



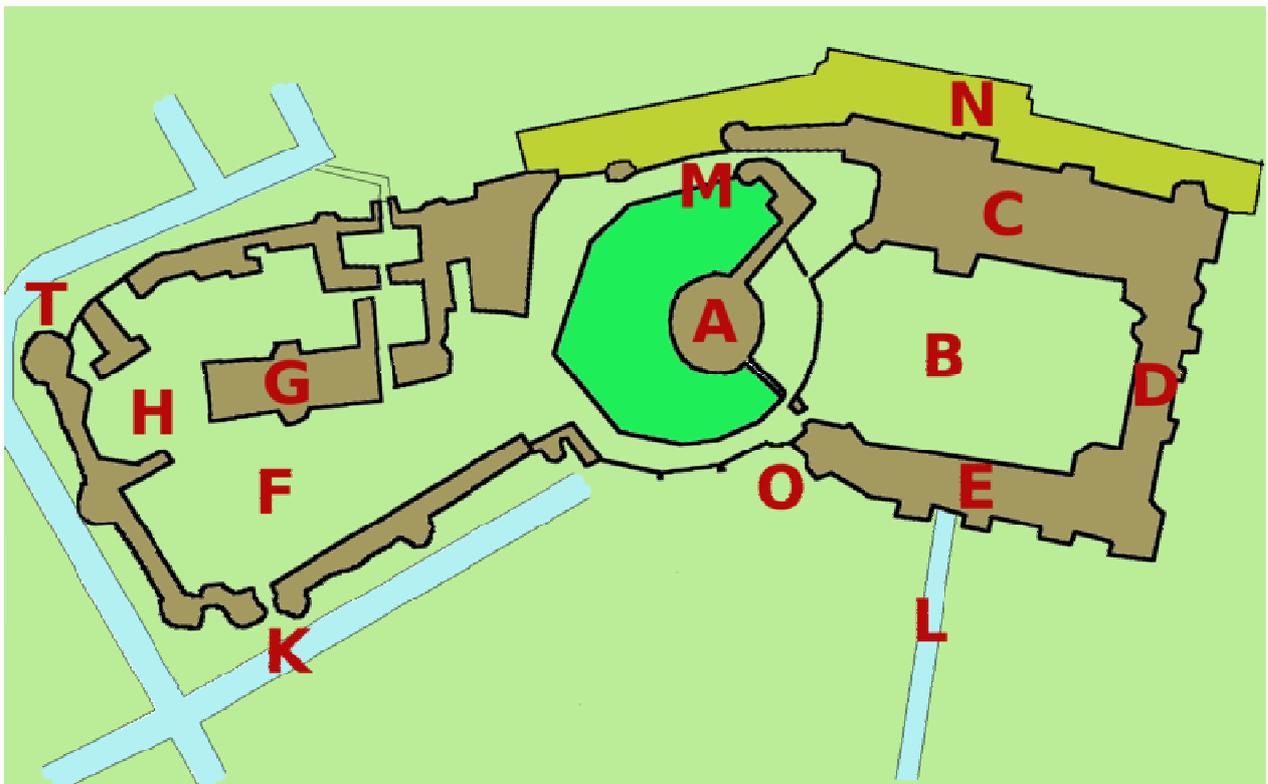
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead



Windsor Castle



Windsor Castle, viewed from the Long Walk



Key to plan

- | | |
|---|---|
| A. The Round Tower | H. Horseshoe Cloister |
| B. The Upper Ward, The Quadrangle
(as this courtyard is known) | K. King Henry VIII Gate (principal
entrance) |
| C. The State Apartments | L. The Long Walk |
| D. Private Apartments, overlooking
the East terrace | M. Norman Gate |
| E. South Wing, overlooking The Long
Walk | N. North Terrace |
| F. Lower Ward | O. Edward IV Tower |
| G. St. George's Chapel | T. T: The Curfew Tower |

Coming to Windsor by Rail

The two closest railway stations are Windsor & Eton Riverside and Windsor Central. Both of these stations are on the Windsor (south) side of the Thames.

The Windsor & Eton Riverside station is served by [South West Trains](#). Trains run between London Waterloo and Windsor every 20 to 30 minutes during the week and every hour on Sundays, calling at all stations on the way (travel time approximately 50 minutes).

[First Great Western](#) trains runs a very frequent service between London Paddington and Slough (travel time approximately 20 minutes), and this line also serves many other stations further west along the M4 corridor, including Maidenhead and Reading. A branch line connects Slough and Windsor & Eton Central: trains run between the two stations every 20 to 30 minutes during the week and every 30 minutes on Sundays (travel time just six minutes).

For information on arrival and departure times, phone National Rail Enquiries (08457-484950) or visit their website.



Opening times & admission prices

Opening times

March to October Open daily 09:45-17:15 (last admission 16:00)

St. George's Chapel is closed to visitors on Sundays as services are held throughout the day. Worshippers are welcome to attend the services. These occur at the following times:

- 08:30 – Holy Communion
- 10:45 – Mattins and Sermon
- 11:45 – Sung Eucharist
- 17:15 – Evensong

As a working royal palace, the Castle is used frequently by The Queen for State ceremonies and official entertaining, and closures can occasionally occur at short notice. Please check opening arrangements by visiting this website or telephoning the Ticket sales and information office on +44 (0)20 7766 7304

2013 Admission prices (all include an audio tour)

Standard

Adult £17.75

Over 60/Student (with valid ID) £16.15

Under 17 £10.60

Under 5 Free

Family £46.50 (2 adults and 3 under 17s)

Timing your visit

There is a lot to see and do at Windsor Castle, so please allow enough time to make the most of your visit. We suggest between 2½ and 3 hours. The Castle is at the top of a steep hill, and the visitor route covers long distances. You are advised to wear comfortable shoes.

The Admission Centre is at its busiest between 09:30 and 11:30, so you may like to consider arriving after 11:30. You can visit the State Apartments, the Drawings Gallery, Queen Mary's Dolls' House and St George's Chapel at your leisure using the complimentary audio tour, which lasts 1½ hours. Guided tours of the Precincts, which are included in the admission price, depart at half-hourly intervals from the Courtyard and last 30 minutes. St George's Chapel closes at 16:00, although visitors are welcome to attend evensong at 17:15.

Audio tours



To make the most of your time at Windsor, pick up one of the free audio tours in the Courtyard at the start of your visit.

General tour

Available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Mandarin.

The tour is introduced by The Prince of Wales, Chairman of the Royal Collection Trust and takes you through the Castle Precincts, the State Apartments and St George's Chapel. The commentary provides a lively guide to the Castle's history, from William the Conqueror, through medieval expansion, George IV's gothic transformation and The Queen's use of the Castle today.

Along the route, staff of the Royal Household explain the role of the Castle today as an official residence of The Queen and talk about their work, from arranging a State Banquet for 160 guests to restoring the historic interiors following the devastating fire of 1992. Woven into the tour are the unique sounds of the Castle, from the music of St George's Chapel choir to the chimes of the famous collection of clocks.

Public Visits to Windsor Castle

Precincts Tour



As the perfect start to your visit, you can join a free 30-minute tour of the Castle Precincts. The tours are led by the Wardens, dressed in their striking red and black Windsor livery, and depart at regular intervals throughout the day from the Courtyard at the start of the visit. Precinct tour times are advertised on a poster adjacent to the building from which audio tours are issued.

The tour introduces the Castle's 900-year history as a fortress and palace, and its role today as an official residence of The Queen. It ends at the entrance to the State Apartments on Henry VIII's North Terrace, from where spectacular views of the surrounding countryside can be enjoyed.

The State Apartments



Windsor Castle has been the home of 39 monarchs, and the appearance of the State Apartments today reflects the changing tastes of the Castle's royal occupants, particularly Charles II (r.1660-85) and George IV (r.1820-30).

Charles II set out to rival the achievements of his cousin, Louis XIV, at Versailles in France. He modernised the Castle's interiors, which became the grandest State Apartments in England, with painted ceilings by Antonio Verrio and carvings by Grinling Gibbons.

With his architect Sir Jeffry Wyatville, George IV gave the State Apartments a new grand entrance and staircase, and he added the colossal Waterloo Chamber, celebrating the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1815.

The State Apartments are furnished with some of the finest works of art from the Royal Collection, including paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens and Canaletto. Many of the works of art are still in the historic settings for which they were first collected or commissioned by the Kings and Queens who have lived at Windsor.

On 20 November 1992 a fire destroyed or damaged more than 100 rooms at the Castle. Four thousand gallons of water a minute were used against the blaze at the fire's height, the equivalent of the entire weight of Niagara Falls descending on the Castle for two seconds. The restoration of the Castle, particularly St George's Hall and the Grand Reception Room, is a testament to the extraordinary skills of some of the finest craftsmen in Europe.

Today Windsor's State Apartments are frequently used by members of the Royal Family for events in support of organisations of which they are patrons.

Queen Mary's Dolls' House



Among the highlights of a visit to Windsor is Queen Mary's Dolls' House, the largest, most beautiful and most famous dolls' house in the world. Built for Queen Mary by the leading British architect Sir Edwin Lutyens between 1921 and 1924, this most magical of residences is a perfect replica in miniature of an aristocratic home.

The house is filled with thousands of objects made by leading artists, designers and craftsmen, nearly all on the tiny scale of 1:12. From life below stairs to the high-society setting of the saloon and dining room, no detail was forgotten. Among the most striking features of Queen Mary's Dolls' House are the library, bursting with original works by the top literary names of the day, a fully stocked wine cellar and a garden created by Gertrude Jekyll. The Dolls' House even includes electricity, running hot and cold water, working lifts and flushing lavatories.

In the adjoining display two remarkable French dolls, France and Marianne, are shown with part of their extensive wardrobe of clothes and accessories. They were presented to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth for their daughters, the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret Rose, by the French Government during the 1938 State Visit to France. The dolls' clothes and accessories were designed and made by the leading Parisian fashion houses, including Worth, Lanvin, Cartier, Hermès and Vuitton.

St George's Chapel



St George's Chapel is one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in England and is particularly noted for its magnificent stone fan vaulting. It is the spiritual home of the Order of the Garter, the senior order of British Chivalry established in 1348 by Edward III.

Within the chapel are the tombs of ten sovereigns, including Henry VIII and his third wife Jane Seymour, and Charles I. At least three services take place every day. The chapel is closed to visitors on Sundays, but all are welcome to attend any of the services.



Please note that Monday - Saturday the Chapel closes at 16:15 (last entry 16:00) in order to prepare for the evening service at 17:15 (doors open at 17:00).

Changing the Guard



Changing the Guard at Windsor Castle encompasses colourful spectacle and British pageantry. The ceremony usually takes place at 11:00 within the Castle grounds daily from April until the end of July and on alternate days for the rest of the year, weather permitting. Please see the schedule below.

The privilege of guarding the Sovereign traditionally belongs to the Household Troops, better known as ‘the Guards’, who have carried out this duty since 1660. For operational and other reasons, this privilege is periodically extended to other regiments of the British Army. The Guards consist of five infantry regiments – the Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots, Irish and Welsh Guards – and two regiments of the Household Cavalry – the Life Guards and Blues and Royals. Most of the Guards will have seen action overseas.

Changing the Guard, also known as ‘Guard Mounting’, begins with the Windsor Castle Guard forming up outside the Guard Room. In due course, the new Guard will arrive, led by a Regimental Band, Corps of Drums or occasionally by a Pipe Band. During the 45-minute ceremony, the handover of duties will take place, including the changeover of sentries. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the old Guard will return to Victoria Barracks in Windsor town. When The Queen is in official residence, the parade takes place on the Castle Forecourt.

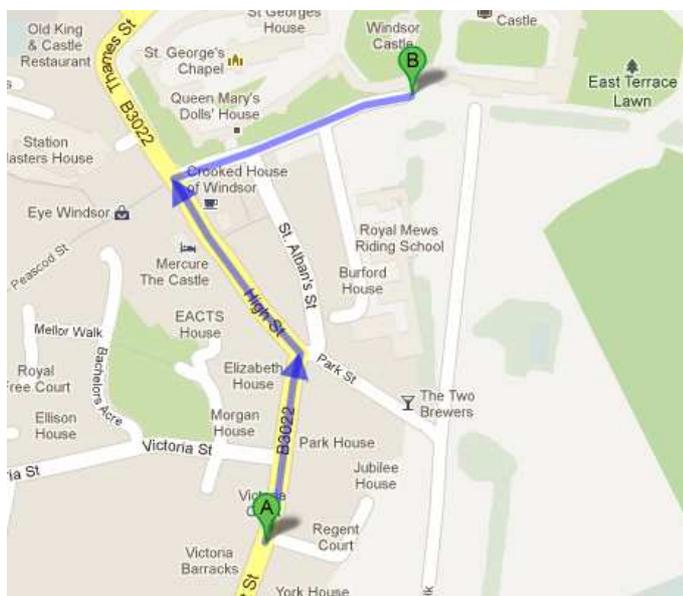
As Changing the Guard takes place inside the Castle Precincts, visitors must purchase a Castle ticket to watch. Please note that there is no ceremony at Windsor on Sundays.

Provisional Schedule 2013

January - 2 then odd dates (3, 5, 7 etc.)

February- even dates (2, 4, 6 etc.)

Please note that this schedule is set by the British Army and is subject to change. We advise you to check the Army website before visiting.



Where to see the Windsor Castle Guard Change

The new guard, accompanied by the band, march from Victoria barracks, up Sheet Street, left into the High Street, past the Parish Church and the Guildhall, then turn right onto Castle Hill by Queen Victoria's Statue and into the Castle.

The Guard Mount takes place inside Windsor Castle and you will need a ticket to the castle to see the old and new guard exchange duties.

After the Guard Mount the old guard and band return to Victoria barracks, following the same route. **See map.**

The Semi-State Rooms



One of the best times of the year to visit Windsor Castle is between October and March, when the spectacular private apartments created for George IV are open. These Semi-State Rooms are among the most richly decorated interiors in the Castle and are used by The Queen for official entertaining.

George IV had a well-developed love of fine objects and a taste for the theatrical. With his architect, Sir Jeffry Wyattville, he

completely remodelled the Castle's exterior during the 1820s, giving it the romantic and picturesque appearance seen today. He also decided to create a new suite of private rooms on the sunnier east and south sides of the Castle. This was George IV's last and greatest commission, and one of the most lavish and costly interior decoration schemes ever carried out in England.

Always over budget, the project was only just completed at the time of King's death in 1830. Among the many designers and craftsmen employed on the scheme was the 15-year-old AWN Pugin, who worked for the principal furniture suppliers, Morel and Seddon. The Semi-State Rooms also contain some of the finest surviving 18th-century English and French works of art from Carlton House, George IV's former London residence.

The Semi-State Rooms were severely damaged by the fire of 1992, although, by good fortune, their contents had been moved elsewhere at the time. They were completely restored to their 19th-century appearance using the original designs supplied to George IV.

The Castle shops



The three shops around the Castle offer a wide range of exclusive gift items inspired by the works of art in the Royal Collection, many of which are displayed at Windsor Castle. You can purchase homeware, china, clothing and jewellery, children's toys, books and postcards. Please ask a Retail Assistant about our home-delivery service.

You can also shop online.

The income from every purchase you make contributes directly to the care of the Royal Collection, which is held in trust by The Queen for her successors and the nation.

The Collection is administered by the Royal Collection Trust, a registered charity. The aims of the Trust are the care and conservation of the Royal Collection and the promotion of public access and enjoyment through exhibitions, publications, loans and educational activities.