

DAY TRIPS FROM LONDON

The Windsor day guide

Windsor Castle stands above the River Thames, about 36 km (22 miles) west of London, and most tours pair it with Stonehenge or Oxford. There is one page for each of the three stops: what it is, what to see, what fits in the time you have, 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.

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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.

See Beyond the City
seebeyondthecity.com/london/windsor/

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE · READ THIS ON THE WAY

Windsor in two minutes

A LITTLE HISTORY

ABOUT 1070

A castle on a hill

William the Conqueror began building the castle about 1070, on a hill above the River Thames. Its first walls were timber, and Henry II began to replace them with stone in the late 12th century.

1348

The Order of the Garter

King Edward III founded the Order of the Garter in 1348, together with the College of St George, which runs the Chapel. Each knight or lady of the Order still has a stall in the Quire.

1475

Edward IV builds a chapel

Edward IV began the St George's Chapel you see today in 1475, and he wanted to be buried in it. The Quire was built first, between 1477 and 1483, and the Nave followed.

1992

Fire and a new roof

On 20 November 1992 a fire destroyed 115 rooms at the castle. The repairs took five years, and St George's Hall now has a new oak roof in a modern gothic style.

Windsor Castle

Royal rooms and a palace in use

WHY STOP HERE

Windsor Castle is a royal palace that people still use today. Inside, you can walk through the State Apartments (the grand rooms used for official events), see famous paintings and look at Queen Mary's Dolls' House. Entry is a separate ticket, so check what your booking includes. The castle is closed to visitors on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

DON'T MISS

A castle built to guard London

The Round Tower, and the towers and battlements that George IV added.





SO FAR	YOUR ROUTE · STOP WHEN "SO FAR" REACHES YOUR TIME
5 min	**The Long Walk view** · 5 min here · in the entry ticket — From the State Entrance you can look down the Long Walk, a view created by Charles II, towards the Great Park.
65 min	**The State Apartments** · 60 min here · in the entry ticket DON'T MISS — The grand rooms that the Royal Family use today, with gold decoration and chandeliers. The Grand Reception Room was once the main ballroom.
80 min	**Queen Mary's Dolls' House** · 15 min here · in the entry ticket — A famous miniature mansion with tiny furniture, books and art, and even electricity and running water.
100 min	**Charles II's rooms and the paintings** · 20 min here · in the entry ticket — Rooms built for Charles II and his queen, with mythical ceiling paintings by Antonio Verrio. Look also for the huge Van Dyck portrait of Charles I on horseback.
130 min	**Changing the Guard** · 30 min here · free — A colourful ceremony where the new guard replaces the old. The guards march up the High Street at about 10:45 am on set days (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in November 2026), and the ceremony starts at 11:00.

Has a page of its own: St George's Chapel (45 min, page 4)

TOILETS	Yes. There are toilets after the Security Hall, on the North Terrace before the State Apartments, and next to the Undercroft Café. Ask staff to unlock an accessible toilet. A Changing Places room is on Engine Court (Royal Collection Trust page read 30 October 2026).
FOOD	The Undercroft Café serves coffee, cake and lunch, and caters for all diets. You cannot eat or drink in the State Apartments or St George's Chapel, except bottled water. A water fountain for refilling bottles is outside, just after the Security Hall.

St George's Chapel

Royal graves, banners and a choir

WHY STOP HERE

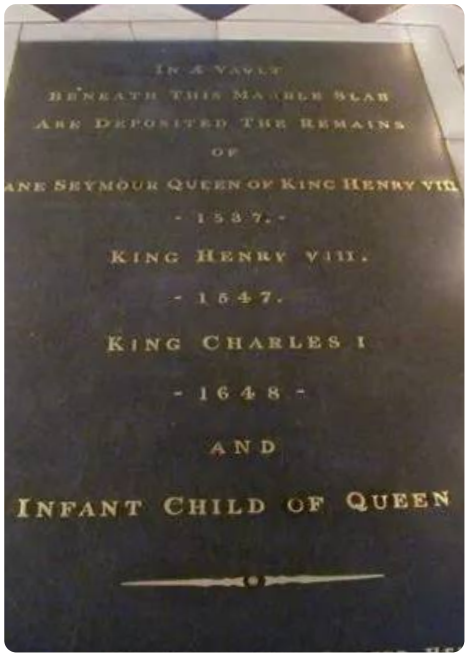
St George's Chapel stands inside Windsor Castle. It is a Gothic church (a church built in the pointed-arch style) where kings and queens are buried, including Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth II. Above the choir stalls hang the banners of the knights of the Order of the Garter. It is closed to visitors on Sundays, and photographs are not allowed inside.

DON'T MISS

Where Henry VIII and Jane Seymour lie

The stone in the floor in the middle of the Quire. The vault itself is below the floor and cannot be seen.





SO FAR	YOUR ROUTE · STOP WHEN "SO FAR" REACHES YOUR TIME
15 min	**The Quire and the Garter stalls** · 15 min here · in the entry ticket — Carved wooden stalls face each other along the choir, with the banners and crests of the Garter knights above them.
20 min	**The stone over Henry VIII's vault** · 5 min here · in the entry ticket DON'T MISS — A stone in the middle of the floor of the Quire marks the vault of Henry VIII, Jane Seymour and Charles I.
25 min	**Edward IV's tomb** · 5 min here · in the entry ticket — Edward IV and his queen, Elizabeth Woodville, lie in the North Quire Aisle, below his small chantry chapel (a side chapel built for prayers for his soul). A black marble slab with brass letters marks the vault.
30 min	**Henry VI's tomb** · 5 min here · in the entry ticket — Henry VI lies in the South Quire Aisle. His body was brought to Windsor in 1484, and pilgrims travelled to visit his tomb.
35 min	**The great west window** · 5 min here · in the entry ticket — One of the largest windows in Britain, finished around 1506, with seventy-five figures of popes, kings, princes and saints.

TOILETS AND FOOD Yes, inside the castle. Toilets are after the Security Hall, on the North Terrace and next to the Undercroft Café. The café serves coffee, cake and lunch and caters for all diets (Royal Collection Trust pages read 30 October 2026).

Windsor town

A stroll below the castle

WHY STOP HERE

Windsor town is the streets below the castle, around Castle Hill and the High Street. It has a medieval market, a Guildhall with short columns, a Thames bridge to Eton and a Victorian station turned into shops. The Guard March passes through on set days.

DON'T MISS

A Guildhall with a famous story

The short extra columns in the covered market, and the statue of Prince George on the building.





SO FAR	YOUR ROUTE · STOP WHEN "SO FAR" REACHES YOUR TIME
10 min	**Windsor Guildhall** · 10 min here · free DON'T MISS — A 17th-century town hall with a covered corn market below it, held up by columns, some short ones that do not reach the roof.
15 min	**Queen Victoria's statue** · 5 min here · free — The town gave this statue to Queen Victoria for her Golden Jubilee in 1887. It stands beside the High Street, below the castle.
30 min	**The Guard March on the High Street** · 15 min here · free — Soldiers, usually with a band, march from Victoria Barracks up the High Street to the castle. They set off at about 10:45 am.
60 min	**Windsor Bridge and Eton High Street** · 30 min here · free — An iron bridge that opened in 1824 leads over the Thames to Eton High Street, with old timber-framed buildings and Eton College at its end.
65 min	**Theatre Royal Windsor** · 5 min here · free — A theatre has stood by the Thames Street site since 1815. The present building opened in 1910 after a fire in 1908.

Also here, with more time: The Long Walk (150 min, free)

TOILETS	Yes. The Royal Borough lists public toilets at Bachelors Acre, the Guildhall on the High Street, the Visitors Reception Centre on Goswell Road and Home Park. Opening hours differ by site, so check the council's list (read 30 October 2026).
FOOD	Visit Windsor lists restaurants, pubs and cafés. They include cafés in Windsor Royal Shopping, the old railway station, and a pub on the river. Opening times vary, so check with each place (read 30 October 2026).

see beyond / the city

More days out from London

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

Ready to choose a tour?

See every Windsor day trip side by side. seebeyondthecity.com/london/windsor/#compare



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HAMPTON COURT

Hampton Court Palace

Hampton Court Palace



HATFIELD

Hatfield House

Hatfield House

Sources

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

WINDSOR CASTLE

- Royal Collection Trust: who built Windsor Castle?
- Royal Collection Trust: top things to see and do
- Royal Collection Trust: Queen Mary's Dolls' House
- Royal Collection Trust: practical information
- Royal Collection Trust: Undercroft Café

ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL

- St George's Chapel: timeline
- St George's Chapel: the Quire
- Royal Collection Trust: practical information

WINDSOR TOWN

- Royal Borough: Windsor commemorates Wren 300
- Royal Borough: Windsor Guard March and Changing the Guard
- Windsor & Eton Heritage Walking Trail (Royal Borough, 2025)
- Theatre Royal Windsor: history
- Windsor Great Park: The Long Walk and Deer Park
- Royal Borough: public toilets
- Visit Windsor: food and drink

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3	**Windsor Castle: The State Apartments**	Castle of Windsor - Sala Waterloo - panoramio	giomodica	CC BY 3.0	Wikimedia Commons
4	**St George's Chapel**	St George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle	Anthony Foster	CC BY-SA 2.0	Wikimedia Commons
4	**St George's Chapel: The stone over Henry VIII's vault**	Burial vault of Henry VIII and Charles I of England	AloeVera95	CC BY-SA 4.0	Wikimedia Commons
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