Once upon a time, over 400 years ago, a natural spring welled up from the ground. And it was named "The Tunbridge Wells" (the wells near Tonbridge). Today this charming historic town remains a popular place to visit as it maintains much of its original charm and elegance.

Without the Chalybeate Spring, Royal Tunbridge Wells would not exist. The natural Spring was discovered by a well-travelled English nobleman, a visitor on his way back up to the capital of England.

For more than 400 years visitors from afar have revelled in the accessibility and beauty of the area and stayed in the Tunbridge Wells region.

Since 1606, in fact tourists have come to see and be seen in fashionable Tunbridge Wells (it was not Royal until over 300 years later), but above all to ‘take the waters’. The Chalybeate Spring is situated in The Pantiles and is open from Easter to September, 10.00am to 3.00pm, Wednesday to Sunday and Bank Holidays.

Spa Valley Steam Railway takes you on a picturesque railway journey through parts of Kent and Sussex.

Enjoy pleasant views as the steam or heritage diesel train winds through five miles of the countryside into Tunbridge Wells, with plenty to see and do if you choose to disembark along the way.

Open every weekend until the end of October, plus selected weekdays mainly during the school holidays.

www.spavalleyrailway.co.uk

People have been visiting Royal Tunbridge Wells since the discovery of the Chalybeate Spring in 1606. Over the subsequent years the town grew in popularity and gained its reputation as the place to see and be seen.

It became a favourite destination for fashionable society who needed accommodation and wanted places of entertainment such as coffee houses, gaming-rooms and an assembly room for dances and balls.

www.queensu.ca/bisc/current-students/getting-around
Tunbridge Wells is renowned for its shopping because it offers a truly unique experience! The combination of specialist shops and famous high street names, in a charming and historic setting, makes the town a very popular destination for shoppers, especially those looking to blend a little bit of retail therapy with a spa break or sumptuous meal. The main shopping areas are on the High Street, The Pantiles and Royal Victoria Place. For eating out, food lovers prepare to be seriously spoilt for choice in Tunbridge Wells with such a range of superb restaurants, pubs and cafés. This is an exciting place to eat with sparkling modern restaurants, gourmet dining, award winning venues, elegant bars and traditional British fare including good old fish 'n' chips! From global to local, there are 250 places to eat across the Tunbridge Wells borough with a wide variety of international and English cuisines.

For more than 400 years, Royal Tunbridge Wells has been renowned as a spa break retreat. Today there are a number of luxury health and beauty spas in and around Tunbridge Wells, ready to welcome and restore the stressed, weary and those in need of a little TLC. Pamper packages and treatments for all ailments and budgets can be found.

https://www.visittunbridgewells.com/be-inspired/spa-breaks

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How far?
1 Hour’s ride. Drop off and pick-up point—Train Station car park

What's there?
Royal Tunbridge Wells is a pretty Kentish town which has welcomed visitors for over 400 years and retains much of its Georgian charm. It is a spa town meaning it is a resort based around a mineral spa. “Taking the Waters” of the spa was popular for its reputed health benefits and in 1909 Kind Edward VII official recognised the popularity of Tunbridge Wells thereby granting its “Royal” prefix, one of only four English towns to have this honour.

http://www.visittunbridgewells.com/

Visit The Pantiles, the famous white colonnaded walkway. Once the central meeting place for visiting gentry, it is the historic heart of Tunbridge Wells and today is buzzing with unique shops and cafes.

The original Chalybeate Spring still flows and it is possible to sample its reputed health-giving waters (Apr-Sept).

Visit the Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery on Mount Pleasant which houses one of the most impressive collections of Tunbridge Ware in the world; locally made marquetry dating from 1700s. The adjacent Art Gallery hosts a programme of regularly changing and varied exhibitions.

http://www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org/whats-on/events

Shop 'til you drop in the Royal Victoria Place Shopping Centre.

http://www.royalvictoriaplace.com/

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Depending on demand, once or twice a term.

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E-mail: minibus@bisc.queensu.ac.uk

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https://www.visittunbridgewells.com/be-inspired/spa-breaks