

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.

Inside

Before you arrive
Windsor in two minutes →

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Windsor town
A stroll below the castle →

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

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

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.

First stop: Windsor Castle →

Windsor Castle

Royal rooms and a palace in use

Your route ↓ | Toilets ↓ | Food ↓



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.

Your route

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

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
A medieval chapel in the castle grounds where many monarchs are buried. It has its own guide.

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.

Next stop: St George's Chapel →

Compare day trips to Windsor Castle

Full guide: seebeyondthecity.com/london/places/windsor-castle/
Facts checked 30 October 2026

St George's Chapel

Royal graves, banners and a choir

Your route ↓

Toilets and food ↓



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.

Your route

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

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).

Next stop: Windsor town →

Compare day trips to St George's Chapel

Full guide: seebeyondthecity.com/london/places/st-georges-chapel/

Facts checked 30 October 2026

Windsor town

A stroll below the castle

Your route ↓ | Toilets ↓ | Food ↓



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.

Your route

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

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

A tree-lined avenue made for Charles II in 1682 to 1685. It runs almost 2.5 miles to the castle, with a statue of King George III at its highest point.



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).

More days out from London →

Compare day trips to Windsor town

Full guide: seebeyondthecity.com/london/places/windsor-town/
Facts checked 30 October 2026

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.

Compare Windsor day trips



BATH AND STONEHENGE

Stonehenge & Roman Bath

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Up to about 180 km · 111 miles

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Up to about 153 km · 95 miles

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Hampton Court Palace

Hampton Court Palace

Get the Hampton Court day guide →

DAY GUIDE READY



HATFIELD

Hatfield House

Hatfield House

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KENT

Cliffs, castles & Canterbury

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

Get the Kent day guide →



OXFORD AND STRATFORD

Oxford, Stratford & Warwick

Oxford · Stratford-upon-Avon · Warwick Castle

Up to about 163 km · 101 miles

Get the Oxford and Stratford day guide →



SEVEN SISTERS AND BRIGHTON

Seven Sisters & Brighton

Seven Sisters · Brighton · Beachy Head
Up to about 121 km · 75 miles

Get the Seven Sisters and Brighton 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

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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