



Day Trips from London

Windsor Castle p326

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

Oxford p329

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

Cambridge p334

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

Bath p338

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.

Stonehenge p340

This compelling ring of monolithic stones has been attracting a steady stream of pilgrims, poets and philosophers for the last 5000 years and is still a mystical, ethereal place – a haunting echo from Britain's forgotten past.



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.

History

An earth-and-timber fortress was erected here around 1080 by William the Conqueror, and 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 styles, from half-timbered fired brick to Gothic stonework.

State Apartments

The castle area, covering more than 10 hectares, is divided into three wards. In the Upper Ward, the State Apartments reverberate with style and history. The crossed swords, suits of armour and banners of the **Grand Staircase** set the tone for the two dozen or so rooms open to the public.

The **Grand Vestibule**, presided over by a marble statue of Queen Victoria, displays gifts and spoils from the British Empire, including a life-sized tiger's head of gold with crystal teeth from the throne of Tipu, sultan of Mysore. Here you'll also encounter the musket ball that killed Lord

DON'T MISS

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

PRACTICALITIES

- ➔ ☎0303 123 7304
- ➔ www.royalcollection.org.uk
- ➔ Castle Hill
- ➔ adult/child £20.50/12
- ➔ 🕒 9.30am-5.30pm
Mar-Oct, 9.45am-4.15pm
Nov-Feb
- ➔ 🚶
- ➔ 🚉 702 from London Victoria, 🚉 London Waterloo to Windsor & Eton Riverside, 🚉 London Paddington to Windsor & Eton Central via Slough