



# Day Trips from London

## Windsor Castle p304

The bastion of British royalty, Windsor Castle overlooks the affluent town of Windsor, picturesquely located along the River Thames.

## Oxford p307

The world's oldest university town, Oxford boasts more than three dozen prestigious (and eye-catching) colleges, but also some world-class museums.

## Brighton p310

With its heady mix of seaside, seediness and sophistication, Brighton is London's favourite coastal resort – with a mock-Moghul summer palace thrown in to boot.

## Cambridge p311

Awash in exquisite architecture, steeped in history and tradition and renowned for its quirky rituals, Cambridge is the quintessential English university town.

## Bath p314

A cultural trendsetter and fashionable haunt for three centuries, Bath has so many architectural gems the entire city has been named a World Heritage Site.



## TOP SIGHT WINDSOR CASTLE

**The world's largest and oldest continuously occupied fortress, this redoubtable mass of battlements and towers dominates the Berkshire town of Windsor, 25 miles west of London. British monarchs have holed up at Windsor Castle for more than 900 years and it's the Queen's favourite of her several official residences. One of the world's greatest surviving medieval castles, Windsor Castle's longevity and easy accessibility from London guarantee its popularity.**

### Some History

An earth-and-timber fortress was erected around 1080 by William the Conqueror and it was rebuilt in stone by his great-grandson, Henry II, in 1170. Edward III added a Gothic palace, while Charles II gave the state apartments a baroque makeover, creating an 'English Versailles'. George IV swept in with his team of artisans, largely creating today's palace within the castle. As a result of all this rebuilding, the 951-room castle displays a lively range of architectural style, from half-timbered fired brick to Gothic stonework. A disastrous fire in 1992 nearly wiped out this incredible piece of English cultural heritage – luckily the damage, though severe, was limited and a £37-million, five-year restoration returned the State Apartments to their former glory.

### State Apartments

The castle area, covering more than 10 hectares, is divided into three wards. In the Upper Ward, the State Apartments

### DON'T MISS...

- Grand Vestibule
- St George's Hall
- St George's Chapel
- Queen Mary's Dolls' House
- Changing of the Guard

### PRACTICALITIES

- [www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk)
- Castle Hill
- adult/child  
£19.20/11.30
- ☉ 9.45am-5.15pm Mar-Oct, to 4.15pm Nov-Feb
- 🚏 701 or 702 from Victoria coach station,  
🚏 London Waterloo to Windsor Riverside,  
🚏 London Paddington to Windsor Central via Slough