



## READING V IPSWICH TOWN

**TUESDAY 29 AUGUST, KICK OFF 20:00**

*In the event of the scores being level at the end of ninety minutes' play the game will be decided on penalties.  
No extra time will be played.*

*Information in this guide is as at 23 August and is correct to the best of our knowledge. Any updated information on this fixture will be published on the club website ([www.itfc.co.uk](http://www.itfc.co.uk)), twitter (@IpswichTown and @itfchelp) and facebook ([www.facebook.com/officialitfc](http://www.facebook.com/officialitfc)).*

### INFORMATION FOR TOWN FANS

We travel to Reading on Tuesday 29 August in the second round of the Carabao Cup. The following guide has been produced for Town fans making the trip to Select Car Leasing Stadium. This is based on information on the Reading website plus additional information specific to this game.

For any further information, please contact Elizabeth Edwards, Supporter Liaison Officer on [slo@itfc.co.uk](mailto:slo@itfc.co.uk) or (+44) (0) 7968 876504 or on Twitter at @ITFC\_SLO.

### Reading information for visiting fans

Address: Select Car Leasing Stadium, M4, Junction 11, Reading, RG2 0FL

Website: <https://www.readingfc.co.uk/>

Phone number: [0118 968 1313](tel:01189681313) (Switchboard)

Supporters services and other enquiries - email: [supporterservices@readingfc.co.uk](mailto:supporterservices@readingfc.co.uk)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ReadingFC/>

X (previously known as Twitter): @ReadingFC

Supporter Liaison Officer: Tessa Szwarc, [supporterservices@readingfc.co.uk](mailto:supporterservices@readingfc.co.uk)

Disabled Liaison Officer: Paul Collins, [disability@readingfc.co.uk](mailto:disability@readingfc.co.uk)

Ground regulations: <https://www.readingfc.co.uk/club/policies-regulations/ground-regulations/>

Reading have put the following information together for home and away supporters visiting the Select Car Leasing Stadium on a matchday:

<https://www.readingfc.co.uk/matchday/key-information>

This includes links to the following:

<https://www.readingfc.co.uk/matchday/travel-parking/>

<https://www.readingfc.co.uk/fans/disabled-supporters/>

[www.footballgroundguide.com](http://www.footballgroundguide.com) provides some information here (the information is up to date even though the name on the link suggests otherwise):

<https://footballgroundguide.com/leagues/england/championship/madejski-stadium-reading.html>

We have picked out the key information for Town fans below, and added other material based on our previous experience of going to the Select Car Leasing Stadium and information that is specific to our fans.

## **Specific information for Town fans**

### ***Ticket news***

The initial allocation of over 1,000 tickets in the South Stand has now sold out. An additional allocation of 941 tickets will be on sale from Thursday, 24 August. A further allocation will be requested if demand exceeds this.

Tickets are priced at £12 (£17 matchday) for adults, £9 (£12 matchday) for seniors 65+, £19 (£12 matchday) for 18-24s, £7 (£9 matchday) for 17s and under and £5 (£7 matchday) for 12s and under. There is a £1.50 booking fee per ticket.

*For this fixture we will be operating a 'Safe Seating Area' which will be in rows R-W in block 32. We would like to remind fans that the seating areas will include older fans, families, those unable to stand for long periods of time and ambulant disabled fans. We therefore require fans in the seated areas to stay seated and be respectful of their fellow supporters as we want everyone to enjoy the day safely. Safe seating tickets can be purchased online and will be shown by an orange exclamation mark on the seat. By hovering over a seat, confirmation of that ticket being Safe Seating will be shown.*

Disabled supporters and their carers/personal assistants can purchase tickets through the Club's website. More information on this can be found here: <https://www.itfc.co.uk/news/2023/february/online-purchasing-available-for-accessible-tickets/>

Under the Club's new Super Blues membership scheme, tickets will be sold on a priority basis (subject to availability), beginning with members who have amassed 30 or more Away Priority Points. Tickets are now on sale (subject to availability) with purchase dates as follows:

2023/24 members with 5+ Away Priority Points – Thursday, 24 August at 10am.

Season ticket holders – Thursday, 24 August at 3pm.

General Sale – Friday, 25 August at 10am.

All priority sales dates will only allow for one ticket per customer, with sales both online at <https://tickets.itfc.co.uk/> and in Planet Blue. The postal deadline will be Friday, 25 August at 2pm.

Note that the ticket enquiries line (03330 05 05 03) is for assistance only.

## ***Travel to Reading***

### ***Coach***

Coach travel is on sale in line with the ticket sale windows, with prices at £24 for Adults, Seniors/U23 £21 and U19's £18. There is a £1.50 booking fee per ticket.

Coaches will depart from behind the Sir Bobby Robson stand at 14:00. Please ensure you are at Portman Road at least 15 minutes before this.

The coaches will be picking up at Marks Tey. This should be booked when purchasing your tickets.

*Supporters should note that the Club are no longer issuing physical tickets for coach travel. The confirmation email will serve as proof of purchase and the stewards on the day will be given a register of those attending.*



Note that all official coaches are non-smoking and the consumption of alcohol and hot food on board is strictly forbidden. Under 16s cannot travel without an accompanying parent/guardian. Please make sure you are aware of the Terms & Conditions prior to travelling (<https://www.itfc.co.uk/club/policies/>).

## **Car**

*Note: There are long-term roadworks on the A12 in both directions which can cause considerable delays. Do allow plenty of time. There may be road closures on your return journey with diversions in place.*

The Sat Nav postcode for the Select Car Leasing Stadium is RG2 0FL, but you may want to use the postcode for your chosen car parking option.

From Ipswich, it's a fairly direct drive, albeit one that is at very high risk of disruption. Take the A12 to the M25. Join the M25 going anti-clockwise to the M4. Continue on the M4 to junction 11, with the A33. Take the A33 towards Reading and you will see signs to the Select Car Leasing Stadium.

Please keep in touch with traffic news, as the whole route is notorious for delays. Google maps suggests a time of 3 hours to 3 hours 30 minutes depending on traffic conditions. We would suggest allowing at least 60 minutes and ideally 90 minutes beyond the AA / Google / Sat Nav suggested journey times.

## **Parking**

Reading set out a number options for parking in the following link:

<https://www.readingfc.co.uk/matchday/travel-parking>

Note, however, that with the lower attendance expected for this match some options may not be available as per a normal match. This includes some of the usual bus services which will impact the park and ride options.

We understand that the Wood Park and Ride, Shinfield Park, RG2 9FW (previously the Amec Foster Wheeler) which Town fans have used in the past is no longer in operation.

We are advised that the MereOak Park and Ride (Sat Nav code RG7 1PB), which is south of the M4, is an option for Town fans. Note that this will be operating to its weekday schedule rather than the matchday schedule, so buses will not drop-off or pick-up as close to the stadium as they would on a matchday. To reach the Park & Ride, at junction 11 of the M4 take the A33 towards Basingstoke and you will see the Park & Ride signposted. From the Park and Ride take the 600 bus to Imperial Way. The stadium is about an 11 minute walk. After the game, the bus stop back to the Park and Ride can be found opposite the Reading Gate Retail Park (roughly opposite the KFC on the A33), leaving at 22:14, 22:44 and 23:24. For a group of up to 4, the off-peak return fare is £5.50. An individual adult ticket is £3.50 and for under 18s the cost is £2.80. We understand there is a £1 charge to park the car. Tickets can be purchased from the bus driver.

The 'plan your journey' section on the Reading Buses website (<https://www.reading-buses.co.uk/plan-a-journey>) can be used to see times of buses and also a map of the bus stop locations for the drop-off and pick-up points.

Parking (car park 6, Sat Nav code RG2 0RP) may be available on the now demolished greyhound track which is close to the stadium. At junction 11 of the M4, take the A33 towards Reading town centre. Follow the dual carriageway past the stadium and McDonalds, KFC and Pizza Hut and look for the "Alternative Parking" signs ahead. On the left there is a small slip road into the parking site. There are 500 spaces and it costs £8 payable in advance or £10 on the day to park here (note that there are no cash payments). It is stewarded and is about a 5-10 minute walk away from the ground. The car park opens three and a half hours before kick-off and closes one hour after the final whistle. Note that this is the wrong side of the stadium for a quick access back to the M4.

We understand that there are a limited number of spaces available at the stadium (Sat Nav postcode RG2 0FL) in Car Park 3 Red Zone and in the family parking area (Car Park 2 Red Zone). If you have a child aged under 12 with you, then you can park in the family parking area. The cost is £10, payable in advance or £15 on a matchday (card only), subject to availability.

If you are a Blue Badge holder, you can park in the Disabled car park for £5, subject to availability and booked in advance (Sat Nav postcode RG2 0FL). To pre-book ring 0118 968 1313, option 2. Advance booking goes off sale 4 hours before each fixture. If they do not sell out in advance, permits may be available on matchday at a cost of £10 (card payment only). Note that cars are held back in the stadium car park for around 20 minutes, to allow pedestrians, buses and coaches to exit the stadium safely.

If you need to drop-off, cars can enter the Stadium roads up to 30 minutes before kick-off but there is no designated drop-off area. Cars can also enter the stadium roads to pick up 30 minutes after the final whistle.

There are a number of unofficial car parks in the area around the ground as well, which will be signposted. [www.footballgroundguide.com](http://www.footballgroundguide.com) warns that if you park in the Business Park near the stadium you may get a parking ticket unless you use a unit which is charging for parking.

From experience, there is also parking on the Basingstoke side of the M4, in the village of Three Mile Cross. Note that it is about a half-hour walk from Three Mile Cross, including a fascinating but lengthy meander around the most complex pedestrian flyover we have ever come across.

## ***Train***

*Note: [www.greateranglia.co.uk](http://www.greateranglia.co.uk) shows that after the game the last train which will connect to a train at Liverpool Street for Ipswich leaves Reading at 22:26. With the game kicking off at 8pm and the potential for the game to go to penalties in the event of a draw at 90 minutes, plus travel time back to the station (queues for the buses can be lengthy) it will be very tight to catch this. There are, though, options to get back as far as Colchester, including from Reading Green Park station (see below).*

The nearest railway station is Reading Green Park station, which was opened in May 2023. The station is on the Reading to Basingstoke line and is a seven-minute journey from Reading mainline station. The station is approximately 15 minutes' walk (although Google Maps indicates it can be up to 30 minutes depending on the route) from the stadium, through Green Park (note that wheelchair / pushchair routes to avoid steps take longer). There are fairly regular trains after the match which connect back to London via Reading, and onwards including the last train to Colchester.

Reading mainline station is about 3 miles from the stadium which shuttle buses running to the stadium (see getting to the stadium from the station).

Most fans will travel from Ipswich via Stratford or Liverpool Street where you pick up the Elizabeth Line to Paddington for a train to Reading. The journey time is around 2 hours 15 minutes.

Another option, with a slightly longer journey time at around 2 hours 24 minutes involves just one change. At Liverpool Street join the Elizabeth Line all the way to Reading.

You can also get a train from Waterloo to Reading but this will take much longer.

If you are booking train-specific tickets and plan to get the 22:26 train after the game, take into account that it can take quite a while to get back to Reading Station after the game.

Whatever your travel plans, it's worth checking [www.greateranglia.co.uk](http://www.greateranglia.co.uk) for updated times and any late changes.



## ***Getting from the station to the Ground***

If you travel to Reading Green Park, Reading advise that the station is approximately 15 minutes' walk from the stadium, through Green Park (note that wheelchair / pushchair routes to avoid steps take longer). Note that Google map suggests that it could take up to 30 minutes.

From Reading mainline station there is a station shuttle service (F1) to the stadium. This starts 2 hours before kick-off and a minimum of 12 buses run. After the game, the buses run up to 1 hour 45 minutes after the end of the match from the main bus stop, Royal Way. The cost is £5.50 return (concessionary pass holders pay a reduced fare).

A taxi from the railway station or town centre should cost approximately £10. After the full time whistle, a taxi rank is situated in Northern Way.

## **PUBS**

There is no pub dedicated to visiting supporters in Reading town centre although many fans will go into the Three Guineas which is attached to the railway station, or one of several other nearby hostelrys.

Nearer the ground, the Holiday Inn, Basingstoke Road, RG2 0SL or the World Turned Upside Down, Basingstoke Road, RG2 0JE are reasonable options. These are about a 15-minute walk from the stadium.

We know that quite a few Town fans enjoy a pint or three of real ale, and there is plenty of choice in Reading. For many, the top choice for years has been the Ale House, previously the Hobgoblin, right in the centre (2 Broad Street, RG1 2BH). For those seeking the very best of non-fine dining, Sweeney & Todd is perhaps the very best pie shop in the kingdom – and serves real ale too in their restaurant! (10 Castle Street, RG1 7RD). There are many other options, though we understand that some may choose to cater only for home fans – if you have that issue, you'll surely find another pub fairly nearby.

Some Town fans are likely to explore the many pubs in and around Paddington station, then get a later train out to Reading.

## **CASH MACHINE**

An ATM is located to the right of the Megastore.

## **AT THE GROUND**

### ***Fan Zone***

Reading have confirmed that the Fan Zone will be open, although the big screen will not be on. All supporters are invited to join the matchday build up in the Fan Zone which is the perfect place to grab a drink and a bite to eat, chat through the score predictions and soak up the atmosphere before the big kick-off.

There are a number of burger outlets outside the stadium serving burgers, hot dogs etc. Details and prices can be found here under Food and Drink:

<https://www.readingfc.co.uk/matchday/key-information>

### ***Fan Support Team***

The Reading Fan Support team will be based around the ground.

Their main role is to assist all supporters with safe and efficient entry to the Select Car Leasing Stadium, whilst delivering knowledgeable, courteous, supporter service when dealing with queries.

## ***Security***

As at all grounds expect to be searched prior to entering the stadium.

## ***Away end***

We will be in the South Stand. The facilities are good with plenty of leg room.

Wheelchair users are accommodated in the away section in the South Stand. For severe ambulant disabled supporters there are places for visiting supporters with a personal assistant/carer as required – these spaces are identified as having limited steps.

## ***Accessible Toilets***

If you need to use an accessible toilet please talk to the nearest steward.

## ***Programmes***

The official matchday programme is available from the Club Store and mobile sellers around the ground.

## ***Food and Drink facilities***

A range of hot food, drinks, snacks and confectionery are available from the concourse kiosks. From pies and hot dogs to the perfect pint, there is plenty to choose from. We understand that alcohol will be served (Heineken, Amstel, Inches Cider, Theakstons Bitter, red and white wine, vodka and cranberry, gin and tonic).

Food and drink prices can be found here:

<https://www.readingfc.co.uk/matchday/key-information>

## ***Smoking***

Smoking of cigarettes and e-cigarettes anywhere in the stadium is not permitted.

Smokers in the South Stand are permitted to smoke outside the stadium bowl within the secured compound, at a period of time after kick off as determined by the Safety Officer.

## ***Pyrotechnics***

As with all grounds and to comply with legislation, the use of pyrotechnics or even trying to get them into the stadium is a criminal offence and will not be tolerated.

## **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

*Racism or discrimination of any form is not OK, 'Not Today or Any Day' and supporters are reminded that instances of discriminatory or anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated at any EFL game.*

Please approach your nearest steward to report any incident you are involved in or witness.

You can also report any discrimination or anti-social behaviour to Kick it Out using the Kick It Out app which is available to download from the App Store or Google Play, or via: Facebook /kickitoutofficial; Twitter @kickitout; email [info@kickitout.org](mailto:info@kickitout.org); phone 0800 169 9414.