hitchin in Hertfordshire is today a hotel built in about 1700 on the site of a Carmelite friary founded in 1317, which was closed in the Dissolution of the Monasteries during the reign of Henry VIII. Parts of the original priory are incorporated in the existing building, which has been a Grade I listed building on the Register of Historic England since 1951.

Ideal for an idyllic break away, or if you are looking for a venue for an event - just the place

## Food and Drink

The town has a fantastic assortment of pubs, cafes and restaurants, all which are extremely welcoming when it comes to the LGBTQ+ community, and have supported North Herts PRIDE events.

### The George



The pubs have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to any form of discrimination, and take any form of hate crime extremely seriously. As a crossdresser, I know how nerve wracking it is- but have not had any real issues when in the pubs in the town.

### The Victoria



### The Pitcher and Piano



## Arts and Entertainment

Catch a show at the Queen Mother Theatre (below) or the Market Theatre. Hitchin embraces both tradition and modernity, providing entertainment and cultural experiences.



## Hitchin Town FC

I go to watch Hitchin Town FC, dressed as Katie, and can only say positive things about my experiences. The club is very community based, and prides itself on diverse and Inclusion policies, with women and families well represented at matches and the club are working really hard to be welcoming and a safe space for everyone.



## The Shops

Hitchin prides itself on its assortment, of small independent businesses- which are supported by the Hitchin Bid. Perfect for that unusual gift for a loved one, and people go about their business without fear or worry. It's a fantastic town, for those who want to express their true selves without judgement.



## Places to Stay

The Sun Hotel is located in the town centre in Sun Street. Expect a warm welcome, great service, good value food and drink, and everything you need for both leisure and business.

The Premier Inn, is a few minutes walk from the town centre.



## Directions

### By Car

Hitchin is approximately 3 miles from Junction 8 of the A1(M) motorway. If you're coming from the A1(M), take Junction 8 and follow the A602 signposted to Hitchin. From the M1 Motorway Junction 10, Hitchin is around 10 miles away. When leaving the Motorway at Junction 10, follow signs for the A505, which is also signposted to Hitchin

### By Train

Hitchin is served by Great Northern/Thameslink trains from Cambridge, London (King's Cross), Peterborough, and stations on the Brighton Line. The fastest train from Hitchin to King's Cross currently takes approximately 23 minutes

### By Bus and Coach

The local Hitchin bus route network is operated by several bus companies, including Arriva, Stagecoach, and CentreBus. For details of local bus routes, timetables, and your nearest stop, you can visit Intalink or Arriva National Express route 737 (infrequent service) also stops at Hitchin Town Centre en route between Oxford and Stansted Airport.

For lots of other information, check out the visit Hitchin website. Enjoy your stay at Hitchin LGBTQ+

Katiespride3@gmail.com