



Day Trips from London

Windsor Castle p317

That bastion of British royalty, Windsor Castle, overlooks the affluent town of Windsor, picturesquely located by the Thames.

Oxford p320

The world's oldest university town, Oxford's allure doesn't stop with its prestigious colleges; there's delightful architecture and world-class museums, too.

Brighton p324

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

Bath p327

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



TOP SIGHT WINDSOR CASTLE

The world's largest and oldest 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 in Windsor Castle for over 900 years, and it is well known as the Queen's residence of choice and the place she calls home after returning from her work 'week' (now just Tuesday to Thursday) at the 'office' (Buckingham Palace). One of the world's greatest surviving medieval castles, Windsor Castle's longevity and popularity are assured by its easy accessibility from the Big Smoke (London).

Some History

A wooden castle was erected around 1080 by William the Conqueror; it was rebuilt in stone by Henry II in 1165; Charles II gave the state apartments a baroque makeover; George IV swept in with his preference for Gothic style; and Queen Victoria refurbished a beautiful chapel in memory of her beloved Albert. Consequently, the castle displays a lively range of architectural styles from half-timbered red brick to Gothic stonework. A disastrous fire in 1992 nearly wiped out this incredible piece of English cultural heritage; luckily damage, though severe, was limited and a £37 million restoration returned the state apartments to their former glory.

State Apartments

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

DON'T MISS

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

PRACTICALITIES

- ➔ www.royalcollection.org.uk
- ➔ adult/child £17.75/10.60, when State Apartments closed £9.70/6.45
- ➔ ☀ 9.45am-5.15pm Mar-Oct, 9.45am-4.15pm Nov-Feb
- ➔ 🚌 Bus 701 or 702 from Victoria coach station, 🚏 Windsor Central or Windsor Riverside