

DAY TRIPS FROM LONDON

The Hatfield House day guide

One page for Hatfield House: Elizabeth I's story, what to see, what fits in the time you have, how to get there by train, and where to find toilets and food.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

1

Check how long your tour gives you at each stop. Your tour's page lists the stops and the time at each one.

2

On the stop's page, tap how long your tour stops there: the route shows what fits.

3

Set a phone alarm 10 minutes before you need to be back at the bus.

INSIDE PAGE

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Times are typical visit lengths, not a timetable. Opening hours and prices change: check the full guide online before you go.

Hatfield House

Elizabeth I's childhood home

WHY STOP HERE

Hatfield House is a Jacobean house built beside the Old Palace, where Elizabeth I spent much of her childhood. Inside are the Marble Hall and the Long Gallery. Outside are gardens, a park and an oak that marks where, tradition says, she heard she was queen in 1558. Go by train from London King's Cross; the park entrance is opposite the station.



DON'T MISS

Where Elizabeth learned she was queen

The oak and its plaque in the park, and the Banqueting Hall, the surviving part of the Old Palace.



SO FAR	YOUR ROUTE · STOP WHEN "SO FAR" REACHES YOUR TIME
20 min	**The Queen Elizabeth Oak** · 20 min here · in the entry ticket **DON'T MISS** — An oak planted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1985 marks the spot where Elizabeth I is said to have heard she was queen.
60 min	**The Marble Hall and the Armoury** · 40 min here · in the entry ticket — The Marble Hall has a black-and-white marble floor, and the Rainbow Portrait of Elizabeth I faces its entrance. Close by, the Armoury has suits of armour, most of it bought from the Tower of London in the 1800s, and an organ from 1609 that is still played.
75 min	**The Long Gallery** · 15 min here · in the entry ticket — A gallery 170 feet long along the South Front. A hat, gloves and stockings at the far end were traditionally believed to have been Queen Elizabeth I's.
90 min	**The Old Palace knot garden** · 15 min here · in the entry ticket — A knot garden inspired by traditional Tudor designs, with clipped hedging in geometric patterns and aromatic herbs, set against the Old Palace.
120 min	**The Old Palace tour** · 30 min here · **own ticket** — The surviving wing of Bishop Morton's palace, with the Banqueting Hall where Elizabeth held her first Council of State.
150 min	**The West and East Gardens** · 30 min here · in the entry ticket — The West Garden is centred on the Old Palace, and the East Garden has a 17th-century pond. The gardens date from the early 1600s.
180 min	**The park and woodland walks** · 30 min here · in the entry ticket — Three marked walks of 1.1, 2 and 3.2 miles through medieval parkland with old oak, hornbeam and beech trees.

Getting here: the park entrance is directly opposite Hatfield station, on the train from London King's Cross.

GETTING THERE

Hatfield is one of the easiest days out from London. You do not need a tour: it is one short train ride, and the park gates are right opposite the station. Take a train from London King's Cross to Hatfield. It takes about 25 minutes. Cross the road from the station. The park entrance is directly opposite. Go in through the pedestrian gate and walk on to the Stable Yard, where the tickets, toilets and café are. Our pick: Take a morning train. In 2026 the gardens opened at 9 am, two hours before the house.

see beyond / the city

More days out from London

Each region has its own page, with every day trip to compare.



BATH AND STONEHENGE

Stonehenge & Roman Bath

Stonehenge · Bath · Castle Combe
Up to about 180 km · 111 miles

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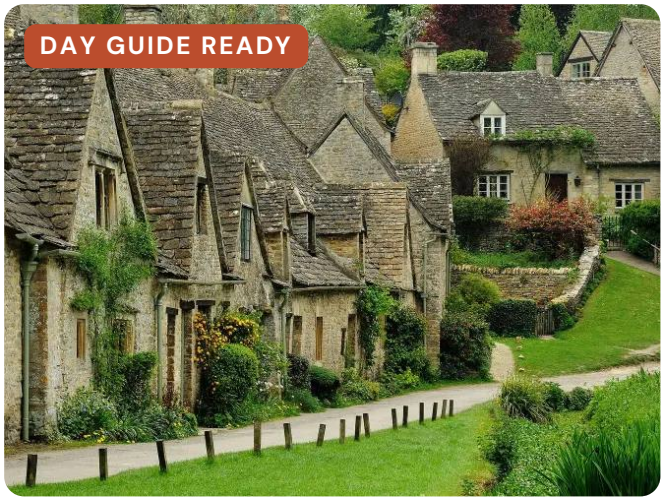

THE COTSWOLDS

Cotswold villages & market towns

Bibury · Bourton-on-the-Water · Stow-on-the-Wold
Up to about 153 km · 95 miles

Get the Cotswolds day guide
seebeyondthecity.com/london/cotswolds/



KENT

Cliffs, castles & Canterbury

Sources

Where each page's facts come from, by stop. Each name is a link to the source.

HATFIELD HOUSE

The plaque at the oak in Hatfield Park (photograph by Alex-David Baldi)
Hatfield House: the Marble Hall
Hatfield House: the Long Gallery
Hatfield House: the Old Palace garden
Hatfield House: the Old Palace
Hatfield House: the gardens
Hatfield House: plan your visit
Hatfield House: opening times and tickets
Hatfield House: how to find us

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PAGE	WHERE	PHOTO	BY	LICENCE	SOURCE
1	**Hatfield (cover)**	Hatfield House from South (2757877059)	Roger W from Sarasota, Florida, U.S.A.	CC BY-SA 2.0	Wikimedia Commons
2	**Hatfield House**	Garden and west wing Hatfield House Hertfordshire England 2 DxO	Acabashi	CC BY-SA 4.0	Wikimedia Commons
2	**Hatfield House: The Queen Elizabeth Oak**	The replacement Queen Elizabeth oak	Andrew Abbott	CC BY-SA 2.0	Wikimedia Commons
3	**Bath and Stonehenge**	Roman Baths and Bath Abbey, Bath, UK (4980860502)	bongo vongo	CC BY-SA 2.0	Wikimedia Commons
3	**The Cotswolds**	Arlington Row Bibury	Saffron Blaze	CC BY-SA 3.0	Wikimedia Commons
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