

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

Hatfield House
Elizabeth I's childhood home →

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

Your route ↓ | Toilets and food ↓



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.

Your route

Walk it in this order. The orange number is your time so far: stop when it reaches your tour's time here.

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



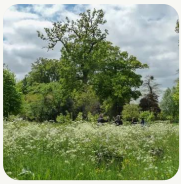
The West Garden is centred on the Old Palace, and the East Garden has a 17th-century pond. The gardens date from the early 1600s.

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 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.

Ticket

Yes. In 2026 the house, gardens and park cost £27 for an adult on one ticket, and gardens and park alone cost £17. The Old Palace is a separate £8.50 ticket, for tours only. National Trust, English Heritage and similar cards are not valid. Prices were read on 31 October 2026.

Toilets and food

Toilets are only in the Stable Yard, with baby changing and a disabled toilet. None are beyond the gates or inside the house. The Stable Yard has a café and restaurant, 9 am to 5 pm, and Darlish sells ice cream. You may picnic in the park, not in the formal gardens.

More days out from London →

Full guide:
seebeyondthecity.com/london/places/hatfield-house/
Facts checked 1 November 2026

More days out from London

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



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Up to about 180 km · 111 miles

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KENT

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White Cliffs of Dover · Canterbury · Leeds Castle
Up to about 120 km · 75 miles

Get the Kent day guide →

Spotted a change?
Opening times and prices change. Reply to the email this guide came in and tell us what you found.

Travelling with someone?
Forward the email, so they have the guide on their phone too.

Sources

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

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