Welcome to your Summer Bookshop Crawl!

The bookshop crawl takes place from **Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd August.** Any discounts and freebies listed will only be valid between these dates and are available at the discretion of bookshops.

This year is the first time we’ve ever run multiple locations at once, and we hope that everyone has a wonderful time. Below we’ve recreated our Bookshop Crawl 101 Guide from previous years, with a unique 2021 twist, and we hope it helps you to plan a fantastic bookish weekend. You can also watch our short introductory video for more practical details [here.](https://youtu.be/QowMaumw21k)

The Google Map including all of the bookshops in each city as well as some ‘on the way’ locations is available [here](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1byDrqptoQPsQm9e6w1bgoGkkp4YZ3joz&usp=sharing) – please see the attached sheet for how to use it.

The bookshop crawl is both virtual and in person this year, albeit without our usual organised groups. We invite you to organise your own day/weekend bookshop crawl with friends & family and connect with booklovers further afield online.

For everything online, we’d love you to use **#SummerBookshopCrawl** and/or tag us (@bookshopcrawlUK on twitter and Instagram) so that we can all connect & geek out over books and bookshops together.

For everything in person, you’ll need [our map](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1byDrqptoQPsQm9e6w1bgoGkkp4YZ3joz&usp=sharing) and your Bookshop Crawl ID card, both of which are included with this pack.

**Our Online Events**

**PRE-EVENT TWITTER CHAT - Thurs 19th August, 7.30pm**

Join us to get to know your fellow bookshop crawlers a little. We’ll be chatting about where we’re excited to visit, what we’re looking forward to buying, recommending each other books and talking about past bookshop crawl experiences. It’ll be an hour of hilarity and is a lovely way to start the weekend. Our hashtag will be #SummerBookshopCrawl, and all you have to do is show up and answer questions asked by me! (and ask any of your own)

**THE BIG BOOKISH (BOOKSHOP INSPIRED) QUIZ! - Sunday 22nd August, 7.30pm**

We will be hosting this Live on Facebook (as long as we can get the wifi in our Airbnb to work!) and also tweeting the questions out. It’s just a bit of fun and we’ll have questions about books, adaptations, and bookshops around the country, and there may well be prizes…

As well as these, we’ll be sharing the shops we’ve visited, what we’re buying and other fun things we discover on our travels throughout the weekend and we’d love you to do the same! Please use **#SummerBookshopCrawl** for all your tweets, Instagram posts and videos, so that we can all find them and chat to each other.

How to Use the Google Map

* Click the [link](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1byDrqptoQPsQm9e6w1bgoGkkp4YZ3joz&usp=sharing) and open the map legend (on the left hand side on a laptop, or using the ‘open legend’ link in your phone)
* Scroll down the legend until you find the city you’re planning to bookshop crawl in
* Click on the names of the shop on the map legend. This will bring up the details about each shop.
* Accessibility information is at the top of each description. Any perks and discounts and online shopping info are underneath the description of the shop itself.
* **Please make sure you look at the shop information in the legend or by clicking on the blue and purple pins on the map, rather than the location descriptions added by Google, as these won’t have any bookshop crawl specific information.**

Bookshop Crawl 101: Or, how to organise your bookshop crawl

In essence, a bookshop crawl is a permission slip to visit as many bookshops as you want and buy lots of books! However, there are things to be considered when planning a bookshop crawl day or weekend. Firstly, how many bookshops to include? This very much depends on how close together the bookshops are, and how much time you think you’ll want to spend in each. If you’ve not visited some or all of them before this can be hard to gauge, but from my experience, anywhere between 4 and 8 bookshops is generally a good fit for a day’s exploration, if the shops are all within walking distance. Fewer if there’s bus/train/car journeys in between.

A good way to start planning your day or weekend is to get out the map that we’ve created for you, and decide which shops you’d really like to visit. From there you can use Google or your local area knowledge to figure out roughly how much journey time is in between each shop and/or which is the best way to travel between them.

The importance of cake stops

I really can’t overstate the importance of factoring in cake stops! Of course the cake is optional, but giving yourself moments to sit down and have a drink and a rest from carrying your purchases is definitely a must. If starting a bookshop crawl mid to late morning I usually go for a lunch stop and then a mid afternoon cake/drink stop at the very minimum. We have included a few recommendations for lunch and cake stops with this pack, and the sharing of cake pictures is almost as much a part of bookshop crawl as the sharing of book pics!

Sensible footwear and Carrying Your Books

Every time I go on a bookshop crawl I underestimate how much walking there will be. If you are planning to do a route that involves walking between shops, please wear comfortable footwear. Also, you may think an August bookshop crawl is fine to wear sandals, but if your sandals don’t have good grip, please be aware you could end up clinging on to your friend for dear life as you slide up a cobbled stone hill in the rain (this definitely happened to me a few years back on a summer bookshop crawl). Regarding the rain, it’s also a good idea to make sure that any bags you bring to carry books in is at least a little bit waterproof, just in case, and a rucksack is a great idea for even weight distribution!

Budgeting (or the ignoring thereof)

The bookshop crawl is for everyone, no matter your budget, but if you have one you strictly need to stick to it can be very helpful to set yourself limits like ‘one book per shop’ or ‘x number of books today’ as it gives something concrete to stick to. Another way to budget for bookshop crawls (and the one I use) is to save up any spare change in the weeks leading up to the crawl and use this as your bookshop crawl spending money. That way you won’t worry about what you’re spending as it’s sort of already accounted for… And of course the third way is to just not worry about it, if that’s something you can afford to do! Also please make sure you’ve got your Bookshop Crawl ID card handy (included with this pack), as it will entitle you to discounts and freebies in some shops – details provided on the map.